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PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

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75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

## BACK TO SCHOOL



Students at PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School are released following the first day of school. See more Back to School photos on page 5.

Photo by Anthony Richards



### INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



### Best of the Best

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First Coast Register

INSIDE



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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](mailto: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.

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## ADOPT A PET

### CAT OF THE WEEK

Hello, my name is Scratchy. I am a 3-year-old female domestic short-hair cat. Don't let my name fool you, I don't scratch... I just love being scratched! I am very friendly. I am also litter-box trained. When you meet me, you will notice I love head scratches and chin rubs. I am also good with kids, cats and dogs! Come meet me at the Pet Center today! #59790



### DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi! My name is Tux! Don't I look handsome with all my black and white? I am a 1-year-old male Australian-dog mix. I came into the shelter as a stray and, while I love it here, especially my time in the outdoor runs, I sure would like a home and family of my own. I have been good with other dogs here at the Pet Center. If you already have a dog, bring him or her along and we can meet! If not, don't worry, I will love you enough for two dogs. Come visit me today! #59608

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 School District reports 141 student cases of COVID-19 on Aug. 17

As of Aug. 17, there were 141 cases of COVID-19 in the St. Johns County School District student population, and 69 positive cases with St. Johns County School District employees. There were also 221 St. Johns County school students in quarantine and 34 employees, according to the school district's daily COVID update. There were five students and one employee who tested positive at Ponte Vedra High School as of Aug. 17, and seven students at Nease High School who were reported positive. Valley Ridge Academy reported six positive student cases and one employee case.

The total number of COVID-positive students and total number of quarantined students shown in the update are based upon reporting from parents/guardians.

For more on COVID cases in the St. Johns County School District and a daily breakdown by school, go to [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/covid-19](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/covid-19).

### High School Essay Contest celebrates Bill of Rights

The lawyers and judges of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida and the members of the Jacksonville Chapter of the Federal Bar Association announced the launch of the 2021 High School Essay Contest commemorating the 230th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights.

The contest is open to students currently in grades 10 through 12 in counties in the Jacksonville Division of the Middle District of Florida (Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Hamilton, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee and Union).

The personal freedoms we cherish as citizens of the United States are set forth in, and protected by, the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution. Known as the Bill of Rights, these amendments have shaped our democracy for 230 years. The 2021 Essay Contest prompt asks students to select the amendment most important to students attending public schools, and

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

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# County Commission gives nod to proposed tax rate

On Aug. 3, St. Johns County Commissioners unanimously set the proposed tax rate for FY 2022 at \$6.8147 per \$1,000 of taxable value. This represents a marginal increase over this year's rate of \$6.813.

The proposed rate is not necessarily the final rate. However, once set, the county

cannot reasonably increase it. The rate can, however, be reduced during one of the two public hearings to be held in September.

Because the county has seen a 9.27% increase in property values since last year, the county can expect to see a \$19 million increase in tax revenue next year. These

increases have helped moderate the need for any tax increases.

The total budget is \$1.1 billion.

This year's rolled-back rate is \$6.53.

The rolled-back rate is the rate that would generate the same revenue as last year, dollar-for-dollar.

Under the proposed rate, the owner of a \$400,000 home with a homestead exemption could expect a tax bill of about \$2,400.

The board also set the time and date of the first public hearing. It will be held at 5:01 p.m. Sept. 7.

## Briefs

Continued from 2

explain how the decisions of the United States Supreme Court have shaped that amendment's meaning.

Student essays must be submitted via the Middle District website at [www.fimd.uscourts.gov](http://www.fimd.uscourts.gov) under the "Court in the Community" section by noon on Sept. 24.

For the past three years essays have been submitted by students residing in nine of the 12 counties of the Jacksonville Division and more than \$17,000 in cash prizes have been awarded to students and teachers.

This year an additional cash prize of \$1,000 will be awarded to the school with the most qualifying essay submissions.

Cash prizes are made possible by the lawyers and judges of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida

Bench Bar Fund.

Prizes are: first place – \$2,000; second place – \$1,000; third place – \$500; fourth-10th places – \$50 each

Classroom grants for teachers of top three winners (one per teacher) is \$500.

Winners will be recognized in November at a ceremony at the Bryan Simson United States Courthouse in Jacksonville. In addition, the first-place winner will be given the opportunity to shadow a federal judge for a day.



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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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**Elizabeth Hudgins, REALTOR®**  
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Elizabeth@ElizabethHudgins.com  
www.ElizabethHudgins.com



**ELIZABETH HUDGINS**

# Flagler Health+ contributes to COVID-19 testing site

City of St. Augustine, Ivy Medical join partnership to open facility at St. Augustine Visitor Information Center

Flagler Health+ announced, in partnership with the City of St. Augustine and Ivy Medical, a COVID-19 testing site opened on Monday, Aug. 16, to service the needs of the St. Augustine and surrounding communities with both PCR and Rapid Antigen tests available.

The COVID-19 testing site is located at the bus loop of the city's Visitor Information Center at 10 S. Castillo Drive. Beginning Monday, the site will be open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

"We know that fast and easy access to COVID-19 testing is an important component to stopping the spread of the virus and supporting area businesses' ability to safely remain open," stated Flagler Health+ President & CEO Jason Barrett. "I commend City of St. Augustine leadership for supporting this initiative with the location and support services."

Flagler Health+ will provide the testing through a partnership with Ivy Medical, offering Antigen Rapid Test and the

rt-PCR Tests. The Antigen Rapid Test provides results within two hours from individuals suspected of having COVID-19 within five days of symptom onset. The PCR Test gives results within two business days and identifies an active infection, regardless of whether the infection is early stage, late stage, or anywhere in between.

"With the increased cases of COVID and the related demand for testing, we feel that it is critical to offer a convenient, safe alternative to get a COVID test," City Manager John Regan said. "We must do whatever it takes to help offset the burden of COVID testing on our local healthcare

system so they can stay focused on providing necessary care to the sick."

Testing is available for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be present for children under 18 to be tested. Insurance is accepted and self-pay is available.

Patients must pre-register for their test by downloading the Flagler Health+ Anywhere app or going to the Flagler Health Anywhere website. To schedule a test, log onto the app and use the "Get Care" function, select the St. Augustine COVID-19 testing option and follow the prompts. For more information on insurance, pricing and applications for free testing, go to [www.flaglerhealth.org/StAcovidtesting/](http://www.flaglerhealth.org/StAcovidtesting/).

# Fire Watch aims to prevent veteran suicide once and for all

By Anthony Richards

The Fire Watch is taking a unique approach in the fight against veteran suicide and the community is a big part of it.

It uses a grassroots program that uses community members known as "watch standers" to prevent veteran suicide instead of treating it.

"We're doing something unique," The Fire Watch Executive Director Nick Howland said. "For the last 10 years, the attempted solution has been treatment, which the VA has put billions of dollars into. Our goal is focused on prevention and not allowing it to get to the point where you need treatment."

The nonprofit organization began in 2019 after receiving support from the county commissions within its five-county coverage area, that includes St. Johns, Duval, Clay, Baker, and Nassau counties.

"It was created by an interlocked agreement by county commissioners," Howland said.

In 2018, 6,435 veterans committed suicide in the United States, 577 in Florida and 61 in Northeast Florida.

However, that number increased to 78

in Northeast Florida in 2019, which is equivalent to losing more than one veteran a week to suicide locally. The 2020 numbers were not yet available.

There are more than 150,000 veterans in Northeast Florida, according to The Fire Watch website.

According to Howland, the watch standers idea was based off the CPR initiative that came into effect in the '70s and '80s and had a role in lessening the number of people dying from heart-related problems.

"This doesn't make people experts, but it makes them more aware of the signs than they were before," Howland said. "It's all about getting veterans to solutions early."

By the community understanding the warning signs of veteran suicide and what to do to get help when spotted, it creates a wider safety net that veterans can rely on.

Those warning signs can be prompted by many types of stress in one's life, including that related to financial, physical or the mental distress veterans encounter after returning home from tours of duty.

Howland acknowledged that it can be difficult to ask for help on one's own, but

when someone is there to talk to about it, asking for help can become much easier.

"Many suicide survivors will tell you that even if one person came up to them, they would not have attempted it," Howland said.

Since the watch standers program was launched in May 2020, it has continued to grow to about 1,300 current members.

"We're getting such great support from everyone in our community, from the residents to the county leaders," Howland said. "It doesn't matter what side of the political aisle you are on, it is a cause you can get behind."

According to Howland, the amount of success the program has showed in Northeast Florida has caught the eye of state leaders and there is a plan in place to expand the watch standers initiative to a statewide level once the necessary funding is sorted out.

"Everyone wants to do more than just thank a veteran, and this is a way to give back," Howland said. "If they come across a veteran showing signs, they can talk to them and get them the resources they need for help."

The process to become a watch stander

is simple and something that Howland encourages anybody to consider.

Becoming a watch stander is free and requires visiting [www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers](http://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers) and watching 30- to 45-minutes of informational video.

"We don't want money to be a barrier that keeps people from helping," Howland said. "There's a role for everybody to play."

Residents can also donate to the cause by clicking on the "donate" button on the website or can call 904-834-9420 or email [info@thefirewatch.org](mailto:info@thefirewatch.org) for more information.

One of the biggest recent advancements for The Fire Watch is the ability to obtain acquisition of census-level data, which they use to see where the hot spots are in Northeast Florida to have a better understanding of where they need to focus their attention on getting more watch standers.

"For the last 20 years, the only one collecting data was the VA, and they only collected it at the state level," Howland said. "We've gotten together with NLP Logix and the Florida Department of Health to begin collecting our own data. It's a leap forward in effectiveness."

# Florida Forum Speaker Series announces schedule change

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital announced a new Florida Forum Speaker Series date for award-winning singer/songwriter/actor Tim McGraw. The new date is Feb. 16, 2022.

McGraw was originally scheduled to speak at the Florida Forum in September, but rescheduled to begin production of "1883," the highly anticipated prequel to "Yellowstone." The new series follows the Dutton family as they embark on a journey west through the Great Plains toward the last bastion of untamed America. McGraw, and his wife, Faith Hill, will play James and Margaret Dutton, the patriarch and matriarch of the family. The Paramount Plus

series, which also stars Sam Elliott, doesn't have a release date yet.

The Florida Forum Speaker Series also features four-time Super Bowl champion and broadcaster Terry Bradshaw on Oct. 26, and Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden, Jr., a retired Marine officer, astronaut and former NASA Administrator, on Nov. 17. The series will take place at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

Presented by The Women's Board, the Florida Forum raises awareness and funds for Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville, supporting its mission to provide the highest quality of advanced pediatric healthcare regardless of ability to pay. The

series is made possible by partners and sponsors Wells Fargo Florida Blue and Landstar. The moderators are Jeff Lageman, Capt. Mark T. Gould, MD, USN (ret), and Jennifer Candelino. Serving as 2021 co-chairs of the Speaker Series are Jan Kirby and France Hutto.

Since 1992, the Florida Forum has been honored to host renowned speakers from around the world offering profound discussions on a broad range of issues. In addition to enriching Jacksonville's intellectual and cultural life, the Florida Forum has contributed more than \$9.2 million to Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville.

For tickets or more information, go to

[www.thefloridaforum.com](http://www.thefloridaforum.com), call (904) 202-2886 or email [womensboard@bmcjax.com](mailto:womensboard@bmcjax.com).

The Winter Design Show, formerly the Art & Antiques Show, and the Florida Forum, produced by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, will contribute funds for a five-year, \$4 million pledge to endow programs, services and equipment for a new state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Center at Wolfson Children's Hospital. The unit will feature state-of-the-art family suites designed for comfort and privacy while maintaining visibility and easy access for NICU staff; modified lighting and soundproofing and critically important medical equipment.

# SCENES FROM BACK TO SCHOOL



Photos by Anthony Richards

**ABOVE:** Parents line up to pick up their children on the first day of school at PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School.

**LEFT:** PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School students load up on a school bus.



**Valley Ridge Academy students cross the road after being released from school on Tuesday Aug. 17.**



**The St. Johns County School District began the 2021-2022 school year on Monday Aug. 16.**



**Students at Valley Ridge Academy ride their bikes home from school.**



**Valley Ridge Academy students walk through the line of golf carts to find which one is theirs.**

*Chris Nace is a former Philadelphian who has been working for IKEA for the past 20 years. The market manager for the IKEA store in Jacksonville, he now makes his home with his family in Ponte Vedra Beach.*

## Chris Nace

Photo by Shaun Ryan

As told to Shaun Ryan

### **You've been praised for how you steered the Jacksonville store through the pandemic. Tell me about that.**

It's a very coworker-centric company. They always look to take care of the coworkers, so that's one nice thing. We knew the company would be there for us.

We were closed for almost three months, and then we opened. Ever since then it's been OK, but those three months we were closed, it was a very difficult time.

We did end up furloughing a portion of our coworkers. It ended up being a few weeks. The company did pay the coworkers the full amount for quite a while, and then we ended up furloughing.

Probably a month before we actually opened to the public, we started doing online orders out of the store. So, we were able to bring some coworkers back fairly quickly.

Then we opened up the store and called everybody back.

### **This is IKEA's busiest time of the year. It comes at a time when a lot of retail stores are finding it difficult to get stock due to recent disruptions in supply chains. How are you meeting this challenge?**

This is probably the most difficult one right now. We're a global company. We have a lot of global supply. And the pandemic has been hitting different areas of the globe in different ways.

The good news for us is we have 95- to 100-plus articles here, so while we might be out of some things, we have other, alternative items in stock.

It's improved over time, and we're looking forward to it continuing to improve.

Like any other business, you try to take care of the customer in the best way possible.

### **IKEA has made a commitment to sustainability. Tell me what your store is doing.**

This is one of the things we're most excited about. My company has been at the forefront of sustainability. We were talking about it back in 2001.

We have solar panels covering a majority of our roof. It's a large building; I think we have 5,400-plus solar panels on our roof. The cool thing is, it allows us to generate our own energy, and what we overgenerate we can actually put back in the JEA grid. We've been measuring our diversion rate, our trash, for years. Last year, we diverted almost 70% of our waste away from landfills.

And then our products. We're developing more sustainable products all the time.

There's one other thing I want to mention. We have a very busy restaurant here, and we are looking at 50 percent of the restaurant meals being plant-based by 2025.

We're looking at doing our part. I think our overall goal is to be climate-positive by 2030.

### **How does your role as the store's market manager help you make a positive impact on the community?**

This is as big of a thing for us as sustainability. For years we were called store managers. And they changed it recently to market manager, because the way people shop, our interactions with the community, and everything else is changing.

We want to be a long-term part of the community, so we have a lot of initiatives and actions that we take.

We donate a lot of time. We do beach clean-ups. We have all kinds of projects that we're working on. We were working with some local high schools where we donated products to help them with their athletic safety.



We have partnerships. We just did a partnership that's really cool with the Alhambra Theater. And we've worked with Sulzbacher here locally.

We want to do even more in the community.

That is such a big thing for us, and it's a big thing personally. I really want IKEA to be part of the local community. That's something that's so important to us here in Jacksonville. You have corporate teams that just come in and open a chain here or a big box retailer there. That's one thing that kind of separates us: We really, really reach out and want to be part of the community. We've only been here three years, so in IKEA terms, it's new, but over time we want to be in the fabric of the community.

### **Tell me about your background.**

Before I was with IKEA, I came from a more corporate finance background. I worked for a bunch of large firms. And I just wanted a change of pace. I started working 20 years ago at the corporate office in Philadelphia for IKEA.

They wanted me to go out for a couple of years and get some experience in the store. I went to Dallas to

open the first store there. I lived in Fort Lauderdale, Charlotte and now Jacksonville, all working at IKEA stores. And I enjoy it, so, I kind of never went back.

### **How long have you lived in Ponte Vedra?**

We've been here about two and a half years.

### **What do you like best about living in this area?**

Ponte Vedra is a beach community, but it doesn't feel busy or crowded or hectic like all the other ones I've lived in. I like that it's relaxed. I think for a beach area, it's very aesthetically nice, it's beautiful.

I like golfing, too.

There's a good feeling of community here, too, so I enjoy that.

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

Golf would be one. My youngest son plays lacrosse at Ponte Vedra High School so we go to a lot of lacrosse games and outings and stuff like that. Just spending time with my family.

We really like living here. It's where we'd like to stay.



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

## Congratulations to our July Leaders!



**Malia Finger**  
Ponte Vedra Beach



**Kelly Whitaker & Wanda Petersen**  
Ponte Vedra Beach



**Landay Ridaught Group**  
Ponte Vedra Beach



**Matt & Naomi Wilkinson**  
Nocatee



**Southern Latitude Group**  
Brian Sacks, Roger Harding, Josh Foster  
Nocatee



**John Richardson**  
Nocatee



### SUMMERFIELD

LOW MAINTENANCE townhouse located minutes from St Johns Town Center in a gated community.  
2 BR, 2.5 BA, 1,248 SF  
MLS 1123486 \$ 205,000  
**Elizabeth Parsons (954) 242-6874**



### AUSTIN PARK

SPACIOUS 1 story home on a LARGE PRESERVE LOT offers SPLIT BEDROOMS. Meticulously maintained by one owner. 3 BR + Office, 2 BA, 2,062 SF  
MLS 1125756 \$545,000  
**Elizabeth Parsons (954) 242-6874**



### PORTOFINO AT PONTE VEDRA BEACH

Fabulous Move-in ready condo a few blocks to the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean style construction.  
3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2,326 SF MLS 1116763 \$614,000  
**Kelly Whitaker (904) 233-1991**  
**Wanda Petersen (904) 537-4594**



### FT CAROLINE

NO HOA or CDD Fees! Newly renovated and solar panels installed. Extra large front and back yard, plenty of room for boat or RV storage. 3 BR, 2 BA, 1,531 SF  
MLS 1113919 \$349,000  
**Roger Harding (904) 591-1317**



### CYPRESS TRAILS

The features of this home include an office with glass doors, & a wonderful open floorplan great for entertaining!  
3 BR, 2 BA, 2,202 SF  
MLS 1121923 \$475,000  
**Matt & Naomi Wilkinson (904) 234-5014**



### WALDEN CHASE

NO CDD FEES Zoned for Valley Ridge Academy. New Professional Exterior Paint & all new flooring. ALL of the main living areas have BRAND new carpet!  
4BR, 3 BA, 2,285 SF MLS 1120020 \$435,000  
**Matt & Naomi Wilkinson (904) 234-5014**



### DEL WEBB PONTE VEDRA

Grey Mist floorplan boasts large neutral stone flooring. Spacious, private lanai overlooking a wooded preserve.  
2 BR, 2 BA, 1,395 SF  
MLS 1123473 \$437,000  
**Sally Harasz (904) 509-2226**



### DURBIN CROSSING

Upgrades galore! Built by David Weekly Homes in 2015 this energy efficient home has a fully fenced backyard and is across the street from A Rated Patriot Oaks Academy.  
3 BR, 2 BA, 1,584 SF \$350,000  
**Matt & Naomi Wilkinson (904) 234-5014**



### TWENTY MILE VILLAGE

Open concept, energy efficient home built by Providence Homes in 2016. Flex room can be used for office or den.  
2 BR, 2 BA, 1,501 SF \$410,000  
**Kelly Whitaker (904) 233-1991**  
**Wanda Petersen (904) 537-4594**

*Two locations to serve you!*

### NOCATEE

158 Marketside Avenue, Suite 14 • (904) 834-7682

### PONTE VEDRA BEACH

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# JaxTHRIVE creates summer camp for St. Augustine Homeless Coalition children

JaxTHRIVE, a teen volunteer, nonprofit organization with a mission to educate and inspire refugee and disadvantaged children, designed and led a S.T.E.A.M./sports/healthy nutrition camp for the St. Augustine Homeless Coalition children during the final week of their summer holiday. JaxTHRIVE volunteers also provided backpacks, school supplies, clothes, snacks and even a new bike for the excited children.

JaxTHRIVE is ramping up to offer both

face-to-face and virtual tutoring to children in the Northeast Florida region and beyond. The teen JaxTHRIVE leadership board is also planning an outdoor gala that will be held in October. For details, reach out to JaxTHRIVE at [jaxthrive@gmail.com](mailto:jaxthrive@gmail.com).

Donations are greatly appreciated at JaxTHRIVE which will enable them to continue to offer its tutoring endeavors. To learn more about JaxTHRIVE or to donate, go to [www.jaxthrive.net](http://www.jaxthrive.net).



Photos provided by Alexis Magnano

## Live life to the fullest at The Palms!

**Gardening!**



**Water Walking!**



**Megan's morning weight training class!**



**A new adventure awaits!**

**Don our amazing Science Guy!**



**Movies and Entertainment!**



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*The Palms*

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

## KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

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



**Kathy Esfahani**  
Columnist

### CLIMBING FLOWERS AND PLANTS

Gardening can be a very relaxing pastime, so why not consider elevating your landscape with planting some climbing plants to give your yard that extra inviting feel, while adding a bit of stunning ambience for your trouble.

Climbing, flowering vines can provide such a unique touch to any garden or landscape. They're textured, colorful, and can often grow in unusual places. They can act as a natural accent wall to your outdoor space, provide some welcome privacy, and spruce up any empty space, including bare walls and fences.

Climbing plants can give your yard an organic and inviting feel, and add beautiful ambience.

What are some of the best flowering vines for Northeast Florida?

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

**Allamanda:** Fastest growing vine with bright yellow blooms. Great vine to have around a patio or pool, but be careful;



Flower of the Week: *Bougainvillea*

their seeds are poisonous to humans and animals.

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

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

**Carolina jasmine:** This vine has a fragrant, yellow bloom and can grow to 25 feet. They bloom in late winter/early spring



Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

**Allamanda is a fast-growing vine.**

and thrive in this zone, as long as we don't have a harsh winter.

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

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

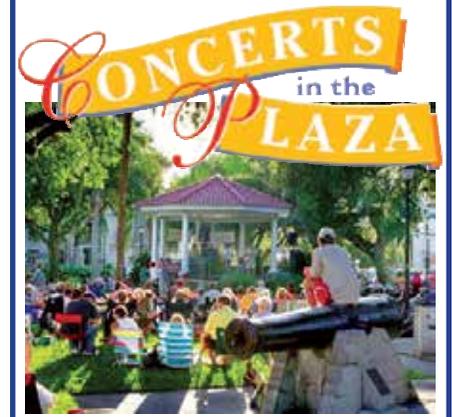
**Passion vine:** This vine creates a 3D flower in purple that butterflies love! They can grow in full sun or partial shade and up to 25-feet tall!

Start planning your own vine-based vertical paradise! Happy planting!

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

**Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery is located at 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. (904) 655-7373.**

The best way to spend a Thursday night in St. Augustine!



**Celebrating 30 Years of Great Local Music!**  
**Thursdays 7-9pm**  
**June 3 thru Sept. 2**  
**in the Plaza de la Constitución's Gazebo in historic downtown St. Augustine**



Schedule available at [www.CityStAug.com/concerts](http://www.CityStAug.com/concerts)  
[www.facebook.com/CityStAug](https://www.facebook.com/CityStAug)  
Bring a lawn chair. Alcohol prohibited.



Concerts in the Plaza is a free cultural event presented by the City of St. Augustine

## Morgan Stanley

Morgan Stanley is proud to congratulate  
**Dennis Rosa, Financial Advisor**  
**Andy Baggs, Financial Advisor**  
**Neil Powell, Wealth Advisor**  
Named *Forbes'* Best-in-State Wealth Advisors

Being named to *Forbes'* 2021 Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list is a testament to your experience, professionalism and dedication to your clients.

Thank you for the work you do each day and for carrying forward the culture of excellence at our firm.

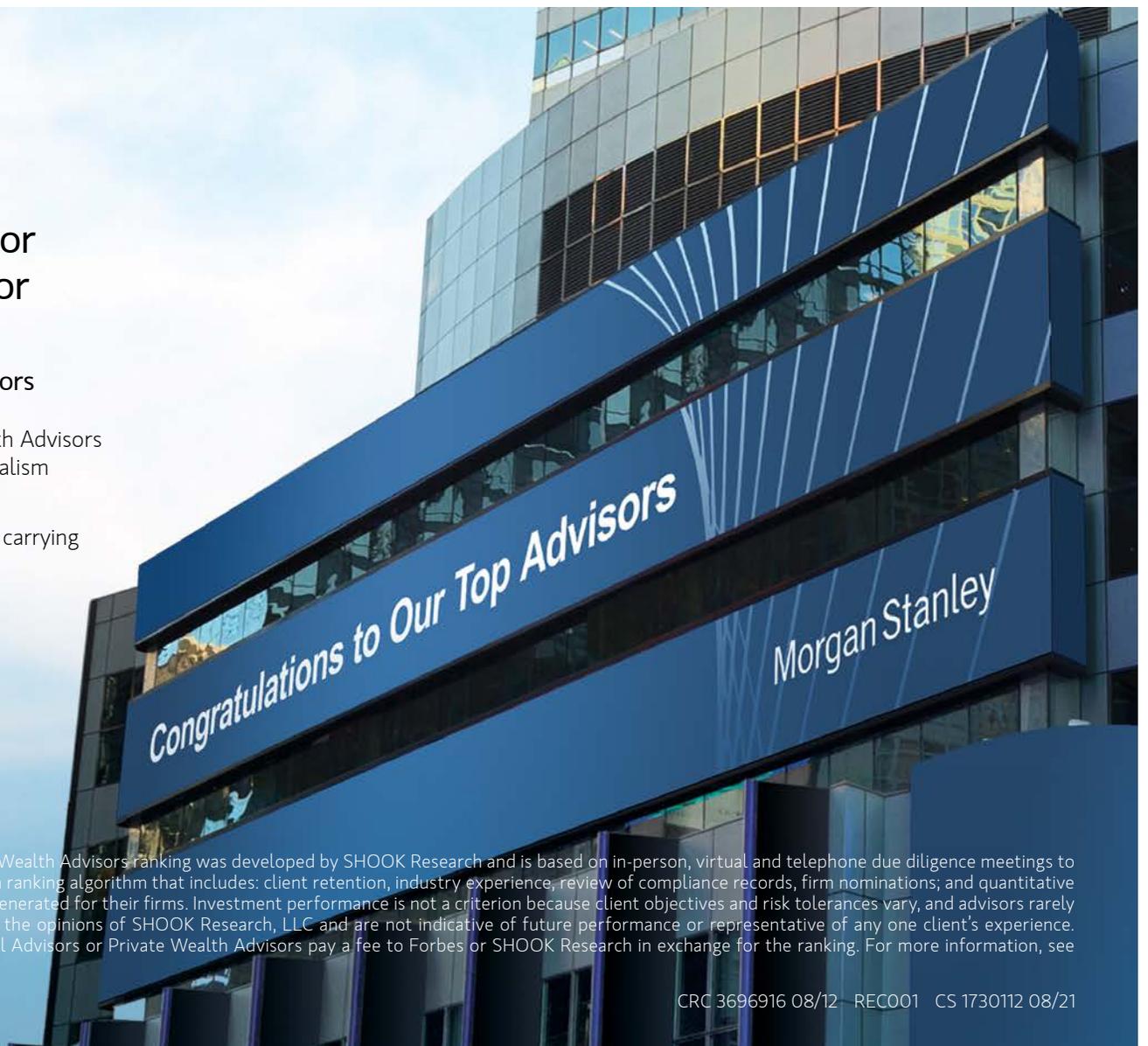
### The Lighthouse Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley

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[advisor.morganstanley.com/the-lighthouse-wealth-management-group](http://advisor.morganstanley.com/the-lighthouse-wealth-management-group)

Source: Forbes.com (February, 2021). Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors ranking was developed by SHOOK Research and is based on in-person, virtual and telephone due diligence meetings to evaluate each advisor qualitatively, a major component of a ranking algorithm that includes: client retention, industry experience, review of compliance records, firm nominations; and quantitative criteria, including: assets under management and revenue generated for their firms. Investment performance is not a criterion because client objectives and risk tolerances vary, and advisors rarely have audited performance reports. Rankings are based on the opinions of SHOOK Research, LLC and are not indicative of future performance or representative of any one client's experience. Neither Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC nor its Financial Advisors or Private Wealth Advisors pay a fee to Forbes or SHOOK Research in exchange for the ranking. For more information, see [www.SHOOKresearch.com](http://www.SHOOKresearch.com).

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CRC 3696916 08/12 - REC001 CS 1730112 08/21



## OBITUARIES

### John Charles DiMario



**John Charles DiMario**

The most wonderful man in the world, John Charles DiMario, passed away at 87 years of age on Saturday, August 7 at 3:52 p.m. He went to meet God peacefully, surrounded by his loving family who kept a devoted vigil by his side.

John was born on June 26, 1934 to Sam and Clementine DiMario in Cleveland, Ohio, where he attended Holy Name High School and worked on a local bean farm to pay for his tuition. John was stubborn until the very end, continuing in his tradition of surprising doctors even in the days leading up to his death. His strength of spirit and will to live were unmatched, and his final actions were ones of comfort and love for his family.

He was a man who was so good that it became a running joke, his family calling him Mr. Wonderful and St. John. It's true to say he lived a good, long life, and he will be greatly missed by friends and family, who were his greatest devotion. Cleveland sports teams were a strong second.

John traveled around the world with his beloved wife of 65 years, Patricia, rising up as an executive at GE Capital despite not having the opportunity to finish his college degree. He was warm and kind, loving good conversation and treating everyone he met with grace and love. John and Patricia had three children: Deborah, John, and Greg, as well as nine loving grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He is survived by all of them and by his brother, Sonny; his sister, Marge; his godson, Gary; and other nieces and nephews.

His family will honor the memory of this funny, giving, and devoted man by raising a glass of his favorite drink, a Manhattan, over quality time with loved ones and sharing stories of this incredible man and father. There was a Funeral Mass to celebrate his life on Saturday, August 14, 12 p.m. at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Ponte Vedra, where he was a decades-long parishioner and Eucharistic Minister.

In lieu of flowers, please support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in John's memory.

### Ryan Walker Jones



**Ryan Walker Jones**

Ryan Walker Jones, 49, devoted husband, son, brother, friend, colleague, and avid fisherman, passed away Friday, August 6, 2021, after a valiant fight against esophageal cancer. He was born in Landover, MD, April 16, 1972, grew up in Jacksonville, FL, and graduated from Terry Parker High School.

Ryan earned a Bachelor of Business Administration, Magna Cum Laude, from Jacksonville University, but was an FSU Seminole at heart.

Ryan started his 20+ year career in the shipping container industry in Jacksonville, Florida, with Stevens Shipping and Terminal Co., joining AP Moller Maersk in 2000. His career led him and his wife, Dru, from Jacksonville, FL to The Netherlands, Shanghai, Singapore, and, most recently, Malaysia.

As the Terminal Operations Manager for the Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) in Johor, Malaysia, Ryan's leadership was instrumental in developing the PTP Ways of Working (WoW) - an inclusive, optimistic, and problem-solving culture that lasts today. To honor Ryan and his significant, transformational impact, MAERSK/APMM has commissioned an annual award in his name. The Ryan Jones Team Leadership Award will be awarded globally to the teams around the world whose KAIZEN efforts were outstanding, not only in terms of economic impact, but more importantly with emphasis on the team exhibiting the leadership and optimism with which Ryan led. He was a widely respected professional in global HSSE and terminal operations, as well as a universally admired colleague and friend around the world.

Personally, Ryan was simply a stellar human. His kindness and gentleness were extended to everyone he met. He and Dru loved volunteering their time at NANAS Animal Sanctuary in Malaysia, and he looked for opportunities to share his love of boating and fishing with friends and kids around the world. Since his work with Maersk and APMT took them across the globe, Ryan and Dru spent time traveling to new places whenever possible, enjoying Europe, Southeast Asia, Australia, and South Africa. When not traveling the world with the love of his life or grilling everything under the sun with his latest flavor concoctions for friends, you'd find Ryan "Sailfish" Jones dropping a line off the side of a boat, patiently waiting to reel in his next big catch.

Ryan is survived by his wife of 24 years, Dru Jensen Jones, mother and stepfather, Eva and Dave Abbott, Jacksonville, FL, father, Ken Jones, Ocala, FL, sisters, Amanda Jones Bernal and Melissa Jones Barton (Brian), Lake Butler, FL, nieces, Mackenzie (Wendel), Ava, Delana, Taylor, grand-nieces, Kendal and Kallie, mother and father-in-law, Ellen and Alan Jensen, Jacksonville Beach, FL, brothers-in-law, Rush Jensen and Reed Jensen, aunts, uncles, cousins, childhood friends, and many, many extended family and friends across the globe.

A memorial cast-off for Ryan will be held at 11am on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra, FL. The service will be live streamed on YouTube for global friends and family to join; <https://youtu.be/nDzGDYjfQMw>.

In lieu of flowers, please consider sending a contribution in Ryan's memory to one of the following: 1) St Johns River

Keeper (<https://stjohnsriverkeeper.org>), 2) MD Anderson Cancer Center (<https://gifts.mdanderson.org>), 3) Florida Fishing Academy (<https://floridafishingacademy.com>), 4) NANAS Animal Sanctuary (<https://noahsarknaturalanimalshelter.com>). Please visit the online Tribute at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.



### Catherine Mary Schaffer



**Catherine Mary Schaffer**

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Catherine Mary Schaffer, who passed on August 8th, 2021.

Catherine was born in Boston, Mass, in 1942. She was the oldest daughter to John J. Donovan and Kathleen C.

Murphy Donovan. She graduated from St. Elizabeth's Hospital School of Nursing in Brighton, MA. After graduating she joined the Navy as a Lieutenant Navy nurse and was stationed in San Diego. There she met her husband, Mike Schaffer. The two soon married and lived in California until they settled in Massachusetts. They celebrated 52 years of marriage until his death in 2019.

Catherine loved her family deeply, and instilled in them a love for faith in God and the church. Her passionate devotion to her faith was remarkably palpable, and made an impression on all those she encountered.

Catherine worked for 40 years as an RN, spending many years as a compassionate and attentive labor and delivery nurse and Lamaze coach. For the final 20 years of her career she was a middle school nurse at Old Rochester Regional. She had an innate ability to connect with the students in her care and loved the work. After retirement, she and Mike split their time between a sea captain's house in Brewster, MA and a home in Saint Augustine, Florida. Catherine was very active in the Catholic Church and the ProLife movement.

Catherine was predeceased by her brother John Joseph Donovan Jr, "Jackie" who passed in 1999. She is survived by her son Michael Schaffer of Brewster and her daughters Tara Galvin of Norwood, MA and Katie Balger of Ponte Vedra, FL, and her son-in-laws Bill Galvin and Michael Balger. She is also survived by 9 grandchildren, Reid, Caroline, Greyson, Lauren, Wyatt, James, Sam, Jack and Annie. Additionally, she is survived by her sisters, Sara McFarland and her husband Ritchie, Rita Hathaway and her husband George, Patricia Casinelli and her husband Fred, and Maureen Mullins and her husband Chris. She also has numerous nieces

and nephews, all of whom could expect a birthday card with a personalized note and a little money for a treat.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of the Cape in Brewster, Friday August 13 at 1:00 p.m. Burial will be held at a later date at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St Vincent DePaul Society at Our Lady of the Cape, 468 Stony Brook Rd. Brewster Ma. 02631

Notes of comfort may be made to Cathy's family at [www.chapmanfuneral.com](http://www.chapmanfuneral.com)

### Anne S. Alexander

Anne S. Alexander, 88, died Aug. 9, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home, (904) 249-1100, [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

### Jeffery Daigle

Jeffery Daigle, 49, of St. Augustine, Florida, died Aug. 6, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 - [www.pontevedravalley.com](http://www.pontevedravalley.com)

### John C. DiMario

John C. DiMario, 87, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Aug. 8, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, (904) 249-1100, [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

### Maureen Frances Joseph

Maureen Frances Joseph, 88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Aug. 15, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904)249-1100 [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com)

### Alexander P. Mayer

Alexander P. Mayer, 29, formerly of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died July 23, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 - [www.pontevedravalley.com](http://www.pontevedravalley.com)

### John McLaughlin

John McLaughlin, 85, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Aug. 10, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, (904) 249-1100, [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

### Mary Jane Menard

Mary Jane Menard, 100 years old, died Aug. 7, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home, (904) 249-1100, [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

### Rene H. Schiegg

Rene H. Schiegg, 77, Ponte Vedra Beach, died Aug. 9, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, (904) 249-1100, [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

### Valinda Thornwell

Valinda Thornwell, 83, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Aug. 9, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, (904) 249-1100, [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

# Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra delivers pizza to frontline workers



Photos provided by Bob Wiltfong

**ABOVE:** Frontline workers at Baptist Medical Center South receive pizza and other treats from members of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra.

**RIGHT:** Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra members collect pizzas from Pieology in Nocatee to deliver to hospital workers.

Baptist Medical Center South is one of several Jacksonville hospitals inundated with COVID-19 patients right now. Directors said late last week they had roughly 86 medical team members serving over 200 COVID patients. Many of these workers are pulling double and even triple shifts to cover needs. That's why the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra — with the help and direction of the OneJax Institute ([www.onejax.org](http://www.onejax.org)) at the University of North Florida — is stepping up to feed frontline workers.

On Tuesday, Aug. 17, members of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra gathered to pick up pizzas at the Pieology restaurant

in Nocatee. From there, the Rotarians delivered the food to a drop-off point just outside of Baptist Medical Center South. This effort is consistent with one of Rotary's core tenets of "Service Above Self" and Club Community Service Chair Denny Baldwin said it was an easy sales pitch to his fellow club members in Ponte Vedra. "As soon as we put the word out about this effort," Baldwin said, "we were flooded with donations from our members. We want the medical personnel on the frontlines of this COVID surge to know we see them, we appreciate them and we will do whatever necessary to support them."



## Flagler College's LEAD Fund unveils Spirits and Sportscars event Sept. 16

The Flagler College's LEAD Fund recently announced the long-awaited event, Spirits and Sportscars, which will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, at the Art N Motion vintage showroom located at 283 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine.

The mission of the LEAD Fund (Leading, Empowering, Advancing, and Developing) is to provide scholarships, mentorship and leadership opportunities for men who attend Flagler College, and to encourage the recruitment and retention of male students. The advisory board for the fund seeks to engage volunteers to raise money for scholarships and to work to provide students with mentorship, leadership and guidance in pursuing their academic and career interests.

Car and bourbon lovers will have the opportunity to browse classic cars while sampling food from local restaurants and drinking fine bourbon. Additional activities include interacting with a Henry Flagler impersonator, tasting a signature drink, "The Morrison," and a silent

auction featuring local artists and unique bourbons.

Not only will guests have the opportunity to enjoy unique cars, spirits and food, but they'll also be supporting the LEAD Fund Scholarship with each registration fee of \$50 per person. All proceeds will go directly to making a significant difference for young male students attending Flagler College. Register for the event at [www.flagler.edu/LEADFundraiser](http://www.flagler.edu/LEADFundraiser) or call (904) 819-6489. For more on Flagler College, go to [www.flagler.edu](http://www.flagler.edu).



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# EXPECT WILD FUN AT NOCATEE FARMERS MARKET

Get ready for a wildlife encounter at the Nocatee Farmers Market on Saturday, Aug. 21. This day of family-friendly fun will feature multiple interactive "Animal Encounter" performances that will include crowd participation, wildlife education and entertainment from Gatorland's alligator trainers. Along with this fun theme, the market will feature more than 70 local vendors selling fresh produce and herbs, crafts, jewelry and more. Plus, the bar will be open for beer and wine purchases. The Nocatee Farmers Markets are open to the public and weather permitting.

Photo by Susan Griffin



## Caring★Chefs

Sample cuisine and beverages from nearly 20 of Northeast Florida's finest chefs, sommeliers and brewers.

**Sunday, October 24, 2021**

**7-9:30 p.m. • The Glass Factory • Tickets \$80**

**We do good.**

**Purchase tickets** and view a list of participating restaurants at [chscaringchefs.com](http://chscaringchefs.com).

Call 904.493.7739 for sponsorship information.



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Recorder

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

CIRCLE

# Ponte Vedra Residents Chose Us #1. Now It's Your Turn.



## Thank You For Voting Us #1.



With the original Vicar's Landing and Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge, now under construction, you have two



Many wonderful local dining options available

incredible options for luxury retirement living. Both properties

feature gorgeous homes, every amenity under the sun, the most attentive staff you'll ever meet, and a

plan for every stage of aging. Enjoy comfort, security, and a warm, inviting community that truly feels like

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Explore Ponte Vedra Beach's outdoor living

**New!** NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION!



## VICAR'S LANDING AT OAK BRIDGE



## And the results of the 3rd annual Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra are ...

Once again, the Ponte Vedra Recorder asked readers to tell us which businesses, nonprofits, practices and professionals are the Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra in the 32081 and 32082 ZIP codes. And once again, the readers have weighed in with their preferences.

Between May 21 and June 14, members of the community had the opportunity to nominate their favorites nearly 250 categories. Beginning June 15, readers were invited to vote on the nominees.

After voting closed on July 26, it was time to find out who won. The votes were counted and the winners notified. The winners' names are listed in this special section.

Winners will be happy to know that the people in

their community who rely on their goods and services selected them. It is a stamp of approval that recognizes winners' dedication and exceptionalism.

The Ponte Vedra Recorder wants to thank the voters who took the time to participate. The strong response reveals a community of individuals willing to add their voices to the public conversation and reward those who put forth their best efforts every day.

In the coming year, readers will want to keep this section handy. When seeking out a product or service for the first time, it's helpful to know which businesses other members of the community recommend.



# AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

## BEST BOSS

Dr. Erika Hamer,  
Ponte Vedra Wellness Center

## BEST LOCAL INDUSTRY

PGA TOUR

## BEST LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center

## BEST NEW BUSINESS (OPENED IN 2020)

BOARD30 – Ponte Vedra Beach

## BEST PLACE TO WORK

St. Johns Title

## AUTO & TRANSPORTATION

### OIL CHANGE

Tires Plus

### TIRE STORE

Tire Kingdom

## BUSINESS

### ALTERATIONS

Solana Cleaners

### ART FRAMING COMPANY

Village Arts Framing and Gallery

### BARBER SHOP

Don's Barber Shop

### BUILDING DESIGN COMPANY

Del Webb Nocatee by PulteGroup

### CAR WASH

Gate Express Carwash

### CELL PHONE REPAIR

iRepairFast

### CHILD CARE CENTER

Christ Episcopal Pre School

### COPY SHOP

The UPS Store

### DANCE STUDIO

Grace Conservatory of Dance

## DAY SPA

The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

## DRY CLEANERS

Solana Cleaners

## FITNESS CENTER/GYM

Body 20 Ponte Vedra Beach

## FLORAL COMPANY

Kuhn Flowers at Ponte Vedra

## FUNERAL HOME

Ponte Vedra Valley

## HAIR SALON

Bellezza Salon and Boutique

## HOTEL

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

## INSURANCE COMPANY

Anderson Agency of NE FL

## INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

T-Mobile

## IT COMPANY

Myques of Ponte Vedra

## JEWELER

Underwood Jewelers

## MARTIAL ARTS

Ponte Vedra Martial Arts Academy

## MASSAGE/MASSAGE THERAPIST

Muriel Hattori

## NAIL SALON

BellaVi NAIL SPA

## PEST CONTROL

Kingfish Pest Control

## PET BOARDING

Forever Vets Animal Hospital at Nocatee

## PILATES STUDIO

Transformation Pilates Studio

## SELF STORAGE FACILITY

Compass Self Storage

## TRAVEL AGENCY

AAA Ponte Vedra

## TREE SERVICE

COASTAL TREE SERVICE LLC

## WEDDING VENUE

TPC Sawgrass

## YOGA STUDIO

YMCA at Nocatee

## ARTIST

Anna Washington

## ASSISTED LIVING

Vicar's Landing

## COMMUNITY

### BAND

Kim Paige

### BEACH CLUB

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach

### BEST COMMUNITY TO LIVE IN

Nocatee Community

### CHARITY EVENT

Mineral City – Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary

### CHURCH

Christ Episcopal Church

### CIVIC CLUB

Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club

### COMMUNITY EVENT

THE PLAYERS Championship

### COUNTRY CLUB

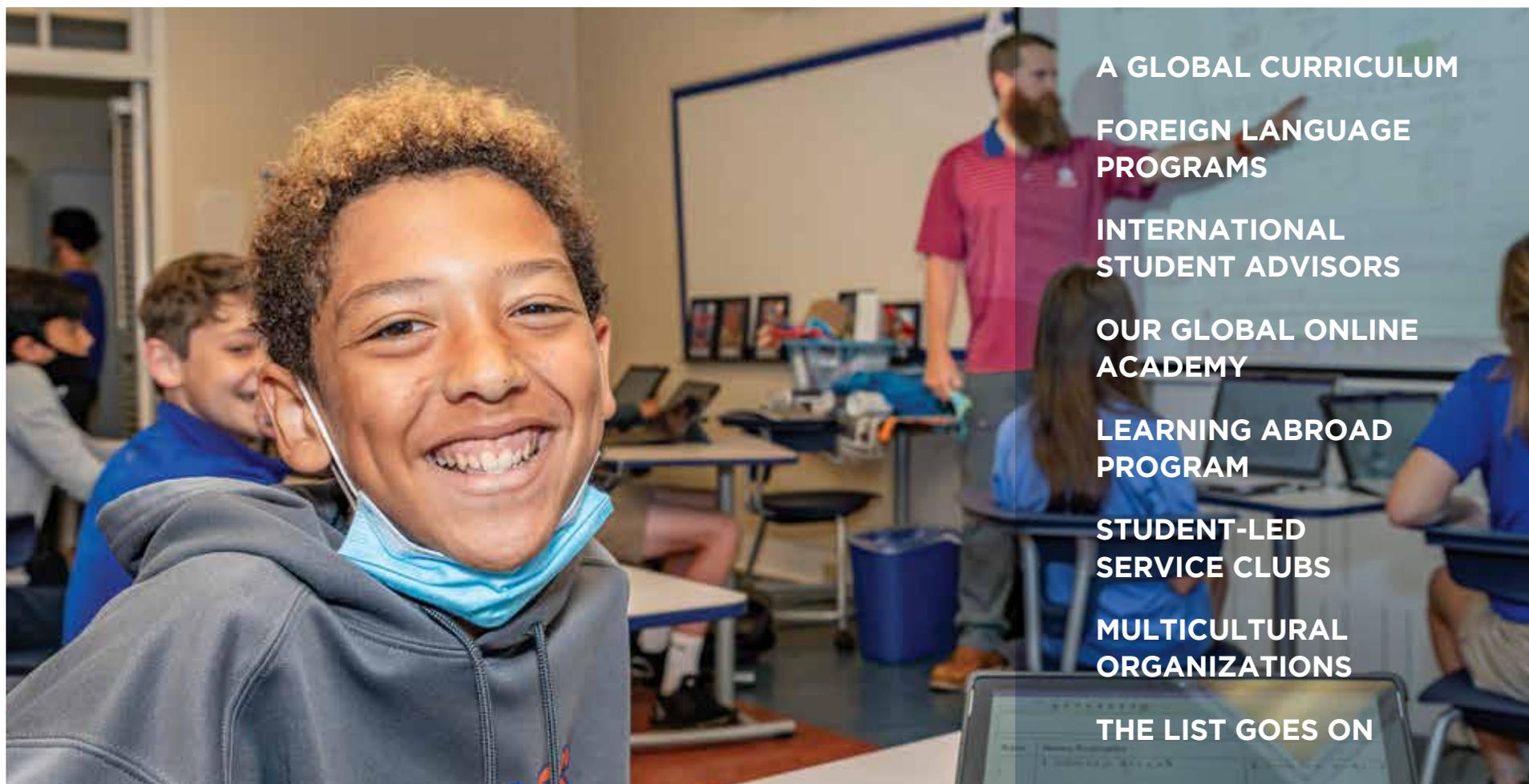
The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach

### EVENT ENTERTAINMENT

Roscolusa

WINNERS continues on page 18

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- LEARNING ABROAD PROGRAM
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- MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS
- THE LIST GOES ON

## Passports not required.



[Bolles.org](http://Bolles.org)

*Pre-K through Grade 12, Day & Boarding School.*



# AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

**EVENT VENUE**

Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

**GOLF COURSE**

The Yards

**GOLF PROFESSIONAL**

Brad Nelson

**IN-HOME CARE**

Vicar's Landing Home Health

**KIDS CAMP**

The Cultural Center  
at Ponte Vedra Beach

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

John Tedder

**MEMORY CARE**

Starling at Nocatee

**NETWORKING GROUP**

Sisu Concept Coaching

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**

K9s For Warriors

**PARK**

Guana River State Park

**PLACE FOR KIDS TO HAVE FUN**

Nocatee Splash Waterpark (Private)

**PLACE TO VOLUNTEER**

K9s For Warriors

**RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

Vicar's Landing

**SYNAGOGUE**

Beth El Synagogue

**TENNIS FACILITIES**

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach

**EAT & DRINK**

**AMERICAN**

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room

**ASIAN**

Kamiya 86

**BAKERY**

Le Macaron French Pastries –  
Ponte Vedra Beach

WINNERS continues on page 20



**ERIN GREGORY  
JENNIFER JL JONES  
PAGE JONES DAVIS**

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## Thank you, thank you, thank you

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**BRUNCH**

TPC Sawgrass

**BURGER**

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New York Butcher Shoppe

**CAKE & DESSERTS**

JJ's Liberty Bistro

**CATERING**

Trasca & Co Eatery

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**CHOCOLATIER**

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**COFFEE SHOP**

The Kookaburra Nocatee

**COUNTRY CLUB DINING**

The Plantation House

**DELI**

New York Butcher Shoppe

**FAMILY RESTAURANT**

Barbara Jean's On The Water

**FAST FOOD**

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**FROZEN YOGURT**

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**GROCERY STORE**

Publix Super Market at Sawgrass Village

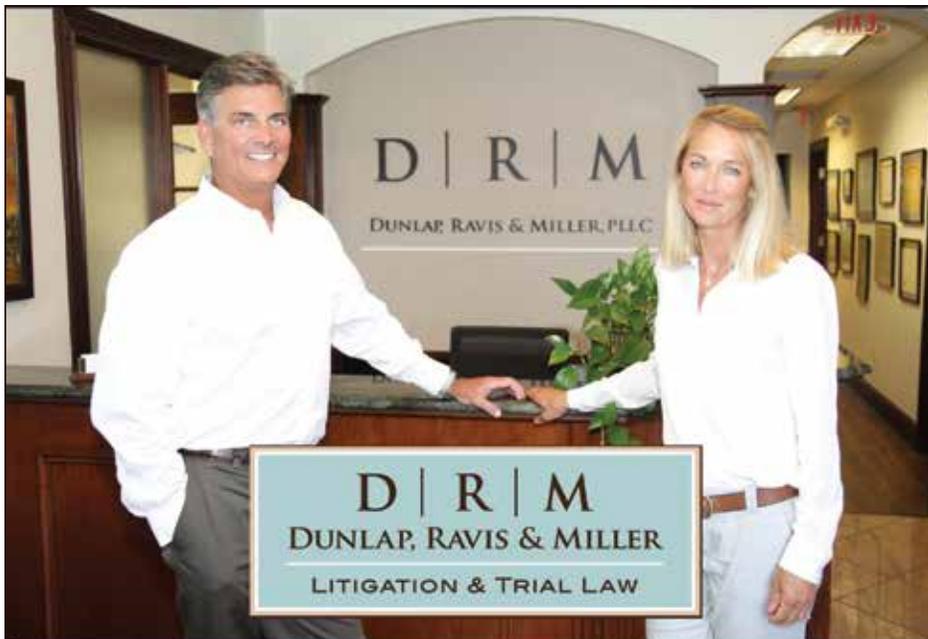
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Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room

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WINNERS continues on page 26



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- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>AUG. 20</b> STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES<br>THE MASTERSONS | <b>OCT. 16</b> BAHAMAS  | <b>NOV. 19</b> TODD BARRY                                   |
| <b>SEP. 10</b> WHITNEY CUMMINGS                          | <b>OCT. 17</b> ZOSO<br>THE ULTIMATE LED ZEPPELIN EXPERIENCE   | <b>NOV. 20</b> KATHLEEN MADIGAN                             |
| <b>SEP. 17</b> WYNONNA JUDD                              | <b>OCT. 24</b> THE FIXX & THE ENGLISH BEAT                    | <b>NOV. 21</b> JOHN MAYALL                                  |
| <b>SEP. 26</b> LINDSEY BUCKINGHAM <b>SOLD OUT!</b>       | <b>OCT. 26</b> THUNDERCAT <b>SOLD OUT!</b>                    | <b>DEC. 1</b> THE WOOD BROTHERS                             |
| <b>SEP. 30</b> MITCHELL TENPENNY                         | <b>OCT. 31</b> THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS                           | <b>DEC. 2</b> THE OUTLAWS                                   |
| <b>OCT. 1</b> OLD 97'S                                   | <b>NOV. 4</b> GALACTIC  | <b>DEC. 4</b> UNDER THE STREETLAMP<br>"HIP TO THE HOLIDAYS" |
| <b>OCT. 2</b> FOREVER MOTOWN                             | <b>NOV. 7</b> THE BAYLEN LEVINE SHOW                          | <b>DEC. 8</b> A PETER WHITE CHRISTMAS                       |
| <b>OCT. 6</b> EDWIN MCCAIN                               | <b>NOV. 12</b> STEPHEN LYNCH                                  | <b>DEC. 9 &amp; 10</b> THE FAB FOUR<br>THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE |
| <b>OCT. 8</b> PABLO CRUISE                               | <b>NOV. 13</b> ROBERT CRAY                                    | <b>DEC. 11</b> RICKY SKAGGS & KENTUCKY THUNDER              |
| <b>OCT. 12</b> JUSTIN HAYWARD                            | <b>NOV. 14</b> STEEP CANYON RANGERS                           |   |
| <b>OCT. 14</b> CHRIS HILLMAN                             | <b>NOV. 17</b> AN EVENING WITH BRUCE HORNSBY <b>SOLD OUT!</b> |   |
| <b>OCT. 15</b> JIM MESSINA                               |   |   |

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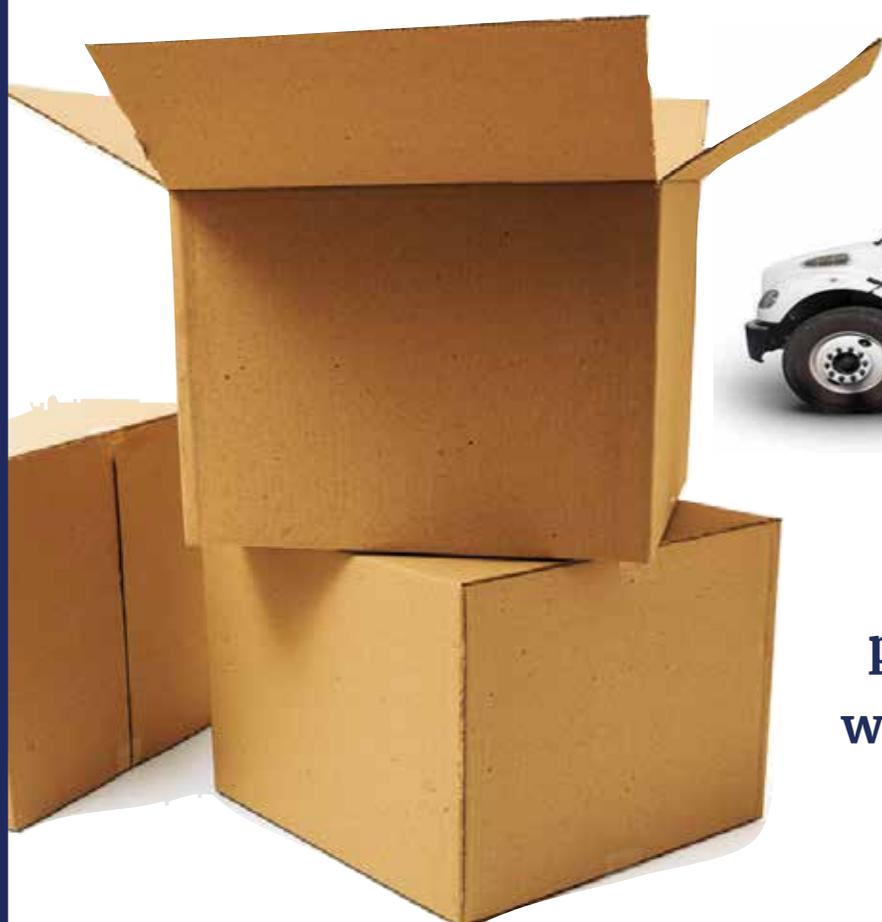
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Restaurant Medure

**SALADS**  
McFlamingo

**SANDWICHES**  
Jersey Mike's Subs

**SEAFOOD**  
Palm Valley Fish Camp

**SPORTS BAR**  
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**STEAK**  
Ruth's Chris Steak House

**SUSHI**  
Tank's Sushi Bistro (Nocatee)

**SWEET TEA**  
Woody's Bar B Q

**UPSCALE DINING**  
Restaurant Medure

**WATERFRONT DINING**  
Palm Valley Fish Camp

**WINE LIST**  
Coastal Wine Market  
& Tasting Room

**WINE SPECIALTY STORE**  
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**WINGS**  
Dick's Wings and Grill – Nocatee

WINNERS continues on page 30

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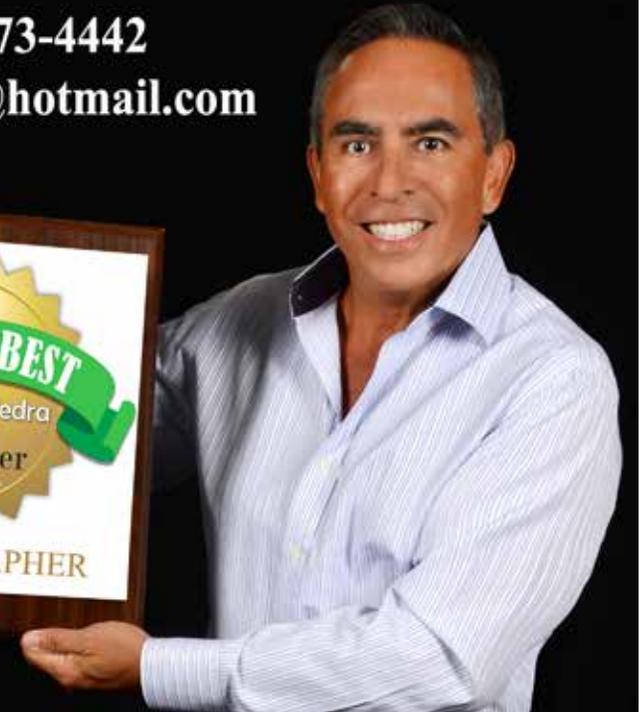
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### PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ponte Vedra High School

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Stacey Hendershot, The Bolles School

### SCHOOL TEACHER

Mr. Arcuri, Landrum Middle School

### SPECIALTY SCHOOL

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

### TUTORING CENTER

Kumon Math and Reading Center  
of Ponte Vedra

## HOME & FINANCE

### ACCOUNTING

Pivot CPAs

### AIR & HEATING SERVICE

Creeks Air Conditioning & Heating

### APARTMENT COMPLEX

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### BANK

IBERIABANK/First Horizon

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WINNERS continues on page 36



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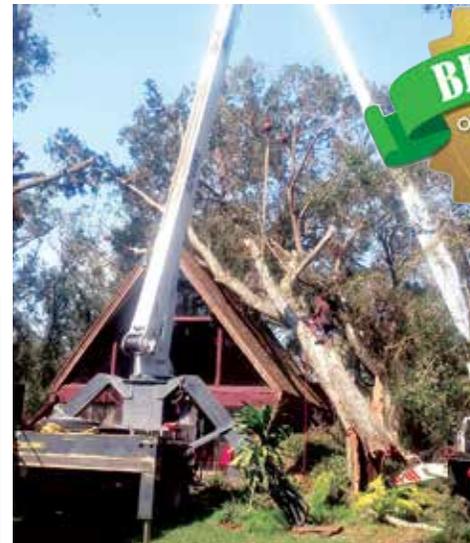
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WINNERS continues on page 38

## Don't miss our next issue!

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**October 14th**

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## HEARING AID CENTER

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## OPTOMETRIST

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WINNERS continues on page 44

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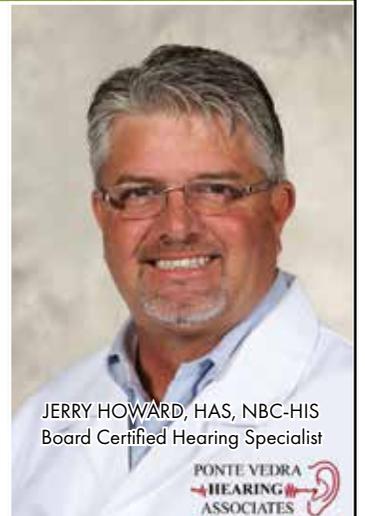
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### COSMETICS STORE

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### FURNITURE STORE

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WINNERS continues on page 49

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# AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

WINNERS continued from page 44

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# Business Weekly

PAGE 53 THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021

More families getting rid of health insurance for medical memberships

Page 55

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photo by Anthony Richards

Store team leader A.J. Lefler and county commissioner Christian Whitehurst prepare to cut the ribbon for the new Earth Fare location located at 120 Shops Blvd. in St. Johns.

## Earth Fare's resurgence leads to round 2 in St. Johns County

By Anthony Richards

Earth Fare is back in St. Johns County as they continued their comeback story following a tumultuous couple of years with a ribbon cutting ceremony

for its new location at 120 Shops Blvd. in St. Johns.

The height of the tough times included Earth Fare filing for bankruptcy in February 2020 and having to close many of its locations, which included

the one in St. Johns County that had only been open for six months.

"A group of local Earth Fare advocates got together along with one of

EARTH FARE continues on Page 54

## 3 things to keep top of mind for healthy finances



Abel Harding  
Guest Columnist

When it comes to handling your personal finances responsibly, there are a few things to keep top of mind. Whether you're responsible for your household finances, your own personal wealth management, or even if you've entrusted a personal financial planner to handle most of your money matters,

there are some aspects of your financial life you can't afford not to know. Taking time to invest in financial planning and responsibility will always pay off.

### 1. UNDERSTAND YOUR MONTHLY NET INCOME VS. EXPENSES

You probably know your salary — but do you know your monthly net income? That's the amount of cash you bring home after taxes, health insurance premiums, retirement contributions, and any other employer-sponsored benefits plan you may participate in have been deducted from your paycheck.

Knowing and understanding your monthly net income will help ensure you're saving adequately for the unexpected. The importance of having such an emergency stash became overwhelmingly apparent while managing finances in a pandemic. Experts typically recommend you have at least three

HARDING continues on Page 54

## Buyers forced to sidelines as housing prices continue to climb

Many would-be buyers are being priced out of the market as sales prices in Northeast Florida continue to climb.

In July, the median sales price on properties in the region rose 15% from a year ago to \$303,600. The average sales price of \$381,499 for residential real estate also was 18.4% higher than a year ago. And 45.6% of all properties sold for more than their asking price, an astronomical increase of 190.4% since July 2020 when the percentage was only 15.7. Meanwhile,

Realtors cheered as new listings showed a 6.9% increase over the past year to 3,915 units.

"While the number of new listings increased compared to the same time last year, the continued demand for homes in Northeast Florida remained strong, bringing little relief to those still in the market to buy," explained Missi Howell, president of the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors. "The increase in sales prices is far outpacing wages, and with almost 50%

of homes being sold over the sellers' asking prices, first-time homebuyers continue to struggle with their dream of homeownership and move-up buyers hesitate to list their homes due to concerns of what will be available for them to buy."

There was an ever-so-slight increase since June bringing Northeast Florida's housing inventory to 4,668 units, but this still represents a 40.6% drop from July 2020. The number of homes for sale continued to hover at a historic low of

1.4 months' supply, and pending sales dropped 10.6% to 3,287 from a year ago and with most properties averaging 33 days on the market before sale.

"Pending sales of previously owned homes nudged out new construction by a nose, perhaps indicating that the rapid cost increases driven by material costs are losing favor with buyers," Howell said.

During the past few months, Northeast

REAL ESTATE continues on Page 55

# Locally owned business among Accounting Today's 'Best Accounting Firms to Work for'

Pivot CPAs, the area's largest locally-owned independent CPA firm, announced the firm was recently named as one of the 2021 "Best Accounting Firms to Work for" by Accounting Today.

"This is truly one of the best recognitions that an accounting firm — or any workplace — can achieve," said Peter Reynolds, CPA, managing partner of Pivot CPAs. "Here at Pivot, we believe that putting our people first and providing them the optimal environment in

which to thrive will inevitably result in loyalty and growth. It is fantastic to be recognized as a place that provides a great work environment for our team members."

Each year, Accounting Today partners with the Best Companies Group to identify accounting businesses that have excelled in creating quality workplaces for employees. The survey and awards program is designed to identify, recognize, and honor the best employers in

the accounting industry. The 100 firms named to the list benefit the industry's economy, workforce, and businesses. For more information, visit [accounting-today.com](http://accounting-today.com).

Based in Ponte Vedra Beach, Pivot CPAs is the largest locally-owned CPA firm in the Jacksonville market, serving Northeast Florida and Gainesville. The firm offers tax, accounting, assurance, and consulting and advisory services to clients in a wide range of industries.

## Earth Fare

Continued from 53

our original founders and said, "this company's roots are too deep and strong to just completely go away," said Laurie Aker, Earth Fare community relations coordinator and spokesperson.

According to Aker, the re-invigorated Earth Fare had only planned to open eight locations, but support has led them to go well beyond the initial goal and the St. Johns location makes it 23 stores.

"As a business owner myself, it's always wonderful for me to see a success story like Earth Fare," St. Johns County Commissioner Christian Whitehurst said. "2020 was difficult for everybody in different ways, but especially for small business owners."

An example of the local support a was on display as roughly 300 people lined up around the shopping center complex waiting for the ribbon cutting ceremony to take place and the doors to be open.

"Some folks started lining up as early as 3 a.m.," Aker said. "The community has been extremely excited, and we've had an overwhelming response."

Earth Fare was established in 1975 and was the first natural food store in Asheville, North Carolina.

The company strives to make sure all the products sold are free of artificial



**ABOVE: Customers look at the various organic options offered by Earth Fare.**



**LEFT: Roughly 300 people waited outside for the opportunity to be among the first through the doors of the new Earth Fare location.**

Photos by Anthony Richards

colors, flavors, and preservatives. That includes meats and seafood not having hormones or antibiotics and the baked goods being free of bleached and bromated flour.

"This community deserves to have healthy options, so we knew we had to come back," Aker said. "We like to say that we read the labels, so you (customers) don't have to."

## Harding

Continued from 53

to six months' worth of your take-home pay available and accessible to cover expenses in the event of a job loss or a medical emergency.

The obvious rule of thumb is to keep your monthly expenses below your monthly net income. Being aware of what you spend each month relative to your income and how much money you consistently save for shorter- and longer-term goals is important to your financial security.

Establishing a monthly budget can be especially helpful. Plus, if your financial circumstances change, it empowers you to easily adjust your saving and spending strategies.

### 2. BE AWARE OF YOUR ASSETS AND DEBTS

Creating a list of your assets is an important function of your personal wealth management. Your asset inventory should include names of the financial institutions where all checking, savings, brokerage, investment, and retirement accounts are held, along with the account numbers, login credentials for online access, and current beneficiary designations.

Likewise, if you rely on a personal financial planner and/or legal professionals to manage some or all your tax, financial, and/or estate-related matters, make sure spouses, adult children, and/or a trusted family member knows their names and contact information.

Keep account data and passwords in a secure location (which may include a lock box or an online secure password manager) that your family or loved ones can access if needed.

Similarly, you should also keep track of your debts including credits cards, mortgages, and loans.

### 3. STAY ON TOP OF YOUR INSURANCE POLICIES AND THEIR STATUS

Insurance coverage is required for certain assets like a home or a car, while coverage for short- and long-term disability, life insurance, and personal umbrella policies are optional. Yet, all insurance policies require that you pay premiums to keep them active and current.

Know what coverage you have and with whom, so you can take advantage of policies that could protect your wealth in case of the unexpected. And, for life insurance policies, it's important to keep your beneficiary designations up to date.

Keeping these three aspects of your financial life top of mind will keep your finances in order. Whether you are solely responsible for your own financial well-being, your financial life is entwined with that of a partner or spouse, or you've entrusted a financial advisor, it pays to be well-informed through all the stages of your life.

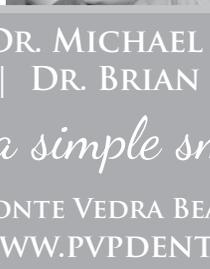
**Abel Harding is the North Florida market president for IBERIABANK**



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# More families abandoning health insurance for monthly medical memberships

By Sharyl Truty, M.D.

Special to the Recorder

With health care costs on the rise, a growing number of Americans are throwing out the old way of seeing a doctor and turning to a membership model. A monthly or annual fee gets you direct access to a doctor, no insurance needed.

This concept called Direct Primary Care (DPC) simplifies health care delivery, taking the focus away from visit volume and reimbursement, and allowing doctors to focus on patients and their needs. When reimbursement is not tied to individual visits, patients and physicians are free to have as much contact as required, whether in-person or virtual. Problems can be followed and resolved in real time instead of fragmented, spaced-out visits.

Physicians become invested in people, and patients learn to trust their physician again. This translates into significantly decreased ER and urgent care visits, decreased hospitalizations, increased patient satisfaction, and increased physician well-being, as found in a recent study done through Milliman by the Society of Actuaries and attested to by the hundreds of physicians already in DPC practices.

Using the DPC monthly membership model, physicians can decide how much time and attention their patients need without the onus of check boxes and insurance-based decision making. Each patient and the context of his or her ailments can be evaluated and treated on an individual basis:

- The single mother whose child is sick with pneumonia can come to the clinic, receive a diagnosis, and get access to antibiotics without even having to stop at the pharmacy.

- The 80-year-old patient who needs more time to move from the waiting room to patient room can now be seen and heard without the rush.

- The 40-year-old with a broken ankle can get an x-ray, pay only \$35 for that image, get a boot ordered from Amazon, and see a physical therapist on a cash basis, all for a fraction of what insurance would charge.

Patients can meet with the DPC doctor at the clinic or consult with him or her through email. Healthcare happens outside the office as well as inside, and patients with quick questions can simply avoid the drive to the office and speak to their DPC doctor on the phone or even email them.

Patient satisfaction, therefore, is fostered through convenience, instant-access to care, and safe discussion. Furthermore, with Direct Primary Care, physicians can realize efficacy and find purpose in their day-to-day interactions with patients, trusting that patient satisfaction will be the natural outcome.

**Dr. Sharyl Truty is the physician-owner of a Direct Primary Care practice called Balanced Physician Care located in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. She has been in practice as both a board-certified Family Medicine and a board-certified Sports Medicine physician for over 15 years. She has completed a fellowship in Integrative Medicine from the University of Arizona with Dr. Andrew Wei. Dr. Truty is committed to finding the best solutions to help you live the best-balanced life possible.**

## European-Inspired Villa in Ponte Vedra Beach



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## Real Estate

Continued from 53

Florida real estate has become increasingly less affordable. In July, Northeast Florida's affordability index mirrored that of June at 118. This represents an 11.9% drop from July 2020, when the index stood at 134. An index of 118 means that the median household income was 118% of what is necessary to qualify for the median-priced home under prevailing interest rates. The higher the index the more affordable housing is in the region.

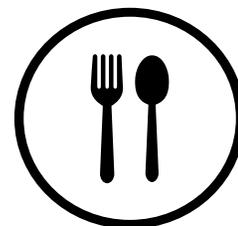
Howell recommends that both buyers and sellers utilize the expertise of a

qualified Realtor when they attempt to negotiate today's competitive housing market. "A tenacious buyer who works with a Realtor will strengthen their odds for success, while a patient seller who is looking to improve the bottom line at a sale will find the guidance and counsel of a Realtor invaluable," she said.

The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) serves as the voice of real estate in Northeast Florida. It is the region's largest professional association, representing more than 10,000 members who work in all facets of the real estate industry including residential and commercial sales and property management.



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# In the Arts

Send your arts news to  
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Photos provided by Jennifer Logue

“The Sound of Music” runs through Sept. 26 at The Alhambra Theatre & Dining in Jacksonville.

## REVIEW

### ‘Sound of Music’ debuts at Alhambra

By Jennifer Logue

Special to the Recorder

One of musical theatre’s most beloved shows returned to Jacksonville last week, when The Alhambra Theatre & Dining debuted its new production of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s “The Sound of Music.”

For anyone under the age of 60, the name “The Sound of Music” likely conjures up images of the Academy Award-winning film starring Julie Andrews. Unlike previous Broadway shows that had been brought to the screen, “The Sound of Music” ventured off the studio backlot and was filmed on location in Austria, with sweeping panoramic shots of the Alps and picturesque Salzburg almost becoming characters in the film themselves.

As such, the original stage version may seem a bit contained by comparison — but the charm and appeal of “The Sound of Music” remain intact in The Alhambra’s production. Based on the true story of the von Trapp Family, the show follows the irrepressible postulant Maria (Holly Atwood) from the convent to the palatial estate of widower Captain von Trapp (Adam



Fields), where she is to be the latest in a long line of governesses to his seven children. From the outset, Maria rebels against the captain’s militaristic upbringing of his children and endeavors to bring love and joy back into their lives through song. Yet even as the captain’s hardened heart begins to soften toward his children — and Maria — the family is threatened by the looming

specter of Nazi Germany’s annexation of Austria.

Blessed with one of the most memorable scores of all time, “The Sound of Music” offers up one Broadway standard after another — from the title song and “Do Re Mi” to “My Favorite Things,” “Sixteen Going on Seven-

## First Coast Cultural Center market features local artists’ work onsite and online

First Coast Cultural Center, formerly The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, is currently selling local artist’s work at the non-profit’s studio location and online to support the organization, its members and instructors who specialize as fine art painters, mixed media and fabric artists, jewelry and clothing accessory designers, wood turners, candle makers, authors, illustrators and more.

The Cultural Center’s Market is located at 3972 3rd St. S. in Jacksonville Beach, and items are available for purchase at [firstcoastculturalcenter.org/connect/online-market](http://firstcoastculturalcenter.org/connect/online-market).

According to Donna Guzzo, President and Executive Director at First Coast Cultural Center, the Market is seeking new artists and creatives to offer their work at the facility or on the website where various artistic creations provide gifts and decorative options to the public. A wide range of prices are available with a percentage of each item’s sale going to the artist and a percentage of proceeds donated to the Center to help local artists sell their art and products. New artists are welcome and may apply to have their work featured by calling Bryannah Ford at (904) 280-0614, ext. 1211 or email [bford@ccpvb.org](mailto:bford@ccpvb.org).

The nonprofit serves the community as a gathering place to learn, experience, and appreciate the arts and culture in its many forms, and provides opportunities for adults, children and families through classes, exhibits, programs, services, activities, and memberships open to the local community, and beyond.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday with after hour appointments available. For more information, contact Bryannah Ford at (904) 280-0614, ext. 1211, email [bford@ccpvb.org](mailto:bford@ccpvb.org) or go to [firstcoastculturalcenter.org](http://firstcoastculturalcenter.org).

The Cultural Center accomplishes its goals through exhibitions of local, regional and national artists in a variety of media. Key programs include Sound Connections Music Therapy Outreach Program, a musical program for children with special needs which is offered free of charge to students at six St. Johns County schools, including two Title 1 schools. Also, Kick StART after school arts enrichment programs and services are available.

REVIEW continues on Page 58

# Peace is subject of St. Augustine Art Association exhibit

Artist Don Trousdell's visual journey to commemorate 20th anniversary of 9/11

Peace. The message is universal. The late Don Trousdell's vision is unique. The idea of peace has been around for a long time, even before the young people of the '60s. Mankind from early days has yearned for peaceful times. This exhibition, "Walk in Peace," at the St. Augustine Art Association celebrates the idea of peace — its symbols, signs and stories from the past to present.



Don Trousdell

In past interviews, Trousdell said, "At a time when there is a lot of conflict, terror and war, I want people to reinvestigate the idea of how we can contribute to making peace. Peace has many different faces. I'm not trying to be a historian here," he said. "I just want people to stop and think about what the message of peace meant to people through time — around the world, and what it means to us now."

"Walk in Peace" is a vibrant exhibition with bold paintings, painted shoes, architectural iconography and interactive installations that chronicle the history and imagery of peace. The paintings represent graffiti-like art, political commentary, religious ideals and cultural symbolism in bold, colorful images — all created to inspire and inform people of all ages and background.

Specifically, the exhibit includes three interactive booths and 27 wall groupings, each with either a graffiti-like painting or a traditional painting, a painted pair of shoes and a sculptural relief icon. The exhibit signage,

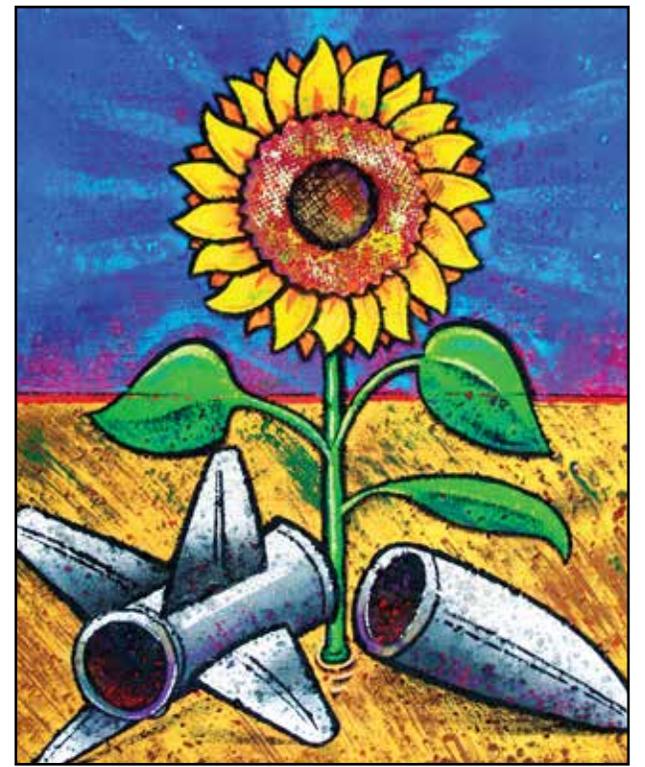


"Dove Shoes" by Don Trousdell. Each wall grouping in the exhibit includes at least one painting and a pair of painted shoes to "walk" in peace.

in the form of shoe prints, tell the stories of each art piece.

To expand on the artwork and interactive elements of "Walk in Peace," artists from the St. Augustine Art Association have created works reflecting on the many aspects of peace. "Finding Peace" will be a digital display in correlation to Trousdell's exhibit, both in-gallery and online at [www.staaa.org](http://www.staaa.org).

"Walk in Peace" is far more than an educational art exhibition. It is an idea for our times. The exhibition opens on Sept. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. for First Friday Art Walk, and continues through Friday, Sept. 24, at the St. Augustine Art Association. This will be the last time this exhibit will be seen in its entirety, as select groupings will be for sale.



Photos provided by St. Augustine Art Association

"Sunflower Bomb" is one of the paintings by Don Trousdell on display in the exhibit at the St. Augustine Art Association,

The St. Augustine Art Association is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. The Art Association is located at 22 Marine St. in historic downtown St. Augustine.

For more information, call (904) 824-2310 or go to [www.staaa.org](http://www.staaa.org).

## Lindsey Buckingham to perform Sept. 26 at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

Lindsey Buckingham, one of the most inventive and electrifying musicians of his generation, will take the stage at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Sept. 26.

His instinct for melody and his singular-finger picking guitar style are showcased on the seven studio and three live albums that he has released as a solo artist, beginning with 1981's "Law and Order" and continuing through this year's "Lindsey Buckingham," due out on Sept. 17, alongside the first single "I Don't Mind."

"Lindsey Buckingham" is his first solo release since 2011's "Seeds We Sow."

The new album is a welcome display of Buckingham's instantly recognizable guitar work and vocal layering, particularly on songs such as "Power Down," "Scream" and "Swan Song."

Elsewhere, Buckingham pays homage to '60s folk group the Pozo-Secco Singers' hit single "Time," a song he's admired since he was a teenager and has long intended to cover.

"I wanted to make a pop album, but I also wanted to make stops along the way with songs that resemble art more than



Lindsey Buckingham

pop," he said. "As you age, hopefully you keep getting a little more grounded in the craft of what you're doing. For me, getting older has probably helped to reinforce the innocence and the idealism that hopefully was always there."

Over the last four decades, Buckingham has developed a radical sense of experimentation and an unrivaled savvy as a producer, skills he first honed as a singer, guitarist, songwriter, producer and the musical visionary of Fleetwood Mac, where he wrote and produced several Top Ten hits, including "Go Your Own Way" and "Big Love."

Under Buckingham's direction, Fleetwood Mac became one of the best-selling and most beloved rock groups of all time.

As a solo artist, Buckingham often plays nearly every instrument himself. Earlier this year, he appeared on "Caution," the newest single from the Killers. He remains a highly sought-after collaborator, a maverick and a visionary.

Tickets for Lindsey Buckingham are on sale now at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office and online at Ticketmaster.com. All tickets are now digital.



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## Alt-country rock group Old 97's returns to Concert Hall on Oct. 1

Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, in partnership with Flying Saucer Presents, announced that pioneering alt-country rock group Old 97's will return to the stage on Friday, Oct. 1, for a full-capacity performance.

In 1996, Old 97's recorded "Too Far to Care." It was their major-label debut — following two independent releases and a year-long bidding war, the Dallas-based quartet had signed with Elektra Records. But rather than venture into some state-of-the-art studio in New York or L.A., the band decamped to Village Productions in Tornillo, Texas — a remote facility in the middle of two



Photo provided by Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

Pioneering alt-country rock group Old 97's will perform Friday, Oct. 1, at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

OLD 97'S continues on Page 59

## Review

Continued from 56

teen" and "Climb Every Mountain." One of the major changes in the stage version, however, is the presentation of the characters of scheming music promoter Max Detwiler (Jay Goldberg) and Baroness Elsa von Schraeder (Jennifer Medure), a wealthy socialite with her sights set on landing the captain as her husband. Whereas in the film these characters have a more serious presentation, the stage duo comes across more like a 1930s version of Jack and Karen from "Will and Grace" as they perform two musical numbers. In "How Can Love Survive," Max and Elsa jokingly ponder whether wealthy people can have a successful relationship. And in "No Way to Stop It," the pragmatic pair try to convince the idealistic captain to stop fretting about those pesky Nazis and just accept the situation. Given the coming war, however, the jaunty, comedic tone of these numbers seems a bit callous, which may explain their absence from



Photo provided by Jennifer Logue

"The Sound of Music" runs through Sept. 26 at The Alhambra Theatre & Dining.

the motion picture.

As The Alhambra's Maria, Holly Atwood brings just the right amount of hopeful exuberance to complement her lovely singing voice. Jennifer Hudson, meanwhile, is another vocal standout as

the Mother Abbess, and her rendition of "Climb Every Mountain" is particularly stirring.

"The Sound of Music" runs through Sept. 26 at The Alhambra Theatre & Dining in Jacksonville.

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## Jax Symphony welcomes new conductor for youth orchestras

Starting this month, Daniel Wiley will join the Jacksonville Symphony team as assistant conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony and music director of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras. Wiley joins the Jacksonville Symphony from the Windsor Symphony Orchestra in Ontario, Canada.

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome Daniel to the team," said Lory Doolittle Endowed Director of Education and Community Engagement Marianne Rice. "His extensive background in both music education and orchestral conducting make him the perfect fit for the job. Music education in our community is a major priority for the Symphony, and Daniel is the right person to energize our education programs."

Prior to his tenure in Jacksonville, Wiley was the associate conductor of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, where he conducted over 65 concerts a season, and led the organization's three community ensembles. Wiley was instrumental in expanding the WSO's educational footprint by creating a Digital Education Concert Series, which includes 10 hours of interactive music curriculum for schools. Lauded as "an exemplar of impassioned and outstanding pedagogy," this program has served over 122,550 students across Canada and the United States.

Wiley also served as the conductor for the Windsor Abridged Opera, an education consultant for London Symphonia, and has spent time as a sessional at the University of Windsor's School of Creative Arts, where he conducted their Wind Ensemble. In 2019 Wiley was the second prize recipient of both the Smoky Mountain Conducting Institute and Competition, and the Los Angeles Conducting Competition.

As a former public school music teacher, Wiley has a unique passion for music education, frequently donating his time as a guest clinician for school music programs throughout the United States and Canada. Recently, he has been invited to conduct the Texas Music Educators Association's Region 32 High School Orchestra Clinic in Austin, Texas.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Jacksonville Symphony as music director of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras and assistant conductor," said Wiley. "What excites me most about the Jacksonville Symphony is that it is an organization that is so clearly dedicated its mission: enriching the lives of people through symphonic music. Whether it's offering a variety of concert experiences with a

**SYMPHONY** continues on Page 59

# Local bookstore to celebrate 31 years with week-long party

The BookMark, located at 220 First St. in Neptune Beach, will be having a week-long birthday celebration during the week of Aug. 30.

“The BookMark is celebrating our 31st birthday,” said Rona Brinlee, owner of The BookMark. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to share stories and thank our customers for supporting their locally-owned independent bookstore.

“During the week of Aug. 30, we invite

you to come wish us ‘Happy Birthday.’ For our birthday, we want to give you gifts. Stop by during regular business hours for a chance to win a prize or receive a gift!”

The bookstore was unable to celebrate its 30th birthday last year because of COVID-19.

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

## Old 97's

Continued from 58

thousand acres of pecan trees near the Mexican border, with a mixing board acquired from an engineer who had worked on some of Queen’s albums. Now, more than 20 years later, they have returned to record their eleventh studio album, “Graveyard Whistling.”

“‘Too Far To Care’ is the sound that best defined us,” said Rhett Miller, lead singer and primary songwriter. “It was a really magical time, and we go back to it a lot in our collective memory.”

And so when it came time for the band, which still consists of the same four members — Miller, guitarist Ken Bethea, bassist Murry Hammond, and drummer Philip Peeples — to record their newest endeavor, producer Vance Powell brought up the idea of returning to Tornillo.

“We knew instantly that it was the perfect move,” Miller said. “We weren’t trying to remake ‘Too Far to Care,’ but to make something where fans would say, ‘This band hasn’t lost a step in twenty-some years.’”

The result is the 11 songs of “Graveyard Whistling,” from a group that has earned the respect and veneration as one of the pioneers of the alt-country movement, while still retaining the raucous energy, cleverness and knockabout spirit that first distinguished them from the pack. The record comes out blazing with the breakneck shuffle of “I Don’t Want to Die in This Town” (based on a possibly apocryphal quote from Frank Sinatra), and maintaining that feverish intensity even when the tempo drops on songs like the more contemplative “All Who Wander.” Echoes of such barroom saints as the Replacements and the Pogues appear on sing-alongs “Bad Luck Charm” and “Irish Whiskey Pretty Girls,” but bigger and more mature issues simmer underneath the steamroller swing.

Tickets for the Old 97’s are available at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office or Ticketmaster.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office remains closed at this time. All tickets are digital. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, and will only accept payment via debit or credit card.

## Symphony

Continued from 58

world-class orchestra or providing young musicians an opportunity to improve their skills in one of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras, the Jacksonville Symphony is clearly integrated into the vibrant culture of Jacksonville, and I can’t wait to join this great orchestra and community.”

As music director of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras, Wiley will guide, shape and direct the educational and performance activities of the six ensembles in the Youth Orchestra program. Wiley will also serve as assistant conductor of the symphony with the opportunity to conduct programs across a variety of genres.

The JSYO serves more than 200 talented musicians from all over Northeast Florida through six levels of ensembles — two full symphonies and four levels of string ensembles — that vary by repertoire



Photo provided by the Jacksonville Symphony  
**Daniel Wiley was named the new music director of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras and assistant conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony.**

and technical advancement. The Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra season begins in September and ends in mid-May.

THEME: BACK TO SCHOOL

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### ACROSS

1. \* \_\_\_ mater
5. \*Graduate degree, acr.
8. Opposite of stereo
12. Defense ditch
13. Fishing rod attachment
14. More sure
15. One’s final notice
16. Dutch cheese
17. Golfer’s traction aid
18. \*Half-year terms
20. At the summit of
21. Water nymph
22. Actor \_\_\_ Maher-shala
23. Be a busybody
26. Metrical foot in poetry
30. Earlier in time, archaic
31. Become bony
34. Shakespeare’s tragic monarch
35. Labanotation founder

37. Theodor Geisel, \_\_\_ Dr. Seuss
38. Threshold
39. Relating to the ear
40. Weather advisories, e.g.
42. + or - atom
43. Widely esteemed
45. Most mature, as in fruit
47. Indian dish
48. Dashboard window
50. Female sheep, pl.
52. \*‘The Breakfast Club’ punishment
56. Flower holders
57. Singles
58. High school breakout
59. Acoustic output
60. Overwhelming defeat
61. \*Gym class test?
62. Catchall abbr.
63. \*Geography class staple
64. Not talker?
13. Laces again
14. Milan’s La \_\_\_
19. Manicurist’s office
22. Is it \_\_\_ wonder?
23. Hard on outside, juicy on inside
24. One of the Muses
25. Payment option
26. From a great distance
27. Chill-inducing
28. Type of palm tree, pl.
29. Council of \_\_\_\_, city in Italy
32. \*Back-to-School retail event
33. WWII general who became President
36. \*Faculty member
38. “Peace” with fingers
40. TV classic “\_\_\_ in the Family”
41. Superlative of true
44. Lowest male singing voice
46. Small bomb
48. Christopher Columbus’ birthplace
49. Consumed (2 words)
50. Small ladies’ handbag
51. What one does at the altar
52. \*College freshman’s new digs
53. International Civil Aviation Organization
54. Half as much as twice
55. \_\_\_-do-well
56. Every American’s uncle?

### DOWN

1. \_\_\_ of cookie fame
2. Stud site
3. Cripple
4. \*Go to class
5. Mythological princess of Colchis
6. TV cooking show pioneer James \_\_\_
7. Contributions to the poor
8. \*Kind of choice
9. Black and white treat
10. Less than average tide
11. Table scrap

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# Sports



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## SHARKS, PANTHERS PREPARE FOR SEASON



Ponte Vedra High School football players take part in a scrimmage to prepare for the season. Read more in our Football Preview on Aug. 26.



Photos by Anthony Richards

The Nease High School football team takes part in practice drills to prepare for the season. Read more in our Football Preview on Aug. 26.

## National Golf Month: Make golf your thing



**Jared Rice**  
Executive Director  
of THE PLAYERS  
Championship

When I was in third grade, my dad took me out to play golf for the first time at a public course just a short drive from our Portsmouth home. I remember hitting the ball over the water on a par three and immediately getting

hooked. I doubt that I demonstrated any special or unique talent, but that wasn't the point. I was having a blast and being introduced to a sport that has made such a positive impact on my life. If you would have told 9-year-old Jared that he would go on to work for the PGA TOUR and oversee THE PLAYERS Championship, our organization's flagship event, he wouldn't have believed you.

Nearly 40 years later, I still have a lot of work to do in shaving strokes off my score, but I am so grateful for everything the game of golf has given me, personally and professionally, not to mention the skills and values I've developed from playing it.

During the month of August, we celebrate National Golf Month, an observance that promotes golf as a sport that has something for everyone, no matter your skill level.

The PGA TOUR, in partnership with other industry organizations, recently launched an industry-wide initiative called "Make Golf Your Thing," a movement that seeks to inspire and invite people from all backgrounds to experience the sport of golf in their own way. Whether choosing to host a putting contest with friends in your backyard, hit balls at a driving range, or play in a tournament or at a sports entertainment facility, there's no right or wrong way to engage with our sport. I just encourage you to give golf a try. Share with us how you choose to celebrate National Golf Month. Like me, I am sure you will soon #MakeGolfYourThing.

# JAGA First Coast Amateur to return to Hammock Beach

The JAGA First Coast Amateur will be played at The Conservatory at Hammock Beach Golf Resort and Spa in Palm Coast for the third year in a row in January 2022.

The announcement was made Tuesday, Aug. 17, by The Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) and Hammock Beach Golf Resort and Spa.

The 54-hole stroke-play championship returns to its traditional Martin Luther King holiday weekend dates of Jan. 15-17.

Top finishers in the 2022 JAGA First Coast Amateur will once again receive World Amateur Golf Ranking points.

Since its inception in 2017, the First Coast Amateur's reputation has grown among amateurs and college players alike seeking a highly competitive experience prior to the launch of their 2022 golf season. In 2021, the tournament increased from 78 to 96 players. The players ranged in age from 15 to 56, with 21 states, 14 nationalities and 30 colleges or universities represented.

In addition to the field increase, the alternate list grew to 65.

The First Coast Amateur is open to male golfers with a verifiable USGA handicap index of 3.0 or better who have reached the age of 16 by Jan. 15, 2022, unless otherwise approved by the Tournament Committee.



2021 JAGA First Coast Amateur Trophy presentation table.

Photo provided by JAGA

The Conservatory became home to the First Coast Amateur in 2020. The Tom Watson Signature Design played approximately 7,100 yards in January. Renovation work being done to the course's bunkers will be completed this fall.

"The reputation of the JAGA First Coast Amateur as a highly competitive and well-organized championship has grown every year, as evidenced by our alternates' list reaching 65 this year," First Coast Amateur co-chairmen John Milton and

## A LOOK BACK

The winners of the first five First Coast Amateurs were:

- 2017 – Brandon Mancheno (Jacksonville)
- 2018 and 2020 – Cole Bradley (Purdue University)
- 2019 – Stephen Shepard (Huntingdon College)
- 2020 – Trevor Hulbert (East Tennessee State).

Past results can be found at [jaxareagolf.org](http://jaxareagolf.org).

Jeff Adams said in a joint statement. "We strive to make the tournament experience better every year for the competitors who come from near and far. We have a terrific host facility and golf course, an attractive destination in Palm Coast and the Flagler beaches, a strong slot in the amateur golf calendar and the backing of a solid organization in JAGA to meet our goals. We look forward to the return of many of college and amateur golf's finest players in January 2022."

Tournament details will be posted at [jaxareagolf.org](http://jaxareagolf.org) as they become available in the coming months. Entries will open in late October.

There will be three categories of eligibility: exempt, non-exempt and committee exemptions. Details will be announced.

For more about Hammock Beach Resort, go to [hammockbeach.com](http://hammockbeach.com).

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