

PONTE VEDRA RECORDER

HAPPY
Father's
DAY

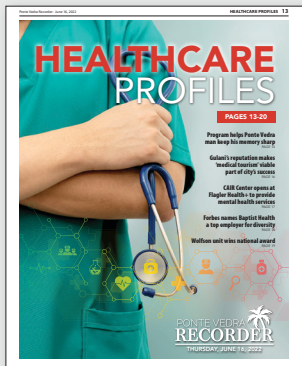
June 16, 2022
Volume 53, No. 33
75 cents

PonteVedraRecorder.com

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader



Best of Ponte Vedra
voting begins
Page 3



Healthcare Profiles
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INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!
The Recorder's Entertainment
EXTRA featuring TV listings,
streaming information,
puzzles and more!

RUNNING TOWARD MEMORIES

His passion for running has remained strong over the years.

Rheinhardt Harrison has been competing in events since he was 3 years old.

Photos courtesy of Dennis Harrison
Nease High graduate Rheinhardt Harrison has been running from an early age and it has become a passionate tradition for him and his family over the years. See story on page 28.

Running with the St. Johns Striders Track Club.

Competing at a middle school meet.

Visiting "Pre's Rock," a memorial dedicated to the life of record-setting runner Steve Prefontaine in Eugene, Oregon.

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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** or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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

BRIEFS

Exploring Florida state parks through the library

The St. Johns County Public Library System has partnered with Florida State Parks, the Florida Department of State and Florida's Division of Library Services to offer library patrons access to Florida State Parks through the Real Florida Reader Program. Now through Sept. 12, library card holders may check out a Real Florida Reader day pass for free admission for up to eight people at more than 170 participating state parks.

Passes may be checked out for seven days, with no holds or renewals, at any of the library branches. They do not cover activity fees or entry into special events, museum or boat tours, instructor certification diving, boat launching, rentals of picnic pavilions and other facilities, rentals of equipment such as canoes and kayaks, overnight camping or lodging.

Access to Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife, Skyway Pier and Weeki Wachee Springs state parks is also excluded from this program.

For more information about this program, go to floridastateparks.org/RealFloridaReader or contact your local branch library. For information on other services the St. Johns County Public Library System offers, go to sjcpls.org.

Virtual Hiring Fair is June 16

Job seekers can consider work opportunities available from employers throughout the region during the CareerSource Northeast Florida virtual hiring fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 16.

More than 20 private and public-sector employers are taking part in the hiring fair so far, including DeVry University, Haeco Airframe Services, Metric Engineering, Children's Home Society of Florida, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the State of Florida's Department of Children and Families.

Job seekers must register to take part in the hiring event. Registration is open now at bit.ly/junevhf.

Virtual employer booths will also be open to job seekers three days prior to the event, where they can preview the booths and job opportunities — allowing job seekers who cannot participate in the live event to submit their resumes in advance.

Reading program, magic show among summer fun

The St. Johns County Public Library System

is encouraging youth and adults to participate in "The Best Summer at Your Library" Summer Reading Program now through Aug. 6. The program includes virtual and in-person opportunities that are fun for the whole family. Readers of all ages are invited to pick up their free reading logs from any library branch or track their progress virtually through the READSquared app. Participants may earn free books for every six days read on logs or 60 points reached on READSquared.

In addition, the library system is hosting the second annual "Amp up the Magic" show with magician Mark Alan at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. June 30 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 1340C A1A South. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs or beach towels and bug spray for this free outdoor event. Register at sjcpls.org/the-best-summer-22.

"The Best Summer at Your Library" is sponsored by the library system's multiple Friends of the Library groups. To learn more about the summer reading program and how to register for the variety of programs, contact your local branch library or go to sjcpls.org.

Celebrity chef returning for seafood presentation

Celebrity Chef Warren Caterson will present "Seafood 101: Cooking Finfish and Shellfish for Two at Home." In this presentation, he shares dozens of kitchen tips, cooking hints and humorous anecdotes about the joys and challenges of cooking seafood for two.

The chef will answer such questions as: Should I buy my seafood fresh or frozen? My fish seems to always come out dry; is there a fix? What's the best way to cook fish? What's the difference between farm-raised and wild-caught fish, and is one better than the other? Why are fish like tilapia so widely available and inexpensive? Can I use canned oysters or clams in place of fresh? Is it okay to serve red wine with seafood? And many more.

Chef Caterson will end the presentation with a seafood cooking demonstration, preparing a healthy seafood entrée that anyone can replicate in their own home in less than 10 minutes.

The presentation will be held 6-7:30 p.m. July 6 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

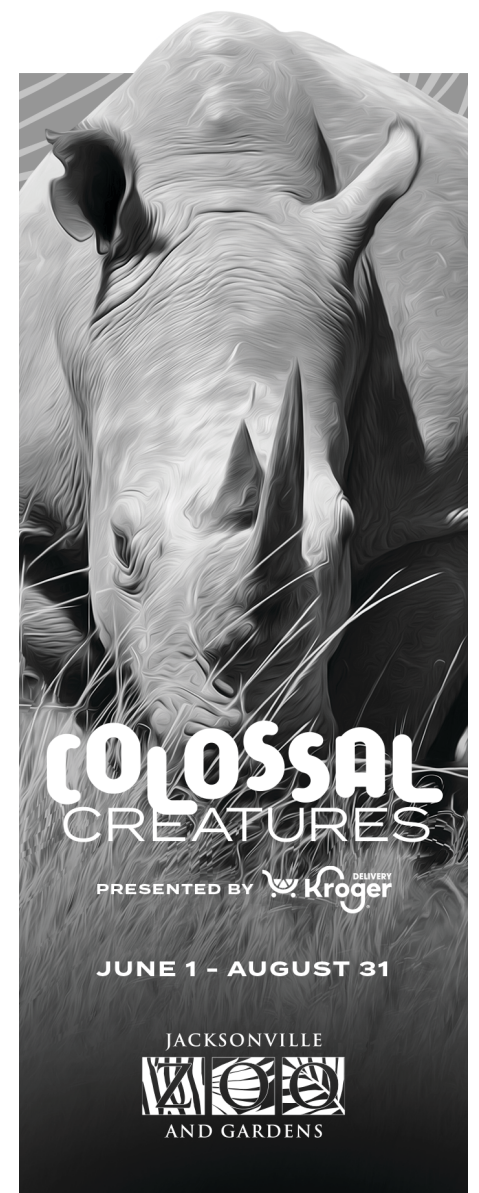
Registration is required. RSVP at sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch or call 904-827-6950 for assistance. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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



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Voting is now open for Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra contest

The Ponte Vedra Recorder is holding its fourth annual Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra contest, covering ZIP codes 32082 and 32081.

Readers currently have the chance to vote for their favorite businesses, professional services, organizations and more in nearly 250 categories online. From best new business to best charity event, best real estate agent to best personal trainer and best seafood to best boutique, the categories run the gamut and are sure to include your favorite things.

Votes can be made on the website at



pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2022.

Voting will take place until July 25, during which each person can vote once per day in as many categories as he or

she wants. The nominees who receive the most votes will be named 2022 Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra. Nominations and voting are completely free and open to the public.

The Best Of platform on The Recorder's website will feature lists of nominees in an easy-to-use format.

Winners will receive a free certificate and a Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra window cling. Each winner will also be listed in our Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra special section and on the winner's website.

Winners will be notified by Recorder

staff after votes are counted.

Nominees can participate in advertising packages that promote their entry by expanding their listing to feature additional details on the business. For more information or to find out how to get your nominated business or product involved in promotions that will be going on throughout the contest cycle, email susan@pontevedrarecorder.com or call (904) 686-3938.

Vote for your favorite business, service, person, restaurant or product now at www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2022.

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5 Bedrooms, 5 Bathrooms, 4 Half Baths, \$7,995,000



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'No parking' signs coming to Ponte Vedra Boulevard

By Anthony Richards

There will soon be some new signage around the Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District after the district's board of trustees approved up to \$3,000 to update several signs in the area during its June 13 meeting.

The amount was deemed necessary for the project, which will include the design and installation of five "no parking" signs to be placed along Ponte Vedra Boulevard.

B&S Signs in St. Augustine was awarded the bid for the project by the board. The project will cost \$236 per sign with an additional \$75 installation fee per sign.

The project will also include adding "Welcome to the MSD" signage on the backside of the sign posted at the district's entry near the Guana Reserve.

According to Trustee Mack McCuller, there is currently no message on that side of the sign.

In other news from the meeting, the board approved up to \$1,000 for members of Kimley-Horn's engineering staff to attend a future public hearing about the district's sidewalk project, after Trustee Brad Wester proposed the idea.

According to Wester, the public hear-

ing is expected to take place in late summer, but a specific date and time have not yet been scheduled.

The topic of whether the MSD needs to create its own police department was once again discussed.

"What we need is community involvement, which is something we haven't had to this point," Trustee Gary Jurenovich said.

Jurenovich proposed a plan to go forth with the creation of their own police department, which the MSD recently had in place from 1982 to 1990.

"I don't think the people will be happy with just a two- or three-man police department," MSD Chairman Al Hollon said.

Wester agreed with Hollon in that he did not see it as the right time to move forward with such a decision and thought that the increased number of traffic stops demonstrated the progress being made since entering their partnership with the Sheriff's Office for additional off-duty officers.

"You can call them off-duty officers, but they're not writing off-duty tickets," Wester said. "I think a vote now is premature."

Trustee John Cellucci questioned

whether the MSD is getting the service the people in the district have come to expect over the years.

"The people I talk to say they don't see the increased presence," Cellucci said.

The decision was not put to a vote because vice chairman Kitty Switkes and Trustee Holly Kartsonis were absent

from the meeting. It was tabled and will be put to a vote at the next meeting July 11 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

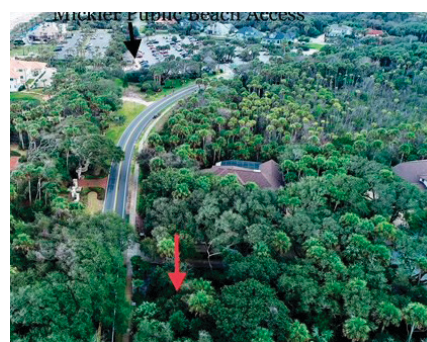
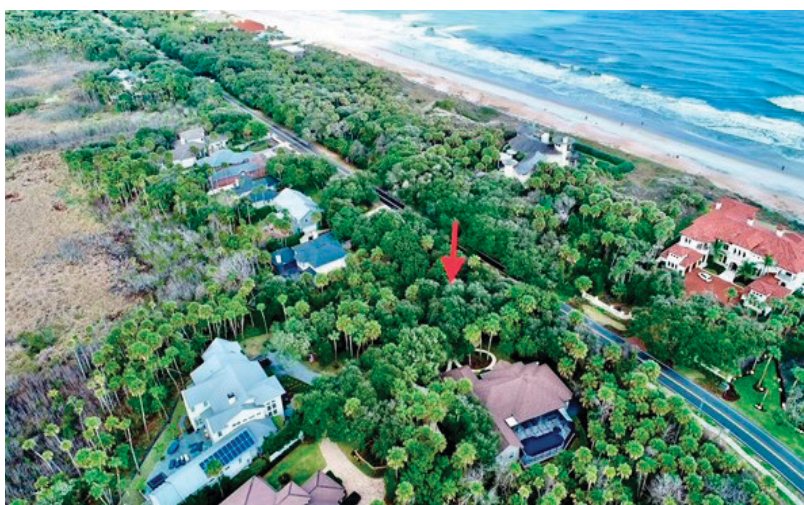
A vote pertaining to Ponte Vedra Boulevard becoming part of the designated U.S. Bike Route System was also pushed to the next meeting.

Water outage and boil water advisory set for Ponte Vedra

A water outage is scheduled to take place in the designated zones listed on the map beginning at 11 p.m. June 20 until 5 a.m. June 21. The outage is due to maintenance procedures JEA is undergoing in the area. Once water is turned back on, a boil water advisory will go into effect. Residents are asked to bring water to a rolling boil for a minimum of one minute prior to drinking or cooking with the water. Customers should run water lines for three minutes after the water returns to remove any air or sediments in the line.

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Nease named best NJROTC unit in the nation



Nease NJROTC's senior leadership receive the Area-12 Drill Championship trophy.

The Naval Service Training Command has selected Nease as the Most Outstanding NJROTC Unit in the Nation for 2021-22, with the local team taking top honors over the 583 NJROTC programs worldwide.

The powerhouse program in Ponte Vedra has been a perennial contender for national honors, having finished as the number two program in 2021. The selection is based on an evaluation of academic achievements, competitions, orientation activities, summer training programs, school service projects, community service activities, extracurricular activities and annual inspection results.

This announcement followed Commander Johnathan D. Shaw, Navy JROTC Area-12 manager, announcing Nease as the Most Outstanding Unit in Area-12, a region encompassing 60 schools covering the 13 NJROTC programs in Northeast Florida and 47 across the entire state of Georgia for the fifth consecutive year.

“There’s immense pressure every year for the seniors to keep Nease on top,” said Battalion Commander Isabella Rivera who has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. “We take our leadership roles seriously. And now we can pass on the torch to next year’s class with our mission completed.”

This year marks the second time Nease has taken home top honors. In 2015, Nease was named the Most Outstanding Unit in the Nation.

“They say it takes a village to feed a child, well in the JROTC world, it takes a community of cadets, parents, school administrators and instructors pulling in the same direction to ascend a program to this height,” said senior naval science instructor Capt. Scott LaRoche who is retiring after eight years at the helm of the program. “Nease NJROTC epitomized a ‘one team, one fight’ unified effort.”

Nease’s main identity is its drill team that competes in a compilation of 10



Nease’s drill team celebrates with RADM Peter Garvin following the Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships in Pensacola.



Contributed photos

Nease NJROTC's senior class celebrates a successful year at the unit's annual awards night.

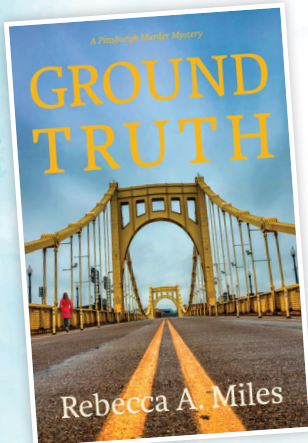
academic, athletic and drill individual events at 12-16 school meets. This past year, Nease placed first at Sprayberry (Georgia), Lee County (Georgia), Martin Luther King (Georgia), Mandarin (Florida), Flanagan (Florida) and Area-12 State Championship and third overall at the Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships.

Among other noteworthy achievements, Nease also won first place in athletics, academics, air rifle and orien-

teering competitions across Florida and the state of Georgia. Cadets completed 5,800 community service hours. And nine seniors received service academy appointments or ROTC scholarships.

“It starts and ends with character building,” said naval science instructor Gunnery Sergeant Duane Hanson. “The solid foundation of character development our cadets acquire in the program will serve them well now and later in life.”


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**GROUND TRUTH:
 A PITTSBURGH MURDER MYSTERY**
 BY REBECCA A. MILES



When two skeletons are discovered in Pittsburgh and Kate believes that she has insider information about the crime, she joins Chief Detective Stefan Jablonsky in his investigation. She’s determined to find justice for the family.

It doesn’t take long to identify the victims: two siblings who had gone missing twenty years ago. As Kate digs into the neighborhood and Jablonsky starts chasing down leads, the list of suspects grows.

With the cold case reopened and witnesses dying soon after coming forward, it’s clear that someone has a lot to lose. Kate and Jablonsky must work together to unravel the mysteries and make sure that whoever killed the siblings doesn’t get away with murder a second time.

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Joy Andrews is the deputy county administrator, a role she has held in St. Johns County since 2015. She moved to the U.S. from China in 2002 and enjoys the opportunity she gets on a daily basis to protect the well-being of the county's residents, both current and future.

Joy Andrews

As told to Anthony Richards

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I was born and raised in China, in the city of Suzhou. In 2002, I graduated from Nanjing University School of Law, where I studied International Commerce and Trade Law.

While completing my degree, I actively served at the university's legal aid center, where I developed a passion for helping people of different backgrounds and perspectives. After graduating, I worked at a private practice until moving to America.

I came to the United States in the summer of 2002 to attend Kansas State University Graduate School of Political Science. I received a master's in public administration with a concentration in public finance.

In 2006, I joined St. Johns County and began my career as a budget analyst for the office of management and budget.

Subsequently, I served as the director of health and human services before accepting the role of deputy county administrator in 2015.

I've been married to my husband Dave for 16 years, and we have two boys, Gavin (5) and Garrett (8).

What led you to get involved with St. Johns County?

I moved to Jacksonville to be close to a family member, and it's where I met my now-husband, Dave.

He proposed on the Mathews Bridge three months after we first met. Sixteen years later, we feel fortunate to be raising our two boys in one of the best communities in Florida.

What are the most rewarding parts of being deputy county administrator?

This job allows me to grow personally (with my family) and professionally with the county.

I have the amazing opportunity to be in touch with our community and residents' needs, whether for their livelihood or the well-being of their children, protecting our beaches and collaborative planning for future generations.

More often than not, I feel incredibly blessed and humbled to be allowed to play a small part in ensuring all residents have a positive quality of life.

What are some of the challenges that you face with your job?

We live in such a beautiful county with exceptional growth because of the quality of life it provides.



Photo courtesy of the Office of the St. Johns County Administrator

Joy Andrews is the deputy county administrator in St. Johns County.

As a member of this county, I'm tasked with carrying out the community's vision, which can be challenging when striving to fulfill that vision strategically at the highest level every time.

What do you enjoy most about living in the North Florida area?

I enjoy our beautiful beaches, the rich Intracoastal's natural resources, and most of all, the wonderful people who make up this special community.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Dave and I spend most of our free time with our two boys.

We enjoy exploring our local area by showing them what Northeast Florida has to offer: beaches, trails, parks and sporting events. We also love traveling together to various places around the world.

When I get a moment to myself (which is a luxury), I enjoy a good fitness combat class, running, reading or playing the piano.

Local fourth-graders brighten lives of others

Ponte Vedra Palm Valley Elementary School teacher Melissa Garcia's fourth-grade class made a difference in the lives of several people this year, especially senior residents from Ponte Vedra Gardens Alzheimer's Special Care Center.

Each Monday — dubbed "Make a Difference Monday" — Garcia's students wrote post-it note messages of thanks and encouragement for a specific staff person at the school, stealthily sticking the notes to their doors or windows so as to remain anonymous.

Sometimes, the students wrote notes to each other when the class needed a little boost of kindness.

The students found ways to make a difference outside of school, as well. In November, they responded to a request for notes to accompany Thanksgiving meals being delivered to senior citizens in the county. In December, they prepared cards for Heartillery Group to send to deployed military personnel. In February, they started sending monthly messages to the residents of Ponte Vedra Gardens.

The students were surprised to learn that the great-grandmother of one of their classmates was a resident there. That made the project more personal.

At one point, after losing a grade-level contest, one of the students said, "That's



Ponte Vedra Palm Valley fourth graders visited with residents of Ponte Vedra Gardens.

okay. We write letters to senior citizens."

Garcia said she was proud of the students' mature attitude in recognizing how important their letters were compared to a Popsicle prize. The students appreciated the value of being kind and encouraging.

Ponte Vedra Gardens Program Director Jennifer McCormick suggested a visit with some of the residents to further build the relationship between the students and the seniors.

The students were excited about the visit and getting to see the recipients of their letters. On their own, they had the idea to not just write letters, but collect puzzles to send back for all the residents to share. They also made personalized "Brag Tag" necklaces for all the residents. The visit went so well that no one wanted to leave.

In fact, one of the residents recognized Garcia because they had once taught preschool together.



One of the students talks with a resident of Ponte Vedra Gardens.



Davi Pollock, a resident of Ponte Vedra Gardens, remembered Melissa Garcia from a time when they both taught pre-school together.

Contributed photos

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Newcomers Alumnae changes name, installs new board of directors

At the June 1 Newcomers Alumnae monthly luncheon held at Marsh Landing Country Club, master of ceremonies Donna Berger introduced the newly-inducted executive board of directors for the fiscal period 2022-24.

Luncheon attendees enthusiastically welcomed the new executive board, which consists of Co-Presidents Clara Wittmann and Margie Hesser, Vice President Martha Armistead, Treasurer Suanne Goldberger, Recording Secretary Nancy Scott and Corresponding Secretary Debbie Condit.

This year's luncheon theme was Dr. Seuss' "Oh, The Thinks You Can Think!" as a motivational ode to all the wondrous things one can think about when taking on leadership. Additionally, the outgoing president (Maria Woodford) and the outgoing board were presented with Dr. Seuss-themed gifts and honored for serving tirelessly throughout the difficult and challenging pandemic.

In the coming months, this group

will be promoting the organization's new name: Coastal Friends. During the summer hiatus, the administrative tasks necessary to change over to the new name will be tackled by the new board of directors. Also, the new board will move forward with scheduling many social events and outings for the upcoming year.

While the club does not hold luncheons in July and August, monthly luncheons will resume in September under its new name Coastal Friends. For additional information on the club and membership, email brookemeister@msn.com.

Coastal Friends, formerly Newcomers Alumnae, was formed in 1998 as a social club for women who reside in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, St. Augustine and the surrounding area. Some of the activities offered are adventures and outings, book club, bunco, canasta, happy hour, lunch out, mahjonn and wine socials.



Photo courtesy of Sally Lutz

The incoming board, pictured from left: Recording Secretary Nancy Scott, Treasurer Suanne Goldberger, Corresponding Secretary Debbie Condit, Vice President Martha Armistead, Co-President Clara Wittmann, Co-President Margie Hesser and Donna Berger.



Contributed photos

With the help of other Scouts, Landon McIntosh, 17, of Boy Scout Troop 288 created this Little Free Library for Lord of Life Lutheran Church as an Eagle Scout project.

Scouts help church create Little Free Library

Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ponte Vedra Beach has joined the world's largest free book sharing movement, the Little Free Library, in which organizations or individuals create mini storage units for the public to take or leave a book.

It is just the second Little Free Library in the 32082 ZIP code and the first to focus on books predominantly about faith.

"The idea started with our faith book club and having a place to share the books we've read with other members of the congregation," said Sheila Kolesaire, the church council's president. "But we are here to serve our community, so we expanded our idea to make our books accessible to all."

At the same time the church was thinking of this, Boy Scout Landon McIntosh, 17, of Boy Scout Troop 288 approached Lord of Life about doing an Eagle Scout project there. He quickly took on this project with the help of half a dozen other Scouts to create two mirror-image libraries that look like a house and were painted white and red to match the outside of the church.

The library is mounted on the left-hand wall just inside the church. It's been registered with the Little Free Library and has its official charter sign and number 147801. It is listed on the Little Free Library website, littlefreelibrary.org. Members of the public are invited to drop off books about faith-related topics to be included in the library and are free to take ones, too. Lord of Life Lutheran Church is located at 276 Roscoe Blvd. North in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The book club will meet at 10:30 a.m.



July 21 for an hour to discuss "Called to Forgive: The Charleston Church Shooting, a Victim's Husband, and the Path to Healing and Peace" by Pastor Anthony Thompson. Ponte Vedra Beach residents are welcome to join the discussion.

Other books recently selected by its book club have included: "Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers" by Anne Lamott; "Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint" by Nadia Bolz-Weber and "Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life" by Tish Harrison-Warren.

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Contributed photos

Area residents gathered at Davis Park on May 31 for a candlelight vigil following the recent shootings in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, New York.

Candlelight vigil at Davis Park held in response to recent shootings



Concerned citizens in the Nocatee area gathered at 7:15 p.m. May 31 in Davis Park for a candlelight vigil to mourn the recent loss of life in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, New York. This was a nonpartisan event and everyone in the area was invited to attend.

Organizers encouraged all attendees to wear something orange in support of National Gun Violence Prevention. Vigil candles and orange ribbons were

provided onsite.

There was a moment of silence (to honor those who have died in these most recent shootings) and guest speakers, including Carissa Brede, clinical director at the YCC (Youth Crisis Center).

“We’re holding this vigil to come together as a community to mourn those lost to such senseless acts of violence,” said vigil co-coordinator Aaron Berger, a resident of Nocatee’s Coastal

Oaks neighborhood. “The victims and families deserve our acknowledgement, attention and respect. Many are saddened as well as frustrated, and we hope the knowledge learned and sense of community can be a good start to offer a morsel of comfort and begin future change. We also want to send a message to all our lawmakers that enough is enough.”

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Voting begins June 13



The Ponte Vedra Recorder, celebrating 53 years of community news excellence, will launch our fourth annual **BEST OF THE BEST of Ponte Vedra, 32081 and 32082.**

Readers have nominated their favorite businesses, organizations, professionals and more in over 250 categories online.

Online voting begins June 13. Readers can vote for their favorite business in each category once per day.

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Photos courtesy of Miriam's Jewelry



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Jewelry for dads has a distinctive, masculine style.



Sturdy chains are in style now.

How to choose a personal gift for Father's Day

By Benji Rust,

Miriam's Jewelry

Whether your dad enjoys cooking, sports or working around the house, there are plenty of options to make him smile this Father's Day. The holiday is meant to show appreciation for all that your dad — or the father figure in your life — has done for you. Be sure to consider the things he loves when choosing a gift, especially if he already has enough coffee mugs and ties.

Customize a Gift Just for Dad

A customized or homemade gift is one of the most personal things you can get Dad this Father's Day. Customizing a gift based on your dad's personality is a great way to surprise him with something unique he will keep forever. Depending on his interests, personalized golf clubs, kitchen or grilling gear, or even a T-shirt can bring a smile to his face.

One traditional gift that never disappoints is a watch to fit your dad's per-

sonal style. If your father prefers a more classic look, choose something subtle he can wear every day. If he's a sporty guy, look for something water resistant, a dive watch or one with a chronograph feature. Or, consider restoring or refinishing a family heirloom to give Dad something extra sentimental. At Miriam's Jewelry, we offer personalized services for heirloom jewelry that allow you to transform a cherished family piece into a custom gift for Dad.

Consider His Style

Take a look at your father's personal style when deciding on a gift this Father's Day. One trend we are currently seeing every day is a nice, sturdy chain. A classic gold or silver chain can be passed down to the next generation and something that could be worn and cherished daily. You can also add a pendant to the chain to customize the look based on his

GIFT continues on Page 11

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Gift

Continued from 10

interests. Consider a cross, lucky number, family crest, initial, favorite fish, or a charm that is meaningful to represent the things your dad enjoys. Incorporating these passions into his gift this year will make him feel extra loved.

Another unique option is a pair of cufflinks that your dad can wear on special occasions. There are plenty of variations to choose from based on his taste and preferences. Miriam's Jewelry also offers alternative metal rings that can reflect Dad's style and allow him to take his family wherever he goes.

Give Him an Experience You Can Share

Maybe your father already has everything. He'll always enjoy an experience that allows you to make memories together. Consider giving the gift of a camping trip or tickets to his favorite sporting event or concert.

If your dad appreciates the finer things in life, you could take him for a wine or whisky tasting. Miriam's Jewelry also offers custom heirloom jewelry experiences, for you to create a new family keepsake together. If you live far away from your dad, consider purchasing him a plane ticket to come and visit the next chance he gets. Time spent together might be the most meaningful gift you



Photo courtesy of Miriam's Jewelry

This pendant is styled after an old Spanish coin.

could give your dad this Father's Day.

Make it Personal for a Memorable Father's Day

No matter what gift you choose to give Dad for Father's Day, he will cherish your thoughtfulness and the time spent together. Make sure to include a handwritten note that expresses gratitude for all the hard work your dad puts in year-round.

Benji Rust is a co-owner of Miriam's Jewelry, a family-owned jewelry store in the Sawgrass Village Shopping Center in Ponte Vedra Beach. To learn more about Miriam's and their specialty in custom, heirloom jewelry, go to MiriamsJewelry.com.

Generations of Corvettes to be showcased for Father's Day

By Anthony Richards

This weekend is Father's Day and one thing that many dads enjoy is the sleek look and roaring sound associated with sports cars.

That passion for cars is something shared by the members of the North Florida Corvette Association and is the reason they host their annual "Vettes at the Village" car show at the World Golf Village in connection with the holiday.

The event is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. June 18 with registration for those looking to enter their cars starting at 8 a.m. The show is free for the public to attend.

All proceeds from the registration fees will be donated to Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville.

It will be the 21st year the event has been held, which is sponsored by Murray Bros. Caddyshack, and will feature Corvettes from across the Northeast Florida region.

The showcase is designed for the entire family to enjoy, as generations of dads,

both fathers and grandfathers can find a certain car they are passionate about with classic and modern Corvettes on display.

The show is one of several car shows that the regional club puts on each year.

However, there is added excitement around the event as it returns after a two-year cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The North Florida Corvette Association was founded in 1964 with the mission of bringing together car owners who have the common interest in their love of Corvettes.

They are part of the grander organization that is the National Council of Corvette Clubs.

According to Car and Driver Magazine, the first version of the Corvette hit the showroom floors in 1953, and years later it has become an iconic brand and has its place among the American car culture.

The 2023 Corvettes are now available and were recently used as the pace car for the Indianapolis 500 a couple of weeks ago.

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Students with differences included in UNF graduation

Eleven students with intellectual differences graduated May 6 from the University of North Florida through The Arc Jacksonville's On Campus Transition college experience program.

For the first time since the program's inception in 2006, these students were included in the traditional UNF commencement ceremony and walked alongside their peers at graduation. Previously, students in the program graduated in a small ceremony, separate from the rest of the UNF graduating class.

UNF student Analysse Gammon, began volunteering with The Arc Jacksonville

and served as a "best buddy" for student Matt. Gammon decided that she wanted to advocate for Matt and all other students in the program to be included in graduation.

"Every part of OCT students' experience at UNF was inclusive until graduation," she said. "I asked my professors how we could change that and started working to have UNF include OCT students in graduation."

Gammon started a petition and obtained more than 700 signatures, as well as letters of support from dozens of UNF professors. In 2020, UNF faculty voted

to allow the students to participate in the commencement ceremony moving forward.

The 2022 graduating class included Rebecca Barnett, Christian Bloomfield, Kestrel Bush, Alec Pequignot, Marston Weiss, Dorian Patterson, Henry Curran, Ja'nya Jordan, Madeline (Maddie) McQuade, Maxwell (Max) Kren and Jared McGhee.

"My favorite thing about OCT was being on campus and my mentors; I enjoyed taking UNF classes," said Christian Bloomfield, who has already secured community employment starting this

summer.

Since 2006, 78 students have graduated from the program, many of whom traveled from across the country to participate in it. During the 2021-22 school year, 29 students were enrolled.

"I cannot express how very proud I am of the 2022 graduates of the On Campus Transition program," said Ethel Still-Richardson, Educational Services Director at The Arc Jacksonville. "My heart is full, as it was a beautiful day for inclusion."

Contributed photos



The Arc Jacksonville's On Campus Transition class of 2022.



UNF student Analysse Gammon, right, is seen with her "best buddy" Matt.

JUNETEENTH

Woolworth lunch counter to be dedicated as civil rights exhibit

The Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center in St. Augustine will host a dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting of the installation of the Woolworth lunch counter into a civil rights exhibit on June 18.

The section of the lunch counter was originally part of the F.W. Woolworth store in St. Augustine. The counter tells an important chapter in African-Americans' struggle for civil rights as it's where teenagers staged a sit-in in 1963 to integrate the segregated cafeteria.

Following the dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting, the center, the City of Augustine and Wells Fargo will host a Juneteenth Heritage Luncheon at the Casa Monica Hotel in St. Augustine from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The ticketed

luncheon will feature remarks from civil rights leader J.T. Johnson, one of the protesters who jumped into a whites-only pool at the Monson Motor Lodge in St. Augustine. In an attempt to force Black swimmers out, the owner of the hotel poured acid into the pool. The protest became a rallying cry to end a filibuster and vote to approve the Civil Rights Bill of 1964.

The dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting of the Woolworth Lunch Counter exhibit will be held in honor of Juneteenth, a new official U.S. federal holiday. It will include a formal proclamation from the City of St. Augustine.

The ceremony is free to attend and begins at 10 a.m. To purchase tickets to the Juneteenth Heritage luncheon, call

the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center.

The Woolworth lunch counter exhibit serves as a remembrance of the challenges faced by activists and their drive to create a more harmonious and inclusive community that is equitable for all. The lunch counter also reflects St. Augustine's connection to emancipation and the civil rights movement.

Area high school students staged sit-ins at the Woolworth store on Kings Street in St. Augustine in 1963 and were arrested. Four students refused to sign an anti-protest agreement offered by a judge and were sent to jail, later becoming known as The St. Augustine Four. The story of The St. Augustine Four became famous when Jackie Robinson heard of their

plight and flew them to New York after they were released.

The Woolworth store later became a Wells Fargo branch. Courtesy of former St. Augustine Mayor Joe Boles, the owner of the exhibit, a section of the lunch counter was on display at the branch until February 2022.

The Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center received a grant from Wells Fargo to rehouse the civil rights artifact so that it can be remembered and viewed by the public.

The Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center is located at 102 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., St. Augustine.

For more information, go to lincolnvillemuseum.org or call 904-824-1191.

HEALTHCARE PROFILES

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PONTE VEDRA
RECORDER

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022



Contributed photos

Jim Barber of Sage Brain Academy, left, guides Scott McLucas in keeping his memory sharp.

Program helps Ponte Vedra man keep his memory sharp

By Susan D. Brandenburg

Can your brain be rejuvenated even after early signs of dementia begin to appear? That would be a resounding “Yes!” from the students of Sage Brain Academy in St. Augustine.

One of those students is W. Scott McLucas of Ponte Vedra, age 92, who began experiencing some memory loss a few years ago and became determined to do everything he could to “retain and re-train” his brain. McLucas is a Yale alumnus, philanthropist and world traveler, and his memoir, “Lucky Life,” chronicled his fascinating life in show business as a producer and promoter of the arts.

“I still have much I’d like to accomplish in this life,” said McLucas, “and I need to keep my mental faculties in shape.”

In conjunction with keeping fit both physically and mentally as he ages, McLucas employs a physical trainer who

comes to his home three times a week, and for several years he has attended the St. Johns County Council on Aging’s Integrative Memory Enhancement Program at the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center, 1048 A1A North, once a week.

McLucas and his wife, Nancy, travel to St. Augustine once a month to participate in Sage Brain Academy’s Montessori-based memory program (offered Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — including lunch).

On Thursday, May 12, the Ponte Vedra couple joined seven other Sage Brain Academy students in various interactive mental dexterity exercises facilitated by certified dementia practitioners Jim Barber, Ginny Bullard and Michele Sanchez. They used simple word and math games that involve critical thinking, verbal proficiency, reasoning, focus and concentration. All of these activities are related to the science of neurogenesis, a process by which new neurons are formed in the

brain — crucial when an embryo is developing but also continuing throughout our human lifespan.

Just as important as the structured games played at Sage Brain Academy are the opportunities for enjoyable social interaction during lunch and break times, as well as physical exercises, deep breathing techniques and reminders to hydrate the body by drinking water regularly throughout the day.

“Sage Brain Academy has been like a brain massage for me; tenderly challenging me and helping me re-inflate my intellectual and social skills,” said Dick Pischke of St. Augustine, who suffered brain damage as the result of a construction accident several years ago and has regained nearly all of his former cognitive ability. Pischke attends classes two or three days a week and especially enjoys the laughter, nostalgic music, trivia and light physical activity.

Meanwhile, in Ponte Vedra, Scott McLucas receives a private cognition coaching call at home from Jim Barber every Wednesday afternoon. The two

men meet through Zoom and engage in dialogue on topics from A to Z.

“The calls from Jim are inspiring and give me a fresh perspective,” said McLucas. “I’ve developed a feeling of friendship with him, and I rejoice in that.”

McLucas notes that he always looks forward to the call and it never fails to arouse his interest.

“I’m proud of Scott for doing all he can to keep active and vital,” said Nancy McLucas. “Even though I’m a few years younger, I also benefit from his activities, and I do my best to contribute by encouraging a healthy diet for us here at home.”

“It’s a pleasure to work one-on-one with a man like Scott McLucas,” said Barber, who purposefully encourages self-confidence and pride of accomplishment in his students. “Scott has many great stories to share. Our conversations are always lively, interesting and conducive to thought.”

For information on Sage Brain Academy, LLC, call 904-429-7059 or go to sagebrainacademy.com.

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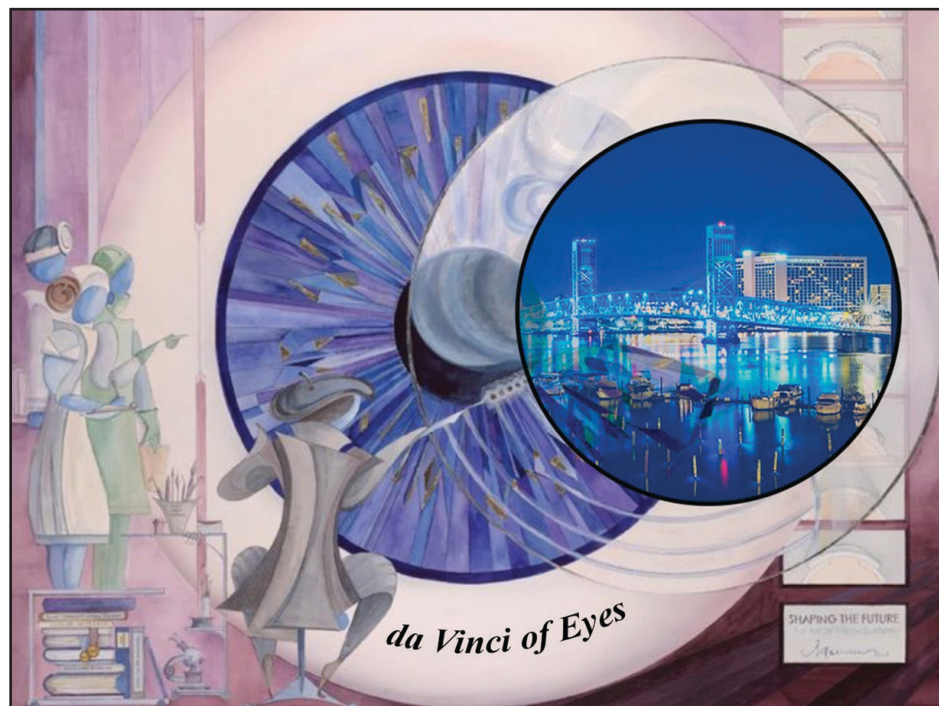
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Contributed photos

This work of art by noted painter Susanne Schuenke is on display at the Gulani Vision Institute.

Gulani's reputation makes 'medical tourism' viable part of city's success

Dr. Arun Gulani, founding director and chief surgeon of Gulani Vision Institute and the world's first eye surgery spa in Jacksonville, commemorates Jacksonville's 200-year anniversary with his world record in producing medical tourism as a single surgeon practice.

The "Arun Gulani story," is presently a subject of interest for biographies and movie scripts, and draws a heartfelt correlate to the City of Jacksonville.

"Dr. Gulani has been instrumental in turning Jacksonville into a vision destination for the world," said Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry. "I'm constantly blown away at the number of people who travel thousands of miles because they only trust Dr. Gulani with their difficult cases. We are very fortunate that the eye surgeries of the future are being performed daily in our backyard."

Patients from more than 80 countries in Europe, Asia, Far East, Africa, Middle East, Canada and from throughout all states of the U.S. have consulted with Gulani, setting a record while putting Jacksonville on the global map as the vision destination for the world.

"What is interesting is that this influx of worldwide patients continued even during COVID-19 travel restriction times," said Gulani.

In any major market hospital conglomerate region with its numerous physicians and worldwide marketing, medical tourism could be a given. However, for a single-surgeon practice to make that happen in a moderate metropolis, is indeed an accomplishment which is unparalleled in the world of medicine.



Dr. Arun Gulani

With more than three decades of eye surgical experience and having established the Gulani Vision Institute more than two decades ago in Jacksonville, Gulani is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning inventor, instructor and master surgeon who has pioneered, trademarked and patented next-generation Lasik, cataract and complication corrective surgical techniques for a global clientele of patients while teaching and welcoming visiting eye surgeons and eye care industry to Northeast Florida.

The Gulani Vision Institute and Gulani Surgery Suites are located at 8075 Gate Parkway W., Suites 102, 103, and 104 in Jacksonville.

For more information, call 904-296-7393 or email gulanivision@gulani.com. Go to gulanivision.com and see video at youtube.com/watch?v=xIDEKRT-K8o.

CAIR Center opens at Flagler Health+ to provide mental health services

Recognizing a significant need for increased access to mental and behavioral health services, especially for those individuals in crisis or in urgent need of mental health care, Flagler Health+ has opened the CAIR (Crisis Assessment Intervention and Referral) Center at Flagler Health+.

Serving both youth and adults, the Flagler Health+ CAIR Center is designed to provide access to, and coordination of, mental and behavioral health services in St. Johns and surrounding counties. The CAIR Center serves as a supportive, compassionate place to access crisis assessment, brief interventions, referral services and care coordination support and will work with individuals to establish a long-term connection with a provider.

“After numerous attempts to find a counselor for our teenaged child, we are extremely grateful for the immediate support and assistance that the staff provided,” said one parent. “We knew our child needed help but weren’t quite sure where to turn. A visit to the emergency room was unnecessary but wait-

ing months for a community provider wasn’t realistic either. The CAIR Center provided just the right level of help we needed, at just the right time.”

“Flagler Health+ is committed to serving the physical, social and economic health needs of our community,” said Carlton DeVooght, president and CEO of Flagler Health+. “The opening of the CAIR Center at Flagler Health+ is the next step toward ensuring that the mental health needs of those we serve are assessed, supported and met.”

CAIR Center professionals work together to give each client a personalized approach to obtaining mental health services. Often, the mental health struggle is tied to other needs in the household — food insecurity, lack of stable housing, difficulties obtaining prescriptions and more. The CAIR Center then utilizes Care Connect+, a program established by Flagler Health+, to connect patients to other critical resources. Care Connect+ then helps clients navigate the process to clarify questions, remove barriers

CAIR continues on Page 18



Photo provided by Flagler Health+

Flagler Health+ representatives cut the ribbon opening the new CAIR Center, which will provide access to, and coordination of, mental and behavioral health services.

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Forbes names Baptist Health a top employer for diversity

Forbes Magazine has named Baptist Health of Northeast Florida one of America's best employers for diversity.

In its annual "America's Best Employers for Diversity 2022" list, Baptist Health ranked No. 10 among the 36 ranked hospitals and health care systems, and No. 94 among 500 U.S. companies from across all industries.

Further, Baptist Health was the highest ranked health care system in the state of Florida.

Forbes partnered with global market research firm Statista to compile the annual list. After reviewing more than 10,000 companies and giving the top 2,000 a diversity score, they developed the final list of 500.

The scoring methodology took into account surveys of Americans working for businesses with at least 1,000 employees as well as publicly disclosed information about representation, board and leadership diversity, and proactive diversity and inclusion initiatives.

"Diversity, equity and inclusion are central to our values, our culture and our strategic focus as an organization," said Michael A. Mayo, president and CEO of Baptist Health. "From the board room

to the bedside, our DEI initiatives are critically important – not only shaping our workforce and work environment, but also impacting how we do business and how we improve our community's health."

Among Baptist Health's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives and accomplishments are:

- A 32-member DEI Council to advance diversity and inclusion throughout the organization,
- Expansion of employee resource groups to engage team members,
- Training about unconscious bias, harassment and discrimination,
- DEI review and update of HR policies, with key policies translated into five languages to support team members for whom

English is a second language,

- Diversity dialogues and recommended actions based on team member input,
- A supplier diversity program,
- Culturally sensitive campaigns to improve health screenings, preventive care, and overcome barriers to health care access among underserved racial and socioeconomic groups.

"Prioritizing the health and wellbeing of all people is part of who we are as the community's faith-based, locally governed, not-for-profit health system," said Timothy Groover, system chief medical officer. "Our medical staff plays a critical role in helping us to identify and eliminate health disparities, and we are very grateful for their partnership in this important work."



CAIR

Continued from 18

and connect the patient to social health services, as needed.

Coordinating with mental health partners in the community, the CAIR Center aims to reduce unnecessary Baker Act admissions, increase diversion from the criminal justice system and reduce recidivism to hospitals while providing those in mental health crisis a supportive and approachable environment to receive support.

The CAIR Center at Flagler Health+ is located at 300 Health Park Blvd., Suite 1008, on the campus of Flagler Hospital and is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. It is anticipated that operating hours will be expanded this summer with a hope that the center will soon be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

An open house will be held 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 19, for members of the community to tour the facility and learn more about the services offered.

For more information about the CAIR Center at Flagler Health+, go to flaglerhealth.org/CAIR or call 904-819-5204.



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Wolfson unit wins national award

In recognition of the compassionate and quality care provided by the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit team at Wolfson Children’s Hospital of Jacksonville, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, Aliso Viejo, California, recently awarded the unit its Silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence.

The three-year Beacon Award for Excellence — a significant milestone on the path to exceptional patient care and healthy work environments — recognizes unit caregivers who successfully improve patient outcomes and align practices with association’s six Healthy Work Environment Standards:

- **Skilled communication**
- **True collaboration**
- **Effective decision-making**
- **Appropriate staffing**
- **Meaningful recognition**
- **Authentic leadership**

The Wolfson Children’s Hospital Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit received the Silver-level Beacon Award in 2021.

Nicole Lanier, nurse manager of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, said, “Our nurses went into pediatric health care to make a difference in the lives of children and families every day. In the PICU, they care for the sickest and most seriously

injured children in the hospital, and they continuously rise to the occasion to give these patients the best chance at living longer, healthier lives.”

The Wolfson Children’s PICU is located on the sixth floor of the new Borowy Family Children’s Critical Care Tower. Open-concept workstations on the unit allow for collaboration among physicians, nurses and other caregivers. Nurses’ stations are strategically positioned outside pods of four rooms, allowing nurses to view their assigned patients at all times.

Some patients in the Wolfson Children’s PICU come via the emergency room or Kids Kare Critical Care Transport due to severe breathing problems, serious infections, heart conditions or traumatic injuries. Others are recovering from surgery and require specialized care.

The unit requires a higher nurse-to-patient ratio than anywhere else in the hospital, and each patient is continuously monitored from a central location. Patients have access to advanced life support technology, including extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and ventricular assist devices.

The PICU team is comprised of pedi-

“The Beacon Award for Excellence is a testament to a team’s commitment to providing safe, patient-centered and evidence-based care to patients and families.”

- Beth Wathen, Association President

atric critical care physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, respiratory therapists, physical and occupational therapists, pharmacists, dietitians, child life specialists and chaplains.

“Our collaborative approach to multidisciplinary care in the PICU ensures decisions are made with the input of experts in their respective fields,” said Thomas Nakagawa, MD, a pediatric critical care physician with the UF College of Medicine — Jacksonville who serves as medical director of the Wolfson

Children’s PICU. “We would not be able to provide this high level of care without each member of this multidisciplinary team.”

Association President Beth Wathen praised the commitment of the caregivers in the PICU at Wolfson Children’s for working together to meet and exceed the high standards set forth by the Beacon Award for Excellence.

“The Beacon Award for Excellence is a testament to a team’s commitment to providing safe, patient-centered and evidence-based care to patients and families,” Wathen said. “Creating healthy and supportive work environments empowers nurses and other team members to make their optimal contribution. Achieving this award is an honor that brings such joy to those who have worked so hard to achieve excellence in patient care and positive patient outcomes.”

The Silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence earned by the PICU at Wolfson Children’s Hospital signifies an effective approach to policies, procedures and processes that includes engagement of staff and key stakeholders. The unit has evaluation and improvement strategies in place and good performance measures when compared to relevant benchmarks.



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Pet calendar to have pop art theme

The St. Augustine Humane Society has launched its 12th annual Pin Up Paws pet calendar photo contest with a pop art theme this year, “Dig It.”

The fundraiser was created in 2010 to support the nonprofit’s mission of promoting healthy lifelong pet ownership while reducing the rate of relinquishment to shelters.

For a chance to have a local pet featured in the full-color, high-quality calendar, photos and entertaining descriptions are submitted to inform members of the community why they should vote for the pet. Each vote is a \$1 donation.

Last year, more than \$23,000 was raised by calendar votes and donations to the campaign. The campaign, calendar sales and events will benefit St. Augus-

tine Humane Society’s spay, neuter and surgery clinic, along with services and programs.

The pet with the most votes at the end of the contest will be the first-place winner and will receive the coveted cover spot on the 2023 Pin Up Paws Calendar. Each of the 12 second place winners will be featured on one of the months in the calendar. All first and second-place winners will receive a professional photography session along with gift certificates from Columbia Restaurant as part of the prize package.

The 12 pets with the next highest number of votes will be runners-up and will have the image they submitted to the contest and a brief description of their pet featured in a one-and-a-half-inch space in

the calendar. The top 80 pet contestants will have their submitted photos included in a calendar collage.

The “Dig It” calendar will feature the winning pets in a groovy Pop Art scene. Voting ends at 8 p.m. Aug. 13, when winners will be revealed.

Styling and photography sessions will take place with award-winning photographer Addison Fitzgerald, who has donated his talents to the Humane Society since the calendar’s inception. Local fine artist and graphic designer Maribel Angel continues to donate her creative talents to designing the distinctive calendar publication.

The completed calendar will be revealed at the Pin Up Paws Party on Nov. 4 at the Renaissance St. Augustine

Historic Downtown Hotel, 6 W. Castillo Drive, St Augustine. The price per ticket is \$95 for dinner, live music by Rob Ellis Peck and the Matanzas Inlet Allstars, a silent auction, wine pull, refreshments and more.

The calendars will be available for \$12 each in October with purchases available online, by phone or at the St. Augustine Humane Society, in addition to local retailers. The Humane Society is located at 1665 Old Moultrie Road. All proceeds from submissions, votes, sponsorships and sales will benefit its programs and services.

For more information, call 904-829-2737 ext. 111 or email development@staughumane.org. Or go to the contest website at PinUpPaws.com.



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28 students compete in 'The Run Home' race

By Natalie Jackson,
Jacksonville Country Day School

Jacksonville Country Day School had 28 students, six faculty members and 15 parents participate in The Run Home 5K on May 14. The students and faculty are members of the after-school enrichment program Sharks on the Run and used this race as their season's culminating event.

The proceeds from this race go to Sulzbacher and Rethreaded, organizations that help the Jacksonville homeless community and human trafficking survivors get back on their feet with employment opportunities, housing and more.

The Sharks on the Run club was started by first grade team lead Kate Krawiec and pre-K 4 teacher Vallis Henley. The two are running partners outside of the school and talked about starting a running club when they began working together this year. This is the first year the school has offered this program. Forty students signed up to participate during the spring offering of this activity.

"It's amazing to see students of various ages and backgrounds come together to support one another and be active at the same time," said Krawiec. "I love being able to share my passion for running with the students of JCDS."

Students met from 3:05 to 4:15 p.m. every Monday since January to focus on stretching before and after running, proper running form, interval options, pacing, speedwork and, most of all, having fun.

Krawiec and Henley thought a fun way to end the season would be to participate in a 5K. The Home Run race turned out to be the perfect event. For many students, this was the longest distance they have ever run. For some, it was even double their longest distance.

Nine students from Sharks on the Run took home "Age Group Winner" trophies; this means that the students finished in the top three in their age group. The age groups the students placed in were female 10 and under, female 11-13, and male 11-13.

"My heart was exploding with pride all day," said Krawiec. "It's one thing to experience the feeling of completing a race for yourself. It's an entirely different feeling watching your children and students cross the finish line."

For the 2022-23 academic year, the school will offer Sharks on the Run during both the fall and the spring sessions for the first time.

"I can't wait to continue encouraging students to be active and support one another through running," said Krawiec.



Photos provided by Jacksonville Country Day School

Twenty-eight students from Jacksonville Country Day School competed in the recent Run Home 5K.



A group of boys from the Jacksonville Country Day School's Sharks on the Run club are enthusiastic to run in the recent Run Home 5K.



A group of girls from the Sharks on the Run club are all smiles as they prepare to run in the recent Run Home 5K.

Leadership St. Johns alumni event to benefit STEM room

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership St. Johns Class of 2022 is hosting an Alumni Reunion & Celebration Event on Thursday, June 23, at the Fountain of Youth in St. Augustine.

Leadership St. Johns alumni, supporters and friends, as well as Chamber members, are encouraged to attend to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, live music and a silent auction. All proceeds will help the Leadership St. Johns Class of 2022 renovate the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) room at the St. Augustine Boys & Girls Club location.

"Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast

Florida sincerely appreciates our community partnership with Leadership St. Johns," said Paul Martinez, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida. "It is only through these partnerships that we can continue to impact the lives of young people in St. Johns County. This critical partnership will provide hundreds of youths with exposure to exciting STEM programs that will enhance their lives and shape their future. Exposure to science, technology, engineering and math is critical during the tween years, when young people's natural curiosity drives interest and builds

capacity for success in these disciplines. We are grateful to Leadership St. Johns for their partnership and this generous addition to our Boys & Girls Club in St. Augustine."

The St. Augustine Boys & Girls Club provides a safe place for young people to go after school and in the summer. Through quality programs and services, Boys & Girls Clubs help ensure that young people graduate on time with a plan for their future, lead healthy lifestyles and demonstrate good character and citizenship.

The Leadership St. Johns Class of 2022

has committed to renovate the STEM room to provide local young people with engaging hands-on learning opportunities that foster their interest and success in science, technology, engineering, art and math — skills critical to their success in the workforce. Planned items include a LEGO table, Chromebooks, VR equipment, smart boards and more.

Event sponsorship opportunities, as well as donations for a silent auction, are available and encouraged. Supporters can find more information, donate or purchase tickets at tinyurl.com/LSJreception.

Meet the Man Behind the Mission

Dr. Tim Conway, Ph.D.

Tim Conway, Ph.D., is a world-renowned brain scientist with more than 30 years of clinical research in dyslexia, learning disorders, developmental disorders, aphasia and alexia – all conditions associated with difficulties in reading, speaking, comprehension and academic success. Dr. Conway's lifelong commitment to develop innovative and evidence-based therapies to early intervene or remediate the reading and spelling difficulties of dyslexia stem from his own personal experiences. He goes on to say:

"I've made it my life's mission to advocate for all Dyslexia treatment programs to meet the same standards as pediatric medicine's treatments. The Morris Centers' Dyslexia program is backed by 15 years of medical grade research, Randomized Controlled Trials, the "gold standard" proof of efficient and effective treatment of even Severe Dyslexia in children, teens and adults."

Creating a Pathway of Change

As a young man and eager student, Dr. Conway worked with Patricia Conway Lindamood's learning company in California to assist in developing her pioneering intervention programs. He later joined The Morris Center (TMC) in 1989 and while completing his doctorate in clinical psychology / neuropsychology from the University of Florida, Dr. Conway and TMC designed and researched more effective



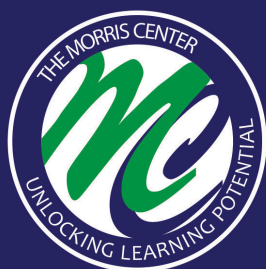
intervention programs. Dr. Conway's personal experiences and relentless research, combined with his role as a clinical research scientist-practitioner, would earn him the credentials and reputation as a sought-after expert, scholar and advocate in the field of neurodevelopmental disorders, which includes dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, Autism, Language Disorders and a myriad of other disorders.

Fighting for the Future

While Dr. Conway's accomplishments would be a sufficient legacy for many, he is determined to use his research and development of effective evidence-based programs to bring down the high illiteracy rates in communities around the globe, as dyslexia hinders growth in reading skills for at least 20% of the world's population. Likewise, given the June 2022 report that only 25% of FL 3rd graders (ie, 43% of St. Johns County 3rd graders) learn to read proficiently, he continues to work tirelessly to make these intervention services accessible to anyone who needs them, regardless of age, location or income. The formidable goal is that anyone in any part of the world can unlock their learning potential and develop their full capabilities.

Dr. Conway continues to expand these innovative, evidence- and research-based programs through The Morris Center clinics. These centers provide an intensive transdisciplinary approach to the assessment and successful treatment of dyslexia and all learning, language, sensory and other disorders. The treatments implemented at The Morris Center are highly effective in a matter of months, not years, of services. "Life Changing" is the #1 feedback from TMC clients and their families.

For more information about The Morris Center or the NOW! Company, call 904-834-2482 or email INFO@MorrisCenters.com or INFO@NOWprograms.com



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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022



www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

State-of-the-art facility provides latest options for pets



Photos by Susan Griffin

Palm Valley Vet Center owner and Dr. Louis Mack cuts the ribbon during a ceremony May 31.

By Anthony Richards

The Palm Valley Veterinary Center and Dr. Louis Mack want to bring the best pet care to the Ponte Vedra area and a big step was taken toward accomplishing that with the business's grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce May 31.

One of the main ways Mack hopes to achieve his goal of providing the best service is by offering some of the latest

state-of-the-art technology and procedures at the facility.

"This was originally a bank that was vacant for a period of time," Mack said. "It just kept turning into a bigger and bigger project because I wanted to continue to add better features and more services."

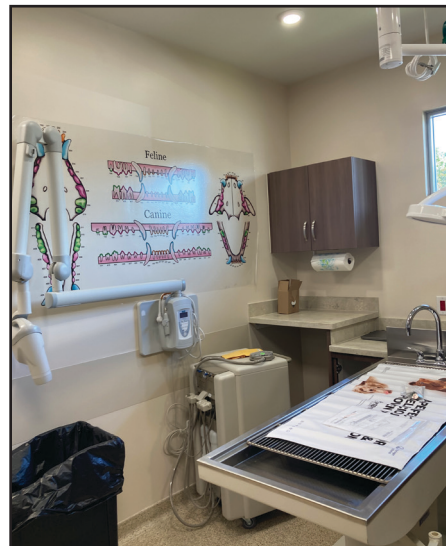
The recent renovations included adding on about 6,000 square feet to the original structure.

"I wanted to add all that I could to fit the needs of this area, because a lot of the hospitals in this area are in strip centers or smaller in nature," Mack said. "It makes it difficult to provide all that I would like to provide."

The decision to develop the location was not one that was made hastily, as it took years in the making to get to this point.

"It all started in 2015, when I moved here from the Ocala area after originally being from San Diego (California)," Mack said. "Prior to that, I had sold my practice and worked for a company as their medical director. I saw a lot of hospitals that had what I thought were deficiencies."

After getting an idea of the needs that existed, he decided to get back into the



A separate room is used for dental procedures.

PETS continues on Page 25

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Benchmarks of Success

St. Johns County receives award for financial reporting

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Office has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR), according to Clerk Brandon J. Patty.

"The inaugural PAFR's release offered additional transparency and accountability of our county government's finances to the public," Patty said. "Earning the GFOA's award on our first-ever PAFR recognizes our work to ensure the document was easy

to understand and appealing to readers, which is a testament to our ongoing efforts to meet the high standards of taxpayers and residents in St. Johns County."

The 2020 PAFR, titled "Tracking Your Tax Dollars: A Guide to St. Johns County's Finances," presented St. Johns County's financial picture in quick snapshots showing how tax dollars are collected and spent, as well as trends on demographics, housing, taxes and more. Unveiled by Patty last fall, the PAFR is a condensed version of the county's more voluminous 2020 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Judges review each eligible report

and evaluate them for reader appeal, understandability, distribution methods, creativity and other elements.

DePlato joins Florida Head Start Association's Board of Directors

Episcopal Children's Services has announced the election of Chief Administrative Officer Temple DePlato to the Florida Head Start Association's Board of Directors.

DePlato was elected to fill the seat of Mary Grace Romo, who was recently promoted to another position. DePlato will serve with 13 other board members, whose mission is to enhance and support the capability of local Head Start

programs in the delivery of high-quality services for children and families in the state of Florida.

DePlato brings her skills in Human Resources, organizational management and early learning expertise to the FHSA board, along with vast knowledge of the North and Central Florida communities. She has served Episcopal Children's Services in a variety of roles over the past 15 years.

Temple's 18-month term begins immediately with the first Board of Directors meeting on July 19.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Pets

Continued from 24

business of having his own practice, because he knew it was the best way he could make a difference.

Roughly eight years later, and his dream center is now a reality that he is now able to share with the public he intended it for.

"It is exciting, but also just the beginning," Mack said with a smile on his face.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Surgical room at the facility.

Making sure to maximize the technology available for veterinarians nowadays was always at the top of his list.

These advanced features include a veterinarian hyperbaric chamber, which according to Mack, is one of only a couple in the Northeast Florida area.

"It is a device that basically allows you to bathe the dog in pressurized oxygen that forces it into the cells and the plasma, so that the body is then hyper-oxygenated," Mack said. "It seems rare, but oxygen is actually the source of healing and a lot of our body's functions. It oftentimes can address chronic or acute conditions that otherwise would not respond to traditional therapy."

The method has become more common among humans in recent years, especially athletes as it helps in their recovery process.

Another aspect that Mack takes pride in is the ability to maintain a personal and comfortable atmosphere for each pet that enters the facility.

A major way they are able to limit the stress levels of the animals is by having separate recovery and waiting areas for dogs and cats, and even going to the extent of trying to group dogs together with similar personality traits.

"The purpose is to provide a comfort-

able and low-stress environment, and I hope we've accomplished that," Mack said.

Where using the latest technology comes into play the most, is in terms of the efficiency with which information is relayed throughout the building, which can result in a pet being diagnosed and treated in a timely fashion.

"The whole hospital is on a full generator, which means at any given time during a power outage we are never down, which is very important," Mack said.

Monitors are in nearly every room and can easily provide information that he can then share and educate owners about their pets.

"When people can see the type of emphasis you place on doing the best you can for the animals, I think that means a lot," Mack said.

The center is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays and closed Sundays.

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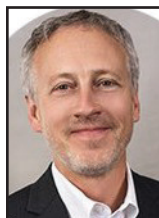


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EDITORIAL

Supporting local news has never been more critical

By Dean Ridings,
America's Newspapers



Dean Ridings

Congress has an opportunity to pass legislation that benefits all local citizens, businesses and even protects our democracy.

The Local Journalism Sustainability Act, LJSA

for short, should be included as part of any upcoming reconciliation bill that Congress is considering. The LJSA is a well-thought-out bill that would provide needed support to local news organizations, including local newspapers, to ensure their viability as they continue to make progress toward a digital future.

Many members of Congress have seen what happens when a newspaper closes in their district, and they see the impact it has on the community. That is why many of our leaders, including Senators Maria Cantwell, Chuck Schumer, Joe Manchin and Ron Wyden and others have stepped

up in support of the LJSA. And while others in Congress may not have signed on as co-sponsors of the bill yet, many recognize the importance and the need to maintain strong local news organizations in their communities.

To understand what the LJSA is, it is important to understand what it is not. This is a temporary measure to help newspapers at this critical time, and it sunsets after five years. The LJSA won't help national news organizations, but it will support local news organizations and help them invest in their newsrooms to continue to cover the issues that impact local cities and towns.

The result is a bill that provides a bridge for local newspapers as they continue to evolve their business models.

So why is it so critical for Congress to pass the LJSA now? Quite simply, the future of local newspapers in many areas of the country hangs in the balance. In the past 15 years, more than a quarter of all newspapers have disappeared, and many more have been forced to make staff reductions that have diminished the cov-

erage of topics that impact local citizens. The way people get their information and advertise their local businesses is quickly moving to digital, and local newspapers continue to be impacted by the Big Tech companies that use their original content without fair compensation.

To make matters worse, newspapers, like many other industries, were financially impacted by the pandemic, even though the coverage provided by local newspapers was more vital than ever.

The current economic challenges have only hastened the need for Congress to act on the LJSA quickly. As inflation is impacting everyone, it has made the environment for local newspapers even more challenging. The cost of retaining employees has gone up. The cost of newsprint has increased 30% over last year, and the cost of gas used to deliver the newspaper is up more than 50% in the past two years. Many newspaper carriers drive hundreds and even thousands of miles each week. These increases have driven many local newspapers closer to making further reductions or even cease

operations.

Who wins with the passage of the Local Journalism Sustainability Act? Local newspapers win by obtaining the support needed to continue their investments in reporting on local news. But the real winners are the communities that keep their local newspaper. From watching the actions of local government, reporting on the state of local schools, tracking local health trends or providing the latest restaurant reviews and sales information, local newspapers keep a community connected and informed.

We encourage everyone to reach out to their representatives in Congress and ask them to support local journalism. Whether it is the inclusion of the LJSA in the budget reconciliation bill, or a stand-alone bill, the time for action is now. It's a rare opportunity for the government to act on something that benefits us all.

America's Newspapers is the trade association for thousands of newspapers across the United States. www.newspapers.org

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mosquito Control: Why you should care

To the Editor:

I appreciated the coverage the Ponte Vedra Recorder gave to the article on mosquito control by one of the candidates running for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District (AMCD), Martha Gleason. What her article failed to do was to tell you about the world-class operations being run there right now by current Commissioner Trish Becker, who is running for re-election.

I was lucky enough last year to take a tour of the facility guided by Mrs. Becker. I was astounded at the depth of

research being done there by a team of scientists that work with our universities and federal agencies to understand and develop new mosquito control techniques.

There is a hot house on site where they are testing typical plants we put in our gardens and which ones trap too much water, thereby attracting mosquitos. I saw the impressive group of helicopters that go out at night at low altitudes to spray certain areas for mosquito control, and the pilot who does this spoke to our group. We also learned about the ground fleet that goes out in St. Johns County

every day.

This notion portrayed in the article that there is some mysterious museum being built at a large expense is written for fear mongering, but don't be. The Disease Vector Education Center will now host the international workshop the AMCD does in the spring which attracts hundreds of mosquito control and pest control scientist and specialists from around the world, as well as offer a place for our school children to go to learn in a fun environment about why they should care about mosquitos.

Why my interest? My grandfather was

a leader starting in the 1920s in developing mosquito control for New York City, Philadelphia, state governments and then the federal government. Here's the website for our fantastic mosquito control district. I encourage everyone to go take a one-hour tour and be amazed and proud at the world-class operations we are so lucky to have in our country under the guidance of Trish Becker: <https://amcdsjc.org>

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OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW

In the Arts

Send your arts news to news@pontevedrarecorder.com

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

County Commission recognizes Cultural Center

As a milestone distinction, First Coast Cultural Center was recently recognized by St. Johns County Commissioners, which honored the services, classes and outreach programs that the nonprofit has provided locally for 27 years with a successful track record.

The mention of an innovative program, Kick StART, an afterschool arts enrichment program in 2020 during COVID 19, received unique accolades.

First Coast Cultural Center was honored with the certificate of recognition at the June 7 commissioner's meeting. Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker presented the award. Present to receive the award were Joe Bryant, chairman, First Coast Cultural Center Board of Directors, and Donna Guzzo, president and executive director of First Coast Cultural Center.

Guzzo shared her overarching philosophy about the success of the Cultural Center with the statement, "Success is imminent!"

The First Coast 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, 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 which provide additional resources to economically disadvantaged students. Also, Kick StART afterschool arts enrichment programs and services are available.

Area students to present 'Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella'

The Florida State College at Jacksonville High School Summer Musical Theatre Experience is celebrating its 16th year providing theater opportunities to First Coast-area students in grades seven through 12.

This summer, more than 60 student performers and technicians will train with professional theater artists in preparation for a production of "Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella."

"Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella" is the new Broadway adaptation of the classic musical. This contemporary take on the classic tale features some of Rodgers & Hammerstein's most beloved songs, including "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible/It's Possible" and "Ten Minutes Ago," alongside an up-to-date, hilarious and romantic libretto by Tony Award nominee Douglas Carter Beane.

This show is appropriate for all audiences and groups. The show is being presented by the FSCJ Artist Series and The Nathan H. Wilson Center for The Arts.

Performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. July 22, 23, 29 and 30; and at 2 p.m. July 24 and 31 at Florida State College at Jacksonville, South Campus, Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts, 11901 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville.

Tickets are \$20-\$25 for reserved seating, \$15 for Florida State College at Jackson-

ville students and employees with ID. (Limit of four discounted tickets per ID.) Purchase tickets online at fscjartistseries.org. To order tickets by phone, call the Artist Series box office at 904-632-5000 (10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday) or the Wilson Center for the Arts box office at 904-646-2222 (10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday).

ON STAGE

A roundup of musical acts appearing before July 17 at local venues

PONTE VEDRA CONCERT HALL

1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach

Purchase tickets at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office or ticketmaster.com.

For further information about each act, go to pvconcerthall.com/events.

- **American Aquarium** — 8 p.m. June 21
- **Matt Maeson** — 8 p.m. July 9. With special guest 1-800-brennan-collect

ST. AUGUSTINE AMPHITHEATRE

1340C A1A South, St. Augustine

Box office hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets sold at the box office are available via credit- and debit-card only. A valid ID is required for all box office transactions and ticket purchases must be made in person.

Tickets may also be purchased at ticketmaster.com.

For further information about each act, go to theamp.com/events.

- **Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats and Zach Bryan** — 7 p.m. June 21.
- **Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band** — With guest Edgar Winter. In addition to the former Beatle, band members include Steve Lukather, Colin Hay, Gregg Rolie, Warren Ham, Gregg Bissonette and Hamish Stuart. 7:30 p.m. June 24.
- **Steve Miller Band** — 7:30 p.m. July 1.
- **Blackberry Smoke — Rasslin' Is Real Tour** — 6:45 p.m. July 7. With special guest The Steel Woods.
- **"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged"** — 7:30 p.m. July 15-16. Presented by APEX.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Coming up: June 27-July 1 "Ready, Set, Go! Hot Air Balloons, Planes, & More"

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Questions? Contact Toni Thomas: tthomas@firstcoastculturalcenter.org
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Sports

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Nine-year old Rheinhardt gives a thumbs up on a cross country run.



Competing at the 2021 FHSAA State Track and Field Finals.



5k and 10k runs have always been a family tradition.

Harrison enjoys life of running

Photos courtesy of Dennis Harrison

Nease grad brings high school success to Oregon

By Anthony Richards

Not long after Ponte Vedra's own Rheinhardt Harrison could walk, he was running, and he has not stopped since.

He competed in his first official run when he was 3 years old, as he took part with his family in a "fun run" in Washington, D.C.

"I started by getting pushed in a stroller, but by the end I had hopped out and was running just like everyone else," Harrison said.

Looking back, starting at such an early age was just the first sign that running was a major part of the Harrison family culture.

According to Harrison, running was how his parents Heidi and Dennis first met each other.

"It really is just a part of who we are," Harrison said.

He first realized that he had a gift for going fast after running in an 800-meter race in Baltimore as an 8-year-old.

"I beat everyone by a good amount, and I knew it was something I needed to stick with," Harrison said. "It was a huge wake up call for me, and from then on I knew I wanted to be a pro runner that has a shoe deal, which is not something every kid thinks about at that age."

Harrison remembers his dad running alongside him at events until he was 12 years old.

"At least every holiday or every Friday for a month, we would go on a 5k as a family," Harrison said.

He ran both track and field and cross country during his time at Nease High School, and the recent graduate finished as a multi-state champion in both disciplines, including being named both Florida's "Mr. Track" and "Mr. Cross Country" in 2021.

The honors continued to pour in as he was also named the Gatorade Cross Country Player of the Year as a junior.

He won three consecutive Class 4A cross country state titles, while capturing track and field state titles in the



Rheinhardt has been fast since day one.

3200-meter and 1600-meter events as a junior in 2021 and following it up with an 800-meter title as a senior in 2022.

"I have a lot of rare natural speed, which isn't something a lot of distance runners can say," Harrison said. "Setting a high bar may have seemed tough

at times, but I fought for it. When you cross that line and achieve your goal, there's no feeling greater than that."

One of his major goals he set for himself when he started high school was

HARRISON continues on Page 29



His passion for running has remained strong over the years.



2021 FHSAA 3200-meter state champion.

Photos courtesy of Dennis Harrison

Harrison

Continued from 28

to run the mile in less than four minutes, a feat he was able to recently accomplish, becoming just the 16th high school athlete to do so in the nation's history and the first from Florida with a time of 3:59.33.

"Competing with the nation's best is always just really cool," Harrison said. "The faster you get, the bigger following you get."

All his high school success has him hungry to see what lies ahead at the college level, where he has signed to run at the University of Oregon, regarded as one of the top track and field programs in the country.

He is excited to see how he fares against the stiffer competition at the next level.

"It's always going to be a competitive field in college," Harrison said.

According to Harrison, although he had several offers to choose from, Oregon was a school he had paid close

attention to ever since he heard about the story of Oregon alum Steve Prefontaine who competed at the 1972 Olympics but died in a car crash just three years later.

"There's no doubt that Oregon was on my radar for some time, but my official visit there made it clear that it was just the perfect fit for me," Harrison said.

Ever since he was a child, Harrison has dreamed of competing at the Olympics himself one day. However, he also understands that time is not now.

"I like to take it year by year," Harrison said. "I'm going to focus first on winning college championships and then see where it goes from there."

Running is such a major dynamic within the family that the conversations at the dinner table will sometimes drift towards the topic of running.

"My sister's usually the one that helps direct the discussion to something else," Harrison chuckled.

He is fine with it either way because he does find himself thinking about much more than just running, even though it has such an influence in his life.

Bowling is the latest hobby that he has been interested in during the recent months, and an example of something he has been focusing on outside of the running world.

"I keep myself thinking about a lot

of other things and activities," Harrison said. "It keeps me grounded."

One thing for sure is that Harrison has been running since he was 3 years old, and he does not plan on stopping anytime soon.



Rheinhardt's parents first met through their interest in running.

GATOR BOWL TIME, DATE ANNOUNCED

The TaxSlayer Gator Bowl, TaxSlayer and ESPN have announced that the 78th Annual TaxSlayer Gator Bowl will be played on Bill Gay Grounds at TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 30. It will be televised nationally on ESPN.

"Once again, TaxSlayer is proud to be the title sponsor of the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl," said Jamie Saxe, CEO of TaxSlayer. "This annual tradition represents a long-standing partnership, and we're proud to continue carrying on the bowl's rich history. We look forward to connecting with football fans nationwide every year."

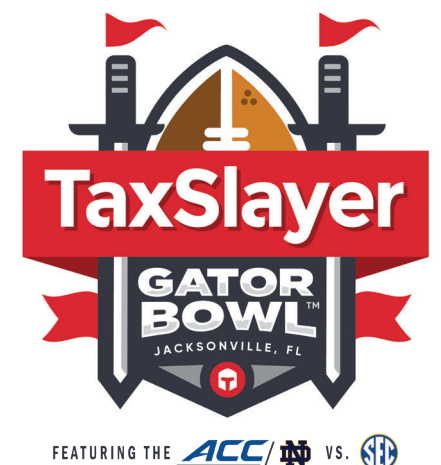
The 78th annual game will feature a team from the Southeastern Conference that will serve as the anchor team and will face an opponent from the Atlantic Coast Conference, which also includes the University of Notre Dame.

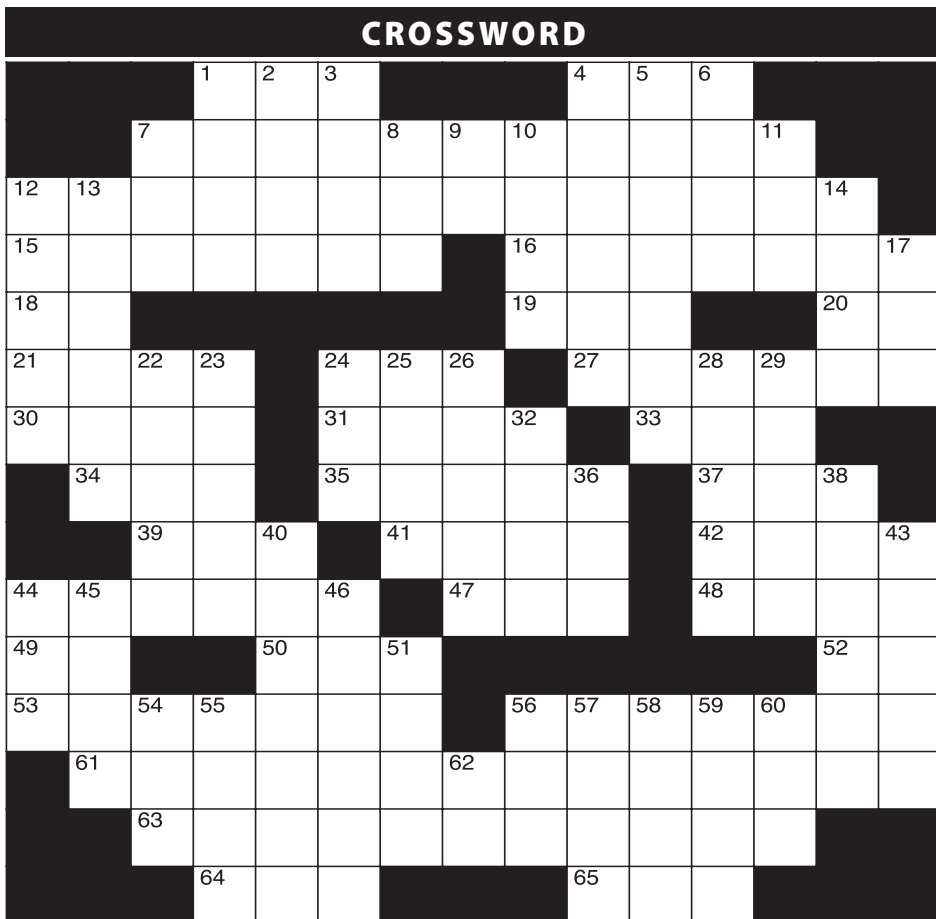
"I can't think of a better way for fans to celebrate the New Year's holiday than spending the weekend in Jacksonville at the 78th annual TaxSlayer Gator Bowl game," said TaxSlayer Gator Bowl Chairman Nelson Bradshaw. "The green jacket committee is actively planning a full slate of activities in support of this year's game that will serve fans, friends and families alike. We look forward to hosting a team

from both the Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference in Jacksonville for a week in our beautiful city."

Tickets for the 78th annual TaxSlayer Gator Bowl will go on sale to the public on Sept. 1 through Ticketmaster. Prospective buyers who purchase tickets from a TaxSlayer Gator Bowl "Green Jacket Member" prior to Dec. 1 will receive preferred pricing. Teams participating in the 78th annual TaxSlayer Gator Bowl game will be announced Dec. 4.

For more information about the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl including stadium policies, philanthropic efforts or to become a member, go to taxslayergatorbowl.com.





CROSSWORD

Local First Tee named Golf Coalition grant recipient

The First Tee of North Florida in St. Augustine will be one of 81 grassroots golf organizations to receive a total of \$750,000 in funding to further their efforts to engage underrepresented populations of the sport.

These groups are being awarded with a grant through the new Make Golf Your Thing initiative, the industry's commitment to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in making the sport more welcome for all.

Initially introduced in 2021, the grant program to date has provided 155 grants to 110 unique grassroots organizations, totaling more than \$1 million overall.

The funding has been evident with 43 grants totaling \$150,000 in May 2021 and another 31 grants totaling \$150,000 handed out in Jan. 2022.

The program was established to support organizations dedicated to increasing participation among golf's underrepresented populations, such as, black, Latinx, Asian, indigenous communities, as well as women, LGBTQI+ individuals, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

"When the game comes together and pools every resource to grow and broaden the reach of the game, only great things can happen," said Mike Whan, CEO of the USGA and executive sponsor of the youth and adult player development work group for Make Golf Your Thing. "This unifying movement is helping to make a difference in communities across America and advance the game in ways none of us can do alone."

The grant program is part of the industry's broader commitment to making the sport more inclusive for all.

Last month, a new Make Golf Your Thing search directory was launched for consumers, consisting of more than 8,400 registered golf programs and organizations across the U.S.

The directory allows individuals to

search for programs and events using filters such as location, age, ability, gender, etc., giving new and diverse audiences an opportunity to become more engaged in the sport through programs in their own community.

"Access to golf in a business context is a pathway to opportunity," said Anna Alvarez Boyd, co-founder of FairWays to Leadership, one of the 81 grant recipients. "Our group's mission is to increase diversity in business and in golf by teaching college students from diverse backgrounds the skills they need to become effective leaders. The financial commitment of the grant program to organizations like ours will only further golf's collective efforts to bring new and diverse audiences into our sport."

Formally launched in May 2021, Make Golf Your Thing is led by six cross-industry work groups. The initiative is specifically focused on: education and skill development, talent acquisition, procurement, human resources, youth and adult player development and marketing/communications.

Funding for the grant program is being administered by the American Golf Industry Coalition, a partnership among golf's leading organizations to promote and advocate for the collective interests of the sport.

The Coalition unites the golf industry in pursuit of goals designed to enhance the vitality and diversity at both the business and recreational levels. It is a division of the World Golf Foundation.

Financial support for the program is led by a contingent of industry supporters committed to making the sport more welcoming and inclusive for all.

As a multi-faceted, multi-year movement, Make Golf Your Thing is a collaborative effort across the industry. For more info go to www.makegolfsyourthing.org.

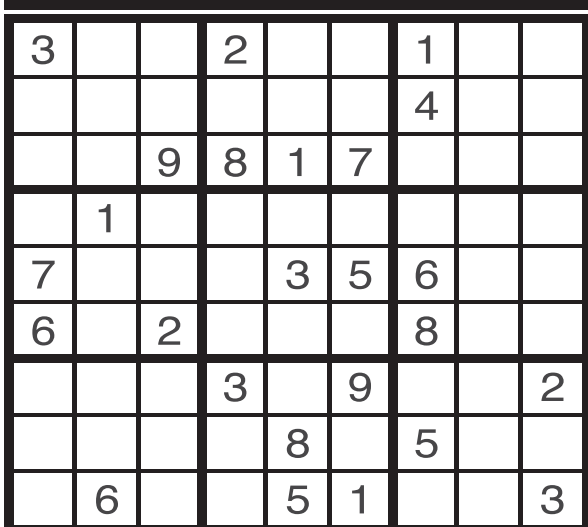
ACROSS

- 1. Moved quickly
- 4. Ocean temperature
- 7. Scholarly book series
- 12. Irregular
- 15. Hairstyle
- 16. Indigestion fixer
- 18. Special therapy
- 19. Mock
- 20. Partner to Pa
- 21. Strays
- 24. Swedish currency (abbr.)
- 27. Desired
- 30. Soap product
- 31. Traditional fishing boat
- 33. No (Scottish)
- 34. Spy organization
- 35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 37. Married woman
- 39. Blood relation
- 41. German river
- 42. Genus of clams
- 44. Parts of a movie
- 47. Residue
- 48. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
- 49. Atomic #77
- 50. Where wrestlers work
- 52. Northeast
- 53. Type of lettuce
- 56. Abstain
- 61. Communication between two
- 63. One who administers medicine
- 64. Sun up in New York
- 65. Having eight

- 5. Type of weapon
- 6. ___ Turner, rock singer
- 7. Microgram
- 8. Hair product
- 9. Health care pro
- 10. Holy fire
- 11. Military ID (abbr.)
- 12. ___ the ante
- 13. Containing nitrogen
- 14. Green citrus fruit
- 17. Male parent
- 22. Bring up
- 23. Murdered
- 24. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 25. Supreme ruler Genghis
- 26. Social media hand gesture
- 28. Semitic Sun god
- 29. Land
- 32. Database management

- system
- 36. Similar
- 38. Nice to look at
- 40. Covered with mud
- 43. Simple dry fruit
- 44. Title of respect
- 45. Type of footwear
- 46. Most lucid
- 51. Exam
- 54. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- 55. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 56. Small Eurasian deer
- 57. "Within"
- 58. Insures bank's depositors
- 59. A pause for relaxation
- 60. Social insect
- 62. Expresses acidity

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

DOWN

- 1. He played "Milton"
- 2. Elsa's sister
- 3. Digital wallet
- 4. About backbone



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RECORDER

Worship DIRECTORY

To advertise in the Worship Directory call April at **904-285-8831**

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

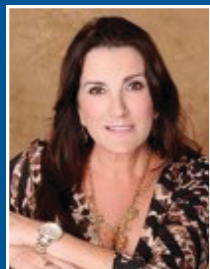
Worship service held in an open-air building
A simple place for reflection, surrounded by nature.
Come as you are. All are welcome — even dogs.
Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

276 N. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
(904) 285-5347 • www.LordofLifePVB.org



NorthEastFloridaCoastHomes.com

Congratulations to our May Leaders!



Lara Hoffman
Ponte Vedra Beach



Team Kelly and Wanda
Ponte Vedra Beach



John Richardson
Nocatee



Sally Harasz
Nocatee



Oksana Pondo Team
Nocatee



Matt & Naomi Wilkinson
Nocatee



JULINGTON LAKES

Stunning home backs to lush preserve! Upgraded kitchen, flex space, separate office and extended 3 car garage. 3 BR, 2 BA, 2,618 SF MLS 1171573 \$779,900
Judit Khor (904) 535-6593



DOLPHIN COVE

AWESOME INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! Active Vacation Rental in Prime Location of Ponte Vedra Beach, Great rental history, High income. Call or Text me for details! 4 BR, 3 BA, 1,378 SF MLS 1170578 \$545,000
Dan Gregory (904) 392-3868



EPPING FOREST

Gorgeous, St. Johns Riverfront estate located in the prestigious, highly desirable, gated community! Spectacular Views! 5 BR, 7.5 BA, 7,921 SF MLS 1163821 \$3,765,000
Cheryl Gillespie (904) 338-8697



LAS BRISAS

Spectacular ocean front views from the balcony of this updated 3rd floor stunner! Tastefully updated in 2018. 2 BR, 2BA's, 1,080 SF MLS 1172144 \$675,000
Kelly & Wanda (904) 233-1991



CAMACHEE ISLAND

St. Augustine intracoastal and Marsh front gem! Multi family estate with 2 separate homes, plus, a private guest suite. All on a 2.46 acre lot. 7 BR, 6.5 BA, 5,552 SF MLS 1168469 \$3,195,000
Matt & Naomi (904) 234-5014



PALENCIA

Private .63 acre cul-de-sac lot with preserve & golf course views. Saltwater pool. Screened paver patio with summer kitchen. 5 BR, 4.5 BA, 4,156 SF MLS 1165643 \$1,550,000
Matt & Naomi (904) 234-5014



WORLD GOLF VILLAGE

Ground level condo with vaulted ceilings and transom windows to let the sunshine in! NEW AC in 2021. 4 BR, 4 BA, 2,422 SF MLS 1170359 \$540,000
Christine & Richard (904) 349-6163



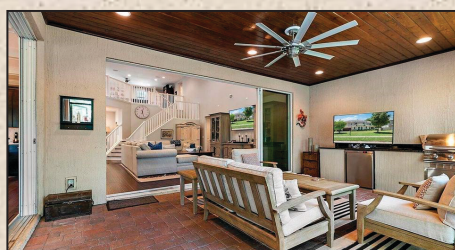
TWENTY MILE AT NOCATEE

Coastal charmer, bright and open floor plan. Meticulous kitchen. Fenced backyard with views of the preserve. 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 2,746 SF MLS 1168494 \$1,088,000
Sarah Olson (904) 439-0216



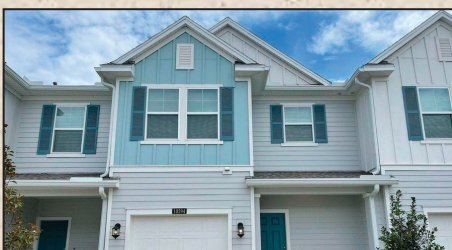
WALDEN CHASE

Large homesite with wide lake views! Open floor plan and a large master suite and office. Freshly painted interior and a \$6,000 flooring allowance. No CDD fees! 4 BR, 3 BA, 2,713 SF MLS 1174623 \$575,000
James Valenti (904) 806-2132



PALMS OF PONTE VEDRA

Gorgeous, modern home with large open spaces and quality features throughout situated on a quiet cul-de-sac. 5 BR, 5 BA, 4,267 SF MLS 1165108 \$1,399,000
James Valenti (904) 806-2132



LONGLEAF

Light & Bright Open Concept Town Home. Wood look tile on the first floor, Quartz counters and Smart Home Features. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 1,700 SF MLS 1172845 \$320,000
Slusser Sales Team (904) 760-9763



LAKESIDE AT NOCATEE

Abbot plan is great for entertaining with its open floor plan, gourmet kitchen and oversized screened in patio with powered screen. 4 BR, 2 BA, 2,185 SF MLS 1172456 \$680,000
Tara Belanger Bright (904) 501-9037

Two locations to serve you!

NOCATEE

158 Marketside Avenue, Suite 14 • (904) 834-7682

PONTE VEDRA BEACH

100 Corridor Road, Suite 101 • (904) 280-1115