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Recorder

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



INSIDE Check it Out!

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



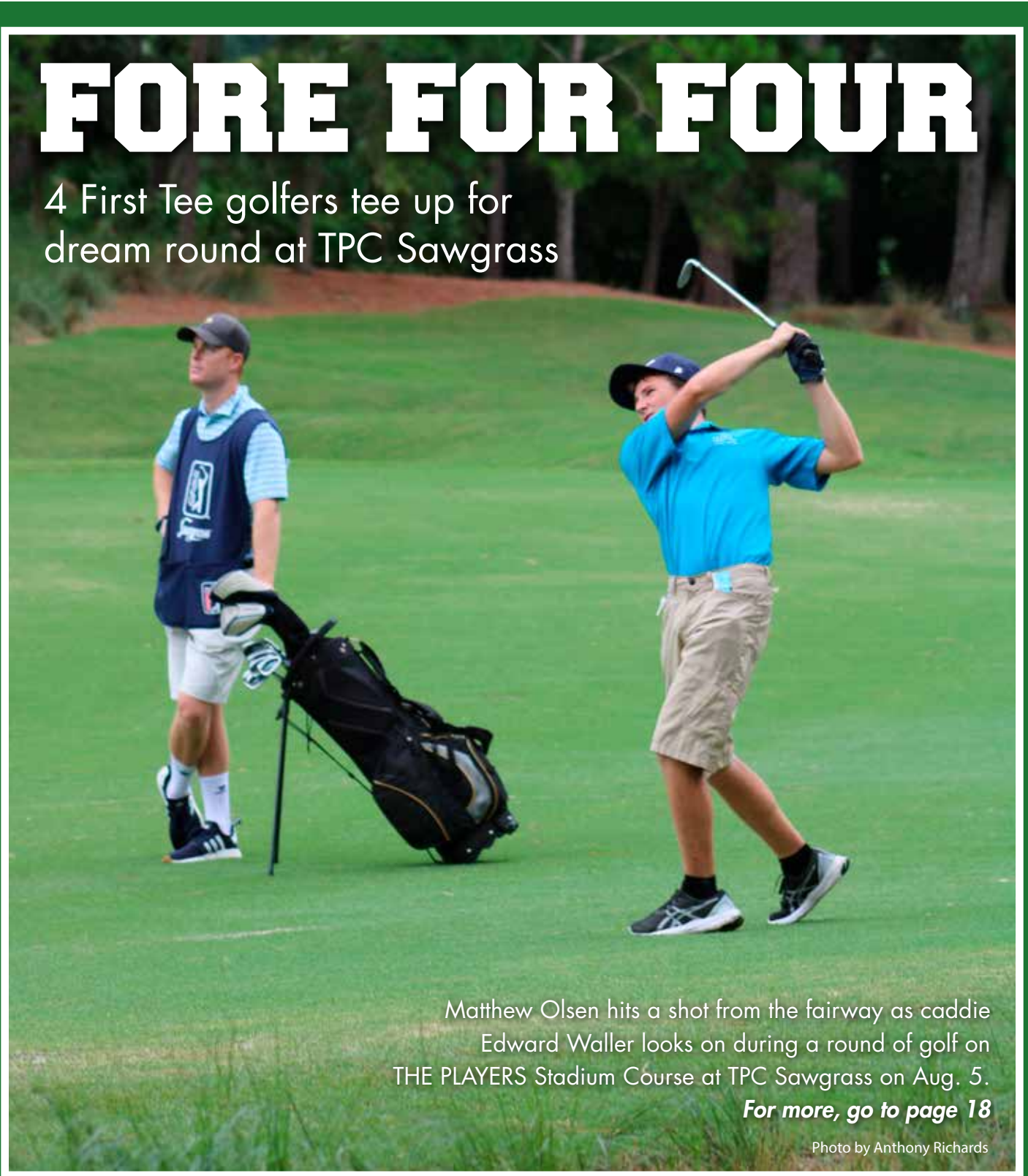
In the Arts Pages 16-17



Sports Pages 18-21

FORE FOR FOUR

4 First Tee golfers tee up for dream round at TPC Sawgrass



Matthew Olsen hits a shot from the fairway as caddie Edward Waller looks on during a round of golf on THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass on Aug. 5.

For more, go to page 18

Photo by Anthony Richards



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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. Email submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

Visit our website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com



Find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

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. We'll add you to the list.

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hello, my name is She-Boo. I am a 9-year-old female domestic short-hair cat. I am very friendly and good with other cats and children. I am also litter-box trained. When you meet me, you will notice I love head scratches and chin rubs. I came in as a stray and was microchipped but sadly, my owner never came to claim me. I am looking forward to a new home and a family I can call my own. Come see me at the Pet Center! #27669



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi! My name is Julep! I am a 1½-year-old female Jack Russell-Italian greyhound mix. I am house-trained and the shelter is working with me to walk on a leash. I am getting really good! I am still young and will need a little training in other areas, but I am a good listener and I am ready to please. Come visit me at the Pet Center today! #59596

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 to launch COVID-19 testing site

In partnership with Nomi Health, St. Johns County will begin offering free COVID-19 testing starting Monday, Aug. 16, at the St. Johns County Agricultural Center, 3111 Agricultural Center Drive. The site will be open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

No appointment necessary. To pre-register prior to arrival, go to mdc.nomihealth.com/signup/fl/sjac.

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 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:

- Adjustment and Appeals Board – deadline Aug. 16
- Architectural Review Committee – deadline Aug. 16
- Library Advisory Board – deadline Aug. 16
- Affordable Housing Advisory Committee – deadline Sept. 1
- Land Acquisition Management Program – deadline Sept. 1
- North Coastal Corridor Overlay District Design Review Board – application open until filled
- South Anastasia Design Review Board – application open until filled
- Mid Anastasia Design Review Board – application open until filled
- Fire Code Board of Appeals – application open until filled

BRIEFS continues on Page 4

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

O	C	C	A	M	A	P	R	R	A	N	T			
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6	9	2	3	7	4	5	8	1
5	4	1	8	9	2	6	7	3
4	1	7	9	3	8	2	5	6
3	2	5	1	6	7	8	4	9
8	6	9	4	2	5	3	1	7

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

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County excludes 3-mile stretch of beach from renourishment

By Shaun Ryan

A portion of the beach has been excluded from one renourishment project and from consideration for a second project.

At a July 20 meeting of the St. Johns County Commission, Commissioner Henry Dean made the recommendation.

“I have come to the conclusion that

the beaches in Ponte Vedra Beach from roughly the Duval County line south for approximately three miles are actually in quite good shape,” he said.

However, he said there was “seriously critical erosion” from a point between the Sawgrass Country Club and Corona Road south to the Guana Preserve.

By reducing the scope of the project

area, the county will save money on a renourishment project it is undertaking in cooperation with the state. The cost of that project would be reduced from \$40 million to \$32 million.

“We need to put our money where we can solve the most immediate problems, biggest problems, the most critical problems with respect to beach restoration,” said Dean.

In addition, the decision would reduce the scope of a beach protection study to be performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“We have been asked by the Army Corps of Engineers to weigh in what our recommendation is with respect to

BEACH continues on Page 4



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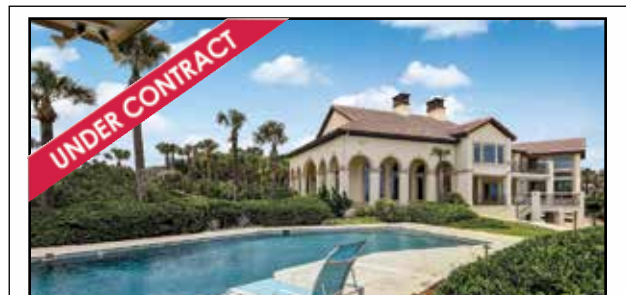
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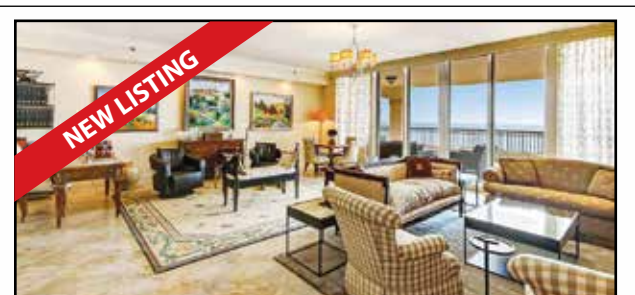
Oceanfront Estate in Ponte Vedra Beach

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



Stunning Riverfront Estate

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 Bathrooms, 5 Half Bathrooms \$6,200,000**



Luxury Marabella Condo

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



Ultimate Atlantic Beach Lifestyle

Live the ultimate beach lifestyle in this midcentury modern on double corner lot just one block from the ocean and only 6 blocks from Atlantic Beach Town Center. Large open great room and kitchen with barn door pantry looks onto private backyard with pool and outdoor kitchen. Spacious master, 3 additional bedrooms & bathrooms plus laundry upstairs. **4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 1 Half Bathroom. \$3,600,000**



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THE PLAYERS Championship announces recipients for veteran-based grant initiative

By Anthony Richards

For years THE PLAYERS Championship has looked to do its part in honoring and respecting the sacrifices made by local military veterans.

Now thanks to the creation of the #Match4Military grant program, the tournament will be taking it a step further.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic affected last year's attendance of THE PLAYERS and therefore the revenue brought in, they still intended to make sure the local veterans' outfits were not lost in the shuffle.

"We had limited resources from this past year's tournament, but we wanted to focus on the military," past tournament chairman Murray Beard said. "That's the reason we decided to do this matching grant program, in order to focus on them."

THE PLAYERS extended an invitation to military-and veteran-serving organizations in Northeast Florida to request funding for their programs and services.

"We do a series of evaluations of the different charities around," 2022 Tournament Chairman Matt Welch said.

The #Match4Military grants will be used to fund a variety of programming, capital projects and/or general operating support at each of the benefitting organizations.

Below is a list of the 20 military organizations that are part of the grant program:

- American Red Cross of Northeast Florida



Photo by Anthony Richards

THE PLAYERS 2022 tournament chairman Matt Welch shakes the hand of K9s For Warriors CEO Rory Diamond as past chairman Murray Beard and 2022 tournament vice chairman Lee Nimmicht present a check for \$15,000 as part of the #Match4Military grant program.

- Blue Star Families – Jacksonville
- City of Jacksonville – Military Affairs and Veterans Department
- Five STAR Veterans, Inc.
- Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center
- Jacksonville University
- Jacksonville Veterans Chamber of Commerce
- Joseph Finegan Elementary School (soon to be Anchor Academy)
- K9s For Warriors
- Museum of Science and History
- Northeast Florida Women Veterans
- Operation New Uniform
- Patriot Services Group, Inc.
- Supporters of the Jacksonville National Cemetery
- The Fire Watch Project, Inc.
- United Services Operation (USO)
- Veteran Garden Project of St. Augustine
- Veterans Council of St. Johns County
- Wounded Warrior Project
- Yoga 4 Change

According to Welch, an overwhelming number of organizations took part in the application process, but they had to pair

it down to 20 to make sure each recipient receives a helpful amount of money.

The program's campaign raised \$140,000, which will be donated across the 20 organizations.

"It was incredible to see the entire community come together to support and honor our service members, veterans and their families through this #Match4Military campaign," said Jared Rice, Executive Director of THE PLAYERS. "Since THE PLAYERS made its permanent home in Northeast Florida in 1977, our team and organization have made it a key priority to integrate military appreciation initiatives and activities into the fabric of this championship, and it was so inspiring to join forces this year to support our military heroes in this unique way."

The portion of the program where grants get handed out got underway when Welch, Beard and 2022 tournament vice chairman Lee Nimmicht presented K9s For Warriors CEO Rory Diamond with a \$15,000 check during the business's groundbreaking ceremony for its Campus for K9 Operations facility on Aug. 4.

"We are incredibly grateful to THE PLAYERS Championship for selecting K9s For Warriors as a #Match4Military grant recipient," K9s For Warriors CEO Rory Diamond said. "This generous gift will help support our new Campus for K9 Operations here in Ponte Vedra and also will allow us to impact the lives of veterans from all eras by pairing them with a service dog."

St. Johns Housing Partnership accepting applications for construction trades

The St. Johns Housing Partnership (SJHP), creating safe, clean, affordable housing in North Florida since 1996, has openings in construction industry trades for remodeling and new construction.

"Working at the housing partnership is a non-traditional experience" said Executive Director Bill Lazar. "I began working with affordable housing programs 30 years ago as a carpenter and grew into my current job as director."

The St. Johns Housing Partnership incorporates accessibility, energy conservation, and green building into remodeling and new construction. It is accepting applicants at all skill and experience levels.

"In addition to new construction, we work to keep our neighbors-in-need living safely in their homes. From repairing rotting floors to improving accessibility and building wheelchair ramps, our construction staff plays an important part in the health and safety of our clients," added Lazar.

Applicants must have a cheerful outlook, excellent work ethic, basic tools and be able to pass a drug test and background check. SJHP offers steady work, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year. Medical and dental benefits are provided after 60 days.

For more information, contact SJHP Project Manager Susan Giddens at (904) 824-0902.

or contact the board of county commissioners office at (904) 209-0300 or lataylor@sjcfl.us for more information.

Special SJC School Board meeting to be held Sept. 7

There will be a special School Board meeting for the superintendent's annual

financial report at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 7. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the SJCSA Administrative Building at 40 Orange St. in St. Augustine and via Webex. Instructions to access this virtual meeting will be posted on the St. Johns County School District website at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Beach

Continued from 3

the area to be the subject of the feasibility study and what, as a county, as a local sponsor, we would be willing to participate in and actions we might take to achieve that goal," Dean said.

He suggested the board direct staff to write to the Corps indicating its preference to exclude the northernmost three miles of beach. The commission unanimously concurred.

The exclusion would mean only 5.7 miles of the northern Ponte Vedra Beach shore would be included in the Corps feasibility study. That three-year study could result in a 50-year, ongoing project to combat storm erosion.

But, it may ultimately prove to be a moot point. The Corps cannot renourish or otherwise commit to protecting a beach that doesn't have adequate public access and parking for the public. Currently, there are only two access points in that stretch that satisfy that criteria, which is insufficient to proceed to the actual project.

Briefs

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Go to the Boards and Commission webpage at www.sjcfl.us/Boards to view the requirements and duties of each board and committee, download an application

COA's Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center reopens Aug. 17

The St. Johns County Council on Aging is excited will have the grand reopening of their Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center on Aug. 17.

The center is located at 1048 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach and the reopening comes after being closed for more than a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Founded by the COA in 2015, the center offers a groundbreaking Integrative Memory Enhancement Program which serves individuals experiencing memory loss and symptoms of dementia, Alzheimer's, and other forms of brain trauma.

The IMEP program is a research-based initiative developed to minimize the progression of memory loss and dementia by offering a structured curriculum of fun, engaging group activities designed to boost cognitive reserve and provide crucial opportunities for stimulation and socialization.

"The IMEP program is a valuable resource for our MCI (mild cognitive impairment) and dementia community," said Dr. Melanie Chandler, with the Division of Psychology at the Mayo Clinic. "Their approach to engaging individuals in physical and cognitive exercises in a social environment aligns well with what we know helps older individuals with memory loss. I hear many positive things about IMEP from my patients, not only that they find it helpful, but also that they find it to be 'so much fun' (as a recent patient of her's stated). I will continue to refer my patients to the IMEP program."

Since the program's creation in 2011, IMEP has been in use by other agencies and senior care facilities that purchase and utilize the program to meet a growing and



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Council on Aging

Council on Aging IMEP facilitator Michele Stevens, lead facilitator Susan Miller, and interim IMEP manager Myra Fisher prepare for the August 17 reopening of the COA's Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center in Ponte Vedra Beach.

urgent need in other Florida counties and surrounding states.

In addition to its benefits for participants, the IMEP program is also a valuable resource for caregivers and family members by offering a respite for caregivers, who often struggle to care for themselves or accomplish the smallest everyday tasks.

Ponte Vedra Beach residents Beverly Webb and Karen Sanders became friends when their husbands were participants at the center.

The two friends share memories of both joy and heartache as the wives and caregivers of husbands who suffered from

Alzheimer's disease.

When Webb's husband, Phil, was diagnosed with the beginning stages of Alzheimer's disease, the first thing the couple did was embark upon a whirlwind tour across the globe, committed to cherishing the good times together.

Upon their return, Phil began attending the IMEP program at its original location at Christ Episcopal Church and later at the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center.

There he found an empowering tool for dealing with his diagnosis and a warm and caring community.

Sanders' husband, Norman, also attended the program, where the two men

became fast friends.

"They absolutely loved it," Sanders said. "They had their buddies there. It was so important to them."

The men enjoyed the program so much, in fact, that they would sometimes insist that their wives drive them in on weekends, not wanting to believe the center was closed.

"It gave them a purpose and friends and somewhere to go," Webb said.

As their diseases progressed, both Phil and Norman eventually needed the care of a full-time facility, and sadly, both men died.

However, their wives credit the center and the IMEP program with having a tremendously positive impact upon all of their lives.

"I really believe Phil lasted one or two years longer because of the center," Webb reflected.

She continues to volunteer regularly at the center, and both women are steadfast supporters of the Council on Aging and all that it strives to do.

The five-hour IMEP program will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center starting Aug. 17. Lunch is served daily and prepared by Vicar's Landing.

Both the five-hour program and the two-hour IMEP "memory module" program are also offered by COA at Anastasia Baptist Church in St. Augustine.

For more information and to register with the program, please contact COA's Myra Fisher at 904-209-3700 or mfisher@coasjc.org. To learn more about the IMEP program, go to www.coasjc.org/imepsjc/.

North Florida Land Trust acquires portion of Small Islands in Intracoastal Waterway

North Florida Land Trust has acquired approximately 28 acres within the Intracoastal Waterway at J. Turner Butler Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach which is a portion of the properties known as the Small Islands.

The nonprofit land conservation organization purchased the land in the first phase of the acquisition of the entire 245 acres of the islands owned by Small Group, LLC. The 28 acres are adjacent to the City of Jacksonville Beach's Cradle Creek Preserve. NFLT is in early discussions with the City to incorporate the property into the preserve.

NFLT entered into an agreement with Small Group, LLC in December of last year after the owner went public with a plan to develop the islands into luxury homes. The move drew public outcry and NFLT negotiated with the owner to purchase the islands for conservation. NFLT began a campaign to raise \$350,000 to buy the nine islands and raised \$30,050 towards the goal. The first phase will cost the nonprofit \$35,000 which includes a \$29,000 purchase price plus due diligence and stewardship costs.

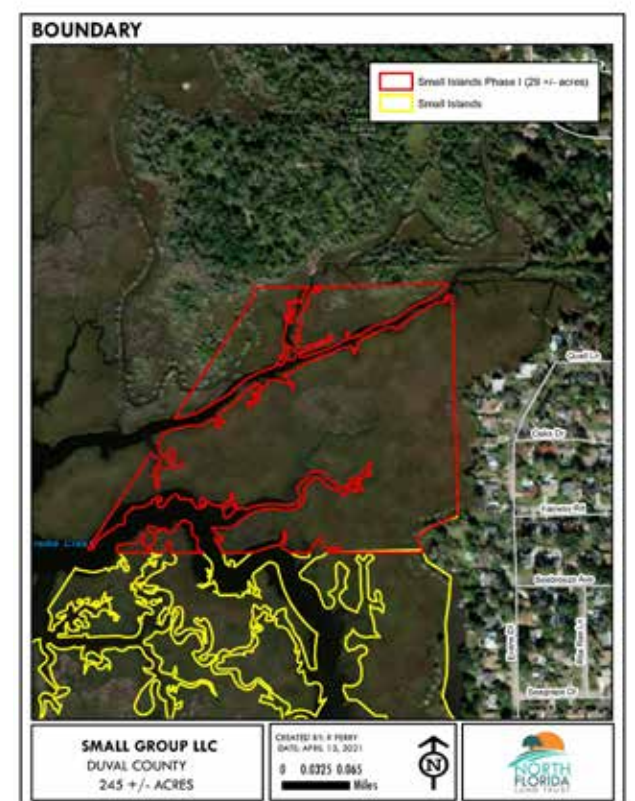
"We still need the community's help to raise the remainder of the money needed to acquire these environmentally important islands," said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. "The islands are surrounded by salt marshes and

oyster beds and create an extremely biodiverse ecosystem. Protecting the islands is important for the survival of many forms of wildlife as well as the recreational value of the islands. Salt marshes also protect coastlines from flooding, erosion, and storm surge."

The 28 acres of land contains salt marsh and tidal creeks that are home to rare species including the federally endangered West Indian manatee and the federally threatened wood stork both of which have been seen within the property boundaries. The wetland habitats are vital to the survival of many species of birds including plovers, warblers and waterfowl.

NFLT has until the end of the year to raise money to purchase the more than 215 remaining acres of the Small Islands. To help save the islands, go to www.nflt.org/small-islands/ to donate. Once NFLT acquires the remaining properties, there will be approximately 1,200 acres of contiguous protected land on the east side of the Intracoastal.

Founded in 1999, North Florida Land Trust is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to protect the natural resources, historic places and working lands (farms and ranches) throughout north Florida. For more information, go to nflt.org.



Contributed photo

This aerial image shows the area for the first phase in the North Florida Land Trust's plan to purchase nine islands comprised of wet flatwood islands and saltmarsh.

Jeff Jore moved to Nocatee about six years ago and during that time he also got involved as a reenactor with a living history group. Since then, it has become a passion of his and he enjoys the ability to educate the public about events in U.S. history.

Jeff Jore

As told to Anthony Richards

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I was raised in an Army family and upon graduation from high school in 1969, I enlisted in the Navy.

Following my time in the Navy, I served in the Minnesota and Puerto Rico Army National Guard, attended Officer Candidate School, and was recalled to active duty during the Iranian Hostage Crisis in 1980.

During almost 33 years of active commissioned service, I served in a variety of field artillery units, as an assistant professor at the United States Air Force Academy and later as an Army/defense attaché in Guatemala, Suriname, Spain, Argentina, and Mexico.

After retirement from the Army, I served for six years with the Defense Intelligence Agency. I am currently employed as an adjunct professor of history at Flagler College in St. Augustine teaching Latin American and U.S. history and as a substitute teacher here in St. Johns County.

How did you get involved as a reenactor and how long have you been doing it?

I've been doing this for six years. Shortly after moving to Nocatee, I visited the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine and after meeting with the living history reenactors portraying Spanish Army soldiers from 1740 shooting cannons, muskets and otherwise engaging with the public, I was hooked and became a volunteer there.

Finding a good living history group is critical and I have since expanded my horizons and am now a member of the Historic Florida Militia, which is composed of a variety of men, women and children reenactors who bring the history (16th through the 18th centuries) of our slice of the U.S. to life throughout the year.

What do you enjoy most about it?

More than almost anything else related to this hobby, I enjoy the camaraderie of my fellow reenactors and especially engaging with people - both locals and from around the world - and bringing the history of the U.S. and Northeast Florida to life.

Being approachable, attired in period correct clothing/appearance and carrying a soldier's tools of the trade (musket, sword and other accouterments) makes it easy to engage with people and bring our collective history to life.



Jeff Jore is dressed as a Spanish soldier (musketeer) from the mid-17th century.
Photo provided by Jeff Jore

What are some of the challenges when reenacting moments in history?

Reenacting, perhaps better referred to as living history, is a serious, but fun, type of activity. Most people take their roles seriously and pride themselves on representing history as accurately as possible from the way people dressed and ate, to their manner of speech, cultural beliefs and social interactions.

For me, the biggest challenge is doing the research and getting it as right as I possibly can so that I can faithfully bring whichever character, from whatever era

to life...in a way that others will find interesting and engaging.

Is there a time period/periods that you tend to reenact more than others?

My favorite time period is the 17th century, which was a critical time for St. Augustine with the raid of the English pirate Robert Searle and the construction of the Castillo de San Marcos.

After representing U.S. Army Colonel Robert Butler at the recent bicentennial commemoration of Florida becoming a

U.S. territory on July 10, I've become rather fond of this time period.

What do you enjoy most about living in the North Florida area?

North Florida is rich in history, the climate is very nice and perhaps most important, a lot of very nice people live here.

What do you like to do in your free time when you are not reenacting?

Being with family, researching and teaching.

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

"Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later."



Kathy Esfahani
Columnist

HERB AND VEGETABLE GARDENS

When planting herbs and vegetables in zone 9A, we need to keep in mind that the best plantings will be hot-weather plants.

Spring is the best time to start these plantings!

Planting in this zone requires well drained soil and will rot if they become too soggy. A good rule to follow is to water when the first two inches of soil feel dry. If you see wilting, the plant is too dry, and needs water immediately. Most herbs will grow, so don't overcrowd them in your garden. Generally, these plants need six-to-eight hours of sun per day to thrive. Some popular herbs in this zone include basil, oregano, dill, parsley, rosemary, mint and thyme.

Northeast Florida is considered a year-round planting area for vegetables. This means there are a variety of vegetables throughout the year to continuously plant and harvest.

Peppers, beans, lettuce, squash, eggplant, zucchini and tomatoes are popular veg-



etables to plant in this zone. An adequate amount of six hours of sunlight, water and compost or organic matter are crucial in the success of your vegetable garden.

Herb and vegetable gardens can be created into your landscaping, or in pots or boxes on patios or window sills. Feel free to get creative, as long as all other criteria are reached.

Tending to an herb and vegetable garden often can aid in the growth of the plants, and eventually the overall taste when harvested!

Email Kathy at 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.



Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

An herb garden

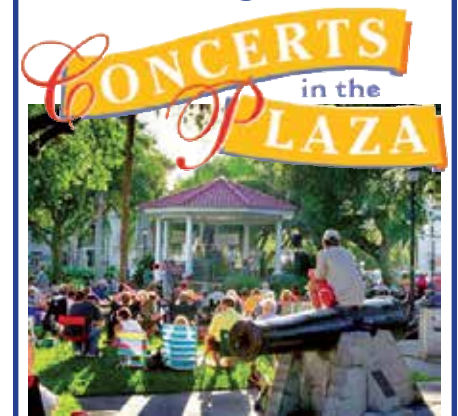


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OBITUARIES

Francis Hurlbert Barker



Francis Hurlbert Barker

Francis Hurlbert Barker, our incredible husband, father and pop pop, passed away peacefully on July 30, 2021. He was born in Jacksonville on July 24, 1930, the son of Clara Hurlbert and Dorsey Barker.

He attended Jacksonville Junior College and then transferred to Rollins college in Winter Park, Florida from 1949-1953, and majored in Business Administration. He was a 2 sport athlete, starring in baseball and basketball. He met and married Daryl Lou Stamm (deceased) August 4, 1953 and they were married for 66 years.

He was an army infantry officer at Fort Benning, Georgia in the Officers Candidate Program. He then went on to serve in the Army Reserves and became a Captain in the Florida National Guard until his discharge in 1966. He began a career with Johnson and Johnson as a salesman in 1961. He advanced through several managerial positions to National Sales Manager before being named Vice President and General Manager of the Healthcare Division. Later he would be promoted to Company Group Chairman with international responsibilities in Asia, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. After 34 years, he retired from Johnson and Johnson in 1995 as President of the Johnson and

Johnson Healthcare Management Company. After retiring, he and Daryl moved back to their beloved Florida where they resided in Ponte Vedra Beach.

He is survived by his son Bruce and his wife Pam, his daughter Doane and her husband Kurt and his 5 grandchildren Chris, Jake, Kevin, Jamie and Alyssa.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, August 14, 2021 at the Redeemer Church at 190 South Roscoe Blvd, Ponte Vedra Beach Florida at 11:00 am. Please visit the online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

Ivory "Travis" Johns

Ivory "Travis" Johns was born July 5, 1942, in Jacksonville, FL, and passed away on August 3, 2021. The son of T.I. and Rosetta Johns, Travis lived in Jacksonville until his teenage years when he attended Carlisle Military School in South Carolina. He served as a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force in the 1960's. After completing college, Travis began a 35-year career on the professional staff of Boy Scouts of America, where he served in Columbus and LaGrange, GA, before moving back to Jacksonville in 1982 to continue his career. He served on the North Florida Council BSA as a District Executive, Field Director and Program Director, where he raised millions of dollars over the years. Travis started a new

program of Scouting for boys in high-risk areas of town, connected Scouting to Duval County school system with Learning for Life programs, and retired on disability in 1999. He was an active member of Beach United Methodist Church for many years and served in various capacities.

Travis and his wife, Carmen, married in 1973 and, along with their three children, traveled extensively. In recent years, he has been a resident in an assisted living and memory care facility.

Travis is survived by wife, Carmen; son, Steve Johns (Kristy); daughters, Susan Grant (Ron) and Kathryn Blumberg; and grandchildren, Landen, Madeline, Evan, Emily, Ashlyn, Thad, and Bryn.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, a Memorial Service will be held at a later date in the chapel of Quinn-Shalz funeral home, Jacksonville Beach, FL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to Christ United Methodist Church, Neptune Beach, FL, or to Community Hospice and Palliative Care. Please visit the online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

Lee Davis

Lee Davis, 68, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died August 1, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Joseph Fendi

Joseph Fendi, 70, of Jacksonville, Florida, died August 1, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Robert E. Jacoby

Robert E. Jacoby, 93, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died July 31, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Ryan Walker Jones

Ryan Walker Jones, 49, of Jacksonville, Florida, died August 6, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Philip Ritchey Keefer

Philip Ritchey Keefer, 73, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died July 28, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Annie S. Milbourn

Annie S. Milbourn, 90, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died July 31, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com (904) 249-1100

Betty Ann Wilson

Betty Ann Wilson, 86, of Jacksonville, Florida, died August 2, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com (904) 249-1100

Grant to help students learn about salt marshes

Timucuan Parks Foundation and the National Park Service's Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve (TIMU) are the recipients of a National Park Foundation Open Outdoors for Kids Hybrid Learning Grant.

It was created to support connections between the national parks, its partners and teachers and students from fourth to eighth grade. The \$25,238 grant will be used to support the Salt Marsh Superheroes Hybrid Learning Education Program. The Salt Marsh Superheroes program is a combination of screen-time and green-time activities designed to educate students and their families about the salt marsh ecosystem, which makes up 75 percent of the Timucuan Preserve's 46,000 acres.

The students will learn about the plants and animals that inhabit a salt marsh and how this ecosystem is a "superhero," protecting against flooding and erosion.

"This grant will provide the tools to teach the youth about how important the salt marsh is to our area," said Felicia Boyd, outreach and program director for Timucuan Parks Foundation. "It will

help fund the Habitats at Home Exploration Kit, which will be distributed to teachers and students. It will include things like bird field guides, nature journals with colored pencils, a pocket lens for looking at smaller objects and binoculars for the students to use to catch a glimpse of wildlife."

Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve rangers and staff will work directly with teachers and students through a series of virtual field trips. The students will be given pre-virtual field trip exercises to complete, a field guide scavenger hunt to help them learn how to use a field guide, and nature observation tasks where they will look and listen for birds in their neighborhood and record what they find in their nature journals.

They will also be taken virtually to a salt marsh to show them how they can compare and contrast the resources within the preserve with natural areas close to home.

"During the program, the students will also become part of our 'TIMU



This rendering depicts a part of San Marco Heights, for which ground was broken Monday, June 28.

Contributed image

Affordable housing project breaks ground in St. Johns County

Ground was broken during a recent ceremony for the San Marco Heights multi-family affordable housing project on Adair Road off State Road 207.

The project is one of two multi-family, low- to moderate-income rental housing communities financed by the more-than-\$30 million Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funds awarded to St. Johns County.

San Marco Heights will encompass 132 units on 15 acres of land and will include an 8,000-square-foot clubhouse and community service facility. The large community space will house a commercial kitchen,

co-working space, a tech lab, a library, a children's game room and a fitness area.

The community service facility will also serve as a shelter for residents in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by St. Johns County Commissioner Henry Dean; Mike O'Donnell, county Housing Finance Authority chair; Darren Smith, principal and owner of development firm Smith & Henzy Advisory Group; as well as other staff, dignitaries and community representatives active in

Annual Jail Break 5K to raise funds for local education

Psst! There's going to be a mass jail break in October. Pass it on.

That's right. INK! (Investing in Kids) and Old Town Trolley Tours of St. Augustine have announced the sixth annual Jail Break 5K run and walk fundraiser.

The race will be held Oct. 30 at the Old Jail Museum, 167 San Marco Blvd. in St. Augustine, with registration at 6:30 a.m. and the race starting at 8 a.m. Entertainment and activities are planned until noon.

Family-friendly entertainment includes adult and children "jail breakers" who plan their escape from the 130-year-old historic venue and run through picturesque, historic areas of the Nation's Oldest City. Scenic ocean, river and Intracoastal Waterway views are featured in the run on the Francis and Mary Usina "Vilano" Bridge. The run wraps up at Vilano Beach Pavilion, 20 Vilano Road in St. Augustine.

The event is a 5K USA Track & Field (USATF) Certified Course # FL17069TY.

New this year will be live bands along the race route with The Grapes of Roth, featuring Elizabeth Roth and her local style of classic rock and contemporary music, and Skin & Bonz, featuring Tommy Bledsoe and Company with bluegrass and modern folk music.

A pre-race warm-up will be held at Old Jail Museum. All runners will be rounded-up as "prisoners" as they begin the race and will be transported back to the Old Jail from Vilano Beach by shuttle as needed.

During this time, a Halloween costume contest sponsored by Ghosts and Gravestones will include more than \$1,000 in cash prizes, and other treasures.

Free race parking is available at Old Town Trolley locations including 167 San Marco Ave., 1305 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd. and 1700 Ponce De Leon Blvd. in St. Augustine.

From now until Aug. 30, the cost to register is \$30 per each participant. From

Sept. 1 to Sept. 30, the cost is \$35 per each participant. From Oct. 1 to Oct. 29, the cost is \$40 per each participant. Day-of-race entries on Oct. 30 are \$45 per participant.

The first 700 race finishers will receive this year's distinctive medal.

A Facebook Live event on July 23 featured informative and fun facts about the race with trivia questions, and an opportunity to win a free vacation in Savannah, Ga., courtesy of Old Town Trolley Tours and Historic Tours of America. Find it at <https://www.facebook.com/InvestingInKids>.

Registration is open now. Go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/SaintAugustine/EscapeFromStAugustine>. Make registration check payments payable to INK! (Investing in Kids) at 1 Christopher St., St. Augustine, Fla. 32084.

Overall male and female finishers and the top three runners will be in the following age groups: 9 and under, 10-14, 15-19,

20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, and 75 and older. Water stations will be located at the race start, and at the one mile, two mile and at the finish line.

Proceeds from the race will be donated to benefit the innovative programs and classroom resources at INK!, which promotes academic success for all St. Johns County public school students and teachers.

In the event of inclement weather, emergency or a natural disaster, INK! reserves the right to cancel or postpone the race. In the event of cancellation or postponement, there will be no refunds.

Grant

Continued from 8

Think Tank' and will look closely at the challenges of protecting the preserve," said Corinne Fenner, chief of interpretation and education for Timucuan Ecological and

Historic Preserve. "The students will work together to come up with solutions to the challenges and create video presentations to present their findings. This will help them build their critical thinking skills and help develop their organization and public speaking abilities. It will also help make them become better stewards, or 'super-

heroes,' for our national parks and natural places."

The grant will provide funding for the cost of equipment for 500 students.

A salt marsh is an important ecosystem that provides vital habitats for many plants and animals, helps filter rainwater and removes pollutants.

Housing

Continued from 8

efforts to bring affordable housing to St. Johns County.

"It is the beginning of what I hope, and I think I can speak for my fellow commissioners, several affordable housing projects that we desperately need for St. Johns County," said Dean.

San Marco Heights will be a special

community with a major goal of providing the residents access to key social services such as housing retention, medical and mental health, literacy education, employment assistance, life skills classes and after-school care.

"This is very life changing," said O'Donnell. "It doesn't put people on the streets. It gives them a place to live, especially people with families, with children. They'll have places to live. I mean, that's so important. We need this."

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Betty Griffin Center announces student winners in calendar contest

Judges helped Betty Griffin Center go through hundreds of entries from students in the St. Johns County School District to select winners in the 2022 Day Without Violence Art and Poetry Calendar Contest.

“We were excited to receive over 1,000 art and poetry entries for our contest, which made it challenging for our judges to narrow them down to the final winners for our annual calendar,” said Betty Griffin Center CEO Joyce Mahr. “We’re also very appreciative that The Hartley Press agreed to sponsor the costs associated with printing the calendar, which helps us to continue to offer this program to involve students in our mission.”

Mahr added that the agency was also “very grateful” for the continued support of the contest by St. Johns County School Teachers, despite “all the challenges they faced during the pandemic.”

The 2022 calendar winners include the following:

ART WINNERS

First place – Ailani Valencia, 10th grade, Ponte Vedra High School

Second place – Danica Klir, 8th grade, Freedom Crossing Academy

Creekside High School – Katerina Andersen, 11th grade; Natalie Hopwood, 9th grade; Hanna Glatz, 10th grade; Gwynn Williams, 10th grade; Grace O’Malley, 11th grade



Artwork (left) by Ailani Valencia, a 10th-grader at Ponte Vedra High School, (left) won first place in the Betty Griffin Center 2022 calendar contest. Freedom Crossing Academy 8th-grader Danica Klir’s artwork (right) was selected in second place.



Photos provided by Betty Griffin Center

Fruit Cove Middle School – Lyla Kohl, 8th grade

Freedom Crossing Academy – Alexandria Drdla, 8th grade

Palm Valley Academy – Juliette Weber, 4th grade

Mill Creek Academy – Kayla Shoemaker, 7th grade

Ponte Vedra High School – Hollis Lane, 10th grade

Pacetti Bay Middle School – Marie Jimenez, 7th grade

POETRY WINNERS

First place – Evie Brown, 4th grade, home school

Second place – Jack Reid, 6th grade, home school

Mill Creek Academy – Ainsley Forga, 7th grade

Fruit Cove Middle School – Gabriella Dutton, 8th grade

The contest was open to all St. Johns County students in kindergarten through 12th grade, whether they attended public

school, private school or were home-schooled. The number of entries vary each year, depending on the number of students that participate. First-place winners will receive \$50, second-place winners receive \$25 and all students receiving honorable mentions receive \$10 each.

This year their artwork will showcased at the opening of the First Friday Art Walk in St. Augustine Art Walk on Oct. 1 and

CALENDAR continues on Page 11

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First Coast Cultural Center begins new school year with programs and services for children

First Coast Cultural Center (formerly The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach) has served the community for more than 26 years as a gathering place to learn, experience and appreciate the arts and culture in its many forms. The nonprofit provides opportunities for adults, children and families through classes, exhibits, programs, services, activities and memberships open to the local community, and beyond.

The social sector organization continues to deliver performances this year with milestone fundraisers to help fund programs and services in a broad range of the humanities for adults and children. With the completion of 18 summer camps at three different locations throughout St. Johns County, 12 of the camp sessions were sold out. The nonprofit's many accomplishments were fulfilled during all phases of the pandemic while following CDC guidelines.

Notably, with the St. Johns County public school year beginning on Monday, Aug. 16, First Coast Cultural Center is starting its 16th year of music therapy for children with special needs. Sound Connections Music Therapy has expanded from four St. Johns County schools to six, including two Title 1 schools. The outreach is provided at no cost to the school district or parents, and three nationally-board certified music therapists use music experiences to help children reach their educational goals. The expansion is supported by the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund and The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida.

Additionally, Sound Connections private music therapy sessions are available. Contact board-certified music therapist, Minda Gordon at (904) 993.8940 or email MGordon@ccpvb.org. To learn more, go to firstcoastculturalcenter.org/arts-outreach/outreach-programs.

On Monday, Aug. 30, the nonprofit is starting its fall semester, and second year of Kick StART, an after-school art enrichment program which has grown from two schools to eight schools in the burgeoning county, and is also available online. The visual arts program started at Palm Valley Academy with two classes and at Osceola Elementary, a Title 1 school in the southern part of St. Johns County. This year, the program follows the organization's mission to bring art into the lives of more young people to establish student learning relationships and communications with professional art teachers. Go to firstcoastculturalcenter.org/arts-programs/youth-arts-programs.

Adult classes, lectures and workshops are open to novice and professional artists and musicians with programs designed to enhance the creative process. A variety of class pricing and membership levels are available. The programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. For more, go to firstcoastculturalcenter.org/arts-programs/adult-arts-programs.

According to Donna Guzzo, president and executive director of First Coast Cultural Center, the Cultural Center staff along with dedicated longtime and new volunteers strive to fulfill the nonprofit's mission to continue bringing the arts into the life of the community through education, exhibits and outreach, and by honoring a donor-driven philosophy. For more information and to register for children's and adult classes, call (904) 280-0614, ext. 1206 or go to firstcoastculturalcenter.org.

First Coast Cultural Center is located at 3972 3rd St. South in Jacksonville Beach. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday with after-hour appointments available.

Calendar

Continued from 10

displayed at the Crisp Ellert Art Museum at Flagler College throughout October to coincide with Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This year's judges were local artists Annie Kiyonaga and Nancy Hamlin-Vogler, along with Kathe O'Donnely, the local arts administrator with the St. Johns Cultural Council. The judges selected the winning entries based on their effectiveness in conveying a positive impression of peacefulness and cooperation, artistic merit, originality, diversity of images (race, gender, age, ability, etc.) and geographical diversity within St. Johns County.

All 13 winning artists and four poets, along with eight other previous poetry winners, will have their work reproduced in the Betty Griffin Center "A Day Without Violence 2022 Calendar." The agency prints more than 3,000 calendars for distribution throughout the county.

In addition to reaching students through the calendar contest, Betty Griffin Center also provides community/school presentations and education as part of its mission to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence. Last year, the center provided trainings and workshops, both virtually and in person, to select St. Johns County Schools.

Go to bettygriffincenter.org for more about the Betty Griffin Center.

COMING AUGUST 19!



The Ponte Vedra Recorder has conducted the third annual **BEST OF THE BEST** of Ponte Vedra, 32082 and 32081 and the results will be published in the August 19th issue. (Until then, we're keeping the results under wraps!)

Readers have been voting for their favorite businesses, professional services, organizations and more in various categories online and the winners will soon be notified. **Find out how you can thank those who voted for your business, organization, etc. in our special section on August 19th!**

For more information, call (904) 686-3938

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-Hubble® 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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Business Weekly

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021

Love Your Smile:
Dental hygiene is
about more than teeth

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Nemours simplifies its name

This month, Nemours Children's Health System will simplify its name and introduce its new brand to better reflect the organization's vision of redefining children's health.

The name will become simply Nemours Children's Health, which will create a unified brand across the five-state health system. Nemours operates two hospitals, a network of nearly 80 primary and specialty care practices, a National Office on Policy & Prevention, an international program and its corporate headquarters in Jacksonville.



Photo provided by Nemours Children's Health
Dr. R. Lawrence Moss, president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health, discusses the health system's name change and new brand mark during an announcement in May.

NEMOURS continues on Page 14

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville appoints new hospital president

Nicole B. Thomas becomes 1st female to lead health system's largest medical center

Nicole B. Thomas has been appointed hospital president of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville. She was the first female and first African American to lead a Baptist Health hospital when she was named Baptist Medical Center South's president in 2016.

Thomas has served in health care administration for 25 years and joined Baptist Health in 2011 as vice president of operations and specialty services. She was promoted in 2014 to senior vice president of specialty services overseeing neurosciences, orthopedics and oncology. Thomas had primary executive responsibility for the formation of Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2015.

As president of the 271-bed Baptist



Nicole B. Thomas

South, Thomas oversaw the campus expansion project, including a new eight-story patient tower to house an additional 138 patient beds, an 80,000-square-foot medical office building, and a visitor parking garage. She also ignited growth in specialty services at Baptist South, expanding orthopedic and general surgical services, adding 18 maternity suites, opening a Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center satellite location and a 12-bed Wolfson Children's Hospital Emergency Department to provide care for the entire family close to home. Under Thomas' leadership, Baptist South has been recognized for its excellent quality, patient experience and team engagement.

"Nicole Thomas is a perfect fit to lead Baptist Jacksonville," said Michael A. Mayo, president and CEO of Baptist Health. "Her ability to overcome challenges, combined with her

results-driven nature and collaborative leadership style, will take Baptist Jacksonville to the next level in providing the highest quality patient care possible."

"I'm thrilled to have Nicole at the helm of Baptist Jacksonville," said Matt Zuino, executive vice president and chief operating officer at Baptist Health. "She is an exemplary leader who has proven her dedication to caring for our patients, building strong teams and serving the community."

Baptist Jacksonville is the largest Baptist Health hospital with 489 beds and 4,400 team members. Though the search process is well underway, a hospital president for Baptist South has not yet been named.

"It is an honor to be appointed to serve in an even bigger way, impacting the lives of patients and their families in our community," said Thomas. "I look forward to joining Baptist Jacksonville's team members and physicians to

BAPTIST continues on Page 15

Reasons behind the inflation spike and how long it may last



Ric Schilling
Columnist

As you know, there has been a fair amount of discussion lately about inflation spiking in our country. Examples include the price of gasoline, homes, vehicles, groceries and leisure activities. It seems that everyone is jumping on the higher prices bandwagon. The question: Is this a temporary

blip or will it continue? Get worse?

I wish I had a crystal ball so I could give you a solid take-it-to-the-bank answer but, of course, I cannot do that. However, I can share with you several reasons why I think that rapidly rising prices are more of a near-term than long-term issue.

First, there are imbalances between supply and demand that are causing increasing prices. There is no segment of our economy where that is more evident than housing. Housing gurus suggest that we have a shortage nationally of about four million homes versus the number needed to satisfy demand. Millennials are finally reaching an age when they are interested in owning a home so that's pushing demand higher while the supply remains fairly stagnant. Another area of higher demand than supply is gasoline where everyone has decided to travel this summer (after having been couped up for the last 16 months) at the same time as the government has shut down several major oil pipelines. The latter has created a shortage of gasoline relative to the demand spike. I suspect that demand will ease a bit this fall as kids throughout the country get back to in-person school (hopefully) and the summer vacation period comes to a close.

Second, many industries and businesses took a huge hit in revenue during the pandemic. The hospitality and leisure industries (resorts, theme parks, cruise lines) were particularly hard hit. So, one can expect that they would try to recoup some of those losses via higher prices as long as the public is willing to pay them. Once we get back to a more normal schedule of leisure and business travel, I believe we'll see a normalizing of pricing; normalizing meaning that prices stop

SCHILLING continues on Page 14

Is it time to clear out the optimism?



Harry Pappas
Columnist

My agenda for our time together has always been simple and straightforward; to share some of the best ideas, advice and wisdom that I have learned from sitting at the feet of the masters and/or reading his or her material. Today's narrative is questionably the most important counsel that I have received during my 36 years as a financial advisor and investor, so away we go. ...

Our lives are controlled by two emotions, fear and greed. These two amazingly influential sensations are why I humbly argue that you ... and, of course, me, are the greatest risks to our respective long-term wealth creation. If we are truly honest with ourselves, in hindsight, our poor investment decisions were not guided by logic, but by our emotions that involved greed and/or fear. That, my friends, is a recipe for ill-fated investment returns.

Greed, as in the intense desire for wealth and power is permeating the stock market. Just in case you have not come out of your cocoon you little caterpillar, the stock market has been on what seems like a straight climb from the pandemic lows of May 2020. Frankly, I have never witnessed this much euphoria in the stock market, as equities have climbed the proverbial wall of worry for about 18 months. It seems like bad news is always good news and good news is always great news.

From my vantage point, it is clear that most investors have been in a "risk on" mode for many months with little concern for risk. I suggest the poster child to underscore my position of the amount of greed circulating in the air is the much hyped topic of cryptocurrency, which has seized the world with a cult-like following starting back in 2009 and has been heavily debated and controversial ever since. One cryptocurrency has rocketed from \$0.08 to \$65,000 in just about 11 years.

Of course, it has not been a straight climb.

In fact, there have been numerous booms and busts of the cryptocurrency, which underscores the greed vs fear slogan. As of this writing (August 1) this cryptocurrency is trading around \$40,000 a share while just a few weeks ago it closed just shy of \$29,000. How's that for volatility?

Nevertheless, the crypto frenzy is one of many indicators that I put forth has gotten out of control from a greed perspec-

tive. Thus, I argue that a much-needed "reset" of stock prices is necessary. Stated perhaps more simply, the stock market needs to remind folks that it is not this easy to make money and the best way to do this is to begin a gut wrenching decline that scares the snot out of people. History has clearly proven that when there is too much optimism in the air, the market has an uncanny ability to clear the deck. As most of us remember, the last so-called reset happened in 2008-2009, when the S&P 500 declined a jaw dropping 40%.

The primary take away message from this dispatch is that we must know and accept that bear markets, recessions, corrections, crashes and incredible volatility is common and expected, so why panic when any of the above storylines happen?

Additionally, let's not forget that greed can turn to fear in a New York second, so why hit the panic button? This is simply how the game gets played.

Yep, we must keep our itchy fingers off the sell trigger! Of course, nobody knows when the snot will fly, let alone for how long and how deep, but it will happen, so let's prepare ourselves emotionally for the inevitable event. It all sincerity, it would not surprise me in the least if the snot flying "stock crash" transpires before this narrative goes to print.

On the other hand, I would not be shocked if we do not see a prolonged stock decline for another one, two, or three years! Heck, it might not happen for another decade or so. Nobody knows and those that suggest they do are just taking a guess ... an educated guess, but a guess nonetheless.

Bubbles and busts have happened since the dawn of financial markets, and they will continue to happen going forward. It is also worth noting that as crazy as it sounds, crashes are good. Crashes are hell, but in the end, they are good for us, as it provides a much-needed cleansing of excess optimism.

At the risk of appearing pompous or arrogant, I believe that most investors, which includes you and me, don't have the intestinal fortitude to stay disciplined in our emotionally charged, 24-hour-news-cycle world, as it requires remarkable self-control, especially when fear replaces greed. I repeatedly see and read about boatloads of people that succumb to shocking misbehavior that makes their emotions strangers to common sense, which is why I believe that financial planning is more about people than portfolios.

If history is a good indicator of how you are likely to act when greed turns to

fear, the chances are high that you will make big mistakes with your investment portfolio simply because you will let your emotions get the best of you. Until we invent a cure for the human tendency to flee stocks when fear permeates, it is almost certain that the vast majority of folks will make foolish decisions with their portfolio.

I truly hope that you are not one of them and it would give me joy for you to prove me wrong! No judgment intended and so sorry for the drama. I am running out of space, so I need to go.

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Schilling

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increasing at a rate higher than general inflation.

Third, the pandemic created a situation where millions of people lost their jobs as companies and businesses closed. So, the Federal Government began to supplement state unemployment compensation systems so displaced workers would receive a higher weekly benefit. Health care benefits were also increased and there was a moratorium placed on foreclosures and evictions for non-payment of mortgage debt and rents. These additional benefits created a situation where many of those unemployed could receive in compensation and benefits at larger amounts than they had earned working. And, many got accustomed to not working. Now that the economy has reopened, we need to get these folks out of the house and back to work. You see "Helped Wanted" signs everywhere these days so the labor shortage is real. As is the case in any shortage, businesses are increasing wages and providing hiring bonuses to lure people back. It will take time for this to work its way through the system but it will pass.

Finally, let me mention something that often comes up when inflation fears arise. That issue is buying gold as a hedge against inflation. While gold prices have risen recently, gold has proven over long periods of time to be a poor hedge against inflation. This may be a good time to sell gold given its high price, but it certainly isn't the time to buy gold, in my opinion.

Frederic "Ric" Schilling is a Florida native, born in Jacksonville, FL. Ric is President and founder of Senior Guardians of America, a local North Florida firm specializing in tax reduction, long term illness planning, asset protection, probate avoidance and life income planning. Ric is a National Speaker and Advocate on Senior Issues and has been featured by the Florida Times Union and WJXT, TV-4 in Jacksonville as an authority on Estate Planning and Retirement Issues. Senior Guardians has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and is a member in excellent standing with the National Ethics Association. Ric Schilling is a Certified Financial Fiduciary (CFF). You may contact Ric at 904-371-3302 or 888-891-3381 Please visit: www.seniorguardian.com Investment Advisory Services offered through Center Street Advisors, Inc. (CSA), an SEC Registered Investment Advisor. Frederic H. Schilling of Schilling and Associates, LLC (d/b/a Senior Guardians of America) is an Investment Advisor Representative of CSA.

Nemours

Continued from 13

"Nemours' vision, strategic plan and new brand are interwoven, all reflected in its new brand mark coined 'The Loop of

Care,' which represents both the enduring relationship between a child and caregiver, as well as Nemours' continuous quest for innovation," said Nemours Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer Sarah Sanders in May when the change was initially announced.

The Nemours Foundation will remain the official name of the organization that provides more than 1.7 million patient encounters annually.

The new name will be reflected in the names of its hospitals and specialty, primary and urgent care locations.

Nemours' goal is to play a key role in aligning the financial incentives of the U.S. health care system to support a pay-for-health model to ensure delivery of the services and resources necessary to achieve improved health outcomes, according to a media release.

Dental hygiene is about more than just your teeth

Individuals tend to learn about dental hygiene at an early age. On the recommendation of their children's pediatricians, parents may begin brushing their youngsters' teeth the moment the first tooth breaks through the gums. While proper dental hygiene is vital to oral health, it also can have a profound effect on the rest of the body.

According to the Mayo Clinic, poor oral health might contribute to various diseases and conditions. Periodontitis is a severe yet preventable gum infection that can lead to tooth loss if left untreated. But the threat of periodontitis doesn't end in the mouth. The American Academy of Periodontology notes there's a connection between periodontitis and several other diseases. While bacteria was long suspected to be the link between periodontitis and other diseases in the body, the AAP notes that recent research points to inflammation as the culprit that connects periodontitis with diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

DIABETES

The AAP notes that people with diabetes are at increased risk for periodontal disease, speculating that diabetes patients' risk is higher because people with diabetes are more vulnerable to infections than those without diabetes. While that suggests



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

The American Academy of Periodontology notes there's a connection between periodontitis and several other diseases.

periodontal disease is a byproduct of diabetes, the AAP notes that research points to the relationship being a two-way street. Periodontal disease may make it more

difficult for people with diabetes to control their blood sugar, making dental hygiene an especially vital component of routine healthcare for people with diabetes.

HEART DISEASE

The AAP notes that research indicates periodontal disease increases a person's risk for heart disease, with the inflammation caused by the former leading to the latter. People with existing heart conditions also may find that periodontal disease exacerbates those conditions.

The Mayo Clinic notes that the link between heart disease and periodontal disease is not fully understood, but enough studies have been conducted for scientists to support the notion that the two are connected.

CAN PERIODONTAL DISEASE BE PREVENTED?

Periodontal disease is preventable. A daily dental hygiene regimen that includes brushing after meals, flossing at least once per day and swishing with mouthwash are some simple, healthy habits that can prevent periodontal disease.

In addition, the AAP recommends that people at increased risk for periodontal disease, including the elderly and smokers, should discuss their risk with their dental professionals.

Dental hygiene can do more for individuals than produce a mouthful of pearly white teeth. In fact, people who prioritize dental hygiene may lower their risks for various diseases.

Baptist

Continued from 13

further the hospital's mission of providing safe, high-quality, compassionate health care. I am truly blessed to have a career that allows me to be part of the healing experience."

Thomas was named among Modern Healthcare magazine's Top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare in 2018 and 2020 and one of 70 African American leaders in health care to know by Becker's Hospital Review in 2020. She was also named a Woman of Vision by Girls Inc, Woman on the Move by ONYX magazine and was honored by the Northeast Florida

Girl Scout Council as one of its Women of Distinction.

She is an engaged member of the community, volunteering and holding leadership roles in several local organizations. Thomas is a member of the board of directors for the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Jacksonville branch, the board of directors of Tiger Academy and serves on the OneJax Advisory Board. In addition, she was the first chapter president of the North Florida Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives. She currently serves on the senior advisory council of the Florida chapter of the National Association of Health Services Executives and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



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Stump's mural provides slice of St. Augustine at Pillars Castle

By Anthony Richards

Amy Stump has been an artist for about 30 years, but she has never had more fun than she recently did completing a mural project at Pillars Castle in St. Augustine.

According to Stump, she has been doing more murals in homes over the years, especially since the pandemic and people have been spending more time in their homes.

Jeanine Peterson is an owner of Pillars Castle and reached out to Stump about the possibility of doing such a project.

According to Peterson, owning a castle is something out of the ordinary, but owning rare and eclectic buildings has always been a passion of hers.

"It's so unique, and I love the name 'Queen Jeanine,'" Peterson said.

Peterson expressed wanting to have a room of the castle that captured the history and vibes of the area.

"This was an opportunity to just let it play out and see where it would take me," Stump said.

As a result, Stump let her creativity take over and she painted the wall of the bedroom to look like a giant postcard designed to welcome anyone who walks



ABOVE: Amy Stump painted a mural depicting a postcard designed to welcome anyone who stays in that room of the castle to the City of St. Augustine.

LEFT: Pillars Castle in St. Augustine was built years ago by local artist Charles Pillars and is a popular landmark.

Photos provided by Amy Stump

into the room.

"It was a lot of fun, because I love doing lettering," Stump said. "Not many paint letters by hand nowadays, but that's exactly what I chose to do."

Although the project was large in scale, it only took a couple of days to complete, with most of that time being the prep work leading up to the actual artwork.

At first, she put her idea into Photoshop to help map out and get an idea of how it might look.

"It's a mixture of typography, fine art and graphic design," Stump said. "It all has to come together."

Stump has experience with large scale projects, having completed several murals on walls of businesses, including at Burkins Chevrolet in Macclenny.

According to Stump, that project required her to paint letters that were 33-foot wide and 14-foot tall.

MURAL continues on Page 17

Whitney Cummings adds 2nd show to her 'Touch Me' Tour on Sept. 10 at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

Comedian Whitney Cummings has added a second performance of her "Touch Me" Tour at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall at 10 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 10. The first show is at 7 p.m.

The fall leg of the tour will span more than 25 cities and will feature Cummings' signature take on the current culture and the return to touring after the COVID-19 pandemic.



Whitney Cummings will perform two shows at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Sept. 10

"Touch Me" is a play on Cummings most recent Netflix special, "Can I Touch It" and will destigmatize and celebrate the importance of being together again after over 14 months of isolation.

Cummings is a comedian, actor, writer, producer, director and host of the podcast "Good for You." Best known for creating and starring in the NBC series "Whitney," Cummings is also co-creator and co-writer of the Emmy-nominated CBS comedy series "2 Broke Girls." She has appeared in multiple television shows and films, as well as multiple stand-up specials, one of which was nominated for an American Comedy Award.

In 2017, she published her memoir titled, "I'm Fine ... And Other Lies." Cummings' first one-hour stand up special, "Money Shot," premiered on Comedy Central in August 2010 and was nominated for an American Comedy Award. Her second one-hour stand-up special, "Whitney Cummings: I Love You," debuted on Comedy Central in June 2014. Her third one-hour stand-up special "I'm Your Girlfriend," aired on HBO in 2016 and her fourth, "Can I Touch It?" aired on Netflix in 2019.

Tickets for Whitney Cummings are on sale now at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office or Ticketmaster.com. All tickets are digital and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office remains closed at this time.

Go to www.pvconcerthall.com for more information.

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Photo provided by EMMA Concert Association

Voctave — an a Cappella Sensation — will perform Sept. 11 in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College.

Voctave — An a Cappella Sensation — on stage Sept. 11 at Flagler College

The EMMA Concert Association has announced the first concert of its 43rd season.

Voctave — an a Cappella Sensation — will be on stage from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sept. 11 in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St., downtown St. Augustine. Tickets are available at emmaconcerts.com or call 904-797-2800.

Best known for its Disney medleys, showtunes and Christmas songs and watched by more than 150 million on YouTube, the Orlando-based Voctave is an a cappella ensemble — meaning the 11 members sing unaccompanied. Formed in 2015 by producer and arranger Jamey Ray, the voices that bring their artistic arrangements to life represent a wealth of diverse backgrounds and musical experiences.

The group has performed with Grammy, Dove and American Music Award winners. With multiple No. 1 songs and albums on iTunes, Amazon and Spotify, Voctave has also ranked in the top 25 on Billboard Magazine’s charts. The group has recorded a total of eight albums. In

2019, the group performed with an orchestra for the first time at the 84th Bach Festival in Winter Park.

“We are excited to bring beautiful live music back to our beautiful city,” said Joanne Everett, president of the EMMA Board of Directors.

Tickets are \$50 and include parking and a shuttle to and from the venue. Parking will not be available at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College for this concert. Parking will take place at the St. Johns County Council on Aging, 180 Marine St., St. Augustine FL 32084. Guests will then be transported to and from the concert venue by shuttle service. Student tickets are available for \$10 with student ID, and children’s tickets are also \$10 per child.

Other upcoming concerts in EMMA’s 43rd season include Peacherine Ragtime on Oct. 2, Holiday Pops by The Gainesville Orchestra on Dec. 15, the world-renowned Vienna Boys Choir on Feb. 5, the Russian National Orchestra on Feb. 12, and Siberian Virtuosi on March 19. Tickets to all performances are available at emmaconcerts.com

Mural

Continued from 16

Not only does Stump have a knack for murals, but she also expresses her creative talents as a furniture artist and serves as a substitute teacher in St. Johns County.

“You have to have the mental flexibility to jump from project to project,” Stump said. “I pretty much knew from the first day I held a pencil that being an artist was for me. I love seeing how my hands can make something.”

The castle was originally built by local sculptor Charles Pillars, who is most famous for constructing the “Life” statue at Memorial Park in Riverside.

Mark Krancer took the now famous photo of Pillars’ statue surrounded by water from an overflowing St. Johns River because of Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Krancer is friends with Stump and she

found it fascinating learning about the history of the castle and the life of Charles Pillars during the project.

“It was special to know the history behind it and it really meant something as a fellow artist,” Stump said.

The challenge at hand with a certain project is always something that Stump really enjoys about being an artist.

“Especially when you’re doing something that hasn’t been done before,” Stump said. “Art is all about being courageous and not being afraid to take chances.”

To view more of Stump’s murals and artwork, visit Amy Arts Jax on Facebook.

The Pillars Castle consists of three stories and seven different roof lines.

“No nails were used in the construction,” Peterson said. “It is all Spanish tile.”

The castle is expected to hit the market for people to rent on Aug. 15. For more information, visit PillarsCastle.com.

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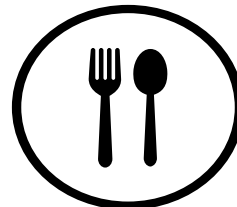
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Sports

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First Tee of North Florida members Tyson Brown, Katarina Hoag, Miniya McNair and Matthew Olsen await the start of a round at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass on Aug. 5.

An opportunity of a lifetime

Four First Tee golfers play dream round at TPC Sawgrass

By Anthony Richards

The First Tee of North Florida is all about introducing youth to the game of golf to develop a passion for the sport and life skills that they will carry with them as they become adults.

Creating experiences and opportunities is another great thing that the First Tee strives to achieve and for the second straight year it was able to offer four of its members to play THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

Tyson Brown, Miniya McNair, Katarina Hoag and Matthew Olsen each got to play the Stadium Course for the first time as part of a dream foursome on Aug. 5.

The opportunity was made possible thanks to a donation by Marsh Landing Country Club General Manager Chet Stokes, who is a former volunteer coach with the First Tee.

Brown is 15 years old and a sophomore at Ribault High School. He couldn't believe when he first heard the news that he would be playing on the same course where THE PLAYERS Championship is contested.

"I was surprised," Brown said. "I've been out here before, but never to play it."

One of the things Brown was looking forward to most from the round was the chance to putt from the same spot that Tiger Woods stood when he sank his famous "better than most" putt during the third round of THE PLAYERS in 2001.

"I want to try to make that putt," Brown said.

Brown has been involved with First Tee for the past six years, but his fascination for golf goes beyond that.

"I've wanted to play since I was 4 years old, but we



Photos by Anthony Richards

Katarina Hoag kicks up some dirt on a shot.

didn't have any way to get into it," Brown said. "When I was 9 years old, I came out here to play and they asked me if I wanted to join the program. I've been a part of it ever since."

For Hoag, she has also spent the past six years with First Tee. She is 17 years old and is homeschooled as a high school junior.

Despite all the golf she has played courtesy of First Tee over the years, playing the Stadium Course is not something everyone gets the opportunity to do.

"I was so excited, because it's a rare opportunity and I'm very grateful for it," Hoag said.

Hoag's connection with golf is very family oriented, as her grandfather played, and her parents encouraged her to take up the game as well and give First Tee a try.

Over the years, Hoag has put a lot of work towards improving her full swing and her short game around the greens.

FIRST TEE continues on Page 19

Fitting in perfectly

Ponte Vedra's Luke Pirris commits to Navy football

By Anthony Richards

Ponte Vedra High outside linebacker Luke Pirris watched his older brothers play college football and now he will get the chance to experience it for himself after committing to the United States Naval Academy.

The PVHS senior announced his commitment via Twitter on July 26 after making several campus visits at schools, such as, Wake Forest, Duke, Army and Air Force to go along with his visit to Navy.

He reached out to several people for advice throughout the recruiting process, including Ponte Vedra High boys basketball coach Kevin Whirity, who played at Navy.

"I knew going into it that everyone seemed to love it," Pirris said. "Once I was able to meet the players and coaches there, it just felt like home. Annapolis is just special."

He went on his trip to Navy with his dad and brother J.D. Pirris, who played college football at Mercer and just graduated. His other brother Nick also played football at Mercer.

Pirris already felt good about Navy after the visit, but it was J.D. that reassured him he was making the right decision for his future.

"He played college ball, so he knew what to look for," Pirris said. "He said he would have loved to have gone to Navy if he would have had the chance to. It became pretty blatant that Navy was the top choice for me."

He started playing competitive football when he was 6 years old and has been playing outside linebacker since he got to high school.

According to Pirris, he feels like he will be a natural fit in the defensive scheme that Navy likes to implement.

"They run a 5-2 or 3-4 defense, so my position fits perfectly with what they want, which is a long

PIRRIS continues on Page 19



Photo provided by Luke Pirris

Ponte Vedra senior Luke Pirris committed to play football at the United States Naval Academy on July 26.

PVHS defends honor as best 6A athletic program

By Anthony Richards

Success is starting to pile up at Ponte Vedra High School and the awards are rolling in as a result.

The Sharks won the 2020-2021 Floyd E. Lay Sunshine Cup All-Sports Award and was named the state's best Class 6A athletic program for the second consecutive year.

The sports seasons for the 2021-2022 school year have not even begun yet, but already PVHS will be adding something to their trophy case.

According to first year PVHS Athletic Director Michael Harrison, points are given to a school based on how they perform at the state competitions in each sport.

The girls finished atop Class 6A with 104 points and eight points ahead of second place Niceville, while the boys came home in fifth place with 62 points, behind only Fleming Island, St. Thomas Aquinas, Chiles, and Doral.

Together, the girls and boys scores earned the Sharks a first-place overall finish, six points ahead of St. Thomas Aquinas.

"It's a testament to the incredible coaching staff and athletes that we have here at Ponte Vedra," Harrison said. "We've got



Photo provided by Colleen Mabe

The Ponte Vedra High girls soccer team won one of three state titles by the school's athletic program during the 2020-2021 school year.

an incredible group of young people and it starts and ends with them."

To win the award, the Sharks finished ahead of every other athletic program both public and private throughout the state.

"Obviously, you want to be the best in your area and for us that means St. Johns County and North Florida, but to get recognized at the state level is always something special."

Harrison was quick to point out that although he had nothing to do with the past two Sunshine Cup awards, he understands that it is his job as athletic director to help the school maintain that level of excellence moving forward.

This includes moving up to Class 7A beginning this year as the enrollment at PVHS continues to grow.

That Sharks captured 14 district titles,

nine regional titles and three state titles last year en route to earning top honors in Class 6A.

The state championships included boys golf, girls soccer and girls volleyball.

"The history of Ponte Vedra athletes and the amount of success is unprecedented in this area," Harrison said. "It is no small feat at all."

What makes the state success even more amazing than the year before, is that last year's triumphs came amid a pandemic and the athletes were able to perform despite the cloud of uncertainty and regulations that hung over each of the seasons.

It was a difficult and strange year for many involved and was like no other school year ever before experienced, which tested the athletes' mental makeup like never before.

"That was a great run, and we were fortunate to have that during such a tough year," Harrison said.

PVHS will look to begin laying the groundwork towards a third straight all-sports award, as things kickoff with cross country, cheerleading, dance, football, boys golf, girls golf, swimming and diving, and girls volleyball all competing during the fall season.

Pirris

Continued from 18

outside linebacker/hybrid safety type of guy," Pirris said.

At 6-foot-4-inches he will provide plenty of length that the Midshipmen coaching staff can use to their advantage.

However, although the Midshipmen are known for having undersized guys, especially along the front, Pirris continues to work on adding weight.

"I was pretty skinny and played the season at about 178 (pounds) last year," Pirris said. "I've gained about 25 pounds over the past six months, just being in the weight room."

He currently weighs about 205 pounds and wants to get to 215 before he leaves for Navy next year.

"Adding that weight will be huge, because it will allow me to play with kids that are bigger than me, because they're obviously just going to get even bigger in college," Pirris said.

Blitzing has always been something he has excelled at, but lately he has been working on honing his coverage skills to go with that rushing ability.

Over the summer, he has worked a lot on improving his footwork and using proper technique to be as quick as he can be.

Pirris will be playing under his third head coach in four years this fall. However, he has already seen a difference under first-year head coach Steve Price.

"Coach Price came in and has just been



Photo provided by Luke Pirris

Pirris looks to quiet the doubters who call him undersized by getting up to 215 pounds before he leaves for Navy next year.

a gamechanger," Pirris said. "I love him, and you can tell he's a great leader that all of the players want to follow."

Perhaps what Pirris is looking forward to most about college football is playing in the Navy vs. Army game, which is one of the most historic and deeply rooted rivalries in college football.

"They treat it like a bowl game, so that place is going to be rocking," Pirris said.

However, the most important game on the schedule for the Pirris family will be the annual matchup between the Midshipmen and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

"My dad's alma mater is Notre Dame, he wrestled there," Pirris said with a big smile. "He claims he will be rooting for Navy, but we'll see."



First Tee member Miniya McNair hits a tee shot on No. 2 during a round of golf on THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass on Aug. 5.

Photo by Anthony Richards

First Tee

Continued from 18

One of the toughest aspects of golf is putting, but that is something Hoag has always felt confident in.

"I'm really excited to play the whole course, but 17 is definitely one hole I'm looking forward to," Hoag said. "Hopefully I'll stay out of the water."

The players were joined by PGA TOUR employees, who served as their caddies during the round.

"There will definitely be some high energy and probably some nerves out there," business development manager Lily Morrison said prior to the round getting under way. "I play golf myself and am passionate about growing the game and getting more kids involve that might not always have the access to courses."

Customized caddie bibs with each golfer's name on the back were worn by

the caddies, and each player was able to keep the bibs as an additional keepsake from the day.

Another special touch was that veteran announcer of THE PLAYERS Doug Kidd introduced each golfer as they stepped onto the first tee.

"I'm announcing the First Tee at the first tee," Kidd said.

Not only did the golfers have the chance to play an iconic course, but they also had the opportunity to learn from industry professionals and develop new connections.

This was valuable networking for those like McNair, who is about to start her freshman year at Florida Gulf Coast University and plans on majoring in professional golf management.

Olsen is a senior at St. Augustine High School and hopes to pursue a career in electrical or chemical engineering.

"The First Tee is great about providing those life skills," Morrison said. "It's not just about golf."

Looking back at Jacksonville's Superman 'Bullet' Bob Hayes, the world's fastest human



Scott A. Grant
Guest Columnist

On Oct. 15, 1964, Robert Lee Hayes of Jacksonville hunched over his starting blocks in Tokyo, at the Olympic games, methodically pounding the spikes that would hold those blocks in place into the cinder track with a large rubber hammer. He was twenty-years-old and wearing sunglasses. He looked cool. Hayes, known as "Bullet Bob," was a favorite to take home an Olympic Medal, but there were complications.

Despite protests from the US Team, Hayes had been assigned the inner lane. That lane was torn up and pitted from a long-distance walking race the day before. Hayes was also running in borrowed shoes. "Smoking Joe" Frazier had lost one of Hayes' cleats back at the Olympic Village. Frazier would win a gold medal in boxing in Tokyo and then go on to an epic rivalry with 1960 Gold Medalist, Muhammad Ali.

Bob Hayes coolly stared down the Olympic track, his whole body coiled like a spring as he awaited the gun and a furious 10 seconds of churning knees and elbows that would answer forever the question pondered by Sports Illustrated, "How Fast is Bob Hayes?" Was he really, "the fastest man who ever lived," as his college football coach claimed?

Bob Hayes' speed was something of a well-kept secret prior to 1964. His blazingly fast times in the 100-yard dash at Matthew W. Gilbert High School in Jacksonville (now Raines H.S.), went largely unnoticed. The state record was held by two brothers at the all-white Robert E. Lee High School on the other side of town. The brothers ran times of 9.9 seconds. Hayes' time of 9.5 did not count. He was Black.

Hayes grew up in the segregated South racing other children of color for nickels. Childhood friends called him the "shortest distant between two points." He was also a football player. In 1957, he played for a Matthew W. Gilbert High School football team that won a "Black" state championship. Many experts consider the '57 Gilbert High School team to be one of the best this state has ever produced.

After high school, Hayes matriculated at Florida A&M to play football for legendary football coach, Jake Gaither. It was said that Gaither liked his athletes "agile, mobile and hostile." The 6-foot-tall, 190-pound Hayes, fit that bill. Florida A&M was founded as the State Normal School for Colored Students. It was built on the plantation of a former governor, near Tallahassee. Hayes' career there almost ended before it started. He and a classmate were accused of stealing 11 cents and two sticks of gum from another student. They had purportedly used a water gun but were still charged with armed robbery. Hayes spent seven days in jail. Only coach Gaither's fervent pleas before the judge kept young Bob out of prison.

"Bullet Bob" Hayes rewarded his coach's faith. The Rattlers only lost four games in three seasons. A&M won two Orange Blossom Classics during his career. The Orange Blossom Classic, played annually in Miami, was the unofficial "Black National Championship."

In 1964, the Tokyo Olympics were held in October, the middle of the football season. Hayes was needed on the gridiron. He was also needed at the Olympics. President Lyndon Baines Johnson was concerned Hayes might get injured playing football. LBJ called coach Gaither to express those concerns. Gaither reluctantly agreed to give his



Photo provided by Scott Grant via public domain

Bob Hayes (right) prepares to cross the finish line to win the 100-meter dash at the Tokyo Olympics in 1964.

star time off from football to train. He called Hayes into his office and told him, "You can go run in the Olympics, but you're going to have to earn your spot when you get back."

During his college track career, Bob Hayes of Jacksonville mostly ran in segregated events against other Black colleges. He ran stunningly fast times, but could those times be trusted? "Bullet Bob" first gained national recognition in Miami in 1962. In a move that shocked and angered many whites, the University of Miami invited Hayes to participate in the 100-yard dash at its annual track meet. Hayes won. He tied the U.S. record of 9.2 seconds. He was elated. It was his first official record. His teammates were proud. Coach Gaither was mad. "I sent you down there to break the record," he chided his prodigy, "Not to tie it."

Back in Tokyo, at the Olympic finals, Hayes dug in and eyed the finish line and his destiny 100-meters away. He knew he was fast. Now, it was time to show the world just how fast. The last thought to cross his mind before the gun sounded was "I've got to win this race." He got out the blocks quickly and as he stormed down the track, he kept gaining speed, running away from the field and winning by over two meters. That is the largest margin of victory in an Olympics, ever. His time of 10 seconds broke the Olympic record. It is still the fastest time ever run on an Olympic cinder track. He was the World's Fastest Man.

The Bullet saved his greatest heroics for the 4x100 relay. When Hayes took the baton for the final leg of the race, the USA stood in fifth place, seven meters behind the leading French. Thirty meters into the race, "Bullet Bob" ran past everyone. It is, to this day, the fastest leg of a 100-meter relay ever run at 8.6 seconds. The New York Times called his phenomenal come-from-behind finish, "the most memorable 100-meters in track and field history." Before the race, a French runner had taunted one of the Americans. "You cannot win," he declared. "All you have is Hayes." After the race, the jubilant runner sought out the brash Frenchman and retorted, "That's all we need, baby!"

After the Olympics, Hayes won his spot back on the Rattlers and helped lead the team to that second Orange Blossom Classic. In January of 1965, he became one of the first Black players to play in the Senior Bowl. Late in the game, with the South trailing 7-0, Hayes caught a 56-yard pass from Alabama quarterback and future Super Bowl legend Joe Namath that tied the game for good.

Bob Hayes, the football player, was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys. He led the league in touchdown catches each

of his first two seasons and changed the way the game was played! Double coverage and zone defenses were invented in an attempt to contain the speedy receiver. No one could cover the Bullet on their own. Teammate Roger Staubach once declared that "no one, unless they saw Bob run, can fathom how fast this guy was ... if he had one step on a defensive back, it was all over. There was no hope."

In 1971, when the Cowboys won the Super Bowl, Hayes became the only man in history to win both an Olympic gold medal and a Super Bowl ring. That is some pretty heavy hardware! Bob Hayes, the man his football coach at FAMU once described as "the fastest man who ever lived," was finally elected to the Football Hall of Fame in 2009, seven years after his death and almost 35 years after his record-setting career ended.

After his football career ended, Hayes tragically descended into alcoholism and drug abuse. In 1979, he got caught up in a sting operation in Dallas. He ended up being convicted for delivering cocaine to an undercover officer. He served 10 months of a five-year sentence for trafficking. The sentence was harsh. It was Hayes' second offense. He was still on probation for "armed robbery" for stealing that change and sticks of gum in Florida, back in 1961.

It bothered Hayes that the doors to the Football Hall of Fame seemed closed to him, but he was used to being snubbed. He grew up in a world where his times did not count. Where he did not count. When he came home from the '64 Olympics a parade was planned in his honor by African-American civic leaders. The parade would pass through downtown under the shadow of the Confederate statue that once dominated Hemming Park.

Initially, the Times-Union refused to cover the event, because he was Black. At the last second, a young female reporter named Jessie-Lynne Kerr was insistent she be allowed to cover the event. "I don't care if Hayes is Black, white, or purple with orange spots," she brazenly told her editor. "I don't know of anyone else coming home to Jacksonville with two gold Olympic medals." The picture of Bob Hayes in the paper the next day marked virtually the first time an African American had been featured in that publication who was not under arrest.

Late in life, Hayes returned to Jacksonville to live with his parents, a broken man. His fall from grace had been precipitous. After prison, he found God and got sober, but



Photo by Nancy Beecher

Jaguars players take part in drills during a recent training camp session.

Jags camp intensifies leading up to 1st preseason game Saturday

By Mike Bonts

Special to the Recorder

The Jaguars had a controlled scrimmage Saturday, and on Sunday they practiced at TIAA Bank Field in front of fans in what was called a mock game featuring multiple game and yardage situations throughout the morning.

“You know, having the fans out here is always awesome. I’m just excited for the season. There’s just a lot of energy around here, so we’re pumped. We’ve had a great camp and it was fun to have a little scrimmage day in front of some of the fans,” rookie quarterback Trevor Lawrence said Sunday.

Cornerback CJ Henderson returned to practice on Tuesday. He missed practice Sunday’s scrimmage for personal reasons.

“Anytime you have a great young man like that, you want to make sure you’re doing everything you possibly can to help him. And to help him get back on track,” said associate head coach Charlie Strong of Henderson. “I was telling Coach [Meyer], we’re out of the process of getting guys and pushing them aside. Our whole thing is creating value for them.”

Wide receiver Marvin Jones also practiced Tuesday. The former Cal wide receiver is entering his 10th NFL season. Laviska Shenault and Josh Allen both missed practice Tuesday for personal reasons.

Receiver DJ Chark had surgery to repair a broken finger on his right hand. He

should return in time for the season opener.

This Saturday, the NFL Network airs Lawrence’s preseason debut at 7 p.m. when the Jaguars host 2018 No. 1 overall pick Baker Mayfield and the Cleveland Browns.

URBAN MEYER ON BOBBY BOWDEN

“I love Bobby Bowden. He couldn’t be more genuine of a person, him and Ann. Obviously we coached against each other, but compared to the time we spent together on those Nike trips, a dear friend and one of the greatest people I’ve ever met in my life. What a life he lived, though. 91 years of a great life.”

Well, you think about coach Bowden and coach (Steve) Spurrier in that era, all young coaches grew up watching coach Bowden in Tallahassee and coach Spurrier at the Swamp, and that changed college football.

BURNS ADDED TO ROSTER

Jacksonville claimed cornerback Lorenzo Burns off waivers from the Arizona Cardinals. Burns signed with the Cardinals as an undrafted free agent at the conclusion of the 2021 draft. He attended the University of Arizona where he played in 42 games with 40 starts in five seasons. Burns finished his career at Arizona with 192 total tackles (142 solo), nine interceptions, 35 passes defended and eight tackles for loss. In his final two seasons as a Wildcat, Burns was a Pac-12 honorable mention and, in 2019, he was voted as the team defensive MVP.

possibly the fastest man who ever lived. Some people think that if you put Hayes and Usain Bolt on the same track, with the same equipment, at the same age, Hayes would win.

Scott A. Grant is an author, historian, and asset manager based in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. He welcomes your comments at scottg@standfastic.com

Hayes

Continued from 20

the damage to his body had already been done. In 2001, he died of kidney failure, at the age of 59.

Bullet Bob Hayes is Jacksonville’s Superman, faster than a speeding bullet and

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ACROSS

1. *Sports analyst, ex-wide receiver Randy
5. Dashboard acronym
8. *Depth of an end zone, in yards
11. Fencing blade
12. Weight not charged for
13. Young hog
15. Witnessed
16. Aroma
17. Nary a soul
18. *Line of _____
20. Spanish earthen pot
21. Pinocchio and the like
22. Bean house
23. Antonym of descent
26. Cycle taxi
30. Greek “t”
31. 50-50
34. Not happening
35. Newbies

37. Bert Bobbsey’s twin
38. Like a neon sign
39. “Clueless” catch phrase
40. Not a desktop
42. Metal-bearing mineral
43. “Chim Chim Cher-ee” setting
45. Relating to nose
47. Actors’ group
48. Sink hole
50. Golf club handle
52. *3-point score
56. Make a canyon, e.g.
57. Not written
58. Racing sled
59. *Purple People _____” song, inspiration for Vikings defensive line name
60. Like H. C. Andersen’s duckling
61. Poet Pound
62. *AFC counterpart
63. Dreaming stage of sleep
64. Daytime entertainment
9. Europe’s highest volcano
10. Born, in bio
12. Marinara fruit
13. Ornamental hair net
14. *Grabbing penalty
19. Breath freshener
22. *Pre-game encouragement
23. Rose oil
24. One’s assertion
25. Collectible in a cabinet
26. *Fourth down option
27. Colonoscopy tract
28. Ancient assembly area
29. B in IBS
32. *Start of a football play
33. Goo on a trunk
36. *Scrimmage-related penalty
38. Plant louse
40. Yule firewood
41. By word of mouth
44. Candle shape
46. English in Spanish
48. Mourner’s song
49. Camelot, to Arthur
50. Tennis great Steffi
51. College officer-training prog.
52. *Number of downs to get a first down
53. Anis-flavored aperitif
54. Site of Taj Mahal
55. *Lambeau Field jump
56. Poetic “even”

DOWN

1. Hodgepodge
2. Oil cartel
3. Palm reader, e.g.
4. Old and mentally infirm
5. Weather-related Doppler tool
6. Programs, for short
7. Insignificant
8. Hammer or sickle

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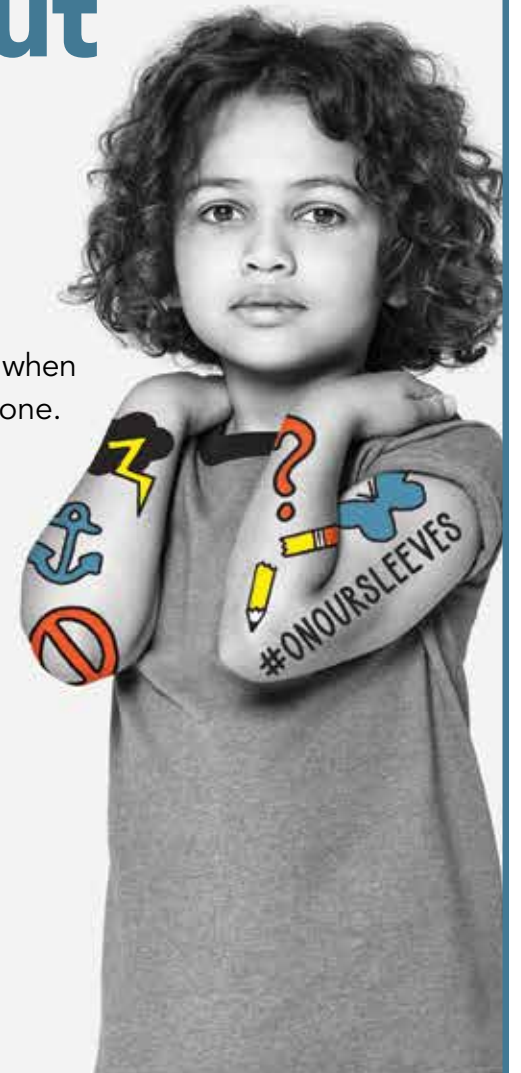
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