

# PONTE VEDRA RECORDER

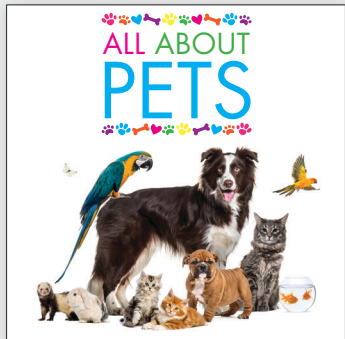


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March 17, 2022  
Volume 53, No. 20  
75 cents

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



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Page 19



**World Golf Hall of Fame**  
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## STORMING TO VICTORY

Cameron Smith prevailed over tough competition, fierce winds and multiple rain delays to win the 2022 PLAYERS Championship on Monday. A Jacksonville Beach resident, Smith becomes the fifth tournament winner to originally hail from Australia. For an article on Smith's victory, turn to page 42.



Photo by Craig O'Neal

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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 [news@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:news@pontevedrarecorder.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder](http://www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

## BRIEFS

### St. Johns County to hold open house for future public library

St. Johns County is hosting an open house from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 7, regarding the planned public library in World Golf Village. Staff from St. Johns County Public Works and the St. Johns County Public Library System will be available to answer questions and share details.

The open house will be held at Pacetti Bay Middle School, 245 Meadowlark Lane, St. Augustine.

One or more county commissioners may be present. Note no action will be taken during the open house.

### Cecil Airport Hosting Job Fair on Saturday, March 19

More than a dozen aviation-related businesses operating at Cecil Airport will participate in a job fair on Saturday, March 19. Participating businesses are hiring for a variety of positions, including aircraft mechanics, electricians, engineers, machinists, welders, painters and pilots.

The job fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Jacksonville Jetport, Hangar 925, 13363 Simpson Way, Jacksonville.

Some employers expected to participate include Boeing, Customs and Border Protection, Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, Flightstar, LSI, Tactical Air Support, Army National Guard, Jacksonville Jetport and Florida State College of Jacksonville.

### Local EXIT Realty affiliated offices welcome new team members

Local EXIT Realty affiliated offices have announced the addition of the following individuals to their teams of real estate professionals.

- Towns Sanford has joined EXIT Real Estate Gallery, 10920 Baymeadows Road, Suite 29, Jacksonville.

- Mj Nelms and Sarah Young have joined EXIT 1 Stop Realty, 13529 Beach

Blvd. No. 307A, Jacksonville.

- Mehrdad Jozdani, Bill Lancaster and Bjorni Ndokaj have joined EXIT Real Estate Gallery at 408 Beach Blvd., Suite 104, Jacksonville Beach.

### Students recognized for academic success

- Jacob Piatt of Ponte Vedra Beach has been named to the dean's list at the University of the South for the fall 2021 term. Jacob Piatt is the son of Vicki & Cummings W. Piatt of Ponte Vedra Beach.

- Xavier Flores of St Augustine was named to the dean's list at Rochester Institute of Technology for the fall 2021 semester. Flores is in the design and imaging technology program.

- The following Jacksonville University students were recently initiated into the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society that is open to all academic disciplines: Wyndi Capeci of St. Augustine, Jessica Durkin of Jacksonville Beach, Christopher Heinmiller of Jacksonville Beach, Michael Housch of St. Augustine and Kerri Thorngate of St. Augustine.

### Realtors, builders to construct ramp for amputee and disabled wife

Real estate professionals from the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors will partner with Builders Care, the charitable arm of the Northeast Florida Builders Association, to construct a wheelchair ramp for a southside family that is in desperate need of help accessing their home.

The construction project will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at 2341 Goldenrod Circle West, Jacksonville.

The beneficiaries of the wheelchair ramp are an amputee, who has recently

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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**Hugh Osteen**

COO/VP

[hugh@osteenmediagroup.com](mailto:hugh@osteenmediagroup.com)

(904) 285-8831

**Susan Griffin**

Publisher

[susan@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:susan@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 686-3938

**Shaun Ryan**

Editor

[shaun@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:shaun@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 285-8831, ext. 1202

**Anthony Richards**

Reporter

[anthony@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:anthony@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 285-8831, ext. 1207

**Don Coble**

Contributor

[don@claytodayonline.com](mailto:don@claytodayonline.com)

**Amber Anderson**

Page/Graphic Designer

[amber@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:amber@pontevedrarecorder.com)

**April Snyder**

Sales Assistant

[april@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:april@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 285-8831, ext. 1204

**Kristin Flanagan**

Account Executive

[kristin@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:kristin@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 285-8831, ext. 1206

**Adele McGraw**

Account Executive

[adele@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:adele@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 285-8831, ext. 1208

**Debbie Apple**

Account Executive

[debbie@osteenmediagroup.com](mailto:debbie@osteenmediagroup.com)

(904) 285-8831

**Joe Wilhelm**

Circulation Manager

[joe@osteenmediagroup.com](mailto:joe@osteenmediagroup.com)

(904) 300-5374

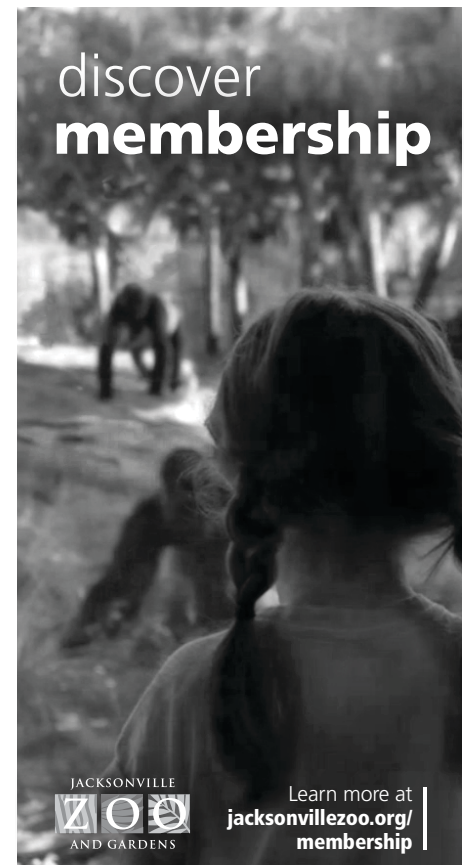
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# Briefs

Continued from 2

suffered from a heart attack, and his wheelchair-bound wife. The results of the all-day event will allow the disabled homeowners an easier way to enter and leave their home.

About 80 association members

will provide the labor to build the wheelchair ramp as part of the Realtor association's Community Affairs Task Force. Builders Care, a nonprofit with the mission to assist low-income homeowners by making critical home repairs, will provide all the construction materials necessary to complete the ramp project.

## FEMA dune enhancement project extended to October

The recently completed areas under the FEMA Dune Enhancement project are Crescent Beach and South Ponte Vedra Beach. The newly placed sea oats and sand held up against the early November nor'easter.

The contractor, Continental Heavy Civil, has reduced the volume of large construction equipment on Ponte Vedra Boulevard over the past few weeks by rerouting the truck access point to Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park. Residents will notice the contractor's

expanded footprint in Mickler's Landing as they increase the pace of sand placement between Mickler's Landing and Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The contractor formally notified the county of its inability to complete the project for Ponte Vedra Beach by the contracted date of March 31, citing several reasons for the delay, including a nationwide trucker shortage.

The project is now anticipated to be completed in October 2022.

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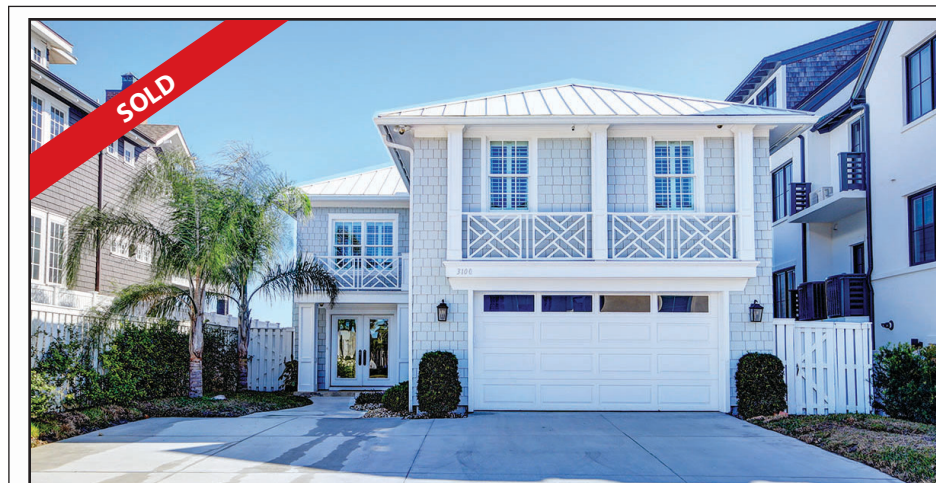
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# St. Augustine holds annual St. Patrick Parade

Despite rainy conditions, St. Augustine held its annual St. Patrick Parade in the historic downtown on the morning of Saturday, March 12. Bagpipe players, marching bands, dancers and more turned an otherwise gray day into a festive celebration.

Photos by Shaun Ryan







Photo provided by North Guana Outpost

Night time at Guana Lake. Tours launch from the north boat ramp on Guana Dam.

# Kayak tours offer close look at bioluminescent lake

A phenomenon is occurring in a shallow coastal lake in St Johns County.

A natural light show created by multiple species of bioluminescent sea creatures was discovered in 2019 by Benjamin Brandao, an eco-adventure guide with North Guana Outpost. Since then, NGO has escorted hundreds of people out on Guana Lake after hours. Everyone is welcome at the GTM National Estuarine Research Reserve to see something locals didn't know existed here until now.

To see it for yourself, you'll need a guide, a kayak and a sense of adventure. Contact NGO to see the phenomena at their location on Guana River Road.

Limited reservations are available for paddlers to have a close encounter. Certified kayak instructors and ecologists accompany small groups around the lake

all year. Kayaks, safety gear and equipment to observe specimens up close are provided. Experience is not required. Tickets are \$50 per person for a 90-minute experience.

After discovering and confirming the persistent bioluminescence in St. Augustine's backyard, Benjamin Brandao said, "Bioluminescent Guana Lake is added to a very short list of places in the world to observe microscopic as well as large glowing organisms near the surface of the water practically every night of the year."

North Guana Outpost is located at 4415 Mickler Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, and is an outfitter store with access on both the north and south ends of the Guana Aquatic Preserve. For more information or to make reservations, go to northguanaoutpost.com or call 904-373-0306.

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*Darlene Riggs is one of those volunteers who ensure that THE PLAYERS Championship runs like clockwork every year. Her mission: keep thousands of other volunteers fed so they can effectively carry out their responsibilities — no small task, to be sure. A devoted PLAYERS volunteer for more than three decades, Riggs has been running Darlene's Diner for most of that time. The food tent provides breakfast and lunch to the hard workers who ensure the tournament's success.*

## Darlene Riggs

### As told to Shaun Ryan

#### **Tell me about Darlene's Diner. How long have you operated it? What is its mission?**

Darlene's Diner is THE PLAYERS committee that feeds the 2,500-plus volunteers for the weeklong event. I have been a volunteer with THE PLAYERS for 35 years and chairman of Darlene's Diner for 25 years. The mission of Darlene's Diner is to provide a place for the many volunteers to relax, enjoy a good meal and enjoy the company of their fellow volunteers.

#### **How did Darlene's Diner first get started?**

THE PLAYERS has always had a designated area for their volunteers to get a quick lunch. In 1998, I took over as chairman. We included not only lunch but breakfast as well, and Darlene's Diner has grown to be a favorite spot for the volunteers. The committee was originally called the Volunteer Tent, and in 2009 I was very honored when they named the committee Darlene's Diner.

#### **How did you learn to cook and serve meals on such a grand scale? Did you have a background in food preparation before taking on this annual challenge?**

Actually, I was a vice president at SunTrust for 30 years but had always enjoyed cooking and preparing food for friends and family. The biggest challenge was to realize that when cooking for such a large group you had to have a sensible menu, so it was figuring out what worked. Over the years we have grown tremendously, for example, breakfast used to be 13 dozen eggs, we now cook over 800 dozen eggs to order for breakfast.

#### **How much preparation is required to accomplish this every year?**

I begin in January contacting my food suppliers to make sure they are aware of the forthcoming large orders. We use Sysco, Blue Bell Ice Cream and Publix. The first of February I send each of them an order for the week. Serving good fresh food is a priority with us, one of my must-have items is fresh-every-day hamburgers made by Publix.

THE PLAYERS sends to me a list of the volunteers who have signed up for Darlene's Diner, and I work to schedule them to meet their schedules and our needs. Many times, I recruit the assistance of family and friends to be sure to have a full staff.

#### **How much food will you serve during THE PLAYERS?**

We will use about 800 dozen fresh eggs, 400 loaves of bread, 2,700 hamburgers, 600 pounds of fresh chicken breast and 500 pounds of chicken tenders. We will make many salads, hundreds of our famous tuna salad and egg salad sandwiches along with many other breakfast and lunch items.

#### **How many people work with you to feed so many people at each tournament?**

We will have a staff of around 100 people working in two shifts each day.

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

I just enjoy the people. Over the years I have made lifelong friends and have a treasure box of special memories.





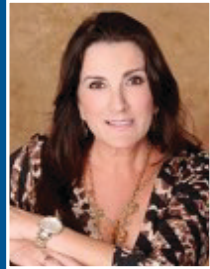


[NorthEastFloridaCoastHomes.com](http://NorthEastFloridaCoastHomes.com)

*Congratulations to our February Leaders!*



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Ponte Vedra Beach



**Lara Hoffman**  
Ponte Vedra Beach



**Matt & Naomi Wilkinson**  
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**Brian Sacks**  
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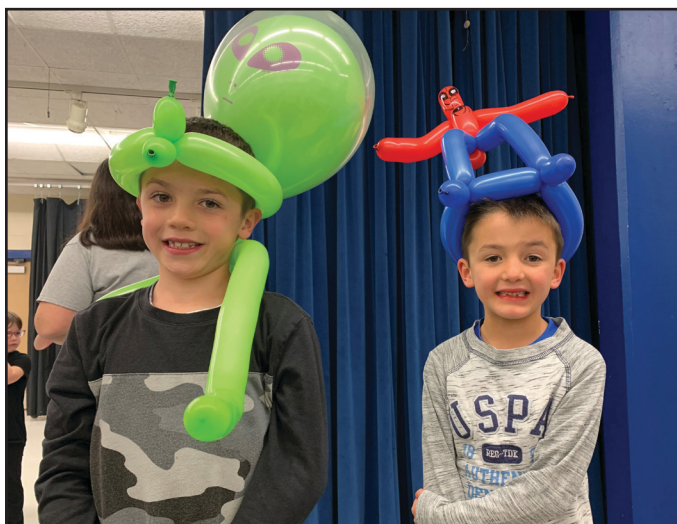
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# Fun has sprung at Ocean Palms Elementary

Warm weather, warm smiles and heart-warming fun marked Ocean Palms Elementary School's Spring Festival on March 3. Inflatable slides, games and a candy walk were just some of the activities students could join in. Additionally, face painting, a balloon artist, dancing and a chance to silly string teachers and staff, added a little spring to the children's steps. The event was sponsored by Lazzara Orthodontics, with food sponsored by Chick-fil-A, and offered the perfect respite and place to connect as a community.



A balloon artist brought some style to this Ocean Palms Elementary event.



Students were able to silly string teachers, staff and the principal.   
Contributed photos



Ocean Palms Elementary students have fun with face paint.



Ocean Palms Elementary students and families enjoy dinner at the Spring Festival.



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## OBITUARIES

### Dr. John T. Skelton



Dr. John T. Skelton, 81, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by family on March 12, 2022, following a brave, long battle with cancer. Diagnosed in 2008 and given an 18-month prognosis, John fought back hard earning the nickname “The Outlier” by his Mayo doctors and outliving his original prognosis a full 12 years.

Born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, John was a graduate of The

Baylor School, Class of 1958. He mentioned several times that he didn’t want his obituary to include that he was a high school football star but since he’s not here to argue, we’re going to go ahead and brag on him.

After graduating from Mississippi State University, John enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the 68th Medical Unit in Long Binh during the Vietnam War.

The Army took him and his wife Jane (and eventually their two young daughters) around the U.S. and the world with assignments in San Antonio, Texas; Ft. Benning, Georgia; Ft. Eustis in Virginia; Dugway Proving Ground in Utah; Walter Reed in Washington, D.C., and three years at the U.S. Army Hospital in Landstuhl, Germany – his favorite post. Nearly every weekend or on leave in Germany, the family would pack up the trusty white Gremlin and hit the autobahn to roam European towns from Germany to France to The Netherlands to Italy (thus instilling a lifelong wanderlust in his offspring).

John retired from active duty, going on to serve in the Army Reserves and retire as Lt. Colonel. He and the family relocated to Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, where

he careers transitioned to his second love after the military: academia. He served as Dean of the College of Business at Jacksonville University. Before his retirement, he was Provost of Open Campus of St. Johns River Community College.

To know John was to understand his passion for and gift for education. He loved teaching and attending college. He earned his M.A. at Georgetown University while working at Walter Reed Medical Center and with two small daughters at home; and went on to later earn his Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

John was an active and devoted member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, where he was a longtime usher. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity, Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and Ponte Vedra Rotary Club.

After his retirement, he played golf, visited Walt Disney World often to indulge in another favorite pastime – sitting on a Main Street bench eating a hot dog and people watching — and played weekly trivia with friends on Team Colors as long as he physically could. In his final years, he spent a lot of his time

at the Mayo Clinic, where he claimed the Bundy Café serves the best biscuits and gravy in town (and he would know).

John’s humor, intelligence, kindness, guidance, friendship, and love will be missed beyond measure by his family and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Thomas Louis, and Virginia Roberts Skelton. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Jane; daughters Elizabeth Morgan (Garrick) and Jennifer McAfee (Mark); grandchildren Tyler McAfee and Virginia McAfee and sister Virginia Stratford of St. Augustine.

A Mass of Christian Burial presided over by Father William Kelly will be celebrated at 11 a.m., Tuesday, March 22 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. Interment will follow to Jacksonville National Cemetery at 1:30. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. Please visit his online Tribute at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

Arrangements by



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

## DEATH NOTICES

### Dennis Abrahamson

Dennis Abrahamson, 75, of St. Augustine, Florida, died March 7, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com)

### Burton “Burt” Anderson

Burton “Burt” Anderson, 91, of Jacksonville, Florida, died March 6, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com)

### Robert Battistic

Robert Battistic, 59, of Jacksonville, Florida, died March 6, 2022. Ponte Vedra

Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com)

### Arthur J. Hendley

Arthur J. Hendley, 87, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died March 6, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com)

### David H. Hyland

David H. Hyland, 71, of Jacksonville, Florida, died March 2, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com)

### Gerard Richard Monahan, Jr.

Gerard Richard Monahan, Jr., 80, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died March 8, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

### Michael James Rombough

Michael James Rombough, 66, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died March 11, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

### Charles Santangelo, Sr.

Charles Santangelo, Sr., 94, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died March 7, 2022. Ponte

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### Liri Shandro

Liri Shandro, 78, of St. Augustine, Florida, died March 9, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com)



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# Tiger Woods inducted into World Golf Hall of Fame

By Kathy Bissell

To absolutely no one's surprise, Tiger Woods was selected for induction to the World Golf Hall of Fame. The induction, held on March 9, was at the new PGA TOUR World Headquarters building. One reason Woods qualified so soon is that those in charge decided to lower the age to from 50 to 45. Woods turned 46 last December.

To everyone's surprise, Woods teared up even before he started talking.

"I just lost a bet to Stricker that I wouldn't cry," were Woods first words. Everyone laughed.

Stricker is Steve Stricker, the recent Ryder Cup captain who is known for crying when he wins and sometimes just when he gets good news. The man is a waterworks machine.

It was unusual to see someone as controlled in his comments as Woods usually is crying on stage, his human side exposed. Perhaps the tears were because his daughter Sam had just done the introduction.

"I inducted you into the Dad Hall of Fame a long time ago, but today I am so proud to present my dad, Tiger Woods, into the World Golf Hall of Fame," she said.

That apparently did it. Tears flowed.

In their speeches, Sam and Tiger Woods did give us some new information on his formative years.

He once had a dog called Boom Boom, named after Fred Couples.

He has dressed up as Batman to go to Comic-Con.

When he was young used to play putting games and would win quarters from people at the golf course. His dad told him he couldn't putt for quarters anymore. So, he went for dollars. His dad stopped that, too. The next week, he came home with more dollars and again his dad asked him how he got them. The answer

was that he beat people at skins.

When he was 8, he was "too young" to be on the golf course. The acceptable age was 10. But his mother used to drop him off near the course, and he'd sneak on and hide under a culvert on the third hole until his dad arrived after work. Then the two of them would play until they lost a ball. The longest they played was 17 holes. In the winter, that meant playing in the dark.

"We had a rule," Woods explained. "If you ever lost the golf ball, we'd be done, and we'd have to drive in. So, part of understanding how to shape shots and knowing where I hit it on the face, where I would hit it, all started then. So, if I hit it, Dad, I pulled it left, it's up the left side, it's going to be here."

Realistically, what qualifies for dark in a large metro area is different than in the middle of farm country or being in an unpopulated area of the desert at night. That can be amazingly dark. Night in Ponte Vedra is often light enough to find your way around, but certainly not ideal for golf.

Now, Earl Woods, Tiger's father, taught him to have a great work ethic. Because of that, he has opinions on the kind of effort needed to improve and stay on top.

"If you don't go out there and put in the work, you don't go out and put in the effort; one, you're not going to get the results, but two, and more importantly, you don't deserve it. You need to earn it," Woods said.

Woods said several times that he did not have success all on his own.

"I had unbelievable parents, mentors, friends who allowed me and supported me in the toughest times, the darkest of times, and celebrated the highest of times," he said.

With Woods' career, the World Golf Hall of Fame induction was a given. His humbleness and tears were not.



World Golf Hall of Fame | Chris Condon

**Tiger Woods' daughter Sam rehearses her speech for the World Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.**



World Golf Hall of Fame | Chris Condon

**Tiger Woods' daughter Sam introduced her father during the World Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.**



World Golf Hall of Fame | Ben Jared

**Tiger Woods speaks during the World Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.**



World Golf Hall of Fame | Ben Jared

**Golfing great Tiger Woods has been inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.**



World Golf Hall of Fame | Ben Jared

**Tiger Woods speaks during the World Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.**





World Golf Hall of Fame | Ben Jared

Former commissioner and World Golf Hall of Fame inductee Tim Finchem poses for photos during the World Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony prior to THE PLAYERS Championship at PGA TOUR Global Home in Ponte Vedra Beach.

# Tim Finchem goes in World Golf Hall of Fame with Tiger Woods

By Kathy Bissell

Former PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame on a rainy night in Ponte Vedra. His tenure as the leader of the PGA TOUR was 22 years, and coincidentally, it paralleled the career of Tiger Woods, who also entered the Hall of Fame the same evening.

It could be said that because of the two of them, Finchem and Woods, the game

of golf, the PGA TOUR and charitable giving by the PGA TOUR grew exponentially.

Yes, there were some dramatic, unexpected and unfortunate moments during that time period. There was 9/11. There was the economic crisis of 2008. But that's when leadership is even more important. Finchem and his staff were able to bring the PGA TOUR into a better place after each of those situations and

**FINCHEM** continues on **Page 12**



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# Finchem

Continued from 2

forge a path onward and upward.

In addition to his stewardship of the TOUR, Finchem was a creator of new things. He was in the lead when the World Golf Championships were born.

He gathered people to form the First Tee program with former President George H.W. Bush (41) serving as the national honorary chairman and then later with assistance from President George W. Bush (43).

“When we approached both of those gentlemen to assist us to grow The First Tee and really reach thousands and thousands of young people, they jumped at it,” Finchem said.

The Bush family is known for its love of golf. The Walker Cup, a USGA amateur event, was named for George Herbert Walker who is the grandfather and namesake of George H. W. Bush and a past president of the USGA.

But the First Tee isn't all.

Finchem oversaw the development of the Presidents Cup event, which provides a Ryder Cup-like contest for international golfers not born in Europe to play in a high-profile team event against PGA TOUR players.

Leaders of golf organizations around the world, while Finchem was commis-

sioner, formed the International Golf Federation, which includes the R&A, USGA, PGA TOUR, DP World Tour (European Tour), PGA of America, LPGA and the Masters Tournament. They successfully lobbied to bring golf back to the Olympics.

Finchem also contended with and overcame two of Greg Norman's attempts to create new golf tours by recruiting PGA TOUR members.

In his press conference when the induction was announced, Finchem noted that he was being honored for the people that he knew more than anything else. But in fact, he was being honored for what he was able to accomplish by knowing those people.

As commissioner, Finchem said he leaned on the knowledge of the second PGA TOUR commissioner, Deane Beman, as well as legends in the game, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus.

“I want to thank Deane Beman,” Finchem said. “I think a lot of you might not recognize the fact that when Deane came down here and took over the PGA TOUR and started to build it, the net worth of the PGA TOUR was \$150,000. You think about that for a minute. And he took it from where it was to great heights in a short period of time.”

When it comes to Tiger Woods, Finchem said he first caught notice of Woods when the U.S. Amateur was

played at TPC Sawgrass in 1994. However, he was headed out of town to Akron, Ohio, for the NEC World Series of Golf at Firestone CC.

“I got up there, and TOUR players usually, when they get done with their rounds, they head for the hills,” Finchem noted. “But at this one, I couldn't find any guys around, and I went in the clubhouse, and it was packed, and it was packed because the players had gathered around a television to watch Tiger playing down here in the Amateur.”

That's when he knew Tiger Woods was going to be something.

“It sort of taught me a lesson, and I started thinking about how this man can impact huge numbers of people the way he does,” Finchem said.

Finchem said that Woods became the most recognized person on the planet.

In addition to Finchem and Woods, Susie Maxwell Berning, an LPGA player who won three U.S. Opens, and Marion Hollins, the woman who was instrumental in the creation of Cypress Point and who developed Pasatiempo Golf Club, also entered the Hall.

The late Dick Ferris, who served on the PGA TOUR Policy Board for many years and was chairman of UAL, and Peter Ueberroth, former commissioner of Major League Baseball and chairman of the 1984 Olympics, were honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards for

their work to protect and preserve Pebble Beach. Along with Arnold Palmer and Clint Eastwood, they purchased Pebble Beach from Taiheiyo Club and Sumitomo Bank of Japan.

Renee Powell, daughter of William “Bill” Powell, a noted member of the PGA of America, was presented with the first Charlie Sifford Award.

The site for the ceremonies was the new World HQ of the PGA TOUR on Route 210, across from the post office and Walgreen's. It was a first look inside the shiny, new structure. The interiors are sleek with what look like white terrazzo floors, glass panels separating offices from corridors and some 1950s/ 1960s-style wood-trim accents. The feeling is light and bright, and it seems as though the structure might levitate soon or that the Sean Connery-James Bond might push through a window and slide down the three-story staircase.

The interior furniture is retro-1950s, with low-slung, white chairs and couches perched on tiny legs. Brown leather bar top seats, also with spidery legs, are scattered around the building.

The induction speeches were held in the central lobby, on the west end of the building. A reception for all in attendance was held on the west patio.

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# Hall of Fame Festivities

The World Golf Hall of Fame inducted golfing great Tiger Woods, former PGA TOUR Commissioner Tim Finchem, three-time Women's Open champion Susie Maxwell Berning and the late golf architect and amateur champion Marion Hollins during a ceremony on March 9. In addition, Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to two benefactors of the sport, Peter Ueberroth and the late Dick Ferris, and the inaugural Charlie Sifford Award was bestowed upon PGA/LPGA member Renee Powell. Here are some photos from the event.



World Golf Hall of Fame | Ben Jared  
**World Golf Hall of Fame inductee Tiger Woods is seen with Rebecca Gaston, left, and Patty Sheenan, right.**



World Golf Hall of Fame | Chris Condon  
**Chris Womack, chairman, president and CEO of Georgia Power, a subsidiary of Southern Company, stands next to Charlie Sifford Award winner Renee Powell.**



World Golf Hall of Fame | Ben Jared  
**World Golf Hall of Fame 2022 inductees, from left, Tiger Woods, Susie Maxwell Berning and Tim Finchem.**



World Golf Hall of Fame | Ben Jared  
**Peter Ueberroth received a Lifetime Achievement Award.**



World Golf Hall of Fame | Chris Condon  
**Former pro golfer and announcer David Feherty speaks during the World Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.**



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# Wine & Dine on 9 a popular spot with PLAYERS fans

By Shaun Ryan

Even the rain couldn't keep PLAYERS Championship attendees from seeking out one of the top venues at the tournament: Wine & Dine on 9.

Presented by the official wine of the PGA TOUR, Meiomì Wines, and run by the Bonefish Grill of Mandarin, it was a good and tasteful way to easily pair seafood with chardonnay.

The restaurant's managing partner, Joe Peterson, said people didn't seem to be deterred by the soggy weather.

"They're just happy to be out here," he said on Thursday of tournament week. "And we're happy to be out here."

Bonefish Grill has been involved with the tournament since the truncated 2020 season, and it has proven to be a valuable arrangement. At the 2021 PLAYERS, the restaurant did four times as much business as had been predicted.

"It's huge," Peterson said. "I mean, this is our demographic."

It was huge, too, for Peterson, who said he is "super-passionate about golf."

The crowds tend to wax and wane at the venue as they track the players, and because Wine & Dine on 9 is located in the juxtaposition of three holes (9, 5 and 7), the tide can quickly turn in the restau-



Joe Peterson, managing partner of the Bonefish Grill restaurant in Mandarin, and co-worker Tara Yelland stand ready to serve menu items paired with Meiomì wines.

rant's favor.

"Sometimes, when you get the big names on all three holes, there'll be no people out here and all of a sudden, you've got a hundred people lined up," Peterson said.

This year, to familiarize attendees with



Todd Philcox of Ponte Vedra tries out the golfing simulator sponsored by Meiomì Wines.

Photos by Shaun Ryan

Meiomì Wines, a golf simulator of the 7th hole at Pebble Beach was installed next to the tent.

"We definitely just wanted something different here this year to attract more people, to get the word out more and give the people more options for fun while

they're walking around," said Sandi Demski, representing the wine brand.

One of the benefits of the simulator was that visitors could get some complimentary advice from a PGA pro on site. That lesson would then be emailed to the visitor for future review.



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# Tour wives offer precious moments for families with children in need

By Anthony Richards

For children dealing with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and their families, the opportunities they get together are precious and the PGA TOUR Wives Association teamed up with THE PLAYERS and the Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation to help many families cherish that time.

The organizations hosted the “These Kids Can Play” event March 8 during THE PLAYERS Championship. Various games were scattered throughout the Championship Club near the 16th green at TPC Sawgrass and allowed families to enjoy a fun-filled atmosphere.

Isaac Toenies and his mother Beth took part in the event and were grateful for the invitation. He is 3 years old and has an undiagnosed neuromuscular genetic condition.

“There’s no one else in the world with what he has, so we don’t know what to expect for his life,” Toenies said. “We’ve really learned to live day by day and really find the beauty inside of this journey. It has been a beautiful way to look at life.”

They, along with all of the other families that attended the event have members who are part of Community PedsCare in Jacksonville.

“The Community PedsCare program has meant a lot to us, because we’ve been able to meet other families like ours and it has really helped us get to know these families that are walking the same road through life,” Toenies said. “They are the most humble people and are just grateful for everything.”

Through the program, Toenies has been able to schedule a nurse to help with Isaac’s care and a social worker to help in the process of finding resources.

“It’s nice because any parent feels like it’s nice to have support from the community and to know that it’s not just you,” Brittany Beimourtrufing said.

Brittany and her husband Greg have three children, Dreaven, Tybalt and Aksel.

What made the activities unique for them was that they were created with the goal of having the entire family included, which meant a child dealing with a handicap could play alongside their siblings



Photo by Anthony Richards

The PGA Tour Wives Association teamed up with THE PLAYERS and the Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation to host the “These Kids Can Play” event March 8 at the Championship Club at TPC Sawgrass.

and share in the experience.

“It’s not just an event that has handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp into the building,” Greg Beimourtrufing said. “The activities that they setup are meant to be inclusive and enjoyed by

everyone.”

Some of the activities included ring toss as well as practicing their skills at golf, baseball and basketball stations.

WIVES continues on Page 18

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Photo by Anthony Richards

Two-time major winner Bubba Watson interacted with children as special guest during the Tesori Family Foundation's annual all-star golf clinic.

# Watson shares laughs, hits balls at Tesori all-star clinic

By Anthony Richards

The all-star golf clinic for children with special needs in Northeast Florida hosted by the Tesori Family Foundation March 9 at The Yards was the game of golf at its purest form.

"We all have families, and we all want to do something better," two-time major winner Bubba Watson said. "Golf shouldn't be our legacy, but our legacy should be what we do with our wives and

kids and for our country and our world."

The foundation was established by Paul and Michelle Tesori in 2009, but the clinics and focus on children with special needs started after their son Isaiah was born in 2014 and was diagnosed with Down syndrome.

"They get the most from being treated like an all-star for an hour and a half," Michelle Tesori said. "They get to just be

TESORI continues on Page 18

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## Wives

Continued from 16

“The moms, dads, brothers and sisters are all in this together,” said Jennifer Perry, PGA TOUR Wives Association executive director. “Hopefully this is a special memory for them for the entire year.”

The PGA TOUR Wives Association was established 35 years ago and hosts about 15 to 20 similar events throughout the year with the mission of helping needy children and their families across the country.

“This has been a long-standing event and really our goal is just to continue to give back in the communities that host our players and our families every year,” Perry said. “We want to be hands-on and be able to tell people in the community face to face that we love them.”



The event included activities the entire family could experience.



Batting practice was one of the activities children could take part in.

Photos by Anthony Richards

## Tesori

Continued from 17

themselves.”

When Sheryl Lorentzen found out that her son was one of the 25 children invited to the clinic, she knew what a huge thing that would be for her son, Easton, who has recently begun developing a passion for golf.

“Easton loves golf and when our therapist said it was time to sign up, we jumped on it,” Lorentzen said. “He’s all about it and I’m super excited for him.”

For Easton, his interest in golf was sparked thanks to his uncle introducing him to the game.

“My brother plays, and he took him with him one time, and he just loved it,” Lorentzen said. “It is his cup of tea. We actually just got the paperwork to sign him up for the Special Olympics golf team, because he’s old enough to do that now.”

The children got the opportunity to meet, hear some insight and share some laughs with Watson, who was in town for THE PLAYERS Championship and served as the event’s special guest.

“It’s just exciting to be out here and seeing the energy that Paul and the Tesoris have is special and something that you want to be a part of,” Watson said.

Watson even showcased his driving skills by hitting some shots for the children prior to them going and attempting some of their own.

Fellow PGA TOUR golfer Marc Leishman also made a surprise appearance at the event, as well as D.J. Gregory, who was honored with the PGA TOUR’s Courage Award after having walked more than 42,000 holes at various tournaments since 2008 despite being born with cerebral palsy.

Watson, Leishman and Gregory rotated shots as part of a friendly competition that included each player seeing how far they could hit it one-handed.



The event gave children and their families an opportunity to be all-stars for an hour and a half.

Watching the children participate in the various stations at the clinic and seeing the smiles on their faces brought back memories for Watson of when he was first learning the game.

“We had free Saturday clinics at the golf course where I grew up and any kids could come,” Watson said. “This definitely brings me back and helps me realize how lucky I was to be able to do that.”

According to Michelle Tesori, the idea to hold a special needs golf clinic was proposed to the couple by Mark Brazil, who was tournament director of the Wynamdam Championship at the time, and their current journey began.

“We just started adding cities after that,” Tesori said.

The Tesoris have enjoyed watching the clinic and the continued support they get grow with each year that passes, even despite the bump in the road that was the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We almost can’t believe that God has given us the platform we get to use to do this,” Tesori said. “Every city that we contact wants a part of this. Our dreams of this were never this big, but we just didn’t dream big enough.”



Photos by Anthony Richards

The Tesori Family Foundation hosted a golf clinic for 25 special needs children in Northeast Florida March 9 at The Yards.



The clinic offered a look at golf at its purest form.





# ALL ABOUT PETS



## FEATURING

- **Fresh, running water improves urinary health in cats** PAGE 20
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# Fresh, running water improves urinary health in cats

**Erika Pitkat DVM, HelloVet Pet Care**

Have you ever wondered why cats love to drink out of the faucet in your sink?

It is an instinct for cats to drink fresh running water, as their “wild” relatives seek to drink cool running water from a river or stream.

Some cats do not like the sensation of their whiskers hitting the side of their water bowl, and it is difficult for them to see standing water in a bowl as their close-up vision is not good.

Cats, and male cats in particular, are prone to urinary crystals, bladder inflammation and urinary blockage if the moisture in their diet is not adequate. Urinary blockage due to crystals is life-threatening and an emergency. Signs of a urinary tract issue include vocalizing, posturing to urinate with little or no production, vomiting, licking at the

genitalia, lethargy and repeated trips to the litter box.

Provide multiple stations for water around the house. Pet fountains with running water provide a fantastic opportunity for your cat to hydrate, as this more closely mimics the fresh running water they would seek in the wild.

Be sure to clean them regularly and change the filters to avoid mildew buildup. Jacksonville is known for its hard water; therefore, pet fountains are helpful to filter some of this hard water.

In addition, providing canned food daily also increases the amount of moisture in your cat’s diet, as most canned foods have a high moisture content.

For helpful information on keeping your cat happy and healthy, visit the Indoor Cat Initiative at <https://indoorpet.osu.edu/cats> or Cat Info at <https://catinfo.org/feline-urinary-tract-diseases/>.



Jennifer Teneyck, Pawgrass Mobile Dog Spa

## Spring Pet Safety Tip

Keeping your dog clean and groomed prevents skin irritations from allergies, fleas and ticks. It also keeps their temperature regulated. All breeds have different grooming needs. Readers may call Pawgrass Mobile Dog Spa if they would like more information on keeping their dog safe this spring and summer.

## Benefits of pet crates, and how to make them cozy

Aspiring pet owners purchase various items before they welcome a new companion animal into their homes. Food, collars, leashes, toys, and preventive medications are just some of the items necessary to keep pets happy and safe. Large animals like dogs and cats often benefit from crates and carriers as well. Though some individuals and animal rights organizations are against crates, when used responsibly, crates can be useful in various ways.

- Crates provide a safe space. Certain animals have a natural instinct to bed down in dens. While some homes have areas that serve as cozy nooks, a crate set aside in a quiet room can replicate a safe den for the pet when he or she is stressed or tired and simply needs some time away. A pet may seek out this ‘den’ on its own or can be placed there by an owner when the animal needs to calm down. Children should be advised to leave crated animals alone.

- Assist with house training. Many animals prefer not to soil where they sleep. Therefore, a pet will not void in the crate, provided it is sized correctly, and will learn to gradually hold it until it is granted access to the proper place to relieve itself.

- Keep areas off limits. Cordoned off areas surrounded by gates may work for some pets, but certain dogs are able

to scale or circumvent such barriers. A closed crate provides a safe option when the animal cannot be supervised and has not yet demonstrated it can be trusted to have free reign of the home.

When selecting and outfitting a crate, pet owners should keep certain things in mind.

- Be sure there is adequate ventilation so that the animal can breathe comfortably. Wire crates, which are among the most popular, will allow for plenty of air flow and enable the pet to see his or her environment.

- Seek out a crate that is rated for travel so that you’ll get double duty out of the item. Keeping pets contained in a moving vehicle is a safer way to travel.

- Monitor your pet to determine what you can put inside the crate. Some trainers recommend feeding and watering your pet in the crate to make the animal more comfortable with it. Comfortable bedding or a favorite toy or blanket may help provided your pet is not a chewer (and swallower) and can be trusted with these items overnight.

- Remove harnesses, collars and other items from the pet before placing it in the crate to reduce the risk of strangulation or injury.

- Limit the time the pet spends in the



# Crates

Continued from 20

crate to allow for exercise and stretching. The pet should be able to stand up and reposition in the crate, but the crate should not be large enough that the dog can soil

on one side and rest on the other. The crate should never be a punishment tool.

- If the pet messes inside the crate, clean it promptly.

Crates are useful tools for pet owners. When used responsibly, crates can serve as safe havens and training tools for pets.



## Why it pays to use crates when training puppies

Puppies make great additions to a household. Parents often find that dogs can teach youngsters lessons about compassion and responsibility, while moms and dads enjoy the companionship and unconditional love their dogs provide.

As first-time dog owners learn shortly after bringing their puppies home, pets require a lot of work. That's especially true of puppies, which must be housebroken so they can learn to live within the structure of a family. Crate training, which is supported by the American Kennel Club, is a great way to teach puppies proper behaviors and to get them to adjust to their new lives.

Many dog owners, particularly those who have never before had a dog, may hesitate to employ crates to train their puppies. That's understandable, as on the surface it can seem cruel or inhumane to confine a living animal to a cage. However, the AKC notes that dogs are den animals that naturally seek out canine caves for security. That's true whether dog owners provide crates for their puppies or not. So while humans may see crates as cruel, dogs very likely view their crates as secure places where they can go if they get scared or feel skittish. In fact, according to the AKC, dogs' perception of crates is one reason why dog owners typically find it relatively easy to get their dogs to adjust to crates and ultimately enjoy them.

The AKC urges dog owners who plan to crate train their puppies to find appropriately-sized crates before they begin training. Crates should be just large enough for dogs to lie down, stand up and turn around. Dogs won't embrace crates that are too small, and crates that are too big will give dogs the impression that they can use one corner to defecate and use the rest for sleep or play. That's the wrong message to send, as dogs should never be encouraged to relieve themselves in their crates.

Crate training can be invaluable when welcoming puppies into a home. Learn more at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

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# Protect your pet from ingesting poisons

## Courtesy of First Coast Veterinary Specialists

Move over shamrocks, because this month we are focusing on raising awareness of poison prevention for your pets! Did you know March is National Pet Poison Prevention Awareness Month? So, before you begin your spring cleaning or that home project this time of year, let's make sure we keep our pets safe throughout the process.

### Cleaning Products

Cleaners, detergents, and chemicals — these can all pose a threat to our pets. Whether it be mild irritation of the mouth and oral cavity or, to the extreme, a life-threatening poisoning, preventing pets from exposure is key. Consider child-proof locks on the cabinets where cleaning products are stored and clean when pets cannot have any access to the area until products have been rinsed away or dried fully.

Natural products — no product is automatically safe! Do not assume that a “natural cleaning product” is pet-safe. There are no firm industry standards for what constitutes a natural cleaning product so there may be ingredients that are not as natural as you think. Plenty of

natural substances are still toxic to pets.

### Home improvement

All components of a painting project — the paint, solvents and products used to clean supplies — pose a risk to pets. That risk is heightened for cats who might walk through the paint or chemical, then groom the substance off their feet or coat.

Nails, blades, and power tools — curious pets can injure themselves by picking up objects in their mouths, swallowing/ingesting objects or in fact operating a tool unintentionally. Prevent your pet from entering any workspace until the area has been fully cleaned up.

### Garden & Landscaping

Toxic plants — many pet owners are aware of the risks of toxic plants. When selecting plants, shrubs or trees to include in your yard, check the ASPCA list of poisonous plants to ensure the safety of your pets.

Mulch — the harm caused to dogs from chewing on mulch has been underestimated. Swallowing mulch can cause a gastrointestinal obstruction, sometimes requiring surgery. Mulch is often treated with paint, dye or other chemicals to

make it resistant to color-fade or for other aesthetic concerns. These chemicals can be harmful when ingested by a pet. Some products are even made with used coffee grounds — which sounds natural and environmentally-conscious yet results in life-threatening caffeine toxicity. Do not permit pets to chew mulch.

Fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides — each of these products are a risk to your pet. Read product labels and follow instructions carefully; do not allow your pet out into the yard until a safe period of

time has passed since application of any product. Keep products locked away and secured.

In the event of a poisoning or toxin exposure, quick action and expert advice are critical. Take the time to save First Coast Veterinary Emergency's number, 904-853-6310, and familiarize yourself with the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. Staffed by board-certified veterinary toxicologists and specialist technicians, they can be reached 24/7 at 1-888-426-4435.



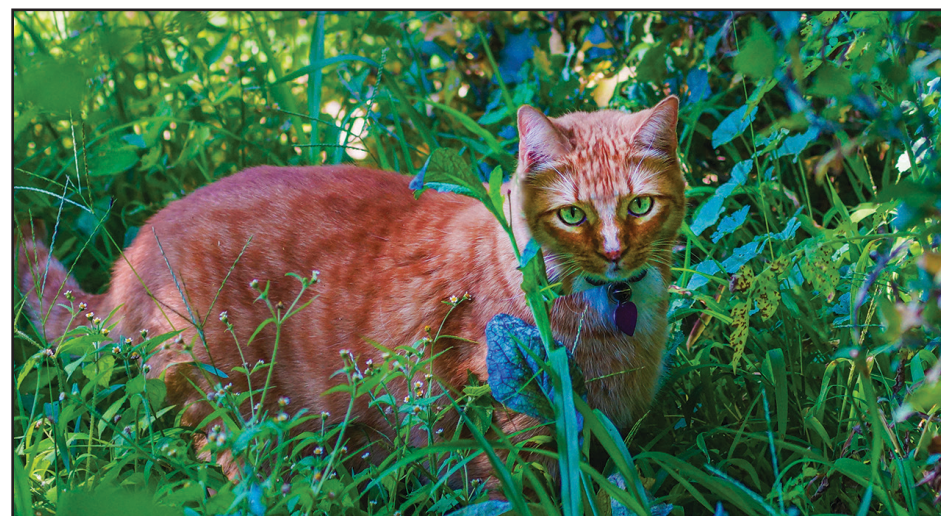
## Threats to pets that roam outdoors

Domesticated pets may have evolved from wild animals, but it has been some time since dogs were needed to hunt like wolves or domesticated cats had to survive like wild leopards or tigers. While pets can enjoy time outdoors, it's important to avoid leaving them to their own devices for too long. The online health resource Healthcare for Pets says responsible pet ownership necessitates certain precautions to keep pets safe when they venture out of the home. The

following is a list of potential dangers that can affect pets outdoors.

- **Pesticides and poisons:** Pet owners may use pet-friendly products in and around their homes. However, there's no guarantee that your neighbors do the same. Common lawn and garden products, including insecticides and pesticides, may cause anything from mild

THREATS continues on Page 24





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# Common behavioral issues that affect cats and dogs (and how to fix them)

Pet ownership can be both joyous and challenging. Every pet misbehaves from time to time, but when behavior issues become part of daily life, pet owners may be wringing their hands wondering how to get to the root of the problem. Pet owners may not realize they can contribute to common behavior issues. Here's how to recognize and address pets who may need some behavior redirection.

• **Scratching:** Pet experts note that cats need to scratch to remove the outer sheath of the nail. Scratching also is a way for cats to mark their territory in the wild. Provide plenty of safe and appropriate scratching posts so cats leave the furniture alone. Cordon off areas that are off limits or try sour sprays or other repellents.

• **Resource guarding:** Many pets will show aggression when they guard their possessions from others, whether it is necessary or not. Pets have evolved from wild animals that had to compete for food, mates and territories, so it's

understandable that genetics hasn't been so quick to catch up with the modern life of pampered pets. Pet owners can opt for adopting young pets that can be hand fed early on or touched or manipulated while eating or enjoying food treats to try to prevent guarding. Older pets who exhibit signs of resource guarding may need the expertise of a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist.

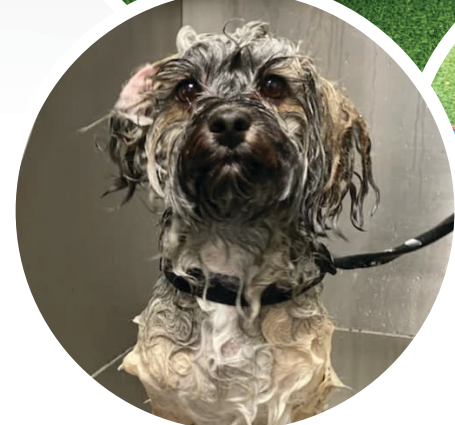
• **Inappropriate urination:** Just when you think your dog is house trained or a cat has embraced its litter box, you may find he or she is urinating elsewhere. Physical illnesses, such as kidney issues or diabetes, could be the root of the problem. Some animals that are not neutered or spayed may be engaging in "marking" behavior, which is spreading scent around a territory. Getting the pet fixed can alleviate the problem. Speak with a vet first to rule out certain issues.

• **Barking:** Barking to alert someone is at the home may be a trait people look

ISSUES continues on Page 24



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A visit to the vet does not have to be stressful for your pet.

## Make vet visits easier for all involved

People often get anxious about visiting the doctor, and the same can be said for pets. According to the online animal resource Top Dog Tips, a lot of dogs and cats have serious anxiety about going to the vet. Veterinarian visits typically happen once per year, and the earlier your pet can become more comfortable and acclimated to the process, the better it will behave during each subsequent visit. The following are some steps pet owners can take to make vet visits go smoothly.

- **Handle your pet frequently.** Teach your pet to accept touching of the paws, ears, mouth, tail, legs and stomach. Regular sessions petting and touching your pet may make him or her more comfortable when the vet has to do so.

- **Consider waiting outside.** Research from Companion Animal Psychol-

ogy says 30 percent of dogs are highly stressed while sitting in the waiting room of the vet's office. It can be hectic in the waiting room, with lots of new smells, people coming in and out and animals with all sorts of energy. If waiting rooms put your pet on edge, wait outside.

- **Associate the carrier with comfort.** If you pull out the crate only when the pet will be going to the vet, the animal will soon associate it with negative experiences. Instead, use the crate frequently and rely on treats so that the dog or cat sees it as a safe and fun space to spend its time. Take frequent car rides to different destinations so pets don't associate car rides with vet visits.

- **Find the right veterinarian.** Interview several vets to find an office and staff who love interacting with your pet

and can make him or her comfortable.

- **Stay relaxed yourself.** Pets can sense their owner's energy. If you are worked up and anxious, then your animal may feed off of those feelings. By remaining calm, you can help keep your pet calm.

- **Do a fun or practice visit.** Acclimate the pet to the vet's office with a trial run. This way he or she can interact with the vet and learn the smells and sounds under less stressful conditions. This is a great way for the pet to have a positive initial experience with its new vet.

Vet visits are vital to pets' long-term health. Setting the stage for positive experiences early on can make visits go smoothly throughout the pet's life.

## Threats

Continued from 22

irritations to toxic poisoning.

- **Weather:** A fur coat does not offer complete protection from conditions like extreme weather. Pets can experience hypothermia or heat stroke if they are exposed to extreme weather for prolonged periods of time.

- **Automobiles:** Dogs and cats that wander can be struck by vehicles and/or ingest potentially harmful substances leaking from cars or trucks. Automotive coolant (antifreeze) is often sweet and brightly colored, which attracts curious pets. Ethylene glycol in coolant is fatal to dogs and cats if ingested. Outdoor cats may hide or seek warmth in car engines, putting them at risk for injury.

- **Exposure to illnesses:** Young animals should not spend prolonged periods of time outdoors before they are vaccinated. However, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior recommends that pet parents begin taking puppies on walks and public outings as early as one week after their initial rounds of vaccinations (roughly seven weeks old) because this is the window of time when socialization skills are learned.

- **Parasites:** Bugs and parasites may be lurking outdoors. Parasitic worm larvae, fleas, mosquitoes, and ticks can be harmful to pets. Ask your vet about year-round flea/tick/heartworm preventatives if a pet spends time outdoors.

- **Other animals:** Wild animals pose a risk to domesticated pets. They can pass illnesses on to pets or engage them in scuffles that result in injuries or even death. If companion animals are not spayed or neutered, pet owners may have to confront unexpected pregnancies after pets spend time outdoors.

Pets that spend time outdoors should be supervised whenever they leave the confines of their homes.

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## Issues

Continued from 23

for in a dog. But when a dog's barking becomes excessive, it could be indicative of a behavioral issue. Dogs may learn to use barking to their benefit. Some dogs may bark to get walks, food or attention - even if it's negative attention from a person saying "shush." Some breeds naturally bark more than others. In such instances, barking may be reduced but not eliminated. Again, a behaviorist may be able to help.

- **Jumping up or overzealous greetings:** Similar to barking, some pets greet all visitors to the home (or outside) by jumping up on people. This can be annoying and even dangerous if a big animal jumps on a small person. Reward calm behavior by only giving attention to the pet after he or she calms down. Lavishing attention on an animal as soon as you come home while it is jumping up sets a bad precedent and can lead to a jumping problem.

These are a few common pet behaviors pet owners may need to address to cohabitate peacefully with their animals.



# Guide to adopting a shelter dog

Pet adoption rates soared during the COVID-19 pandemic. The desire to adopt was so significant that animal shelters around the country nearly emptied. According to Dr. Elizabeth Berliner, an associate clinical professor and the director of the Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at Cornell University, as many as one in five pet-owning homes adopted a new pet during the pandemic. Animal shelters are once again reaching capacity. As with many industries, there simply isn't enough staff to care for all the animals. Furthermore, animal adoption saturation over the past year may have contributed to fewer people seeking new pets. Those who still have room and love to share can put these tips to use as they look for a furry friend to call their own.

**• Do your research.** Ensuring your pup can seamlessly transition from the shelter to your home requires some pre-adoption legwork. This animal will be occupying a spot in your home and heart for 10 years or more if all goes well. The size of the dog, age, anticipated energy levels, exercise needs, shedding capacity, and overall personality can affect how well the dog fits in. Research breeds and

try to find one that suits your household and lifestyle before visiting the shelter.

**• Start local first.** Don't discount local groups when searching for pets. Many small rescues can't afford the time or money to maintain a website or constant social media presence. But they make up for that by being hands-on when matching pets with people.

**• Be sure everyone is on board.** All members of the household need to share the same enthusiasm for the dog. Weigh everyone's opinions but expect that certain people will take on more responsibility for the pet than others.

**• Consider your finances.** Although adopting a dog is initially less expensive than buying, there's still the adoption fee to consider and other costs that come with dog ownership. Routine vet visits, emergency medical situations, food, grooming, training classes, toys, and other needs should be considered. The American Kennel Club previously found the average annual costs for dog ownership is \$2,500. One-time or irregular costs, such as a crate, spaying/neutering,



or emergency vet care, cost an average of \$2,100. However, these rates vary depending on where you live.

**• Is space available?** Dogs need space. While a chihuahua may need less space than a Great Dane, make sure you have adequate room in a home or apartment,

and backyard for the breed you are considering.

The day a dog is welcomed into the family is a joyous occasion. That joy only increases when prospective dog owners do their homework and find a dog that will fit right in with their families.

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# Dog Training: Board and Train Camps



Photo provided by Jet Set Pets

Chanin Malle, head trainer, works with dogs at Jet Set Pets.

## Julie Marco, Jet Set Pets

Dogs — like most creatures — need consistency in order to form habits and learn behaviors. Yet, as busy humans, consistency is something that doesn't always come easily to their owners.

And even if owners are diligent ... their canine pals may have instincts that resist all best efforts!

Board and train, also known as boot camp, is often the ideal solution, relieving stress for you and your dog.

Board and train is a specialized, intensive residence program designed to transform your four-footed friend into the well-mannered family member you dream of. It starts with a several-week stay away from home, and it generally extends to weeks of less-intensive distraction and related training through

in-person sessions with the owner.

While any dog is likely to respond well to a board and train program, those who benefit most tend to be families that are having trouble getting the results they want, and those whose dogs are, in a nutshell, too much.

Some situations that may signal a good candidate for a boarding program:

- You don't have much time for regular training practice at home.
- You're feeling worn down by the training process and both of you are frustrated.
- Your puppy has grown into a pulling and jumping machine you can't handle.
- You're going on vacation and would love to return home to a well-mannered dog.
- There's too much chewing, digging and scraping, and it's disturbing your

home and life.

- Your dog won't come when called — and even thinks it's a game to run off.
- Your efforts to train your dog against excessive barking are getting nowhere.
- There's trembling, peeing and/or signs of high anxiety you can't seem to soothe.
- Your dog is aggressive or snapping at family members and/or while out on walks.

One of the reasons dogs who attend board and train are able to have such success is that they are able to receive consistent, clear instruction over a key time block.

Board and train programs are effective because, over the course of 3-5 weeks, dogs are:

- trained multiple times per day — with plenty of opportunities to learn and

practice,

- tested by many more distractions than they'll typically face at home,
- coached into correct behaviors with consistent, yet loving, discipline and attention by multiple trainers and pet care employees.

They also have access to proper spaces and equipment to help shape and provide the right environment for the stages of training being worked on. And they have great socialization opportunities, ensuring your dog can behave safely and reliably around other dogs and humans is an important part of proofing their behavior.

If your dog attends a board and train camp, there is no need to worry about keeping up with weekly training "homework" in between appointments; the trainer takes care of all the hard work for you.

## Explore the benefits of pet insurance

Ensuring the safety and well-being of a companion animal is a big responsibility. Pets need shelter, food, water and routine medical care at the very least, and some extra TLC can always do a pet good as well. New pet owners may experience some sticker shock after bringing a furry friend home. According to a Harris Poll

conducted in the spring of 2020 on behalf of TD Ameritrade, dog owners spent nearly twice as much on their pets as cat owners — \$1,201 versus \$687 in a single year. One area that can be particularly costly is health care, especially if the



Younger pets may mean lower premiums for pet owners seeking insurance.



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# What to expect at a veterinary dental cleaning



## Oral health is important for pets.

Oral health is as important for companion animals as it is for their owners. Left unchecked in pets, periodontal disease can lead to pain, trouble eating and other issues. Pet owners are urged to brush their pets' teeth to help remove bacteria that can lead to tartar buildup. If oral hygiene is ignored, pets can develop tooth decay and other issues. People know from experience what to expect when they go to a dentist for a cleaning, but a pet's oral cleaning may be an unknown and that can induce anxiety. Most cleanings follow a similar pattern and recognition of that pattern can give pet owners an idea of what to expect at a veterinary dental cleaning.

## Anesthesia

One of the main differences between a dental cleaning for a person and one for a pet is the use of anesthesia. According to Kulshan Veterinary Hospital, pets do not willingly open their mouths to give veterinary dentists access to perform cleanings. Anesthesia ensures that the animal will remain still and the vet can

remove any plaque and tartar that has built up. If a tooth needs to be extracted, sedation ensures that will go smoothly.

## Pre-testing

Since anesthesia will be used, vets often will run lab work and an EKG to determine if a pet is healthy enough to receive anesthesia. Testing ahead of time also helps the vet make the best decisions regarding which types of anesthetics to administer and in what quantities.

## Examination and cleaning

The vet will conduct a thorough examination of the pet's mouth, noting any abnormalities. A dental probe is often used to evaluate bleeding gums and detect pockets in the gums where food can accumulate and potentially lead to decay. After the examination, VCA Hospitals says tooth scaling will be performed, using both ultrasonic and hand scalers to remove plaque and tartar above and below the gum line. Teeth will then be polished to remove any

microscopic scratches that can snag bacteria and lead to subsequent build-up.

## Monitoring

Throughout the procedure, a pet's vital signs are monitored and IV fluids are administered to keep the animal comfortable and safe. Before the pet is brought out of anesthesia, dental x-rays also may be taken to check for problems not visible to the naked eye. The pet also will be monitored after anesthesia in the recovery room.

## At home

When the pet is released to go home, it is important for pet owners to keep up with dental cleanings. Do not use toothpaste designed for humans, as there are special animal-safe products for this purpose. Depending on what was done during the cleaning, the vet may prescribe antibiotics and/or pain medications. Dental cleanings are an important component of overall pet care. Consult with a vet to learn more about pet dental cleanings.

## Did you know?

Is your precious pooch joining you at the bathroom sink each day when you brush your teeth? If so, you may want to think about having him or her learn the proper technique to keeping teeth clean — with your help, of course. Cleaning a dog's teeth is just as essential to the pet's health as a nutritious diet, grooming and regular exercise. According to the American Kennel Club, keeping a dog's teeth clean comes down to a few basic steps.

- **Brush teeth.** Teeth brushing is the foundation of good oral health. Brush a dog's teeth at least once a week or more frequently. Use toothpaste specifically designed for dogs. Never use toothpaste made for humans.

- **Offer dental chews.** Rely on a dog's natural inclination to chew with treats that also clean the teeth. Chews are designed to minimize the buildup of plaque.

- **Use special oral sprays:** Investigate dog dental sprays that kill bacteria that can make a dog's breath smell bad and contribute to tartar and plaque.

- **Provide plenty of chew toys.** In addition to dental chews, regular chew toys also scour the teeth and improve oral health. Rotate several toys to prevent boredom.

- **Schedule professional cleanings.** Dogs need dental cleanings and examinations at least every year. Some dogs are more susceptible to periodontal disease and will require more frequent cleanings. Consult a vet.

It may take some time for dogs to get acclimated to having their mouths handled and their teeth brushed, but over time they can grow accustomed to the process. Some dogs may even enjoy it.

## Insurance

Continued from 26

pet has a chronic illness or suffers an injury. Pet insurance is an increasingly viable option for those looking to defray medical costs for their pets and safeguard them in the process.

Like other types of insurance, pet insurance is something pet owners purchase hoping they will never have to use it. The TD Ameritrade survey found Millennials or GenXers report spending anywhere from three to 20 times more on pet insurance than Baby Boomers.

Pet owners have various options in

regard to insuring their animals. Certain plans only cover veterinary bills that pertain to accidents and illnesses. Plans that also include wellness options, like My Pet Protection with Wellness from Nationwide, tend to be broader and may cover preventative visits, flea and tick products, spaying and neutering, and even dental cleanings.

There are several benefits to getting pet insurance. Many people are not financially prepared for an emergency pet bill that could cost several thousand dollars. Pet insurance premiums, which are paid over time, can refund a good percentage of out-of-pocket costs to the pet owner. Here's a look at some of the benefits of

pet insurance.

- **Pick whichever veterinarian you prefer:** Unlike human health insurance plans that may require you to stay in a specific network of providers, pet insurance policies enable you to pick any vet you prefer.

- **Insure any age or breed of pet:** Pet health insurance providers will cover older animals. However, premiums will be lower the earlier you insure your companion animal.

- **Arrange a payment plan you can afford:** Payment plans for pet insurance can be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually depending on the plan and policy holders' preferences. That makes

it easier to fit pet health care into your budget.

- **Ensures all health needs will be met:** Some pet owners may push off or pick and choose treatments for their pets depending on the cost of these procedures. Pet insurance may be the difference between getting your pet the care he or she needs or delaying getting the help they need.

Pet insurance often is a smart investment for those looking for peace of mind and an affordable way to care for their companion animals.



# Protect pets in hot weather

Warm weather brings many changes. Warm weather can make travel more enjoyable and affords people more time to comfortably enjoy the great outdoors. It's best to keep safety in mind when soaking up the sun. That's important for all members of the family, including pets. Cats and dogs are as susceptible to heat-related illnesses as their human companions.

## Recognize heat stroke

Pets can suffer from heat stroke, according to the American Red Cross. Certain breeds of dogs are highly susceptible, particularly those with short snouts, such as pugs and bulldogs. Excessive exercise in hot weather, lack of appropriate shelter outdoors and leaving a dog in a hot car may precipitate an episode of heat stroke. It's important to get the pet out of direct heat right away and check for signs of shock, which include seizures, a body temperature of 104 degrees F or higher, stupor, increased heart rate, or excessive panting. Placing water-soaked towels on the pet's feet, head, neck and abdomen can bring down its temperature.

## Be cautious of hot surfaces

Humans wear shoes on their feet for protection, but pets do not have that luxury. Think about how hot your feet can feel when you scurry barefoot across hot sand enroute to the shoreline or to cross a deck to get to the pool. When the sun beats down on surfaces, those surface temperatures rise quickly. According to a 2010 study by Liberty Home and Pet Services, at peak afternoon sun and an ambient temperature of

95 degrees in southern Florida, the temperature of cement was measured at 125 degrees, red brick at 135 degrees, blacktop at 140 degrees and grass at 102 degrees. Individuals who think a car is safer for their dog or cat may be surprised the informal study measured 152 degrees on seat surfaces.

## Provide extra water

It's likely you will need to fill your pets' water bowls more frequently in warm weather than during other times of the year. Be sure to provide constant access to fresh water, even for young puppies who may be learning to house train.

## Avoid cutting fur too short

If a veterinarian suggests a haircut may be beneficial for keeping a pet cool or comfortable, resist the urge to shave down to the skin. Having at least one inch of fur will protect the pet from sunburn.

## Outdoor hazards

Warm weather may bring out a high number of insects and wildlife. Use a flea and tick preventative product and medication to protect against heartworm, which is transmitted through mosquitoes. Snakes, skunks, raccoons, foxes and other animals may be roaming around, and a scuffle with your pet can result in injury.

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# After-Hours at THE PLAYERS

After-Hours at THE PLAYERS Championship, an annual networking event, was co-hosted Thursday, March 3, by the JAX Chamber and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. It was held in the Stadium Village at TPC Sawgrass.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Joe Wilhelm, circulation manager for The Ponte Vedra Recorder, brought a supply of the Insider's Guide



Felicia and Mel Cox



Gloria Dongara, Clare Berry and Christine Ondek.



Jacksonville Beach Mayor Chris Hoffman, Cory Nichols and Kortney Webb.



The crew from the Ponte Vedra Wellness Center had a table at the event.



Ruth's Chris Steak House had some tasty offerings at the event.



Nancy and Gary Hallett



Ember & Iron



# THE PLAYERS Celebration

THE PLAYERS Championship held its Celebration event on Monday, March 7, at TPC Sawgrass. Sponsors, key ambassadors and supporters were welcomed to the event that marked the start of tournament week. It featured food and drinks from renowned chefs.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Attending the event were St. Johns County Administrator Hunter Conrad and Kendall and Sheriff Robert Hardwick.



Live music added to the fun of the Celebration event.



A chef prepares salt-crusted snapper escabeche for attendees.



Richard and Sharon Goldman



A chef stands ready to serve guests at the Celebration event.



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# TPC Tasting Event

ABC Fine Wine & Spirits hosted a TPC Tasting Event on Wednesday, March 9. Attendees had opportunities to sample wins, spirits, beer and cigars in celebration of THE PLAYERS Championship. The event was held in the outdoor lot across from ABC Fine Wine & Spirits in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Veterans United Craft Brewery gives attendees an opportunity to taste their unique creations.



The St. Augustine Distillery was represented at the event.



Wine representatives Pablo Alfaro and Manuel Rey hold up their products.



Attendees celebrate the arrival of tournament week at the ABC Fine Wine & Spirits TPC Tasting Event.

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# VIP Reception

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa hosted a VIP Reception on Saturday, March 12, in its Champions Ballroom. Guests enjoyed live entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments during the event, which proved to be the perfect way to celebrate THE PLAYERS Championship after departing the golf course for the day.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Among the tasty offerings was fresh seafood.



Who Recused Who supplied the music for the event.



A bourbon bar was set up in one corner of the ballroom.



VIP Reception guests enjoyed freshly carved beef.



Elizabeth Feezor and Amy Sherman

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# Photos from Tournament Week

Photos by Craig O'Neal



A crowd gathers Tuesday, March 8, for a concert by Kelsea Ballerini at the Island Green 17th hole on Military Appreciation Day.



Kelsea Ballerini performs Tuesday, March 8, during Military Appreciation Day.



Fans sport whimsical costumes Sunday, March 13, at THE PLAYERS Championship.



Military Appreciation Day honors members of the U.S. armed services and veterans. This year, the festivities were held on Tuesday, March 8.



Players walk the course on Wednesday, March 9.



A young fan gets an autograph on Wednesday, March 9, from one of stars of THE PLAYERS Championship.



A group of young fans is seen at THE PLAYERS Championship on Wednesday, March 9.



Fans walk across the grounds at TPC Sawgrass on Wednesday, March 9, during THE PLAYERS Championship.



Veterans hold a special place at THE PLAYERS.

annette görtz  
fall/winter 2022

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# TOUR Suite

THE PLAYERS Championship conducted its annual TOUR Suite on Sunday, March 13, on the 18 green. Attendees enjoyed breakfast, brunch and appetizers.

Photos by Susan Griffin



The TOUR Suite featured a delicious selection of food.



Attendees gathered at the 18 green for the TOUR Suite on Sunday, March 13.



A variety of beverages was available for attendees.

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Despite crazy weather conditions, THE PLAYERS maintained a party atmosphere.



Will Zalatoris signs autographs for young fans during the 2022 THE PLAYERS Championship.

Photos by Anthony Richards

# Crazy weather at THE PLAYERS did not dampen mood of fans

By Anthony Richards

Some may argue whether Mother Nature is a golf fan after the continually changing and at times adverse weather conditions that THE PLAYERS Championship had to endure this year.

However, the weather could not dampen the spirits of those in attendance and the event carried on despite ending a day later than originally scheduled.

There was much anticipation heading into THE PLAYERS every year, but this time around seemed to have a little more excitement, due to the fact that that this year's event was uncapped, which meant the "regular" vibe surrounding the event was back for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic and the move back to March.

This atmosphere is something that is difficult to explain, but instead is something that must be felt by being present at the event and experiencing every sense of what it means to be a spectator at the PGA Tour's marquee event.

Although the rain and the chilly temperatures that followed it, may have dampened the mood at times, the vibe of the tournament did not stay down for long, and that has much to do with having fans back in full force.

The neat thing about sports fans is that they are a passionate bunch and the local golf fans proved that time and time again throughout tournament week.

First the rain and thunderstorms came through, which was the toughest for fans, because it meant no golf was being played.

However, the wet conditions did not stop fans from doing what they do best and making the most out of it, which for some meant sliding down a hill near the famed 17th hole.

Once the rain showers ended, a cold front came through and suddenly most fans went from wearing sundresses or shorts to layering up with stocking hats on their heads to combat the frigid tem-

peratures.

There are few things similar to a weekend at THE PLAYERS and that did not disappoint once again this year.

Fans swarmed to the stadium section of the course to get a glimpse of players trying to tame the island green.

It was a popular spot for fans to gather and mingle about, as well as concession and beer spots, such as Trucks on 10 and Tacos at 12.

Some fans who could not find a place to sit in the designated eating areas wound up finding a nice spot on a hill somewhere and enjoyed their food picnic-style while not missing a bit of the action on course.

A couple of fans even dressed up in adult onesies that resembled cows, a prime example of the party atmosphere.

At the end of it all, Cameron Smith of Australia was crowned the latest THE PLAYERS champion, and the moxie he demonstrated to win the tournament was the same resilience shown by event staff, fans and anyone else who walked through the gates at the TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course during a tournament week that will be remembered for quite some time.



THE PLAYERS was uncapped this year and fans showed up in full force as a result.

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# In the Arts



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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## Author to present 'Public Speaking for Writers'



Nancy Quatrano

Writing is an activity that requires solitude, and most writers thrive in such an environment. But when it comes to getting out in public and marketing their books, the introverted writer needs to know how to hold and sell an audience.

Author and speaker Nancy Quatrano's presentation, "Transforming Writers into Speakers," is designed to help.

It will be held at the 10 a.m. meeting of the FWA Ponte Vedra Writers group on March 26 at the Ponte Vedra Branch Library.

"One of the most powerful ways to build

fans and credibility is by speaking face-to-face with people," said Quatrano. "Whether you're holding a book-signing event or speaking on a topic related to your book, public speaking can improve your value by 50%."

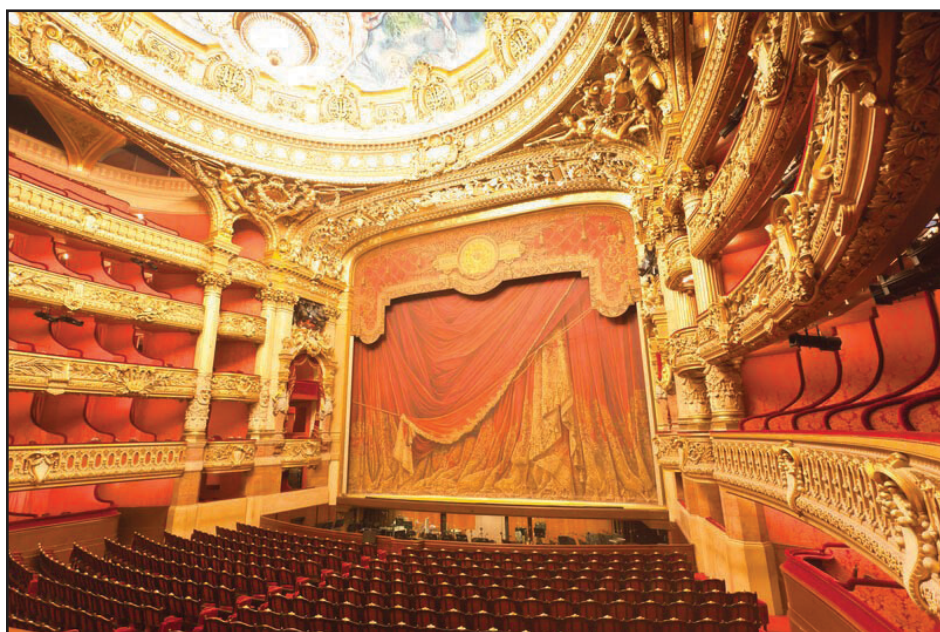
She will discuss how to pitch, prepare and run a winning book-signing event or develop topics writers can present to groups.

Quatrano is a multi-award-winning fiction author, columnist, developmental editor, speaker and business owner. She's operated On-Target Words since 2009, offering writing services

such as content editing, press releases and basic marketing plan assistance. For more information go to NLQuatrano.com.

The Ponte Vedra Writers group is part of the Florida Writers Association, a statewide, non-profit organization with nearly 1,500 members dedicated to the support of both aspiring and published writers in any genre.

The March 26 meeting is free and open to members and nonmembers alike. For information on FWA go to floridawriters.org.



Contributed photo

The famous Paris Opera House

## 'Golden Age of Opera' to feature Italian, French, German works

Travel back to late 19th-century Europe as First Coast Opera presents "The Golden Age of Opera," a concert of popular and important selections from Italian, French and German operas, at 7:30 p.m. March 31 at the Lightner Museum in downtown St. Augustine.

The concert will feature works by Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, Charles Gounod, Jules Massenet, Richard Wagner, Richard Strauss and others.

Hosted by First Coast Opera Artistic

Director Curtis Tucker, guest artists will be accompanied by Metropolitan Opera pianist and coach Yelena Kurdina.

"In light of current world events, First Coast Opera has shifted its upcoming concert from a focus on 19th-century Russian opera selections to works by their contemporaries in Italy, France and Germany," said Tucker. "The Golden Age of Opera predates the former Soviet Union and the current Russian regime. While we feel this music should be heard, our company and our artists, which includes both Ukrainian and Russian guest artists, feel compelled to postpone our exploration of Russian musical culture to a future time when, hopefully, it can be celebrated without the lingering dark cloud of aggression and war."

General admission is \$35. Enhanced experience, including preferred seating, a reception following the performance, champagne and more is \$75.

RSVP at firstcoastopera.com or call 904-417-5555.

The Lightner Museum is located at 75 King St., St. Augustine.

"The Golden Age of Opera" also will be presented on April 1 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. Tickets are available at ticketmaster.com and in person at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office.

Box office hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. the box office accepts credit and debit card payments only.

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# Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series raises over \$50K

## *Proceeds will support construction of fort representation and more*

The Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series welcomed 3,000 people from across the country to Fort Mose State Park between Feb. 18 and 26. Fort Mose is the site of the first legally sanctioned free Black settlement in what is now the United States.

Over the course of the two weekends, jazz and blues fans witnessed five exceptional performances and \$51,972 was raised in support of Fort Mose Historical Society's ongoing efforts of building an on-site fort representation, and development of interpretive resources.

The Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series hosted performances from nationally recognized, award-winning artists including two-time Grammy Award-winning jazz artist Gregory Porter, the legendary 18-time Grammy Award-winning Count Basie Orchestra, breakout Americana and roots singer-songwriter Amythyst Kiah, New Orleans' deep-groove R&B and jazz group Tank and the Bangas, and jazz and blues prodigy Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue.

"To see this series come to life in such a successful way is incredibly gratifying," said Gabriel Pellicer, general manager of the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division. "Through the support of St. Johns County staff, the Fort Mose Historical Society, and our series partners, we were able to help shine light on the historical significance of Fort Mose to American history, and ultimately assist the society with their ongoing efforts. We're really just thrilled with the outcome."

In 1738, the Spanish governor of Florida chartered the settlement of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, or Fort Mose for short, as a place for formerly enslaved people fleeing from the English colonies in the Carolinas and Georgia.

Over the next 25 years, Fort Mose and Spanish St. Augustine became a sanctuary for Africans seeking liberation from slavery amid a large-scale power struggle between European nations in the New World.

In 1994, Fort Mose Historic State Park was designated as a National Historic Landmark.

"The marriage of jazz, blues and his-

tory at Fort Mose Historic State Park was an overwhelming success during the two weekends in February and we'd like to thank the community and the partnership with the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division," said Charles Ellis, president of the Fort Mose Historical Society. "Because of the concert series, more people from near and far are now aware of the remarkable Fort Mose story and the journey of enslaved people fleeing British control in the Carolinas to St. Augustine in search of their freedom."

"The lights, sights, sounds and thousands of concert fans under the grand old oak trees brought to life the Fort Mose Historic State Park like never before," said Michael Watkins, manager of Fort Mose and Anastasia State Parks. "For two weekends in February, the Fort told its story and shined a light on the gem that it is."

In tandem with the success of the Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series, The Florida State Parks Foundation announced on Feb. 28 that Fort Mose Historic State Park will be awarded a \$933,500 grant from the Florida African American Cultural and Historical Grants Program. The purpose of the grant program is to provide funding for construction projects at facilities in Florida that highlight the contributions, culture or history of African-Americans.

In addition to the grant, the Florida State Parks Foundation and Fort Mose Historical Society secured \$250,000 in matching funds thanks to the generous support of the Florida Park Service, the Jacksonville Jaguar Foundation, Florida Blue, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, St. Johns County and Mark Bailey.

The series was produced by the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division, which operates The St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, with support from St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, St. Augustine Distillery, St. Johns Cultural Council, Fort Mose Historical Society and Flying Saucer Presents.



Photo by Kim Reed

**Breakout Americana and roots singer-songwriter Amythyst Kiah was among the artists performing at the Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series.**



Photo by Milo Davis

**New Orleans' deep-groove R&B and jazz group Tank and the Bangas was among the performers at the Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series.**



Photo by Stacey Sather

**The legendary 18-time Grammy Award-winning Count Basie Orchestra was a major draw at the Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series**

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# Business Weekly

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FEATURING  
**Who's Who in Law**



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## Southeastern Grocers donates \$262K to American Heart Association

Southeastern Grocers Inc., parent company and home of Fresco y Más, Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie stores, has announced the donation of \$262,000 to the American Heart Association to continue the fight against heart disease and stroke.

During the association's Life Is Why campaign, Fresco y Más, Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie customers and associates rounded up their grocery

purchases to the nearest dollar or made a donation of their choice at the register to protect the health of local individuals and communities while honoring their reasons to live healthier, longer lives. Each cent raised during the recent program will support the organization's research for new treatments, programs and services for survivors and their families.

**GROCERS** continues on **Page 41**



Photo by Business Wire

**American Heart Association representatives joined Winn-Dixie associates during the Life Is Why Community Donation Program held in all stores during American Heart Month, which was in February.**

## Optum to continue as Proud Partner of THE PLAYERS Championship through 2028

### 2019 PLAYERS champion Rory McIlroy continues as Optum Health Ambassador

The PGA TOUR and THE PLAYERS Championship announced Wednesday, March 9, that Optum, part of UnitedHealth Group, will extend its commitment as Proud Partner of THE PLAYERS Championship through 2028.

THE PLAYERS, featuring the strongest field in golf, is being held at the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass, March 10-13 with 144 players competing for a record \$20 million purse, including defending champion Justin Thomas.

"Since 2015, Optum has been at the

forefront of growing the stature of THE PLAYERS while creating a lasting charitable impact for hundreds of nonprofits, which benefit from this championship," said PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan. "Their commitment to health equity and creating better opportunities where communities need it most aligns with our primary mission at the PGA TOUR, and we're excited to continue this partnership in conjunction with our flagship event."

Optum will continue to partner with THE PLAYERS Championship and Rory McIlroy, the 2019 PLAYERS champion and Optum Health ambassador, to showcase the importance of helping people live healthier lives and work to improve health equity in the Jacksonville community and beyond.

"At Optum, we are grounded in our mission to help the health system work

better for everyone, and we continue to be inspired by the important work we can advance across the communities we serve in partnership with THE PLAYERS and the PGA TOUR," said John Prince, president and chief operating officer for Optum. "We look forward to working together to remove barriers and close gaps in care to make health equity a reality for all people."

Over the past 40-plus years, THE PLAYERS has generated more than \$100 million to support nonprofit organizations in communities within Northeast Florida, with Optum focusing their commitment to those efforts by supporting First Tee and the Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation Mobile Health Unit.

In partnership with McIlroy, Optum has partnered with the Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation as their charity of the day at

THE PLAYERS, funding operations of a mobile health unit, which supports free physicals for youth sports participation, COVID response and other community needs.

"Optum has been a tremendous partner of THE PLAYERS and has demonstrated a concerted effort to bettering the lives of those in Northeast Florida, as well as communities across the country," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "As we continue elevating this championship as one of the premier events in sports, their tireless commitment as a Proud Partner has enabled us to achieve exponential growth while creating a first-class experience onsite for our players and fans."

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## Grocers

Continued from 40

“Our customers and associates are the heart of our communities, and we want to thank them for their generous contributions to the American Heart Association,” Raymond Rhee, chief people officer for

Southeastern Grocers, said. “Our continued collaboration with AHA demonstrates how we care passionately about the health and well-being of the neighbors we serve every day, and this gift will support the vital research, education and programs to help safeguard our customers, our associates and their loved ones.” The Life Is Why campaign encourages

individuals to “reclaim their rhythm” by creating healthy habits that work best for their lives, to give them the best chance at life. The association’s essential programs and research will help save and improve the lives of individuals in their local communities and support the organization’s priority issues, which impact heart disease and stroke risk factors includ-

ing tobacco use and vaping, high blood pressure and nutrition insecurity, as well as mental resilience and effects of COVID-19.

Over the past five years, Southeastern Grocers has donated nearly \$1.5 million to the American Heart Association with the help of their customers and associates.

# Southern Grounds now open at Jacksonville airport

Florida-based Southern Grounds is now open at the Jacksonville International Airport.

This chef-driven coffee house is located on Concourse A. Menu items range from the grits bowl and avocado toast to “Not Yo’ Mama’s Quesadilla” and “Baja Ancient Grain Bowl.” Travelers seeking a caffeine boost can choose from a variety of coffee beverages, including Café Con Leche, Turmeric Latte and more.

The new Southern Grounds location is part of a 10-year contract valued at approximately \$60 million that the Jacksonville Aviation Authority awarded to global restaurateur HMSHost and Lee Wesley Group Inc., its Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise joint venture partner.

“At HMSHost, we pride ourselves on bringing food and beverage concepts into

the airport that reflect the city’s thriving restaurant culture,” said HMSHost President and CEO Steve Johnson. “Whether those travelers originate from Jacksonville or are just passing through, we are pleased to partner with the Jacksonville Aviation Authority and Southern Grounds to offer a beloved local brand and the Southern hospitality experience.”

Southern Grounds collaborates with chefs and farmers from around the Southeast to craft menu items that are sourced from local purveyors, whenever possible.

Southern Grounds serves all-day options, with a keen focus on healthful goodness and sustainable ingredients. Busy travelers will find gluten-free, vegetarian and health-forward options for various eating preferences, as well as a convenient selection of freshly prepared grab-and-go items.

Among the local foods and ingredients Southern Grounds is using at its airport coffee house are Verlasso Salmon, fresh-milled grits from Logan Turnpike Mill in Georgia, bread and bagels from local bakery Village Bread, croissants and cookies from Blueberry Bakery and Intelligentsia Coffee.

“Southern Grounds is a perfect addition to the terminal as we work to bring more local Northeast Florida dining options to the airport,” JAA CEO Mark VanLoh said. “Travelers can now enjoy fantastic coffee and excellent food from one of Jacksonville’s finest establishments.”

“Traditionally, being in transit has been the least enjoyable part of travel,” said Southern Grounds owner Mark Janasik. “With our partnership with HMSHost and JAA we aim to change that with a sense of community, a sense of place, a great cup

of coffee and a relaxing customer-centric atmosphere. We aim to connect our community and passengers with a unique and memorable experience along their journey and a place to welcome them back.”

The Concourse A location is easily accessible from all gates, making Southern Grounds the new go-to spot to enjoy a freshly prepared meal and beverage. The location offers travelers ample dedicated seating, with options to sit by the concourse for people-watching, or near windows overlooking the tarmac for plane spotting.

Locally owned Southern Grounds is Florida through-and-through, with locations in Neptune Beach, San Marco and Avondale, and additional locations in the works.

Learn more about Southern Grounds at [SouthernGrounds.com](http://SouthernGrounds.com).



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# Sports



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## PLAYERS Champ: Aussie Cameron Smith

By Kathy Bissell

Terrible winds blew away all the top-ranked golfers in the game except one at THE PLAYERS Championship. Cameron Smith, an Aussie transplant now living in Jacksonville Beach, fought through it all — the course, the competition and the conditions — to emerge victorious. He is the fifth Australian to win the tournament.

“I live here now,” Smith said. “I call this place home and had a lot of fans out there rooting for me today. It was so good of the fans to come out today on Monday and give it their all.”

He had picked up his mother and sister at the airport earlier in the week. They

had not seen each other for two and a half years due to COVID. Usually, he is able to see them twice a year, about six weeks in all.

“I hadn’t seen them for so long, and all I wanted to do was hang out with them,” he said. “It’s so cool to get a win for them.”

Smith’s putting was the key to his victory. He was unstoppable, it seemed. In the final round, he came out with a hot putter and birdied the first four holes. He dropped a 38-footer at the first, nine-footers at the second and third, and a 10-and-a-half footer at the fourth. Then he made his only par on the front nine.

His challenges came mainly from himself when he made three bogeys to close out the front nine. When asked how he turned it around, he had a straightforward answer.

“I guess it was just keeping it simple, back to one shot at a time, just trying to hit the fairways off the tee,” he said, adding that he was able to hit “nice drives” at 10 and 11. “It was just kind of knuckling down and kind of knowing what I had to do.”

For a time, early in the back nine, there were a dozen players within two shots.

Then Smith turned on the afterburners. After the turn, he birdied the next four holes by sinking a ten-footer at the 10th, a four-footer at the 11th, a three-footer at the 12th and a 12-footer at the 13th. It was just an amazing putting display.

Then he stalled until the 16th when things went horribly wrong. He hit a comprehensive hook off the tee.

“It was a horrendous drive,” he said.



Photos by Craig O’Neal

Cameron Smith emerged victorious Monday, winning a tournament plagued with rain delays from inclement weather.



The 2022 trophy.

PLAYERS continues on Page 43

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# PLAYERS

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“Had a chip-out and still had maybe 220 meters to the hole, so maybe 240 (yards). I think that’s where it could have got away from me a little bit.”

The reason that shot and the tee shot at the 18th are hard for him is that he plays a left-to-right shot shape, and those holes ask for a right-to-left shot or at the very worst, a straightish shot.

He was behind trees, on pine straw, with a shot that could potentially have gone into the water right of the hole if he hit it too hard. He jabbed one out a little over 100 yards and then needed another shot to get to the green. It was a waste of a shot, but in the end it didn’t matter.

His most amazing shot was on the 17th where his ball landed just four and a half feet from the cup.

“I’d be lying if I said I was aimed to the right of it,” he admitted. “I was just trying to hit it on the right edge of the bunker there and kind of hold it up against the wind.”

It landed in the space between the flagstick and the edge of the green. A small space indeed, rather like Rickie Fowler’s famous shot there.

Smith’s second worst shot was from the 18th tee when he pulled a drive into the pine straw on the right. Pitching out, he gave it too much hit, and the ball



Photos by Craig O’Neal

**Cameron Smith hits a shot at number 10.**

scampered into the water left of the 18th. However, his score was low enough that he had a slim margin, even with that mistake. It was all he needed. He chipped up to about three feet and made the putt for the victory.

In the end, Cameron Smith defeated all the best players in the world, wicked weather, beastly winds and one of the toughest courses on the planet. In the final round, he made 10 birdies and finished with a 66.

He’s a deserving PLAYERS Champ and one of five Australians to have won the tournament. The others are Steve Elkington, Greg Norman, Adam Scott and Jason Day.

## A look at some of the players in action at THE PLAYERS Championship

Photos by Craig O’Neal



**Rory McIlroy**



**Jordan Spieth takes a practice swing.**



**Sam Burns talks to his caddy.**



**The crowd watches in silence as a player lines up the next shot.**



**Bubba Watson hits a shot at No. 3.**

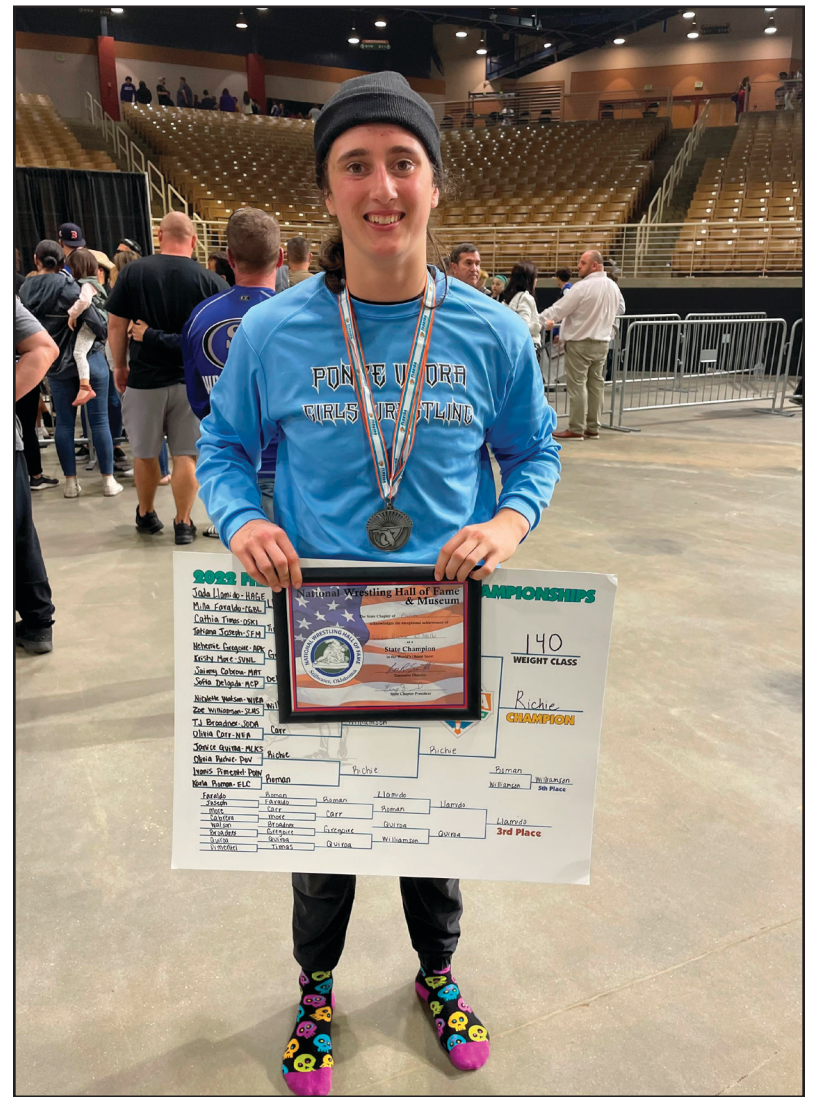


**Cameron Smith takes the win in the final round.**





The Sharks finished second in the team competition at the state girls wrestling tournament March 3-5 in Kissimmee.



Photos courtesy of Ponte Vedra High girls wrestling

Ponte Vedra High junior Olivia Richie won the girls wrestling state championship in the 140-pound class.

# Pinning a state title

*Determination leads Richie to title, Sharks to team runner-up*

By Anthony Richards

Quality over quantity was the motto of the Ponte Vedra girls wrestling program this season and they proved that once again with their performances at the 2022

FHSAA State Championships March 3-5 in Kissimmee.

The Sharks sent four competitors to the state competition and the highlight performance came from junior Olivia Richie, who was crowned the state champion in the 140-pound class.

To win the title she defeated Sofia Delgado, who had been Richie's only loss during the season.

Having finished runner-up at states a year ago, was the driving force the Richie used to get back and this time seal the deal.

"I found my rhythm last year, so I knew going in this year that I was in good

position and was determined to do whatever I needed to do to win a state title," Richie said.

That determination included training four hours a day for five days a week.

"Last year, when she got runner-up at states it sparked a fire in her," head coach Nadine Fiege said. "She's the hardest working person I know."

Her family saw firsthand how much work she put in to get to this point and to achieve the goal she set in the offseason was an emotional moment for everyone close to her.

"Right after I got up from the ground floor of the arena everybody was waiting

for me, and it felt like I hugged everyone at once," Richie said.

Just because Richie has won a state title does not mean wrestling is still not prevalent in her mind, as she plans to focus on competing in national tournaments during the offseason with the hopes of winning one of those as well.

She has big plans for her senior year, as she hopes to not only win a second-straight state title but do it in even more commanding fashion.

"I've realized that a lot of the success we have in our individual performances

TITLE continues on Page 46

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# New sport, same rivalry



Nease High won its first home game in the history of the boys volleyball program and did so over rival Ponte Vedra High March 10.



After winning the first set, the Sharks lost to the Panthers in four sets.

Photos by Anthony Richards

## Panthers win first home boys volleyball match over rival Sharks

By Anthony Richards

It is a historic moment any time a new sport is introduced to an athletic program, which is what took place as Nease High held its first home boys volleyball contest against rival Ponte Vedra High March 10.

The Panthers defeated the Sharks, 19-25, 26-24, 25-21, 25-21, to win in front of its home fans and improve to 2-0 on the season, after winning their opener on the road against Toco Creek.

Junior Jacob Lindsay is not only one of the leaders on the Panthers' squad, but he was also the catalyst behind getting the program started, after having played it in school before moving from California to Florida a couple of years ago.

"It's been cool to get a new sport introduced into the history of Nease," Lindsay said. "We're hoping it continues for generations to come and that it fosters a great culture."

According to Lindsay, there are challenges associated with starting a new sport.

"As a new spring sport, there are a lot of other sports going on at this time, and with that there are a lot of players trying to play multiple sports," Lindsay said. "There are a lot who want to play but also have those other commitments as well."

Although the Panthers' program is

brand new, the Sharks are only in their second season playing boys volleyball and are still in the learning stages themselves.

Merritt Crowe is a junior on the Sharks' team, which has a goal of improving its 2-14 record from a year ago.

"It was great to set the trend for the district with PV being the first one (program) other than St. Aug," Crowe said. "It's awesome to see these others get going. It really creates that rivalry feel."

With the loss, the Sharks dropped to 0-2 on the season, but they continue to make strides and have won a set in both matches to start the year, including jumping out to the early lead against the Panthers following a 25-19 victory in the first set.

However, the Panthers began to find their rhythm as Michael Glova had a productive game for the Panthers offensively, including back-to-back points after hitting through a block attempt by the Sharks that deflected out of bounds and getting a kill after senior Auston Obsuth dove to dig a ball and keep possession alive late in the third set.

Glova finished with a massive night that included 18 kills, while Obsuth

RIVALRY continues on Page 46

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  13. Inlet in Greenland
  15. Map out
  16. Pharaoh's symbol
  17. Austin Powers and Shrek to Mike Myers
  18. \*I developed the theory of relativity
  20. Sailor's hail
  21. Lyric poem
  22. Solar System center
  23. Portable stairs
  26. \*I am Sgt. George Baker's inept comic strip character
  30. Mine deposit
  31. Shape
  34. Fairy tale cannibal
  35. Feline sneakers
  37. Lawyer group
  38. \*I have a coiled shell and eyes on stalks
  39. Very dark black
  40. Free from obstruction
  42. \_\_\_\_ Aviv
  43. Most buffoonish
  45. Rest or hydration for common cold, e.g.
  47. Hot springs resort
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  50. Japanese stringed instrument
  52. \*I am a runaway slave, an abolitionist, and a best-selling author
  55. Email destination
  56. Jasmine of "Aladdin," e.g.
  57. Food fish
  59. Silly
  60. Self-cleaning appliance
  61. Ad staple
  62. O in IOU
  63. P in m.p.g.
  64. Affirmative, colloquially

2. Eye up and down
3. Bangkok native
4. Like preserved peaches, sometimes
5. Sharpened
6. Like Huck Finn's dad, e.g.
7. \*Some people call me the Rocket Man
8. \*I starred as Pam in the "Meet the Parents" movies
9. \*I used to host a sports show with Mike Golic
10. Commercials
12. Buddhist's enlightenment
13. Sham
14. \*I am a WWE Champion, an actor, and my nickname is geology-related
19. Vision correctors, colloquially
22. Greek letters on campus
23. \*My résumé includes Fly Girl and "American Idol" judge
24. Curaçao neighbor
25. Evil one
26. Fence board
27. Popular gemstone
28. Shed tears
29. \*I am an American who became Princess of Monaco
32. Harangue
33. Network with an eye
36. \*My TV role became synonymous with a hair style
38. Perform at the bee
40. Canada's neighbor
41. Beginning
44. Strong adhesive
46. Contemptibly small
48. Dry white Italian wine
49. Radio receiver
50. Dr. Seuss: "The more that you read, the more things you will \_\_\_\_"
51. Piercing woodwind
52. Water quantity
53. Loafer, e.g.
54. Adventure story
55. United Nations labor agency
58. Homer's catchword

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## Title

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comes from having that close team support," Richie said.

The Sharks finished second in the team competition with 67 points, just one point ahead of Matanzas in third place. Orlando Freedom topped the team standings with 142.

What makes the Sharks' team result impressive is that they did it with only four wrestlers qualified for state and outdueled schools with much larger numbers, including one team that had 13 wrestlers taking part in the competition.

Freshman Erin Rizzuto stormed onto the scene in her first year with a third-place finish in the 115-pound class after losing her semifinal match by one-point in overtime. It was the first loss of the season for Rizzuto.

"She definitely has a bright future ahead of her," Fiege said.

Natalia Choquegonza earned a seventh-place finish in the 125 class and Cynthia Kowitzki held her own in the 110-pound class, as they both captured crucial team points in the process.

"We're looking to build a dynasty," Fiege said. "This success will only help bring us even more recognition to the program."

## Rivalry

Continued from 45

stuffed the stat sheet with 13 kills, four blocks and four digs.

With so many of the sets being tied late in the frame and decided by just a couple of points, Crowe knows that the Sharks were in position but must do a better job of finishing strong.

"Those sets were tough," Crowe said. "We just needed to pass and communicate a little better. At the end of the day, it's on us to get that corrected."

One of the things the Sharks have focused on in practice has been the team's

servicing, which showed during the game as the Sharks were able to string points together thanks to more consistent play at the service line.

"We've been working on getting a little more aggressive with our servicing," Crowe said. "Starting off soft and then getting harder and harder until we get into our rhythm. Once you start getting those serves in, it's game over."

The Sharks have a road tilt against Creekside March 23 before consecutive home games against St. Augustine and Toco Creek March 28 and 29, respectively, while the Panthers have a pair of home dates against Bartram Trail March 21 and Creekside March 22.



Aryan Patel of Nease prepares to serve against Ponte Vedra. He had three aces on the night.

Photo by Anthony Richards



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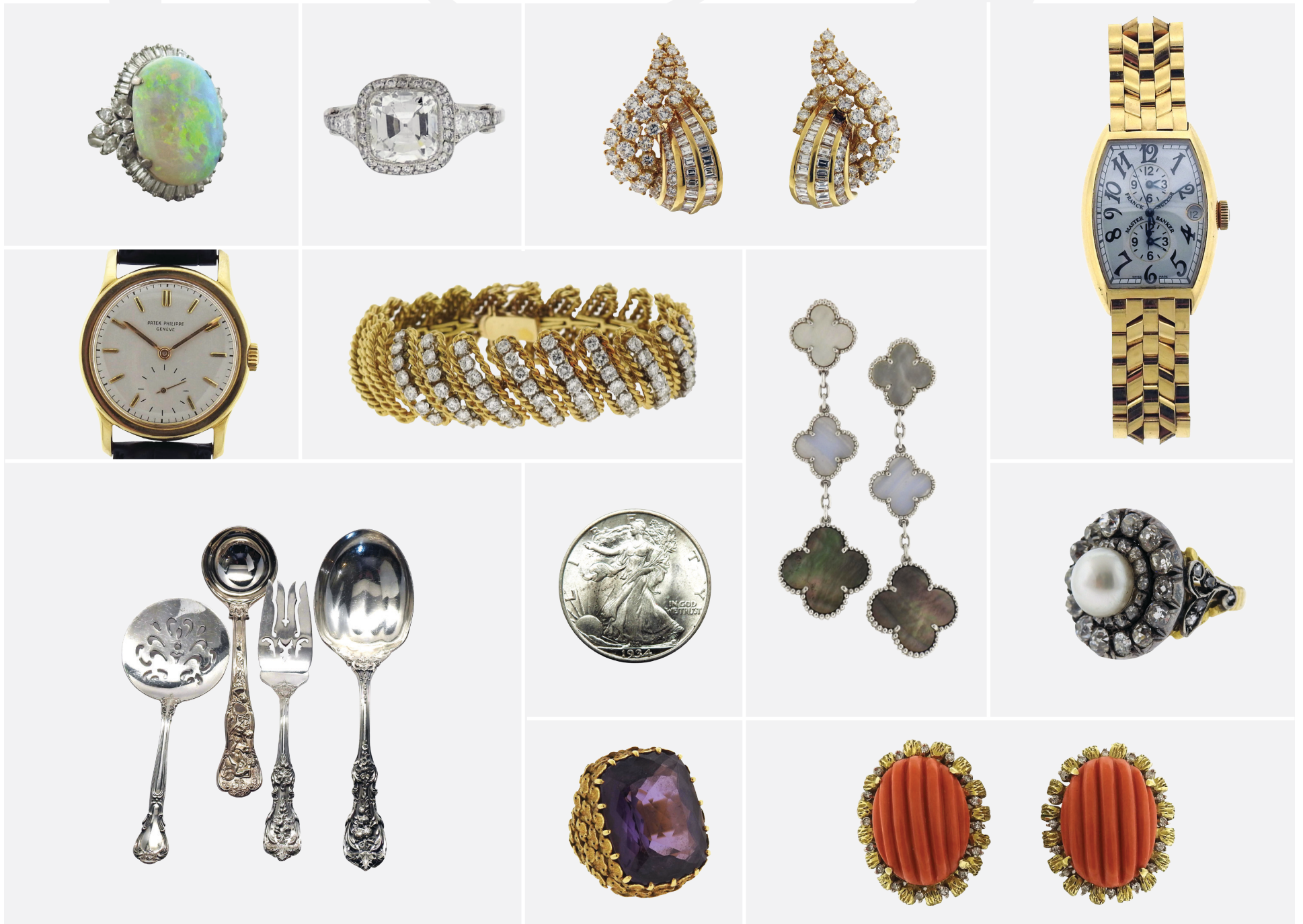
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