

Your Community Voice for 50 Years

PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

August 26, 2021

Volume 51, No. 95

75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

## NEW SEASON, HIGHER STAKES

Ponte Vedra and Nease kick off their iconic rivalry on Friday night with even more on the line after redistricting. *Read more in our Football Preview on pages 13-28.*



Photos by Anthony Richards and Shaun Ryan



### INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



### Real Estate Showcase

Pages 8-12

### Sports

Pages 35-37



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# 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.

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



Find the Recorder on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder](https://www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

## ADOPT A PET



### CAT OF THE WEEK

Hello. My name is Rikki. I am a 5-year-old female domestic short-hair cat. From my beautiful coloring you can see I am a tabby-torti mix. I am very friendly and good with other cats. I am also litter-box trained. My owners had to leave me with family when they moved overseas, and it wasn't working out as hoped. Please stop by the Pet Center and meet me soon! #59993



### DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi! My name is Rider. I am a 9-month-old male Great Dane-Labrador retriever mix. I am house-trained and good with kids and dogs. Unfortunately, my owner had to give me up when her living situation changed, and she was not able to keep me. I probably would not have done well in an apartment. A home with a yard is best for me as I am big. Don't let my size fool you, though. I am extremely gentle and loving. Please consider stopping by and meeting me! #60004

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

### COVID-19 testing site at St. Augustine Visitor Information Center offers free tests

The COVID testing site that opened earlier last week at the St. Augustine Visitor Information Center, operated by Flagler Health+ in partnership with the City of St. Augustine and Ivy Medical, is now be a free testing site.

"We are grateful to have found a solution with support from the State of Florida to begin offering COVID tests at no charge to those who need them," stated Flagler Health+ President & CEO Jason Barrett. "The ability to access COVID-19 testing is an important component to stopping the spread of the virus."

Anyone who has already been through the testing site will receive a refund and anyone who currently has an appointment scheduled will not be charged.

The COVID-19 testing site is located at the bus loop on the north side of the Historic Downtown Parking Facility on West Castillo Drive and is open 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Mon-

day through Friday. Expanded hours are being discussed, based on demand.

Patients must schedule an appointment for their test by downloading the Flagler Health+ Anywhere app or going to the Flagler Health Anywhere, [app.flaglerhealthanywhere.com](http://app.flaglerhealthanywhere.com).

Testing is available for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be present for children under 18 to be tested.

For more information, go to [flaglerhealth.org/StAcovidtesting](http://flaglerhealth.org/StAcovidtesting).

### Lighthouse 5K postponed until March

The Lighthouse 5K Run/Walk & Fun Run, originally scheduled for Sept. 18, has been postponed. The new date is March 5. Members of the Junior Service League of St. Augustine decided to postpone the event due to the recent increase of COVID cases in St. Johns County and surrounding areas.

The race will be held at 4 p.m. on the new date, with the fun run scheduled for 5 p.m.

Participants who have already regis-

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



34<sup>th</sup> Annual

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15-17  
22-31**





# Briefs

Continued from 2

tered for the race will be notified of the new date. Registration for the event will begin again approximately two months prior to the race. Stay updated at [jslofstaugustine.org](http://jslofstaugustine.org)

The League hosts the annual event to support the St. Augustine Lighthouse. The inaugural race in 1983 was originally titled the “Bud Light Twilight Lighthouse Run.”

The Lighthouse 5K is a chipped race that serves as a qualifier for the Gate River Run. Proceeds from the Lighthouse 5K Run/Walk & Fun Run benefit numerous League service projects and provide financial support for nonprofit organizations in St. Augustine and the St. Johns County community.

The Lighthouse 5K Run/Walk & Fun Run is held at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, 81 Lighthouse Ave., St. Augustine. For further information or to

register, go to [jslofstaugustine.org/about/events/lighthouse-5k](http://jslofstaugustine.org/about/events/lighthouse-5k).

## St. Augustine High School resource deputy dies

St. Johns County Deputy Jody Hull passed away early Saturday morning.



Deputy Jody Hull

Hull was a four-year member of the Sheriff’s Office and most recently served as the youth resource deputy at St. Augustine High School. Prior to serving with the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office, he served the Putnam County Sher-

iff’s Office for four years. “Deputy Hull positively impacted the lives of so many students as a youth resource deputy,” said Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick. “He was passionately dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the youth around him. Deputy Hull was a

valued member of our St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office family and will be greatly missed.”

The Sheriff’s Office issued a statement calling Hull’s passing a tremendous loss.

“Please join us in lifting up Deputy Hull’s family, friends and colleagues in your prayers as we all process this loss,” the statement read. “We also ask that you please respect the family’s privacy during this time.”

## County Commissioners to hold special meeting Sept. 7

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners will hold a special meeting at 5:01 p.m, Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2020 in the county auditorium at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian

View in St. Augustine. The purpose of the special meeting is to hold a public hearing to consider and adopt the tentative millage rates and budget for Fiscal Year 2022. The board may also consider and take action on any other business that may lawfully come before it during the special meeting.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at the public hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purposes he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Go to [www.co.st-johns.fl.us](http://www.co.st-johns.fl.us) for more information.



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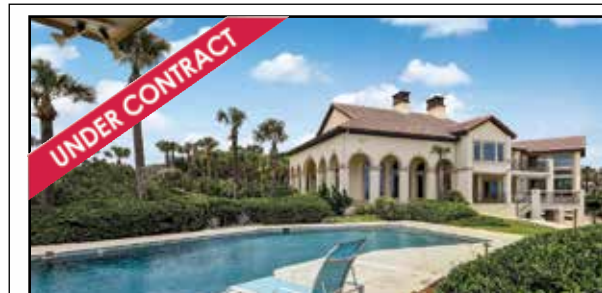
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### Oceanfront Estate in Ponte Vedra Beach

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



### Stunning Riverfront Estate

Riverfront/SanMarco. Instantly makes you feel you’ve been swept away to a chateau in France. Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes, this 10,204-sq.-ft. home is a masterpiece in design and built for entertaining. **5 Bedroom, 6 Bathrooms, 5 Half Bathrooms \$6,200,000**



### Luxury Marabella Condo

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



### Ultimate Atlantic Beach Lifestyle

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



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# Rutherford hosts sheriffs, members of Congress for law enforcement discussion

U.S. Rep. John Rutherford recently hosted a roundtable discussion with Duval County Sheriff Mike Williams, Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper, St. Johns County Sheriff Robert Hardwick, Clay County Sheriff Michelle Cook, Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith and Fraternal Order of Police Vice President Sgt. Randy Reeves. U.S. Reps. John Katko (N.Y.-24) and Greg Pence (Ind.-06) also attended virtually.

“Throughout the country, we are witnessing attempts to delegitimize, demoralize and defund law enforcement,” said Rutherford. “Congress has a responsibility to support the men and women in blue who risk their lives every day to keep our communities safe. I greatly appreciate hearing from Northeast Florida law enforcement leaders today about how we in Congress can help make their jobs easier and safer.”

Key takeaways from the roundtable

discussion include:

- Cuts to police funding lead to increased crime and longer response times.
- Ending qualified immunity would prevent good police officers from confidently carrying out their duties and would lead to police shortages.
- Accreditation remains an important tool in building strong relationships between agencies and communities.
- Policing improves by building commu-

nity trust and allowing agencies flexibility to make changes based on the situation on the ground, not through federal mandates.

Rutherford is a member of the American Security Task Force led by Katko, who is also the top Republican on the House Homeland Security Committee. Rutherford leads the law enforcement pillar of the task force, which also includes U.S. Reps. Nicole Malliotakis (N.Y.-11), Troy Nehls (Texas-22) and Pence.

## Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra delivers meals to frontline workers

On Thursday, Aug. 19, The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra had its second meal delivery to frontline workers at Baptist South. The delivery was directed toward the hospital’s support services personnel, a group of about 40 people.

The club’s next meal delivery will focus on the staff at Baptist Beaches.

Readers who would like to make a donation to this effort can do so in two different ways:

■ Venmo or PayPal — Personal accounts for Bob Wiltfong are available. Look for him on Venmo @Bob-Wiltfong and on PayPal via his email, bobwiltfong37@gmail.com

■ Check — Mail checks payable to Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra with “Feed the Frontline” in the memo to: Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra, 101 Marketside Ave., Suite 404-111, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081



Photos provided by The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra

On Thursday, Aug. 19, The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra had its second meal delivery to frontline workers at Baptist South.



## OBITUARIES

### William T. Callan

William T. Callan, 86, of Jacksonville Beach died Aug. 13, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

### Vernon Camhi

Vernon Camhi, 70, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died Aug. 18, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedra-valley.com](http://www.pontevedra-valley.com)

### Patricia A. Howard

Patricia A. Howard, 84, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Aug. 19, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedra-valley.com](http://www.pontevedra-valley.com)

### Karl Keusch

Karl Keusch, 49, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Aug. 15, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedra-valley.com](http://www.pontevedra-valley.com)

### James “Jimmy” Kirk

James “Jimmy” Kirk, 33, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Aug. 18, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedra-valley.com](http://www.pontevedra-valley.com)

### Michael T. Legg

Michael T. Legg, 75, of Jacksonville Beach, died Aug. 21, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

### Lillian G. Park

Lillian G. Park, 79, of Jacksonville Beach died Aug. 19, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

### Nancy K. Ramirez

Nancy K. Ramirez, 96, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Aug. 20, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedra-valley.com](http://www.pontevedra-valley.com)

### Sheila Anne Todd

Sheila Anne Todd, 87, of Ponte Vedra Beach died Aug. 20, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

### Jim Tyson

Jim Tyson, 61, of St. Johns, Florida, died Aug. 14, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedra-valley.com](http://www.pontevedra-valley.com)

# GATORLAND BRINGS LIVE ANIMALS TO NOCATEE FARMERS MARKET



Photos by Susan Griffin

Gatorland Orlando was on hand at the Nocatee Farmers Market on Saturday, Aug. 21, at Nocatee Station Field. There was also shopping from over 60 local vendors, interactive animal shows with Gatorland and more.

## Venus Williams to speak at foundation’s Night of Hope

Tennis superstar Venus Williams will be the special guest at The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation’s virtual Merrill Lynch Night of Hope in October.

Williams will join the event for a live Q&A, answering questions and comments from viewers.

Throughout her career, she has become one of the most successful tennis players in history and, along with sister Serena, transformed the sport. She is a four-time Olympic gold medalist and has won 23

Grand Slam finals. When she ranked World No. 1 in 2002, she became the first African-American woman to hold that position.

The funds raised from this event will go directly towards the continuation of the foundation’s youth development services including its after-school and summer programs for at-risk youth.

Night of Hope will be held 7-8 p.m. Oct. 21. The virtual event will be held via Facebook Live at [facebook.com/LoveMWYF](https://facebook.com/LoveMWYF). Having a Facebook account is not required

to view the event. To register, go to [bidpal.net/mwyfnightofhope](https://bidpal.net/mwyfnightofhope).

For further information, go to [malwashington.com/night-of-hope](https://malwashington.com/night-of-hope).

The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation is an after-school and summer youth development program in Jacksonville’s urban core that promotes academic achievement and positive life skills. For more information about the foundation, go to [malwashington.com](https://malwashington.com) or find it on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

## North Florida Land Trust names director of philanthropic services

Lee Anderson Louy has joined the North Florida Land Trust as the director of philanthropic services.

Louy will lead the fundraising arm of the nonprofit land conservation organization, which includes the Amelia Forever Campaign, the campaign to save the Small Islands, the O2O Wildlife Corridor Campaign and the general donation campaign, which helps the nonprofit with acquisitions, stewardship and operating costs.

Louy will work closely with NFLT President Jim McCarthy to expand the donor base and will be responsible for promoting NFLT’s programs throughout Northeast Florida.

“Lee has an impressive background and has proven success in fundraising on the level that our nonprofit needs to continue



Lee Anderson Louy

to conserve lands throughout North Florida,” said McCarthy. “We are excited to have Lee on board and I looked forward to working closely with her to reach more prospective donors that will help us achieve our goals.”

Louy received her doctorate of education and master’s in public administration from the University of North Florida. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Florida State University in recreation and leisure services administration. She most recently served as director of development for UNF’s College of Education and Human Services where she was able to

secure \$8.3 million in gifts and commitments since June of 2017.

Louy also served in development positions for UNF’s Academic Affairs and Brooks College of Health. Prior to her work with the university, she was the director for the Bennie Furlong Senior Center for the City of Jacksonville.

Louy earned the CFRE designation; a certified fundraising executive credential that is recognized worldwide.

The Jacksonville native and Jacksonville Beach resident is also a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and UNF’s Pi Alpha Alpha Chapter. She has served on the Association of Fundraising Professional’s Philanthropy Day Board and the Beaches Council on Aging.



*Dr. Mark Moon's medical practice harkens back to an era when patients could spend time with their doctor, and the physician-patient relationship was stronger.*

## Dr. Mark Moon

Photo by Dr. Mark Moon

As told to Shaun Ryan

### **Tell me a little bit about Signature+ Concierge Care and how it works. What makes this form of care different than a traditional Primary Care/Physician experience?**

Signature+ is a highly individualized, high-touch approach to health care that gives patients immediate and continuous access to their personal physicians. It is based out of the Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee and offers concierge internal medicine in an unrushed, patient-centered setting.

This type of practice is substantially different than the traditional primary care model in several ways. Not only do we offer a patient-centered approach to care, it's different because I spend as much time with my patients as their needs dictate. It's not unusual for me to spend an hour or more with a patient – and I enjoy that opportunity to get to really know my patients and their health. And, my patients can reach me anytime. They have my personal cell phone number and I'm essentially on-call 365 days a year. Our amazing Signature+ staff help to coordinate appointments, including with other specialists. If a patient's needs would be more fully met by me attending appointments with other sub-specialists, I can go with them in a supportive and collaborative way. I would like to think this is the highest quality medical practice in the Northeast Florida region.

My background has been primarily in concierge and executive medicine over the majority of my 21 years practicing internal medicine. I was Chair of Executive Health at Mayo Clinic before joining Flagler Health+ to help develop and run this high-quality and innovative practice. While ample time spent with patients has been replaced with a model of care marked by rushed visits, fragmented care and increasing depersonalization in most practices today, Signature+ Concierge Care in many ways harkens back to how Marcus Welby MD treated patients in the television show from the early '70s.

I was instilled with the understanding of how much time spent with patients and performing a thorough history and physical resulted in markedly improved medical outcomes during my training and work experience at Mayo Clinic. I have brought this experience and philosophy to Flagler Health+ to continue a tradition of superior care with a holistic approach to health. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to continue this tradition at Signature+.

### **Patients have praised you for your accessibility, kindness, skill and integrity. Many physicians are talented and professional, but not all have had the kind of personal connection with their patients that you have. What is your secret?**

I love what I do on several levels. As a Mayo Clinic and Cleveland Clinic trained internist, I learned how to become an expert diagnostician. Moreover, I adopted a philosophy of service, never rushing exams or discussions with patients and always understanding that patients should, and will always, come first. I view all of my patient interactions and subsequent recommendations in the prism of a holistic approach. I enjoy the rapport and friendship which develops with patients over time as well.

### **What do you like best about what you do?**

I would say what I like most is evenly split between my enjoyment of delving into complicated cases given my internal medicine background, and also exploring the psycho-social aspects which are additional determinants of health. I hold a Master of Health Care Delivery Science from Dartmouth College, and I enjoy working on projects intended to improve the delivery of health care.



### **Can you tell me about your background? How did you get to where you are today? Did you always know you wanted to be a physician, or did you discover medicine at some point?**

I became interested in medicine late in my college career. I initially thought I would follow in my father's footsteps as he was a practicing chiropractor for many years. However, while I was completing my pre-medical course in college I had the good fortune of working as an ICU unit secretary at night and an autopsy assistant on weekends at our local coroner's office. A forensic pathologist who became a mentor encouraged me to apply to medical school and so my life's path was set. It was the very best and most rewarding decision I ever made.

I am originally from Ohio. I graduated from medical school in my hometown of Dayton, Ohio, and subsequently trained and worked at both the Cleveland

Clinic and Mayo Clinic. I also completed a fellowship in Integrative Medicine with world-renown integrative medicine specialist Andrew Weill MD at the University of Arizona in Tucson. While the profession of medicine has declined in terms of patient satisfaction, poorer quality outcomes due to rushed visits with physicians who are overworked, and high physician burnout rates, Signature+ has allowed me to practice medicine as many of us remember and miss dearly. I very am fortunate in that regard.

### **What do you like best about making your home in the Ponte Vedra area, and what do you like to do with your free time?**

I enjoy spending time with my wife and enjoy reading medical literature. I also enjoy sports cars and auto racing. Ponte Vedra is an idyllic place to live with great amenities and very nice neighbors.



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**



**Kathy Esfahani**  
Columnist

*"Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace." — May Sarton*

**CITRUS TREES**

Ever wonder what type of citrus trees thrive in Northeast Florida? Growing citrus is not only great for fresh fruit, but they are beautiful ornate trees with a wonderful scent. All citrus trees in 9A require a minimum of six hours of sunlight or more. They also require more water than most trees no matter if the weather is hot or cold. Dwarf trees are suited for smaller yards/spaces, whereas a big yard may have many large citrus trees. Fertilizing with specific citrus fertilizer quarterly is key to the success of these trees growing in our zone.

Here are some of the most popular in our area:

Meyer lemon, Persian lime, tangerine, Valencia orange, Ponderosa lemon, key lime, Ruby Red grapefruit, calamondin, Mandarin orange and cocktail citrus tree. A cocktail citrus tree is grafted with 3-5 fruits, including orange, grapefruit, lemons and limes. It's a great option if you only need one citrus tree in your landscaping but want to have multiple fruits! Fun fact: Each year, the cocktail citrus tree can bear different fruit than the year before!

Now that the weather is warming up, it's a perfect time to purchase citrus! Stop by the Nursery to see our inventory of citrus trees for the upcoming spring!

**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.**



*Flower of the Week: Petunia.*



Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

**Citrus Trees are the perfect plant for summers in Northeast Florida.**

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



**Celebrating 30 Years of Great Local Music!**  
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**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.



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

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# Real Estate Showcase

pages 8-12

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# Football Preview

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# Veteran culture in place as Panthers begin new season

By Anthony Richards

The Nease football program is entering year three under head coach Collin Drafts and as a result there is a certain degree of cohesion that has not been there the past couple of years.

In his third year, Drafts is finally starting to see the team reflect his philosophies as a head coach.

“The energy is great, and the competition level is very good every day, which is the most important thing for us,” Drafts said.

The Panthers are the definition of a veteran-laden team with 36 seniors on this year’s squad.

“We’ve got a good player-led team with a great group of seniors taking the lead,” Drafts said. “A lot of those guys played varsity since they were sophomores, which was also my first year.”

The relationships the coaching staff and the players have developed over the past three years is something that should not be underestimated heading into the new season.

It is often said that the third year under a coach is when the coach’s imprint can really start to be seen. That has taken place within the Panther football program.

“The foundation has been laid and we feel good that our culture has been set,” Drafts said. “The players know the expectations and they know what the deal is and now we just have to go out and execute and produce.”

Because the team was so young last year, the juniors were thrown into situations that forced them to become leaders, which Drafts believes has made it easier to continue and embrace those leadership roles as seniors.

Although Drafts is about to begin his third season, he just wrapped up his first full offseason with spring football and summer workouts.

He was hired late in June 2019 and had to plan around COVID-19 regulations in place in 2020.

After a full offseason, something that has stood out to Drafts is the consistent play of his defense.

“I feel really good about the way our defense is responding right now,” Drafts said. “We’ve got a good group of core guys coming back. They’ve been challenged and are definitely stepping up right now.”

He expects the receiving corps to be a strength this season with the ability to present both speed and size out wide.

Tight end and UCF commit Grant Stevens and wide receiver Donovan Wilson provide matchup problems for defenses with their size, while Dom Henry’s speed gives the Panthers the ability to hit a big



Da’Von Patterson of Nease breaks free on his way to the end zone in a jamboree against Flagler Palm Coast on Aug. 20.



Nease head coach Collin Drafts has liked what he’s seen from the defense in fall practice. Proper tackling technique is a big part of defensive success.

play through the air at any moment.

“We have four starters back up front along the offensive line, anchored by Sam Dec,” Drafts said.

Dec plays offensive tackle and has committed to Army. He and the rest of the line will be tasked with helping create a clean pocket for quarterbacks Marcus Stokes and Gabe Ohlson to work with.

As a former quarterback himself, including playing in the Arena Football League, Drafts understands how well an offensive line must play for a team to have success.

“At the first team meeting every year,



ABOVE: Nease’s Marcus Stokes drops back in the pocket against Flagler Palm Coast on Aug. 20.



LEFT: The Panthers will lean offensively on a veteran offensive line to pave the way.

Photos by Anthony Richards and Shaun Ryan

I tell the team that the most important position group on the field is the offensive line, because they have to be the most selfless and play together,” Drafts said. “We’re going to go behind those guys.”

The Panthers drop down in classification to 7A, which means the regular season opener against rival Ponte Vedra will now be a district matchup.

The rest of the district includes Fleming Island, Atlantic Coast, Fletcher and First Coast

“It is one of the tougher 7A districts out there,” Drafts said. “Week in and week out, it’s going to be a battle.”

**Go to [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com) for a look at Nease’s roster.**



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## NEASE PANTHERS

### Nease 2021 regular season schedule

Date	Time	Opponent
Aug. 27	7 p.m.	at Ponte Vedra
Sept. 3	7 p.m.	Creekside
Sept. 10	7 p.m.	Orange Park
Sept. 17	6 p.m.	at Atlantic Coast
Sept. 24	7 p.m.	at Yulee
Oct. 1	7 p.m.	First Coast
Oct. 8	7 p.m.	St. Augustine
Oct. 15	7 p.m.	at Fletcher
Oct. 29	7:30 p.m.	at Fleming Island
Nov. 5	7 p.m.	Westside

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# Sharks embark on new era of football

By Anthony Richards

A new era has begun for the Ponte Vedra Sharks football program as Steve Price takes over as head coach.

“I love our kids; they have just been fantastic,” Price said. “It’s just been a joy to coach and come out here every single day. They like to work and get better, and they just love the sport of football.”

Having that energy and love for the game is something that is often ingrained in a person, which Price enjoyed seeing because it is definitely a building block that can be built upon moving forward.

Price brings plenty of pedigree as he spent the past five seasons as head coach at Tallahassee North Florida Christian, where he led them to a Class 2A state title in 2018.

Even with that success in his back pocket, first years can be tough as both players and coaches are getting to know each other.

However, according to Price, the transition into the program has been as smooth as it could have been to this point.

“Our administration did a great job of getting me in in January, so I was able to spend a whole semester with those guys,” Price said. “I got to know them and even coached weightlifting last year. By the time spring practice was over, I knew everybody by name and had a pretty good handle on it.”

The makeup of the team tends to be fairly young, but Price likes what he has seen from the 27 seniors on the team.

“We’ve got enough veterans that are doing a great job of leading,” Price said. “They’ve bought right in and they want to win. It’s a real testament to them and the families in this area.”

Several of those seniors rose to the occasion and were around the football making plays during the Sharks’ jamboree contest against Mandarin on Aug. 20.

Seniors, such as Mason Flores with an interception and Corey Bloss with another near pick that he read perfectly. They are accompanied on defense by Navy commit Luke Perris who makes plays in a variety of ways from his linebacker position.

Adding to the defensive arsenal of talent is junior linebacker Trooper Price, who is new to the school, just like his dad, but is already making an impact and is someone that opposing coordinators will have to think about.

“Our defense is the backbone of our team,” Pirris said.

One thing fans of the Sharks can come to expect during the 2021 season is to see a physical style of play begin to take shape on a consistent basis and on both sides of the ball.

“We’re going to be physical,” Price said. “I’ve coached about 29 years, and I’ve been a DC (defensive coordinator) and an OC (offensive coordinator). I just want us to play hard with every single play.”



Ponte Vedra’s Trooper Price (No. 18) was all kinds of fired up after a tackle for a loss forced a Mandarin punt during a jamboree on Aug. 20.



**TOP LEFT:** Bobby Kegley (No. 2) carries the ball against Mandarin. The Panthers will lean offensively on a veteran offensive line to pave the way.

**TOP RIGHT:** Jason Flores is congratulated by a coach after intercepting a pass.

**LEFT:** Mikey Stephens (No. 34) demonstrates his vision as he weaves his way for extra yards.

Photos by Anthony Richards

That physicality was evident with the Sharks rushing attack that featured multiple backs and tough yards gained by all of them.

However, not only does he expect his team to out physical its opponents, but to also do it with class and always remembering to respect its opponent.

“Those are the things that we can con-

rol,” Price said. “I just want them to focus on being the best that they can be.”

The goals for a certain season vary from year to year depending on the team at hand, but there are two certain goals that remain prevalent for any Price-coached team.

Those goals are getting better every single day and playing their best football

when it matters most, at the ends of the season.

“If you do those things, all that other stuff will just fall into place,” Price said. “That’s what they’ve done here. There’s a history of success that exists.”

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## PONTE VEDRA SHARKS

### PV 2021 regular season schedule

Date	Time	Opponent
Aug. 27	7 p.m.	Nease
Sept. 3	7 p.m.	@ Episcopal
Sept. 10	7 p.m.	Baker County
Sept. 17	6 p.m.	@ First Coast
Sept. 24	7 p.m.	@ Menendez
Oct. 1	7 p.m.	Fleming Island
Oct. 8	7 p.m.	Bartram Trail
Oct. 15	6 p.m.	@ Atlantic Coast
Oct. 29	7 p.m.	Fletcher
Nov. 5	7 p.m.	@ Creekside

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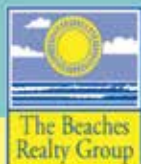
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### Fletcher 2021 regular season schedule

Date	Time	Opponent
Aug. 27	6:30 p.m.	Sandalwood
Sept. 3	6:30 p.m.	at Terry Parker
Sept. 10	6:30 p.m.	Jackson
Sept. 17	7:30 p.m.	at Fleming Island
Oct. 1	6:30 p.m.	Atlantic Coast
Oct. 8	6:30 p.m.	at Ribault
Oct. 15	7 p.m.	Nease
Oct. 22	6:30 p.m.	First Coast
Oct. 29	7 p.m.	at Ponte Vedra
Nov. 5	6:30 p.m.	at Mandarin

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# Ponte Vedra High School alum Howard looks to cap Gators career on high note

**By Anthony Richards**

Chris Howard has had one heck of a journey as a member of the University of Florida football program, and although he has been there for four years, it seems like his path is just now beginning.

The Ponte Vedra High alum and redshirt senior kicker graduated in early August with a bachelor's degree in sport management and a minor in business. He has now shifted his focus to pursuing a master's degree, although he is still figuring out the career path that best suits him.

"I just know that I want to go into the business side of sports when my playing days are over," Howard said.

Walking across the stage to receive his diploma was an emotional moment for Howard and his family, especially knowing all the hard work that went into getting to that point.

"It was pretty surreal," Howard said. "School was pretty tough, so it was a big accomplish to achieve in front of all your family and friends."

Howard was named to the SEC academic honor roll in 2018 and 2020.

Since walking on to the Gators' squad in



**Ponte Vedra alum Chris Howard boots a kickoff against Missouri last season. He hopes to earn the full-time starting kicker spot this season.**

Photo by Courtney Culbreath/University of Florida Athletics

2017, he has been fighting to be the starting kicker, and this year, he will have the best opportunity he has had to earn the top job.

It is also the first season he will enter as a scholarship player after being granted a scholarship in January.

Hearing the news that he earned a schol-

arship after four years as a walk-on has been arguably the greatest moment of his college career and is something that will stick with him forever.

"It was one of the best feelings I've had in a long time," Howard said. "Coach Mullen said he would find me a scholarship

after Evan (McPherson) left. He kept true to his word."

According to Howard, he felt such a sense of accomplishment, as if he reached the end goal, but then he quickly realized that there are much bigger goals still up for grabs on the horizon.

"I have a real opportunity this year to see the field," Howard said. "I've been working the last couple of years for this moment."

He has been competing during fall practice with Jace Christmann, who is new to the team as a graduate transfer from Mississippi State.

One of the things Howard is leaning on is the experience he gained playing in reserve duty in five games during the past two seasons.

Last year, he showed the coaching staff exactly what he could do by making a pair of field goals and all five of his extra-point attempts in contests against Missouri and Arkansas.

"I definitely think that experience is pretty valuable," Howard said.

**HOWARD** continues on **Page 21**

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## FLORIDA GATORS

### 2021 Regular Season Schedule

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
Sept. 4	7:30 PM	Florida Atlantic
Sept. 11	1 PM	@ South Florida
Sept. 18	3:30 PM	Alabama
Sept. 25	1 PM	Tennessee
Oct. 2	1 PM	@ Kentucky
Oct. 9	1 PM	Vanderbilt
Oct. 16	1 PM	@ LSU
Oct. 30	3:30 PM	Georgia (TIAA Bank Field)
Nov. 6	1 PM	@ S. Carolina
Nov. 13	1 PM	Samford
Nov. 20	1 PM	@ Missouri
Nov. 27	1 PM	vs. Florida State

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# Howard

Continued from 20

Kicking can be mentally demanding and the pressure of making a kick with the opposing team barreling down around you can be overwhelming if thought about for too long.

“Don’t make it a bigger kick than it is,” Howard said. “You just try to go out there and execute.”

The mental side of the game has been something Howard has worked on since he first started experimenting with kicking in eighth grade.

“I always played soccer, so I knew I had the tools to do it,” Howard said.

He began his career at Ponte Vedra High School as a wide receiver, but eventually made the full commitment to being the team’s kicker as a sophomore.

“I really haven’t looked back,” Howard said.

Howard credited former PVHS special teams coach Kris Kramer for helping with the mental side of the game while in high school, but when it came to his technique, he was able to hone that himself over the years.

“The height on my ball and ball striking have really improved the most,” Howard said. I’m still always working to improve kickoffs.”

Several small schools recruited him out of high school, but he had high expectations that he continued to shoot for.

“I always told my parents that if I was going to play in college, I wanted to do it on the big stage,” Howard said.

It may have taken a little longer than he initially wanted, but that big stage came calling when Florida’s coaches called and told him they thought he had what it took

to compete for a spot on the team.

The call came just in time, as he was about to start classes at Florida State.

Four years later, he has a degree, is under scholarship, and is in the hunt to be the Gators’ starting kicker in the season opener at home against Florida Atlantic at

7:30 p.m. on Sept. 4.

“It’s definitely been a crazy journey, but I just always kept believing and working toward what I knew was possible,” Howard said. “No matter what situation you find yourself in, at the end of the day it comes down to you to make the most of it.”



Chris Howard is set to begin his redshirt senior season with the Gators.

Photo by Kaila Jones/University of Florida Athletics

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<b>GEORGIA BULLDOGS</b>		
2021 Regular Season Schedule		
DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
Sept. 4	7:30 PM	@ Clemson
Sept. 11	3:30 PM	UAB
Sept. 18	7 PM	S. Carolina
Sept. 25	TBA	@ Vanderbilt
Oct. 2	TBA	Arkansas
Oct. 9	TBA	@ Auburn
Oct. 16	TBA	Kentucky
Oct. 30	3:30 PM	@ Florida (TIAA Bank Field)
Nov. 6	TBA	Missouri
Nov. 13	TBA	@ Tennessee
Nov. 20	1 PM	Charleston Southern
Nov. 27	1 PM	@ Georgia Tech

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Photos by J.C. Ridley/Owlpix.com

Ponte Vedra alum and former Florida Mr. Football Nick Tronti looks to open the season as Florida Atlantic's starting quarterback for the second straight year.



Tronti runs the ball against Middle Tennessee last season. His dual-threat ability makes him dangerous to defend in second-year head coach Willie Taggart's offensive system.

## Tronti rediscovering Mr. Football magic as FAU quarterback

By Anthony Richards

Nick Tronti reminded people why he was named Mr. Football in Florida following his senior season at Ponte Vedra High School in 2016 with his play as Florida Atlantic's signal-caller last season.

After winning the starting quarterback job, he ended up helping lead the Owls to a record of 5-4 and an appearance in the Montgomery Bowl.

However, he believes he and his team have the potential for much more as he heads into his redshirt senior season.

"Our goal is always to win the conference, and that's no different this year," Tronti said.

His mindset heading into what could be his final college season, if he does not choose to enact the NCAA's pandemic-related eligibility rules, is a simple one.

"Just soak it all in," Tronti said.

He, as most players are looking forward to the opportunity to play a full and "normal" season.

"It was tough last year bringing in a new offense with no spring ball," Tronti said. "It was tough on everyone."

Already, Tronti can feel and see a difference in the rhythm of the team as the combination of Willie Taggart entering his second season as head coach and having had an actual spring to practice is beginning to take hold.

All the pieces started coming together for Tronti last season under Willie Taggart, his third different head coach in five years. He has also had four offensive coordinators during that time.

"He's got a really good record of coaching at some known programs," Tronti said.

Although Tronti would have loved to have some consistency calling the shots in his career, he is also grateful in a way, because it has allowed him to learn about the different approaches that exist.

"It's wild how much more football is out there," Tronti said. "I've grown a ton (as a player) over the years."

According to Tronti, he feels comfortable operating Taggart's offensive philo-

sophy and is happy to play for a returning coach for the first time in college.

Despite having earned the job last year, Tronti has made sure that he approaches this preseason the same as he did last fall.

"Every year is a competition," Tronti said.

The advantage of being a redshirt senior is Tronti's experience compared to the majority of the Owls' quarterback room, which includes freshman Willie Taggart Jr., and redshirt freshmen Justin McKithen, Javion Posey and Michael Johnson Jr.

Miami transfer and graduate senior N'Kosi Perry is the only other quarterback on the roster that can equate to the level of experience Tronti offers.

"I've been around for a while and seen a lot of defenses in my career," Tronti said. "I've probably experienced every high and low you can in college football."

He began his college career at Indiana after graduating from PVHS, but transferred to the Owls after just one year, which he redshirted.

From there he joined FAU and has spent the last four years preparing to earn the position and prove potential.

Since his high school days playing at the "Shark Tank," he has been known as an excellent athlete and someone who presents dual-threat capabilities from behind center.

In last year's shortened season, he completed 89 of 167 pass attempts for 905 yards, six touchdowns, and three interceptions. He also ran for 139 yards and two scores on 70 carries.

"Really, I just ultimately see myself as a football player," Tronti said. "I'm willing to do whatever I have to to help my team win."

The Owls open against the Florida Gators on the road on Sept. 4 at 7:30 p.m., followed by a pair of home non-conference games against Georgia Southern and Fordham and a road date with Air Force, before beginning the Conference USA slate of their schedule as they host Florida International in the Shula Bowl on Oct. 2 at 3:30 p.m.



Photo provided by Grant Stevens

Nease tight end Grant Stevens switched his commitment from Coastal Carolina to play for UCF.

## Nease TE Stevens commits to UCF

### QB Joey Gatewood transfers to Knights from Kentucky

Special to the Recorder

The University of Central Florida football team continues to increase its footprint in the Sunshine State by getting a commitment from Nease tight end Grant Stevens and luring former Bartram Trail quarterback to transfer from Kentucky.

Eight of the Knights' 11 commitments are from Florida.

Grant attended UCF's high school camp this summer, and he quickly became a target for tight ends coach Brian Blackmon. Grant, a 6-foot-4, 230-pound senior, narrowed his list of likely destinations to UCF, Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, Coastal Carolina, FIU, Liberty and Arkansas State. Grant originally picked Coastal Carolina, but he recently changed his mind.

"It's pretty close to my home," Stevens said. It's like a

family-feel there. There's a great opportunity to go there and play and have a great career. I know they're just about to build the program with [head coach Gus] Malzahn and the whole staff there."

Grant caught 40 passes for 502 yards and five touchdowns last year for the Panthers. Nease opens its new season with its Battle of the Bridge rivalry at Ponte Vedra on Friday night.

"[It's] just a place where it would be like family going there," Stevens said. "Somewhere I could see myself going, playing, and living there for the next three to four years."

The Knights also got a commitment from quarterback Joey Gatewood. The Bartram Trail graduate spent two years at Auburn with Malzahn before transferring to Kentucky last year. Gatewood entered the transfer portal after Malzahn was hired as UCF's new coach.

Gatewood, 6-5, 221, was rated as the No. 1 athlete in the country when he left high school. He was a four-star recruit who was selected to play in the Under Armour All-America game.





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## 3 ways to eat healthy at game day events

The sports landscape changed dramatically in 2020. Professional sports leagues were forced to interrupt or delay their seasons, while many amateur athletes, including college and scholastic players, were told their seasons would not take place in 2020.

Despite those delays and cancellations, many athletes are competing this fall and winter. And that means fans will likely gather to cheer on their favorite teams.

Game day gatherings are a great way to make sports more fun. But they also can compromise people's efforts to eat right, as traditional tailgate fare is not always so healthy. Thankfully, there are ways to eat healthy on game-day without forgoing fun.

### 1. Learn your calorie counts.

Education might be your greatest ally if you want to stay the dietary course on game day. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, popular game day fare like beer and chicken wings are high in calories. Beers vary depending on which type you're drinking, but 12-ounce light beers typically contain around 100 calories apiece. The USDA also notes that a half dozen chicken wings typically come in at just under 700 calories, though that number will increase when dipping the wings into blue cheese or ranch dressing or slathering them in barbecue sauce. Understanding how high in calories these staples can be may compel you to opt for healthier, lighter fare, such as vegetables and water.

### 2. Pay attention to how much you're eating.

A 2014 study published in the Journal of the American



Photo provided by Metro Creative Connection

Medical Association: Internal Medicine found that the amount of food people eat while watching something is influenced by what they're watching. Conducted by researchers at Cornell University, the study found that people ate considerably more while watching action-packed entertainment than they did while watching more sedate programs like talk shows. Researchers concluded that the action-packed programs distracted people from how much they were eating. If you want to limit how much you eat while watching the big game, make a conscious effort to track your consumption, even making a small snack bag before the game begins

and eating only that once it starts.

### 3. Make your own foods.

When you make your own food for game day, you control what you're putting into your body. Homemade snacks that are low in calories and don't contain much sugar can help you stay the dietary course more effectively than brownies, chips and nachos.

Game day can quickly derail diets if fans aren't mindful of what they eat. But staying the dietary course on game day is easier than sports fans may think.

## Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

## Criminal Defense Attorney



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

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# Savory sandwiches for tailgate fun

Fall marks the start of football season. Game day experiences are made even more enjoyable by hosting or attending a tailgate in the parking lot of the stadium.

Tailgate supplies must be brought to the tailgate the day of the game. That includes food, which is often prepared at home and then cooked on-site. This recipe for “Ultimate Steak & Mushroom Sandwiches” from Laurie McNamara’s “Simply Scratch” (Avery) can be prepared at home and then put together at the stadium lot. These delicious sandwiches can be easily cut into small pieces and served as slider-type appetizers.

## Ultimate Steak & Mushroom Sandwiches

Makes 4 6-inch sandwiches

- 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 pounds rib-eye steak
- 1 cup Balsamic Herb Dressinade (see below)
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large sweet onion, halved and thinly sliced
- 1 pint cremini mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper (optional)
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 1 1/2 cups grated provolone cheese
- 4 6-inch hoagie buns, split
- Mayonnaise
- Balsamic Herb Dressinade
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil or 1 teaspoon dried
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary, or 1 teaspoon dried
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme, or 1/2 teaspoon dried
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard

- 6 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 cup grape-seed or olive oil

In a 1-pint glass jar, combine all the ingredients. Secure the lid and shake until combined. Let stand for 30 minutes before using. Refrigerate any unused dressing.

Place the steak on a small rimmed baking sheet and freeze for 20 minutes so it’s firm and partially frozen. Holding a sharp knife on a slight angle, going against the grain of the meat, slice into very thin strips.

In a large resealable bag or a medium bowl, marinate the steak in the dressinade for 30 minutes.

On a griddle or in a 12-inch cast-iron skillet, melt the butter with the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the onion, toss and spread out in an even layer. Once the onion starts to soften, add the mushrooms. Cook until soft and slightly caramelized.

Using tongs, remove the steak from the marinade (allow excess to drip back into the bag or bowl) and place on the griddle, toss with the onions and mushrooms, then spread in an even layer. Allow the steak to sear, forming a crust, for 4 to 6 minutes, then flip and cook for 4 to 6 minutes more.

Season with a pinch of salt and pepper, if desired, and sprinkle with the blue cheese and provolone. Turn off the heat on the griddle or remove the skillet from the heat and cover with a domed lid or tented foil to allow the cheese to melt quickly.

Toss one last time so the cheese is mixed throughout. Divide the steak mixture among the crusty hoagie buns. Serve immediately.



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## FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

### 2021 Regular Season Schedule

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
Sept. 5	7:30 PM	Notre Dame
Sept. 11	8:00 PM	Jacksonville State (AL)
Sept. 18	3:30 PM	@ Wake Forest
Sept. 25	1 PM	Louisville
Oct. 2	1 PM	Syracuse
Oct. 9	1 PM	@ NC Tarheels
Oct. 23	1 PM	UMass
Oct. 30	1 PM	@ Clemson
Nov. 6	1 PM	NC State Wolfpack
Nov. 13	1 PM	Miami (FL)
Nov. 20	1 PM	@ Boston College
Nov. 27	1 PM	@ Florida



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# Despite preseason losses, Jaguars display positive developments

The Jacksonville Jaguars conclude the pre-season on Sunday, Aug. 29, at 1 p.m. against the Dallas Cowboys at AT&T Stadium.

Through two games this preseason, the Jaguars defense has allowed the NFL's fewest rushing yards (104 rushing yards allowed, 52.0 yards per contest), including limiting the Saints to 63 rushing yards on 21 carries on Monday night. New Orleans won the game 23-21. The Jaguars also lost their preseason opener against the Cleveland Browns 23-13.

"We're trying to still feel the chemistry with each other out. I feel our run stop is phenomenal right now," Jaguars safety Rayshawn Jenkins said following Monday's game. "The back end just has to trust the ball more, but it will all come. It takes patience and time, but we will clean up some things and [the process] will go smooth."

Quarterback Trevor Lawrence has started both preseason games and completed 20-of-32 passes for 184 yards, while QB Gardner Minshew II has thrown for 196 yards on 17-of-29 passing. C.J. Beathard has totaled 223 yards and three TDs on 22-of-30 passing in two preseason contests. Beathard's 127.5 passer rating is the highest among all NFL QBs this preseason.

Jaguars head coach Urban Meyer has coached at AT&T Stadium twice as a college coach with Ohio State. In 2015, the Buckeyes defeated Oregon, 42-20, in the College Football Playoff National Championship for Meyer's third NCAA title. The Buckeyes again impressed at the venue in 2017 when they trounced Southern Cal 24-7, in the Cotton Bowl Classic on Dec. 29, 2017.

After going 1-15 last season, the Jaguars are looking to rebuild this year with Meyer as the new coach and by selecting Lawrence as the No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft.

The Jaguars open the regular season at 1p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, at the Houston Texans.

Notes: The Jaguars waived OL Derwin Gray, CB Jameson Houston and DT Kenny Randall on Tuesday, and placed RB Travis Etienne Jr. on injured reserve. ... On Monday, the Jaguars placed DE/OLB Josh Allen on the Reserve/COVID-19 list.



Photos by Nancy Beecher

Quarterback Trevor Lawrence looks to hand off during a training camp practice session.



Jaguars coach Urban Meyer watches players compete in training camp.



Jaguars tight end Ben Ellefson takes part in a training camp



Jaguars players take part in drills during training camp.



The Jaguars quarterbacks, including No. 1 draft pick Lawrence (16), take part in training camp drills this month.



Jaguars players take part in drills during training camp.



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**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS**

**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS**

2021 Regular Season Schedule

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT/LOCATION
Aug. 29	1 PM	@ Cowboys
Sept. 12	1 PM	@ Texans
Sept. 19	1 PM	Broncos
Sept. 26	1 PM	Cardinals
Sept. 30	8:20 PM	@ Bengals
Oct. 10	1 PM	Titans
Oct. 17	9:30 AM	Dolphins
Oct. 31	4:05 PM	@ Seahawks
Nov. 7	1 PM	Bills
Nov. 14	1 PM	@ Colts
Nov. 21	1 PM	49ers
Nov. 28	1 PM	Falcons
Dec. 5	4:25 PM	@ Rams
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Dec. 19	1 PM	Texans
Dec. 26	1 PM	@ Jets
Jan. 2	1 PM	@ Patriots
Jan. 9	1 PM	Colts

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# Business Weekly

PAGE 29 THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021

Local fitness center owner earns national award

Page 30

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



St. Johns County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker, Karen Everett, Dr. Erika Hamer and Isabelle Renault

## Blocker speaks at 'Chamber At Noon' event

County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker was the guest speaker at the St. Johns County Chamber – Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chamber at Noon luncheon on Aug. 18 at Ruth's Chris Steak House.

Members and guests enjoyed lunch and the opportunity to network at the event, which was sponsored by Fields Auto Group.



Jackie Smith, Jeremiah Blocker and Isabelle Renault

Photos by Susan Griffin



Judge Kenneth Janesk and Blocker



Pamela Bomba and Matt Price

## The Yards in Ponte Vedra Beach receives honor for course renovation

Golf Inc. magazine, the world authority for golf course developers, owners and executives, has selected The Yards as the third best public course renovation of 2020.

Each year, the Golf Renovation of the Year recognizes the top course renovations and restorations from across the globe. The competition examines the full scope of the renovations, including improved playability, course aesthetics, achievement of goals and vision, infrastructure development and manageability.

While The Yards' revitalization was critical for the physical course, it was also necessary for the property's sustainability within the Ponte Vedra Beach golf community.

"This project illustrates the kind of innovative thinking that's needed to revitalize public courses," said judge Martin Elgison, president of the Bobby Jones Golf Course Foundation and a 2019 competition honoree.

Purchased in failing and near-irreparable condition in February 2016, The Yards reopened as the area's first and only 12-hole course in the fall of 2020.

YARDS continues on Page 31

## Bobby Weed, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club earn award for Ocean Course restoration

Golf Inc. Magazine has awarded Bobby Weed Golf Design its "2021 Renovation of the Year, Runner-Up, Private Club" accolade for the firm's comprehensive restoration of the Ocean Course at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

The award recognizes Bobby Weed Golf Design's successful modernization of the Ocean Course, all while carefully preserving the club's 90-plus years of history for the next generation.

"We are honored to accept this award in partnership with Herb Peyton, chairman of Gate Petroleum," said golf course architect Bobby Weed. "This is one of the most outstanding courses on the Atlantic seaboard. Our intent was to add to its seaside character, shot variety, playability and enjoyment. This award validates our collective efforts and will keep members and guests coming back year after year."

Originally constructed in 1928 by Herbert Strong, Bobby Weed Golf Design oversaw the Ocean Course renovations in 1998. Its latest renovation on the new par-71 was completed on time and under budget. Four-

WEED continues on Page 31



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## EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF BECOMING YOUR BEST SELF!

# Local Burn Boot Camp owner wins national award

Jessica Melquist, franchise partner of Burn Boot Camp Nocatee Town Center, won Single Unit Franchise Partner of the Year at the company's annual summit July 16-18 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"This win represents the incredible community and team built over one of the most challenging times in all of our lives," she said. "With 10 weeks under our belt before the pandemic hit, we strengthened our bond and never lost focus on what is most important in life: our health. Even when we could not be together in person we pivoted, persevered and stayed true to our mission of, 'inspiring, empowering and transforming countless lives in our community.' It is a great honor and privilege to be in this community."

Melquist was awarded this honor over 300 other Burn Boot Camp franchise partners located throughout the United States. Her commitment to her members and the community over the past year and half is one of the many reasons she was recognized.

Melquist opened Burn Boot Camp Nocatee Town Center on Dec. 29, 2019. During the grand opening period, she welcomed more than 600 members and trial guests. Even during a global pandemic, Melquist and her team have become a bright spot in the community, helping

men and women achieve their health and wellness goals. Melquist is currently in the process of opening her second location in Jacksonville Beach.

Since opening, Burn Boot Camp Nocatee Town Center has also made a point to give back to its community, schools and local fundraisers. During Christmas 2020, the gym collected gifts for Fostering Connections to benefit the many children in foster care in St. Johns County and beyond.

In February 2021, Burn Boot Camp Nocatee Town Center raised more than \$400 for the First Coast American Heart Association. Members bought \$5 burpee tickets and gifted those burpees to Melquist and her trainers to complete at the end of the month.

In May 2021, gym members raised more than \$6,600 for Once Upon A Room—Jacksonville, a local nonprofit organization that transforms the rooms of hospitalized infants, children and teens who are fighting serious illnesses or long-term acute trauma at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Burn Boot Camp features flexible membership options and is camp-based, scheduling members for 45-minute sessions that target different muscle groups each day of the week. Memberships include access to its childwatch program, helping busy parents to prioritize their wellness. Memberships also include access to focus meetings, which pairs members with a trainer to share nutrition guidance and more. No two workouts are the same and each workout promises to challenge each and every member, regardless of fitness level.

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# Weed

Continued from 29

teen acres of coquina screenings replaced rough grasses, resulting in a reduction in maintained turf and considerable savings on water, chemical inputs and labor.

A full-service practice facility was created by tripling teeing space. A second tee was added on the north end for private instruction and corporate outings, along with a new short game practice area.

The first tee was strategically transformed into a multi-use space. And 20,000 square feet of tightly mown bermudagrass now serves as both a teeing ground and outdoor event venue.

As the former par-4 10th hole was absorbed into the practice facility, a new par-3, 13th hole was created. This provides a break between former back-to-back par 5's and now offers a more formidable par-5, 14th hole.

Greens were also redesigned to USGA specs. Each was lowered 15-24 inches to become receptive to the ground game, a necessity on windy seaside tracks.

“We are extremely pleased that Bobby Weed Golf Design has elevated the Ocean Course for a bright future,” said Dale Haney, president of Gate Hospitality Group. “This progressive golf course and practice facility design, coupled with modern infrastructure and amenities, has excited our members and guests like never before.”



Photo provided by the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, Ocean Course, Hole 16, Bobby Weed Golf Design



Photo provided by The Yards

The Yards was selected by Golf Inc. magazine as 2020's third best public course renovation.

# Yards

Continued from 29

Tailored to the modern player, The Yards' transformation focused on player experience with a casual atmosphere, reduced playing time and dynamic offerings. The extensive rehabilitation of the championship front nine was complemented by the addition of a new six-hole par-three course, providing golfers with playing options of 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 and 18 holes.

The restoration was completed by MacCurrach Golf Construction, a local company recognized nationally for its

work on TPC Sawgrass, Streamsong and 2019 renovation winners Sea Island and TPC Sugarloaf, to name a few.

“It is an honor and privilege to be recognized amongst this distinguished group,” Mike Miles, The Yards general manager and course architect said. “Our team has been busy with the remaining projects that will complete our property's transformation, including an event pavilion, pickleball courts and a new maintenance facility. With our one-year anniversary coming up in October, this award is a great reminder of how far we have come.”

To learn more about The Yards, go to [playtheyards.com](http://playtheyards.com).



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# In the Arts

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## 'Forever Motown' starring Theo Peoples and Glenn Leonard coming to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Oct. 2

On Oct. 2, the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host two performances of the musical "Forever Motown" starring Theo Peoples of the Four Tops, Glenn Leonard of the Temptations and members of The Marvelettes.

Over 50 hits from all the Motown legends including "Pride & Joy" by Marvin Gaye, "Get Ready" by The Temptations, "Please Mr. Postman" by The Marvelettes, "I Can't Help Myself" by The Four Tops, "Stop In the Name of Love" by The Supremes and so many more. As Entertainment Review wrote, "Bring your dancing shoes and bring the whole family. This is a show for everyone."

It's no secret why many regard Theo Peoples as one of the most authentic voices in the music industry, and all agree he has raised the bar high because

of his soulful vocal style. For nearly two decades Peoples' voice has been critical to the legacy of not just one but two of Motown's iconic groups — The Temptations and The Four Tops. He has earned the singular honor of being the only man to be a member of both legendary groups.

Glenn Leonard started singing at age 6 and by the time he reached 13, he began to earn a living performing. His first recording was with The Chancellors on Cap City Records. He later recorded with True Reflection on Atlantic Records.

In 1975, Glenn came to the attention of the legendary Temptations and enjoyed a long and illustrious career as the first tenor and lead singer from 1975 to 1983. He performed on 10 albums with The



Photo by Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

MOTOWN continues on Page 34

'Forever Motown' is performing on Oct. 2 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

## Glass Animals to perform Sept. 7 at The Amp

Genre-mashing hit makers Glass Animals will bring their "Dreamland Tour" to The St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Sept. 7 for a full-capacity concert.

The band has been selected as a 2021 Billboard Music Awards finalist for Top Rock Song — "Heat Waves" — and Top Rock Album — "Dreamland." This is the first time the band has been recognized by the Billboard Music Awards.

At the beginning of the third album from the London band, front man Dave Bayley asks himself a series of questions about fundamental issues: identity, memory, love, friendship, the person you have been and the person you want to be.

How do you answer so many questions that cut to the heart of who you are? Well, Bayley sings in the very last line, "You go make an album and call it 'Dreamland.'"

Bayley, Ed Irwin-Singer (bass), Drew MacFarlane (guitar) and Joe Seaward (drums) released their first album, "Zaba," in 2014 on Paul Epworth's Wolf Tone label. It was a modest debut ("We thought we'd go back to our jobs," Bayley said) until the stealthily addictive "Goopy" became a platinum-certified viral streaming hit.

They have since notched up over 2 billion streams and toured the world to



Photo provided by The St. Augustine Amphitheatre

Glass Animals set to perform new album "Dreamland" on Sept. 7 at The Amp.

strikingly diverse audiences.

"Heat Waves" is taken from Glass Animals' critically acclaimed third album, "Dreamland," which was released last summer and this week was certified

platinum in the United States.

Nearly a year since its release, the song continues to grow globally across streaming platforms and on radio charts. Amassing over 450 million global

streams to date, "Heat Waves" peaked at No. 1 on the Alternative Radio Chart for three consecutive weeks, a first for Glass Animals in their career.

The track currently sits in the Top 20 on the Top 40 Radio Chart and is making similar moves at Hot AC and AAA.

"Heat Waves" held the No. 1 spot on the ARIA Official Singles Chart in Australia for six consecutive weeks, marking the band's first No. 1 single globally and in their release history. Last week, it hit a new peak on Spotify's Global Top 50 Chart at No. 25.

With more than 2.5 million global adjusted single sales, the song has amassed 2 million daily streams and the video has received 16 million views on YouTube.

Glass Animals recently hit a new Spotify monthly listener peak of 17.2 million, surpassing the likes of Tame Impala, Gorillaz, The 1975 and The Strokes.

Tickets for Glass Animals "Dreamland Tour" are on sale now at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office and online at Ticketmaster.com.

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Office is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Payment is accepted via debit or credit card only.



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# Florida Chamber Music Project brings new music to new venue

Florida Chamber Music Project (FCMP) will bring new music to a new venue in an expanded six concert series for its ninth season.

The opening event is 3 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Beaches Museum Chapel at the Beaches Museum, 525 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach.

“We are excited to bring music to our friends at our new venue,” said Susan Pardue, FCMP artistic director. “There will be new music combined with classical favorites. Plus, we will be hosting two guest artists, Thom Moore and Hyunsoon Whang.”

## SUNDAY, SEPT. 12

- “Corner in Manhattan” by Michael Torke
- String Quartet in A Major, Opus 41 by Robert Schumann

The Torke piece features the sounds of Manhattan at different corners at different times of day. The Schumann quartet is considered a staple of string quartet literature.

## NOV. 7

- Quartet for Oboe and Strings by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- String Trio in B-flat Major by Franz Schubert

- “Phantasy Quartet” by Benjamin Britten

- “Gabriel’s Oboe” by Ennio Morricone

Guest artist and Grammy-winning recording producer oboist Thom Moore will join FCMP for several pieces, including “Gabriel’s Oboe,” which was the theme from the 1986 film “The Mission.” Moore was a fellow student with Susan Pardue at North Carolina School of the Arts.

## JAN. 16, 2022

- “Estampes” by Claude Debussy
- Piano Quartet No. 1, in c minor by Gabriel Faure

Pianist Hyunsoon Whang, an FCMP favorite, will be featured.

## MARCH 20, 2022

- “Southern Harmony” by Jennifer Higdon
- “Punctum for String Quartet” by Caroline Shaw
- “Five Folk Songs in Counterpoint” by Florence Price

MUSIC continues on Page 34

© StatePoint Media

### ACROSS

1. \*Emmy Awards attendees or celestial bodies
6. “He \_\_\_\_ and drank the precious words...”
9. Skier’s transport
13. Move like ivy
14. What Alex and Lexington have in common
15. Power glitch
16. White condiment
17. Schiller’s “ \_\_\_\_ to Joy”
18. Movie “The \_\_\_\_ of the Chicago 7”

19. \*Last Week \_\_\_\_ with John Oliver”
21. \*Lovecraft \_\_\_\_”
23. Excessively
24. Invitation request
25. Part of graduate’s ensemble
28. South American indigenous people
30. Lung pouch (2 words)
35. Giannis Antetokounmpo’s target
37. Stain on Santa
39. Take exception to
40. Highland tongue
41. Bar, legally

43. Tropical tuber
44. Time on the job
46. Grey tea
47. Make a picture
48. Satellite Navigation System, for short
50. Mr. Eugene Krabs, e.g.
52. X
53. \*Compilation of nominees, e.g.
55. Uh-huh
57. \*Swingers’ actor turned “The Mandalorian” director
61. \*Ewan McGregor’s
65. Soviet entity
66. Flightless bird
68. Princess of #34 down
69. Type of weasel
70. Lady or Tramp, e.g.
71. Improvise
72. Young herring
73. Printing unit, pl.
74. ‘90s TV sitcom “Boy \_\_\_\_ World”

12. Bank on
15. Like an ignoramus
20. \*Hugh Laurie’s medical drama, nominated 25 times, that ended in 2012
22. Egg cells
24. Great Britain’s anti-mob law (2 words)
25. \*The Queen’s Gambit” game
26. Blood carrier
27. Suggest
29. \*Drag ball culture drama
31. Retired, shortened
32. \*Get \_\_\_\_”
33. Outstanding Comedy Series winner in 1968 and 69
34. \*Royalty chronicles, with The
36. Philadelphia’s Ivy
38. Millimeter of mercury
42. “Vamos a la \_\_\_\_”
45. \*What one needs to be nominated
49. Itinerary word
51. Old crone
54. Like Elvis’s famous shoes
56. Digression
57. Much ado
58. Against, prefix
59. Violin’s Renaissance predecessor
60. One less traveled
61. Os in XOXO
62. \*The Handmaid’s “story”
63. \_\_\_\_ top of \_\_\_\_
64. Captures
67. \*Allison Janney’s show

### DOWN

1. Sing like Ella Fitzgerald
2. Jack, Janet and Chrissy from “Three’s Company,” e.g.
3. Long time
4. Rekindled
5. Faucet
6. Loads (2 words)
7. \*Jason Sudeikis’ role
8. Golden parachute recipients
9. U, on the road
10. One from Great Britain
11. Culture-growing turf

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*Mozart, Schubert, Britten and Morricone*

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Free parking is available off Pablo Ave. Please visit our web site for additional information about our new season: [fchambermusic.org](http://fchambermusic.org)



# John Legend to bring his 'Bigger Love Tour' to The Amp

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre has announced that 11-time Grammy Award winner John Legend will return to The Amp on Oct. 9 on his "Bigger Love Tour 2021."

In addition to his Grammy Awards, multiplatinum artist Legend has garnered an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, a Tony Award and an Emmy Award, making him the first African-American man to earn an "EGOT."

Legend has released six celebrated albums including, "Get Lifted" (2004), "Once Again" (2006), "Evolver" (2008), "Love in the Future" (2013), "Darkness and Light" (2016) and "A Legendary Christmas" (2018). He starred in NBC's "Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert" in 2018, winning an Emmy for "Outstanding Variety Special" and being nominated for "Outstanding Lead Actor" (Limited Series).

Legend joined "The Voice" for season 16 (2019), winning with his mentee Maelyn Jarmon, and is currently a judge on season 17.

Legend is a partner in Get Lifted Film Co., serving as an executive producer for "Southern Rites," "United Skates," WGN America's "Underground" and films "Southside with You" and "La La Land."

As a philanthropist, Legend initiated the #FREEAMERICA campaign in 2015 to change the national conversation surrounding criminal justice policies and to end mass incarceration.

Kirby's second solo departure is the self-titled "Kirby."

Fronting Burlington, Ontario, prog-rock band First Time Fallen for several years, Kirby released his first



Photo provided by the St. Augustine Amphitheatre

**John Legend will perform Oct. 9 at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre.**

solo EP "Within These Walls" in 2007 before taking the figurative plunge with his next EP "The Good Fight" in 2008.

Hitting the road for the first of many tours across Canada and Europe as well as performances in Australia and the United States, Kirby displays his true passion, belting out emotional lyrics right from the bottom of his heart, coupled with the diversity of both a driving rock strum style and quiet thoughtful picking on the guitar.

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

## Motown

Continued from 32

Temptations, singing lead on many songs including "I'm on Fire," "Go For It," "The Best of Both Worlds," "Open Their Eyes," "Ever Ready Love" and "Silent Night" from The Temptations' "Give Love At Christmas" LP.

After leaving The Temptations in 1983, Glenn entered into full time ministry. He founded and pastors a church in Houston, Texas, and is now doing concerts again

with his new group, giving audiences all over the country a genuine Temptations experience.

Tickets for "Forever Motown's" matinee and evening performances are available at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office and online at Ticketmaster.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office is open only on show days at this time.

Group tickets of 15 people or more receive 15% discount, available exclusively at The Amp box office. All tickets are now digital.



Photo provided by Florida Chamber Music Project

**Florida Chamber Music Project members are, from left, Siyu Zhang, Patrice Evans, Susan Pardue and Laurie Casseday.**

## Music

Continued from 33

■ "At the Purchaser's Option" by Rhiannon Giddens

What better way to celebrate Women's History Month with the works of four female composers. The music of these diverse women will be very recognizable to the audience, even if it is the first time they have heard these pieces.

### MAY 8, 2022

■ "Strum: Music for Strings" by Jessie Montgomery

■ String Quartet in B-flat Major, K.589 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

■ "Three Rags for String Quartet" by William Bolcom

New genius composer Jessie Montgomery's music will be paired with classical genius Mozart for an interesting perspective.

### JUNE 5, 2022

■ String Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 12 by Felix Mendelssohn

■ String Quartet in F Major by Maurice Ravel

These two pieces were composed by Ravel and Mendelssohn when they were young men. Experience the joy of their world view when they were starting out.

Beaches Museum Chapel is wheelchair accessible and has free parking along Pablo Avenue near 4th Street north of Beach Boulevard. All concerts begin at 3 p.m. and guests are required to wear masks.

The Florida Chamber Music Project was founded nine years ago by violist Susan Pardue. Joining her are violinists Patrice Evans, Siyu Zhang and Ann Hertler and cellist Laurie Casseday. All are members of the Jacksonville Symphony.

For advance tickets online, go to [flchambermusic.org](http://flchambermusic.org).

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# Sports



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## More than golf

Match play championship seeks more opportunities for golfers, women

By Anthony Richards

Inaugural events do not often have the ability to create an instant impact, but that is exactly what the PXG Women's Match Play Championship is hoping to accomplish.

That was the message presented during the media day for the two-week event scheduled to be played at World Golf Village Oct. 26 to Nov. 4.

"This is a women's initiative in a golf wrapper," said Mark Berman, managing partner with MediaShare Consulting Group. "Hopefully this will launch a whole new movement."

Berman stated that he is a "girl dad," which is one of the reasons the initiative seems so much to him and why he wanted to do his part to make it happen.

He saw the limited number of avenues for female golfers to take to reach the LPGA Tour after their college careers end and wanted to do something to change that.

"This has been a two to three year project for me," Berman said.

Currently, female golfers have the option to play on four developmental tours en route to one day becoming a member of the LPGA Tour.

The four tours include the Women's All Pro Tour, the Symetra Tour, Ladies National Golf Association in Florida, the Cactus Tour based out of Arizona.

However, the number of tours available for women are far less than the men's side, which has about 30 "mini" tours for golfers to explore on their path to the PGA Tour.

"It has to start somewhere," Berman said. "We want to use this as a platform for women moving forward. It's all about creating opportunities."

The tournament is collaborating with non-profit Generation W to help showcase some of the best up-and-coming female golfers in the world.

MATCH PLAY continues on Page 36



ABOVE: Managing partner and tournament founder Mark Berman speaks to a crowd of reporters during media day for the Inaugural PXG Women's Match Play Championship on Aug. 18 at the World Golf Village.



LEFT: WAPT Stage 2 points leader Jessica Porvasnik demonstrated her skills by hitting some balls on the driving as part of the media day lineup. She will compete in the PXG Women's Match Play Championship at the World Golf Village on Oct. 26 to Nov. 4.

Photos by Anthony Richards

## One thing's for certain: Uncertainty will reign at Daytona race



Photo provided by NASCAR

Denny Hamlin climbs into his car during practice for the Coke Zero 400 at Daytona International Speedway.

By Don Coble

The playoff scenario has never been clearer this year heading into Saturday's Coke Zero Sugar 400 at the Daytona International Speedway. And yet, the battle for the 16th and final spot in the Cup Series Playoffs has created an enormous sense of uncertainty.

Fifteen spots are locked in. Tyler Reddick has a comfortable lead in the point standings for the final cutoff position. But there's nothing comfortable about racing on Daytona's high banks — especially in the summer.

If Reddick survives the 160-lap race under the lights, he has a great chance to advance to the first round of the playoffs. But that's a big if.

No less than 14 other drivers can make the cut by winning the race. As Greg Sack reminded us in 1985,

then David Ragan in 2011, Erik Jones in 2018 and Justin Haley in 2019, longshot winners can be a good bet.

Moreover, the chances of finishing on a wrecker's hook are as likely as driving to the checkered flag. A year ago, 23 of 40 cars were involved in crashes. In 2019, 28 of 40 wrecked, including 18 on the final lap of a rain-shortened finish.

All drivers agree on one thing ahead of Saturday's 7 p.m.: hold on, it's going to be a wild ride.

"I think you'll expect to see drivers that were as desperate as I was in that race to try and get up front and get control of the race and win for their team and all their partners," Reddick said. "It's just going to be a matter of trying to have an understanding in the

NASCAR continues on Page 37





# Dozens gather at Vilano Beach for Florida Skimboarding Pro/Am

By Shaun Ryan

Dozens of athletes from around the state, the nation and the world gathered at Vilano Beach on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 12-22, to demonstrate their skimboarding proficiency.

The Florida Skimboarding Pro/Am is the third longest running professional and amateur skimboarding tournament in the world. The annual competition is important not just for participants but also for the community and local tourism industry.

“The Visitors and Convention Bureau has been supportive of this terrific event for years,” said Richard Goldman, CEO and president, St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau. “Not only does it bring participants and their families who might not have known about us, it also raises awareness of our sports-friendly destination. We have ample beaches and waterways that can support so many outdoor sporting events which don’t require the construction of expensive facilities that many other sports demand.”

The local tournament welcomes competitors representing more than 75 different beaches. The age range starts at 15 and goes all the way up, with the most senior category being 40 and over.

The enthusiasm of this year’s participants was evident even before the competition began. Contestants began gathering at the beach early Saturday morning, charging into the surf and catching waves as high tide approached.

Experienced skimboarders knew that this was an optimal opportunity to practice their pastime. The incoming tide was expected to reach 5.4 feet, peaking at 8:30 a.m.

To the uninitiated, skimboarding may resemble surfing, but there are important differences.



**Skimboarding enthusiasts take advantage of the rising tide to show off their skills at the Florida Skimboarding Pro/Am, held Aug. 21-22 at Vilano Beach.**

Photos by Shaun Ryan

Skimboards tend to be thinner, narrower and shorter than traditional surfboards and do not have fins. That means they are not as easily controlled on the water.

In addition, skimboarding is practiced in shallow water, which is why it is done closer to shore than surfing. And, unlike surfing, skimboarding can be done even on flat water, which means such elements as wind and the direction of currents and swell are not as critical.

According to the Run Drop Slide website, rundropslide.com, the local tournament was launched by Steve Pullara in October 1990, a year after he moved to

Vilano Beach. Its roots go back to Pullara’s youth in Tampa when he discovered the fun of skimming the waves on round disks.

Pullara’s business, Run Drop Slide, has been an apparel brand for the skimboarding sport since 1998 and the main sponsor of the local event.

The United Skim Tour is the sanctioning body for skimboarding events on both coasts of the United States and abroad. Its 2021 schedule lists five men’s professional tournaments and three women’s professional tournaments, with the Florida Pro-Am in both categories.

## Match Play

Continued from 35

Generation W founder Donna Orender, who knows a thing or two about the realm of big-time athletics, having been the former president of the WNBA and vice and senior vice president of the PGA, was on hand during the media day forum and spoke about what it means for the future.

“The philosophy came about from our work around women and the game,” Orender said. “This feels like just one more extension of the value of women to the game (of golf) and the value of the game to and for women. All it takes to create real change is a passionate belief.”

She saw that passion in Berman, which is what made the partnership between the two entities such a natural fit.

“We’re not off to the side, we’re vital and vibrant contributors (in the community) from the time we are young girls to the time we are grown women,” Orender said. “That is in the precepts and concepts of what this whole tournament is about.”

As part of the tournament festivities, Generation W will be hosting a Links to Leadership Summit on Friday, Oct. 29, beginning at 1 p.m.

The summit will feature an array of esteemed female speakers who have found success in multiple avenues.

“It will be energizing, informative and inspirational,” Orender said.

PXG is the title sponsor of the event and Vice President of Brand Communications and Engagement Leela Brennan was on hand to make sure the message is clear.

“The idea of inclusivity is part of the core value at PXG and this is a wonderful opportunity to articulate that,” Brennan said. “We don’t make golf clubs for men, and we don’t make golf clubs for women .... we make golf clubs for golfers.”



Photo by Anthony Richards

**As a “girl dad,” Mark Berman wanted to help create a tournament that is a women’s imitative as much as it is a golf event.**



# NASCAR

Continued from 35

back of your head or have a point that you kind of have within yourself. Like OK, this is my fun meter. If we can stay within, we're good. If we go over here, etc.

"We're trying to make the Playoffs, right? But we're also trying to get 10th and get that extra [bonus] point if we can, too. So, there are a lot of things around. We're going to try and control what we can. Someone going in and winning that race in Daytona is something that we can't really control unless we win that race. But it's a tough spot to be in."

The 14 other drivers, including Reddick's Richard Childress Racing teammate Austin Dillon, know they need a victory to move up the list, including Florida watermelon farmer-turned-racer Ross Chastain.

"I don't want to cause a big wreck. I've done that. I'm trying to learn from it," Chastain said. "I used to get really freaked out and worried and stressed about superspeedway races, but I've just realized over my 10 years in the sport, and really — I learned it from [truck racer] Johnny Sauter — he said one day something that resonated with me like we're all going to crash. We're all going to get backward in the grass at 200 mph

at some point. You make it. Go home. So, yeah. No desperation. I just want to win and compete in this series. So, whatever happens there, happens."

That's what concerns playoff drivers who are focusing on not crashing and gaining momentum for the Playoffs.

"No, it's going to be balls to the wall for anybody that's top-30 in points," Kyle Busch said. "Anybody that's top-30 in points that can win that race, we've seen Front Row Motorsports win. We've seen Spire win. We've seen teams that don't normally win races be able to score victories in the restrictor-plate races so that just leads to the anxiety level of everybody."

Busch is safely in the Playoffs. But like others, he's wary of the circling storm from others who are desperate to win at all costs.

After racing at the Richmond International Raceway in the past, NASCAR moved the regular-season finale to Daytona this year. It was done to create a greater level of excitement — and angst.

"There are a lot of people who are really worried. You always have bubble drivers," Denny Hamlin said. "You used to go into Richmond and you were kind of afraid of a different winner there, but you usually had the same cast of characters who ran upfront. But at Daytona, you just never know. That race, in particular, always gets a lot more wild. It's very

unpredictable. There's a lot of nervous guys out there.

"Ultimately [it's] a great opportunity for someone to sneak into the playoffs who's had a rough year behind them. You just never know. It's good for our schedule to have it where it's at [as the regular-season finale]. It's a good place."

Hamlin is trying to clinch the regular-season championship — and the extra bonus points that come with it. Oddly enough, he's also trying to his first race in 2021. With a spot already assured in the playoffs, Hamlin said he's likely to be more aggressive and take more risks to

catch Kyle Larson for the top-seed.

"The way I see it, we don't have anything to lose," Hamlin said. "Now we need to go back on offense on the regular-season championship. From my standpoint, I will be going as aggressively as I can to try and get a win there. It depends where our points position is and if we can gain anything on the 5 [Larson]. That will distinguish how I'm going to strategize, how I'm going to run. I just think it's fluid. It's a moving target to see how I'm going to approach that race."

Which certainly adds a level of uncertainty to the race.



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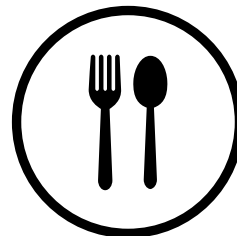
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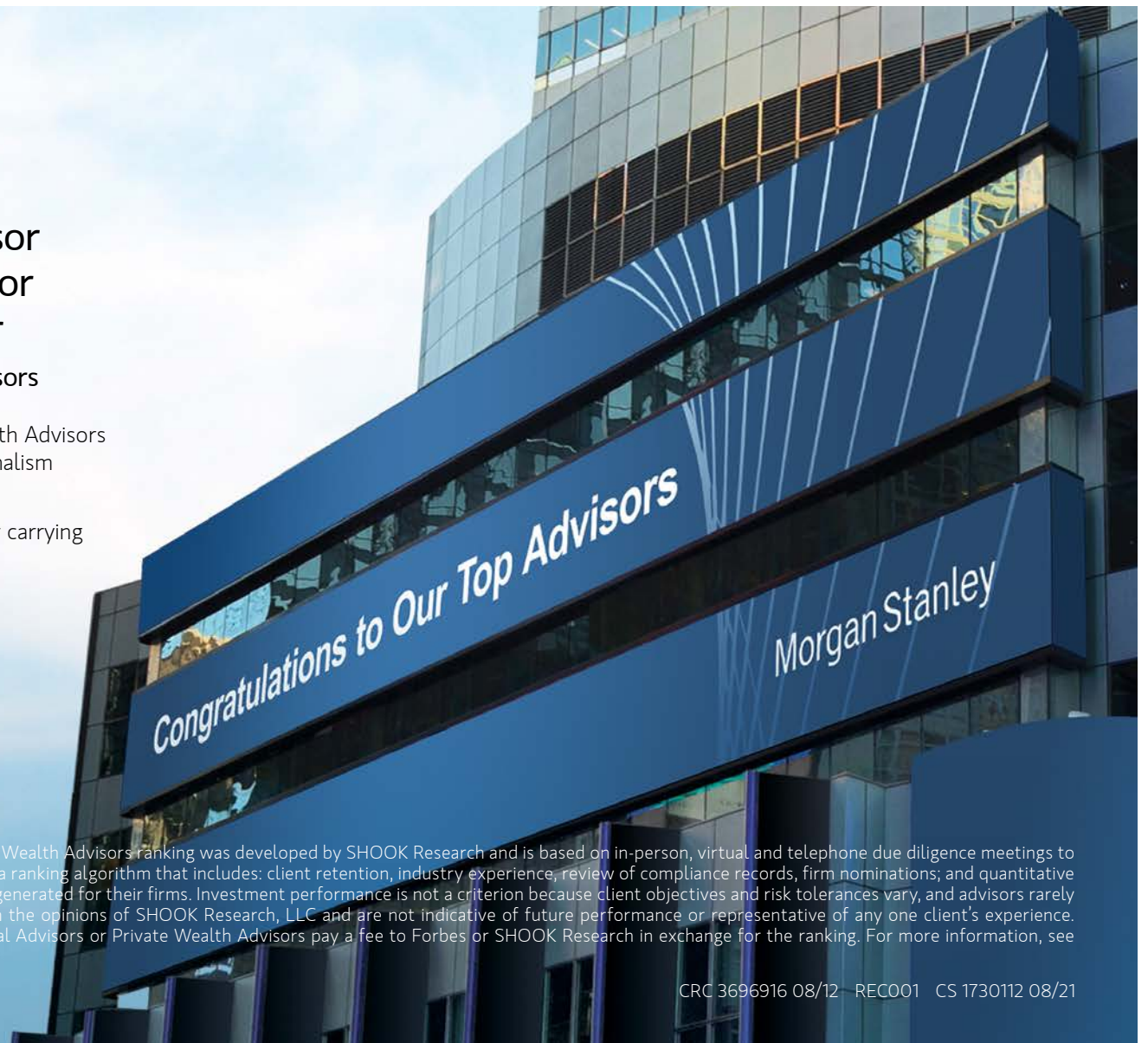
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