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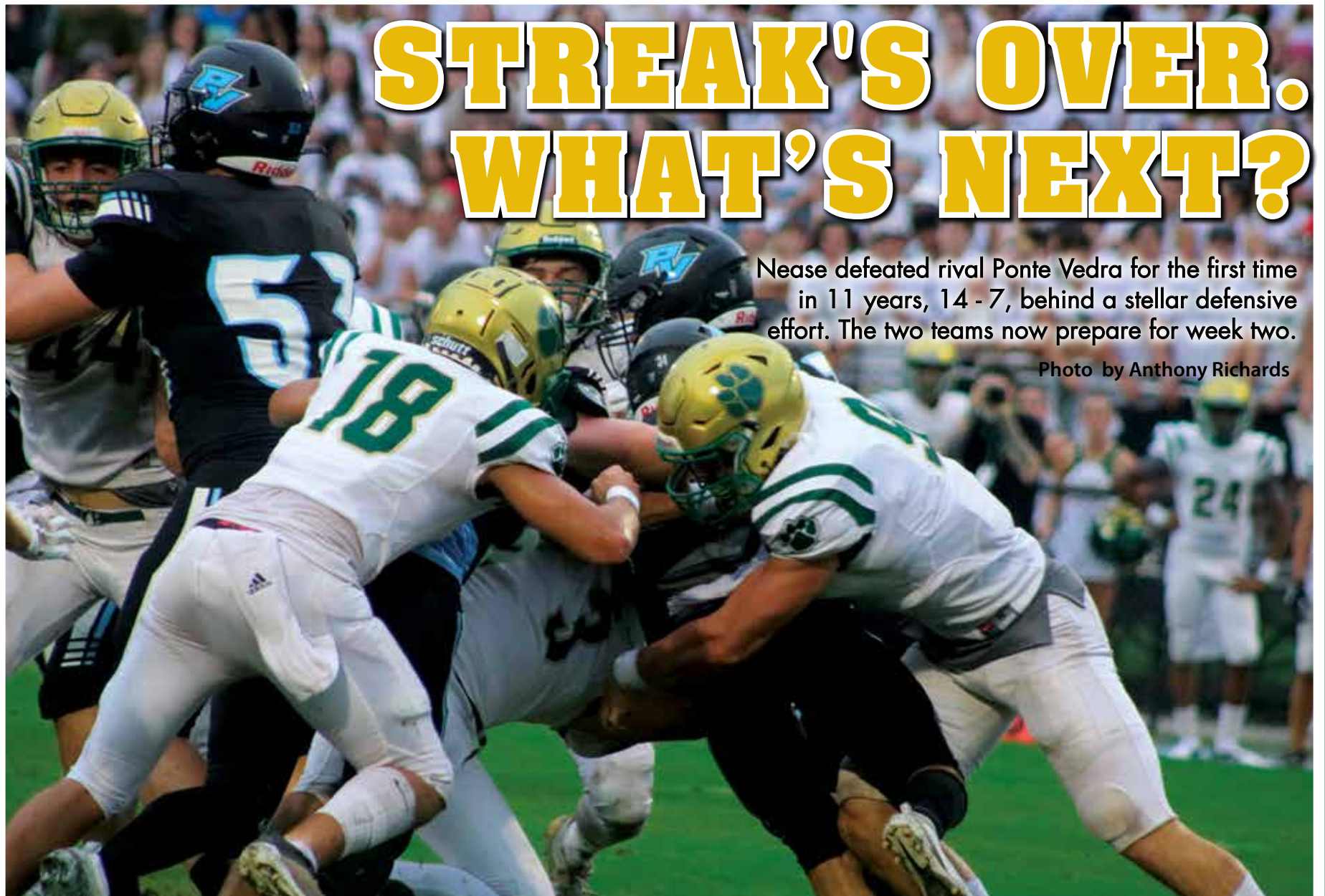


Recorder

September 2, 2021
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Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com



STREAK'S OVER. WHAT'S NEXT?

Nease defeated rival Ponte Vedra for the first time in 11 years, 14 - 7, behind a stellar defensive effort. The two teams now prepare for week two.

Photo by Anthony Richards



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



Senior Living

Pages 11-22

Sports

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Send us your news

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Visit our new website at
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Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

ADOPT A PET

HAMLET

Hello, my name is Hamlet. I am a 6-month-old male Hound Mix.

I am very friendly and good with other dogs. I came to the shelter as a stray along with my sister Ophelia and sadly no one came to claim us. That's okay though, I am enjoying my time here at the Pet Center. They are patient and kind, but I really would like to be able to run and have fun with a family of my own. Won't you consider making me part of your life?



OPHELIA

Hi, my name is Ophelia, but that is just a name and I know my fate will not be the same as I am a loving, sweet soul looking for the perfect family

to call my own. I am a 6-month-old female Hound Mix. I am working on becoming fully house-trained, and as I am still young, I will need some training on a leash and someone who is patient with me. I will return that patience with love.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The pet center is located at 130 N. Stratton Rd., off US 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

Ceremony to remember 9/11 victims

The City of St. Augustine Fire Department will continue the annual tradition of holding its Ceremony of Remembrance, a community gathering to remember those who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks 20 years ago.

The ceremony is open to the public and will be held at the St. Augustine Fire Department's main station at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11. The ceremony will also be broadcast live online on the Fire Department's Facebook page.

COVID-19 data released

According to the state Department of Health, the total number of COVID-19 positive cases in St. Johns County since March 1, 2020, was 33,917 as of Aug. 27, 2021. The total number of people vaccinated was 168,020.

The state fatality rate, according to Johns Hopkins University is 1.36%. Flagler Health+ reported Friday, Aug. 27, that it had nine hospital admissions for COVID-19 and four discharges. Six others were undetermined. Twenty-two COVID-19 patients were in the intensive care unit, and 20 were on a ventilator.

The total number of positive COVID-19

patients admitted to the hospital since March 1, 2020, is 1,290. Statewide, the Florida Hospital Association reported Aug. 27 that there were 16,163 current COVID-19 hospitalizations, down 3.9% from the previous week. A survey found that 75.7% of hospitals expected a critical staffing shortage between Aug. 27 and Sept. 3. This is a 1.1% decrease from Aug. 23.

"Fingers crossed, we may be seeing the beginning of a downward trend in COVID-19 hospitalizations, but new cases remain near all-time highs, so it is much too early to declare victory," said Mary C. Mayhew, president and CEO, Florida Hospital Association. "We must remain vigilant, not let our guard down against the virus, and continue to encourage more people to get the vaccine. In the last week we have seen a 4% decline in COVID-19 hospitalizations. Hopefully better days are ahead."

St. Johns County schools report COVID-19 numbers

On Friday, Aug. 27, the most recent date available for COVID-19 data in St. Johns County schools, a total of 516 students tested positive for the coronavirus, with 1,753 being quarantined. A total 74 employees tested

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

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Briefs

Continued from 2

positive. At Nease High School, one employee and 25 students tested positive. At Ponte Vedra High School, two employees and nine students tested positive. At Palm Valley Academy, four employees and 11 students tested positive. At Pine Island Academy, two employees and 15 students tested positive.

Nassau County man wins \$1 million in scratch-off game

Michael Turner, 59, of Yulee, recently claimed a \$1 million prize from the \$5,000,000 LUCK Scratch-Off game at the Jacksonville District Office, according to The Florida Lottery. He chose to receive his winnings as a one-time, lump-sum payment of \$760,000.

The \$20 game, \$5,000,000 LUCK, launched in September 2019 and features more than \$329 million in cash prizes, including six top prizes of \$5 million. The game's overall odds of winning are one-in-2.97.

Creative health lesson demonstrates importance of handwashing

Handwashing is a personal hygiene habit that has become even more important as students and faculty navigate healthy learning environments during the pandemic.

A recent collaborative lesson in the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus lab showed students why.

Campus nurse Rachel Ganzel and science teacher Carolyn Houston staged a "hands-on" blue light lab using a light glow to demonstrate the "germs" they were simulating.

"We talked about how we can't see the germs, but this gave us a visual of how well we can wash the 'germs' when we wash our hands," Ganzel said. "Students saw that many of them forget to clean their thumbs, wrists and fingertips thoroughly."

She said students then got a second chance to wash their hands after the lesson to practice proper hand-washing techniques.

School board salaries in two districts withheld over masks

On Monday, Aug. 30, Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran announced that the Florida Department of Education has withheld the monthly school board member salaries in Alachua and Broward counties, as directed by the state Board of Education.

Each district has implemented a mandatory face mask policy in violation of Florida Department of Health Emergency Rule 64DER21-12. The withholding of funds will continue monthly until each school board complies with state law and rule. On Aug. 20, the Board of Education issued Alachua and Broward school districts an order demanding that they comply with state statute and rule; however, both

districts refuse to comply. Memory program for seniors opens

Ginny Bullard and Jim Barber recently opened Sage Brain Academy, offering interactive in-person classes, virtual and private coaching sessions to enhance the lives of people with varying degrees of memory loss. The company's headquarters, classroom, learning and demonstration area and gathering space is located at 2225 A1A South, Suite A1 in St. Augustine.

Classes include activities involving mental dexterity, cognitive cross training, intentional movement exercises, music, art and social engagement, and caregiver respite. Classes are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Sessions range from \$20 to \$100 per person.



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Four veterans set to row across the Atlantic

By Shaun Ryan

Four U.S. veterans from Amelia Island will usher in 2022 somewhere in international waters aboard a 28-by-5-foot boat. The men, representing four branches of the military, are planning to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic over a period of about 50 days beginning Dec. 12.

And though such a feat would be a great personal accomplishment and what one of the men called “an amazing adventure,” the team is doing it for a good cause: fighting veteran suicide and helping to provide service dogs to disabled veterans.

Though all but one member of the team is over 50 years of age, they are confident they can meet the grueling challenge.

“I’m stoked,” said U.S. Air Force veteran Cameron Hansen, “because I know it’s going to be successful, and we are going to be able to help people.”

The team will ship its specially designed row boat — appropriately named “Courageous” — ahead of them to the Canary Islands. Then, on the day after Thanksgiving, they will leave Fernandina Beach, fly to Miami and then on to Madrid and Tenerife. From there, they will take a ferry to the island of La Gomera, where they will spend two weeks preparing for their odyssey.

On Dec. 12, they will join 38 other rowing teams, pairs and solo athletes at the starting line, push off the dock and begin rowing to Antigua.

“It’s like rowing from here to San Francisco,” said U.S. Marine Corps veteran Paul Lore. “It is really a long way.”

The row teams come from all over the world to participate. Five are from the United States. (One of those teams has ties to the First Coast. Row4Hope is made up of two rowers, Ben Odom and Mat Steinlin, who are raising money for Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida.)

The four-man Amelia Island team will row 24 hours a day in two-hour shifts of two rowers. When they aren’t rowing, they will grab some shut-eye in one of the tiny

cabins located in the stern and bow.

This punishing schedule will mean sleep deprivation, the biggest challenge they expect to face, according to U.S. Navy veteran Hupp Huppmann.

The participating row teams are all part of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, which conducts the event annually. Many of the teams take up the challenge to raise money for charitable causes.

The Amelia Island team — dubbed Foar From Home, a play on words combining “far from home” with “oar” and “four” — is raising money in part for K9s for Warriors, which pairs service dogs with veterans who have service-connected post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury or military sexual trauma.

The other cause is the Cross The Line foundation, creating a scholarship endowment to help veterans get vocational training.

The team has raised \$388,000 so far and has set a goal of \$500,000. People can sponsor a mile of the journey for \$100. When the boat arrives at that sponsored mile, the land team of volunteers will alert the donor by text or email.

Preparing for the trip is an 18-month process. Participants must accumulate 120 hours rowing their boats. And there are five mandatory classes that cover such topics as navigation, radio communication, sea survival and ocean rowing.

“The most interesting one was the first-aid at sea class, where we each learned to stitch each other up, give IV’s and hopefully handle any medical emergency that we might have,” said U.S. Army veteran Billy Cimino.

This is critical, because there will be no support boat. One unknown will be weather conditions.

“We’ve been training for it,” said Lore. “Once we’re out there, we’ll know about what’s coming. We’ll talk back to our land support team. We’ll get weather reports, so we’ll be prepared for it.”

“If it gets really gnarly, like 20-30-foot seas, we’ll throw out what we call a para-anchor, and we’ll lock down the hatches. We’ll sit in the hatches, and we’ll just tumble and wait for it to die down. Then, we’ll pull the para-anchor back in and start rowing again.”

Paul Lore on team preparations

The team has gotten some navigation training from the U.S. Coast Guard and rowing guidance from the Jacksonville University rowing team.

To help meet the expense of this effort — it costs about \$120,000 to participate — several sponsors and donors have lent their support. Expenses include satellite phones, air fare and food. In fact, the cost to feed four men the needed 5,000 calories a day is about \$10,000.

On Saturday, July 24, the team brought “Courageous” to the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum in St. Augustine to meet the public and drum up support. The museum is owned and operated by The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Florida, whose mission, in part, is patriotic service.

“We learned what they were going to do, and I said, ‘Would you come to our historical house in St. Augustine and let us show off your boat?’” said Jane Arnold president of the group.

The Colonial Dames are also sponsors of the project, along with countless other organizations, businesses and individuals.

To learn more about...

- Foar From Home or contribute to their cause: go to foarfromhome.com.
- The race: go to taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.com.
- Row4Hope: go to foarfromhome.com.



Photos by Shaun Ryan

TOP: This map shows the route for the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. Rowers will leave the Canary Islands and row 3,000 miles to Antigua.

LEFT: The Foar From Home team is comprised of, from left, Cameron Hansen, Billy Cimino, Hupp Huppmann and Paul Lore. The veterans are planning to row a boat across the Atlantic Ocean.

OBITUARIES

Lyn Tyson McCall

Lyn was born in Jacksonville, May 13, 1954. She died August 22, 2021, after a long illness, surrounded by her loving husband and beloved cats. Lyn is survived by her husband of 27 years, Charlie McCall, and her sister, Molly Tyson. She was predeceased by her parents, Lynton and Mary Frances Tyson, and her sister, Kay Bachman. Lyn graduated from Episcopal High School in Jacksonville and received a bachelor's degree in psychology at Emory University in Atlanta. In lieu of flowers the family requests you make a donation to McGraw Hospice Community Center for Caring or an animal rescue charity of your choice.

Services will be held at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach on September 3, 2021, at 2 p.m.

Diane Pisani

Diane Pisani, 51, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died Aug. 24, 2021.

Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

Tanya L. Palamar

Tanya L. Palamar, 68, of Jacksonville Beach, died Aug. 27, 2021.

Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Raymond Wistner

Raymond Wistner, 81, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Aug. 24, 2021.

Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

NOCATEE HAPPENING

Nocatee Labor Day Festivities planned

On Saturday, Sept. 4 at Splash and Spray Waterparks from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

resident ID cards will be required

Splash Waterpark

- Live music by Dustin Bradley from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Live music by Kyra Livingston from 3:30 p.m.-7 p.m.
- Splash Bar and Sundeck is open 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Spray Waterpark

- Stilt walker and balloon artist from 10 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
- Live music from Callie Leigh from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Live music by Ryan Cray from 3:30 p.m.-7 p.m.

One-man show reveals the human side of the 9/11 tragedy

By Shaun Ryan

Ponte Vedra High School drama teacher Jason Nettle was in New York City the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

He remembers the smell emanating from the collapsing World Trade Center, the ash, the darkening sky.

“It was surreal,” he said.

He remembers how, after the first plane flew into the North Tower at 8:46 that morning, no one knew what was going on and how, upon learning that it was a terrorist attack, there was cause for concern.

“We didn’t know if New York was going to exist at the end of the week,” he recalled. “We didn’t know if nuclear bombs were coming. We didn’t know anything.”

Nettle was in his apartment at the time, and immediately went to the bar on the city’s upper east side where he worked, hoping to learn more about what was happening. He found himself serving drinks to many police officers and firefighters.

Nine years later, when he needed a grad thesis for his master’s in theater at the University of Central Florida, that eventful day came back to him. He was in the gym, listening to Bruce Springsteen’s “Rising” album — which is largely based on the aftermath of the attacks — when he suddenly felt inspired.

“Something came over me, and I said, ‘This is what I want to do,’” he said.

He researched the 9/11 tragedy extensively and wrote a one-man show where he would portray 18 different people and

how they dealt with the aftermath of the attacks. During his performance, he plays a small child, an older man who has lost his wife, an older woman who has lost a son and other fictionalized characters. One of his roles was drawn from direct personal experience, because he plays himself.

Since then, he has presented the show several times in various venues. And presenting the individual, human aspect of what for many has faded into a historic event has deeply impacted his audiences. It reminds them of the oft quoted and just as often forgotten maxim: “Live every day like it’s your last.”

“I think on that day the 3,000 families that lost somebody, I think they wish they had had just one more chance,”

Nettle said.

So powerful is this theme that one young man approached Nettle after a performance and, inspired by what he’d seen, said he’d decided to propose to his girlfriend that night. Others told Nettle that they were moved to call friends they hadn’t spoken to for a long time.

“9/11: We Will Forget”

Sept. 11, Showtime is 5 p.m.



Photos provided by Ponte Verda High School
Jason Nettle, actor and drama teacher

Ponte Vedra High School Auditorium

No tickets will be sold in advance. A \$10 donation is suggested, though that is up to the individual donor.

The name of the show is “9/11: We Will Forget,” which is not meant to offend those who say, “We will never forget.” Rather, it’s a recognition that even something as impactful as the Sept. 11 terror attacks can slip in our memories as the years pass.

The show is a fundraiser for the Dramatic Arts Boosters and will help the PVHS drama department present three shows planned for this year: “Clue” in December, “Pippin” in February and “Kiss Me, Kate” in the spring.

Cub Scouts welcome another year of fun planned

Cub Scout Pack 277 in Ponte Vedra recently had their annual “Back to Pack” event welcoming Scouts back from summer for another fun year of Cub Scouting.

About 30 Scouts grades one through five had a fun afternoon being with friends and playing on a waterslide.

Pack 277 is sponsored by Christ Episcopal Church on Solana Road and has been serving Ponte Vedra Beach youth for over 40 years.

Throughout the year they have fun, learn, and build character with camping, outdoor activities, pinewood derby and special outings, like to the Kennedy Space Center.

The group holds meetings several times each month throughout the school year. In September, the boys and girls in the pack will be out at local supermarkets raising money to fund the year in scouting.

The Pack is welcoming new Scouts at a “Welcome to Scouting” event at PVPV- Rawlings Elementary on Thursday, Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Please email join.cubpack277@gmail.com for more information.



Photo provided by Cub Scouts Pack 277

About 30 members of Cub Scout Pack 277 in Ponte Vedra had a fun afternoon being with friends and playing on a waterslide as part of the annual “Back to Pack” event.

Capt. Tres Edenfield of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office took over leadership of the Northeast District in January after Commander Scott Beaver was named a director. In July, he made headlines for his part in the rescue of a man whose car went into a pond near the Publix Super Market at Sawgrass Village. Recently, Edenfield spoke with The Recorder about his background, philosophy and commitment to the community.

Capitan Tres Edenfield

As Told to Shaun Ryan

When did you first know you wanted to pursue this career?

As far back as I can remember, I always wanted to go into law enforcement.

When I came home from college, I went right to the academy [the St. Johns River State College Law Enforcement Academy]. After graduating, I started here in St. Johns in November of 2001.

If I didn't do this, I have no earthly idea what I would do. I don't want to do anything else.

Tell me about your career.

I got in this job to be a cop. I wanted to be a patrol cop. I've always been a road guy. I like the camaraderie with the troops. And I'm very much still full of that special drive to be in the middle of everything.

In 2003, I tried out and was on the SWAT team. It was probably one of the most rewarding things I've done. I spent 15 years on the team.

During that time, I stayed in patrol. I got promoted to sergeant in the Southeast District.

A few years later, I was promoted to lieutenant. I was the district lieutenant up here under Commander Beaver at the time, now Director Beaver.

I went to watch commander in patrol, meaning I had my own shift as a lieutenant in the North Region. Was promoted out of that into where I am now.

My philosophy with leadership is: Lead from the front and prove to your men and women that you love them first of all, win their hearts and their minds. It helps to lead the troops when they know they're taken care of and they trust you.

So, when pressing matters are in front of us, and I'm making judgement calls, they don't even hesitate.

I'm very much for the troops. They're what make this place work. Without them, you don't have people coming to help you.

What do you like most about what you do?

The troops, being a part of them.

I was raised by a father who had a very decorated career in the U.S. Coast Guard. So, I had the benefit of being raised by a man who also started at the bottom and worked his way up through leadership, then started his own business in Jacksonville.

In this day and age, employee turnover's huge. You have somebody for a few weeks and then they're gone. My dad never had that. The men that worked for him and knew me as a child were there in '08 when he died. Speaks volumes to me. But if you go back and look at that, it's how he took care of them.

I love what we get to do, helping people. It's very satisfying when you make a difference. Even if it's a small difference.

Of course, sometimes we have to do what, to the civilian, are very violent acts – justified, within state statute and Sheriff's Office policy, but to the person that doesn't understand it, they're very violent. And sometimes, having to use that type of force or something with another human being is helping another person. But we don't take pride in that. The men and women in this agency love to do good for people.

We're very fortunate. I guarantee 90% of this county loves the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. It blows my



mind how people are like, "Thank you, thank you, thank you." You think about our brothers and sisters in New York, in Portland, Seattle, Minnesota – these people are getting bricks thrown at them. Spit on.

You know, we have a governor that loves us. He took the federal money and gave every law enforcement member or first responder \$1,000.

And we have a sheriff whose vision is: I will be engrained into this community. This community will not just see us showing up when a crime's been committed. It will be school functions and community functions and things where the community can relate to us.

What do you do in your free time?

I have five kids. All of them but one barrel-race competitively. I don't. But I saddle horses and feed horses and pet horses.

And then, I make it a point to get into the gym every day and try to keep myself as healthy and as in-shape as possible.

I hunt during hunting season.

I read a lot. I read everything. I just finished my fifth

book on the units that went into Afghanistan after 9/11.

My dad read incessantly. He was like, "If you want to stay sharp until you die, read."

Do you have a message for our readers?

I am very much involved in the community. I am here to make sure their needs – the needs that we can meet – are met.

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The Beaches Coalition: August 30 gathering

Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge eyes next summer completion

By Anthony Richards

The Beaches Coalition received an update on the new Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge community project taking place in Sawgrass.

Dale Pirkle, chief operations officer with LCPS Management Inc. and Vicar's Landing, was a guest speaker during the coalition's monthly meeting on Aug. 30 and said that the retirement community is planned to open in phases and be finished by late June or early July 2022.

The first phase will include all 43 cottages, the clubhouse and two flats.

According to Pirkle, the clubhouse must be completed before anyone can move into the community.

The remainder of the project will follow



Photos by Anthony Richards

Dale Pirkle, chief operations officer with LCPS Management Inc. and Vicar's Landing, gave an update about the new Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge retirement community during the Aug. 30 Beaches Coalition meeting.

suit in phase two, and a total of 175 independent living units, 42 assisted living units with extended congregate-care and 18 memory-care units will be constructed once finished.

The memory-care and assisted-living facilities will be at the front entrance off of A1A. The clubhouse will have designated fitness, game room and private dining areas.

"This isn't a separate community; it's just an extension of Vicar's," Pirkle said.

That means the amenities can be utilized by members of either community.

Vicar's at Oak Bridge will be on about 42 acres, with 20 of that designated as "land to build on" and the rest is "green space," including a seven-acre lake that Pirkle said could have fish stocked in it.

Pirkle emphasized that the need for such a community is needed within the area, as evident by the 225 names on the waiting list before construction even started.

"Folks are aging, where do they go?" Pirkle asked.

Once complete, the community will employ about 100 people, most of which will be centering around the medical facilities portion of the complex.

Although Vicar's was originally founded by the Rev. Dr. Jim Cooper at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra, it is not an Episcopal-only operation.

"It's an all-denomination and for every-

Beaches Go Green establishes presence at local schools

Beaches Go Green founder Anne Marie Moquin continued the guest speaker presentations by talking about the use of plastics and how she believes people should begin to rethink their use of them.

"We're not an anti-plastic organization," Moquin said.

According to Moquin, it is the use of one-time plastics that she wants to see cut down. "Plastics do not break down," Moquin said. "Instead, they break down into microplastics."



Photos by Anthony Richards

Anne Marie Moquin spoke about Beaches Go Green and the ways they are getting involved at local schools.

She said that she has read studies where microplastics have been found in the air, water and the animals and vegetables that we eat daily.

The primary mission of Beaches Go Green is to help educate the public about the effect plastics can have and why something needs to be done to stop its use.

Part of the education initiative focuses on student clubs at both Ponte Vedra and Nease high schools in recent years.

That includes working with the school to get reusable water bottles for sports teams at PVHS.

More than 4,800 reusable bottles have been distributed in the community since fall 2020, including 1,200 at Davis Park.

That number will grow even more this year with 600 bottles being given to the Nease athletics program.

Getting into schools is one of the best ways to make sure the organization's message spreads among the younger generation.

"It's all about educating yourself and then getting out and doing something about it," Moquin said.

UPCOMING MEETING: September 20, 10 a.m. to noon at the Ponte Vedra Public Library

TPC Sawgrass superintendent wins Environmental Leaders in Golf Award

Four golf course superintendents – including the director of golf course operations for TPC Sawgrass – have been named winners of the 2021 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards (ELGA), which are presented annually by Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Golf Digest in partnership with Syngenta.



Jeff Plotts

Eight runners-up also received recognition for their environmental efforts.

The awards have recognized superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship since 1993, but in 2018 the ELGAs were updated to recognize more superintendents in more focused areas of environmental sustainability.

Instead of offering national awards based on facility type, the newer version of the ELGAs is based on the environmental best management practices and honor specific areas of focus.

The Innovative Conservation Award, which recognizes unique and innovative strategies for conservation, went to Jeff Plotts, director of golf course operations for TPC Sawgrass.

Each year, the golf world's eyes are

Tournament on Stadium course to fund medical care for those lacking access

By Shaun Ryan

Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation will hold its annual Mulligans for the Mission event presented by HNI Healthcare on Sept. 26 and 27. The event at TPC Sawgrass benefits the nonprofit's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry, which provides quality, compassionate health care services directly to those in need.

The event is a critical cornerstone in funding for this award-winning program, said Virginia Hall, president and chief development officer at Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation.

Since its inception, Mulligans for the Mission has raised more than \$5.6 million for the Mobile Health Outreach Ministry – the only mobile provider of free acute and preventive medical care in Northeast Florida.

"We are thrilled to once again host this annual event that gives back so much to our community," Hall said. "Through

events like these, we bolster support for our most vulnerable neighbors and help provide hope and healing straight to their doorsteps."

The Mobile Health Outreach Ministry serves residents of Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Nassau and Putnam counties who do not have insurance coverage.

It provides free school physicals and free immunizations and offers both pediatric and adult treatment. It provides medications for diabetes and other disease management. It also supports the elderly in Jacksonville and Putnam County.

"Think of it as a doctor's office on wheels, out supporting people who don't have access to care," Hall said.

The impact of this service is huge, Hall said. More than 12,000 patients are served annually.

"As you can imagine, throughout the

Inaugural PXG Women's Match Play Championship VIP Event in photos

The following are photos from the Inaugural PXG Women's Match Play Championship VIP Kickoff Reception event hosted by Bentley and Maserati Jacksonville on Aug. 17.

It was a promotional event for the championship, which is scheduled to take place Oct. 26 to Nov. 4 with some of the best up and coming women's golfers playing at the World Golf Village.

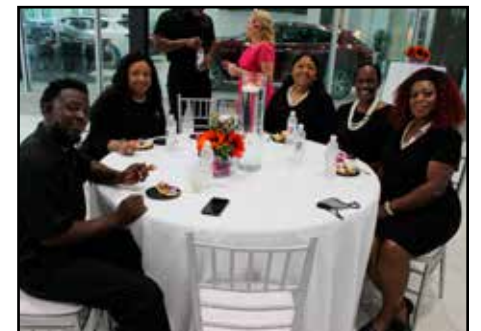


Katie Graham and Dawn Rodriguez

photos by Anthony Richards



Ali Pressel and Donna Lueders



Leon McFadden, Alisa Seymore, Sharon Smith, Patricia Green, and Renee Durham



Jennifer Grippa, Erika Nelson, and Angie Lobb.



Bentley Jacksonville general manager T.J. Samhuri (arms folded in center) is surrounded by staff members at the dealership.



Kim Collier, Keith Kessler, and Brooke Laskey



Brian Huddleston, Kaitlyn Durrance, and Thurman Morris.



Kristen Knudsen and Sara Pomposo



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Hugs Across the County seeks volunteers, donations for new school year

By Anthony Richards

With a new school year underway, that means a lot of children need assistance with much more than just their homework.

That is where local nonprofit Hugs Across the County has been making the biggest difference since being founded by Brette Reiman 11 years ago.

The organization is looking for volunteers to help pack bags, each containing four outfits, five pairs of socks and underwear, as well as shampoo, soap and toothpaste.



Photos by Hugs Across The County

Hugs Clothing Program Coordinator Karen Burke of Ponte Vedra Beach and her volunteer team pack emergency clothing bags for local children in crisis.

Eighty bags have already been packed this year to be given out to children in need. Volunteers are also needed to help lead during the packing process.

"This year people have even donated shoes and school supplies to go in the bags," Reiman said.

The clothing initiative was the original program introduced and remains the nonprofit's largest among the four programs it offers, which also includes food, girls empowerment and new books.

"We always talk to the schools and the experts before we do anything," Reiman said.

The origins of the food program started six years ago with the "No Hungry Holidays" initiative, which focused on making sure students continued to have steady hot meals over the two-week Christmas break when they would not be able to rely on school meals.

The girls empowerment program centers around helping provide life skills to girls. The program is currently only in place at Murray Middle School in St. Augustine.

According to national nonprofit First Book, based out of Washington, D.C., roughly 60% of children from underserved communities do not have a single book in their home.

That stat was the reason behind the creation of the new book program.

"Over the years, we've donated some pretty substantial brand-new books to school libraries," Reiman said.

A new school year also coincides with a new era of sorts, as Reiman recently retired from her director position after 11 years and Angie Clarke and Rachel Erickson have taken over the roles of president and vice president, respectively.

"I'm excited about Angie and Rachel and believe they will continue to do great things for this community," Reiman said.

Erickson started as a volunteer at Hugs Across the County about two and a half years ago with the clothing program.

Referrals for clothes for students primarily come from school guidance counselors.

Shoes sizes four to adult are in high demand this year, and the community is asked to keep that in mind when donating.

Residents can get involved by donating either needed supplies or their time by going to www.stjohnshugs.org and by emailing info@stjohnshugs.org or calling 904-580-4847.

They can also stay up to date by visiting the Hugs Across the County Facebook and Instagram pages, where weekly "wish lists" are shared with items needed and which stores to find them at.

According to Reiman, the roots of Hugs Across the County began in 2010 when a small group of mothers got together, and

although they were active in their children's PTOs, were looking for ways to get back in the classroom setting.

She reached out to Cheryl Freeman, who is the volunteer services/RSVP coordinator with St. Johns County District Schools and was informed that The Webster School needed volunteers.

"Most parents or grandparents are working two jobs and they just don't have the time to volunteer," Reiman said. "As we were in the classrooms, we saw firsthand the need that's out there."

In 2017, Hugs Across the County became an official nonprofit 501 (c) (3).

"We realized it wasn't just Webster, but that there were thousands of kids throughout St. Johns County," Reiman said. "We have kids at every school that are in need."

Reiman credits all the success and help offered throughout the county over the years to the dedication and willingness to make a difference for the all-volunteer outfit.

"It has always been since day one, a community effort. It's been incredible to see the outpouring of support and the number of people looking out for our youngest neighbors."

-founder, Brette Reiman

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Mulligans

Continued from 8

ing access to care."

According to Hall, for every dollar donated, the Mobile Health Outreach Ministry is able to provide about \$2.86 worth of care.

This year's Mulligans for the Mission event starts with a dinner at the TPC Clubhouse at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 26. The event continues at 9 a.m. the next morning, when golfers will tee up on TPC Sawgrass's famous Stadium course. COVID-19 precautions will be taken in accordance with the CDC's recommendations at the time of the event.

The signature golf tournament can accommodate up to 122 players, but that's not the only way to get involved.

"We've got some great sponsorship opportunities that we'd love to have people participate in," said Hall. "It's a first-class tournament."

Michael Gonzales, president and CEO of event sponsor HNI

pandemic, a lot of people have lost insurance," Hall said, "and we've had even more calls for people need-

Healthcare, said that supporting this tournament aligns with his company's goal of providing innovative value-based health care.

"We are honored to partner with an organization that is performing the hands-on work needed to create healthy outcomes for our community as a whole," Gonzales said. "HNI Healthcare knows the innate value of personal health, and Mulligans for the Mission is an excellent opportunity to join together and garner much-needed funds for Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation and its vital mission."

HNI Healthcare provides physicians who work at hospitals, known as hospitalists. The company has been the tournament's title sponsor for three years. "We just appreciate people signing up to play or to sponsor," said Hall. "The more help we have, the more patients we can serve in the community."

**For more information, go to:
giventvincents.org/mulligans-for-the-mission.**

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Sawgrass

Continued from 8

focused on TPC Sawgrass and Plotts' work during THE PLAYERS Championship. The 27-year association member has been at TPC Sawgrass since 2015.

Flowers have played a big role in aesthetic value of the landscape during television broadcasts of THE PLAYERS. By developing a wildflower initiative with native seeds, Plotts and his staff have been able to grow large numbers of flowers that can be used throughout the property.

Previously annual flowers would have to be changed out 3-4 times per year. The

native wildflowers are hardier, require fewer inputs and can be maintained through multiple seasons or years. The savings related to flowers of \$75,000 a year is then used for ongoing reforestation of property after hurricanes damaged trees in 2017 and 2018.

In all, more than 1,500 trees have been planted at TPC Sawgrass in the last three years as part of the reforestation project. Like the wildflowers, the tree species are native to the area and include oak, pine and magnolia trees. The success of the wildflowers has also resulted in the planting of native grass species to accompany the wildflower plantings.

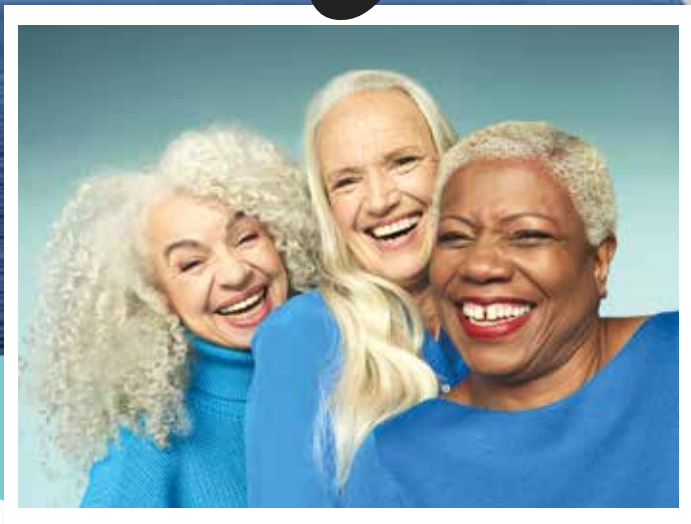
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with Dr. Anthony Magnano



Photos by Shaun Ryan

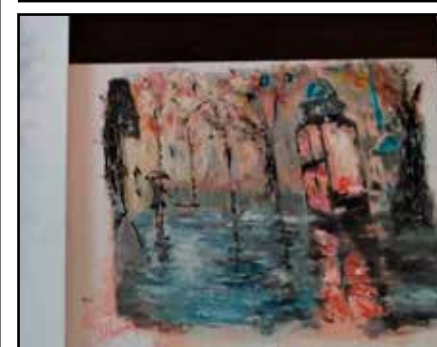
ABOVE: Jerry Norton's portrait of Abraham Lincoln sits on its own easel.

TOP MIDDLE: Jerry Norton has painted all 45 U.S. presidents.

LOWER MIDDLE: Artist Jerry Norton shows off portraits he did of dogs. The golden retriever in the center is Prince, Norton's own dog.

TOP RIGHT: Among artist Jerry Norton's work is a series of paintings of boats.

LOWER RIGHT: Jerry Norton's paintings depict a wide range of subjects.



Starling resident publishing book featuring his art

By Shaun Ryan

One of the most surprising things about Jerry Norton is his humility.

"I'm always embarrassed to say I'm an artist."

he says, while sitting in a room filled with evidence of his artistic achievement.

There are portraits of dogs, paintings of sailboats and more. But even these are but an introduction to Norton's work. In another room – a studio in Starling at Nocatee Independent Living, where Norton lives – every surface is occupied, mostly by pictures of historic figures, including each of the 45 presidents. (If you count 46, it's because Grover Cleveland was elected to two nonconsecutive terms.)

In all, Norton estimates that he has produced about 400 paintings.

And he's done it all in just two years.

As an artist, Norton, who first set brush to canvas at age 88, might be considered a late bloomer. But he might not have discovered his talent had it not been for something so often affiliated with age: chronic pain.

It was at the Mayo Clinic that he learned how creative outlets could help mitigate the pain.

So, at first, he returned to a pastime he'd discovered in his post-retirement years: writing. It did help, but he discovered the process of composition too often left the door open for pain to sneak back in. So, he tried something new, painting.

"When I paint, I don't feel any pain,"

he said. "When I'm mixing colors, I don't feel any pain. When I'm painting, putting things on the easel, I don't feel pain. And that really surprised me."

And that's when he began to paint for eight, pain-free hours a day.

Soon, many of those paintings will appear in a book he is publishing titled "Faces in America History – From My Palette." The book features his portraits of the presidents with a short bio for each to give historical context with key legislation and events of each administration. Included are portraits of other significant figures from that period.

Columbia, Grumman and Beyond

Norton attended high school in Long Island, New York, and went on to college at St. Lawrence University, which was less than 20 miles from the Canadian border and offered too many temptations to visit the Great White North.

Two years into his collegiate career, his absences from class got him "thrown out," as he recalled.

Norton entered the military, where he was stationed on Enewetak Atoll, Marshall Islands, during the atomic bomb tests conducted there after the end of World War II. It was during this time that Norton discovered an interest in electronics.

After completing his military duty, he was admitted to Columbia University with the help of Edwin Howard Armstrong, the developer of FM radio. Armstrong was a professor emeritus at Columbia, and Norton's father was his patent lawyer.

Norton earned a degree in electrical engineering and upon graduation landed a job at Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp., where he worked for the next 40 years, starting as a radar engineer and rising to director of engineering at the Melbourne, Florida, division. He retired in 1992 and moved to Ponte Vedra Beach.

Three years later, he began coaching football for kids. His hobby of sports photography for all the kids' teams got him an offer to cover games for The Ponte Vedra Recorder, which he did from 1995 until two years ago. He also covered the Jaguars for The Orlando Sentinel.

Painting the presidents

Norton didn't originally plan to paint all the presidents. He was doing a series of paintings of kids, but found it difficult to paint their faces. So, to get some practice in that area, he did a portrait of Santa Claus. Then, Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, Barack Obama and Donald Trump. "All of sudden, I was doing presidents," he said.

At first, he didn't know what to do with all these portraits. But then, he was inspired to create "Faces in America History – From My Palette."

It won't be his first book – he's written five others. But it will be the first featuring his paintings. The book is to be published in September.

Norton said he previously never suspected he could paint, maintaining that he "can't even sketch."

He works from pictures, as do many

renowned artists, but admits he must struggle against his technical background.

"My engineering mind says it has to be really perfect," he said. "If you want a picture, take a picture of it. Why paint it?"

But paint it he does. And his commitment to perfection may be the reason his portraits are immediately identifiable.

"The placement of things like eyes and nose make all the difference in the world if you're trying to create a particular person," he said.

He uses the Zorn palette – named for Swedish portrait painter Anders Zorn – which typically employs only ivory black, titanium white, cadmium red and yellow ochre.

"I always start with the eyes on anything," Norton said. "When I do dogs, I do the eyes first, because eyes are so important in making whatever it is look like who they are."

He said he finds painting women "extremely challenging" and painting whiskers and beards "really hard," but you wouldn't know it by the pieces he's produced.

He likes to work in three-quarter profiles and relies on shadows to produce depth. He paints in water-soluble oils, which requires planning to ensure light colors are not buried in dark ones.

Anticipating publication of his book, Norton took time recently to ponder this new, creative chapter in his life.

"I really enjoy it," he said with satisfaction. "And not only do I enjoy it, it serves a purpose. I makes for pain-free hours."



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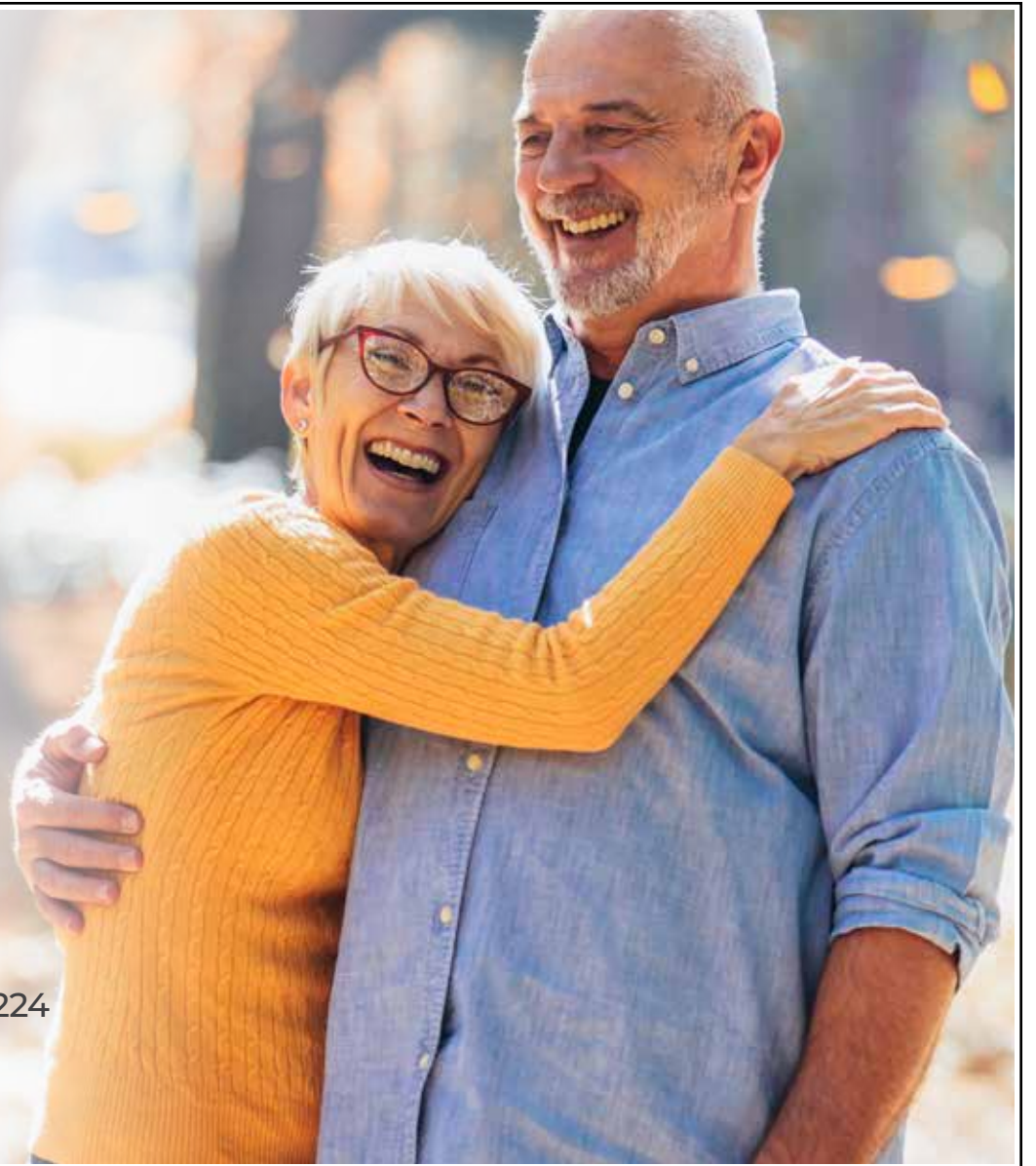
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SEPTEMBER 2021 EVENTS:

The following programs will be held at COA Center at Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee, at 351 Town Plaza Avenue in Ponte Vedra. Registration is required, and space is limited.

To review course and price details and to register for courses, please visit <https://coasjc.coursetorm.com/category/river-house>.

To register for free programs and clubs, please email pbrunell@coasjc.org or call 904-819-3234.

COURSES:

- Tai Chi – Wednesdays, starting September 1, runs 5 weeks: Class time 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$30.
- Chair Yoga: Tuesdays, starting September 7, runs 4 weeks; Class time 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$30.

FREE EVENTS & CLASSES:

- Book Swap: Tuesday, September 7 – Class time 10-11:30 a.m.
- Mosaic Art: Wednesday, September 8 – Class time 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Mind/Diet Cooking Demo with Carla Defuria: Wednesday, September 8 – Class time 2-3 p.m.
- Library Training: Tuesday, September 14 – Class Time 1-3 p.m.
- Senior Medicare Patrol Lecture – Fraud, Errors & Abuse: Wednesday, September 15 – Class time 2-3 p.m.
- Holistic Guide to Cancer Prevention: Wednesday, September 15 – Class time 11 a.m.-noon
- Scrapbooking: Tuesday, September 21 and the third Tuesday of each month – Class time 10-11 a.m.
- Advanced Care Planning: Wednesday, September 22 – Class time 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Basic Genealogy: Wednesday, September 22 – Class time 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- Cancer Management Lecture from Flagler Health+ Oncology Nurses: Wednesday, September 29 – Class time 2 p.m.

FREE CLUBS AND MEETINGS: TUESDAY CLUBS:

- Book Swap - 1st Tuesday of every month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Bring a book and connect with other readers in the community. Leave a book you think others would enjoy and take a book home to read
- Widows and Widowers - Social group meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m

- Scrapbooking Club - Do you enjoy scrapbooking? Come and join a group of others who enjoy this craft. Bring your own supplies or bring some you would like to exchange with others. Meeting the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon.

- Caregiver Support Group - This group meets weekly to give caregivers a chance to discuss current issues. With a caregiver's schedule, we know you will not be able to attend every week, but we want to be here when you can. This group meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m. There is a trained facilitator present at every meeting to guide the group.

WEDNESDAY CLUBS:

- Community Crafting - Bring your craft and work on it with friends. Get new ideas and socialize with other crafters. This group meets every Wednesday from 9:30 to 11 a.m.
- Plant and Garden Group - This new group will have their initial meeting on Wednesday, September 1st at 10 a.m. The group will plan their future activities at this meeting.
- Just 4 Us LBGT+ Social Club -The COA invites LBGT+ Community Seniors to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Photos by Metro Creative Connection



NEW CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Leg shank | 38. Leaseholder |
| 5. A way to recognize | 39. Frogs, toads, tree toads |
| 11. "VeggieTales" character | 40. Popular dance |
| 12. Getting out of by cunning | 43. Sailing maneuver: tack & _ |
| 16. Mythological mountain | 44. Indicates speed of rotation (abbr.) |
| 17. Atomic #18 | 45. Mark |
| 18. Viscous liquid | 49. Health insurance |
| 19. 2010 Denzel film | 50. Custom clothing brand |
| 24. 12th star in a constellation | 51. One who makes suits |
| 25. Made better | 53. Execute or perform |
| 26. Pouches | 54. Degree of pleasantness when tasting |
| 27. Nervous twitch | 56. Equal to roughly 5.6 bushels |
| 28. This (Spanish) | 58. Blood group |
| 29. Tennis legend Bjorn | 59. Imaginary line |
| 30. Hand (Spanish) | 60. Hopeless |
| 31. Afrikaans | 63. Darken |
| 33. Int'l interpreters organization (abbr.) | 64. Spoke |
| 34. Treated with kid gloves | 65. Work units |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. A way to fit out | 32. Promotional material |
| 2. Football carries | 33. Green vegetable |
| 3. Force out | 34. National capital |
| 4. Maintaining equilibrium | 35. To any further extent |
| 5. Sealed with a kiss | 36. Swollen, inflamed lymph node |
| 6. Type of container | 37. Anger |
| 7. Hollywood | 38. Pound |
| 8. We | 40. Popular Yugo |
| 9. Small freshwater ducks | 41. Salt of acetic acid |
| 10. Norse personification of old age | 42. Millihenry |
| 13. Says who you are | 44. Israeli city __ Aviv |
| 14. Candidate | 45. Make wider |
| 15. Sugar found in honey and sweet fruits | 46. Drink containing medicine |
| 20. Defunct language (abbr.) | 47. Acknowledging |
| 21. Take too much | 48. Private, romantic rendezvous |
| 22. Iranian province | 50. Calvary sword |
| 23. Records electric currents | 51. Disease of the lungs |
| 27. __ and feathers | 52. 2001 Spielberg film |
| 29. Beloved Mr. T character | 54. Fleshy, watery fruit |
| 30. More (Spanish) | 55. In one's chambers |
| 31. Beverage | 57. Set of information (abbr.) |
| | 61. Dorm employee |
| | 62. Indicates position |

Team to offer COVID informational workshops

Provided by ElderSource

Misinformation about the COVID-19 virus and vaccine is often a reason some people do not get vaccinated.

The Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center, with funding from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs through ElderSource, is seeking to help increase vaccination rates by offering free workshops countering myths and eliminating doubt about the COVID vaccines.

The free workshops are offered every other Monday at Community Health Outreach, at 5126 Timuquana Road and every other Tuesday at Daily Manna Serving Center, 2659 Edison Ave. Both are in Jacksonville.

In addition, community and church leaders are invited to contact the Health Education Center to schedule sessions. English- and Spanish-speaking facilitators are available to present classes in Duval,

Clay, Baker, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns and Volusia counties.

Each session features general facts about the COVID-19 virus, the health impacts and long-term effects, as well as information about how the vaccine works in the body and possible side effects.

Facts and myths about the vaccine and how to overcome vaccine hesitancy will also be presented.

Most workshops also offer the opportunity for participants to get vaccinated onsite, said Tonia Harris, Health Education Center executive director.

“For the past month, I have been out in the community listening to people about why they are scared to get the vaccine,” Harris said. “Their fear is real, but I believe this workshop can have a positive effect on their understanding about the virus and the vaccine; and we hope we can ease their fear to change their minds.”

ElderSource has received funding from state and federal sources to promote the importance of getting the vaccine, said ElderSource CEO Linda Levin.

“These workshops are a vital piece in providing timely and accurate information to the community,” Levin said.

For more information, or to schedule a workshop, call The Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center at 1-888-784-8486.



photo provided by Media Creative Connection

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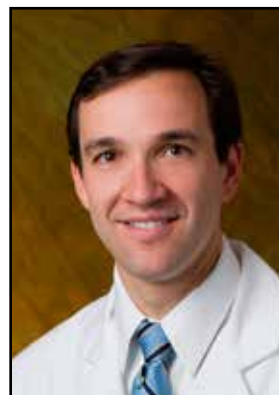
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Heart attack and stroke symptoms: Know the signs for emergency heart care

By Anthony Magnano M.D., Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside



Dr. Anthony Magnano

COVID-19 has changed many aspects of our lives, but here is something that remains critically important: if you need medical care, don't delay — get

it when you need it. As a chief of cardiology at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside, I've seen patients who have waited until they are much sicker than normal to receive the heart care they need. Unfortunately, when patients wait to get care, heart damage can increase. That's why it's crucial to know the signs of emergency cardiac events like heart attack and stroke.

The Essential Signs of Stroke

You know you're having a stroke when your face, arm or leg grows weak and numb, especially on one side of the body. Other common effects are sudden confusion, trouble speaking, seeing or walking and headaches. When you suspect a stroke, remember the acronym F.A.S.T. That stands for face drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty, time to call 911.

It's also important to understand the risk factors associated with stroke, so you know if you or someone you love is susceptible. About three out of four people who have a stroke for the first time have high blood pressure. Atrial fibrillation — an irregular heart rhythm — is present in about one out of five strokes. In addition, diabetes can increase your risk of stroke, as can drinking, smoking and being overweight.

Don't Ignore These Signs of Heart Attack

Heart attack (or myocardial infarction) symptoms may differ from stroke, but they are just as threatening to your health. Chest discomfort is the primary sign of heart attack, though it may present as more of a dull, heavy pressure. Additional symptoms include shortness of breath and aches in the arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach as well as other parts of the upper body. Other possible symptoms may include nausea, cold sweats and lightheadedness. It is important to remember that some heart attacks can present without chest pain as the main symptom, especially in women or

the elderly. It's crucial to be aware of risk factors that make you more likely to have a heart attack. Smoking substantially increases your chances of heart attack. Advancing age along with other conditions like high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity also are important risk factors for heart attack. Many of these risk factors can be controlled, which is why a prevention-oriented approach to your health is so important.

How Hospitals Are Keeping Patients Safe

Patients are justifiably worried about COVID-19 and its highly contagious delta variant. This variant is a critical threat to our lives, and it is critically important to get vaccinated, because people of all ages can become extremely ill and potentially die from this virus. Many people have returned to wearing masks and staying out of highly trafficked indoor spaces. However, stroke and heart attack victims must know that the most protected and appropriate place to receive care is still an emergency room. Hospitals are equipped to safely protect patients from potential exposure to COVID-19 while taking care of their emergent health concerns. All patients and staff are tested regularly. Separate intake and care areas, waiting room distancing, staff screening, ongoing use of personal protective equipment and extensive safety and sanitation protocols are in place to ensure all patients are cared for in a protected environment. The health system continuously monitors guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and adjusts safety practices and safeguards accordingly.

Signs You Need to Call 911

Don't take any chances. Call 911 when you first suspect a heart attack, stroke or other heart emergency. Acting fast could save your life or a loved one's. Don't assume it's "nothing." Some heart attacks can happen suddenly, but do not ignore a more gradual onset of mild discomfort. Listen to your body and call 911 if you feel any discomfort in the chest or upper body, experience shortness of breath, break out in cold sweats, or have nausea or lightheadedness.

Don't ignore the symptoms in fear of COVID-19 exposure. No patient should delay their care in an emergency. Trust that hospitals are the best place to receive adequate care and treatment while staying safe from COVID-19.

Dr. Anthony Magnano is a Ponte Vedra resident and chief of cardiology at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside. For more information on Dr. Magnano and his specialty treating atrial fibrillation, visit [Healthcare.ascension.org](https://www.healthcare.ascension.org).



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PLAYERS senior center is the place to stay active, see friends

By Shaun Ryan

The Council on Aging’s PLAYERS Community Senior Center is the place to be as it continues to open up and add activities following a closure of more than a year in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The center held a well-attended grand reopening on June 24 and attendance has steadily increased since then.

Program coordinator Nancy Walzer said seniors who regularly visit the center are “very excited” to be back.

“We had a grand reopening, and some of them were actually in tears because they hadn’t seen anybody for a year and a half,” she said. “So, they’re very excited to be back for the social aspect. Today, they were playing Wii Bowling, and you could hear the laughter.”

“I walked by and a couple of people said, ‘Oh, it’s so good to be back.’”

Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 7, the center will be open four days a week: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

On Sept. 14, the center will begin offering lunches from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays

and Thursdays. There is a charge, and anyone who would like to buy lunch must first sign up.

The center’s calendar is a busy one with many fun activities, some of which are new this year. Inside, there will be bingo, chair yoga, euchre card club, croquet, Dominoes with Jack, social bridge club, mahjonn, tai chi, a book club and more. There are special movie mornings, complete with freshly popped popcorn and candy.

Acrylic painting sessions are planned, with occasional visits from art instructors.

Outside, there will be porch shuffleboard, mini-putt, croquet and possibly horseshoes. Staff is also considering the creation of a gardening club.

“We’re starting a little pen-pal program where some of the seniors will be paired up with local elementary schools,” said center coordinator Alison Vitti. They will write back and forth or do cards or little crafts. So, it’s intergenerational.”

For Wii Bowlers, there is an added incentive to hone their skills. A tournament between teams from senior centers across the nation is planned for the fall.

Once again, the center will be hosting speakers, who will give diverse and interesting presentations. Some speakers already

PLAYERS continues on Page 21

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Coaching Up on Long-term Care



Ric Schilling
Guest Columnist

When someone hears or sees the words “long-term care,” the first thing that often comes to mind is a nursing home. This association has negative connotations for most of us, who assume that: (1) the only

place for long-term care is a nursing home; (2) we never want to go there; and (3) we certainly don’t want to talk about it. Isn’t it funny we talk least about the things that concern us the most?

Understanding the Words and Phrases

Two important terms, “extended care” instead of “long-term care.” Extended care is assistance that a person needs because he or she has a long-term impairment. The care can be provided in different settings, such as, at home, an adult day care center, an assisted living facility, or a nursing home.

The two types of impairments that require extended care are acute and chronic. An acute impairment is a sudden event that requires immediate medical attention under a plan of care created by a physician and executed by skilled medical and nursing staff. The expectation is that some

degree of recovery is possible and, if treated in time, a full recovery is expected. A chronic impairment is a condition that cannot be cured but can be managed. Most extended care events are driven by a chronic impairment or a combination of chronic impairments. The chronic impairments that relate to someone needing extended care are either physical or cognitive. As these chronic conditions progress, they compromise an individual’s ability to get through the most basic daily routines, called activities of daily living (ADLs).

The six ADLs are:

Mobility/Transferring, Toileting, Bathing, Dressing, Eating, Continence

A cognitive impairment is the deterioration or loss of intellectual capacity, as certified by a licensed health care practitioner. It is measured by clinical evidence and standardized tests that reveal memory or reasoning loss. The biggest concern for those with cognitive impairment is for their safety.

The two levels of care that an impairment may require are skilled or custodial. Skilled care is provided by a licensed physician, a nurse, or some other licensed professional under a plan of care created by a physician. Custodial care is provided by non-skilled personnel. This custodial care can fall into the category of informal

or formal. Informal care is provided by family, friends, or volunteers and is not paid. Formal care means those performing the care are receiving compensation and are employed by a home care company or are licensed independently.

I Have Medicare So I’m Covered

“I have Medicare, so I don’t have to worry about extended-care costs,” is something that many people have erroneously stated. Medicare is health insurance, and it pays for skilled care that is provided by licensed medical personnel, occupational and physical therapists, and other related medical costs. It does not pay for custodial care of any type. This same response would apply to those younger individuals who do not yet have Medicare but are covered by an individual or group health insurance plan.

As we learned above, custodial care is either informal or formal. The cost of formal custodial care is paid for from private funds (usually by the patient) or out of a long-term care insurance policy, or a combination of the two. The informal care is provided by friends, family, and volunteers. Although there may or may not be a monetary cost for informal care, there is certainly a physical and psychological cost that cannot be ignored.

Cost of Custodial Care

The cost of care varies by the geographic location of the person needing care and

the setting in which the care is provided. It also varies by the length of time someone requires extended care.

Formal home care from an agency can cost between \$18 and \$30 per hour. Most agencies require a minimum of four hours per day. Many times, home care will begin with two or three days per week. The primary motivation is for the informal caregiver to be relieved of duty to take care of other responsibilities or just get a short respite break.

If the need for formal care increases to a point where around-the-clock care is needed, then the cost can be over \$20,000 per month. By contrast, the monthly cost of an assisted living facility is typically between \$4,300 and \$6,000. A nursing home typically costs twice as much as assisted living.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration on Aging (AOA), around 70% of people over the age of 65 will require some form of extended care during their lifetime. The average woman will need 3.7 years and the average man 2.2 years. There is no mention of where the care will be provided, but a large portion is at-home care.

The AOA further states that if care is provided in an assisted living facility, the average stay is 28 months. The average stay in a nursing home is 485 days. The AOA reports that 43% of the residents of nursing homes were there for less than 100

SCHILLING continues on Page 21

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New tax proposals mean you should review your estate plan

By Dan Armstrong, attorney, Ponte Vedra Beach

As we have written previously, a number of tax proposals being considered in Congress could significantly affect gifting and estate plans. There are planning strategies to help protect your estate from future tax changes, so now is a good time to look at your estate plan and see if you need to make adjustments.

Under Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' For the 99.5 Percent Act, the estate tax exemption would be reduced from \$11.7 million for individuals and \$23.4 million for couples to \$3.5 million for individuals and \$7 million for couples. Any estate that is valued at under the exemption amount will not pay any federal estate taxes, while those exceeding the exemption threshold would be subject to a progressively increasing tax rate that starts at 45 percent. The act would also slash the lifetime gift tax exemption from \$11.7 million to \$1 million, although individuals would still be able to give away \$15,000 a year without the gift counting toward the lifetime limit.

Another proposal in the Senate is the Sensible Tax and Equity Promotion (STEP) Act, which would eliminate the step-up in basis that beneficiaries receive when they inherit property. The proposal would require an estate to pay tax on all previously untaxed gains. This means that if an estate includes property that has increased in value, the estate would have to pay taxes on that increase. However, the act would allow the first \$1 million of appreciated assets to pass without taxation. In addition, families that inherit a farm or business would be able to pay the tax in installments over a 15-year period. Any taxes paid under the bill would be deductible from the estate tax.

President Biden has also introduced his tax proposals, which include an increase of the capital gains tax rate to 40 percent. This would apply only to income over \$1 million. Biden's proposal also contains a similar elimination of the step-up in basis as the STEP Act. In addition, the proposal targets dynasty trusts. The income that has appreciated in a dynasty trust may be subject to capital gains if it hasn't been subject to recognition in the past 90 years. There would also be no valuation discounts when calculating capital gains.

It isn't clear which if any of these proposals will make it all the way through Congress and get signed into law, but with Democrats in control of both houses of Congress and the presidency, some changes are likely.



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It is difficult to plan given such uncertainty, but the following are some options to talk to your attorney about before any of these proposals become law.

Continued from 20

- Maximize the use of available exemptions by transferring assets into a trust before the end of the year. There are a number of different types of trusts that might be beneficial, including a spousal lifetime access trust (SLAT). Don't forget about the generation-skipping transfer tax exemption, which allows you to transfer funds to a trust that benefits grandchildren.
- Consider including charities in your estate plan. A charitable remainder trust allows you to provide yourself and your spouse income during your lifetime and leave the remainder to a charity. Profits from the trust are not subject to capital gains taxes and the trust can help reduce your taxable estate.
- Include a disclaimer in any trust you may have that would change provisions if there are changes to the tax code. To be effective, the disclaimer has to be carefully crafted.
- To avoid paying capital gains taxes on appreciated assets, consider borrowing money and putting it into a trust instead.
- Consider giving away a fractional interest in property before the end of the year and any valuation discounts may be eliminated.
- Make sure you have enough liquidity in your estate to pay any possible taxes that are due. You can do this using life insurance or through borrowing or increasing access to credit.
- Before taking any steps, talk to your estate planning attorney about what you can do now to protect your estate from future tax changes.

Dan W. Armstrong is an attorney based in Ponte Vedra Beach. He specializes in elder law, estate planning and corporate law. For more on Dan: danarmstrong.com

Players

Continued from 20

U.S. Army Reserve will speak on the proper disposal of medications.

Walzer on the many reasons to visit:

"We're doing a Jaguars kickoff party on one of the Thursdays coming up in September because we have a lot of local fans," said Walzer.

There are birthday parties and centenarian luncheons for attendees age 90 and older. A Halloween costume party and Oktoberfest are also in the works.

And if all this doesn't keep seniors busy, the center has a lending library with books and DVDs, a variety of board and dice games and puzzles to solve.

Go to coasjc-ponte-vedra-center to see the calendar and learn more about classes, events, lunch menus and transportation for those who do not drive.

The center is located at 175 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra. The phone number is (904) 280-3233.

NEW SUDOKU

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Schilling

Continued from 19

days, leaving 57% with a stay of more than 100 days.

Suggestions

There is no doubt that an extended care event can be not only emotionally draining, but also financially draining. The key to being prepared for the possibility of experiencing an extended care event is to plan. Older adults should find a professional who can assist in preparing a customized plan that fits their unique circumstances.

Look for members of the financial services community that hold the following designations: CLTC (Certified in Long-Term Care); CASL (Certified Advisor for Senior Living); or CSA (Certified Senior Advisor).

Seniors can also ask friends and associates if they have a relationship with a financial professional who is competent in the extended care arena. Their financial services professional can also recommend a competent professional. Visit our website for more information on this subject.

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



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Chamber Breakfast with Mark Lamping



The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast on Aug. 13, and Mark Lamping, president, Jacksonville Jaguars, far right, was the keynote speaker. In front of Lamping and the Chamber members sits a life-sized foam jaguar on loan from Ocean Sole.

FROM LEFT: Andy Jackson, Jackson Law Firm and Chamber Economic Development Council chair; Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber; and Dr. Erika Hamer, owner, Ponte Vedra Wellness Center and Chamber Board of Directors chair.

Covid crash underscores the maxim, 'Time to buy is when there's blood in the streets'



Harry Pappas Jr. CFP
Guest Columnist

If you are easily offended, I urge you to turn the page as I am going to be real with you; the raw and uncut version. This isn't your grandma's house, and I am not going to bake you cookies and coddle you. We are in the big leagues where investing is dangerous game. I suspect that much of your financial problems are caused by one person, you. If you are one of the crybabies that repeatedly play the victim card by blaming the government, your financial advisor or

corporate America for your troubles, you should focus on what you can change ... you. Ah! I feel much better now that I got that off my chest. We can now take a more academic approach to the subject matter. I sense that you might be getting annoyed and a bit irritated with my mode of expression. If so, I apologize for my candor and bluntness, but I feel so strongly about this subject that I want and need to get your attention. I don't want you to make similar mistakes that far too many have, especially during times of panic and euphoria. Sadly, these folks now rest in the Wall Street graveyards, as they learned the hard way about what follows.

The 2020 Covid stock market crash was an ugly and sudden global debacle that began on February 20, 2020, and ended on April 7, 2020. During this time, boatloads of investors bailed on their long term-game plan by succumbing to fear and dumping their stocks only to look back and realize their action was a mistake, especially when the stock market (S&P 500) has doubled in price from Covid bottom set on March 23, 2020, ending August 15, 2021! If you stayed the course, I applaud you for your discipline and perseverance. During the fiasco, if you were among the few that added money to your stock portfolio, I tip my hat to you in admiration! In any event, I think the remarkable advance to record highs during such a troubling time deserves a brief stroll down memory lane. The economic and stock market collapse started on March 9, 2020, when the Dow Jones Industrial Average (Dow) fell 2,014 points, a whopping 7.79% drop. Three days later, the Dow gave up another 2,352 points, just shy of a 10% beating, which entered the record books as the sixth-worst percentage drop in history. Then, a few days later, on March 16, the Dow plummeted nearly 3,000 points to close at 20,188, losing another 12.9%. When the stock market mess finally ended, the Dow lost an astonishing 37% in value in 29 trading days (February 12 to March 23).

During this anxiety-ridden time, fear was rampant, and the United States soon went into lockdown. Over 20 million jobs were lost, businesses closed, and the virus continued its attack with a vengeance. What was arguably more astonishing was that when the market bottomed, it took only 354 trading days for the S&P 500 to do the double. This implausible rise seems utterly confusing and counterintuitive, as there was a disconnect between the economy and the stock market. In other words, the economy was in a tailspin, but stocks moved higher! This

Tutoring Club shares tips for successful return to school



Kimberly Mullin
Guest Columnist

The Tutoring Club of St. Johns is offering tips to help St. Johns County students get a strong start as they go back to school.

According to Kimberly Mullins, the learning center's business owner, after a summer of time off from studies, routines and academic discipline, many students will need specific help getting back into the class routine with a solid beginning during the new school year. Mullins added that students with attention deficit disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder will need some more help than others.

Tips for a successful back to school experience for students:

- Establish a back-to-school routine. Set regular bedtimes and get up times, and set up a standard morning routine.
- Make sure middle school and higher education level students have a physical school planning book with days and subjects on each page with enough room to write down assignments. Planners with just the days included

are often too limited to be effective. Use abbreviations for each class to fit more on the calendar. For example: M for math; SC for science, and SO for social studies. Check the planner every night until students are following the book and tracking routines without parental or other guidance.

- Set up a daily morning, afternoon and evening checklist for students. For afternoons and evenings include items such as: Show parents the planner; choose clothes for school; finish homework; pack a bookbag and place it by the bedroom door and prepare bookbag. For the morning checklist include instructions such as: get dressed, brush hair, brush teeth, etc. Instead of telling your student or students what to do each day, ask them if they have reviewed the checklist and be sure they begin a habit of using the checklist each morning and afternoon, and help them complete each item to help reduce confusion.

- Purchase a magnetic message board for the refrigerator as a place for students to affix papers they'll need to complete, or that you need to review.

- Every Sunday, spend the time with students for at least 10 to 15 minutes and review the upcoming school week. Also, discuss items on the family calendar and review what is planned for the week. Look ahead for a week or two and identify any big projects, then ask how the student is planning to accomplish each project and help them organize projects into smaller tasks to complete over time.

St. Johns County Chamber Paints with a Twist

Painting with a Twist was an after hours event hosted Wednesday, Aug. 25 by the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. After hours events are held monthly. For more information on the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce www.sjchamber.com



Photos by Susan Griffin

ABOVE: Karen Patino, Libbi Poole, Lesley Vitel, and Jade Smith.

BELOW: Libbi Poole, Leonard Vitel, Lesley Vitel, and Karen Everett.



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Pappas

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dichotomy actually makes sense if we heed the wisdom of Baron Rothschild who said, “The time to buy is when there is blood in the streets.” This advice is what contrarian investing is all about, which is the belief that the more troubling things seem, the better the chance to make money. Of course, this wisdom is much easier to say, read and write than it is to put into practice. Nevertheless, it begs the question; why are most folks so afraid to step up to the plate (invest) when stocks get cheaper ... a lot cheaper, akin to the Covid crash? The answer is simple and straightforward; it is in our DNA to run for cover when things get bad. Most sell and ask questions later. Buying was not even a consideration for the majority, as investors were scared to death that the stock market would keep dropping with no end in sight. Therefore, it seemed prudent and rational to sell and wait until things settle down and the news gets better before heading back into the water. Nope! Nope! Nope! The game doesn’t work that way, as history has proven repeatedly.

The stock market constantly gives us opportunities like it did with the Covid crash, but I suspect only a handful of investors were brave enough to take advantage of the hysteria even when we know that history has proven time after time that when the herd thinks the world is going to end, it is often the time to buy ... certainly not to sell. Folks, there is always a lesson in our pain, as adversity creates opportunities. It is up to us to recognize and seize the moment, but before we can capture the opportunity, we have to conquer the battlefield of our mind, as it is our biggest enemy! The next time the messenger of misery pays the stock market a visit, I want you to be one of the few that don’t panic and steps up to the plate and hit it out of the park!

Stay emotionally prepared and be ready to pull the buy trigger. I believe in you, my bruddahs and sistas! -Harry Pappas Jr.

Harry Pappas Jr. CFP®

Managing director-investments; Master of Science Degree Personal Financial Planning; Certified Estate & Trust Specialist; Certified Divorce Financial Analyst
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Tutoring

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“Preparing students for success in the beginning of the school year helps parents and children recognize the warning signs of when students start to fall behind,” said Mullins. “When you begin to realize your student is off track, it is critical to get help early and provide enough time to address the challenges. Don’t wait for school, study and planning issues to impact their grades and even worse, their self-esteem.”

The Tutoring Club of St. Johns offers academic coaching that guides students through critical study skills to teach planner management, core organization skills and study skills. The learning center’s proprietary coaching and tutorial methods offer live, teacher-child interactions in each physical center, which allows children to concentrate and get the help they need with academic reinforcement and confidence building. National Tutoring Association certified tutors work at Mullins’ centers and are trained to work with students in education interventions to avoid any gaps that need to be alleviated. Additionally, many of The Tutoring Club educators are well-trained and experienced in the Orton-Gillingham Approach, a direct, explicit, multisensory, structured, sequential, diagnostic and prescriptive way to teach literacy when reading, writing and spelling does not come easily to students with dyslexia and a myriad of other learning challenges.

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The Tutoring Club of St. Johns locations include 605 State Road 13, Suite 109 in Fruit Cove and 2851 County Road 210 W., Suite 112 in St. Johns.



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Country music breakout Mitchell Tenpenny comes to Ponte Vedra



Mitchell Tenpenny, PV Concert Hall

Since the release of his debut single, “Drunk Me,” Riser House/Columbia Nashville artist Tenpenny has set new standards for breakout success in country

music. The double platinum-certified No. 1 hit was taken from his introductory album, “Telling All My Secrets,” and earned him the best first week showing for any major label country debut LP in 2018. To date, “Drunk Me” has amassed nearly 490 million on-demand streams. In the year that followed, the “winning” singer (The New York Times) was nominated for New Male Artist of the Year at the ACM Awards and Breakthrough Video (“Drunk Me”) at the CMT Music Awards and saw his “Alcohol You Later” single certify gold.

He also kicked off his first headlining concert series, the “Anything She Says Tour,” with labelmates and award-winning duo Seaforth, who joined as support and were also featured on the gold-selling song, “Anything She Says.”

During 2020’s pandemic, Mitchell delivered four songs to his fans including “Can’t Go To Church,” “Here,” his cover

of “Someone You Loved” and “Broken Up.” He also released the “Neon Christmas” EP for the holidays.

On New Year’s Day, Mitchell partnered with People Magazine to announce “Bucket List” and filmed the song’s music video in conjunction with the state of Arizona, crossing off a few of his bucket list places to visit, among them Sedona, the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley and Lake Powell/Antelope Canyon.

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

Attendees can avoid fees by purchasing tickets in person at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office. It is now open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays and accepts credit and debit card payments only. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office remains closed at this time.

Shinedown prepares to rock The Amp

First coast rock and roll fans are sure to rush to the virtual box office with excitement for this year’s lineup of big name performers. One band that is sure to produce a healthy turnout is Jacksonville’s own, Shinedown. Shinedown has made chart topping rock music since their emergence in the rock scene in the early 2000s. **This fall, Jacksonville’s rock station, 107.3 Planet Radio, will present Shinedown with special guest Dirty Honey at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Friday, October 8, 2021.** Tickets go on sale this Monday, May 17 at 10:00am at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Office and online at Ticketmaster.com.

Legendary punk band Flogging Molly to perform at The Amp

Legendary punk band Flogging Molly will take the stage at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Oct. 3. Special guests include Streetlight Manifesto, Me First And The Gimme Gimmes, and Thicke.

Starting out as the house band for Molly Malone’s in Los Angeles and building a loyal following through endless touring, Flogging Molly has become a staple in the punk scene over the past 20 years, kicking off with its raucous debut showcase, “Swagger,” and continuing through its five additional studio albums. With numerous late-night television appearances under their belt, its sell-out Salty Dog Cruise through the Caribbean and yearly St. Patrick’s Day Festival in Los Angeles, the band is currently working on the Rise Records follow-up to its latest LP, “Life Is Good.” Recently, the band reissued “Swagger” with exclusive tracks, an Irish traditional set, a 60-minute video feature and exclusive merchandise in a collectable box set.

Flogging Molly is comprised of Dave King (lead vocals, acoustic guitar, bodhran), Bridget Regan (violin, tin whistle, vocals), Dennis Casey (guitar, vocals), Matt Hensley (accordion, concertina, vocals), Nathen Maxwell (bass guitar, vocals), Spencer Swain (mandolin, banjo, guitar, vocals) and Mike Alonso (drums, percussion).

Tickets for Flogging Molly are available online at Ticketmaster.com. All tickets are now digital.



Photo of Flogging Molly provided by The St. Augustine Amp



Photo of Shinedown provided by The St. Augustine Amp

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Photo of Earth, Wind & Fire provided by The St. Augustine Amp



Earth, Wind & Fire to perform at The Amp

Legendary music group Earth, Wind & Fire will take the stage at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Oct. 14.

Earth, Wind & Fire is a musical institution. 2020 marked a year-long celebration of their 50th anniversary in entertainment – one that has taken them all around the globe playing sold-out concerts.

In 2019, their contributions to arts and culture were acknowledged in Washington, D.C., at the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors. The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery also awarded Earth, Wind & Fire its Portrait of a Nation Prize.

The band has scored eight No. 1 hits, sold more than 100 million albums worldwide and released 23 albums. Eight of those albums went double platinum and hit the Top 10, making Earth, Wind & Fire one of the best-selling musical acts of all time.

The group won an impressive nine Grammy Awards, including one for Lifetime Achievement (2012). In 2000, Earth, Wind & Fire was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, cementing its lasting impact on popular music.

For their record-breaking success, they've also been awarded lifetime achievement honors from ASCAP, NAACP and BET and have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Their reach extends to heads of state. They have been invited to perform for presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, who said in an interview with Rolling Stone that Earth, Wind & Fire was a “rhythm and blues and pop staple.”

Their achievements are equally matched by their generosity.

Over the years, the band has supported various charity organizations including the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Race to Erase MS and the American Cancer Society. In 2007, leader Philip Bailey founded Music Is Unity, which helps youth in foster care successfully transition into adulthood and provides music instruments to youth with musical aspirations but lacking the resources. Co-founder Verdine White has led important initiatives with the Girls & Boys Club of America and opened The Verdine White Foundation in Los Angeles as a mecca to serve youth with music scholarships and other programs.

The music of Earth, Wind & Fire is more alive than ever as they continue to inspire new audiences and thrill those who have been with them from the beginning.

Like the elements in their name, Earth, Wind & Fire's music has withstood ever-changing trends in the world and shows no sign of vanishing as they continue to create joy and uplifting music that will continue to draw fans.

Tickets for Earth, Wind & Fire are on sale at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office and online at Ticketmaster.com. All tickets are now digital.

Attendees can avoid ticket fees by purchasing tickets in person. The box office is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. It accepts credit and debit card payments only.

Guess Who?

I am a singer born on October 8, 1985 in Hawaii. I moved to Los Angeles after college to be a musician. Songs from my debut album became worldwide hits. My voice has been compared to Michael Jackson's.



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Sports

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LEFT: Marcus Stokes throws a pass against Ponte Vedra. He looks to lead Nease to another victory over Creekside this Friday.
RIGHT: Ponte Vedra's Bobby Kegley breaks a tackle against Nease.

Week 2 Football Preview

Panthers, Sharks move on from opening clash

By Anthony Richards

After battling each other on the gridiron in an emotional contest a week ago, Nease and Ponte Vedra now look to refocus themselves as they head into week two.

The Panthers won the Battle for the Bridge for the first time in 11 years, which led to quite the well-deserved celebration afterwards.

However, now the page turns, and head coach Colin Drafts believes his team is ready for a second-straight win against a county opponent when they host Creekside at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

"Anytime you start 1-0, you just start the season off on a positive note. It's hard to underestimate the impact of what that win meant,"

Drafts said.

It has been a while since Nease has been riding such a wave of momentum as it currently is on.

"It's definitely a new challenge for us," Drafts said.

Handling adversity is something the Panthers have worked on over the years but dealing with success is a new landscape that requires a different mental approach.

That approach will be tested as the Panthers host a Creekside squad that will also enter the contest 1-0 after beating Ribault 16-7 to open the season and have a big defensive front that can create problems for opposing teams.

Both teams only surrendered seven points in week one, which leads to all the makings of a defensive showdown that will come down to which offense can find the most production and make the best in-game adjustments.

It is the home opener for the Panthers, who are looking to end a three-year losing streak to the Knights.

For Ponte Vedra, the goal is to bounce back after the tough loss to Nease, which dropped them not only to 0-1 overall but also 0-1 in District 3-7A as they now share a district with the Panthers.

The Sharks will go on the road to face Class 3A Episcopal at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

The Eagles opened the season with a

42-22 victory over Toco Creek. However, it was the first ever game for the Toros as a new school and program, which makes it difficult to evaluate.

Scoring 42 points is impressive against any team and the Eagles have developed a track record of success in recent years with a 7-3 record last year and 10-2 the year before that.

One area of the game that the Sharks will look to improve is the consistent play of its offense, which showed segments of brilliance at times but struggled to sustain any moment and string drives together against the Panthers.

Wyatt Rogers demonstrated excellent hands on a couple of catches in the opener and seemed to have a connection with starting quarterback Benjamin Burk.

It will be interesting to see how that combination develops as the season continues.

Defensively, the Sharks were flying to the ball against the Panthers, but they just gave up some big plays at inopportune times, which led to the 14 points given up.

Limiting those big plays is something they will surely look to clean up moving forward.



Photos by Anthony Richards

LEFT: The Nease student section came out in full force to support their team against Ponte Vedra.

RIGHT: Nease and Ponte Vedra in action during last Friday's opener.



Furkys look ahead to Champions at JAGA meeting

The Jacksonville Amateur Golf Association held its monthly meeting Aug. 31 and welcomed Jim and Tabitha Furyk as guest speakers.

The couple talked about the upcoming inaugural Constellation Furyk and Friends Tournament at Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville on Oct. 4-10, which will be one of 24 points events on the PGA Tour Champions circuit this year.

Although the tournament is a new undertaking for the Furyks, it is not entirely out of the ordinary for a family that has been around the game of golf throughout their lives.

"Some of the best golfers on the Champions Tour will be taking to the course," Jim Furyk said.

Tabitha also informed that they had received word from three-time major winner Padraig Harrington that he will play the tournament for his first PGA Tour Champions event.

With seven tournaments left in the Champions Tour season, Furyk sits in second place in the standings and is attempting to become the first player to win the FedEx Cup and Charles Schwab Cup.

According to Jim, he met Tabitha years ago at the Memorial Tournament following a practice round and that is how their relationship got its start.

Former PGA Tour golfer Mark McCumber is the one that initially convinced Jim to move to the area decades ago, after explaining how great of a place it was to live.

He ended up buying a townhouse only three houses down from McCumber and met Tabitha about one month later.

"Twenty-five years later and we still call it home," Jim Furyk said.

After years of living in Ponte Vedra, the Furyks recently moved to the San Marco area of Jacksonville and made the decision based on their current children's school situation, who attend The Bolles School in Jacksonville.

According to Tabitha, with their children growing up and getting more involved with school sports, it just made the most sense in terms of everyone's busy schedule.

However, they still have a beach home in Ponte Vedra and continue to

JAGA continues on Page 29

Legacy beyond lacrosse

Nease, JU programs honor Lovrich by striving to 'win the day'

By Anthony Richards

Win the day. Those three simple words have come to mean so much for the Nease boys lacrosse program.

It was a mantra that Max Gurowski began preaching to his players since taking over as the team's head coach seven years ago.

The saying was a favorite of Gurowski's former Jacksonville University lacrosse teammate Corey Lovrich, who passed away in 2012 at the age of 21 after a battle with colon cancer.

According to Gurowski, Lovrich was a born leader and that resulted in him being named captain on the JU lacrosse squad as a sophomore, which is "extremely rare."

"The first time I shared it with them at practice, it got emotional because it was still so fresh," Gurowski said. "His legacy was one of extreme hard work and battling through adversity."

Nowadays, Lovrich still leads but he does it with that legacy, which Gurowski does his part to honor every day when he wakes up.

"He always told us to win the day," Gurowski said. "I think it's the least I can do as a teammate."

The No. 88 always holds special meaning at both Nease and JU, because that was the jersey number Lovrich wore.

After each practice, a Nease player of the day is chosen by his teammates

and awarded the honor of wearing the No. 88 jersey for the next practice.

"It is truly the top honor anyone can receive in the program," Gurowski said.

The number is retired at JU and the Dolphins created the "88 Win The Day Club," which people can donate to with the mission of enhancing the overall experience of the university's lacrosse student-athletes.

Someone who played lacrosse for the Panthers and now for the Dolphins is Matt Pounder, who has always felt a special connection to Lovrich's story ever since he first heard it.

"It kind of embodies my life," Pounder said. "You have to leave every day with a win."

According to Pounder, those "wins" are not just for on the field, but also in the game of life. A "win" can be anything from studying a little longer for a big test or doing a good deed for someone else.

"Striving to be the best person you can be, by being a little better than you were the day before," Pounder said.

Pounder said that if the number wasn't retired at JU, he would definitely wear the No. 88, as his former Nease teammate Ashton Wood does at Mercer. Jersey numbers are just one of the ways Nease lacrosse players past and present continue to carry on Lovrich's legacy. Both Nease and JU

wear No. 88 stickers on their helmets and the Dolphins have Lovrich's old jersey hanging in their locker room.

Other ways include Pounder, Christian House and Colin Long getting "win the day" tattoos, Bryce Pegram carving the saying in a pumpkin for Halloween and in the form of artwork created by Nease students.

According to Pounder, it was the "win the day" mindset that helped get him through his rehab process following a torn ACL prior to last season.

He got his tattoo, a "WTD" across his inside wrist shortly after getting ACL surgery on Oct. 7, 2020.

"Even though he didn't go to Nease, he has had such an impact on so many people there," Pounder said.

The lengths that former players are willing to go to demonstrate what "win the day" means to them is an example that those three words have grown into a culture at Nease and JU that only grows with each year that passes.

"It's all about attacking today, because we never know what it will bring,"

Gurowski said.

"We say every day that it goes much beyond winning. There's nothing like when guys (former players)



Photos provided by Max Gurowski

ABOVE: Cruz Dexter and Colin Long share the practice player of the day No. 88 jersey during the first week of 2021 practice.

BELOW: Recent Nease graduates Christian House and Colin Long show off their "win the day" tattoos.



JAGA

Continued from 26

be connected to the community, especially by supporting charities through the Furyk Foundation.

"One of the things I learned early as a PGA Tour player was how each event affected the communities they were in," Jim Furyk said.

The Furyks were involved in charity work prior to establishing the foundation in 2010 but forming the charity has allowed them to focus their impact even further.

"I had my best season on tour in 2010 and it just felt like the right time to get started," Jim Furyk said.

The highlight of Furyk's 2010 season, included winning the FedEx Cup Championship in 2010. Immediately following the JAGA meeting, the Furyks were on their way to catch a plane ride to Atlanta to take in Tour Championship this week.

In other notes from the meeting:

- JAGA is currently working on finalizing its 2022 schedule of events.

- The Jacksonville Amateur and First Coast Amateur events generated more than \$10,000 worth of revenue.

- There are 33 candidates (students) this fall that have applied for JAGA scholarships. JAGA is committed to roughly \$70,000 of scholarships, a number that continues to grow.

- The First Coast Women's Amateur and Timuquana Country Club each donated \$1,000 to the JAGA scholarship trust.

- The home club if the winner of the Jacksonville Amateur Championship usually gets the honor of housing the trophy for the next year. However, since 2021 winner Mike Smith of Ponte Vedra Beach does not have a designated home club, 2022 event host Deerwood Country Club will display the trophy.



Contributed Photo

The Ponte Vedra High girls golf team defeated rival Nease 156-167. Tory Barned (from left to right), Nancy Cox, Kathy Miller, Remy Cush, Bridgette Wells, Nyla Mayers, and coach Adrienne



Photo by Anthony Richards

About 26 clubs from around the area were represented and on hand to hear from guest speakers Jim and Tabitha Furyk during

Cox leads the way as PVHS girls golf defeats Nease

The Ponte Vedra Sharks girls golf team claimed victory over the Nease Panthers on Thursday, August 26th during the traditional "Battle for the Bridge" rivalry week.

Both teams fought hard, but it was the Sharks that came out on top at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club to win by 11 shots, with the final tally being 156-167.

Nancy Cox of Ponte Vedra was the overall low score medalist shooting 33 (2-under). Shanya Arasu finished with the lowest score for Nease with a 36 (1-over).

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