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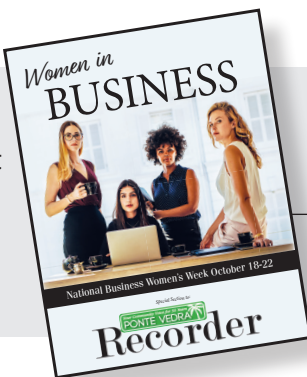
Photo by Anthony Richards

Hall of famer Phil Mickelson (from left) joined tournament hosts Tabitha and Jim Furyk during the trophy presentation on the 18th green at Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville Oct 10. Mickelson won the Inaugural Furyk & Friends PGA Tour Champions event by two strokes over Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain.



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



Women in Business

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First Coast Register

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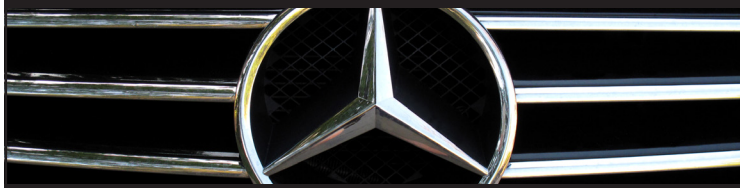
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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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ADOPT A PET

Archie

Hi, I'm Archie! I'm a 12-year-old male Chihuahua. Please don't let my age fool you. I'm loveable and just want



to be near my people. I still have quite a spring in my step, so if you are looking for a "mature" fella to settle down with, I just may be the perfect match for you.



Scarlett

I am Scarlett. I am a 5-year-old female domestic longhair — a true black beauty if I may say so. I came to the Pet Center as an owner surrender when my owner's life situation changed, and she

was no longer able to care for me. I am good with other cats, dogs and kids, and I am litter-trained. Please stop by the shelter and meet me. I think you will see I am just what you are looking for.

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

FEMA dune project town hall at the link

St. Johns County is hosting a town hall meeting to discuss the upcoming FEMA Dune Enhancement Project and the temporary partial closure of Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park.

The meeting is at 6 p.m. Thursday, October 14, at the link, 425 Town Plaza Ave. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions about the project and provide feedback to county staff.

For further information, go to sjcfl.us/Coastal-Projects/FEMADunes.aspx, email coastalprojects@sjcfl.us or call 904-209-0260.

St. Johns County plans free community collection event

St. Johns County Solid Waste is hosting a super community collection event from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 16, at the Tillman Ridge Landfill, 3005 Allen Nease Road. Residents will have the chance to safely dispose of household hazardous waste, electronics and tires (limit 10 per household) free of charge.

Acceptable items include paint, motor oil, gasoline, fluorescent bulbs, wax, car and appliance

batteries, pesticides, obsolete electronics (such as monitors, modems, desk phones and stereos), and automobile and light truck tires.

Prohibited items include microwave ovens, large appliances, yard debris, household garbage, construction debris and commercial materials.

For further information, go to recyclestjohns.com or call 904-827-6980.

Ponte Vedra Ballet & Dance to host showcase

A community showcase will be performed by Ponte Vedra Ballet & Dance at 3 p.m. Oct. 16 at its location at 886 A1A N., Suite 3 in Ponte Vedra Beach. Seating is limited and tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at pvballet.com or with cash at the door the day of the event. The showcase will include pre-professional and trainee ballet performances.

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Briefs

Continued from 2

Free brass concert announced

The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida will present a complimentary brass concert followed by a dessert social from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, at Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Ponte Vedra Democratic Club to meet

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will meet Oct. 19, with the “chat and chew” beginning at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker will be JU history profes-

sor Dr. Austin Trantham speaking on “The Supreme Court.”

The meeting will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, Room 106, 400 San Juan Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Presentation to reveal what gladiatorial games were like

Dr. Paul Brazis will be the next speaker in the Friends of Ponte Vedra Beach Library Speaker Series, to be held Tuesday, Oct. 19, in the FOL room at the library. Doors open at 6 p.m. The admission is free. Brazis received his medical degree from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine. He is currently emeritus profes-

sor in neurology at Mayo Clinic School of Medicine and is consultant in neurology and neuro-ophthalmology for the Mayo Clinic. His hobby is European history, and the title of his talk is “Death In The Arena: Gladiatorial Games From Ancient Rome.”

County students benefit from Blue School Grants

Thirteen schools and 14 classroom projects in eight counties will receive Blue School Grant funding from the St. Johns River Water Management District for hands-on projects to enhance student development in science, technology, engineering and math and increase understanding of Florida’s water resources.

The Blue School Grant Program offers a total of \$20,000 annually in financial support to teachers working to promote water resource protection through hands-on learning opportunities.

Grants of up to \$2,000 per teacher are awarded for programs in grades six through 12.

St. Johns County schools receiving 2021-22 Blue School Grant funds are: Ponte Vedra High School for a water quality field study.

Bartram Trail High School for using photography of district lands to showcase the protection of water and land conservation. Creekside High School for a water resources school awareness project.



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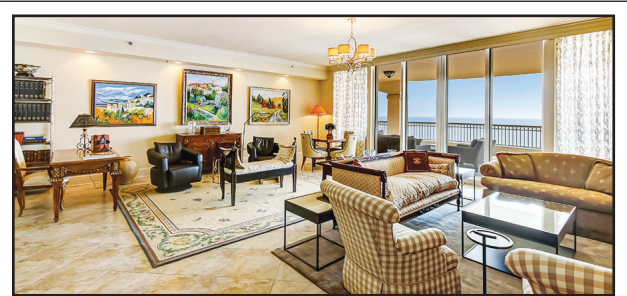
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 An idyllic home in Old Ponte Vedra just steps from the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club across from the ocean on the Boulevard. The 3,300 sq. ft. residence is one of the last originals and sits on .54 acres on hole #3 of The Ocean Course. Huge front and back yards, circular paved driveway, and a separate guest suite. The possibilities are endless! **Main House: 5 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, Guest Suite: 1 Bedroom, 2 Baths. \$4,500,000**



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Preschoolers bring pets to church for a blessing

Annual event inspired by St. Francis

By Shaun Ryan

The courtyard of Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach was busy on the morning of Oct. 6 as the Christ Church Preschool hosted its annual Blessing of the Pets. Families brought their pets to the church for blessings by the clergy in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi, who is known for his love of animals.

The church held a second blessing later the same day.

Though all the preschoolers' pets were of the canine variety, the church has seen a range of animals over the years. According to church member Amanda Spencer, there have been horses, hairless guinea pigs, days-old kittens and chickens.

Perhaps the most unusual were the parrots that Spencer said often sing along with the hymns.

In addition to the blessings, the preschool students and their families donated more than 250 pounds of pet food to the church's St. Francis Ministry for the Animals. The ministry collects the pet food and distributes it to rescues.

Ministry founder Jen Regan predicted



The Rev. Tom Reeder blesses a pet during Christ Episcopal Church preschool's annual event.

that nearly 1,400 pounds of pet food will have been donated by the end of this quarter.

The ministry serves a number of pet-related needs. It subsidizes veterinary care for people who are financially struggling and cannot afford to take their pets to see the vet in a program aptly named Pets to Vets.

"We're affiliated with a pet therapy program called Paws for Friendship," said



Photos by Shaun Ryan

The Rev. Keith Oglesby of Christ Episcopal Church blesses Max as preschoolers Ava and Ella look on.

Regan, "and the people that are part of that visit the different assisted-living facilities and rehab centers with their pets."

The ministry also provides grant money to rescues and other animal organizations.

The ministry is looking for more members. To that end, it's planning a meet-and-greet Oct. 20 at Lulu's Waterfront Grille, 301 Roscoe Blvd. North.

In addition, the ministry is planning

a fundraising event called Sip and Shop from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 12 and 13 in the parish center dining room.

"People can come and shop for very nice fashions," Regan said.

For further information on the St. Francis Ministry for the Animals, contact Regan at jenniferregan@bellsouth.net or go to the website at stfrancisministry.org.

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Sleiman project decision rests with Commission

Zoning and adjustment board recommends to deny

By Anthony Richards

Sleiman Enterprises is scheduled to hold its second hearing requesting the zoning designation of an area of land along State Road A1A to be changed during the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners' Oct. 19 meeting.

The re-zoning request was already brought forth and turned down by the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board during its Sept. 13 gathering.

Sleiman has proposed changing the zoning of about 4.3 acres of land from its status as "single family residential" to "planned unit development."

The change would allow Sleiman to go forward with its plan to build mixed-use development, which would include a hotel and commercial/office use.

"This is one of Sleiman's legacy land holdings that we've owned for roughly 15 years," Sleiman chief operating officer Michael McNaughton said. "This site was accepted in concert with an adjacent site many years ago in a now-dissolved partnership."

That adjacent site was recently denied recommendation by the Ponte Vedra Zon-



The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners will decide whether to go forward with a proposed retail project during its Oct. 19 meeting.

ing and Adjustment Board but wound up being approved by the Commission for the construction of a self-storage facility.

The zoning and adjustment board stated with the size of the project and the negative predicted impact it would have on the two closest residential areas and traffic as the top reasons for the decision to deny the latest request.

Board member Richard Ensslen stated that he did not believe State Road A1A had the capacity to handle the increased

traffic load brought about by adding additional retail units to that area.

Fellow board member Jane Rollinson brought up similar points, and they were the same reasons the board was against the self-storage facility being approved.

"The biggest picture seems to be that if we keep allowing these PUDs, I think FDOT really needs to come up with a more strategic plan," Ensslen said.

The area of land in question is located on the southwestern side of A1A North

and Marsh Landing Parkway and sits about 200 feet south of the Duval County line. It is undeveloped land with a multi-family apartment complex located directly to the west and a commercial office complex is developed on the property to the south.

Sleiman's master plan consists of the proposed complex being for commercial use only with no intended residential elements. The proposed plan includes two buildings with one being designated for retail/office space and the other being a hotel. If the project was to be approved, it would need to follow the rules in place as specified within the Ponte Vedra Zoning District regulations.

According to McNaughton, Sleiman also owns the shopping center to the north, in what is considered Jacksonville Beach, that includes stores such as Target, Publix and Turner Ace Hardware.

He projected roughly \$614,000 in impact fees will go to the county government and more than \$200,000 in school district capital.

The zoning and adjustment board has made its recommendation of denial, and now it is up to the Commission to take that into consideration and decide what direction is best.



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Zach Goodall is a Ponte Vedra High School alum that has transformed his love of football into a career covering the Florida Gators and Tampa Bay Buccaneers for Sports Illustrated. He graduated from PVHS in 2017 and he credits the support he received during those years for helping to allow him to express his creativity and develop his passion as a storyteller.

Zach Goodall

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background?

I'm Zach Goodall, I moved to Ponte Vedra from Pittsburgh when I was seven years old, and I recently relocated to Gainesville in 2019. I'm a class of 2017 graduate from Ponte Vedra High School, the self-proclaimed greatest class in school history (count up our homecoming week spirit awards.)

What led you down your current career path working for Sports Illustrated?

I played football during my first two years at PVHS but, admittedly, stopped before my final two because I knew my future wouldn't involve playing - and whatever that future was, it required better grades.

Okay, maybe that isn't true, because I never got past one semester of college.

But I couldn't fully step away from the game, it had consumed me since I moved to Florida as a young kid. I began to submit stories on a Jacksonville Jaguars fan blog and quickly bonded with journalists in the area who pointed me in the right direction on more than one occasion.

Before I knew it, the Jaguars offered me a preseason credential in 2018 and I was in while operating my own website. A year later, Sports Illustrated called and the rest was history.

What do you enjoy most about covering sports?

Besides the fact that my once-to-twice-a-week work office is a football stadium? The fact that I've grown to understand that athletes are people too, and I can help others understand that through the stories I tell.

Athletes are far too often placed upon a pedestal where they are idolized, but not understood on a personal level. They have ambitions and are driven by causes far removed from the gridiron, court and any other playing field.

Good journalism builds a bridge between the personal and athletic side of sports figures - they are more than just celebrities.

What are some of the challenges that you face?

I mean this sincerely - long hours. I am motivated to be a complete journalist and exhaust each and every resource available to me in order to tell a story, which can be difficult but isn't necessarily backbreaking. It merely leads to working around the clock which can remove free time from my schedule, but I believe it is worth it.

How did your time at Ponte Vedra High help prepare you?

My time at PVHS helped me quite a bit. I had a strong support system within the school that saw my potential and helped me realize it, from administration to teachers and students.



Photo courtesy of Zach Goodall

Zach Goodall takes photos and writes stories covering the Florida Gators' and Tampa Bay Buccaneers' football teams for Sports Illustrated.

The end of my football career with the Sharks wasn't what I had originally envisioned, but if it did not play out that way, I may never have realized my passion for telling sports stories. I would spend my free time at school - lunch, P.E. class, you name it - researching, writing, and storytelling with my friends in order to improve my craft and the support I received in those settings helped me out tremendously.

What advice would you give to those looking to follow a similar path to yours?

Never, ever, stop digging for the truth. If you believe you've uncovered a story, let nothing stop you from seeing the truth through and telling it. Even if you end up

being incorrect, the work you do to gain that knowledge will pay off.

What did you enjoy most about growing up in the North Florida area?

I spent a lot of time in the sun, playing football throughout my childhood and growing to enjoy days at the beach as I grew older.

What do you like to do in your free time?

When time allows - it's hard to come by any openings in a 24/7 work field - I enjoy a round of golf and trying new craft beers. I'm at an absolute beginner level, but I am learning to produce music as well.

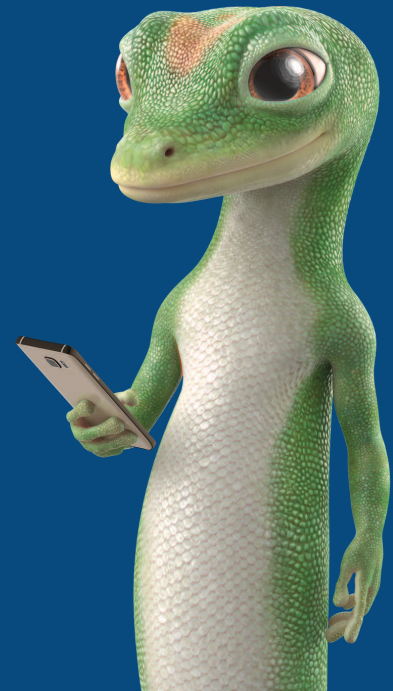
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Additional police presence, incorporation discussed by MSD

By Anthony Richards

The MSD board of Ponte Vedra Beach met for the first time since it was informed that the Sheriff's Office chose to turn down its proposed contract for a supplemental police presence in the area.

The board discussed the options available to them to find the best way to go about making sure additional police presence still exists in the MSD during its Oct. 11 meeting.

Using a private security force, working out a contract to use off-duty Sheriff's Office deputies or creating their own police force were the three options discussed.

Board chairman Brad Wester explained that looking into using off-duty deputies either on a 24-hour, rotational or on-demand basis could be something to look into further.

He stated that supplemental contracts are nothing new to the MSD and is the way they go about getting various other areas, such as public works services.

"An off-duty contract gives the opportunity to have even more accountability," Wester said.

Vice chairman Al Hollan said that he is opposed to using a private security outfit because of a lack of authority outside of a



"The resources in this community are moving to Nocatee, our county commissioner is living in Nocatee, the money and votes are coming from Nocatee," Jurenovich said. "It's a matter of time before Nocatee becomes a city and says goodbye to the MSD. We have to be prepared for that, and we need to start looking into incorporating."

– Gary Jurenovich, Treasurer

gated community setting.

Wester said he would meet with the Sheriff's Office to see what it would take to possibly work out an off-duty contract.

Trustee John Cellucci stated that he would be fine with using the off-duty option, as a bridge period while they explore eventually establishing their own police department.

Treasurer Gary Jurenovich agreed with Cellucci's idea that the "way to go" is to look into the formation of the MSD's own police department.

"Shame on us and the leadership of this

board for letting it (situation with Sheriff's Office contract) get to October," Jurenovich said. "I think for \$435,000 we can easily have our own police force."

According to Jurenovich, if they have the means to staff an off-duty presence, why couldn't they just go ahead and staff their own department?

"I think if you drill it down, the root cause in all of this is Nocatee," Jurenovich said. "The animal we have to be prepared for is on the western side of the intra-coastal."

"The resources in this community are

moving to Nocatee, our county commissioner is living in Nocatee, the money and votes are coming from Nocatee," Jurenovich said. "It's a matter of time before Nocatee becomes a city and says goodbye to the MSD. We have to be prepared for that, and we need to start looking into incorporating."

Wester said he took exception to Jurenovich's statement that the board and its leadership let the contract with the Sheriff's Office get so late in the process.

He stated that it was Jurenovich's dialogue with the department that created friction and a reluctance to continue the contract.

"We had it negotiated at least four months in advance," Wester said about the proposed contract timeline. "Let's stay focused on moving forward."

According to Hollan, the board has the authority to create its own police force, but he said they should be careful with that path because of the liability that comes into play. Jurenovich stated that he did not think the liability was something that could not be figured out to make it work. Wester expects to have firm numbers regarding the police presence options to present to the board and public at its next meeting on Nov. 8.

Mystery Wine & Dine event to raise funds for local young people

The St. Augustine independent Restaurant Association's (SAiRA) Mystery Wine & Dine event is an exclusive, intimate version of the former St. Augustine Food & Wine Festival. The Mystery Wine & Dine features the same popular flavors of locally owned restaurants while also continuing to support THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club in St. Augustine.

The 2021 SAiRA's Mystery Wine & Dine will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 21 at various participating St. Augustine restaurants.

THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club, located at 555 W. King St., St. Augustine, serves more than 100 children and teens daily through after-school academic and enrichment programs.

"THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club gives St. Augustine kids and teens the resources they need to create their own great futures," said Paul Martinez, president and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida. "The club is a safe place where they can connect with caring mentors, receive daily homework help and tutoring, enjoy a hot meal and learn beyond the classroom."

As traditional events adapted to last year's changing social landscape, the St.



The St. Augustine independent Restaurant Association's Mystery Wine & Dine event will feature popular flavors from locally owned restaurants.



The St. Augustine independent Restaurant Association's Mystery Wine & Dine event will feature wine pairings.



Contributed photos

THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club gives St. Augustine kids and teens the resources they need to create their own great futures.

Augustine Food & Wine Festival was transitioned into a more intimate dinner format known as SAiRA's Mystery Wine & Dine, where small groups of friends enjoy a five-course tasting menu with wine pairings at one of seven participating SAiRA restaurants.

The "mystery" behind this event is that the dishes may vary slightly based on each restaurant's specialties, making it a unique dining experience.

The event will also include an online silent auction with bidding open to non-

attendees who register online as well as guests. This event is made possible through the support of Diamond Sponsor Care Connect+ and Platinum Sponsor Wes and Mary Jane Beeson.

Funds raised through this event enable THE PLAYERS Championship to continue providing after-school programs in five core areas: leadership and service, education, the arts, health and wellness and sports and recreation.

To reserve a table, go to bgcnf.org/events/saira2021. Cost is \$150 per person.

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Rhythm & Ribs to feature music legend Travis Tritt

Festival to be held Oct. 15-17 in downtown St. Augustine

Barbecue fans are marking their calendars for the 25th Annual Rhythm & Ribs Festival, which will be held Oct. 15-17 in downtown St. Augustine.

The festival and fundraiser will feature music legend Travis Tritt, national recording artists, award-winning barbecue with regional and national BBQ champions, live music, arts and crafts vendors and activities.

Founded by St. Augustine Sunrise Rotary Club in 1995 as an event with proceeds donated to charitable organizations for local and international service-oriented projects, the family-friendly weekend attracts locals and visitors.

This year, the Saturday night headliner will be Travis Tritt, who remains a key influence in country music, Southern rock, blues, gospel and honky-tonk genres, attracting fans from across the globe. He will play selections from his first original full-length album in more than a decade.

Also performing throughout the weekend will be Darrell Rae Music, Davis and The Loose Cannons, DJ EL, Jordan Fletcher, Luke Langford Band, Muscadine Bloodline, The Carpetbaggers and

Walker Montgomery. One Good Ring will perform with musicians honoring the legendary Grateful Dead.

See the festival band schedule at rhythmandribs.net/timeline.

Rhythm & Ribs also features delicious barbecue with chefs competing for the best food items and people's choice barbecue awards. In addition, there will be an array of arts-and-crafts vendors and more.

The popular festival, normally held in the spring, was postponed due to COVID-19.

Festival times and ticket prices are:
Friday, Oct. 15, 5-10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online, \$15 at the gate

Saturday, Oct. 16. Tickets are \$10 at the gate between noon and 2 p.m. Between 2 and 10 p.m., tickets are \$25 online and \$35 at the gate. On Saturday only, with the purchase of five tickets online, attendees will get one free.

Sunday, Oct. 17, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the gate for family day. Gate entry tickets are available for cash only with no re-entry permitted.

Children 15 years of age and younger may attend events at no charge.

VIP Weekend Access tickets are available online only, for \$150 per person; these include exclusive viewing areas next

to the stage with first-come first-serve seating, private restrooms, access to the exclusive premium cash liquor bar, commemorative items and re-entry to the festival. Lawn chairs and blankets are allowed; however, no coolers or outside food and drinks are permitted. No dogs or other pets will be allowed, nor will overnight camping.

The festival runs concurrent with Bikoferfest, which will be held Oct. 14-17 in Daytona Beach, and Rhythm & Ribs organizers are putting out the welcome mat for motorcycle enthusiasts visiting the area.

Parking for Rhythm & Ribs is available at the Historic Downtown Parking Facility next to the festival field. All-day parking is \$15. With a ParkNow card, all-day parking is \$3. For more information, go to citystaug.com/498/Parking. Additional city parking facilities include handicapped parking and overnight parking.

On Oct. 16 only, free parking and free shuttle transportation will be available, managed by the City of St. Augustine and paid for by the St. Augustine Sunrise Rotary. The shuttle will run from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. with pick-up and delivery every 20 to 25 minutes from two parking locations on the north side of the city: St. Johns County

Health Department, 200 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine, and North San Marco Lot, 301 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine.

Additional Rotary Club-sanctioned parking lots are located around the festival field for \$10 all-day.

The event will be held at Francis Field, U.S. 1 and Castillo Drive.

Key sponsors for the event include Bozard Ford, Budweiser and Canan Law. Additional sponsors include Adams Entertainment, Bacardi, Bud Lite Seltzer, Business Builders, Jacksonville's Country WQIK 99.1 FM, Stillhouse and more.

Rhythm & Ribs is a large undertaking. Approximately 200 volunteers, including Rotarians, friends and family, provide more than 2,000 hours of help over the weekend. What began as a small Barbeque Fest (its original name), Rhythm & Ribs has grown significantly and attracts music lovers and barbecue aficionados from all around the area.

Over the years, the musical headliners have included JJ Grey & MOFRO, Sister Hazel, Rusted Root, Leon Russell, Dave Mason and the Marshall Tucker Band, among others.

For further information and to purchase tickets, go to rhythmandribs.net.

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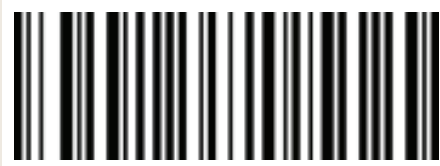
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Photos by Susan Griffin

The three women who worked together to launch Women Empowering Women gather at the link to talk about the group. From left are Stephanie Bewley, Peachie Thompson and Tanya Cosmini.



Women Empowering Women attracted a sizable audience to their recent presentation at the link.

Women Empowering Women grows in popularity

By Shaun Ryan

Peachie Thompson knows what it takes to be a success. She has been chief operating officer at companies large and small and has worked in the insurance industry for more than 23 years. Today, she is owner of Peach Insurance Services in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Throughout her career, she has taken the initiative to mentor other women.

So, when she saw that a friend had written a post on Facebook about difficulties at work and seeking a support system, Thompson was quick to respond.

She recruited Stephanie Bewley and Tanya Cosmini, and they created a Facebook group to address the needs of professional women.

“Women Empowering Women was born out of that,” Thompson said.

The immediate response to the for-

mation of such a group validated the women’s efforts. The group was formed in March, and at its inaugural meeting, more than 25 women attended. Just seven months later, that number has grown to 218.

“I don’t know how big this is going to get,” Thompson said. “All we know right now is we want to give back.”

The criteria for becoming a part of Women Empowering Women remains

simple.

“If you’re a woman, if you’re a professional and you want a support system, you want to get educated, you want to network, you want to make friends, you want to have fun — then, that’s basically what we’re trying to do,” Thompson said.

The members recently had a “speed networking” program where they were encouraged to bring business cards and

Empower continues on Page 13

Creativity takes courage. — Henry Matisse

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Global business leader Sara Frasca speaks on innovation at the Women Empowering Women conference Oct. 6 at the link.

Empower

Continued from 12

practice their “elevator speeches.”

Of course, Women Empowering Women is a social group as well.

“This is a group where you can be yourself as a woman, and you can expect very positive energy and learn from each other and support each other,” Thompson said.

Another component of the group is its charitable giving. At each meeting, members are encouraged to donate to a selected charity. The first charity the group chose was K9s For Warriors.

At this time, Women Empowering Women is not an official nonprofit. Rather, it’s an opportunity for women in all walks of life, whether they be executives or business owners or someone simply seeking employment, to gather for mutual support.

On Oct. 6, the group held a conference at the link in Nocatee, where they talked about Women Empowering Women.

Speakers were: Manisha Joshi of the Jacksonville Women’s Business Center on personal brand strategies, Alexia Lewis of Keeping Healthy Simple Club on self-care for busy women, global business leader Sara Frasca on innovation, Beverly Whitman of Highland Invest-



Beverly Whitman of Highland Investment Advisors speaks about financial literacy at the recent conference at the link.

ment Advisors on financial literacy and Johanna Lawson of Sapna Academy on raising children that empower women. The designated charity was Port in the Storm, a safe place off the streets for

homeless and unaccompanied youth in crisis.

Anyone who is interested in the group can email Thompson at peachie@peachinsurance.net.



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DONNA Foundation holds annual race in-person

The DONNA Foundation held its first in-person race since February 2020 on Oct. 2. THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K, presented by Nimnicht Family of Deal-

erships, took place at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. The event drew more than 750 participants to kick off Breast Cancer Awareness

Month and celebrate survivorship.

Funds raised through the race support The DONNA Foundation's mission to provide financial assistance and support to those living with breast cancer and fund groundbreaking breast cancer research.

This was the foundation's 15th run in partnership with THE PLAYERS Championship and the first event in the DONNA 2021-22 Fearless Series.

The campaign theme for the series is "Together," in recognition of how gathering in community fosters strength and support in overcoming breast cancer and in gratitude for the chance to safely connect in-person, as well as virtually.



Contributed photos

Body20 was among those represented at THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K

DONNA continues on Page 15



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Runners show their support for breast cancer awareness at THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K



Journalist Donna Deegan addresses runners at THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K.



Runners gather at THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K.



Longtime TV weatherman Tim Deegan was among those who turned out for THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K.



Race participants want others to know they are "Noc'n Out Breast Cancer."

DONNA

Continued from 14

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 series was delivered through a virtual platform and centered around the theme "Everywhere, Together." The foundation hosted a series of virtual races and events that brought more than 4,000 people together from nine countries and all 50 states to empower survivorship "everywhere, together."

Over the past year, the foundation served 1,521 breast cancer patients and their families with critical support, delivering \$419,000 in financial services. This was a 41% increase in the number of families served over 2020.

The foundation also granted \$25,000 to the Mayo Clinic Breast Cancer Translational Genomics Program.

To date, the foundation has disbursed \$3.3 million in funds to this research.

The DONNA Foundation was established in 2003 by breast-cancer survivor and journalist Donna Deegan to provide financial assistance and support to those living with breast cancer and to fund research.

To date, it has served more than 1,500 families.

Results of the 5K will be posted online. Awards will be available for pick-up from DONNA Headquarters, 11762 Marco Beach Drive, Suite 6, Jacksonville.

For more information, go to TheDONNAFoundation.org.



The Womens Food Alliance cultivates and advances Networking, Education, and Collaboration for women in the culinary and hospitality industry throughout Northeast Florida and South Georgia.



The Womens Food Alliance Advisory Council 2022

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Howard appointed director of sales at Hilton Garden Inn

McKibbon Hospitality, an award-winning leader in hotel management, recently announced the appointment of Ursula Howard as director of sales for Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville Ponte Vedra Sawgrass.

"We are pleased to welcome Ursula to McKibbon and her new role as director of sales," said Kelly Allen, regional director of sales and marketing for McKibbon Hospitality. "Her extensive and impressive background in catering, events and sales, paired with her proven track record of success and the relationships she's formed over her career, will be a tremendous asset to the team and the hotel."

Howard brings more than 25 years of hospitality experience to her new role,

particularly in the realm of food and beverage in the Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra region. She most recently served as director of catering for the Jacksonville Marriott, where she was responsible for the property's overall catering sales, revenue management and marketing. Prior to that, she was director of catering for the San Jose Country Club, where she increased the banquet operation revenue by 30% and formed strategic partnerships with area meeting planners and event coordinators.

Howard holds a bachelor's degree from Flagler College and is ServSafe-certified.

McKibbon assumed management of the 127-room Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville Ponte Vedra Sawgrass in March. Located at 45 Tournament Players Club Blvd., within the Sawgrass Village Shopping Center, Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville Ponte Vedra Sawgrass is positioned at the entrance to TPC Sawgrass, home of THE PLAYERS Championship.



Ursula Howard

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Financial moves for women business owners

If you're a woman who owns a business, you may have some challenges not shared by your male peers – but you also have several opportunities to help improve your financial future.

You may already be taking some or all the right steps, but here are some ideas to be sure you're considering and revisiting as your business grows:

Refresh your network

Are you involved in networking with other women business owners?

Many of them may have insights into the issues women face in the business world, as well as suggestions about lending programs and business-friendly banks.

You may also enjoy passing along your lessons learned to others.



Brandon Sugg

Review your business structure

If you go into business as a sole proprietor, you'll have to report your business income on your personal income tax

You can also find valuable information on programs for women business owners by going to the Small Business Administration's website at www.sba.gov and searching for "women owned businesses."

return.

If you incorporate or form a limited liability company (LLC), you can protect your personal assets – such as your house and your investments – from creditors because these assets will be separated from your business assets and debts. You might also consider more complex entities, known as C and S corporations.

There's no single "correct" business structure and the most appropriate one for you may change over time, so, in choosing one that's right for your needs, you'll want to consult with your tax and legal advisors.

Do an insurance checkup

To protect yourself and your business, you may want to review your insurance to make sure you have the right kinds and amount of coverage.

General liability insurance can be appropriate for sole proprietors, if you've established an LLC or you've incorporated your business.

If you provide some type of professional service (i.e., legal, accounting,

engineering and so on,) you might need professional liability insurance.

And no matter what business you own, you might want to add disability insurance to replace some of the income you'd lose if you were injured or became ill.

Consider all retirement options

If you've got your own business, you're solely responsible for funding your retirement.

Fortunately, as a business owner, you've got several attractive options, including an "owner-only" 401(k), a SEP-IRA and a SIMPLE IRA.

In deciding which plan is right for you, you'll need to consider several factors, including the number of employees, if any, and the nature of your business.

However, all these plans are relatively easy to set up and administer and offer potential tax benefits. And even though you've got plenty to do already, you should make the time to establish or review your own retirement plan – because eventually you'll need all the resources you can accumulate to enjoy life as a

former business owner.

You can also find valuable information on programs for women business owners by going to the Small Business Administration's website at www.sba.gov and searching for "women owned businesses."

Running your own business can be challenging – but by making some positive financial moves and getting the support you need, you can also find business ownership to be highly rewarding, personally and professionally. ■

Brandon Sugg is a financial advisor at the Edward Jones office located at 820 A1A N., Suite W13 in Ponte Vedra Beach. To contact him call the office at 904-834-7114, send a fax at 877-857-7658 or call his cell at 239-691-9491.

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Jessica Porvasnik takes some practice swings during media day in August. She will highlight a talented field of women's golfers during the PXG Match Play Championship Oct. 26 to Nov. 4.

By Anthony Richards

Some of the best up-and-coming professional women's golfers will take to the course as part of the Inaugural PXG Women's Match Play Championship Oct. 26 to Nov. 4.

One of the spotlight players in the field will be Jessica Porvasnik, who led the Women's All Pro Tour money list having approached roughly \$22,000 in earnings with her play.

"The opportunities for women's golf below the Symetra Tour when I first

Swinging for success

Porvasnik leads talented field of women's golfers at inaugural event

came out of college, there just weren't that many," Porvasnik said. "You don't see many events that are put together like this, so it's pretty cool."

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

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

Porvasnik has hopes of one day qualifying to play on the LPGA Tour and part of her journey included playing college golf at Ohio State.

However, when she went to turn pro after college, she realized that the avenues toward earning a living playing golf were very limited.

"When I first came out of college there were only two mini tours, with the WAPT only starting up about two years ago," Porvasnik said.

The number of tours available for women are far less than the men's side, which has about 30 "mini" tours for golfers to explore on their path to the PGA Tour, which is something Mark Berman, managing partner with MediaShare Con-



Photos by Anthony Richards

Jessica Porvasnik (middle) with Sam Geise and Katie Markham at the PXG Match Play Championship VIP Kickoff Reception hosted by Bentley and Maserati Jacksonville in August.

sulting Group, and his various community partners are looking to change with the PXG Match Play Championship.

Porvasnik began swinging a golf club and playing golf when she was 12 years old.

"I started quite late compared to some of the other girls, but I took my first lesson and just kind of fell in love with it ever since," Porvasnik said. "I played on a fast-pitch softball team, and we were really good, so I was kind of bummed to have to give up that sport to play, but in the end, it was the right decision."

That decision has led to her being the closest she has ever been to earning a spot on the LPGA Tour.

Looking back, she cannot believe the journey she has been on since being a 12-year-old girl taking her first lesson, and she is happy to have the chance to make that path even more defined for future girls interested in taking up golf.

"It's (women's golf) growing so quickly and so fast," Porvasnik said. "The demand wasn't there before, but now more and more women are coming out of college with a real shot of having a career in golf."

According to Porvasnik, the interesting thing about the WAPT in general is that it holds tournaments at a variety of courses, which allows the golfers to show their all-around game.

That theme of versatility will also be on display during the PXG Match Play Championship, which will span two weeks and consist of two tournaments, one stroke play and one match play, being held on consecutive weekends.

"It's much more of a truer test of your game," Porvasnik said.

One of her career goals is to one day compete as member of the U.S. squad at the Solheim Cup.

"Everything in life, you need to be patient and positive," Porvasnik said. "If you have that outlook, it's going to help you out in every aspect."

Tickets available for PXG Women's Match Play Championship

Limited number of free tickets offered

Professional women's golf returns to Northeast Florida starting Oct. 26, and tournament organizers have made available a limited number of free tickets to the PXG Women's Match Play Championship being hosted at World Golf Village.

Tickets are valid for both sessions of the event, which features back-to-back tournaments.

The first session will be held Oct. 26-28. It is a 54-hole stroke-play event on the King & Bear Course and will seed the following week's Match Play Championship at Slammer & Squire on Nov. 1-4.

In the PXGWMPC format, players will be divided into pool play with 16 groups of four women playing against each other twice over the first two days in nine-hole head-to-head matches.

Each hole is worth a point, with the winner of the head-to-head match being awarded a bonus point. The player in each group with the most points then advances to the knockout rounds with the Sweet 16 beginning at 8 a.m. Nov. 3. The Elite 8 will be held at 1 p.m. the same day.

Semifinal and final matches will be held on Nov. 4 beginning at 9 a.m. The Champions Trophy presentation, open to the public, will be held immediately following the final matches.

Tee times will be posted daily on

Tickets continues on **Page 19**

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Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Anderson Agency on Oct. 6.

Chamber welcomes Anderson Agency with ribbon cutting

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 6 for the Anderson Agency of Northeast Florida at its Ponte Vedra Beach location at 822 State Road A1A, Suite 310.

The Anderson Agency joined as a Chamber member and is an insurance

company that has provided more than 20 years of services to the Beaches area.

It was voted the top insurance company by the residents as part of the Ponte Vedra Recorder's 2021 "Best of the Best" contest.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Left: Kathleen Anderson and Kari Zerrahn of the Anderson Agency are now members of the Chamber.

Tickets

Continued from 18

the tournament website, pxgwmpc.com.

The championship is an official event on the Women's All Pro Tour, which is one of only three U.S. women's developmental tours and the only one which provides a pathway into the Symetra Tour.

While sanctioned by the WAPT, the PXG Match Play Championship is open to all professional players who are not current LPGA players.

"This is a pretty significant distinction as a professional event," said the tournament's executive director, Mark Berman of MediaShare Consulting. "We are very intentional in providing opportunities for the up-and-coming professional female players, for whom very few tours and tournaments exist, particularly compared to the men's game," Berman shared.

To claim complimentary tickets, golf fans are required to register in advance on the tournament's website, where they can print a voucher. Upon arrival at the tournament gate, vouchers will be exchanged for a wristband, which provide access to tournament grounds, its Pop-Up Retail Experience and fan hospitality.

The free admission is provided by a women-owned business, Kessler Cre-

ative, the tournament's official printing sponsor, which designed the tournament signage and graphic materials.

"We want people to see these amazing women play," CEO Dina Kessler said. "There is so much talent and competitive drama, and so many great stories inside and outside the ropes. It is our pleasure to provide access for free to our community."

Fans will also be given the opportunity to donate to the tournament's official charity partner, Investing in Kids (INK!), which helps to fund underserved public schools in St Johns County. The INK! Charity Pro-am presented by Davidson Realty Inc. is being held for Oct. 25 on the King & Bear course, with Murray Bros Caddy Shack hosting the official meet the players pairings party.

The PXGWMPC is a collaboration with Jacksonville's women's empowerment organization, Generation W. Competitors and other area female athletes and executives will participate in the Generation W Links to Leadership Summit presented by Circle K on Oct. 29.

"We are shining a light on women's initiatives not just on the golf course, but in the workplace and in the community," Berman said.

For more details on the event, go to pontevedrarecorder.com.




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Businesswomen named as transportation seminar presenters, honorees

The Northeast Florida Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar recognizes executive women who have made varied contributions in transportation, leadership and mentorship of women.

The local organization's program committee selected several leading businesswomen in Northeast Florida to be featured at the Women's Executive Roundtable luncheon on Sept. 29 at Fogo de Chão Brazilian Steakhouse in Jacksonville.

Presenters and honorees included Isabelle Renault, CEO of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce; LeAnna Gutierrez Cumber, City of Jacksonville District 5 councilwoman and CEO of LeAnna Cumber & Associates; Diane Hutchings, Clay County tax collector; and Michelle Mecca, senior vice president at Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc.

Lori Boyer, chief executive officer of the City of Jacksonville's Downtown Investment Authority, was also an honoree but could not attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Jeanette F. Berk, senior planning manager at Gannett Fleming Inc. served as moderator.



Isabelle Renault

Honorees discussed their professional journeys and offered career advice while focusing on transportation initiatives in their respective locations. They also shared stories about their business successes, challenges and personal milestones.

Previous presenters have included Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown; Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser; Jackie Smith, former district director for U.S. Rep. John Rutherford; and St. Augustine Commissioner Nancy Sikes-Kline, to name a few.

In order to fulfill its mission to transform the transportation industry through the advancement of women, WTS Northeast Florida provides access to the highest levels of the transportation industry. Programs and member interaction with relevant, thought-provoking speakers include comprehensive educational forums and discussions, which foster professional development and provide valuable exposure to timely transportation issues.

The local WTS chapter recently attained recognition with Circle of Excellence Gold Status from the international organization for its service to members and developing the professional community in transportation and related fields.

WTS is an international organization founded in 1977 and includes approximately 8,500 members internationally to raise the profile of the transportation profession and to help women find opportunity and recognition within the industry.



Photos provided by Butterfield Garage Gallery

Artist Jan Miller works on one of her whimsical sculptures in her studio.

Jan Miller celebrates a lifetime of creating art

The featured artist for November at Butterfield Garage Gallery in St. Augustine will be Jan Miller. She will showcase the mixed-media "gourd" sculptures that she's been doing for the past several years.

"I have long been a fan of Tim Burton, and that has certainly influenced my work," she said.

Drawing on many years of experience in both painting and mixed media, the one-of-a-kind gourd characters are fun and innovative. The natural shape can affect the direction the sculpture takes.

Recycled cans, vases and bottles ultimately make up the body. Found objects, paper clay, paper mache' and acrylic paint are used to complete the gourd sculpture.

Miller will be at the gallery from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5. She will demonstrate painting and welcome art discussions between 2 and 5 p.m. Nov. 7.

Prior to relocating to St. Augustine, Miller established her career in Chicago, where she attained a modest reputation



Detail of Jan Miller's "Mad As Hell" sculpture.

as a still-life painter.

In addition to doing her art, she has also been involved in the art community in St. Augustine, where she founded the Butterfield Garage Art Gallery in 1999. The building had formerly been a real garage, and the original sign — which is stamped 1929 — was hung in its original place outside.

The contemporary gallery now exhibits some of the best local artists in the area. Butterfield Garage Gallery is located at 137 King St.

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Nelson, Snow honored as 'Women of Distinction'

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council held its annual Women of Distinction St. Johns event Sept. 23.

The event seeks to honor outstanding women in the community that exemplify the Girl Scout mission personally and professionally as women of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

This year's honorees were Melissa Nelson, president and CEO of United Way of St. Johns County and Tracie C. Snow, president of Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

Nelson leads United Way of St. Johns County, a collaborative relationship of residents, businesses, governments and nonprofits to meet the most pressing social service issues in St. Johns and Putnam counties.

Prior to joining United Way, her non-profit management experience included working with local Chamber of Commerce organizations in Florida and Pennsylvania and within the professional association setting with the American Institute of Architects and the Orange County Medical Society in Orlando.

She graduated from the University of Florida and from the U.S. Chamber Institute for Organizational Management.

Nelson is a 20-year resident of St. Johns County and a native of Northeast Florida. She was also a Brownie and a Girl Scout in the Gateway Council.

Snow was named the 19th president for Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in St. Augustine in November 2020.

The school serves eligible pre-K and K-12 students who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind.

Prior to becoming president, Snow spent 26 years as a teacher at FSDB.

As a reading specialist and director of curriculum, she has led many extracurricular programs, such as coaching the girls' soccer team, American Sign Language interpreting at events and meetings and coordinating summer camps.

Snow served 10 years on the Florida Department of Education State Advisory Committee for the Education of Exceptional Students, serving as co-chair for two years.

She earned a bachelor's degree in social and rehabilitation services and elementary education at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, and a master's degree in education at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., followed by a second master's degree in educational leadership at the University of North Florida.

She holds several Florida state certifications, including educational leadership.

Snow participated in Girls Scouts as a Brownie and a Junior while growing up in a small town in Massachusetts.

The event was presented by Publix Super Markets Charities and was free to virtually attend on Facebook and YouTube.



Melissa Nelson is president and CEO of United Way of St. Johns County. She was a Brownie and a Girl Scout in the Gateway Council.



Tracie C. Snow is president of Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. She took part in Girl Scouts as a Brownie and a Junior while growing up in Massachusetts.

While tickets were not required, there were various ways to support the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council's work of building the next generation of female leaders in St. Johns County.

Donations could be made at any time throughout the event and there was also a virtual silent auction that people could take part in.

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council serves more than 19,000 members across North Florida and consists of 35 counties, including St. Johns.



Girl Scouts of Gateway Council held its annual Women of Distinction St. Johns event Sept. 23.

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*Girl Scout Research Institute 2020



Kristin D. McLauchlan **Chairman & CEO, Legacy Trust Family Wealth Offices**

Kristin McLauchlan started her entrepreneurial journey selling Girl Scout cookies! The Girl Scout Cookie Program teaches young girls 5 essential skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. The essential skills she learned through her Girl Scout experience led Kristin to even start her first business in an egg delivery service! "Whether I was conscious of it or not, all the skills I learned in my early years led me down a path of creating Legacy Trust, developing a unique way to deliver financial services to our client families," McLauchlan shared. Kristin continues to serve as Chairman and CEO of Legacy Trust Family Wealth Offices. Legacy Trust offers a full range of financial services and advice for investment, tax, and estate planning needs.

Maxine McBride **President, Clockwork Marketing Services**

Maxine McBride started her entrepreneurial journey in Girl Scouts as a Brownie. "Girl Scouts was such a big part of my life. It provided a safe place for me to thrive. I enjoyed the challenge of completing requirements to earn badges and I was very competitive, always wanting to learn and earn more," shared McBride. The skills girls learn through the Girl Scout Badge Programs help them identify problems and make creative solutions a reality. Maxine McBride founded Clockwork Marketing Services in 1994 and remains company president today. Clockwork Marketing Services is a full service public relations firm providing comprehensive, client focused and effective marketing and communication strategies.



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VOLUNTEER



Photos provided by Ximenez-Fatio House Museum
The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum still stands today. The Ximenez-Fatio House has been standing for more than 200 years.

Spooky nighttime tours offered at 223-year-old house

Some have called the Ximenez-Fatio House, located in St. Augustine on America's oldest street, a real haunted house. Now, brave souls will have an opportunity to explore this legend as the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum's third annual Twilight Tour focuses on "fatal folklore." Members of the public can take the tour every Friday and Saturday evening in October and the first weekend of November.

As the sun sets, it admittedly gets a little spooky at this former boarding house, located at 20 Aviles St. Many came to stay at Miss Fatio's Boarding House, but some never returned home. At least 13 people have died in the house, which was built in 1798.

Those taking the tour will hear about the spookier side of the house and learn about some of the interesting guests who stayed there and the families who owned the property in the more-than two centuries it has been standing. Stories of Spanish merchants, soldiers stationed in St. Augustine, single ladies who ran their own businesses and



more are associated with the house.

Guests may even have the chance to meet the house's spirit friend, Little Miss Madison, who likes to run up and down the stairs, move items in the museum and play with a dollhouse on the third floor. "Twilight Tour: Fatal Folklore" is a family-friendly nighttime activity. Each tour lasts approximately 45 minutes and takes guests through the 18th-century home, where they will hear the stories and history of the house not normally heard on the daytime tour.

Reservations are required at ximenezfatiohouse.org/twilightreservations.

Tours are offered at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. nightly on Oct. 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30 and on Nov. 5 and 6.



The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum is offering visitors a chance to experience the spookier side of the onetime boarding house during Twilight Tours throughout October and part of November. Here, the dining room table is set for a ghostly feast.

Lord of Life brings back the pumpkins — and the pies

On Sunday, Oct. 10, a semi-truck full of pumpkins unloaded onto the lawn of Lord of Life Lutheran Church on Roscoe Boulevard, turning the grassy field into a magical patch.

This is the largest load of pumpkins the church has ever received from its Navajo, New Mexico, farm supplier.

The annual pumpkin patch will run through Oct. 31. Hours of operation will be 1 p.m. to dusk weekdays, 9 a.m. to dusk Saturdays and 11 a.m. to dusk Sundays.

Inside the pavilion, there will also be hundreds of small pumpkins that go by names such as Snowball, Spooky, Mini and Perfect, as well as gourds such as Swan, Gizmo, Wings, Star and Elf House.

"We always have a beautiful selection of pumpkins in many different colors and set up a photo area in the field with hay and pumpkins and other decorations for family photos and selfies," said Deb Nye, the Lord of Life Lutheran Church coordi-

nator of this signature fundraising event.

The other stars of the patch are the pumpkin pies made on site with pumpkins from the patch. The demand has grown over the years from an average of 50 pies to last year's 160. The amount of materials needed to create those pies is staggering: 570 eggs, 160 cans of evaporated milk, 80 pounds of brown sugar, 70 pounds of white sugar, 60 pounds of flour and more. There are 6-inch pies for \$6 and 9-inch pies for \$10 along with assorted breads, baked goods and pickles.

Several handheld wagons will be available to cart pumpkins to cars, and there will be a handwashing station.

Pumpkins are priced by their height using a measuring tape that goes from the stem down around the bottom of the pumpkin and back to the top of the stem.

Lord of Life's website is lordofflifelifevb.org; on Facebook @lordofflifelifevb or Instagram @lordofflifelifevb.



Photos provided by Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Lord of Life Lutheran Church expects to have more pumpkins this year than ever before.

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Sapna Academy offers an educational alternative at the link

By Shaun Ryan

Even before ground was broken in 2020 for the link — the 22,500-square-foot co-working space, innovation incubator and cultural centerpiece in Nocatee Town Center — education was part of the plan.

From the beginning, founder Raghu Misra said he wanted to create a place where people could “learn, play, think and do.” Now, that learning component has taken form in a concrete way.

Due in part to a fortuitous meeting between Misra and two local educators, Sapna Academy opened in August at the facility. It has an enrollment of 14, with students ranging in age from 4 to 13, and the potential to grow to 20 students up to

18 years of age.

And like so many other aspects of the link, Sapna Academy doesn’t follow the conventional model. Rather, the education is self-directed.

“Self-directed learning means that we don’t have a set curriculum,” explained Johanna Lawson, who identifies herself as a facilitator rather than a teacher. “It’s all driven by the kids’ interest and their passions.”

Misra said he is a strong believer in this methodology.

“To me, that is when the retention levels are, in my opinion, much higher,” he said, “because it is self-generated interest or curiosity that is driving the child to learn things instead of content being



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Johanna Lawson, who with her husband Justin is a facilitator at Sapna Academy, sits at a table near the school’s growing library of children’s books.

pushed to them.”

Such a method also benefits the student who, in a traditional classroom, would be ahead of peers.

“Sadly,” said Misra, “when you are in a group setting, you are stuck with the least common denominator.”

Lawson and her husband, Justin, are the academy’s facilitators. Both have taught in public schools and charter schools but could not find the right fit for their philosophy of education.

In talking to other parents, Johanna Lawson happened upon Agile Learning Centers, a network of micro-schools that supports self-directed learning, which she felt aligned with their approach to learning.

“As I started researching Agile Learning Centers, I started seeing things about these pods,” she said. “Families who are coming together and hiring teachers to teach their kids. I was like, ‘Man, I would love that.’”

Everything fell into place after the Lawsons met Misra.

“When I saw their tag line, ‘learn, play, think, do,’ I was like, ‘That is us. We need to be in this building,’” said Johanna Lawson.

Sapna Academy serves a diverse set of students. Some are homeschooled and parents use it to supplement their children’s socialization. For others, it is

their full-time school. And, as it turns out, Sapna Academy serves an all-too-often underserved population.

“Something that I didn’t really anticipate was I had a lot of neuro-diverse families come out,” said Johanna Lawson. “I have a child with Down syndrome. I have multiple children with autism who come. These kids have never really been able to participate in school or in a learning environment with peers. And they get this opportunity, because our center is very fluid and can go with the flow of what their day brings.”

The Lawsons get to know the children and their interests and then curate topics weekly around a theme. What follows is “a much more hands-on, real-world experience than saying, ‘Do a workbook page,’” said Johanna Lawson.

She said she speaks with parents daily to talk about their children’s successes and what they need to work on. In addition, the Lawsons and the Sapna families have monthly community meetings.

Readers who are interested in Sapna Academy can learn more by going to sapna.academy.

NOTE: This is an abridged version of the article. To read more about Sapna Academy and plans for the future, please go to pontevedrarecorder.com.

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Invitational Exhibition introduces artists to public

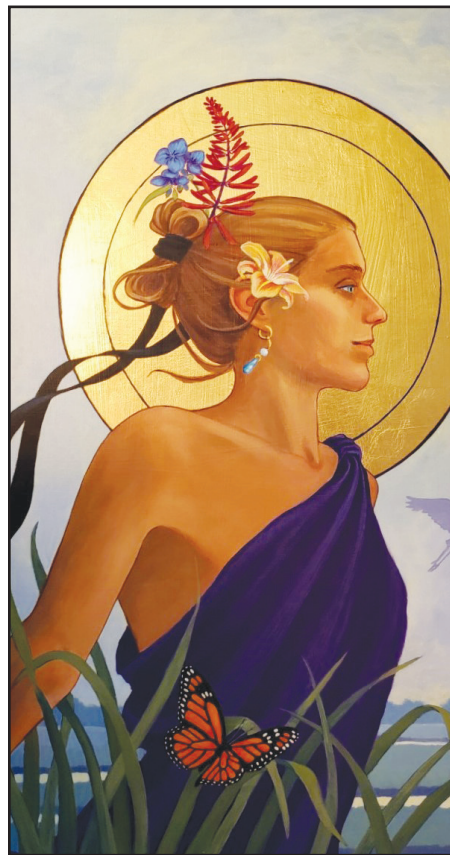
Butterfield Garage Gallery is presenting its Second Invitational Exhibition throughout October. The featured artists were invited by member artists.

Stacey Fletcher, selected by Juliana Romnes

Stacey Fletcher is a professor of art at Daytona State College. She received a master of fine arts degree in painting and drawing from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a bachelor of fine arts in painting and drawing from Valdosta State University, Georgia. Her work is widely collected, and she has received many awards and recognitions.

BUTTERFIELD GARAGE GALLERY

Location: at 137 King St., St. Augustine.
Hours: Open daily 11-5 p.m.
First Friday: 11-9 p.m.



Photos provided by Butterfield Garage Gallery
"Day Lily," a work in progress
by Teri Tompkins

Stephanie Futch, selected by Norma Cherry

Norma Cherry has watched Stephanie Futch evolve as an artist from a young child to a daring, innovative young woman. Over time, Futch's work has evolved into an edgy, eclectic, elegant and diverse palette of art, jewelry and accessories.

Marie Henle, selected by Tina Henle

Tina Henle has always held a deep admiration for the work of her late sister Marie and chose to honor her mastery of the etching process and her advocacy for nature by featuring her work in this year's invitational. Marie Henle's etchings have been exhibited in shows across the United States and internationally and are in numerous private and corporate collections.

Julissa Marie, selected by Emma Greenhill

Julissa Marie was raised in Jacksonville and has been making art since she was a child as a means of expressing her feelings. She works in many mediums, including acrylic and spray paint and, from time to time, creates graphic designs. For the past three years, she has been using social media platforms to share her art.

Kirsten Miller, selected by Jan Miller

Butterfield Garage founder Jan Miller has invited her daughter, Kirsten Miller, to exhibit in her space for this year's invitational exhibition.

"Kirsten comes from a family of professional artists and has been immersed in art her entire life," Jan Miller said.

Katherine E. Parker, selected by Per Hans Romnes

Per Hans Romnes is showcasing artwork by the late painter and printmaker Katherine E. Parker. Parker lived and worked in St. Augustine for 30 years. She was a long-term member of the St. Augustine Art Association, won more than 100 awards in juried competitions and exhibited in fine art shows such as Coconut Grove Art Show in Miami and Disney's Festival of the Masters in Orlando.

Kim Porter, selected by Martha Ferguson

A native New Yorker, Kim Porter has exhibited and sold her work since 1999. Her work can be found in private collections throughout the United States, Canada and the UK.



A work by Julissa Marie

Jo Sinclair, selected by Ron Vellucci

"Whatever media Jo chooses to explore, she creates powerful artwork that truly exposes her gifts as a major talent," Ron Vellucci said.

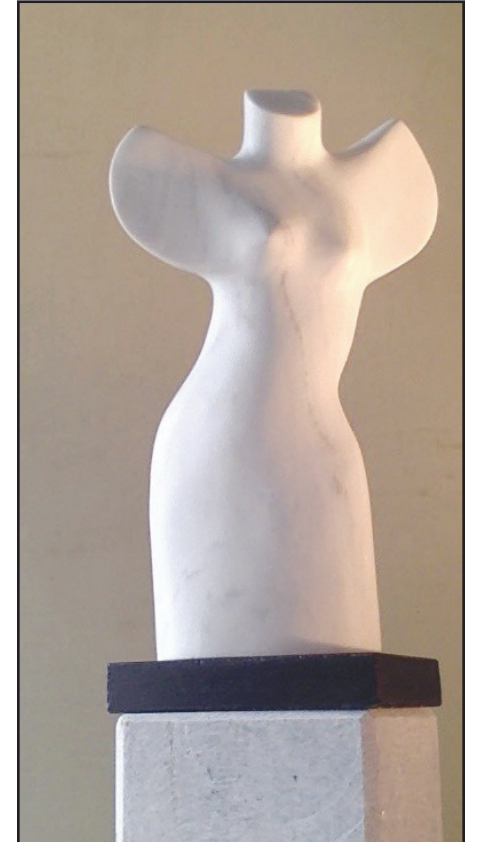
During COVID, Jo Sinclair added another medium to the mix when she turned her focus to photography, and Vellucci felt that this display would be an excellent opportunity for her to present some new work from this series titled "Tales of Tides and Skies."

Jan Tomlinson Master, elected by Nancy Hamlin-Vogler

Jan Tomlinson Master is an interdisciplinary artist and educator based in St. Augustine and Welaka. Her work has been shown and collected nationally and in Aviles, Spain, representing St. Augustine as a 450th compassionate obelisk artist. Her collaborations on public art can be seen in Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra and St. Augustine. Master was a founding member of Butterfield Garage and is now represented by Arts on Douglas in New Smyrna Beach.

Teri Tompkins, selected by Cindy Wilson

For this display, Teri Tompkins is presenting a collection of paintings from



"Dancing Victory" by Enzo Torcoletti

a continuing body of work inspired by the natural world and a longing to preserve it. These works are created using gold leaf, acrylics and other materials on birch panels, built to be as archivally sound as possible.

Enzo Torcoletti, selected by Kathryn Carlyle

Enzo Torcoletti was born in Italy and attended art school there before he moved to Canada, where he received a B.A. in English literature and a B.F.A. in sculpture and printmaking from the University of Windsor. He completed his M.F.A. in sculpture at Florida State University before moving to St. Augustine, where he still resides.

He is an emeritus professor of art at Flagler College, where he taught sculpture, drawing and art history since 1971. For the last 45 years he has been focused on creating work that sculpturally and graphically explores the historical, mythological and symbolic implications of the human figure, with an emphasis on the female form.

Butterfield Garage Gallery is located at 137 King St., St. Augustine.

NOTE: This is an abridged version of the article. To read a full-length version, go to pontevedrarecorder.com.

Sports



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Furyk & Friends opens with a bang

Hall of famer Mickelson wins inaugural event

By Anthony Richards

The inaugural Constellation Furyk & Friends golf tournament is in the books, and it could not have gone much better.

“It certainly exceeded expectations with the crowds and the way everything turned out,” Tabitha Furyk said. “I couldn’t be more proud of our team and our execution of the event. The perspective from all the fans that have been out here has been so positive.”

Hall of famer Phil Mickelson won the PGA Tour Champions event after out-dueling Spain’s Miguel Angel Jimenez down the stretch to win by two strokes at 15-under at Timuquana Country Club in

More photos from the event

– See page 28

Jacksonville.

Getting Mickelson to commit was a big coup for the event, as he entered the final day at the top of the leaderboard and drew a large crowd of spectators throughout the round as a clear fan favorite.

The loudest of cheers came as the final group approached the 18th green for the last time at this year’s event and after Mickelson sank his tournament-clinching putt.

“We’ve been working on this for three years, so quite a while,” Furyk said. “Prior to COVID, we were already working on this, trying to select our site and



Photos by Anthony Richards

Hall of famer Phil Mickelson drives off the tee at the 18th hole during the final round of the Inaugural Furyk & Friends PGA Tour Champions event. He won the event.

working with the Navy base on parking. It has been a long journey but a labor of love.”

However, Jim Furyk admittedly joked during the trophy presentation that maybe

he shouldn’t have been so happy to have his longtime friend in the tournament.

“Now that I look back on it, I probably shouldn’t have been so excited,” Furyk

Furyk continues on Page 27



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Mickelson and runner-up Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain shake hands on the 18th green after the event. The two battled for the top spot down the stretch.

Furyk

Continued from 26

chuckled.

He had a strong tournament himself and finished tied for fourth at 9-under but did so with a different feeling than he had ever felt before at a golf tournament.

According to Jim Furyk, being host of a tournament was a new experience for him, and he found the balance of playing well individually and wanting the event to go well as a whole was real.

“I found myself looking around a lot more and wanting to get a feel for how the patrons were interacting during the round,” Furyk said. “At the end of the day, I’m out there playing golf, but it was definitely a unique perspective.”

The Furyks called Ponte Vedra Beach home for decades and during that time became staples within the local community and the North Florida area through their various charitable projects.

One of the missions of the Furyk & Friends event was to make sure it was not all about golf and instead to use golf as a platform to help promote those initiatives.

An example of that was the tournament teaming up with award-winning and best-selling children’s author Alysson Foti Bourque.

The partnership led to Bourque donating books from her “Alycat Series” along with plush toys to military families through a project called Operation Shower the day before the start of the tournament Sunday Oct. 3.

Operation Shower provides essentials for expecting military families in a baby shower setting in conjunction with the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation.

“We wanted there to be a lot of depth to this tournament,” Tabitha Furyk said. “Not only for spectators to enjoy great music, great food and good golf, but we also wanted them to know that everything that they were participating in was also giving back to our community.”

According to Jim Furyk, the tournament has agreed to a five-year contract with Timuquana and the PGA Tour with the hopes of developing it into an annual tradition for both fans and players

Week 8

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Panthers get first shot at district title against Senators

By Anthony Richards

Week eight of the high school football season is highlighted by a heavyweight matchup of teams with unbeaten district records when Nease travels to take on Fletcher.

The Panthers (5-2, 3-0) face the Senators (3-3, 2-0) at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15, in a contest that will likely carry major implications when deciding the champion of District 3-7A.

With a win, the Panthers would have the tiebreaker over Fletcher with one district game to go against Fleming Island.

The scenario exists that the Panthers could clinch the district title with a win coupled with a loss by Fleming Island on the road against First Coast.

“It means everything to have the opportunity to play in a game like that,” Nease senior linebacker Zach Harmon said. “To go from one win (in a season) to one win away from a district title is amazing.”

However, first the Panthers must take care of business against the Senators, who have had their focus ever since the final whistle blew on Nease’s 28-21 loss to St. Augustine last week.

According to Panthers’ head coach Collin Drafts, his team has shown signs of success throughout the year, but he believes they have not yet put a complete game of four flawless quarters together.

“Even with all the points we’ve scored, we haven’t put four quarters together,” Drafts said. “We’ve got two losses on the year, and after losing to



Photo courtesy of Sheri McGough

Week 8 Football preview.jpg: A district title is within reach for Gavin Gmeiner and the Nease football team when they take on Fletcher on the road at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15.

Creekside we came back hungrier and rattled off four in a row. We’ve got everything we want in front of us.”

For Ponte Vedra it is all about building off last week, which although the result was a 26-24 loss to Bartram Trail, had several positives the Sharks (3-4, 1-2) can take away from it.

At the top of that list is the play of Nathan Bunkosky, who continues to look the part as a quarterback and seems to be gaining more confidence with more games under his belt.

The Sharks go on the road to face Atlantic Coast (3-3, 0-2), who will surely be riding high after handing Creekside its first loss of the season, 29-14, last Friday.

Can the Sharks’ offense continue to operate a successful balanced attack and move the ball consistently down the field? If the answer is yes that will go well with their stingy defense heading into the final stretch of the season.

Local teens return from tournament at Pebble Beach

Three local teen golfers have returned from the PURE Insurance Championship, which was held Sept. 21-26 at Pebble Beach Golf Links and Spyglass Hill Golf Course in Monterey County, California.



Grace Richards

During the event, which is an official PGA TOUR Champions tournament, the teens were among 81 First Tee participants between the ages of 15 and 19 selected to compete for the Pro-Junior Team title. The participants represent 48 First Tee chapters from across the country.



Madelyn Campbell

The annual event, hosted by the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, is televised internationally on Golf Channel.



Matthew French

Throughout the week, teen participants apply the life and leadership skills learned from First Tee programs during this one-of-a-kind event where they are paired with a PGA TOUR Champions player and amateurs from the business world. All three local teens are from First Tee – North Florida.

Grace Richards was paired with Jay

Tee continues on Page 29

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Putting on a show

The following photos are from the final round of the Inaugural Furyk & Friends PGA Tour Champions tournament at Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville Sunday, Oct. 10. It was the first tournament hosted by longtime Ponte Vedra Beach residents Jim and Tabitha Furyk. Hall of famer Phil Mickelson won the event, outlasting a strong field full of former major winners and past THE PLAYERS champions.



Photos by Anthony Richards

Runner-up Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain reads a green before putting.



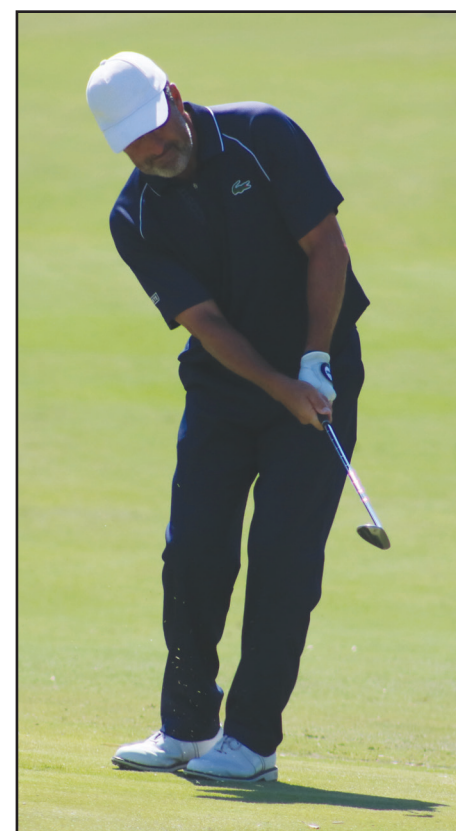
Jim Furyk shares a conversation with his longtime caddie Mike "Fluff" Cowan.



Tournament winner and former THE PLAYERS champion Phil Mickelson was a fan favorite.



John Daly finishes his final round.



Jose Maria Olazabal hits a chip shot.



Matt Gogel sets up for a putt.



Ernie Els hits a tee shot on the 17th hole.



Two-time THE PLAYERS champion Davis Love III strokes a shot.



Contributed photo

Greg Wells and David Crenshaw at the K9s For Warriors charity golf event.

Golf tournament supports mission of K9s For Warriors

K9s For Warriors hosted its inaugural charity golf tournament on Sept. 27 at the newly renovated Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Ocean Course. The event raised \$115,000.

Funds raised at the event will support the nonprofit's growing network of kennels that rescue dogs from high-kill shelters and train them to help mitigate the symptoms of service-related trauma among veterans of all eras.

K9s For Warriors is the nation's largest provider of trained service dogs to military veterans suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury and military sexual trauma.

This mission's importance was underscored by a 2021 study from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which found that veterans with post-traumatic stress who paired with a service dog showed less suicidal ideation and more symptom improvement compared to veterans paired with an untrained emotional support animal.

"One of our challenges is growing to meet demand from veterans who often must wait for months to pair with a trained service dog," said Rory Diamond, CEO of K9s For Warriors. "We've begun to shorten this wait list thanks to the recent opening of our Petco Love K9s Center in San Antonio and the groundbreaking of our Campus for K9 Operations here in Ponte Vedra. With the community's considerable support at today's charity tournament, we intend to continue growing and saving the lives of our nation's heroes."

The K9s For Warriors inaugural charity golf tournament was made possible by donors including The Van Berkel Family Foundation, GATE Petroleum Company, Hanania Automotive Group and Wells Fargo.

For further information about K9s For Warriors and opportunities to support its mission, go to k9sforwarriors.org.

John J. Snyder High School, French is a member of his high school's golf team and was recognized as the MVP in 2019 and 2020. He aspires to play golf on the collegiate level.

This year's field of PGA TOUR Champions players featured World Golf Hall of Fame members Bernhard Langer, Mark O'Meara, Vijay Singh, as well as three-time PURE Insurance Championship winners Kirk Triplett and Jeff Sluman. Clint Eastwood serves as chairman of the PURE Insurance Championship.

More than 1,000 teens from First Tee have played in the PURE Insurance Championship, having an opportunity to meet, play alongside and be mentored by PGA TOUR Champions players and amateurs in the field.

"We are proud to be a part of this incredible event and the support it provides to the many deserving young men and women from the First Tee," said Katie Krum, chief marketing officer of the PURE Group of Insurance Companies.

Tee

Continued from 27

Haas, 18-time PGA TOUR Champions tournament winner. Richards was a member of Nease's varsity girl's golf team for four years. She was on the track-and-field varsity team, was co-president of the Kindness for Kids Club and a member of other community service clubs. She attends Flagler College and aspires to work for the PGA TOUR.

Madelyn Campbell was paired with Stephen Ames, two-time PGA TOUR Champions tournament winner. A senior at Fernandina Beach High School, Campbell is a member of her high school varsity girl's golf team and a member of the Allegiance Community Youth Choir. She aspires to be a best-selling author.

Matthew French was paired with David Frost, six-time PGA TOUR Champions tournament winner. A junior at Bishop

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HALLOWEEN

ACROSS

1. *Hitchcock's 1963 movie, with The
6. Bad-mouth
9. H or O in H₂O, e.g.
13. France's longest river
14. Bauxite, e.g.
15. Opposite of adore
16. Proprietor
17. Quaker Man's cereal
18. Oozes
19. *Corpse
21. *Bobbing for what?, pl.
23. One time around
24. Bébé's mother
25. General Post Office
28. Actuary's concern
30. Named, in bygone era
35. Not easy
37. Accepted behavior
39. Kitchen floor layer?
40. Northern European capital
41. *Overly consumed on Halloween?
43. Actress Spelling
44. Nature's rage
46. Bangladeshi currency
47. Colossal
48. Bowling prop
50. Famous Himalayan
52. Bugling ungulate
53. Valedictorian's spot
55. Possessive of "it"
57. *Pennywise and Joker, e.g.
60. *Traditional Halloween garb
64. Honolulu greeting
65. Costa del ____
67. Plant fungus
68. Mild and pleasant, weather-wise
69. E.T. transporter
70. Popular spring flower
71. Hole-making tools
72. Young newt

73. Country singer ____ Hill

DOWN

1. Coalition
2. Corn Belt state
3. Drink garnish
4. Cheerlessness
5. Offered on a platter
6. *Door-to-____
7. George Gershwin's brother
8. Plural of seta
9. Cain's biblical brother
10. You, in bygone era
11. Uh-oh
12. Wife's title
15. Facet
20. Actress Linda of "Dynasty" fame
22. Be nosy
24. South American wild cats
25. *Bedsheet with holes?
26. Command that follows "cut"
27. Acrylic fiber
29. Show off
31. Low-cal
32. Skip the wedding hoopla
33. State of danger
34. *As opposed to treat
36. Small town or hamlet
38. Manufacture
42. 2:3, e.g.
45. Carnie's domain
49. Grandmother, for short
51. Reflexive of "it"
54. Question in dispute
56. Parallel grooves
57. *Raven's grabber
58. Take it easy
59. Electrical resistance units
60. Blood-related problem
61. Tangerine grapefruit hybrid
62. Castle protector
63. Carve, as in stone
64. Lawyers' league
66. "____ with their head!"

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