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PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder



May 6, 2021  
Volume 51, No. 79  
75 cents

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PonteVedraRecorder.com

## TITLE TOWN



Photo provided by Jen Conway

The Ponte Vedra High School baseball team celebrates after beating Pine Ridge for the district title last Thursday. The Sharks will play Middleburg in the opening round of the regionals on Thursday, May 6. Also, the PVHS girls lacrosse team (inset) won its regional final last week against Gulf Breeze and will play in the state semifinals on Friday, May 7.

**For more, go to sports on page 26**

Photo by John Noell

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



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**In the Arts**

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## Send us your news

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Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.

## NOTE TO READERS

**Weekly newsletter:** The Recorder offers a weekly newsletter every Monday that outlines some of the top stories of the week, as well as providing access to our E-Edition and Entertainment EXTRA! To get the newsletter emailed for free, email [don@opcfla.com](mailto:don@opcfla.com). We'll add you to the list.

## ADOPT A PET

### DOG(S) OF THE WEEK

Hi! My name is Rusty. I am a 2-year-old male dachshund mix. I found myself at the Pet Center when my sweetheart and I were no longer able to be cared for properly. I have made lots of friends here but I am ready for a real home, one to call my own. I do need some special housetraining as I have never lived inside a home before. If you think you are that special family that will be patience with me, I promise you won't regret it, I will reward you with love. Come see me at the Pet Center today! #58283



Hello my name is Hershey. I am a 3-year-old female dachshund mix. When my owner was no longer able to keep me, he turned me over to the next best thing — the Pet Center, where I am getting lots of love and attention. I arrived with my sweetheart and while we would love to stay together, we know we both deserve to have families to call our own. I do need some special housetraining as I have never lived inside a home before. If you think you are that special family that will be patience with me, I promise you won't regret it, I will reward you with love. Come see me at the Pet Center today! #58284

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to its new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training, and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

## St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions 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 in St. Augustine, off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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, please call the St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

## BRIEFS

### St. Johns County Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination pop-up sites

The State of Florida is hosting a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination pop-up sites next week in St. Johns County. The site will have 250 single-dose Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccines available for those 18 years of age and older. All vaccines will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis at the following location:

- 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Thursday, May 6 – Mills

Field, 1805 Racetrack Road (while supplies last).

For more information, call the St. Johns County COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline at (904) 295-3711.

### Volunteer Opportunities with St. Johns County boards and committees

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners provides residents who have an interest in serving their community and participating in local government with a variety of

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

S	T	R	A	W	S	E	E	T	B	A	R	
E	R	I	C	A	W	A	X	F	I	E	R	Y
N	E	V	E	R	A	R	T	A	T	R	I	A
K	E	R	M	I	T	R	O	S	I	T	A	
	B	U	D		C	A	R	T				
O	A	R	P	E	E	L	B	E	D	A	U	B
S	T	U	D	A	L	E	E	N	O	B	L	E
C	O	I	R	S	M	A	R	T	U	L	N	A
A	N	N	U	M	O	R	S	O	R	E	A	R
R	E	G	G	A	E	L	E	T	S	R	E	S
			G	R	A	Y	E	W	E			
M	U	P	P	E	T	G	R	O	V	E	R	
N	I	S	E	I	O	W	E	R	E	B	E	L
A	R	E	T	E	L	A	N	D	R	O	N	E
B	E	D	S		L	Y	E	S	Y	N	O	D

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



**SATURDAY, MAY 22  
& SUNDAY, MAY 23**

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

### Save the Date

The Art in the Garden Festival is a weekend celebration of creativity in all its forms—intriguing art, curated music, demonstration classes, extraordinary living pictures—all within our lush gardens. Learn more at [jacksonvillezoo.org](http://jacksonvillezoo.org).







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**Sunday, May 23, 3:00pm**

**Concert to be held at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.**  
**Doors open at 2:00pm**

CDS Guidelines and masks are required. Tickets at the door or advance tickets at [FLChambermusic.org](http://FLChambermusic.org)

**Briefs**

Continued from 2

board and committee opportunities. The volunteer positions consider and make recommendations regarding a myriad of topics including planning and zoning issues, development projects, libraries, parks and recreation facilities and programs, and arts, culture and tourism matters.

The following boards and committees are currently accepting applications (application deadline is May 22 unless otherwise noted):

- Architectural Review Committee
- Arts/ Culture/ Heritage Funding Panel (application deadline: May 28)

- Cultural Resource Review Board
  - Fire Code Board of Appeals
  - Health & Human Services Advisory Council
  - Mid – Anastasia Design Review Board
  - North Coastal Corridor Overlay District Design Review Board
  - Planning and Zoning Agency
  - South Anastasia Design Review Board
  - Tourist Development Council
- Go to the Boards and Commission webpage at [www.sjcfll.us/Boards](http://www.sjcfll.us/Boards) to view the requirements and duties of each board and committee or to download an application. For more information, contact the Board of County Commissioners office at (904) 209-0300 or [lataylor@sjcfll.us](mailto:lataylor@sjcfll.us).

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# SJSO takes part in peer-to-peer training led by FSU's Institute for Justice Research and Development

Training addresses on-the-job stress law enforcement faces, teaches steps to provide mental well-being support to peers

The Florida State University's Institute for Justice Research and Development (FSU IJRD) and the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO) partnered together last week to deliver 24 sheriff's office personnel and 25 others peer-to-peer support training.

Law enforcement officers are exposed to violence and suffering every day, which can cause emotional stress and impact the brain and body, resulting in post-traumatic stress. The training, conducted by FSU IJRD, aims to give law enforcement officers a deeper understanding of how the mind and body react to on-the-job stress and learn actionable steps they can take to help support others who are suffering.

"We are grateful to FSU IJRD for developing this one-of-a-kind training that is critically important to our law enforcement personnel who are constantly exposed to violence and suffering, which, in turn, manifests as post-traumatic stress," said St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick. "This program will ensure they have the skillset necessary to identify this stress and take action to handle it not only in themselves, but with their peers."

The full two-day training took place at St. Johns County Sheriff's Office on Monday, April 26, and Tuesday, April 27. Those who participated in the training gained a firm foundation to provide healthy peer



Photo provided by Lyndsey Brzozowski

**St. Johns County Sheriff's Office personnel participate in a working session last week during peer-to-peer training led by FSU's Institute for Justice Research and Development.**

support to colleagues in need and suggest action if someone needs further mental well-being support.

"We developed this program because we know the trauma caused by the on-the-job stresses law enforcement face all the time — from seeing the most painful and terrifying events in citizens' lives to being confronted with dangerous, imperiling

circumstances," said Carrie Pettus, founder and executive director of FSU IJRD. "We believe equipping them with the training we have developed through in-depth research and field testing, will ready them to better identify and manage this stress, leading to more effective job performance."

The mission of the Institute for Justice Research and Development at FSU is to

use science to improve lives, communities and institutions by developing and researching innovations that reduce unnecessary reliance on the criminal justice system and by offering solutions that produce equity and prosperity across race, socioeconomic class and behavioral health status. For more information on IJRD, go to [ijrd.csw.fsu.edu](http://ijrd.csw.fsu.edu).

## Local YMCA branches meet challenges posed by pandemic

Virtual platform one strategy to help members at home

By Shaun Ryan

COVID-19 has radically changed the way gyms and wellness facilities do business, and the local YMCA is no exception.

Over the past year, staff members have been wearing masks, people have been spaced out and had their temperatures scanned, and surfaces have been carefully sanitized. But the Y has not stopped there.

To help area residents get back to the activities and friends they have been missing, The Ponte Vedra and Nocatee Y's — as well as the entire First Coast YMCA — have responded to the challenges posed by the pandemic with a number of new strategies. Here's a look.

The First Coast YMCA has initiated its first-ever, member-exclusive virtual fitness offering designed to keep members engaged in their wellness journey while working at home.

The new platform, offered through FORTE, will give members access to real-time and immersive fitness experiences. It will make home workouts with members' favorite Y fitness instructors a viable alternative to in-person individual and group training.

Members have an option to engage with each other through live-stream or experience their favorite classes via the Y's virtual workout library.

"At the Y, we pride ourselves on working with our members as they navigate their personal wellness journeys," said Eric K. Mann, president and CEO of the YMCA of Florida's First Coast. "While we've upgraded each of our 15 facilities to follow the most stringent health and safety protocols amidst the coronavirus, we recognize some members may prefer to continue their fitness routine from home. We are proud to offer our members access to the most innovative and unparalleled virtual fitness experience through this virtual offering."

The platform will provide Y members an

upgraded virtual experience featuring daily exclusive classes like yoga, Total Body Conditioning, BodyCombat, SoulBody BARRE and active adult workouts with seamless streaming.

Members also have the option to "favorite" classes, engage with other participants through two-way video functionality, group chat and private message with other participants, compete with friends on the leaderboard in a live class and earn Sweat Points during workouts.

Y members will receive automatic access to the virtual platform at no additional cost. Non-members may still access select livestreamed workouts on the First Coast YMCA Facebook page, [Facebook.com/FirstCoastYMCA](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCoastYMCA).

In addition to this initiative, the Y has recognized the impact of coronavirus-driven social isolation on mental health.

To meet this challenge, the Y has developed new curricula across its youth development and early-learning programs. This year, the Y's teen camp curriculum

addressed the importance of mental health, and recently the Y hosted a Teen Mental Health Conference.

"People come here to lift weights and get on a treadmill; they also come here to see their friends," said Charlie Chacos, executive director at the Ponte Vedra and Nocatee YMCA branches. "It's a place of community, also. It's not just a place to work out."

One of the biggest innovations — and one that will remain with the facilities after COVID-19 is no longer an issue — is the addition of a state-of-the-art air purification system across all 15 branches of First Coast YMCA. It has an upward air flow and a UV disinfection system.

"Basically, we've got the cleanest air in Jacksonville, is how I like to put it," said Chacos.

In addition, the Y has worked with Flagger Health+'s HealthySite+ to incorporate contact tracing.



# THE PLAYERS helps bring golf back to Edward Waters

Women's program at EWC will relaunch in 2022 with assist of \$50,000 donation

On Monday, May 3, THE PLAYERS Championship announced a \$50,000 donation to help reinstate the women's golf program at Edward Waters College.

Located 30 minutes from the PGA TOUR's flagship property and global home in Ponte Vedra Beach, the state's first private Historically Black College and University (HBCU) is now one of only two HBCUs in Florida to offer a dedicated women's golf program. THE PLAYERS' grant will help EWC recruit and select a coach, fund student-athlete scholarships and assist with overall operational expenses as the program plans for a 2022 launch date.

Monday's announcement was made on the EWC campus with leadership, trustees and staff of both organizations in attendance. THE PLAYERS Executive Director Jared Rice and 2022 Tournament Chairman Matt Welch presented EWC President Dr. A. Zachary Faison, Jr. and EWC Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Dr. Paul A. Bryant with the \$50,000 check. Joining them were several past tournament chairmen (Red Coats), who were on-hand to deliver more than \$10,000 in golf supplies and merchandise for the team.

"When the EWC team shared their vision with us and indicated that the revitalization of the women's golf program was a primary focus for the College, we were inspired to support their mission," Rice said. "As home to the PGA TOUR and host of its flagship event, we are committed to efforts that reflect our mission and values of being good stewards in the communities where we play. We are honored by the opportunity to help elevate the student-athlete experience at EWC and promote and grow the game of golf right in our hometown."



Representatives of THE PLAYERS Championship present a \$50,000 donation to representatives of Edward Waters College on Monday, May 3 at Edward Waters College in downtown Jacksonville. The donation will help reinstate the women's golf program at EWC.

Photos by Tracy Wilcox/PGA TOUR

"I am elated to partner with THE PLAYERS Championship," said Bryant. "This joint effort to reignite women's golf will enhance our offering of sports and give young women the opportunity to play the sport they love at a high level."

"Edward Waters College is fortunate to be aligned with outstanding organizations such as THE PLAYERS Championship and PGA TOUR," Faison, Jr. said. "This donation will not only reinvigorate the women's golf team, it will attract talented women to attend Edward Waters College from across the country due to the name recognition of our new partners. We thank the leadership and volunteers of THE PLAYERS and PGA TOUR for this special investment in the college's athletics program and look forward to becoming a competitive force in women's golf soon."

The women's golf program at EWC was first introduced in 2007 and was discontinued in 2015 following budget and

**DONATION** continues on **Page 7**



Swag and golf balls presented during THE PLAYERS presentation of a \$50,000 donation to help reinstate the women's golf program at Edward Waters College on May 3.

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*As the executive pastry chef for the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, Paige Murray is the person behind one of the resort's most delicious offerings. For more than four years, she has helped the club's team provide guests and members with a top-of-the-line experience.*

## Paige Murray

*As told to Shaun Ryan*

### **Tell me about your career as executive pastry chef for the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. What are your responsibilities?**

My career at Ponte Vedra Inn and Club started back in January 2017. We are currently providing all pastries and desserts for all of our outlets, including but not limited to the Gourmet Shop, Inn dining room, Golf dining, room service, Seahorse, Surf Deck Grill, The Patio, Snack Bar and the Spa dining. We also provide baked goods and desserts for banquet functions, special amenities, specialty cakes, any and all holiday buffets and the occasional cooking demonstration classes. The property is so large, and we have so many dining options, that every day we are doing something different. It makes the everyday work life kind of exciting.

### **Your job sounds really cool. What do you like best about what you do?**

My job is really cool! I like to jokingly imagine me bragging about my job on career day at my son's school. However, I would actually describe working in this industry as more of a lifestyle than a job — you are driven by passion, and that isn't something that can be turned off at quitting time. I think that is probably what I like best about my career, the passion! Living it, teaching it and being surrounded by it. I also love creating memories for guests. Birthday cakes, wedding cakes, engagement desserts, gender reveals... all these little parts of an amazing memory that will be in a photo album (or an Instagram feed) for the rest of their lives. And while I may have created tens of thousands of cakes, to the guest it may be their first birthday cake, and helping make an occasion just a little bit more special is what I like most about my career.

### **Tell me about your background. How did you get to where you are today?**

My start in this industry practically began at birth. My family is created by restaurateurs, and farmers. I grew up baking muffins with my dad on Sundays, which progressed to my making my own birthday cakes at the age of 9. I then started working in restaurants at the age of 15 and decided to pursue pastry education at the age of 19. I went and studied under Ewald Notter at the Notter School of Pastry Arts in Orlando. It was an intense program that took just under a year to complete. Once I graduated in 2009, I began as a cook 3 at the Omni Amelia Island Resort. Between 2009 and 2017, I went through every position possible working my way up the ladder. By the time I was 24, I was running the pastry department at Omni. And by the end of 2016, I saw an amazing next chapter opportunity with Ponte Vedra Inn and Club.

### **If a young person reads this article and is interested in going into your line of work, do you have any advice you can share?**

Make sure you have the passion, and do your research. Working in a resort or in a restaurant is nothing short of a grind. But we live for that "hustle and bustle" high. You have to be made for this, you have to have the drive and you have to have the heart. That's what makes this career my lifestyle — that it doesn't feel like a job.



Photo provided by Cris Duschek

### **Are you from this area originally? What do you like best about living here?**

I was actually born in Jacksonville, but growing up I moved to Georgia, a couple different places in Tennessee, Kentucky, back to Georgia and then Florida. I claim Kentucky as my child home because it has a special place in my heart (GO CATS!), but Florida is my forever home. Besides having the majority of my family in this area, my favorite part of living here is the beach

and living on the water ... Oh and the food! The up-and-coming food scene in the Northeast area is really fun to follow and watch expand year to year.

### **What do you like to do in your free time?**

I like to spend my free time with my son, Jonah, 6, who is my biggest fan and my toughest critic. We spend our time in the pool, at the beach, or having intense Nerf gun battles.



# YMCA

Continued from 4

“We had over 600 kids play basketball here in the winter, and we had teams and games,” said Chacos. “You need to know who’s sick, and who needs to stay home for little bit.”

As more people get vaccinated, members are returning to the Y. In fact, the Nocatee YMCA branch actually opened

in November.

“We were fortunate enough to open a branch in the middle of a pandemic,” said Chacos. “And Nocatee’s growth has actually been tremendous.”

To learn more about the Y’s virtual offering or to become a member, go to [FCYMCA.org/new-virtual-services](http://FCYMCA.org/new-virtual-services).

“Come check us out,” said Chacos. “I think you would be impressed with our safety measures. And also, it would be good to see your friends.”

# Donation

Continued from 5

program challenges. As part of EWC’s newly adopted strategic plan, Eminence 2025, the College is reengineering its Division of Athletics to prioritize gender equity ratio in sports across all competition facets.

In addition, EWC announced plans to launch a student-athlete golf mentor program, a dual-purpose initiative that will engage student-athletes to serve as mentors in unique professional development environments — including exposure to career opportunities within the PGA TOUR and THE PLAYERS network — as well as off-campus volunteer experiences with community-based programs.

The PGA TOUR has a long-standing history of positively impacting the communities where it plays. Most recently,



Photo by Tracy Wilcox/PGA TOUR

**THE PLAYERS Executive Director Jared Rice speaks during a ceremony celebrating a \$50,000 donation to help return women’s golf to Edward Waters College on May 3.**

the organization and its tournaments have pledged a stronger commitment to efforts that are advancing diversity, equity and inclusion priorities in its host communities.



## Bryan Page

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### Renovated Coastal Cottage

Fully renovated and ideally located in central Ponte Vedra Beach, this pristine home offers easy access to JTB, entertainment, and just a short bike ride to the beach. With custom craftsmanship and quality finishes throughout, you would think it was newly constructed.

**3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms. \$760,000.**



### Pristine Craftsmanship on Ponte Vedra Blvd.

Thoughtfully designed and showcasing exquisite craftsmanship throughout, this custom coastal home offers master suites on both floors, along with an office, loft area, ample storage and a flex space ideal for a 5th bedroom.

**4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$2,150,000**



### Ideally Located in San Marco

Fully rebuilt in 2005, this 2nd floor end unit condominium is within short walking distance to San Marco Square. It has front and rear balconies and comes with covered parking and an additional storage unit.

**2 Bedrooms, 2 bathrooms \$399,000.**



### Stunning Riverfront Estate

Riverfront/SanMarco. Instantly makes you feel you’ve been swept away to a chateau in France. Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes, this 10,204-sq.-ft. home is a masterpiece in design and built for entertaining.

**5 bedroom, 6 full bath, 5 half bath \$6,200,000**



### Water to Golf Views in Marsh Landing

Exquisite lagoon to golf views from this cul de sac beauty. Open floorplan/kitchen/dining spaces w/fireplace and oversized windows. Guest ensuite, 1/2 bath & laundry room finish off the first floor. Master retreat w/ fireplace, HIS & HERS baths/closets, wet bar w/ fridge leading to outdoor deck & hot tub. Private with Summer Kitchen and fire pit overlooking pool and lagoon. **5 Bedrooms, 5 Bathrooms. \$1,400,000**



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# Baptist Medical Center Beaches again earns 'A' for patient safety

For the fifth consecutive time, Baptist Medical Center Beaches received an "A" rating in the spring 2021 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades, a national distinction recognizing achievements in providing the safest health care for patients.

Baptist Beaches is one of only 33% of hospitals in the nation to receive an "A" rating.

"To receive an 'A' safety rating five times in a row is extremely gratifying," said hospital President Joe Mitrick. "Our dedicated team members and physicians make patient safety their top priority in every situation every day."

Baptist Nassau, Baptist South and Baptist Jacksonville also received "A" safety ratings.

"Our health care teams are committed to constant monitoring and improving our patient safety standards," said Elizabeth Ransom, executive vice president and chief physician executive for Baptist Health. "Safety is ingrained in our culture through collaboration and open communication – which are vital in achieving the highest quality standards in our hospitals."

Baptist Beaches' safety and quality protocols have been further enhanced since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis through a number of additional measures. Separate respiratory care units for COVID-19 patients, designated staff and equipment for COVID-19 rooms, and the use of advanced UV technology for decontami-

nation are among the many safety reinforcements the health system has implemented.

"An 'A' safety grade is an elite designation that your community should be proud of," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "The past year has been extraordinarily difficult for hospitals, but Baptist Health shows us it is possible to keep a laser focus on patients and their safety, no matter what it takes."

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, infections and other harms among patients in their care.

Developed under the guidance of a national expert panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 27 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,700 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization committed to health care quality and safety. The Safety Grade is a letter grade assigned to all general hospitals across the country and updated every six months, assessing how well the hospital prevents medical errors and other harms to patients.



Photo provided by Kathy Esfahani

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

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope." – *Lady Bird Johnson*



Kathy Esfahani  
Columnist

Over the coming months, we will be highlighting some of the most popular landscaping genres that I see here in Northeast Florida. Many homeowners choose to stay within one type of landscaping design to create the beautiful ambience

they are picturing. In the next four weeks, you will learn what plants, palms and flowers are used to create a tropical landscape, Mediterranean landscape, traditional landscape and coastal landscape!

### TROPICAL LANDSCAPE

What do you think of when someone says tropical landscaping? Personally, I think of a vacation oasis, somewhere warm with lush plants and lots of color!

**GARDEN** continues on **Page 10**

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Fostering Connections St. John's founder and CEO Aubrie Simpson-Gotham (left) poses with a friend at Fantasy Farms in Ponte Vedra.



Members of the St. Augustine Ballet performing for guests at a fundraising event May 1 at Fantasy Farms in Ponte Vedra.

## Fostering Connections St. John's raises more than \$18k at fundraiser

By Holly Tishfield

On Saturday, May 1, local nonprofit organization Fostering Connections St. John's hosted its Night of the Arts fundraiser benefit at Fantasy Farms in Ponte Vedra.

The goal? Raising funds to benefit its mission of providing better educational programming for youth in foster care in the St. John's, Putnam, Flagler and Volusia county areas.

The organization was founded in 2019 by Aubrie Simpson-Gotham, a local educator with a passion for helping foster youth reach their full potential and connecting volunteers/community leaders to opportunities to assist foster families in providing stable, loving homes for children in transition. The funds it raises through these events goes directly towards providing support and comforts for youth in foster care, giving foster parents the supports and resources they need, and connecting the community around this multifaceted issue.

Night of the Arts is not the organization's first event at Fantasy Farms, but it is the first event with this particular goal of arts and educational programming in mind.

"We created this event to showcase our arts program and to bring the community together to support children in case," Simpson-Gotham said.

The outdoor event featured a plethora of foods, desserts and cocktails for guests, as well as a photobooth, live entertainment from Parker Urban Band and a performance from the St. Augustine Ballet.

Ten pieces of artwork created by some of the children the nonprofit assists were displayed at the event, while the full collection is available for viewing at the rotunda of the St. John's County Administration Building. A live auction of



Photos by Images By Alina

One of the painted bicycles created by local artists and up for auction at the event.

hand-painted bicycles donated by local artists was also part of the fundraising efforts of the night.

One of the event's main sponsors, Flagler Health+, sent representative Melissa Cecil to speak to the small crowd about Flagler Health+'s work in the community and support of Fostering Connections. Simpson-Gotham gave a short speech thanking guests and sponsors for their support, and afterwards the organization's Board Chair Amanda Davis gave a rousing call to action with current statistics of children in foster care.

Fostering Connections St. John's rounded out the night with over \$18,000 in fundraising, all of which will be used to help fill the gaps for educational programs for local children in the foster care system.

## NFLT applauds state lawmakers for passing Florida Wildlife Corridor Act

North Florida Land Trust applauded the Florida House and Senate for unanimously passing the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act. Legislators approved bills designed to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, water quality, farms, forests and coastal estuaries. If the legislators agree to the budget and Gov. Ron DeSantis signs it into law, \$300 million will be dedicated to preserving the migratory routes within the Florida Wildlife Corridor and \$100 million will fund Florida Forever, the state's land conservation program.

"This is such a huge opportunity for conservation in the state, especially within the O2O wildlife corridor where we lead a partnership of organizations dedicated to conservation and land management," said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. "We are thankful for this unanimous bipartisan support and particularly would like to thank State Senator Jason Brodeur and all members of the First Coast Legislative Delegation who were instrumental in this process."

NFLT leads the effort to conserve the Ocala to Osceola (O2O) Wildlife Corridor, a critical component of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The O2O is comprised of public and private organizations dedicated to conservation and land management within the 100-mile landscape that connects the Ocala and Osceola National Forests. McCarthy said the nonprofit looks forward to continuing to work closely with its partners including Florida DEP's Division of State Lands, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Camp Blanding, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, U.S. Forest Service, county governments, and all of the other partners to continue to conserve lands within this area.

NFLT is currently working to preserve 541 acres in Marion County known as Big Pine Preserve. The land was recently added to the Longleaf Pine Ecosystems Florida Forever project area making it eligible for funding through the Florida Forever program in 2022. The nonprofit land conservation organization is also working with private timberland company Weyerhaeuser on a possible sale of a conservation easement on 50,000 acres of timberland within the O2O.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor includes more than 18 million acres of land, 8 million of which remain unprotected. In addition to funding conservation efforts and protecting the critical wildlife corridor, the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act will connect land needed for flood and sea-level rise resiliency and will protect areas that provide vital drinking water sources for most Floridians. If signed by DeSantis, the law would go into effect on July 1.

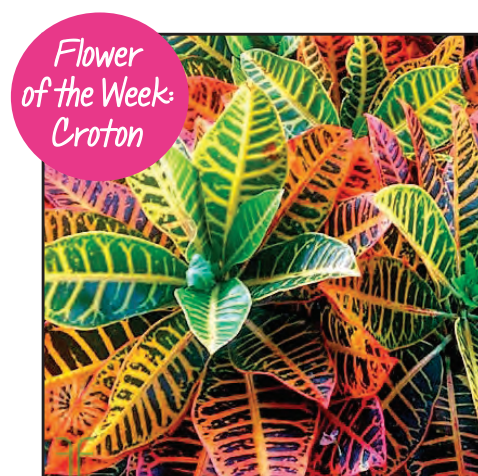
## Garden

Continued from 8

We are lucky here in Northeast Florida, as we are one of the most northern climates that can still plant a tropical landscape as most are heat loving plants.

Tropical landscapes create a paradise, many people will even add a water feature in their yard to help create this look and feel. This type of landscaping is usually more organic, with plants and flowers overlapping and free flowing. There is a softness to this type of look, but with pops of vibrant color!

When creating an exotic tropical landscape, we can use a mixture of the following:



Flower of the Week: Croton

**Palms:** Sylvesters, queen palms and roebellinis

**Plants and flowers:** Hibiscus, caladiums, Hawaiian Ti, arbioccola, variegated ginger, foxtail fern, white and orange Birds of Paradise, apostle iris, crotons, flax lily, agapanthus, allamanda and bamboo.

With all landscapes, the key to success is knowing the sun/shade ratios in your yards as well as what each plant requires and planting accordingly. Annuals are always welcome in any landscape to add seasonal color to your gorgeous design.

Happy planting!

Email Kathy at [kathys.creative.gardens@gmail.com](mailto:kathys.creative.gardens@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. in Ponte Vedra Beach. (904) 655-7373



# Ascension St. Vincent's hospitals earn 'A' grades in safety

The 3 Northeast Florida locations were recognized nationally for patient care

Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County, Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside and Ascension St. Vincent's Southside each earned an "A" in the spring 2021 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing Ascension St. Vincent's commitment to clinical and service excellence, protecting patients from harm and providing safer, higher quality healthcare.

The hospitals also received "A" grades last fall.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization committed to health care quality and safety.

"Safety is essential to clinical excellence, providing an exceptional patient experience and authentically living our mission," said Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast President and CEO Tom VanOsdol. "Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast has clearly articulated and reinforced patient safety as a top priority as evidenced by these straight A's, multiple 5-star ratings from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, multiple 5-star ratings from Professional Research Consultants Inc., and numerous other specialty-specific awards and recognitions.

"I'm grateful for every physician, every nurse, every caregiver and everyone on our entire team for dedicated and selfless work to care for those we're so blessed to serve. Recognitions like these require a total team effort and clearly demonstrate our differentiated expertise with respect to the quality of our care, and caring."

"An 'A' safety grade is an elite designation that your community should be proud of," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "The past year has been extraordinarily difficult for hospitals, but Ascension St. Vincent's shows us it is possible to keep a laser focus on patients and their safety, no matter what it takes."

The Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to all general acute care hospitals across the country and is updated every six months. It is based on a hospital's performance in preventing medical errors, injuries, accidents, infections and other harms to patients in their care.

Developed under the guidance of a national expert panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses up to 27 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,700 U.S. acute care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is

peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

To see each hospital's full grade details and access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, go to [hospitalsafetygrade.org](https://hospitalsafetygrade.org).

To learn more about Ascension St. Vincent's, go to [jaxhealth.com](https://jaxhealth.com).

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# Nease senior accepted to honors college to study computer science

For high school seniors bound for higher education, the pandemic continues at a pivotal time in life. Seniors are closing a monumental academic chapter in an unprecedented way and preparing to start a new one with many unknowns.

Yet students like Avani Shandilya, a senior at Allen D. Nease High School and a Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech alum, persist with confidence.

Avani will attend University of Central Florida's Honors College this fall, a decade and a half after she attended early intervention and preschool programs at Clarke, where she learned to listen and talk.

Avani has a bilateral hearing loss that was discovered when she was 10 months old, shortly after her family moved to Florida from India. She uses listening and spoken language to communicate and wears cochlear implants to help access sound.

"Participating in College Signing Day and celebrating the successes of Clarke alums, like Avani, is a great way to recognize that we are proud of their hard work, invested in their futures and excited to see what they will do next," said Judy Sexton, chief program officer at Clarke. "Our aim is to equip students with the skills they need to succeed academically and socially."

Clarke joined a network of more than 3,000 College Signing Day celebrations

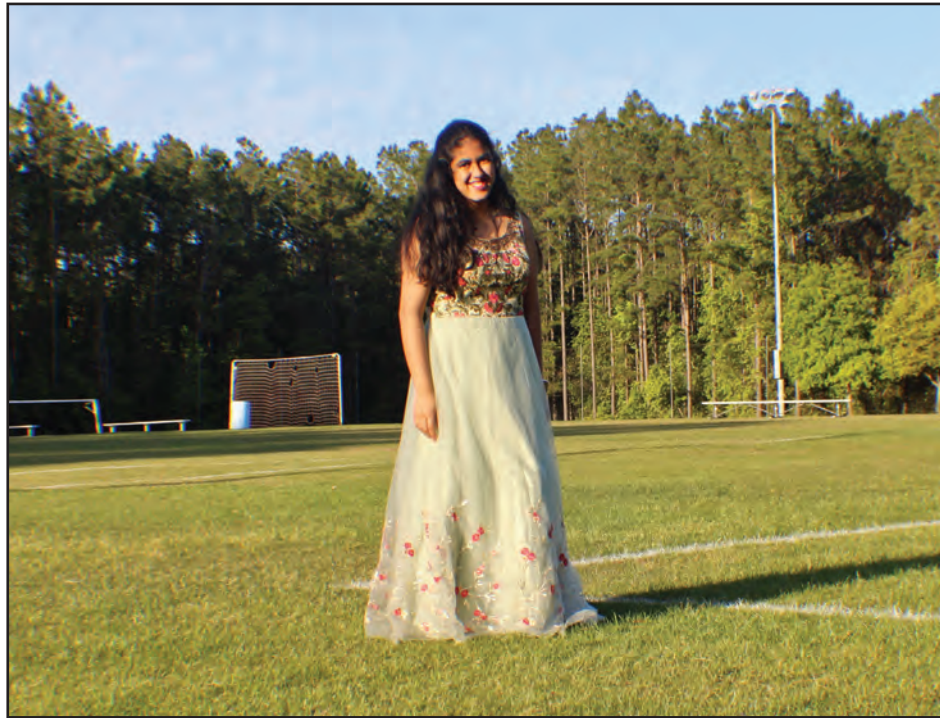


Photo provided by Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech

**Instead of attending a traditional in-person prom, Avani and a friend had a pandemic-friendly celebration at home.**

nationwide on Saturday, May 1.

Former First Lady Michelle Obama started College Signing Day as part of the Reach Higher initiative — to inspire students to complete their education past high school, whether at a professional training program, a community college or a four-year college or university.

While no student's path is the same, many Clarke alums, like Avani, are committed to advancing their education beyond high school.

Avani has seen the pandemic turn every aspect of the senior experience upside down. For the majority of the school year her classes and extracurricular clubs were

remote. But despite challenging odds, she has continued to soar academically and socially.

"Having a good group of friends has really helped me — especially throughout the pandemic," said Avani. "We didn't have an official prom that was sponsored by the school, so my friend and I had a pandemic-friendly one at home. This summer, before moving for college, I'm really looking forward to having the flexibility to go back to work at a tutoring center where I tutor younger students in math, and I'm excited to hang out with friends."

Avani is enrolled in her high school's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, a rigorous two-year program dedicated to curriculum and service. She's a member of the National Honor Society, Hispanic Honor Society and Interact Club, and she participated in her high school's orchestra.

She plans to major in computer science at UCF and has been accepted into COMPASS — a program that helps undergraduate students explore career options in STEM-related fields.

"Computer science is a broad major, and I'm still deciding exactly what aspect of the field I'd like to focus on," said Avani. "My dad is an IT architect and introduced me to the field. I started taking

**HONORS** continues on **Page 13**

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# Flagler Hospital receives 'A' for hospital safety from national watchdog group

Flagler Hospital received an "A" grade in the spring 2021 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing Flagler Hospital's achievements protecting patients from errors, injuries, accidents and infections.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization committed to health care quality and safety. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to all general hospitals across the country and is updated every six months. It is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospitals' prevention of medical errors and other harms to patients in their care.

"To be recognized for our dedication to patient safety in one of the most challenging times in our history is a true testament to our team members," stated Flagler Health+ President and CEO Jason Barrett. "Providing quality – and safe – patient care is our highest priority in any given year, but it is particularly meaningful as our team members have risen to the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are honored to be recognized by The Leapfrog Group for our excellence in ensuring the highest level of safety for our patients."

"An 'A' safety grade is an elite designation that your community should be proud of," said Leah Binder, president

and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "The past year has been extraordinarily difficult for hospitals, but Flagler Hospital shows us it is possible to keep a laser focus on patients and their safety, no matter what it takes."

Developed under the guidance of a national expert panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses up to 27 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,700 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

To learn more about Flagler Health+, go to [flaglerhealth.org](http://flaglerhealth.org).

## Honors

Continued from 12

basic Word and Excel classes in middle school, and currently I'm taking two programming classes. College allows more flexibility in classes — and I'm really looking forward to that."

For students who are deaf or hard of hearing entering college, there are

a variety of accommodations that can improve their access. What works best will depend on the individual student's needs, their preferences and each specific listening environment.

Avani recommended emailing a school's disability resource center to form a personal connection and see what accommodations they have available.

"Avani continues to amaze us!" said Geeta Shandilya, Avani's mom and

a teacher of the deaf at Clarke. "She started exceeding our expectations as a toddler and continues to do so in high school. She makes us very proud. As a parent and a professional, I see every day the limitless possibilities for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We will always be grateful to all the professionals who have supported Avani's growth and who have helped her reach where she is today."

## OBITUARIES

### Jeri Lynn Kellaheer

Jeri Lynn Kellaheer, 54, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died April 24, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, (904) 249-1100, [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com)

### Joan Harl Martin

Joan Harl Martin, 87, of Atlantic Beach, FL died April 29, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, (904) 249-1100, [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

### Willie Goodson Meyer

Willie Goodson Meyer, 97, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died May 2, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904)249-1100 [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com)

### Jesse William Saunders, Jr.

Jesse William Saunders, Jr., 86, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died April 26, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904)249-1100 [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com)

### Jeffrey Van Tuin

Jeffrey Van Tuin, 57, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died April 25, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravalle.com](http://www.pontevedravalle.com)



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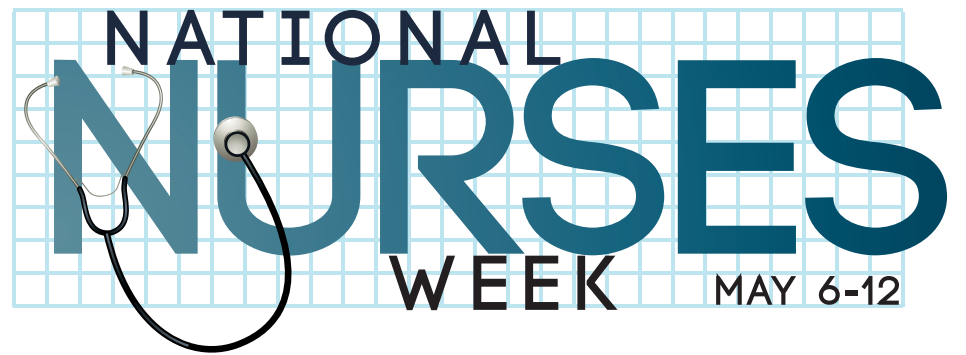
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A diamond among senior care providers, River Garden’s shimmer is a reflection of our amazing nurses and caregivers, led by Bernadeth Palompo, BSN, RN, Assistant Director of Nursing and Infection Preventionist (*pictured above*).



## Community Hospice & Palliative Care celebrates Nurses Week

National Nurses Week takes place Thursday, May 6, through Wednesday, May 12, and marks the 201st year of celebrating nurses. The week allows people the chance to acknowledge the nurses in their lives, and provides an opportunity to thank them for the work they have done.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care employs more than 386 nurses that care for almost 1,600 patients a day. Many times at the end of life, a nurse is the last person a patient has contact with and the care they provide during this phase will affect the family’s memories of their loved one’s final days.

“Katie, our nurse, was my angel. She was the kindest and most giving person we have ever met, and she just felt like family,” Mrs. Strickland, wife and caregiver of a patient at Community Hospice & Palliative Care, said of Katie Platt. “She knew my husband was going to go and she stayed with him and held his hand. I thank you all every day for watching over him. I’m grateful for what you did for him, even for such a short time he was in your care, and I’m grateful he wasn’t alone.”

Nurses have played an even more important role over the last year as our community and the nation dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic. They have regularly put their health and safety on the line to compassionately care for those who may be positive for the virus while also suffering



**Katie Platt**, Community Hospice & Palliative Care nurse

from chronic or advanced illness.

“Our nurses are an integral part of our care team. We are blessed to have an amazing group of caring compassionate loving nurses,” said Mary McElroy, senior vice president of Hospice Services. “They are Community Hospice.”

Community Hospice & Palliative Care will celebrate by honoring their nurses with a recognition webinar series, gift bags and a social media campaign that shares messages of thanks from staff. In addition, the health care relations team will be honoring nurses in the community to thank them.



## DID YOU KNOW

National Nurses Week is celebrated each year in the United States. The American Nurses Association notes that the week begins each year on May 6 and ends on May 12, which coincides with International Nurses Day, a global celebration designed to highlight and celebrate the contributions nurses make to society. May 12 also marks the birthday of Florence Nightingale, an influential 19th Century British nurse who many consider the founder of modern nursing. Student nurses and school nurses are honored during National Nurses Week celebrations in the United States. Celebrations honoring nurses across the globe figure to take on greater meaning in 2021 as the world continues to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, during which hundreds of nurses have died from the virus while countless others have contracted it before eventually returning to work to continue helping those in need. This year, individuals, community leaders and privately held businesses can come together during National Nurses Week to celebrate the important work nurses do and the bravery they’ve shown while confronting one of the most devastating pandemics in history.







# Creative Mother's Day celebration and gift ideas

On Sunday, May 9, millions of people will celebrate the special women in their lives, particularly the mothers, grandmothers and stepmothers who often tirelessly care for those they love.

Created by Anna Jarvis in the early 20th century and designated an official United States holiday in 1914, Mother's Day is a special day in many families. Apart from birthdays, primary female caregivers may not always get the recognition they deserve, nor be entitled to a day to kick back and relax and let others take the helm. Mother's Day entitles them to something special.

Even though the way people have been living has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mother's Day may be the first holiday on the calendar when the world can finally regain some sense of normalcy. But caution should still prevail during Mother's Day celebrations. Thankfully, there are plenty of creative ways to celebrate mothers and mother figures this year.

■ **Dine truly "al fresco."** Outdoor dining has become commonplace, and even before it was a safety measure, enjoying a meal on a sun-soaked patio or overlooking a body of water was popular. If you're



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

worried about limited restaurant space or crowds, plan a picnic at a scenic location, such as a botanical garden or county park. Include Mom's favorite foods and enjoy the fresh air and delicious foods together.

■ **Create a photo slideshow.** Digital photos have eclipsed prints in many people's hearts. But too often digital photos

GIFTS continues on Page 17



## This Mother's Day, Give Mom Her Independence Back

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A sample of the infamous Vernon's First Coast Kitchen & Bar Sunday Brunch



Photos provided by Sawgrass Marriott

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is offering special Mother's Day packages.

# Treat mom to a special surprise this Mother's Day

By Holly Tishfield

This Mother's Day, every mom and mother-figure deserves to be treated like a queen. For a spa package like no other, consider taking Mom to the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa. To make up for the lost celebrations of last year, the spa is offering an exclusive Mother's Day package. Mom can enjoy a bottle of wine upon arrival in a deluxe accommodation before relaxing at the Sawgrass Spa and indulging in its infamous Sunday Brunch at Vernon's First Coast Kitchen & Bar.

Guests who book this package will receive a \$50 food & beverage credit and a savings of 15% on select spa services. Vernon's First Coast Kitchen & Bar at Sawgrass Marriott will also be offering its classic Sunday Brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., complete with a refreshed menu. Guests are invited to savor the Mother's Day specials, like the Ube Scones with Coconut Glaze (a featured item on the

pastry board) and Crab Cake Benedict with Bird Pepper Hollandaise, while celebrating the day with bottomless mimosas or a Sawgrass Bloody Mary.

For those last-minute shoppers — with each purchase of a \$200 Sawgrass Spa gift card for mom, they will receive a complimentary \$25 credit. The offer requires a two-night stay minimum, giving mom the perfect weekend of relaxation. Guests can book with code ZJL on the website at [www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-deals/details/JAXSW-sawgrass-marriott-golf-resort-and-spa/OFF-19827](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-deals/details/JAXSW-sawgrass-marriott-golf-resort-and-spa/OFF-19827).

Or, head over to the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, where you can treat mom to one of over 100 different spa offerings, such as its 60-minute aromatherapy full-body massage or a 50-minute anti-aging guava manicure. Now through June, the PV Inn & Club is also offering exclusive specials on 60-minute massages such as the Illuminating Berry Special, where guests can enjoy a foaming cucumber and water tonic cleanser and a brightening serum rich in Vitamin C to enrich the skin, or guests can select the Sunflower Repair Scrub special, where the skin is pampered with warm sunflower oil and a whipped shea butter. Through Sunday, May 9, for every \$150 purchased in gift cards to the spa, you will receive a complimentary \$15 voucher.



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is offering spa packages and specials to pamper moms.



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# Some ways to honor moms for Mother's Day

Each and every day a new woman becomes a mother for the first time or all over again. Being a mother changes a person's life in dramatic ways.

Mother's Day is a great time of year to honor mothers and attempt to give back just a portion of the tireless love and devotion moms offer their children. Some children provide large gestures, while others feel it's the little things that can help a mom to feel appreciated. For those needing a little inspiration on treating their mothers in special ways, consider these ideas.

- Make mom a breakfast in bed with her favorite morning treats.
- Enjoy a movie at home with mom. Let her pick the flick and share her favorite film with you.
- Agree to not bicker for the entire day, especially if you are prone to getting into arguments with siblings.
- Put together a collage of photos from moments you have shared with mom or your family.
- Cook a meal together and learn about everyone's favorite recipes or the family history.
- Give her a locket with your photo inside and have a duplicate you can wear containing her photo.
- Customize a coffee mug, tote bag or a blanket with a meaningful sentiment or photo.
- Treat mom to a day off from her chores. Tackle all of the jobs she normally does for the family.
- Bake a delicious dessert that mom will absolutely devour.
- Pamper mom with a gift card for her favorite nail salon or massage therapy location.
- Prepare a jar of mom's favorite candies wrapped in pieces of paper that have loving sentiments written on them.
- Compile a playlist of songs and artists mom prefers and download them to her phone.
- Begin a charm bracelet tradition by purchasing a charm bracelet and a new charm each year that represents a meaningful memory you both shared.
- Write a new email each day with an inspirational quote or special words of love for mom.
- Tackle a task that she may not want to do herself, such as washing the exterior of her car and vacuuming the interior.

Mother's Day gift ideas should come from the heart and can show mothers near and far how much they are appreciated and loved.

## Gifts

Continued from 15

never get seen after they're initially taken. That can change when you compile a slideshow of favorite photos from childhood and even present-day photos that Mom is sure to appreciate. Use sentimental music or Mom's favorite songs as the soundtrack, and include some inspirational quotations or personal voiceovers. This

is one gift that can be shared in person or over group meeting apps.

■ **Get involved together.** An especially meaningful way to honor a mother who is always giving her time and love is to become involved in a difference-making organization. Joint volunteerism is a great way to spend more time together working toward a worthy goal.

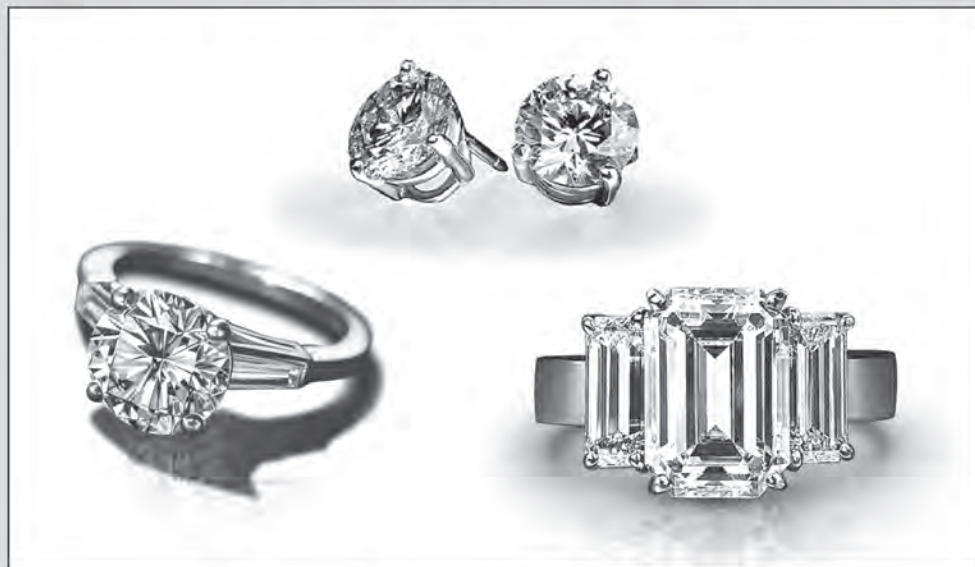
■ **Enjoy her hobbies and interests.** Devote a day or more to trying Mom's interests and hobbies, whether they include

hitting the links, knitting, singing in the church choir, or digging in her garden.

■ **Send an edible gift.** If you can't be there to celebrate with Mom in person, have a special meal delivered to her door. Then enjoy the same foods with her via Google Meet, Facetime or Zoom. Don't forget a tasty cocktail so you can toast the special woman in your life.

Mother's Day celebrations can be unique, heartfelt and customized based on family needs.

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1.44ct	Emerald Cut	AGS	—	G	VVS <sub>2</sub>	\$ 11,900	\$ 7,900
1.70ct	Round	GIA & AGS	2 Very Good	K	VS <sub>2</sub>	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,700
2.01ct	Round	GIA & AGS	0 Ideal	H	VS <sub>2</sub>	\$ 26,500	\$ 21,900
2.01ct	Oval	GIA & AGS	1 Excellent	G	VS <sub>2</sub>	\$ 26,900	\$ 20,500
3.03ct	Square Radiant	AGS	—	J	VS <sub>2</sub>	\$ 29,000	\$ 24,000
3.05ct	Round	AGS	0 Ideal	I	VS <sub>1</sub>	\$ 55,000	\$ 45,000
3.52ct	Emerald Cut	GIA & AGS	—	G	VS <sub>1</sub>	\$ 70,000	\$ 58,500
4.01ct	Round	GIA & AGS	0 Ideal	G	VS <sub>2</sub>	\$105,000	\$ 82,000
5.02ct	Oval	GIA & AGS	—	D	SI <sub>2</sub>	\$113,000	\$ 95,000

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# DONNA Foundation to host Mother's Day Your Way event

Nonprofit's virtual event encourages moms to 'take time for themselves'

By Holly Tishfield

As their third and final event in the signature Genetech DONNA Fearless series, the DONNA Foundation is hosting a completely virtual AARP Mother's Day Your Way workout event from now through the end of Mother's Day weekend.

The virtual event encourages participants to exercise in their own way, as opposed to embarking on a marathon, with an activity they have never tried before. Whether that is roller skating, surfing or signing up for a new workout class, the organization simply wants participants to grab their loved ones and try something new.

"Our goal this Mother's Day is to encourage mothers to take time for themselves," Donna Deegan, founder of the DONNA Foundation, said in a press release. "Whether you want to go on a family outing or do something special for yourself, we hope you will celebrate

this Mother's Day by doing what makes you happy."

Participants of the Mother's Day Your Way event will receive a certificate and medal through the mail after the event. For those who completed all three events in the DONNA Fearless series, an additional medal of honor will be included, dubbing the competitors "fearless."

As part of DONNA's Every Mom Challenge, a prolonged celebration of moms throughout the nation, participants have three ways to honor their mothers or mother-figures. The first is by registering for the virtual Mother's Day Your Way event, the second is by honoring mom with a photo and story on their digital tribute wall and the third is by donating to the matching gift challenge. The foundation is asking for donations of \$30, and a generous donor will be matching each donation up to \$5,000.

All proceeds from the event go directly toward providing financial assistance and support to those living with breast cancer and funding groundbreaking breast cancer research. Now, more

EVENT continues on Page 19



The DONNA Foundation hosts annual marathons to support women in their fights with breast cancer. This year's Mother's Day Your Way virtual event, sponsored by AARP, encourages people to get creative with new workouts.

Photos provided by the DONNA Foundation

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— ♦ FOR THE ♦ —  
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MM1481



# Butterfield Garage Gallery celebrates Mother's Day with new exhibition

'To Mother with Love' features work by artists of all ages; show runs throughout May

Butterfield Garage Art Gallery invited community members of all ages to exercise their creative chops around the theme of motherhood with an open exhibition "To Mother with Love."

This eclectic show allowed anyone in the community to have the opportunity to explore personal interpretations of motherhood. Butterfield's mission is to encourage accessibility and dialogue between artists, patrons and the community within Northeast Florida. This exhibit is an example of that goal.

Beginners to well-known local artists have responded, and this upcoming exhibit displays the results from that open call. All entries will be on display in the gallery during the month of May. The exhibit's opening reception will take place on Friday, May 7. The King Street gallery is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and stays open on First Friday until 9 p.m.



Photos provided by Butterfield Garage Gallery

## Event

Continued from 18

than ever, the organization has found families need financial assistance and assurance, as call volumes increased more than 75% to its hotlines.

"All of our events are a celebration of survivorship," said Amanda Napolitano, executive director of the DONNA Foundation, "and survivorship for

people [can] look very different."

The organization has partnered with many local fitness studios to offer discounted classes and workouts for participants, all of which can be found on a directory on their website.

Registration for the virtual event will remain open until the very end of Mother's Day, and people interested in participating or donating can go to [thedonnafoundation.org](http://thedonnafoundation.org) for more information.

**Mothers**

They care for us, they teach us, they love us. May your Mother's Day be filled with caring, teachable, loving moments as you take a pause from the hurry of life.

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# Business Weekly

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THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

St. Johns County  
homebuilder celebrates  
10-year milestone

Page 22

Conner Battreall, with representatives of Fit20 and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, cuts the ribbon during the grand opening of the new Fit20 workout studio on April 29 in Nocatee.

Photo by  
Susan Griffin



## New workout studio comes to Nocatee

Fit20 offers high-intensity 20-minute training sessions

By Holly Tishfield

On April 29, the St. John's County Chamber of Commerce held an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Fit20 workout studio in Nocatee — Northeast Florida's third Fit20 location.

The 1,100-square-foot workout studio in Nocatee is one of the 160 studios spanned over eight countries.

Welcoming its third Northeast Florida franchise, Fit20 provides an opportunity to bring the fast and effective workout training to the Nocatee area. The other Northeast Florida studios are in Jacksonville Beach and Tapestry Park,

"We have always thought Nocatee was a great area," said Conner Battreall, new franchise owner and son of regional developer Cathy Battreall.

Conner Battreall, a longtime Jacksonville resident and University of North Florida graduate, said becoming the

franchise owner of the Nocatee location was a no-brainer. He had worked with his mother on other location projects and was heavily involved with the development of the Jacksonville Beach Fit20 location.

Battreall received his Fit20 certification and training at the Jacksonville Beach location and is now excited to bring the magic of Fit20 directly to the Nocatee area.

"Our workouts are only 20 minutes,

WORKOUT continues on Page 21

## Ice cream shop to celebrate grand opening in Jax Beach

Locally owned business offering free scoop to guests at new location

In search of a treat after a long beach day or just need to curb a sweet tooth? Ice cream is always a tasty answer.

Jacksonville Beach residents and visitors have a new place to enjoy the popular, cold treat. Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams now has a location at 1198 Beach Blvd., Suite 7 in Beach Plaza, and will be celebrating its grand opening from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday, May 6.

Each guest will enjoy a free sugar cone with a complimentary kid's scoop of any flavor with more than two dozen delicious flavors to choose from.

"I thought Mayday was a great fit for Jax Beach mainly because I have so many friends with families in the area that are always looking for delicious ice cream and great family experiences,"

ICE CREAM continues on Page 23

## Carrying on a Ponte Vedra tradition

Don's Barber Shop changes owners, but maintains its style

By Shaun Ryan

There's something reassuring about stepping into Don's Barber Shop. It evokes memories of a simpler time when customers would stop in for the conversation as well as the haircut.

There's the traditional rotating barber pole. Cleveland Browns memorabilia hangs on one wall — a nod to the current owner's Ohio roots. Near the door, a framed newspaper article from the early 1960s features a photo of Don Brown as a young barber.

And sitting below that, the man himself, the

founder of this Ponte Vedra landmark located off Solana Road in the Winn-Dixie plaza.

"We've done well here," he says, thinking over the 31 years since he opened the shop. "We've done really well."

Brown recently retired after 59 years of barbering, having sold the business to Raquel Turnbull, a third-generation master barber who has spent two of her 25 years in the profession working for Brown.

Despite this change in ownership and some cosmetic touches, longtime customers will still find the familiar, homey atmosphere firmly established by Brown.

"His presence will always be known in here," said Turnbull. "It's an iconic spot."

BARBER continues on Page 23



Photo provided by Raquel Turnbull

Don's Barber Shop is under new ownership but still provides its time-honored service. Seated in front is business founder Don Brown. Behind him are Raquel Turnbull (from left), Ann Brown and Shirley Dutcher.





Photo by Susan Griffin

Guests enjoy refreshments and food during the grand opening of Fit20 on April 29 in Nocatee.

## Workout

Continued from 20

but we didn't want it to take 30 minutes or more to get to the studio," Cathy Battreall said in a website posting. "We are now within golf cart reach for residents in the Nocatee community."

Fit20's unique appeal comes from its quick and simple workout format, with scientific evidence to back it up. Members experience an intense, full-body workout with strength-training machines for only 20 minutes, once or twice per week. The company also utilizes advanced sensor technology to provide with live accurate

feedback of their performance and help perfect a member's form to virtually eliminate the risk of injury, post-exercise muscle soreness, and maximize results.

"I think that the benefits of strength training and what it really does for your overall health and well-being really speaks to the people of Nocatee," said Conner Battreall.

The Fit20 Nocatee location is already open and accepting membership opportunities. All new members receive their first training for free, including a health assessment and a 45-minute in-studio session with a certified Fit20 trainer. The Fit20 locations are following COVID-19 guidelines, as per CDC recommendation.



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA VIRTUAL JOB & EDUCATION FAIR

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If you are ready to find your next opportunity in Northeast Florida, join us at our Job and Education Fair on May 20th.

This virtual event will take place online only, Thursday, May 20, 2021, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Are you a graduating High School Senior? Congratulations on your accomplishment!

You are welcome to attend the whole time, but we have reserved the first hour for High School Seniors to speak with employers starting at 10:00 am.

Everyone is welcome from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Employers from across Northeast Florida in a variety of fields — with open positions at all levels of experience will be participating.

Get your resume ready and see you there!



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# St. Johns County homebuilder reaches 10-year milestone with 500 homes built

Tuesday, April 27, marked MasterCraft Builder Group's 10-year anniversary. With 500 homes built over the past decade, the semi-custom homebuilder has proven time and time again how they stand up against other homebuilders throughout the region.

Over the past 10 years, with a focus on MasterCraft's four C's (Craftsmanship, Choice, Customer Service and Community), the company has grown from humble beginnings as an experimental business project among three friends to one of Northeast Florida's premier homebuilders.

"We started this company because of our passion for building quality homes in the communities where we live, and a desire to provide customers with exceptional service," said Chris Shee, CEO and founder of MasterCraft Builder Group. "This year, we will close on our 500th home. It's exciting, and a big benchmark. I'd say the feeling that's the strongest is pride because every single home from the very first one in 2011 to today, I know it's built well and will stand the test of time."

One of the defining features of any MasterCraft home is its higher standards, according to the company.

For a decade, Shee and the rest of the team have selected only what they consider highest quality materials. From solid core interior doors and an oversized laundry to family foyer drop zone and Samsung appliances, each MasterCraft home features dozens of higher standards, fully-equipped for the way modern families live.



Photos provided by MasterCraft Builder Group  
A MasterCraft home, one of 500 built over the past decade.



MasterCraft prides itself on its higher standards.

"We try and do the right thing always, knowing that every customer is a potential neighbor and friend," said Shee. "We have stayed true to who we are, how we treat our customers, how we build our homes, and how we give back to the community — from the very beginning. The only thing that has changed is that we've gotten better at it."

# Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR to host Mega Open House Weekend

May 15-16 event to showcase company's wide range of listings

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty announced its next Mega Open House Weekend is Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16.

The event offers dozens of open house viewings of the company's listings of available homes. The listings encompass homes in a wide range of prices, styles and neighborhoods throughout Northeast Florida.

"Our popular Mega Open House weekend offers a wonderful opportunity to view numerous homes and neighborhoods throughout Northeast Florida," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty President and CEO Christy Budnick. "Our expert Realtors are available to help everyone learn more about the homebuying process and find their perfect home."

Go to [OpenHouseNEFlorida.com](http://OpenHouseNEFlorida.com) for a list of open houses. Visit the company's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/FloridaNetworkRealty](http://www.facebook.com/FloridaNetworkRealty), to enjoy the convenience of viewing the homes virtually during the event.

Everyone is welcome to tour homes for sale during the Mega Open House weekend. For more information, go to [FloridaNetworkRealty.com](http://FloridaNetworkRealty.com).

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Shapiro Group, 2012.



## Barber

Continued from 20

### A FAMILY BUSINESS

Brown was working at Florida Steel in 1962 when he decided he needed a change. He came home after work one night and told his wife, “I’m checking out. I’ve got to get a different job.”

Ann Brown, whom he’d married two years earlier, suggested he attend barber school. It was something he’d considered in the past, so he did just that, finishing up in December of the same year.

He began his first job in January 1963 in the Seaboard Coastline Railroad Building – now the CSX Transportation Building – in downtown Jacksonville. He bought the shop in 1967 and worked there until 1979, arguably one of the toughest eras to be a barber; men were wearing their hair longer and visiting their barbers less frequently.

But Brown wasn’t about to give up. “I went to hair-styling school,” he said. “I learned how to cut hair different ways.”

During this time, he distinguished himself, winning second in the state in a hair-cutting contest on July 20, 1969. If the date sounds familiar, it was the same day Neil Armstrong first set foot on the moon.

Brown sold his shop to one of his

employees in 1979 and opened another in Jacksonville Beach. He added a second one and shared the business with his wife, who by then was working as a cosmetologist.

In addition, their daughter Shirley — who became a licensed barber at 14 — went to work for him in 1981, making it a true family business.

### RETIREMENT

In 1990, Brown opened his Ponte Vedra shop and eventually sold the others. He was joined here by his daughter. Then, about 20 years ago, Ann Brown made the transition from cosmetologist to barber and joined the shop, too.

Over the years, Brown has cut the hair of Jacksonville Jaguars Mark Brunell and Tony Boselli, golfing great Rocco Mediate and others. Some of his customers have been with him since the 1960s. And he has cut their children’s and grandchildren’s hair, as well.

After so many years, he made the difficult decision to retire, and on March 10 sold his shop to Turnbull.

Retirement will give the Browns a chance to spend time with their two grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, though Ann Brown will continue to cut hair for her regular customers. Daughter Shirley Dutcher will also continue to work at the shop.

Don Brown hasn’t got a lot of big plans but suggested that he just might return to the shop and work.

“You miss the people,” Ann Brown said. “You get to where they’re more friends than they are just customers walking in the door.”

### NEW OWNER

Turnbull graduated from the Akron Barber College in 1995 and is a third-generation barber. She knew she would have to prove herself in the male-dominated field with her skills, talent and professionalism and has succeeded in doing so.

“Men want three things in choosing a barber,” she said, “consistency, convenience and confidentiality.”

Arriving in Jacksonville, she visited a couple hundred shops before finding Don’s Barber Shop.

“The Brown family welcomed me with open arms and were happy to add me to their staff of barbers,” she said.

She refers to her profession as “a calling” and enjoys talking to her customers and hearing their stories. She said barbers take the time to learn their customers’ names and relationships and what’s going on with their families.

In fact, Turnbull calls barbering “one of the last interpersonal communication professions.”

“I am honored and proud to carry on the tradition of Don’s Barber Shop,” she said. “I give all the glory to God, and I am so thankful to be a part of the Ponte Vedra community.”

## Ice cream

Continued from 20

said Stephen DiMare, owner of Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams and its sister company, Hyppo Gourmet Ice Pops. “The beach is a natural fit for artisan ice cream, and what I love most about our new location is that it’s so central. The beach community stretches for miles and miles, so having a shop toward the center with good parking is a real necessity, especially if you have kids with you.”

Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams offers classic ice cream flavors with a modern twist such as Blue Sky Blues, Cloud 9, Strawberry Fields, Coffee + Donuts, Blackberry Earl Grey, Lavender Melange, Ice Box Lemon and Triple Vanilla, as well as non-dairy options like Almond Butter Chocolate, Toasted Coconut and Dirty Chai.

“There is a real sense of fruition in getting to celebrate our new Mayday shop that opened during the pandemic,” DiMare said. “2020 was all about survival and sustainability for us as a company, and every single person on our team put their hearts and energy into pushing forward even when the situation became dire. To be coming out of that year with so much hope and promise feels like just the right way to ring the bell and celebrate the work we’ve been doing.”

## Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

## Criminal Defense Attorney



Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL “Blood, Breath & Tears” annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the AV preeminent rating™ from Martindale-Hubbell® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys. She also appears as a legal commentator on CNN and HLN.

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# In the Arts

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Photos provided by St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum

Visitors check out the "Shrimpin' Ain't Easy" exhibit at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum.

## 'Shrimpin' Ain't Easy' exhibit opens at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum recently announced the opening of "Shrimpin' Ain't Easy," a refresh and expansion of its exhibit highlighting the local shrimping history.

Over the last several months, museum staff have worked with representatives of the local families tied to St. Augustine's shrimping industry. The exhibit features more detail and in-depth stories about the origins of shrimping in the city and the multicultural influences impacting the rapid growth of the industry. During World War II, soldiers training in St. Augustine encountered fried shrimp for the first time and carried that love of shrimp back home with them. Following the war, local shrimpers targeted the seafood markets of New York City to increase demand and found their tactic worked well.

"The story of St. Augustine's shrimping industry is a multi-generational story of a group of families tied to the ocean. Their sacrifices, trials and successes help define the history of our community," said Capt. Bob Buehn, U.S. Navy (retired) and chairperson of the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum



Board of Trustees. "We are proud to share this story with the public, and we want to thank those who have given so much to make this happen."

The exhibit is housed in the Anastasia Gallery on the second floor of the 1877 Keepers' House located on the grounds of the historic St. Augustine Light Station. Access to the exhibit is included in the price of admission to the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum.

The new exhibit will showcase firsthand stories, letters, photographs and objects from the families that worked in

the shrimping industry in St. Augustine. In 2013, Captains Brendan Burke and Ed Long published a book titled, "Shrimp Boat City," documenting the history of the local shrimping industry. Copies of the book are available through the museum gift shop and online through the museum website at [www.staugustinelighthouse.org](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.org).

To donate towards this exhibit and to help save the history of St. Augustine's shrimping industry, contact Tanya Rhodes at [trhodes@staugustinelighthouse.org](mailto:trhodes@staugustinelighthouse.org) or make a donation online through the Museum's website at [www.staugustinelighthouse.org](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.org) and click donate.

The museum thanked Grace Paaso and John Versaggi for their assistance in the development of the new exhibit, and offered a special thanks to Ed Long and Brendan Burke, whose hours of research and interviews became the basis for the exhibit and helps to preserve this important and dramatic maritime history.

For more details about the museum, go to [www.staugustinelighthouse.org](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.org) or call (904) 829-0745.

## Celebrate the '90s at As If! music festival

By Holly Tishfield

Bringing the spirit of the '90s back to the First Coast, Ancient City Entertainment is hosting As If! The 90's Fest at Francis Field in downtown St. Augustine on Saturday, May 15.

This action-packed festival will bring back some of the 1990s' favorite musical performers, such as Coolio and Ken and Drew from Sister Hazel, as well as treat guests to an entire day and night of fun activities. Along with the two headliners, the festival will host additional musical guests such as Spider Monkey, Ramona + the RIOT, Chillula and more.

"We have had great community feedback so far," said Jeanetta Salyer, owner of Ancient City Entertainment and organizer of the festival. "It has been pretty exciting!"

For the first time ever, Francis Field will have a 27-foot water slide for guests to cool off and take a spin. The one-day event will also feature a '90s tribute slime zone, photo booth, adult capri-suns and a plethora of other games.

There are over 40 sponsors for the event, such as 904 Happy Hour and iHeartRadio, and a portion of the proceeds of the event go directly towards Ancient City Entertainment's nonprofit, the ACE Alliance, which provides artists and industry members disaster relief and wellness impact in cases of emergencies.

Guests can also purchase VIP tickets, which include unlimited access on the waterslide, an afterparty ticket and an opportunity to meet both event's headliners. Guests can also purchase additional individual tickets to meet the performers. Coolio's meet-and-greet will take place at the official As If! The 90s Fest afterparty from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday, May 15, at Prohibition Kitchen To meet Ken and Drew from Sister Hazel, guests can purchase a ticket to Sister Hazel Booze Cruise, where they will spend the following afternoon aboard a Sarbrage Charter's catamaran and experience an acoustic performance.

Tickets for the event are \$15 and can be purchased at [asifthe90sfest.com](http://asifthe90sfest.com).



# NYT bestselling author to sign copies of latest novel at Beaches bookstore

Mary Kay Andrews to visit The BookMark on May 14

New York Times bestselling author Mary Kay Andrews will be at The BookMark at 6 p.m. Friday, May 14, to sign copies of her new book, "The Newcomer."

Andrews is a former journalist for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and is well known for her much-loved beach reads. Her works include, "Hello Summer," "Sunset Beach," "The High Tide Club," "The Beach House Cookbook," "The Weekenders," "Beach Town," "Save the Date," "Ladies' Night," "Christmas Bliss" and more.

This is The BookMark's first in-person event since the COVID-19 pandemic started. In order to stay safe, there will not be a gathering inside the store for a talk. Andrews will sign/personalize books and say hello to each fan individually.

In "The Newcomer," Letty Carnahan discovers her sister Tanya dead in her New

York City townhouse. Letty is certain she knows who did it; Tanya's ex, Evan Wingfield. Even in the grip of grief and panic, Letty heeds her late sister's warnings: "If anything bad happens to me — it's Evan. Promise me you'll take Maya and run." So Letty hits the road with her niece, Tanya, a woman with a past shrouded in secrets, left only one clue: a faded magazine story about a sleepy motel in a Florida beach town named Treasure Island. Letty sheds her old life and checks into an uncertain future at The Murmuring Surf Motel while trying to heal Maya's heartache and unravel the key to her sister's shady history. With danger closing in, it's a race to find the truth and right the wrongs of the past.

"A little bit romance, a little bit suspense, and everything you've come to know and love from a Mary Kay Andrews story; 'The Newcomer' is sure to be a summer favorite!" wrote Suspense Magazine.

For more information about this event, go to [www.bookmarkbeach.com](http://www.bookmarkbeach.com) or call (904) 241-9026.



Photo provided by the St. Augustine Amphitheatre

# Indie pop hitmakers Fitz and The Tantrums return to St. Augustine Amphitheatre May 28

On Friday, May 28, The St. Augustine Amphitheatre will welcome the return of indie pop hit makers Fitz and the Tantrums for a limited-capacity concert with distanced seating. Enhanced safety measures and protocols are in place, including contactless digital ticketing, face covering requirements and mobile ordering for concessions.

Multi-platinum artists Fitz and the Tantrums have quickly grown from independent upstarts to bonafide hit makers. The Los Angeles-based band recently released its much anticipated, fourth full-length album "All the Feels," featuring singles "123456" and "I Just Wanna Shine," and are set to embark on a North American headlining tour in early 2020.

"All the Feels" follows the band's 2016 release "Fitz and the Tantrums," which spawned the group's biggest hit to date, "HandClap." The RIAA-certified two-time Platinum single has logged more than

400 million global streams, went top five on both the Hot AC and Alternative Radio charts, and also enjoyed major airplay across the country at Top 40.

The band has performed countless, sold-out headlining shows and is always a standout at music festivals around the world, including Coachella, Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, Austin City Limits and more.

Tickets for Fitz and The Tantrums are on sale at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office and online at Ticketmaster.com. Tickets are sold in preconfigured pods (groupings) ranging from two to eight seats per pod. Each pod is at least six feet from one to the next, and all seats within the pod must be purchased together. Additionally, all tickets are digital. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, and will only accept payment via debit or credit card.

**THEME: FICTIONAL FATHERS**

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**ACROSS**

- 1. Like Annapolis Academy
- 6. Pine juice
- 9. One in a manger
- 13. Like a good athlete
- 14. Modern address
- 15. Printer cartridge contents
- 16. Cate Blanchett's movie "\_\_\_\_\_ on a Scandal"
- 17. 2nd largest living bird in world
- 18. U in UV
- 19. \*Honoré de Balzac's "Le Père \_\_\_\_\_"
- 21. \*Nemo's dad, named after a sport fish
- 23. "\_\_\_\_\_ of the morning!"
- 24. Seaside bird
- 25. Tax accounting specialist, acr.
- 28. Back of the neck
- 30. Chew the fat
- 35. Country dance formation
- 37. Greek goddess of fertility
- 39. Waterwheel
- 40. \*Drunk and, incidentally, Huck Finn's Pap
- 41. Metallic sounding

- 43. Quite a stretch
- 44. Place to dry out
- 46. Like the White Rabbit
- 47. Dr. Robert Bruce Banner's green alter ego
- 48. Sun-\_\_\_\_\_
- 50. Toothy wheel
- 52. Bad-mouth
- 53. Made a rug
- 55. Low-\_\_\_\_\_ image
- 57. \*Simba's father in "The Lion King"
- 60. \*Luke's and Leia's father
- 63. Golfer's sun protection
- 64. Romanian monetary unit
- 66. Introverted one
- 68. Follow as a consequence
- 69. Pooh's wise friend
- 70. Territory in China known as Las Vegas of Asia
- 71. Young woman
- 72. \*\*"That '70s Show" dad
- 73. One-room school house "notebook"
- 12. Chapter in history
- 15. As opposed to turn-off
- 20. 1960s abstractionism
- 22. Rainbow shape
- 24. Like ones between 13 and 19 years old
- 25. \*Griswold family patriarch
- 26. Mushroom caps
- 27. Egyptian symbol of life, pl.
- 29. \*Jay is to Claire as \_\_\_\_\_ is to Haley
- 31. Flood survivor
- 32. Father of psychoanalysis Sigmund
- 33. Garlicky mayonnaise
- 34. \*Both father in "Mary Poppins" and father in "Father of the Bride"
- 36. Unfledged hawk
- 38. Casino chip
- 42. Pine
- 45. \_\_\_\_\_ of dog!
- 49. "I \_\_\_\_\_" at the altar
- 51. Middle Earth and Kingdom of the North, e.g.
- 54. Courage in the face of danger
- 56. Smokeless tobacco brand
- 57. Short skirt
- 58. It was Brezhnev's domain
- 59. Unplayable baseball
- 60. Old in Scottish
- 61. Cuzco valley empire
- 62. Straight pour from the bottle
- 63. Chill in front of TV, with 'out'
- 65. Ovine mom
- 67. Beluga yield

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# Sports

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Send your sports news to  
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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## PVHS girls lacrosse wins regional title

By Paris Moulden

After beating St. Augustine in the regional semifinals, PVHS girls lacrosse coach Jen Conway said the icing on the cake to an already impressive season would be to make the Final Four.

Mission accomplished.

The Ponte Vedra girls lacrosse team advanced to the state semifinals in dominating fashion with an 18-1 victory over host Gulf Breeze in the regional final last Thursday.

Sami Lowinger scored four goals in the victory, and Taylor Rocha, Pierson Schuchart and Lily Toole added two goals apiece for PVHS.

“Because it was such a long bus ride there, I tried to stay focused and manage our schedule,” Conway said of last week’s matchup against Gulf Breeze. “We got on the field and they just went right to work. It was all business for them. I was so happy to see it.”

The Lady Sharks will take on defending state champion Lake Highland Prep in the Final Four at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 6, at the Austin-Tindall Sports Complex in Kissimmee.

Conway said while the team may have looked ahead to making the Final Four, it is not looking beyond that just yet.



Photo provided by Jen Conway

The Ponte Vedra girls lacrosse team poses with the trophy after beating Gulf Breeze in the regional final on Thursday, April 29.

“We’re just prepping for Lake Island Prep and I feel if we play as strong as we can in that game and win, then if we just do the same game plan on the next game, we should be OK,” she said.

PVHS (17-3) has stormed through the postseason so far, outscoring opponents 72-14 in its four playoff games. But it’s actually the close games that Conway enjoys the most.

“I think it’s really fun to win at the end of the game, like a last-second win,” she said. “So when we did that against IMG

LACROSSE continues on Page 29

## Sharks to host Middleburg in baseball regional opener after district title victory over Pine Ridge

By Jim Moyes

Special to the Recorder

Ponte Vedra will play host to Middleburg on Thursday, May 6, in the opening round of the FHSAA Regional baseball tournament. The Sharks’ 5-4 victory over Pine Ridge last Thursday earned the Sharks their fourth consecutive district title dating back to 2017 as last year’s playoffs were canceled due to COVID-19.

The Sharks had a more than favorable seed in the tournament as they earned a first-round bye as the seven-team district’s No. 1 seed. PVHS was originally scheduled to play Deltona in the district semifinals, but Deltona, which defeated Matanzas 8-4 in the district quarterfinals, was forced to

forfeit its victory after its starting pitcher went way over the pitch count — a ruling now in effect for high school baseball. The forfeit gave the Sharks the win and a trip to the district championship game.

Pine Ridge was playing its third game in four days against the well-rested Sharks and nearly overcame this disadvantage when the Panthers’ seventh-inning rally came up one run short.

It appeared the Sharks would have an easy time with their opponents as PVHS jumped out to an early four-run lead in the first inning. The big blow in the inning was an RBI double by Sam Gabet, one of four hits amassed



Photo by John Noell

The Ponte Vedra baseball team poses with the trophy after winning the District 4-5A final against Pine Ridge on Thursday, April 29.

BASEBALL continues on Page 27





Ponte Vedra's Joe Hoban (13) slides into home during last Thursday's district championship game against Pine Ridge.



Photos by John Noell

Sharks starter Scott Griesemer throws a pitch against Pine Ridge.

PVHS' Sam Gabet swings at a pitch during last Thursday's game.

## Baseball

Continued from 26

by the Sharks in the entire game.

Scott Griesemer picked up the win for the Sharks, giving up only one of the three runs scored by Pine Ridge. The University of North Florida commit struck out eight and allowed four hits in six innings.

Nursing a slim one-run lead heading into the bottom of the sixth inning, the Sharks tallied what would prove to be the winning run. Will Hynes began the frame by reaching first after being hit with a pitch. Freshman pinch hitter Sam Mazella was out on a fielder's choice, but advanced himself into scoring position by stealing second base. Junior Tyler Bernstein then delivered a solid base hit to score Mazella to give the Sharks a two-run lead.

Freshman Matt Hoag earned the save for Ponte Vedra, but not before Pine Ridge made it more than interesting. After striking out the first batter he faced, the next two batters delivered base hits to score one run. With one down and a runner at first base, the Panthers' Tyler Hoppe, who had earlier connected on a triple and a single, hit a hard smash up the middle. Fortunately for the Sharks, the baserunner on first was running on the play. Bernstein nailed the hot shot near the bag, stepped on second and threw to first to complete a game-ending double play.

Thursday's matchup with Middleburg, will pit veteran Sharks head coach Tom Stanton against his former high school, where he was a star catcher for the Broncos in the middle 1990s. Ponte Vedra has a 3-1 series edge, but the game will be the first between the two schools since 2015. The winner will advance to the regional semifinals against the winner between Pine Ridge and Stanton Prep.

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# PGA WORKS COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP COMES TO TPC SAWGRASS



This week, TPC Sawgrass — home of THE PLAYERS Championship — also served as the host course of the PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship, an annual championship that features the top student-athletes from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) across the nation. The event features nearly 180 competitors representing 24 schools and 51 individuals who are competing in the three-day competition on Dye's Valley Course and THE PLAYERS Stadium Course. Edward Waters College women's golf team previously participated in this championship, which was formerly known as the National Minority Collegiate Championship. The event took place Monday, May 3 through Wednesday, May 5.



**The tournament was not over by press time. Go to [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com) for more photos and to see the results.**

Photos by Holly Tishfield




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# Jaguars get Lawrence — and his Tigers teammate

Ex-Clemson QB reunited with RB Etienne as Jags celebrate draft choices

By Mike Bonts  
Special to the Recorder

Over the three days of the NFL Draft, Trevor Lawrence was the obvious person who would bring a sense of promise and prosperity to Jacksonville.

The overall No. 1 draft choice and quarterback phenom already has captivated the area and the state and has made his presence felt through his initial involvement.

Yet, new head coach Urban Meyer and general manager Trent Baalke knew there had to be more surrounding Lawrence as the centerpiece.

This is a massive project, and the draft was a major part of the reconstruction to restore the Jaguars' culture and bring them back to respectability.

Aside from Lawrence, Meyer and Baalke are both confident the remaining eight picks can play a major role in literally rebuilding the franchise from the bottom after a 1-15 campaign last year and recent years of futility.

"It was [a] long [three days], but I go back and look at the needs of this team," Meyer said. "This team lost a lot of games last year. There were a bunch of games it could have won."

Baalke agreed.

"We felt really good about the board," added Baalke. "We didn't deviate at all."

The Jags brought some familiarity to Lawrence when they reunited him with Clemson teammate, running back Travis Etienne, with their second pick (25th) in the opening round. The prevailing thought had the Jags drafting on the defensive side of the ball at either cornerback or edge rusher, but they felt confident in Etienne,



**ABOVE:** Defensive end Josh Allen signs autographs for appreciative Jaguars fans during the Jaguars Draft Party on Thursday, April 29.



**RIGHT:** Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Urban Meyer waits to address the draft party crowd at TIAA Bank Field.

Photos by Nancy Beecher

who was considered a second-round pick.

The duo has played together since they were freshmen and they worked together for an overall 39-3 record. The speedy, fluid back rushed for nearly 5,000 yards and had more than 1,000 yards receiving in his four years with Lawrence at Clemson.

Etienne was ecstatic to join Lawrence.

"I know Trevor inside and out, so that's going to be a very great feeling just to know that he's a hard worker," said Etienne. "There's going to be great things happening on the field."

The Jags did fill their need for a cornerback when they drafted Georgia corner Tyson Campbell with their first pick in the second round, and they then secured an-

other need with Stanford offensive tackle Walker Little with their second selection in the round.

Campbell is known for his man coverage, but he has struggled with his consistent play. Despite his 6-foot-7, 313-pound frame, Little could be considered a gamble or a hidden gem, as he played only one game due to injury in 2019 and opted out in 2020.

Syracuse safety Andre Cisco was chosen in the third round, and Southern Cal defensive tackle Jay Tufele grabbed the headline in the fourth.

Cisco is considered a ballhawk and should vie for a starting job, and Tufele (6-3, 315) will be a plug in the middle.



Jaguars mascot and fan favorite Jaxson de Ville made an appearance on stage during the draft party.

UAB's Jordan Smith became their latest edge rusher, and Ohio State's Luke Farrell is a possible solution at tight end, both in the fourth round. Smith could be a steal, and Farrell is regarded as a reliable blocker and steady pass catcher.

Georgia Tech wide receiver Jalen Camp rounded out the Jags' picks in the sixth round. Camp is a big body who can get down field.

With Etienne as a mildly surprising first-round pick, the Jags deviated slightly from their presumed path, but they managed to address their issues. It does provide an increased sense of optimism for minicamp in May that officially will begin a new era in Jaguars' football.

"When you look at the roster, there are some very good core players," said Meyer. "There are also some significant weaknesses that you had to hit. I think we've hit them."

## Lacrosse

Continued from 26

and Bartram, which was also on TV so there was a lot excitement about that, those two are highlights just because it was fun. It's almost like a walk-off win, which always feels good."

Lake Highland Prep (19-0) beat Edgewood 26-2 in its regional final game last week to remain unbeaten this season.

Regardless of how Friday's game turns out, Conway said the season has already proven to be a success.

"I said this [to them] at practice, win or lose, if you walk off that field and feel good about the way you played and the way you executed, that's all we can ask for," she said. "It's been such a fun journey. I think we'll just feel proud of how it's ended up."

The PVHS/Lake Highland Prep winner

will play the winner of the game between the Community School of Naples and American Heritage for the state championship on Saturday, May 8, in Kissimmee.

"We're just all excited to come out and practice this last week," Conway said. "When it's over, it's really going to be felt, the missing of all the players and the



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