

PONTE VEDRA RECORDER

March 24, 2022
Volume 53, No. 21
75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com



Business Weekly
Featuring Tribute to
Realtors & Builders
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Eagle Scout
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BEHIND THE CANVAS

Susanne Schuenke talks about her painting, "Watching Us," during a recent Artist Walk & Talk event at the link.

Read more about the successful local artist on page 18.

Photo by Shaun Ryan

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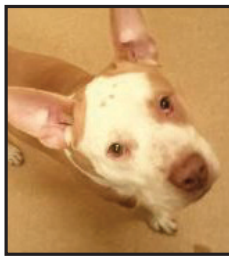
We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to news@pontevedrarecorder.com or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



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ADOPT A PET

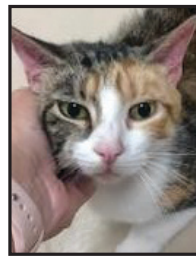


MAX

Hi! My name is Max. I am a 3-year-old male, neutered terrier mix. I found myself at the Pet Center as a

stray. I have made lots of friends here, but I am ready for a real home, one to call my own.

My ideal family will just love me and understand that I still need some training and want to learn. I do have a little cherry eye, but it's not concerning.



CALI

Hello. My name is Cali. I am 7-year-old female calico-domestic shorthair hair cat.

I'm going to be honest; I miss my family. I've been with them for years, and now here I am, and I don't know what's happening. I'm scared and sad. I know things will get better, and I hope they do soon. I really want love. It will take some time to get me over my fear, but if you talk to me gently and softly for a little while you'll see me rub my head on the floor and turn it upside down to look at you. I've been told this small gesture melts both your heart and mine. I am a sweet girl. I just want this transition over and to be with a new people that love me again. When I'm myself, I'm good with kids and other cats. I'm house-trained too! I don't like dogs but good with other cats. Please come visit me and help me get out of my shell.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. For more information, call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

BRIEFS

Open house planned for Palm Valley West boat ramp project

St. Johns County is hosting an open house from 5 to 7 p.m. April 21 regarding the planned Palm Valley West boat ramp project. Staff from St. Johns County Public Works and St. Johns County Parks and Recreation will be available to answer questions and share details about this future asset to the community. The open house will be held at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra.

St. Augustine launches residential composting program

The City of St. Augustine is launching a new sustainability initiative to encourage residents to reduce their environmental impact by composting food waste. Through the city's new pilot residential composting program, residents in single family homes within city limits are

invited to apply for a backyard compost bin, delivered to their home free of charge.

Residents are encouraged to contribute food and yard waste to their compost bin to create a nutrient-rich compost that can be used in their own garden or donated to a community garden. Collection service is not offered as part of this program.

Two types of compost bins are available: an 82-gallon stationary ground unit or a 43-gallon dual chamber tumbling unit. The composter remains the property of the city and must be returned if the resident moves outside of city limits or decides to stop composting.

Complete information about the program, including eligibility criteria and the application form, is available on the city's website, citystaug.com/compost.

Questions may be directed to Olivia Smith, solid waste manager, at 904-825-1049 ext. 3 or via email at compost@citystaug.com.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care plans virtual support, educational sessions

Understanding Grief (virtual) — noon to 1 p.m. March 25.

Find help and hope after experiencing the loss of a loved one at this presentation. Learn how to identify normal grief responses, identify helpful coping skills and understand the importance of self-care in the grieving process. Space is limited, so call 904-407-7001 to register and receive the meeting link.

Understanding Grief (in-person St. Johns County event) — March 30.

Find help and hope after experiencing the loss of a loved one at this presentation. Learn how to identify normal grief responses, identify helpful coping skills and understand the importance of self-care in the grieving process. Space is limited, so call 904-407-7001 to register and receive the meeting link.

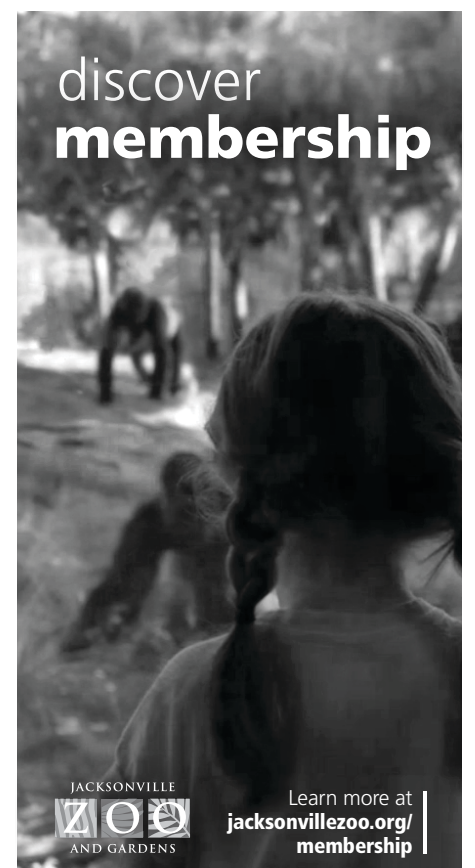
This in-person event is located at 1355 Dixie Highway, St. Augustine.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Sales tax proposal to come before voters

During the March 15 commission meeting, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners voted 4-1 to send to referendum a proposed one-penny sales tax ordinance for voter approval on Nov. 8.

Before election day, an independent certified public accountant will conduct an audit to examine several key factors. Those factors include the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the program and how the program will accomplish

goals and objectives.

The audit report will be available to the public 60 days before election day.

“We have a problem, and we cannot raise impact fees any more than where they already are due to statutory limitations,” said Board Chairman Henry Dean. “This left us with only three options: raise the millage rate on our homes, propose the public votes yes or no on a one-cent sales tax increase or do nothing and kick the can down the road

for several more years. I think it’s important to let the voters decide.”

Should more than 50% of voters approve the proposed ordinance, the sales tax increase will begin for 10 years on Jan. 1, 2023. The proposed increase would take St. Johns County’s sales tax from 6.5% to 7.5% of the sale of goods and services.

For taxable personal property, the additional one-penny sales tax would only be collected on the first \$5,000.

The additional sales tax would not apply to certain groceries, prescription drugs, medical products and supplies, or other goods and services exempt from taxation.

St. Johns County has developed a Frequently Asked Questions page regarding the proposed surtax increase. For more information, go to sjcfl.us/media/Surtax-FAQ.pdf.

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Flagler Health+ announces leadership change

Flagler Health+ announced a leadership reorganization on March 8, naming Carlton DeVooght interim president and chief executive officer. DeVooght replaced Jason Barrett, who made the decision to resign from the organization to pursue other opportunities, according to a Flagler Health+ media release.

“We extend our gratitude to Jason for his many years of leadership, particularly over the past two years, as he worked to ensure the health and wellbeing of our staff and our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Flagler Health+ Board of Directors Chair Todd Neville. “We appreciate Jason’s steadfast passion for helping others and wish him the best in his future endeavors.”

“It has been my honor to lead Flagler Health+ during a time of unprecedented growth, serving our community, meeting the challenges of the pandemic and attaining excellence in care, highlighted with the recent designation of Health Grades

Top 50 Best Hospitals in the country,” said Barrett. “I have the utmost respect for our highly dedicated health care team and wish them continued success.”

Flagler Health+ has experienced significant expansion in recent years and was also named a Top General Hospital by The Leapfrog Group in 2021.

“As we move into one of the most monumental moments in Flagler Health+ history with the development of our additional hospital campus in Durbin Park, the board of directors is focused on ensuring execution of the strategic vision and also preserving our legacy of caring for the St. Augustine community,” added Neville. “The board and executive team remain committed to delivering high quality, locally-governed, community-centric health care.”

DeVooght has been with the organization for four years and most recently served as senior executive vice president/ chief administrative officer and general

counsel.

“I am honored that the board of directors has placed their trust in me to lead Flagler Health+ through this transitional time,” he said. “We share a commitment to ensuring the highest level of care is provided to our community and a belief that locally based health care is the best health care. Our team at Flagler Health+ proves this to be true again and again, achieving some of the best clinical outcomes in the nation, while also meeting vital social health needs like housing, food adequacy and access to mental health care. In the coming months I will be working with our team members and our community to further our vision of advancing physical, social and economic health and to also emerge as the best place to work and practice medicine in Northeast Florida.”

Prior to his current appointment, DeVooght directed enterprise-wide strategy, operations and administration functions

with an emphasis on growth and partnerships.

He joined Flagler after serving as senior vice president of operations for Coastal Community Health. In that role, he oversaw operations of the regional affiliation, interactions with governmental agencies and coordinated all legal actions.

Prior to joining Coastal, DeVooght served as vice president and general counsel for Southeast Georgia Health System. In this role he led the organization’s legal, real estate, medical staff services, compliance, risk management and government relations matters, as well as the cancer centers for the health system.

He has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia and earned his juris doctorate from the University of Georgia School of Law. He also has an MBA with a certification in health care management from Brenau University where he received the Leadership Award.

Flagler Health+ reports zero patients admitted to Flagler Hospital with COVID-19

First time in two years and six days

In March 2020, Flagler Health+ became the first health care system in Northeast Florida to treat a patient diagnosed with COVID-19. And last week, more than two years later, the hospital in St. Augustine was able to say that there were zero patients admitted with COVID-19 since the pandemic began.

While the hospital does anticipate that they will care for more patients diagnosed with COVID-19 in the future, last

week reached a milestone moment.

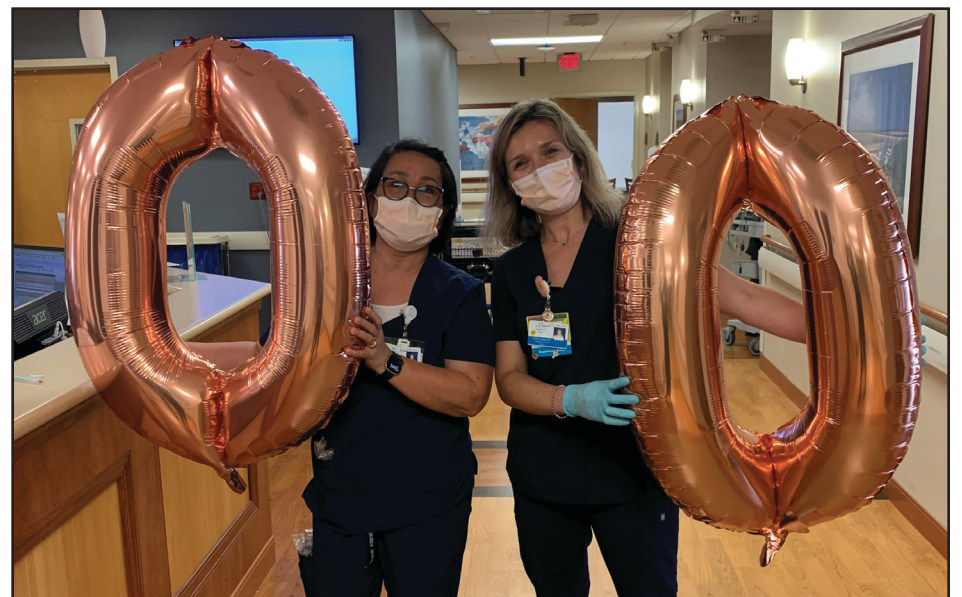
“Our caregivers — clinical and non-clinical, at the bedside and behind the scenes — have worked tirelessly over the past 736 days to care for patients during some of their darkest days,” said Interim President and CEO Carlton DeVooght.

“No one came into this profession expecting a global pandemic, but our staff members have risen to the occasion time and time again. Their dedication to our patients and each other is commendable.”

“While this doesn’t mean that the pandemic is over or that we will scale back our efforts to provide safe, quality care to patients with COVID-19 and other diagnoses, it does give us a moment to pause in order to recognize all that our staff has endured since March 2020. We could not be more proud of them,” said Flagler Health+ Chief Physician Executive David Rice MD.

Nearly 2,000 patients diagnosed with COVID-19 have been cared for at Flagler Hospital since the pandemic began. During that time Flagler Hospital has been nationally recognized by the Leapfrog Group as a Top Hospital and with the America’s 50 Best Hospitals Award from Healthgrades, placing Flagler Hospital in the top 1% of all hospitals in the county for clinical care and patient outcomes.

To learn more about Flagler Health+, go to flaglerhealth.org.



Contributed photos

Flagler Hospital RNs celebrate the first time in more than two years that no patients have been admitted with COVID-19.



Members of the ICU staff at Flagler Hospital celebrate the first time in more than two years that no patients have been admitted with COVID-19.

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The Power of + is coming to Durbin Park.



Flagler Health+ is bringing a breakthrough health and wellness experience to Northeast Florida in collaboration with UF Health.

Slated to open in 2023, the 42.5-acre Flagler Health+ health and wellness campus at Durbin Park will feature a state-of-the-art hospital, an outpatient surgery center and the expertise of UF Health specialists. Other highlights include a premier YMCA, the signature Flagler Health+ Village concept, walking trails, engagement spaces and more.

Together, Flagler Health+ and UF Health are committed to delivering the highest level of clinical quality and safety available while supporting our shared vision to advance physical, social and economic health across Northeast Florida.

Visit [FlaglerHealth.org/DurbinPark](https://www.FlaglerHealth.org/DurbinPark) for more information.



Realtor Willow Logue is a tireless volunteer that local causes have come to rely upon. Living here for more than two decades, she has set an example for others to get involved and do their part.

Willow Logue

As told to Shaun Ryan

You have been active in volunteering with a variety of causes. Can you tell me about some of those organizations or initiatives with which you have volunteered?

The organization nearest and dearest to my heart is the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation. I have had the privilege and honor of volunteering for them since it began over 10 years ago. Due to their outreach and events, I have been able to contribute to packing holiday bags filled with food for children less fortunate than mine, and also been part of some amazing family days (Halloween Doors & More and These Kids Can Play to name two) with Community PedsCare.

In addition, they were the ones that made me aware of the Malivai Washington Youth Foundation and Feeding Northeast Florida, which I now support independently whenever I can.

Last, but certainly not least, I loved being part of the PTO at our local public schools. There are so many ways to volunteer, and I enjoyed all of them, being on the board, being a class mom, test proctoring, helping with the college fair or just showing up when a sign-up sheet went out for an event, class, etc. in need.

What do you like about volunteering? What drives you?

The people I have met volunteering are incredible and have the biggest hearts. Hugs St. Johns was started by a friend who recognized a need, not only in our schools but also in the greater county and decided to do something about it. Her passion, example and commitment has been inspirational to my family.

As for drive, I read a quote from Howard Zinn the other day, which I amended to illustrate why I volunteer: "... if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory."

Also, as they say in the movies, with great power comes great responsibility. I am not a superhero but certainly have more than most and my parents have been a great example of how to show up for others who are not as fortunate.

Is it difficult to find the time to do so much volunteer work?

As with all things you make the time for the things that are most important. Of course, there have been opportunities to be somewhere I have missed because of a scheduling conflict but if I can't show up to donate my time, I do try to donate money.

You are also a Realtor. Tell me a bit about your work, how long you've been doing it and what you like most about it.

I have been licensed for about three years. My friend and amazing team lead, Gwinn Volen, had an opening a while ago but the timing wasn't right. A few years later, when she was expanding again, it was a good time to make a life change.

What I like most about being a Realtor, as cliché as this may sound, is the people. My buyers come from all over and being able to find them a home while learning about them as individuals is priceless. Through my cli-



ents, I have heard about, new-to-me, organizations doing very cool things. The most recent examples are Aldea, which is doing wonderful work in Guatemala and closer to home the Lincolnville Museum in St. Augustine. A lot of people are animal lovers which gives me a chance to talk about the Jacksonville Humane Society, which is where we found our sweet dog.

How long have you lived in this area?

My husband and I moved here over 21 years ago. What was going to be a two-year adventure became a lifestyle we couldn't leave.

What do you like most about our community?

I love the sunshine, the beach, the cold days (under 60) where you can smell the fire your neighbor built. I love

the people and the diversity of beliefs and passions. I love that there is an opportunity to start a business and watch it grow — Natural Life, Titanium Yoga, Palm Valley Fish Camp and McFlamingos are a few that first come to mind. I like going to THE PLAYERS on a Tuesday and having it feel like a neighborhood block party. I really love the library and the staff there.

What do you like to do in your free time?

As I mentioned, I love the library. I love to volunteer wherever and however I can. I like a good cocktail hour and cooking a new recipe. I love reading the N.Y. Times on Sunday and magazines with great photography. I am a big fan of the movies and going back to the theater after staying away for two years was amazing. These are all above and beyond spending time with family and friends.

Boy Scout's Eagle project is prayer garden for local church

Boy Scout Nicholas Storm of Troop 277 Ponte Vedra Beach — one of the oldest and most active troops in the state — will create a cross-shaped prayer garden for Lord of Life Lutheran Church on Roscoe Boulevard North on Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27.

Storm, 15, is taking on this multifaceted garden to earn his Eagle Scout, Boy Scout's highest rank, and something that less than 4% of Scouts earn.

The large, cross-shaped walkway and plantings surrounding it have been created with conservation in mind. All the plants and flowers have been selected to be native to Florida and drought-resistant and to attract pollinators, birds and butterflies.

"I wanted to create something attractive for this church and the community, to come and sit surrounded by nature and also protect and enhance the land, given the development that is occurring in Ponte Vedra Beach," said Storm.

Storm reached out and consulted the St. Johns Audubon Society, which offers direction and provides financial support for projects that help birds or conserve

bird habitat. The society provided input and gave \$300 in funding toward it. Storm also sought advice from Kathy's Creative Gardens on Roscoe Boulevard on the types of native flowers to use in the full-sun garden.

Storm recently received an Environmental Protection Agency award that challenges Scouts to learn about, explore and conserve the world around them while educating them on the impact the EPA has had since its inception in 1970. To achieve this award, Scouts must earn the Public Health merit badge and three additional merit badges from selected categories related to animal study, outdoor activities, and Earth sciences.

In preparation for this project, Storm also went last summer to a conservation camp offered by The Rattlesnake Conservancy at Tree Hill Nature Center, where he learned about the ecosystems of Florida, native plants and animals, and how they can be involved in conservation of wildlife and their habitat.

"We are delighted to have Nicholas creating this garden for us and have full confidence in his knowledge that we'll

have a unique and ecologically well thought out garden that will grow and mature for years to come," said Sheila Kolesaire, the church council president for Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

Many local businesses are supporting Storm with materials, including Proctor Ace Hardware; Cronin Ace Hardware; Lowes on Oldfield Crossing Drive; four Home Depot locations, including Atlantic and Girvin, Southside Boulevard, Jacksonville Beach and Durbin Pavilion Drive. Stone Plus on Phillips Highway provided support with the cost of the crushed shell gravel for the walkways and two large ornamental rocks that will be placed in the garden.

Commemorative bricks will fill the center of the cross and anyone can purchase a brick to remember or honor a loved one, family or pets. The bricks are \$55 and all proceeds, after paying for the bricks, will be used to purchase the supplies for Storm to build the garden.

The public can go to polarengraving.com/bsatrop277 or the church website at lordofflifepvb.org to order bricks or read about the project.



Contributed photo

Stone Plus is one of several local businesses that are helping Nicholas Storm complete his Eagle Scout project.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church is located at 276 Roscoe Blvd. North and is one of 8,900 congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. It is part of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Worship is every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in an open-air pavilion that was originally a stable.

Newcomers elect new board of directors



Contributed photo

The March monthly luncheon for Newcomers of the Beaches was held at the St Johns County Golf and Country Club. Members unanimously elected the new board of directors for the club. Four new members were introduced and welcomed. A trivia game centered around the history of the area and the club. Those who are new to the beaches area or have had a life change are welcome to join and participate in a wide range of activities. Additional information on the club and membership can be found on newcomersofthebeaches.com.

Night in the Vineyard to benefit child protection

A Night in the Vineyard (formerly known as A Night at Roy's), which will benefit Monique Burr Foundation for Children, will be held 6-9 p.m. May 3 at Jacksonville Beach's newest restaurant, SoNapa Grille, 2400 3rd St. South.

It promises to be a fun, charitable evening featuring fine wines and savory food, live music and live and silent auctions.

Limited tickets are available, and tickets must be purchased in advance. The cost is \$125 per ticket (the charitable donation is \$55). To purchase tickets, go to mbfpreventioneducation.org/night-in-the-vineyard.

In addition, sponsorship and donation opportunities are available. To learn more, go to mbfpreventioneducation.org/night-in-the-vineyard and download the sponsorship package.

Another way to help is to donate for the auction. Items can be donated by you, your employer or both. Items that have sold well at past auctions include gift certificates, home decor, items for mom or dad, spa packages, fitness opportunities, items for children and vacations.

For further information, contact Lynn Layton at Lynn@mbfpreventioneducation.org or 904-642-0210.

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Philanthropist donates \$6.9M to local Boys & Girls Clubs



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

On March 17, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida announced a gift of \$6.8 million from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The organization is one of 62 Boys & Girls Clubs from across the nation to receive a gift in this latest round

of donations from Scott.

“We are grateful to Ms. Scott for recognizing the work our clubs do every day to build great futures for young people in our communities,” said Paul Martinez, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida. “This generous, unrestricted gift is an affirmation of the profound impact we have made on our young people over the past 60 years in Northeast Florida.”

Boys & Girls Clubs are built with a foundation of inclusion and a sense of belonging, offering ways for young people to achieve their full potential in

a safe environment while having fun.

Club programs promote five core areas: character and leadership, education and workforce readiness, the arts, health and wellness and sports and recreation.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida is one of the largest Boys & Girls Club organizations in the country. Its 38 clubs serve more than 3,500 young people every day in Duval, St. Johns and Alachua counties.

According to Martinez, the organization’s strategic goal is to increase the number of clubs in the region to 55 by 2025.

“This gift will be an accelerant to support our growth so we can positively impact more young people across our communities,” he said.

The leadership and governance board

of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida has already formed a steering committee to outline and develop a strategy for how to best use this gift. Led by Paul Price, current board chairman, the committee will seek to leverage Scott’s gift to help as many young people as possible.

“Our goal is to make these dollars work harder for us because the need in our community is so great,” said Price. “There are an infinite number of young people out there that need help, so it is our duty to make the greatest impact possible with this wonderful gift.”

For more information on the impact Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida makes on the community, go to bgcnf.org.



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Nease NJROTC is best drill team in Northeast Florida, Georgia



Nease NJROTC's winning color guard team of Daniel Mahoney, Isabella Rivera, Kaitlyn Boggs and John Alves compete at the Area 12 Dill Championships on March 5 in Douglas, Georgia.

Nease lost its last sanctioned drill meet in Area 12 nearly 3,000 days ago. Since that defeat during the 2014 Area 12 Drill Championships, Nease has reeled off 29 consecutive drill championships — the last being the 2022 Area 12 Academic, Athletic and Drill Championship at Coffee County, Georgia, on March 5.

With eight straight state championships beginning in 2015, Nease arguably established itself as Northeast Florida's most dominating high school championship program.

Competing against the very best 15 Navy high school JROTC drill teams in Area 12, an area which includes all of northeastern Florida and the entire state of Georgia, Nease swept first place in all five drill events, all three athletic events and personnel inspection and narrowly placed second only in academics — thereby preventing a clean sweep across the board.

Nease competed in five previous drill competitions this year, winning at Sprayberry, Georgia; Lee County Georgia; Martin Luther King, Georgia; Mandarin, Florida; and Flanagan (Miami, Florida).

"This team has improved exponentially

since our first competition last October," said senior naval science instructor Capt. Scott La-Rochelle. "We're peaking at just the right time with the national championships only three weeks away."

The team will travel to Naval Air Station Pensacola for the Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships on April 1-2 to compete against the 25 best programs in the country.

Nease's individual drill commanders chose the right time to deliver their very best performances. Isabella Rivera (color guard and unarmed exhibition), Kaitlyn Boggs (unarmed basic), Daniel Mahoney (armed exhibition) and Brodie Mongon (armed basic) led their units to near perfect scores during the competition.

"One of the competition judges was previously assigned as a member of the Marine Corps Ceremonial Honor Guard in Washington, D.C.," said Master Chief Duane Spears. "He commented that our cadets' discipline and focus in drill was the best he had ever seen."

"Being on this team has taught me so much about leadership and teamwork," said Rivera. "As a freshman, I was just happy to be a part of the team. Now as a senior, I have the opportunity to command under pressure ... and it's awesome."

Her hard work paid dividends as she has already received appointments to both the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Merchant Marine Academy and a national NROTC scholarship to Virginia Tech.

Several cadets also garnered top honors for individual performance, including Ben Prohofsky, first in academics; Anthony Tucker, first in male situps; and Daniella Camacho, first in female situps.

"My class has never lost a drill meet in Area 12," said senior Nate Fagen, who unfortunately is unable to attend nationals as he will be vying for a state title as captain of Nease's weightlifting team on the same date. "These seniors are like my brothers and sisters."



Contributed photos

Senior cadets Brodie Mongon, Anthony Tuckers, Daniel Mahoney, Kaitlyn Boggs, Isabella Rivera and Emmelie Neff receive the Area 12 Academic, Athletic and Drill Championship trophy on March 5 in Douglas, Georgia.



Cadet Olivia Kerrick hands off to anchor runner Todd Rampey during Nease's winning 16 x 100 relay at the Area 12 Championships.



Nease's armed basic team under the command of Brodie Mongon performs its winning routine during the Area 12 Championships on March 5 in Douglas, Georgia.

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Series to help businesses growth successfully

The link, Sapna Foundation and Point Northeast are offering a new Business Workshop Series, designed to help business owners and leaders to build and grow the business of their dreams.

The topic of the first workshop is: "Create a Vision: How to Align Your Team on a Strategic Plan." Sara Frasca, Michael Smith and George Randle will be the instructors.

The workshop brings deep experience and fresh perspectives to help participants propel their businesses to its next stage of growth. They will learn to assess the situation, enhance team dynamics and map a path to achieving measurable results.

It will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 29. To register, go to mysapna.org/events-2.

The link and the Sapna Foundation have partnered with Point Northeast for this workshop series. They are the catalyst for helping leaders achieve business results and outcomes beyond their expectations. Their experience, with more than 300 businesses in the United States and Canada, provides the expertise to assist any organization with any issue.

Follow-up workshops will focus on: "Talent Management: How to Hire, Retain and Build a Team to Soar"; "Alignment & Accountability: How to Leverage

a Proven Process for Success"; "Drive Revenue & Create Healthy Financials: How to Build & Sustain Business Development and Build a Scorecard to Measure, Track and Predict"; "Creative Problem-Solving: Fresh Approaches to Growth, Innovation and Transformation"; and "Strategic Life Planning: How to Create Meaningful Results in Your Life."

Business leaders and their team of trusted executives/leaders are the intended audience for this series.

Here's a look at the instructors:

- Sara Frasca: With the curiosity of Galileo and the tenacity of a street fighter, Frasca is an innovation and business growth expert. Leveraging her experience from serving in senior leadership roles in both corporate America and the world of startups, she helps leading organizations solve complex problems to drive business growth.

- Michael Smith: Smith's executive management and business consulting career spans more than 40 years. His depth of experience, sage advice, range of strategic thinking and corresponding wisdom make him a version of "Yoda" for Point Northeast advisors and their clients.

- George Randle: Randle is an experienced talent executive, veteran, coach and leader known for selecting, building

and reorganizing teams to reach their full business potential. He has more than 20 years of Fortune 100 and Fortune 1000 global human resources and talent acquisition experience building and coaching elite teams.

The series will be presented in six monthly workshop sessions of four hours each. Session dates are April 29, May 27, June 24, July 29, Aug. 26 and Sept. 30. All session times are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Each session will feature an experi-

enced instructor, all materials and facilitated workshop breakouts for your team.

All sessions will be hosted both in-person at the link, 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra Beach, or via Zoom.

The cost is \$5,000 for the entire series for up to four members per company, or \$1,500 per session.

To register, go to <https://97yq82u74gt.typeform.com/businessgrowth>.

Further information is available at mysapna.org/events-2.





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Programs planned for April at River House

The following programs will be held at COA's River House, 179 Marine St., St. Augustine, beginning in April. Registration is required, and space is limited. To review course details and to register, go to coasjc.coursetorm.com/category/river-house. Most classes are four weeks long and begin the first full week of April.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

A Matter of Balance (free program):

Four weeks, meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting 1-3 p.m. April 5. Register with Northeast Florida AHEC at 904-482-0189.

Storytelling: Speaking from the Heart:

Four weeks starting 10 a.m. to noon April 5

Tai Chi:

Four weeks starting 10 to 11:30 a.m. April 5

Spanish for Beginners:

Four weeks starting 1-3 p.m. April 5

Watercolor (Level 1):

Three weeks starting 9-11 a.m. April 13

Beginning Sign Language:

Four weeks starting 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. April 6

Chair Yoga:

Four weeks starting 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. April 6

Meditate, Tap, Create:

Four weeks starting 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 6

Sign Language (Level 2):

Four weeks starting 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. April 6.

Colored Pencil Art:

Four weeks starting 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. April 6

Intermediate/Advanced Tap Dance:

Four weeks starting 1:30 to 3 p.m. April 6

Herbology:

Four weeks starting 3-4 p.m. April 6

Chair Yoga:

Four weeks starting 9-10 a.m. April 6

Belly Dance for Fitness and Fun:

Four weeks starting 11:45 to 12:45 p.m. April 7

Tap Dance for Beginners:

Four weeks starting 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. April 7

OPEN PROGRAMS

Open programs are free and do not require registration. Go to coasjc.org/river-house for more information.

Rights of a Debtor:

Legal lecture presented by attorney Megan Wall at 10 a.m. April 1

Humana Presentations:

Four weeks starting 10-11 a.m. April 5. (Registration requested but not required.) Refreshments will be available. Topics are: April 5, "Protecting Yourself from Financial Scams"; April 12, "Medicare 101"; April 19, "Battling the Aging Brain"; and April 26, "Eating Healthy When Eating Out."

End of Life Issues:

Group discussion on topics about preparing for end of life. From 1 to 2 p.m. April 6

Happy Hookers:

This social group gathers from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday to crochet, knit, etc.

Mahjong:

Bring your mahjong game and play with others, 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays

Bridge:

Bring your deck of cards and socialize over a game of bridge, 9-11 a.m. every Wednesday

Widow to Widow:

Support group by widows for widows, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday

Open Art Studio:

Paint, create or just hang out with a bunch of artists, 10 a.m. to noon Thursdays.

Scrabble Club:

Join others to play this age-old word game, 1-4 p.m. Thursdays

Socrates:

Enjoy lively discussions on various topics, 1-2 p.m. Thursdays



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THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

New community planned in Nocatee

Crosswinds at Nocatee will include 215 single-family homes and villas, ranging from approximately 1,500 to 2,300 square feet. Crosswinds will be located at the northeastern intersection of Pine Island Road and Crosswater Parkway, walking distance from Pine Island Academy, the new K-8 school. Neighborhood design is under way, and the neighborhood is anticipated to open in Late 2023. More information (including builders and floorplans) is anticipated to be released in early 2023.



Home prices continued to climb in February

As the price of gas, groceries and other necessities continued to climb in the month of February, so did the price of homes in Northeast Florida.

The median price for single-family homes in the region rose to \$351,495 in February, a 2.7% increase from four weeks prior and a 24.6% increase over

PRICES continues on **Page 13**

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Prices

Continued from 12

the same time last year. Add condominiums and townhouses alongside single-family homes to the mix and the combined median price in Northeast Florida hit \$334,050, which is also a substantial increase from February 2021.

“The real estate market in Northeast Florida remains solidly a seller’s market with just 1.2 months’ supply, as active inventory of single family, condo and townhomes settles in at 2,646 units, down from both last year and last month,” said Mark Rosener, president of Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR).

“World events, inflation — particularly gas prices — and mortgage interest rates are inching up. This puts stress on the home affordability index for single-family homes, condos and townhouses so that it stands at 97 at the end of February,” Rosener said, referring to the indicator, which measures housing affordability and shows the level a typical family earns to qualify for a mortgage on a typical home, based on current interest rates, median income and median home prices. A higher number means greater affordability.

“These factors are hard to predict in the future, but a good guess is that interest rates will continue to increase, creating more urgency for those that need, or want, to make a move to a new home,” he added.

Specifically, single-family homes spent a median of 17 days on the market throughout the region. Active inventory was 2,227, a decrease of 15.6% from last month and a drop of 33.9% from last year. Sellers were happy as 100% received their asking price and 33.3% closed over list price.

Meanwhile, condos posted a median of

\$225,000 throughout the region, a 23.3% increase in price since February 2021 and a 2.3% climb since last month. As with single-family homes, condo sellers received 100.2% of their asking price with 34.3% receiving more than the list price, a 50.4% change upward since January 2022. The affordability index for condos showed they are becoming more expensive with an index of 144, a 5.3% drop from the month before when it registered 152. Active inventory was 213 — a one-month supply.

Similarly, townhouses posted a median price of \$267,495, a \$10,000 increase from \$257,495 last month. Townhouse sellers received 100% of their listing price. With 31.5% closing over the asking price, this signaled a 75.4% increase over last year and 17.7% increase since last month.

Although housing prices continue to gradually move upward, Rosener said there are signs that the market in Northeast Florida is moderating.

“Many statistical indicators point to a stabilizing market with percentage growth or shrinkage in single digits,” he said. “The median price for single-family, condos and townhouses, while up 25% over last year, has been in the \$320k to \$335k range since November and just a 3.7% increase over January, signaling a moderating price outlook. The pace is still extremely brisk at just 16 days on market. With 100% of listings selling at asking price and 33% over list price, there is a need for urgency on the part of buyers to move quickly when a home that meets their needs hits the market.

“Although the lagging indicator of closed sales (for single-family, condos and townhouses) bumped up slightly (4.3%) from January in keeping with historic seasonal trends, it still registered 12.3% below last year’s levels. The more forward-looking indicator, pending sales,



has again fallen in line with historic seasonal trends, showing a 4.4% bump over January, but remains at 3.1% below its mark in February 2021.”

In today’s uncertain times, those entering the housing market as either buyers or sellers should seek help from a real estate expert, said Rosener.

“As always, the message is to seek out the advice and guidance of a Realtor to help navigate the ever-changing nature of the real estate market,” he said.

In St. Johns County, the median price of single-family homes was \$480,000, a slight drop from \$481,893 the month before. Active inventory showed a 10.5% drop from January to 513 homes, a

1.3-month supply. All sellers — 100.8% — received their asking price with 32.3% of homes closing over list price. The median days on the market was 16, and 67 was the home affordability index, a 3.6% decline from 70 in January.

In Duval County, the median price of single-family housing was \$310,000, up 3.3% since January 2022. The median days on the market was 16, with 34.8% of sales closing above asking price and 99.8% of sellers receiving list price. Active inventory for the county was 1,184 homes, a decrease of 14.4% from last month and a 1.2-month supply. The home affordability index registered at 104, down 6.3% from January.

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Real estate company applauds top producers at awards celebration



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty's Fleming Island/Orange Park office received the Chairman's Cup award.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently honored the company's award-winning Realtors at its annual awards celebration at the University of North Florida. During the event, the company presented two special office awards.

The Beaches office under the leadership of Managing Broker Don Cline was recognized as the Top Office for listings,

sales, transactions and production.

The Fleming Island/Orange Park office under the leadership of Managing Broker Linda Benson received the Chairman's Cup award. The Chairman's Cup recognizes success in a number of categories, including client feedback, recruiting, listing sides, closed sides, per person productivity, closed volume and profitability.

"Our Forever Agents have developed



Don Cline, managing broker of the Beaches office, accepted the Top Office award.

Contributed photos

a stellar reputation in the community and achieved impressive results as a result of their strong commitment, local knowledge and superior customer service," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty CEO Kevin Waugaman.

The in-person celebration honored the company's top producers, who were announced in January, and recognized all team members for their unique contribu-

tions to the company.

"I am proud of all of our winners, and so happy we could celebrate their hard work and dedication to the company, their clients and the community," Waugaman said.

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, go to www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

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Mark Spain Real Estate expands into Jacksonville

Mark Spain Real Estate opened an office on Tuesday, March 1, in Jacksonville, its third Florida location.

This will be the seventh major Southeastern metropolitan market for the company. It already has 11 offices in Atlanta, Orlando, Tampa, Nashville, Charlotte and Raleigh.

The new Mark Spain Real Estate office is located at 4600 Touchton Road East, Building 100, Suite 150.

In addition, Joshua Page has been hired as director of sales for Jacksonville.

Page brings more than 15 years' leadership and sales team management experience to this new position. In other

management roles, Page has cultivated business operations to reach peak performance, honed his ability to implement changes, training, team motivation, and to adjust to new marketplace opportunities as they arise. He has consistently created programs and initiatives to increase revenue, customer retention and overall growth.

Jacksonville is experiencing significant growth in its real estate market. The median home price grew by 15% in 2021, and the average number of days on the market for a listing was just 49.

"We are ready to serve Jacksonville-area residents and those relocating to the

region in reaching their real estate goals," said President and CEO John Makarewicz. "And our guaranteed offer program makes it easier than ever for Florida homeowners to sell their homes."

In 2021, Mark Spain Real Estate jumped from \$1.4 billion in annual sales to \$3.3 billion and broke the 10,000 annual transaction mark for the first time. Additionally, the company expanded into the Tampa and Orlando real estate markets in 2021.

Mark Spain Real Estate has earned the top real estate team ranking in the United States for closed transactions by The Wall Street Journal and Real Trends for

the last four straight years, selling more homes than any other Realtor or team in the nation. It is also a six-time Inc. 5000 recipient, an annual list honoring the fastest-growing private companies in the country.

One of the company's core values is to remain client-focused, and, as a result, Mark Spain Real Estate has received more than 6,000 5-star reviews and is the No. 1 most reviewed real estate company in the U.S.

For more information about the company and its guaranteed offer program, go to MarkSpain.com or call 855-299-7653.

Mega Open House Weekend set for April 2-3

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has announced that its Mega Open House Weekend returns on April 2-3.

The event offers dozens of open house viewings of the company's listings of available homes. The listings encompass homes in a wide range of prices, styles and neighborhoods throughout Northeast Florida.

The company's March Mega Open House Weekend event hosted 37 in-per-

son open houses with virtual open houses on social media to ensure maximum reach and engagement. The company's virtual open houses create awareness and help to bring prospective buyers to the in-person open houses. The virtual open houses attracted 84,932 online impressions with a click through rate of 15%, demonstrating great interest and engagement.

"Our March Mega Open House weekend resulted in excellent exposure for

our listings," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty President Ann King. "In our competitive local market, our Forever Agents participate in this event to help both buyers and sellers achieve their goals."

Go to OpenHouseNEFlorida.com for a list of open houses. Go to the company's Facebook page, facebook.com/FloridaNetworkRealty, and Instagram, instagram.com/FloridaNetworkRealty, to view the homes virtually during the event.



Contributed photo

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty's Mega Open House Weekend returns April 2-3.

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, go to FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

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Lawn care among growing list of on-demand services using app tech

By Anthony Richards

It seems like there is a downloadable app for just about anything nowadays, and that includes offering convenient listings of an array of services right at a person's finger tips.

Add lawn care to that list, as the GreenPal app seeks to achieve what Uber does for transportation but with lawn care.

According to co-founder Gene Caballero, the idea for the app was first tossed around by him and his friends, Bryan Clayton and Zach Hendrix in 2012, but the company did not become a reality until 2015.

Six years later, and the app now helps narrow down possible lawn care businesses in 250 markets across the United States, with Ponte Vedra being the latest.

"You look back and you wonder how three people that didn't know much about tech could do something like this," Caballero said.

The world has changed in recent years and with the direction it appears to be going, it is not surprising that lawn care was the next marketplace to be streamlined

with the goal of convenience.

"Everything today is pretty much on demand and lawn care is now no different," Caballero said.

However, having grown up working in the lawn care business in high school and college, Caballero admits that looking back, he would not have imagined it getting to the point where things are at now.

"I never would have thought it would have come this far in such a short amount of time," Caballero said. "Ten years ago, we didn't even know this technology was possible, and now it's helping run the day-to-day operations of landscaping companies.

According to Caballero, the app allows that assistance by offering options to not only schedule appointments for vendors, but also keep track for accounting purposes.

"A lot of companies that use our app don't even have to call their customers to schedule times or use pen and paper anymore," Caballero said. "It's all done through the app."

Greenpal is based out of Nashville and introduced the app in Jacksonville late



Photo courtesy of GreenPal

Add lawn care to the growing list of on-demand services available through apps, such as GreenPal.

last summer and is now offering lawn care services a digital home in the Ponte Vedra area.

The way the app works is that any vendor can apply to join the list on the site for people to choose from. Vendors must

get approved following a vetting process.

Once listed, vendors will bid on certain accounts and the homeowners will then decide which one best fits what they are

APP continues on Page 17



Epping Forest Yacht Club

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Generation W to present signature event on April 1

Working from home or visiting family online has become the norm. The pandemic has kept some people in their homes. Now that restrictions have been lifted, many are finding ways to reconnect with the world.

Generation W is presenting its signature event, "CONNECTION," in person for the first time in two years from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 1 at the University of North Florida – Lazzara Theater, 1 UNF Drive.

The power and impact of "CONNECTION" will be the focal points and the way they are hard-wired into our essential well-being. The event will feature a line-up of speakers and conversations.

Topics include interdependent connection to nature, why connection to others is vital to our well-being and the power of sports to connect us as fans and global citizens.

Generation W "CONNECTION" will generate the energy and the positive spirit that abounds when business and community leaders, educators and those

who want to be their best come together for this unique experience.

Featured speakers include Marcus and Ann Ericksen, environmental scientists; Patrick Geraghty, president and CEO of GuideWell; Kate Isler, CEO, The W Marketplace; Jan Miller, partner, Advancit Capital; Jennifer Rosenthal, VP of communications, Grayscale Investments; Deb Levy, PCC and certified life and business coach; and Denise Williams, chief people officer, FIS.

Register for the event at genwnow.com.

Generation W is a growing, diverse, inclusive and enthusiastic community that embraces the tenets of education, inspiration and connection along with the power of women's and girls' leadership in building communities.

Generation W's nationally recognized platform includes four key elements: Generation W, Generation WOW, Generation WORKS and WOWsdom! The girls guide to the Possible and the

App

Continued from 16

looking for.

Part of GreenPal's research has included riding along with one of their vendors in Nashville.

"What we found by doing his route was that there is a wide range of clients using

the app," Caballero said. "Anyone with grass has a place on the app."

However, one trend the company has noticed over the past couple years is an increase in the number of clients 60 and older using the app.

Caballero equated the increase to the COVID-19 pandemic taking place and that age range feeling safer using the app due to the lack of contact it requires.



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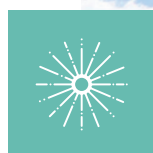
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In the Arts



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THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 • PAGE 18 www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Unique paintings of Susanne Schuenke exhibited at the link

By Shaun Ryan

What constitutes “real” art? Ask a successful artist like Susanne Schuenke, and she may tell you that when you encounter authentic art, it provokes a response and stays with you afterward. “Then, you have experienced real art,” she says.

It’s something that anyone viewing Schuenke’s work can appreciate, because her paintings fairly insist that the viewer navigate their layered meanings and interpret each new discovery.

“Art has a function,” says Schuenke. “It’s not simply luxury or decoration. Decorations don’t feed you. Art enriches you.”

Schuenke’s work immediately draws people to it. They want to know more about the vibrant, often unexpected, colors and the figures comprised of swirls and circles amid stark geometric shapes and enigmatic symbols.

Fortunately for art enthusiasts, Schuenke regularly makes herself available to discuss her work during her Artist Talk & Walk events at the link, where many of her works are exhibited.

The link, a co-working space, innovation incubator and cultural centerpiece, is located at 425 Town Plaza Ave. in Nocatee Town Center. It lists events, such as

Schuenke’s Talk & Walk, on its website at thelink.zone/events-1.

Schuenke was born in Germany, where her parents encouraged her artistic talents. However, when she was considering her academic options following graduation from high school, they said no to her entering an art academy.

“There were some behaviors taught that had nothing to do with art,” she said.

So, she enrolled at the university where she studied something that might sustain her financially should her art not produce the necessary income. It was a decision that may have aided her later in creating her own style, as she didn’t have to unlearn what they were teaching at the art academy.

As it turned out, her art has indeed sustained her.

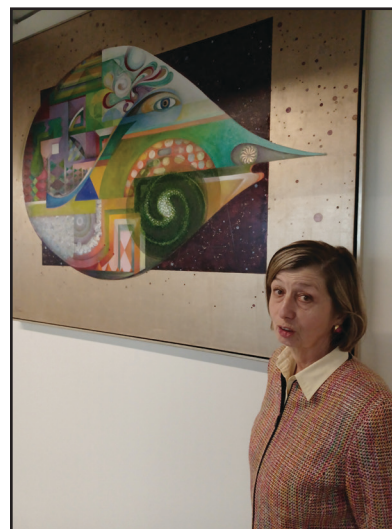
“I’m very privileged that I can actually earn a good living with my art,” she said. “I love my work — and art is also work, by the way. It’s not all dreaming and that. It’s discipline and creativity, two things that go together. That’s also what I learned from my parents.”

When Schuenke begins a new painting, she typically starts with shapes. As she works, the idea quickly evolves “and the intellectual contents come rather fast,” she said.

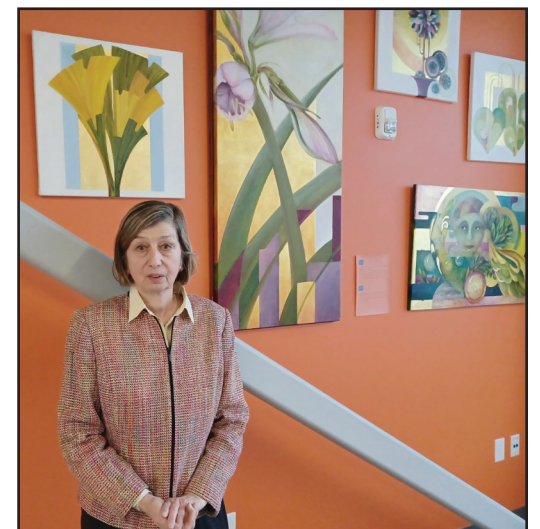


Photos by Shaun Ryan

Susanne Schuenke points out some of the elements of her oil-and-gold-leaf painting, “Petabyte Abyss,” during a recent Artist Walk & Talk at the link.



“The Coming of the Cosmic BrainMind” is one of works by Susanne Schuenke that are exhibited at the link.



Many of Susanne Schuenke’s paintings employ gold and palladium among the colors.

SCHUENKE continues on Page 22

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Beaches — A Celebration of the Arts to benefit educational programs

Honors and awards will be presented to artists, philanthropists, volunteers

This year's First Coast Cultural Center Beaches — A Celebration of the Arts annual fundraising event will be held from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. May 15 at The Surf Club Patio at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, 200 Ponte Vedra Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

The gala event theme is Hawaiian with traditional foods and drinks along with a performance by Prince Pele's Polynesian Revue. The entertainment will feature a cultural experience through the South Pacific islands with Samoan sword and fire dancers, and a fun-filled luau atmosphere.

Highlights of the evening will include local honorary chairs Drs. Arun and Suparna Gulani, and the Irene Lazzara — Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts Award. Additional awards to be presented are the Emerging Artist Award, The Ron and Hilah Autrey Arts Education and Advocacy Award, Community Impact Award (Member's Choice), The Art of Giving Award and Volunteer of the Year.

Event funds to support the nonprofit and event will be raised from ticket sales, sponsorship packages, program and signage opportunities, and honoring individuals, businesses and organizations within the coastal counties from Amelia Island to St. Augustine Beach that have enhanced arts and culture in the region.

For further information, go to app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/CulturalCenterAtPonteVedraBea/beaches-2022-nomination-1.html.

For more information about individual and table ticket pricing, sponsorships, program inclusion and more, go to firstcoastculturalcenter.org.

According to Donna Guzzo, president and executive director of First Coast Cultural Center, the evening features key award recipients who have dedicated their expertise, philanthropy and services to the nonprofit throughout the year.

"We were pleased to honor many local creative professionals and volunteers who generously shared their time and knowledge to help the center and our beaches communities," she said. "The support from our patrons and donors during the year has been breathtaking."

Sponsors currently include a private, in-memoriam tribute, and contributions from Irene and Gasper Lazzara, Hilah

and Ron Autrey, Dr. Arun Gulani and Dr. Suparna Gulani, Tom Bush BMW, Claude Nolan Cadillac and Pivot CPAs.

For more information about the event, contact Callie Johnson, community connections manager at cjohnson@firstcoastculturalcenter.org or call 904-280-0614, extension 1202.

First Coast Cultural Center hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, with after-hour appointments available. Classes and programs are held at 3972 3rd St. South, Jacksonville Beach and at CareConnect+, 351 Town Plaza Ave. in Nocatee.

The Cultural Center is a place to create, understand and experience the arts. The organization accomplishes its goals through exhibitions of local, regional and national artists in a variety of media through educational and enlivening events, quality arts classes, lectures and workshops.

Key programs include Sound Connections Music Therapy for children with disabilities, which is offered free of charge to students at St. Johns County schools and Title I schools that provide additional resources to economically disadvantaged students. Also, Kick StART afterschool arts enrichment programs and services are available.



File Photo

All Beaches Experimental Theatre received the Irene Lazzara "Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts" Award at the 2021 event.



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Hillary Whitaker Gallery plans spring show

Hillary Whitaker Gallery will display new artwork from renowned fine art painters Laura Lacambra Shubert and Wyanne Thompson during its spring show.

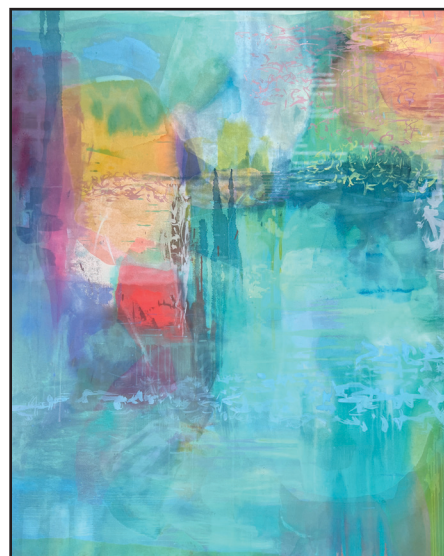
A reception will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 25, at the gallery, 240 A1A N., Suite 13, Ponte Vedra Beach. The show runs through April 14.

Shubert's art uses light, shadow and intense colors as key elements. Tones of gray serve as undercurrents among simple subject matter. Classic scenes with

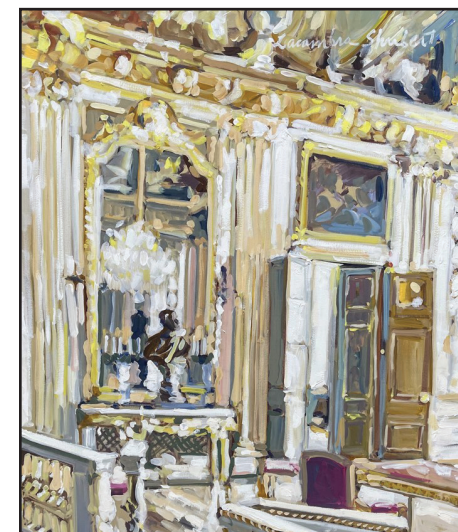
Shubert's iconic thick painterly strokes have long been admired by collectors.

Thompson's work is consistently bold and beautiful. As a cancer survivor, she considers the illness a gift, pushing her to find the courage to express herself more honestly and boldly. Thompson says she doesn't waste a minute of any time she's been given, painting full time most days.

For further information on the show, call 904-273-6065 or go to hwhitakergallery.com.



"Prayers For The World" by Wyanne Thompson



Photos courtesy of the Hillary Whitaker Gallery
"French Chateau" by Laura Lacambra Shubert



The Mandarin Art Festival is a family-friendly event that serves as the premier fundraiser for the Mandarin Community Club.



Contributed photos
The Mandarin Art Festival is held on the oak-shaded grounds of the Mandarin Community Club.

Mandarin Art Festival returns April 16-17

Following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mandarin Art Festival will return on Easter weekend, April 16 and 17, following a more than half-century long tradition.

Held on the grounds of the Mandarin Community Club at 12447 Mandarin Road, the family-friendly event serves as the premier fundraiser of the non-profit, which has been identified as the oldest civic organization in Jacksonville, with proceeds supporting the club's preservation, education and beautification efforts throughout the community.

Free parking and shuttle service is available from Albert Field at Orange

Picker and Brady roads and at the Mandarin Masonic Lodge on Loretto Road. This is an outdoor, rain-or-shine event. Pets are not permitted. A \$2 donation per person is requested at the gate.

The largest community event in Mandarin, the art festival has been an Easter tradition for generations of families. Over the years, tens of thousands of guests have strolled under the oaks of the historic Mandarin Community Club to peruse the artwork of more than 100 local and nationally known artists working in a variety of media. A juried fine art and fine craft show, awards will be given in the categories of functional fine craft, jew-

elry, mixed media, painting, photography, sculpture and best in show.

The Children's Art Show will display the creations of talented students from area elementary and middle schools and is sponsored by Emily and Lawrence Lisska.

Other features include a Green Market of unique, locally sourced and made items, a bake sale with homemade goodies from the kitchens of club members, food vendors providing an array of cuisine and a chance drawing for items contributed by Mandarin-area businesses.

Live entertainment will be provided, and the historic, 100-year-old Post Office and General Store will be open and manned by the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society so that guests may stroll through its doors and back into history.

Festival Chair Susie Scott leads the all-volunteer Mandarin Art Festival planning committee. The festival is made possible, in part, due to support from VyStar Credit Union, Mari Terbrueggen, Watson Realty Corp. Mandarin North Office and State Farm Agent Jim Register.



Area residents will once again have an opportunity to stroll among the oaks at the Mandarin Community Club during the Mandarin Art Festival after the event's two-year hiatus.

For more information, go to mandarinartfestival.org or contact the festival at mandarinartfestival@gmail.com.

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Sports



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Pair of teenagers win JAGA Spring Four-ball

Johnstone, Cronauer of Sawgrass CC capture net competition

A pair of tall and talented teenagers, Moses Compaan and Chase Carroll, teamed up to fire a 7-under 31-32-63 at Palatka Golf Club March 14 to claim a two-shot victory in the Jacksonville Area Golf Association's 2022 Spring Four-Ball Championship.

They finished two shots better than the teams of Troy Vannucci/Mike Smith and Toby Ragland/Jayce Barber.

Compaan, 19, and Carroll, 17, tallied five birdies on the front nine and two more on the back nine of the 1925 Donald Ross design that plays deceptively longer than its posted 6,014 yards from the back tees. It has a unique par of 36-34-70.

Since completing high school last year, Compaan is focused on turning professional. Carroll, whose brother Cody plays for the University of North Florida men's golf team, is a junior at Middleburg High School.

In the net competition, a pair of U.S. Naval Academy graduates and Sawgrass Country Club members, Jeff Johnstone and Joe Cronauer, nipped the teams of Jacob Martin/Jimmy Martin and John Seubert/John Genovese by one shot.

Johnstone and Cronauer posted a bogey-free 31-31-62.

Both JAGA directors, Johnstone is JAGA's current co-vice president of tournaments, a key position he shares with another Sawgrass member, Gregg Deiboldt.

The JAGA Spring Four-Ball featured 38 teams from all over Northeast Florida – 18 in the gross division and 20 in the net division.

Palatka Golf Club has a rich history of supporting amateur golf. Since 1958, the club has hosted the Florida Azalea Amateur, which annually attracts a large field of top golfers from all around the country. Its roster of past champions includes some who have gone on to capture wins on the PGA TOUR, such as, Tommy Aaron, Dan Sikes and Bob Murphy.

"Fortunately, THE PLAYERS Championship and the JAGA Spring Four-Ball enjoyed excellent weather on Monday (March 14) after all the trials and tribulations the TOUR faced in the preceding days," said JAGA president Jeff Adams. "As a result, the Four-Ball went off without a hitch and the host Palatka Golf Club course featured really good conditions. There were no wet areas, and we were able to play the ball down. Kudos to GM Andy Hertz and staff for hosting us during what has to be their busiest month of the year, and JAGA directors Ron Jerin and Jeff Elledge for conducting a first-class event for everyone involved."

Sports car racing at its finest



Photos by Anthony Richards

Several car manufacturers took to the famed Sebring International Raceway for the 70th 12 Hours of Sebring March 19.



The last couple of hours were raced at night, but when the sun went down the speeds remained high.



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1. Betting probability
 5. Once headed by J. Edgar Hoover
 8. Formally surrender
 12. Gravy holder
 13. Nile dweller, for short
 14. More certain
 15. Tiny bit
 16. a.k.a. Bruce Banner
 17. One who plies one's trade
 18. *"Days to _____," on a seed packet
 20. Big-ticket _____
 21. Apartments, e.g.
 22. *Plumerias are often used in this Hawaiian greeting
 23. Scrooge's visitors
 26. Digging into
 30. What Carl Lewis did
 31. Bestow
 34. Month before Nisan
 35. Dress with a flare
 37. Cholera
 38. On a store tag
 39. Central points
 40. Paul Reubens' Herman
 42. Mother lode stuff
 43. African bloodsucking pests
 45. Salty dogs
 47. Current tense of #30 Across
 48. Retches
 50. Bovine cries
 52. *Like an aggressive weed
 55. Frustration, in a comic book
 56. *Holds a plant stem to a support
 57. Type of hot sandwich
 59. One born to Japanese immigrants
 60. Urban legends, e.g.
 61. Check out
 62. Shakespeare's "at another time"
 63. "The _____ Who Loved Me"
 64. *Flower's location after a garden?

- DOWN**
1. Kimono closer
 2. Banish to Hades
 3. Crunched numbers
 4. Facebook's update feature
 5. *Seed plant's harvest
 6. *Goes to seed
 7. Rotten and stinky
 8. *Plant variety
 9. Famous canal
 10. Hold as a conviction
 11. Make a blunder
 13. Church service oil
 14. Salesman's speech, e.g.
 19. Loosen laces
 22. Tennis do-over
 23. *Splice, to a gardener
 24. Nimbi on ikons
 25. In the cooler (2 words)
 26. Former Saint Brees
 27. "Pulling my leg," e.g.
 28. Mother-of-pearl
 29. *Kind of thumb
 32. Pizzeria output, pl.
 33. "_____ you kidding?"
 36. *N in N-P-K
 38. Sneaked glances
 40. Slammer
 41. "The Shawshank Redemption" theme
 44. Served raw
 46. Isaac of science fiction
 48. This Dogg can rap
 49. What Elton John tickles, sing.
 50. Street in Anytown, USA
 51. Guesstimate phrase (two words)
 52. Bodily disorders
 53. Lope de _____, Spanish playwright
 54. Building extensions
 55. Nurses' org.
 58. _____ time in golf

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

"Seventeen Legs," currently on exhibit at the link, is one of Susanne Schuenke's largest paintings. It measures 9 by more than 5 feet.

Schuenke

Continued from 18

Typically, she starts with a watercolor. If she likes it, she follows with a painting in oil. She experiments with size, projecting her watercolor on the wall to find dimensions that are most powerful without being overwhelming.

"There is a size where it is so large that you get afraid," she said.

Such considerations are particularly important in works like "A Change in the Weather," which depicts a metaphorical image of a malignant political figure.

"There is really a warning in this painting," she said. "Therefore, it cannot be so big that you would like to leave the room. That, and I miss my aim. The painting is for the observer, not for emptying the room."

That work measures about 4 by 4.5 feet, a modest size compared to many of Schuenke's other works.

"The Big Race," for example, measures 6.5 by almost 12.5 feet. It depicts five racehorses in a kind of metaphor for competition in life and the range of possible outcomes.

Due to the many details, the painting is

best served by its large size.

Those visiting Schuenke's exhibited works will want to know about dominant themes, which the artist presents boldly without being obvious.

"There is a big, big question: What is life about, and what is beyond life?" she said.

She encourages people to search for the answers, frequently beginning with the title of the work, which sometimes contains a play on words. An example is "The Cardinal Question," which depicts a large, bright red cardinal taking account of an ugly, gray world. The title also uses "cardinal" to mean "fundamental," as in "the fundamental question."

Many elements, not obvious at first, increasingly reveal what the painting has to say the longer one studies them. In "Watching Us," an Olympian figure gazes down upon ant-like people whose activities that reveal the range of human ambition and emotion.

To learn more, go to susanneschuenke.com.

NOTE: This is an abridged article. To read it at full length, go to pontevedrarecorder.com.

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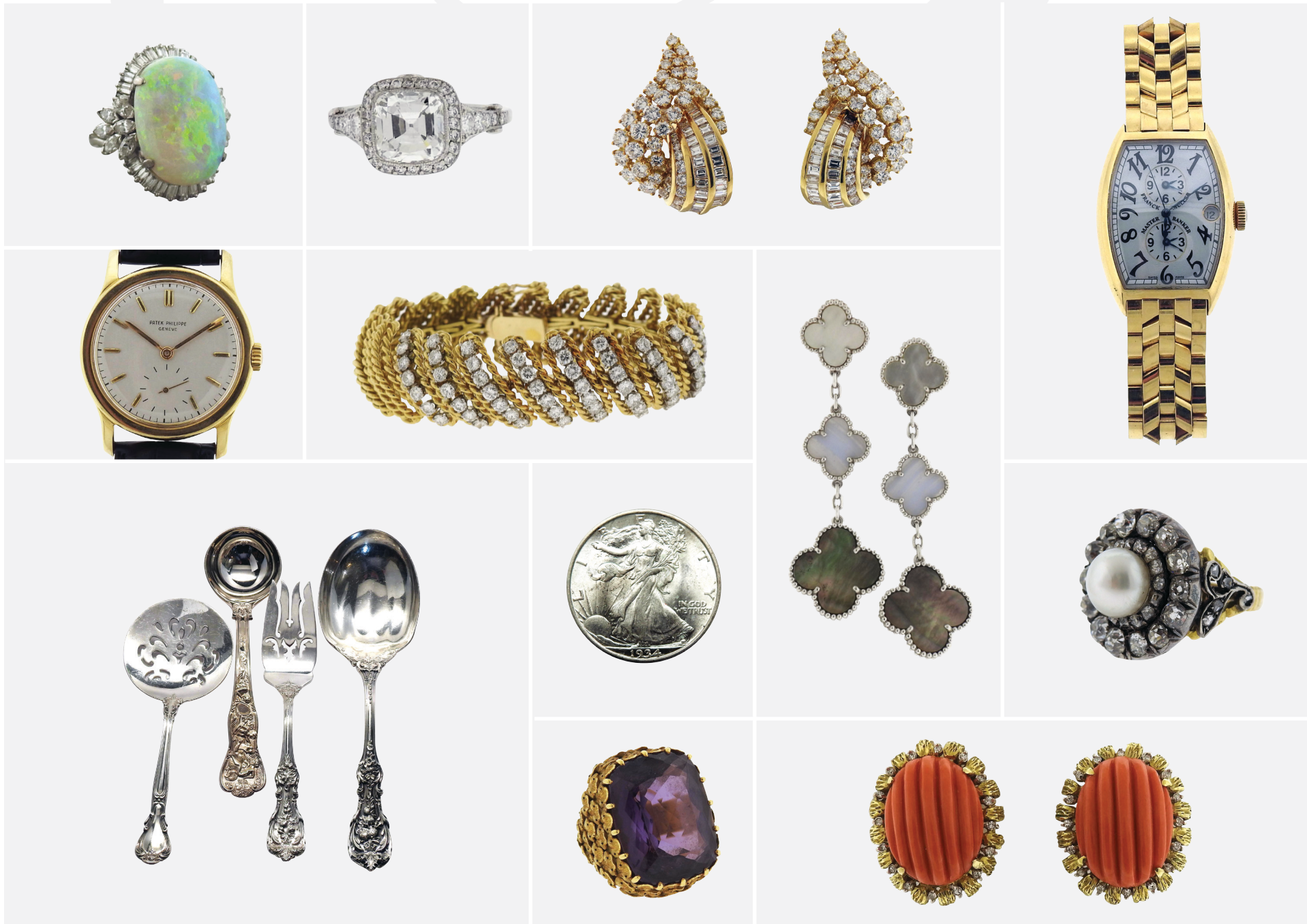
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