

June 30, 2022 Volume 53, No. 35

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Connections Page 15



SHIFT INTO SUMMER Fourth of July Events On The Water **Guide to Hair, Skin & Body** Page 7



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



Mary Helen McElreath, Elizabeth Kondal and Tama Caldabaugh were the respective super senior, amateur and senior division champions at the 2022 First Coast Women's Amateur Championship at King & Bear golf course at World Golf Village in St. Augustine June 23. See story on page 37.



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One of Us

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Visit our new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

BRIEFS

Clerk of Courts warns against latest jury duty scam

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Office is warning residents about fraudulent phone calls from scammers claiming to be representatives of the clerk's office or law enforcement.

The clerk's office has received calls from concerned residents who say a scammer claims that the individual has missed jury duty and must make immediate payment to avoid arrest. The scammer indicates a warrant has been issued for the resident's arrest and demands payment for failure to appear for jury duty.

"Clerk staff will never phone a resident to request payment for failure to appear," St. Johns County Clerk Brandon J. Patty said. "If you receive one of these calls, please provide no information to the caller, end the call immediately and report the incident to the Florida Office of the Attorney General."

When residents don't respond to a summons for jury duty, they are contacted by an official letter from the St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court sent through the U.S. Postal Service.

The Florida Office of the Attorney General's number is 866-966-7226.

For questions regarding jury duty in St. Johns County, call 904-819-3629.

Democratic Club to meet

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will 19, at Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive.

Chat and chew is at 6 p.m., with the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. The featured of Elections Vicky Oakes.

4 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays beginning July 13 at COA's THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center in Ponte Vedra Beach. The classes will be led by instructor Will Oglesby, an experienced line dance leader.

The cost for the three-week session (July 13, 20 and 27) is \$26.25. Registration is required, and space is limited. (Going forward, the price per month will be adjusted according to the number of weeks offered each month.)

tact COA's Amanda Jones at 904-280-3233 or via email at ajones@stjohnscoa.com.

The center is located at 175 Landrum

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July

speaker will be St. John's County Supervisor

Line dancing class offered

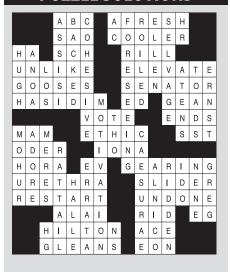
There will be a line dancing class from

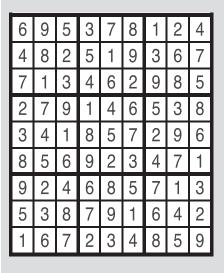
To register and for more information, con-

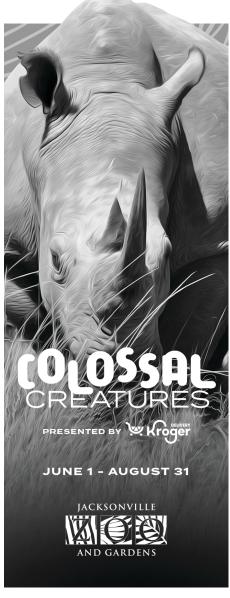












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Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach President Lori Anderson and District 6970 Governor-elect

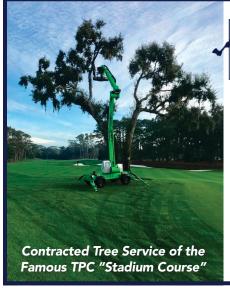
Ponte Vedra Beach Rotarians recognized for charitable giving

Rotary District 6970 recognized several members of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach last week for their charitable giving, presenting them with Rotary International's prestigious Paul Harris Fellow designation.

Named in honor of the founder of Ro-

tary International, the Paul Harris Fellow recognizes a Rotarian who has personally donated \$1,000 to Rotary's humanitarian and charitable endeavors, which include efforts to eradicate polio worldwide.

ROTARIANS continues on Page 4



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Rotarians

Continued from 3

District 6970 Governor-elect Jeff Michelman visited Ponte Vedra Beach to present the honors, which included numerous awards for Rotarians who had given multiple \$1,000 donations to Rotary.

Award recipients at the meeting included: Donna Guzzo and Susan Mack; Paul Harris +1: Kelly Barrera, Chris Eckols, Bill Haley, Todd Hickey and George Mc-Caughan; Paul Harris +2: Robert Franskousky, Sherry Mahoney and Mary Anne Thomas; Paul Harris +5: Paul Cosgrave and President-elect Ron "Doc" Renuart; and Paul Harris +8: Ashley Dopf.

A special highlight of the ceremony included the presentation of a pin to club President Lori Anderson, recognizing her as a "Major Donor" to Rotary's charitable humanitarian efforts.

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach has a long history of supporting Rotary International through Paul Harris Fellow donations, earning recognition for having 100% of the club's members participating in the program.



Jeff Michelman, Susan Mack and Donna Guzzo



Bill Haley, Todd Hickey, Ed Dalton, Jeff Michelman, Kelly Barrera and Chris Eckols



Contributed photos

Mary Anne Thomas, Sherry Mahoney and Jeff Michelman



Jeff Michelman and President-elect Ron "Doc" Renuart

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Applications accepted for 2022 Red Coats Grants

THE PLAYERS Championship will accept applications for its Red Coats Grants until Aug. 5.

The program awards funding to local nonprofit organizations who lead programs and initiatives focused on improving the quality of life for Northeast Florida's residents. Grant awards for the 2022 program will range from \$2,000 to \$12,500.

The Red Coats is a committee of past tournament chairpersons who served on THE PLAYERS' volunteer leadership team and oversaw the entire volunteer team and program. Each year, approximately 2,000 volunteers support all facets of the championship.

The Red Coats are responsible for leading all volunteer divisions and committees, working closely with the tournament team on a year-round basis to prepare and deliver a successful championship.

"The entire team of past volunteer chairpersons is so excited to continue the Red Coats Grants again this year," said Murray Beard, captain of the Red Coats and chairman of the 2000 PLAY-ERS Championship. "We look forward to this program because it truly allows us to develop a deep understanding of the

biggest areas of need in our community and support organizations across the entire five-county area who are driving positive change every single day. We can't wait to review the applications and determine how we can best support the community that is our home, and the permanent home of our championship."

"THE PLAYERS Championship's charitable impact on this community wouldn't be possible without our volunteers, and in turn, the success of our volunteer program wouldn't be possible without the Red and Blue Coats," said Jared Rice, executive di-

rector of THE PLAYERS. "The Red Coats Grants program is an opportunity for our past chairpersons to play a continued role in positively impacting lives in our backyard while carrying on our core mission: serving and supporting our community."

THE PLAYERS 2023 will be held March 7-12. Registration for volunteers will open this fall. More information about the volunteer experience can be found at THEPLAYERS.com/volunteer. More information about THE PLAYERS' charitable efforts can be found at theplayers. com/charity.html.

About the 2022 Red Coats Grants program

Application timeline: Tuesday, June 28, to Friday, Aug. 5, at 11:59 p.m.

Link to apply: https://www.theplayers.com/charity.html

Eligibility:

- Have a nonprofit, tax-exempt classification under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - Have broad community support and

address specific community needs.

- Expend funds and provide services in the following five counties: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns.
- Practice and provide services without discrimination as protected by law.

For complete guidelines, go to: https://www.theplayers.com/charity/info/red-coat-grants.html.

That's broad community support and missing cour grains main.

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Anne Marie Moquin founded Beaches Go Green in 2018, which is a local nonprofit dedicated to promoting environmental education and awareness within the community through various events and school club initiatives.

Anne Marie Moquin



Beaches Go Green has put a lot of focus into educating the next generation by creating clubs at local schools.

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I grew up in Michigan and always had a love for animals and being out in nature. That has remained a passion of mine throughout the years, and I've always wanted to do something that allows me to share that love with others.

What made you want to start Beaches Go Green, and when did it get its start?

In 2018 I sat down and watched this documentary called "A Plastic Ocean" with my girlfriends one night, and afterwards I felt like so much of what we were doing in the world was self-centered.

A lot of us are operating on autopilot, and we don't pay attention to what we are doing or if it's even working.

Initially, I just thought I would be talking to schools about the environment, but from there it just exploded.

I didn't have any environmental background, but I've learned so much in the last four years.

What are the primary goals of the organization?

The number one goal is to offer an outlet for environmental education and awareness.

Another one of my goals with Beaches Go Green is to keep it simple.

I've gone from trying to save the planet by recycling to now thinking that recycling is really a small solution and instead investing in reusable products.

If we can give people small tidbits to make a difference, we will see good things follow.

We try to make it easy for people to make a change.

How have you seen the initiative grow over the years?

We had five clubs in local schools last year. We have really shifted the focus to our students, because if we get them thinking the right way, that can have the biggest impact.

We're going on our fourth year at Ponte Vedra High School and our third a Nease and looking at involving five more schools this year.

Our tag line is "Be the change," and seeing that change is just amazing.

One of our biggest programs for students is our reusable bottle program. We've handed out 12,000 bottles in four years.



Photos courtesy of Anne Marie Moquin

Anne Marie Moquin is the founder of Beaches Go Green.

What do you enjoy most about the work you do?

Typically, we award two scholarships ever year to local students that have volunteered and been part of supporting environmental initiatives.

This year's applicants were so good that we gave out six scholarships.

To hear how being part of the club has influenced them has been great to see.

What have been some of the biggest challenges?

Creating awareness is a hard thing to quantify.

Change is just not coming fast enough, and it can get exhausting swimming against the tide all the time.

People don't like change but sometimes you have to get uncomfortable to make things happen.

What do you enjoy most about living in the North Florida area and what do you do in your free time?

I love to travel to nature destinations and going on beach walks. You can never have too much nature in your life.

St. Augustine prepares for its 'Fireworks Over the Matanzas'

By Shaun Ryan

St. Augustine is preparing for one of its biggest events of the year: "Fireworks Over the Matanzas." It's a tradition for thousands of locals and visitors, who gather at the bayfront each July 4th for Independence Day in the Nation's Oldest

The fun gets started at 6 p.m. Monday with a two-hour concert by The All-Star Orchestra, which will perform a variety of big band and swing tunes, as well as patriotic favorites.

The concert will be held at the gazebo in the Plaza de la Constitucion, which is located at the center of the historic district. Those planning to attend may want to bring a folding chair.

It's important to note that alcoholic beverages are prohibited on all public property. This includes parks, streets and sidewalks. It is also illegal to possess fireworks that explode or leave the ground.

After the concert, it's time to move toward the bayfront for the main event. which starts at 9:30 p.m. The dazzling display includes 5,000 individual shells, which explode between 100 and 2,000 feet from the ground. It's been called one of the biggest and best fireworks displays on the East Coast.

While many people gather along the

bayfront to watch the fireworks show, other prime observation spots include the Bridge of Lions and Vilano Beach.

Those planning to arrive by water should note that the Bridge of Lions will be closed to marine traffic from 8 p.m. to about 11 p.m. Boats will be prohibited in the area north of the Bridge of Lions to a point in line with the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument starting at 6 p.m. That area could shift somewhat to the north or south as necessitated by weather conditions.

The "no boat zone" will be strictly enforced by maritime law enforcement

The St. Augustine Municipal Marina has a waiting list for overnight reservations. It will, however, have limited dockage throughout the holiday weekend. For availability information and docking instructions, contact the marina on VHF CH 16 or CH 71.

"Foreworks Over the Matanzas" is produced by the city with support funding from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

For further information, go to CityStAug.com/Fireworks. Keep up with the latest information by following @ CityStAug and @StAugPD on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

St. Augustine offers shuttles, closes some streets for fireworks show

With support from Old Town Trolley Tours and Ripley's Red Train Tours, the city of St. Augustine will once again offer a free park-and-ride shuttle Monday, July 4, during "Fireworks Over the Matanzas."

The shuttles will run from 6 p.m. to midnight, operating out of select parking locations along Anastasia Boulevard. They are:

- · Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A South
 - St. Augustine Amphitheater, 1340-C

See Store For Details

A1A South

- R.B. Hunt Elementary School, 125 Magnolia Drive
- St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park, 999 Anastasia Blvd. Note that this is a parking location only. To access the shuttle, those using this lot will have to cross Anastasia Boulevard to R.B. Hunt Elementary School via the lighted crosswalk.

Meanwhile, for those on the west side of the bay, parking in city-owned lots and in on-street spaces is free. This doesn't

technology.

See Store For Details

pertain to the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument lot or the Historic Downtown Parking Facility.

The latter, at 1 Cordova St., offers parking for \$15 per car, per entry. For those with the ParkNow Card, the charge

Furthermore, there will be no access to the Castillo lot between 6 p.m. and about

Motorists are cautioned not to park in a private lot, as towing may be enforced by

> Jerry Howard H.A.S, BC-HIS

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Rerouting of traffic on city streets begins at 8 p.m. At that time, vehicular traffic will be prohibited on the Bridge of Lions, Avenida Menendez, South Castillo Drive and Cathedral Place. Traffic is expected to resume on the bridge at about 11 p.m.

Additional street closures and changes

 Picolata Road between U.S. 1 and San Marco Avenue (closed 8-11 p.m.)

SHUTTLES continues on **Page 8**

Stacey Bearrunner

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FOURTH OF JULY ROUNDUP OF EVENTS

Fourth of July fun in Nocatee

Independence Day celebrations in Nocatee begin Saturday, July 2, with the annual Golf Cart Parade, which starts at 9 a.m. at Nocatee Station Field.

The fun continues at the waterparks, sponsored by David Weekley Homes.

- At Splash Waterpark, there will be live music from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. by the Grace Band Duo, and then from 3:30 to 7 p.m. by Brice Davis. The Splash Bar & Sundeck will be open from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- At Spray Waterpark, there will be a stilt walker and balloon artists from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Live music will be presented from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. by Ace Winn, and then from 3:30 to 7 p.m. by the Kyra Livingston Duo. The Blue Water Bar and Grill will be open from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, July 3, the Fourth Of July Party will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at Nocatee Station Field. There will be live music by Let's Ride Brass Band, and a variety of local food trucks will be on hand. The Blue Water Bar and Grill will be open for this event. There will be a special event after the band concludes its performance at about 9:15 p.m.

Jacksonville plans 4th of July Fireworks Celebration

Jacksonville's Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration returns this year with the display beginning at 9:45 p.m. Monday, July 4. The show will be visible from both the north and south banks of the St. Johns River, but the fun starts before the sun goes down.

The Downtown Jacksonville celebration at Riverfront Plaza will kick off at 5 p.m. with free entertainment, including a concert presented by Miller Electric Company featuring Bryan Malpass and DJ JHP Entertainment. There will also be a family fun zone, including inflatable skee ball, rollercoaster obstacle course, inflatable axe throwing, bounce houses and more, as well as food trucks and drinks.

Fireworks will actually be launched from multiple locations throughout various communities. People should arrive no earlier than 9 p.m. at these locations.

They are:

- Downtown Jacksonville
- 121 Financial Ballpark (following Jumbo Shrimp baseball game)
 - FSCJ North Campus
- The Avenues Mall
- Trinity Baptist Church
- Ed Austin Regional Park

Painting With A Twist plans event

Painting With A Twist is planning its "Fireworks at the Beach" event from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, July 3, for ages 15 and older. The instructor is Amy Dix. The cost is \$39 per person.

Painting With A Twist is located at 268 Solana Road, Ponte Vedra. For further information, go to paintingwithatwist.com/studio/ponte-vedra-beach/event/3097422.

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club offers guests fun 4th activities

The Fourth of July tradition of family



fun for guests of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club continues this year with beach activities all day on the white sandy shores of Ponte Vedra Beach.

DJ Herman will rock the party, while the resort's recreation team will facilitate family beach games, including a cornhole tournament, limbo contest, tug of war and a Hula Hoop contest. Parents can choose to take part in the fun or rest and relax while their kids play all day and create arts and crafts.

Celebrated for its year-round recreation and world-class amenities, the AAA Five-Diamond resort features two championship golf courses, a sprawling 30,000-square-foot spa, tennis facilities, a bocce ball court and a croquet lawn, three pools, an 8,000-square-foot fitness center and more.

Added to this is a wide range of culinary options by Erik Osol, celebrated Chef de Cuisine.

For more information on the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, go to pontevedra.com.

JAX Cooking Studio plans Fourth of July BBQ

JAX Cooking Studio is planning a Fourth of July BBQ from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, July 4.

The menu includes: Frito pie with loaded nacho toppings, BBQ steak skewers with guest-made sauce, cheesy oven roasted broccoli, from-scratch mac-n-cheese, ice cream in a bag with a sundae toppings bar. Complimentary lemonade, wine and beer will be served.

The price is \$65 for adults and children 13 and older, \$50 for children age 12 or younger with a registered adult (maximum of two child tickets per registered adult).

For pastry classes, adults registered with a child will make one recipe together. For non-pastry classes, adults and children will work together to make their meal.

Guests in the Chef's Kitchen cook the same menu as the rest of the class; however, they use the gas cooktop and convection ovens in the Chef's Kitchen, and they dine at a special table set up for just them.

JAX Cooking Studio is located at 14035 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville.

For tickets and information, go to jaxcookingstudio.com/class/4th-of-july-bbq-2.

Red, White & Deep Blue Celebration planned

The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island, will hold its Red, White & Deep Blue Celebration from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, July 4, at 4750 Amelia Island Parkway, Fernandina Beach. Tickets start at \$200.

For further information or to purchase tickets, go to unation.com/event/10714311.



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Shuttles

Continued from 7

- San Carlos between U.S. 1 and San Marco Avenue (closed 8-11 p.m.)
- King Street will have two westbound lanes and one eastbound lane west of MLK Boulevard. (8-11:30 p.m.)
- King Street will have one westbound lane and one eastbound lane east of MLK

Boulevard up to Avenida Menendez.

- There will be no eastbound traffic on West Castillo Drive from U.S. 1 to North Cordova Street (8-11:30 p.m.)
- North Cordova Street will be closed from Orange Street to Historic Downtown Parking Facility entrance. (8-11 p.m.)

For further information about parking and street changes, go to CityStAug.com/Fireworks.



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KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

The Recorder's garden columnist Kathy Esfahani of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery shares her tips for growing gorgeous gardens in Northeast Florida.

Happy birthday, America!

"Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth." — George Washington



Kathy Esfahani

By Kathy Esfahani

Independence Day festivities are here! Enhance your celebration with a red, white and blue garden or several colorful planters.

There are many options for creating a garden or planters full of patriotic

Remember that "true" blue flowers can be difficult to find, but light blue or purple can give the same effect. Both annuals and peren-

nials can be used for your garden or planters. Annuals will give more vibrant color but grow for only one long season.

Perennials will live more than two years, but their color is less vibrant as it comes and goes throughout the year.

Some great choices for your garden in the North Florida summer are (P for perennial):

- **Red:** begonia (shade), caladium (shade), celosia, impatiens (shade), mandevilla (P), penta (P), salvia, vinca, zinnia
- **White:** begonias (shade), caladium (shade), euphorbia, impatiens (shade), mandevilla (P), penta (P), salvia, variegated sunrose, vinca, zinnia
- Blue: blue daze (P), penta (P), salvia, vinca Idea for a July 4th planter:
- Be sure to place your planter in full sun to gain the most color from your blooms.
- Select a planter approximately 18-20 inches in diam-



Red Mandevilla

eter and 2.5 feet tall.

The following plants are now available at Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery:

Red Mandevilla (one plant) — adds height to your arrangement; plant in the center of the planter and include a trellis for the mandevilla to climb

White penta (seven plants) — medium height; plant around the mandevilla

Blue daze (five plants) — cascading; plant at the edge of your planter to allow the blooms to drape

Have a wonderful July 4th holiday, and happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Red Mandevilla



Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

A garden of patriotic colors will add to your Independence Day celebrations.

Please email Kathy at kcg.pvr@gmail.com for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future. For more information & ideas, visit Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. The phone number is 904-655-7373.





10 ON THE WATERPonte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022



Having passengers evenly spread out on a boat can help gas consumption efficiency.



There are plenty of little things for boaters to consider helping cut down on high gas prices this summer.

Tips for boaters to battle high gas prices

By Anthony Richards

The waterways will be a popular place for people to be this summer however, the higher gas prices are giving something for boaters to think about.

According to Erin Johnson, North Florida Marine Association administrative director, boaters are used to paying higher prices than what they pay to fill up their automobile, but the continued price increases make it even more expensive.

"Some boaters use diesel and others fill up with ethanol-free," Johnson said.

However, there are certain tips that the Boat Owners Association of the United States, also known as BoatUS, believes can help boat owners save at the pump.

There are many things that can be done prior to heading out on the water that can

help improve the efficiency of a boat's engine, which in turn will help get better gas mileage.

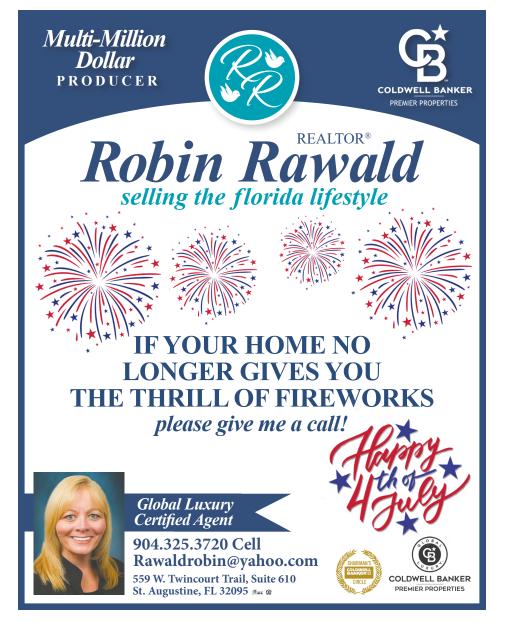
One of the most important things to do is making sure to give the engine a tune-up and service once a year. This coincides with making sure to continually check the propeller for damage and keeping the propellor clean of barnacles and other growth.

"Upgrading older motors can give you the most efficient gas consumption," Johnson said.

The heavier a boat is, the higher the gas usage it will take to move along on the water.

BoatUS advises only bringing on board items necessary for the designated trip.

GAS PRICES continues on Page 14





Ponte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022 ON THE WATER 11

New restaurant part of Cabana Beach Club reimagining

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa will offer a unique dining experience when it debuts a new upscale rooftop restaurant on the beach this fall.

Welcoming locals, resort guests and Cabana Beach Club members, the restaurant will offer views of the Atlantic Ocean, feature indoor and outdoor seating and occupy the second and third floors of an all-new venue at Cabana Beach Club. The menu will feature fresh seafood, small plates, elevated cocktails and fine wines.

The restaurant will be the crowning jewel in the reimagining of Sawgrass Marriott's Cabana Beach Club, a membership-only club on 26 miles of pristine beach.

The club will also roll out a new menu at its Sharkey's Café pool bar and unveil the much-anticipated return of Sea Porch, a member-favorite restaurant serving lunch and dinner daily with specialty weekend brunches.

Sea Porch will debut a new menu upon its return and will join the new restaurant in an all-new dining venue at Cabana Beach Club.

Both Sharkey's Café and Sea Porch are available to resort guests and club members.



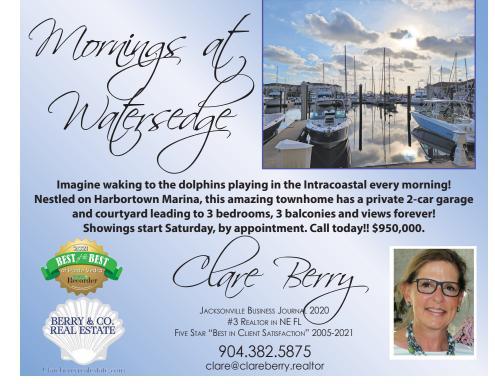
Contributed photo

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is planning a new rooftop restaurant.

To mark the reimagining, the club also is introducing an all new-logo and rebranding.

Sawgrass Marriott Executive Chef Edgar Maldonado will oversee all three venues and their new menus.

For more information about Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, go to SawgrassMarriott.com.







12 ON THE WATER



The house at 1201 Ponte Vedra Blvd. is a magnificent oceanside estate.

Contributed photo

Sunrise Villa is luxury on the shores on the Atlantic

Welcome to Sunrise Villa, a private gated oceanfront estate that is approximately 15,677 square feet.

The home was built in 2001 on 1.49 acres with 200 feet of oceanfront and 30 feet elevations, offering luxury resort amenities designed for entertaining friends and loved ones.

The main house has nine bedrooms, 11 full baths and three half baths, a gourmet kitchen, dine-in wine cellar, grand formal dining room, first floor owner's wing with an office, library, a private staircase to the second floor, three dressing rooms, outdoor living, a luxurious bath and direct entrance into a private garage.

Located on the south side of the property is a spa wing complete with a lounge/bar, large indoor "endless pool," a gym, sauna, massage area, spacious marble steam room, two full baths and a guest suite.

The home also has a first floor theater room located off the family room, a bil-

liard room and many gathering rooms.

It was designed with 200 feet of direct oceanfront outdoor living, with many balconies and covered lanais plus an open air cabana with a summer kitchen, fireplace and a large seating area. A second poolside cabana is for relaxing or

VILLA continues on Page 14



ON THE WATER 13 Ponte Vedra Recorder June 30, 2022

Historic San Marco home overlooks St. Johns River



By Shaun Ryan

A historic riverfront home in the San Marco neighborhood stands as one of the finest examples of those residences built during the Great Florida Land Boom of a century ago. Among its many prized attributes is its position atop a high bluff that offers views of the St. Johns River from almost every room.

And now the home has become available for a buyer seeking to own a part of Jacksonville's history.

The Carl S. Swisher Estate at 2234 River Road is a Mediterranean Revival house constructed in 1929-30. It was designed by the prominent Jacksonville architectural firm of William Mulford Marsh and Harold Saxelbye and built by A.L. Clayton & Son.

The property takes its name from the original owner who, with his father, manufactured King Edward Cigars, the

SAN MARCO continues on Page 14



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14 COMMUNITY NEWSPonte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022



San Marco

Continued from 13

largest selling cigar brand in the world.

The current owners have lived in the

home for more than 30 years. In 1999, they undertook a major renovation, adding a large game room and updating the kitchen.

The house was designated a local historic landmark in August 1999 and received the Historic Preservation Award from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Society in 2000.

Many of the property's original elements remain, including pottery sconces, the coral floor of the loggia, tile flooring, exposed cypress trusses, decking and vigas. The bar-and-smoking room features a custom-designed bar with carved lion heads, symbols of San Marco drawn from the Piazza San Marco in Venice.

The 1.5-acre property has 145 feet of river frontage, a courtyard, fountain, pool and greenhouse, as well as a covered walkway leading from the garage. There





is also a dock extending into the river.

There is a total of five bedrooms and three baths.

For more information on the house and its many attributes, contact Realtor Anita Vining at 904-739-1626. Her website is www.AnitaVining.com.



Corner Lot acquires Summit Tower, home to River & Post Restaurant

In a period of exponential growth and portfolio diversification, Corner Lot has acquired one of the most recognizable buildings in Jacksonville, The Summit Tower at 1000 Riverside Ave.

"The Summit Tower has been a landmark in Riverside and across the Jacksonville skyline for more than half a century," said Corner Lot CEO Andy Allen. "There really was not much to think about when presented with the opportunity to purchase it. It was an easy decision to make."

Known as home to Riverside's River & Post Restaurant and Rooftop Bar, the nine-story structure was purchased for \$11 million on Wednesday, June 22. The Mid-Century Modern building designed by architect Taylor Hardwick in 1963

will soon be home to a prominent new anchor tenant, raising its occupancy to approximately 80%.

"Acquisition of the Summit Tower was the logical next step in Corner Lot's evolution," said Corner Lot COO George Leone. "Its natural blend of history and modern architectural design made it a perfect fit for Corner Lot, our mission and our portfolio."

Professional Bank served as the lender. NAI Hallmark advised on the acquisition and will also serve as the property manager. The purchase includes the surrounding parking lots that serve the tower. Corner Lot purchased the structure from Padgett Premiere Properties, LLC.



Contributed photo

A view from the side facing the Atlantic.

Villa

Continued from 12

exercising and has a walk-in shower and a wet bar.

A resort-style infinity pool with a sunning ledge, a hot tub/spa and a private beach walkover complete this experience. European cast bronze figures are located throughout the manicured grounds and gardens.

There are 10 garages, a security office and a separate two-bedroom, two-bath guest house with a full kitchen above the west garage.

To see a video of this property go to 1201pontevedraboulevard.com. To schedule an appointment to view the property, contact Kim Martin-Fisher of Douglas Elliman Florida at 904-699-9993 or Jennifer Martin Faulkner @904-524-6000.

Gas prices

Continued from 10

Another method of watching a boat's weight can include not filling up a fuel tank or freshwater tank all the way, if it is not needed for a safe return. This will be determined by the length of the trip, which is why it can be helpful to plan out a heading beforehand.

According to BoatUS, a common misconception is that a boat's engine needs time to warm up. This is no longer the case, because modern engines are fuelinjected, which means they are ready to go after just one or two minutes.

The excessive idling can use unnecessary gas that instead could be used for traveling out on the water.

Boats that have multiple passengers can use more gas depending on where the

passengers are sitting or standing.

"There are a lot of little things that can make a difference," Johnson said. "Even standing uneven on a boat is something to think about."

Too many passengers on one side can cause a boat to lean more in one direction and cause the engine to work harder and use more gas.

BoatUS understands that canvas or Bimini tops can provide much needed

sun protection, but it can also create an increased wind drag when travelling at higher speeds.

No matter the rising gas prices, there will still be plenty of boats on the water enjoying what has become a summer tradition

"What better way to enjoy Florida than by getting out on the water?" Johnson Ponte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022 CONNECTIONS 15

Chamber Onnections





June 2022



Pictured are candidates and citizens mingling at the last in-person Politics in St. Johns at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall in 2018. The event, while held virtually in 2020, is back on July 27 from 5-7 p.m. Politics in St. Johns connects voters with candidates and events are held in Ponte Vedra Beach (July 27) and in St. Augustine (Aug. 11).

Online Candidate registration is open at the Chamber website, www.sjcchamber.com or contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 904-829-5681.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



Dear members,

The Florida legislature finished its regular 2022 Session in Tallahassee, approving a \$112-billion budget for the new fiscal year that begins July 1, 2022. On June 2, Gov. DeSantis issued line-item vetoes totaling \$3.13 billion. The complete list of programs cut from the budget can be found at: bit.ly/30m9O4s. An important win was the free-standing, Chambersupported multi-year reauthorization and 2022/2023 \$50-million appropriation for Visit Florida, the state's tourism development agency. Gov. DeSantis signed Visit Florida's reauthorization into law earlier this month. Other issues the Chamber, through its Public Policy Committee, engaged with this year include workforce housing funds (received \$363 million; the most in 16 years!) and the ultimate elimination of the sales tax on commercial leases (still on track to decrease from 5.50% to 2% in the fall of 2022 as a result of last year's legislation).

The St. Johns County Commission held a three-day "Administrator's Budget Review" last month to analyze revenues/expenditures in preparation for the 2023 budget. Of special note was the economic development discussion and a request for additional funding for the Chamber's Economic Development Council which works closely with the SJC Economic Development team to attract new businesses and enable existing businesses to grow in the county.

The well-attended Chamber's June Economic Development Breakfast focused upon St. Johns County at the Crossroads/The Management of Growth, and featured Board of County Commissioners Chair Henry Dean discussing the proposed 1% sales tax increase devoted to infrastructure, affordable workforce housing, worker training and the overall management of growth in St. Johns County.

The Chamber's vice chair, Beth Sweeny, has won a full term as a City of St. Augustine Beach commissioner as no candidate filed to run against her by the June 17 deadline. Also re-elected for another term was state Rep. Cyndi Stevenson, who faced no opposition.

I look forward to seeing you at the political candidates meet-and-greet event, Politics in St. Johns, on July 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. This event is organized by the Chamber to give residents an opportunity to meet candidates running for office before casting their vote.

Isabelle Renault

President and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Change is in the Air!

Summer's heat is not slowing down the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Members are busy meeting increased demand for their products and services and attending Chamber events to network and learn

A key activity is preparing two Town Halls (Ponte Vedra Beach on July 27 and St. Augustine on Aug. 11) for all to meet the candidates. Look for more details in this issue of Connections and see you there.

Remember, the Chamber operates the Ponte Vedra Beach Visitor Information Center at 200 Solana Road, Ste. B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Stop by for a map, brochure, magazine, etc. We also have information about Chamber businesses on display.

See you soon,
Karen Everett
Director, Ponte Vedra Beach Division
St. Johns County Chamber of
Communes

Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast set for Sept. 23

The most prestigious of any Chamber event series, the Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast Series highlights prominent keynote speakers and provides high-level panel discussions pertaining to key issues in economic growth and development.

Topics also include political and policy discussions, which are designed to equip business leaders with key information they need to know to help manage and grow their businesses and keep them informed of relevant issues.

Average attendance for these events ranges from 150 to 200 and guests include many high-level executives from various industries in the Northeast Florida region.

The Sept. 23 event will be held at World Golf Village. While it is not yet open for registration, readers are encouraged to save the date.

For more information, contact the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce office at 904-829-5681.

CHAMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

PVB Division Chamber at Noon

Date: Wednesday, July 13, 11:30 a.m. to

Speaker: Raghu Misra, founder/owner,

I ocation:

Location: The link in Nocatee **Sponsor:** Fields Auto Group and The

Link

PVB Division Chamber After Hours

Date: Wednesday, July 20, 5:30-7 p.m. **Location:** Coastal Compass Executive Suites in Nocatee, 4210 Valley Ridge Blvd.

Sponsor: Coastal Compass Executive

Suites

PVB Division Chamber Before Hours

Date: Wednesday, Aug. 3, 8-9 a.m. **Location:** The DRIPBaR, 90 Shops Blvd.,

Unit 40, St. Johns **Sponsor:** The DRIPBaR

CONNECTIONS 17 Ponte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022

Bike Haven ribbon cutting

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce joined The Bike Haven St. Johns for its ribbon cutting and to welcome the business to the neighborhood.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce





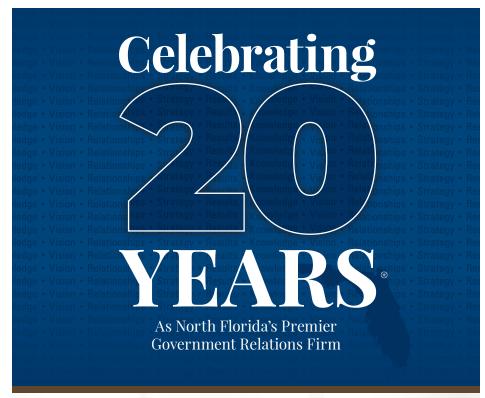
Quiet Tiger ribbon cutting

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce members, board members, ambassadors and friends gathered June 15 to cut the ribbon and officially open Quiet Tiger Acupuncture & Functional Medicine in Nocatee. Dr. Emily Glasser wielded the scissors and treated attendees to a demonstration, explanation, goodie bags, door prizes and refreshments.

> Photos provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Kathleen Floryan at Quiet Tiger



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18 CONNECTIONS Ponte Vedra Recorder June 30, 2022

'Politics in St. Johns' events connect voters with candidates

Candidates urged to reserve tables

Voters are invited to meet candidates for elected office at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce "Politics in St. Johns" town halls planned for July 27 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and Aug. 11 at the Solomon Calhoun Center in St. Augustine. Both events are 5-7 p.m.

"We are so proud to be able to bring these events to the residents of St. Johns County," said Isabelle Renault, president/ CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "The record turnout from the residents who live throughout the county



for these events reinforces our belief that we provide a platform for important discussions and decisions to be made."

According to Bob Porter, the Chamber's vice president, public policy, "The elected officials at every level of government make decisions that affect our lives. and I am happy to see so many people taking advantage of an opportunity that will help them make an informed decision when entering the voting booth."

In 2020, the Chamber hosted virtual candidate expos due to the pandemic and estimated more than 500 people and more than 40 candidates attended the in-person events in Ponte Vedra Beach and St. Augustine in 2018.

Sponsorships are available for the Politics in Johns events. Online candidate registration is open at https://www. sjcchamber.com/events/details/politics-stjohns-ponte-vedra-7-27-22-8476?calend arMonth=2022-07-01 and candidates can contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 904-829-5681.

To find out more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member, go to www.sjcchamber.com, call 904-829-5681 or find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sjc-



Kari Zerrahn, Lori Adams, Jackie Smith, Felicia Cox, Gloria Dongara, Christine Ondek, Michael

Chamber After Hours at Sawgrass Marriott

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its Chamber After Hours event May 25. Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa was the host. It was an evening of networking, food and fun.

Photos by Susan Griffin



St. Johns County Board of Directors Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chair Matt Price, speaks as Karen Everett, division executive director, looks on.

Hydro Infusions ribbon cutting

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce took part in the ribbon cutting for Hydro Infusions. Dr. Travis Jeffords DNP wielded the big scissors.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce







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Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosts Chamber Before Hours

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center's Nocatee location hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Before Hours event April 5. It offered a networking opportunity for local business leaders while enjoying some coffee and breakfast.





Dr. Erika Hamer



Isabelle Renault and Matt Price



Coffee was available to purchase for those attending the Chamber's Before Hours event April 5.



Keeping up to date on elections

St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes spoke May 18 at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Chamber at Noon event. She talked about the upcoming election, redistricting and her new website. Fields Auto Group sponsors the luncheons.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Karen Everett, director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, right, stands next to St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes.

Why has Kathleen been involved with the Chamber since 2004?

Answer: The business connections that can be made one on one with persons most important to increasing my business brand awareness is priceless.

Why should any business become a member of the Chamber of Commerce?

Answer: see Answer above and call to join today.

Don't forget to **VOTE** for me in the **2022 Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra Contest** in the **Waterfront Real Estate**, **Condo** and **Relocation** categories – www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2022



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20 CONNECTIONS Ponte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022

New York Butcher Shoppe joins Chamber

The New York Butcher Shoppe officially joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division with a grand re-opening ribbon cutting ceremony as the business is under new ownership. New York Butcher Shoppe is located at 240 A1A N., Unit 4 in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Photo by Susan Griffin



DRIPBaR ribbon cutting

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce participated in the ribbon cutting for DRIPBaR St. Johns on May 13.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Edie Williams State Farm ribbon cutting

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce members gathered at Edie Williams' new State Farm Insurance Agency in Ponte Vedra Beach for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Board members, ambassadors and the State Farm team took part.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



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

By Anthony Richards

The Palm Valley Veterinary Center and Dr. Louis Mack wants 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. "I 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 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.

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



Photo by Susan Griffir

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

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 comfortable 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.

CONNECTIONS 21 Ponte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022

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22 CONNECTIONSPonte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022

Hotworx ribbon cutting

HOTWORX St. Johns, located in Durbin Pavilion, held its grand opening celebration on Friday, June 24. The festivities included food and drinks, local vendor booths, prizes and giveaways, a live dj performance and balloon artists.

Photo by Susan Griffin



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. Vote now through July 25th. Readers can vote for their favorite business in each category once per day. Help your favorites win and VOTE!

Ribbon cut for The Great Greek Mediterranean Grille

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for The Great Greek Mediterranean Grille, which is located in the growing County Road 210 West area.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



St. Johns Sport and Spine Chiropractic ribbon cutting

In May, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony for St. Johns Sport and Spine Chiropractic.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerc



CONNECTIONS 23 Ponte Vedra Recorder June 30, 2022

First Horizon hosts Chamber After Hours

First Horizon Bank hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division After Hours event April 27. It was a night full of networking, food and fun for all that attended.

Photo by Susan Griffin



First Horizon Bank had a tent setup outside of its location on A1A as it hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division After Hours event April 27.

Truist holds ribbon cutting, **Before Hours with Chamber**

Truist Bank held a ribbon cutting ceremony during a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Before Hours event that it hosted at its Nocatee location May 11.











THE PICKLE GARDEN

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24 CONNECTIONS Ponte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce 2022 Golf Classic was held May 16 on the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club Ocean Course. Here are the winners:

1st Place: Team Cecil W. Powell — Luke Gowen, Bill Toth and Gerry Lee

2nd Place: Team Florid Blue — Sid Roberson, Mike Graves, Brian Adcock and Tim Simokonis

3rd Place: Legacy Roofing — Kayleb Burritt, Jeremy Janes, Dylan Adams, Shane Moore







Photo by Susan Griffin



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Update

Isabelle Renault, president/CEO of the St. John's Chamber of Commerce, welcomed and introduced speakers for the Chamber's 2022 Legislative Update on May 6. Speakers consisted of state Sen. Travis Hutson, state Rep. Paul Renner, state Rep Cyndi Stevenson, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners Vice Chair Christian Whitehurst, St. Augustine Vice Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline and St. Augustine Beach Mayor Don Samora. Sponsors were Auld & White Constructors, LLC, The Fiorentino Group, Stellar, Waste Management, Foley & Lardner LLP and Sight and Sound Productions.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce





Dean addresses growth in the county

Aimee Stafford, vice president of operations, and Scott Maynard, director of economic development for St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce welcomed Henry Dean, the county's District 5 commissioner, to the Chamber's quarterly Economic Development Breakfast on June 3. Dean spoke about the management of growth in the county. The breakfast was held at World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort.

Photos provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce





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Hurricane preparedness

Kelly Wilson, deputy director of emergency management for St. Johns County, was the speaker for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Chamber at Noon meeting on June 16 at Pusser's Bar and Grille. She spoke about hurricane preparedness for businesses and the 2022 predictions. Fields Auto Group sponsors the luncheons, and the event sponsor was Bates Hewett & Floyd Insurance.

Photos provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce







Chamber Before Hours at Flagler Health+ Palencia

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its June 9 Chamber Before Hours event at Flagler Health+ Palencia. It was a morning of networking, food and fun.

Photos provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



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Grand opening preview of Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County Hospital

Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County opens July 6. To celebrate, we are hosting a fun-filled family preview!

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July 1 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



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JACKSONVILLE'S LUXURY AUTO GROUP

Hair colorist learned trade from master Hollywood stylist

By Shaun Ryan

At first, Robert Sugden resisted his friend's advice to pursue a hair-styling career. He was happy working in wardrobe styling. It was an exciting field and appealed to his creative nature.

But later, while he was doing marketing for a jewelry company, his mind kept turning back to his friend's advice. And in 2014, he enrolled in a beauty school with the goal of becoming a colorist and hair stylist.

But upon graduation, he felt the training was insufficient

Far superior was the training he would soon receive while assisting celebrated Hollywood colorist Steven Tapp, whom Madonna once called "a humble genius."

Introduced by the same friend who had suggested the career change, Sugden went on to learn a great deal from Tapp, who taught him all he knew about color formulation.

"He was an amazing artist, and I was so honored to work with him." Sugden said.

On Tapp's advice, Sugden went to work at a small salon, building his clientele while continuing to assist in working with Hollywood celebrities.

"There are a lot of really nice people who I've worked with," Sugden said. "Ricky Martin's the nicest guy alive. He was wonderful. We worked with him a lot. He's just such a class act. Rosie Huntington-Whiteley was wonderful. I should also mention Joan Rivers. She was the nicest, sweetest person."

He worked on "The Ellen Show" and with many other celebrities. Most recently, he was in Pittsburgh working on a series for Amazon Prime — "A League

of Their Own," based on the 1992 film about a women's professional baseball team and scheduled to premiere on Aug. 12.

In addition, Sugden has done the hair styling for weddings, photo shoots, parties, galas and charity events

Recently, Sugden felt he needed a change of scenery and moved nearly 2,500 miles from Los Angeles to Ponte Vedra Beach.

"I decided to just come and see if I liked it," he said. "Try something different."

He is currently working out of Sparrow Salon, 830 A1A N., Suite 3. He specializes in working with blonde hair and does extensions, hand-tied wefts, tape-ins and toppers.

He also does balayaging, a French technique that literally involves "painting" the highlights on hair, an approach that differs from foiling. It tends to highlight the mid-length to the ends of the hair while leaving a more natural root. The result can be very effective.

"I always say, 'Your hair is your biggest accessory," said Sugden, who keeps up on the latest developments in the field.

He said he enjoys talking with his clients, comparing these conversations to therapy — for both the client and himself. He calls it "hair-apy."

"I think the interesting thing about hair is you attract people who are like you," he said. "You fall in love with your clients. You enjoy seeing people. I think that's what I love the most."

Sugden can be found on Instagram @RobertSugdenHair. He can be reached by email at Sugdenrobert@gmail.com and by phone at 904-610-0198.

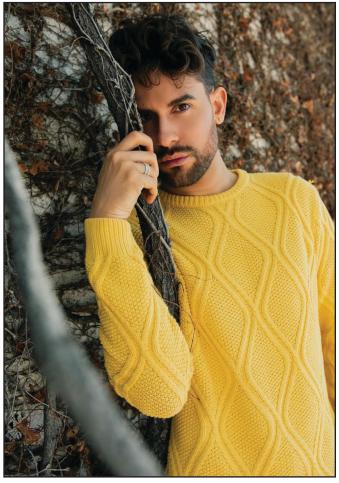
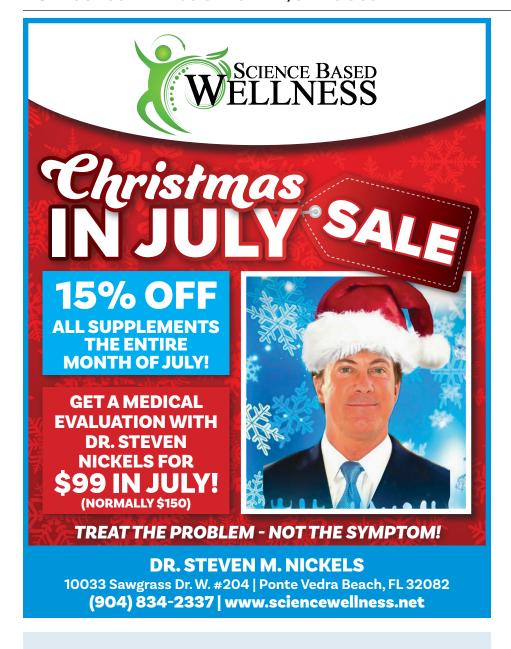


Photo provided by Robert Sugden

Robert Sugden, a master colorist and hair stylist, developed many of his skills while assisting one of Hollywood's top stylists, Steven Tapp.





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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Protect yourself from the Sun's UV rays

To the Editor:

I am writing to inform you of an urgent issue that should be of concern to Ponte Beach residents. My name is Jairo Hernandez, and I am a medical student at the University of Florida College of Medicine. I moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 2013, and at the time I didn't notice that a very common activity in our town is putting our lives in danger.

In medical school, our curriculum highlights the serious long-term consequences associated with a fun trip for Ponte Vedra Beach residents: going to the

In the U.S., the number of adults treated for skin cancer each year is increasing dramatically. Sunburn is an indicator of skin damage caused by ultraviolet radiation, and it has been tightly associated with the development of skin cancer (a person's risk of developing skin cancer doubles if they have had more than five sunburns). Studies have shown that people aged 13-18, whites and those at beach locations along the East Coast are at the highest risk for sunburn, making Ponte Vedra Beach especially susceptible to the dangers of the sun.

On top of the increased risk of skin cancer, sunburns lead to deep wrinkles, skin discoloration, accelerated skin aging and eye damage. Fortunately, a lot of these dangers are easily preventable.

The Mayo Clinic recommends reducing sun exposure with hats, clothing and sunglasses and avoiding the sun between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Most importantly, sunscreen should be used frequently and generously (SPF 30 or greater every two hours).

We can become so accustomed to beach life that we forget the real dangers of the Sun's UV rays. I implore all Ponte

Vedra Beach residents to protect themselves from the blazing sun this summer, and to have fun!

Jairo Hernández **University of Florida College of Medicine** M.D. Candidate | Class of 2025



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30 NOCATEE HAPPENINGSPonte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022



Danny Yakel demonstrates a move in his Brazilian Jiu Jitsu class at the link.



One advantage to teaching his Brazilian Jiu Jitsu classes at the link is that instructor Danny Yakel is able to include his children in the training.



Photos provided by Danny Yakel

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu instructor Danny Yakel shows off a banner for his business. Protactx.

Jiu Jitsu classes build confidence, self-defense skills

By Shaun Ryan

Danny Yakel doesn't pull punches when he speaks about his love for Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

"Jiu Jitsu changed my life," he says. "It's made me a better person."

Now, Yakel — a black belt in his martial art of choice — wants to share what he's learned with others in the Ponte Vedra area. He teaches classes for both children and adults, as well as a women's-only self-defense class at the link in Nocatee.

It's an ideal discipline, especially for the latter group, as the practitioner does not have to be powerful or physically large. It's all about technique.

"Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is a martial art based in self-defense," Yakel said. "It uses leverage, angles and techniques for a smaller person to have an advantage over a larger person."

Yakel said he is supportive of strong women and, "I hate, hate, hate bullies — especially men thinking they can bully women."

He has seen the women in his classes grow in confidence as they learn that they have the ability to defend themselves. And sometimes that confidence is enough to deter an attacker. Yakel teaches his students to use their voices during an encounter to project that confidence.

"We're not making MMA fighters out of them," he said. "But we're giving them the confidence to stand taller, be stronger and not be afraid."

And, when necessary, fend attackers off with skills learned in class.

"The number one thing we teach is: have fun," he said. "The second thing we teach is: You will never be a victim."

In his other adult classes, Yakel and his assistants teach the skills in a traditional, straight-forward way. But in the children's classes, they incorporate games and little competitions to hold his students' interest.

Colored belts designating progress also help keep interest high. There are belts for children and belts for adults, but the latter are available only to students who are at least 16. The progression is white, blue, purple, brown and — for those who are at least 18 — black. In between, stripes are added to the belts to denote progress.

The belt colors terminate at red, though that's not a color you will generally see.

"Those are the masters," Yakel said. "Those are the guys who have been training 40, 50, 60 years."

A lifelong journey

Originally from Wisconsin, Yakel joined the military when he was 17. That's when he began practicing Tae Kwon Do. Then, he joined the U.S. Army Special Forces in 1996 and discovered Midori Yama Budokai Japanese Jiu Jitsu and worked his way up to third-degree blackbelt. He also trained extensively in Muay Thai kickboxing, modern army combatives and Aikido.

In 2004, he took up Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. And, though he has earned his first-degree blackbelt in that martial art, he continues to train 18 years later.

"It's a lifelong journey," he said. "It's not something you start and it just ends."

He studies under Master Luiz Palhares, and eighth-degree coral belt and probably one of the highest ranking practitioners on the East Coast. In an art that respects origins and continuity, it is notable that Palhares — and by extension, Yakel — can trace his lineage in very short order to the legendary Gracie family, who established Brazilian Jiu Jitsu as a spinoff of the Japanese martial art.

Yakel has had to use his skills in combat and in street fights.

"I've used it when people have been

trying to kill me," he said. "So, I know it works."

A huge advantage

Yakel pointed out some of the benefits of Jiu Jitsu beyond self-defense. He said the training itself shapes the student and gives them confidence. Its demands prompt students to eat better, lose weight, get healthier.

It also helps elevate a person's mood and reinforce coping mechanisms.

"Say you're working at your job, and you let things stress you out that you shouldn't," Yakel said. "Now, you train Jiu Jitsu and you realize: Man, I just spent the last hour and a half with 15 guys who were trying to kick my butt — and I've dealt with it. I feel good. Now, I'm able to handle the stressful situation."

He called it a "huge advantage" to be able to teach at the link because it saves him from having to fund all the expenses associated with launching a new business, though that is his eventual goal.

"I can't thank Gurpreet and Raghu (Misra) enough for giving me the opportunity to teach here," he said.

The Misras opened the link one year ago at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra Beach.

Yakel teaches adults 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. and 8-9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Kids' classes are 6-7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Women's self-defense is taught 7-8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Because these classes are open to link members only, Yakel has launched eightweek introductory classes in Jiu Jitsu for adults and children and women's selfdefense for members and nonmembers alike. Then, nonmembers may choose to continue their studies by joining the link.

For more information or to sign-up, go to the link.zone/getactive and click the appropriate category.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Danny Yakel offers classes in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu at the link.

A retired Green Beret with black belts in both Japanese and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and proficiency in other combat forms, Danny Yakel has trained members of the U.S. Army Special Forces, U.S. Army Rangers, U.S. Navy SEALS, U.S. **Air Force Special Operations** and U.S. Marine Corps Force Recon. He has been an instructor for various federal agencies and has trained local law enforcement and federal agents assigned to high threat locations around the globe.

He has competed and won medals in several tournaments in the United States and Peru.

To learn more about Yakel and his business, go to protactxbjj.com. To learn more about training offered by Palhares, go to jacksonvillegraciejiujitsu.com.

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DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

The City of Atlantic Beach hosted its Inaugural Canine Carnivale June 11. The event featured a variety of fun options for the more than 125 dogs and their owners that attended, including pet-themed vendors, costume contests and demonstrations.

Photos courtesy of City of Atlantic Beach



The event had several pet-themed vendors.



Pets and their owners took part in the inaugural Canine Carnivale hosted by the City of Atlantic Beach.



Atlantic Beach commissioner Candace Kelly with her dog, George.



Dogs showed their patriotic flare during the event.



A trio of Papillons and their owners.



Bonsai was one of many dogs that enjoyed the event.



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For MORE business news, go to facebook.com/ ThePVRecorder PAGE 32 THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Stumpy's aims for entertainment bullseye

Axe throwing business opens location in Jacksonville

By Anthony Richards

Businesses are always looking for new ways to provide entertainment to the public, and that is exactly the case for Stumpy's Hatchet House, which recently opened a location in the Springfield area of Jacksonville.

The idea for the business came about in 2015 through the most grassroot of circumstances.

Owners Stu and Kelly Josberger were living up in the Northeast and had been looking to start a new business venture.

They were hanging out at a friend's house in the backyard when suddenly Stu started chopping wood from a tree that had fallen during Hurricane Sandy.

Eventually it led to the friends throwing the axe at a stump and the group created a game out of it, and they realized how much fun it was.

"There had been a business model for it in Canada, but not in the U.S.," Stu Josberger said.

As a result, the first location was opened in 2016 in Eatontown, New Jersey.

"Being the first in the country, we realized we quickly realized we were onto something," Kelly Josberger said.

The sudden interest continued to grow to the point where they decided to franchise the company just one year after opening it.

"It's pretty unheard of to franchise a business after one year, but the demand was there and it was an opportunity we could not pass up," Stu Josberger said. "We sold 30 (locations) and built 28 in four years."

Despite being a franchise, the Josbergers still own two of the 32 locations open across the states, with Jacksonville being one of them

Choosing to introduce Stumpy's to the Northeast Florida area was an easy choice for the couple, who now call Jacksonville home.

For the Josbergers, it is obvious why the business became an instant hit, because it is so unique in so many ways.

"Not many people have usually thrown a hatchet or even picked one up," Stu Josberger said.

The hatchets used are 14 inches and the location consists of seven "pits" that have two targets each and can hold up to 10 people.

"They get super excited when they ring the bullseye bell," Stu Josberger said.

Everyone is required to receive training prior to entering the playing whether they



Stumpy's Hatchet House recently held a ceremony to open its 32nd location nationally and first in Jacksonville.

have experience or not.

The training not only teaches about proper throwing techniques but also gives tips and rules with safety in mind.

However, it is not just hatchet throwing that customers can take part in, but the location also has shuffleboard and giant ganga.

"We offer rustic games that help people get away from social media," Kelly Josberger said. "They put down their electronic devices for the most part while they're here." Photos courtesy of Stumpy's Hatchet House



Participants that land a bullseye get the honor of ringing the bullseye bell.

According to Stu Josberger, more than 800,000 people have gone through the 32 locations over the years with no major incidents to report.

Private and corporate team building events can be reserved at the location.

"We encourage people to try it out," Stu Josberger said. "Once they do, we're sure they'll be back for more."

For more information about the business, go to Stumpy's social media outlets @Stumpy's Jax on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube.

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Mega Open House Weekend is July 9-10

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty's Mega Open House Weekend returns on July 9-10. Dozens of open house viewings are planned. The listings encompass homes in a wide range of prices, styles and neighborhoods in Northeast Florida.

In June, the company's Mega Open House event hosted more than 50 inperson open houses with virtual open houses on social media to ensure maximum reach and engagement.

Go to OpenHouseNEFlorida.com for a list of open houses.

Hispanic Chamber announces Excellence in Business Award winners

The First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce held its third Excellence in Business Awards breakfast June 21 to recognize leaders in the Hispanic community and celebrate their accomplishments. The Marriott Sawgrass Golf Resort & Spa was filled with key influencers in the community.

The 2022 Excellence in Business Awards winners are:

- Rising Star: Adriel Rocha, Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation
- Up and Coming Business of the Year: MiAddvantage Global Marketing and Communication
- Woman in Business: Erika Weitz, Unidos en la Musica
- Business Leader of the Year: Belkis Plata. Plata Schott Law
- Small Business of the Year: Incer Global Services
- Corporate Business of the Year: Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation

The speakers panel consisted of: Jonel Hein, SBA deputy district director; Jorge

Lopez, vice president of sales at iHeart Media; Dr. Mark C. Dawkins, professor of accounting at Coggin College of Business, University of North Florida; and Vince Caicedo, branch manager at Planet Home Lending.

Betzy Santiago, strategist, volunteer and communicator, emceed the event.

The event was sponsored by:

- Silver sponsors: Bank of America, VyStar Credit Union and Arlington Toyota
- Bronze sponsors: Jacksonville Jaguars and EMED Multispecialty Group
- Business sponsors: Chase and Meta Painting Contractors
- Awards sponsor: Jacksonville Jag-
- In-kind sponsors: DEX Imaging, Encore, DecoFruit and MiAddvantage Global Marketing and Communication

The First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Excellence in Business Awards ceremony is one of the organization's annual signature events where successful leaders who have exhibited an outstanding job in their industries and in the community are recognized. Previous ceremonies were first held in 2016 and again in 2019 when it was changed to an annual event; however, due to COVID, the event was postponed to 2022.

The First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's strategic and corporate partners are Florida Blue, iHeart Media, Southeastern Grocers, Prospera USA, Prosperity Home Mortgage, Norsan Media, VyStar Credit Union and MiAddvantage Global Marketing and Communication.

The First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was created to encourage and promote sound, ethical and successful business practices in the Hispanic community and to further the recognition of Hispanic heritage and culture through educational endeavors.

The organization's mission is to positively impact the regional economy by creating value, promoting and facilitating



Contributed Photo

Monica Hernandez, president and CEO of the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, stands for a photo with the winners of the organization's 2022 Excellence in Business

the success of Hispanic owned businesses and by engaging the community at large.

For more information about the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, go to fehce.com.

Underwood trunk show benefits Angelwood

Underwood Jewelers hosted a trunk show with proceeds from the event donated to Angelwood, which is a Jacksonville nonprofit with the mission of assisting families in their care of loved ones with special needs regardless of whether they are a child or an adult.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Carol Maurer, Chris Tchorznicki and Cyndi King.



Lori Adams and Liesl Savage.



Sara Wagoner with Angelwood.



Jenny Schroeder, John Rutkowski and Robin





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In the Arts

Send your arts news to news@pontevedrarecorder.com

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

EMMA Concert Association announces 44th Season

First of six shows to feature music from cartoons

EMMA Concert Association has announced its 44th season of shows, offering a variety of live music and dance from September 2022 through March 2023 in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College.

Tickets for all six concerts are available at emmaconcerts.com or by calling 904-797-2800.

Opening the season on Sept. 10, The Queen's Cartoonists will present a family-friendly show that features live music from classic cartoons and contemporary animation, synchronized to video projections of the original films.

The six band members from Queens, New York, lead the audience through a world of virtuosic musicianship, multiinstrumental mayhem and comedy. The concert is for everybody — regardless of age, gender or familiarity with the concert hall.

Other upcoming concerts in EMMA's 44th season include the Hollywood Concert Orchestra on Oct. 30, The Gainesville Orchestra's Holiday Concert on Dec. 14, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra on Jan. 22, the Ocala Symphony Orchestra on Feb. 4 and Dance Alive National Ballet on March 18.

"We are thrilled to host these wonderful music and dance concerts for the St.

Augustine community and its visitors," said Joanne Everett, president of EMMA Board of Directors. "With the exception of The Queen's Cartoonists, the other five talented groups are from throughout Florida, highlighting the amazing performing arts in our Sunshine State.'

Tickets to concerts are \$50 for adults and \$10 for students, with the exception of The Gainesville Orchestra's Holiday Concert, with tickets available for \$60

All tickets include free parking at the St. Johns County Council on Aging, 180 Marine St., St. Augustine. Guests will then be transported to and from the concert venue by shuttle service. Parking is not available at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College.

Season Subscriptions also are available, with reservations due by July 31. Learn more at emmaconcerts.com/ticketinformation or call the EMMA ticket office at 904-797-2800.



The Hollywood Concert Orchestra will perform on Oct. 30.



Contributed photos

The Queen's Cartoonists will open the EMMA Concert Association's 44th season with music from classic cartoons and contemporary animation.



The Gainesville Orchestra's Holiday Concert is scheduled for Dec. 14.



The Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra will perform on Jan. 22.



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Limelight Theatre presents 'Dial M for Murder'

The Limelight Theatre is presenting "Dial M for Murder" in its Koger-Gamache Black Box Theatre through July 17. The show opened on Friday, June 24. The story is familiar to fans of the Alfred Hitchcock film.

For tickets, go to ci.ovationtix. com/34666/production/1076922. For further information, go to limelight-theatre. org/dial-m-for-murder.

The Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine.

Ponte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022



Alhambra founder Ted Johnson has a conversation with then-artistic director George Ballis in 1967 on the land where the dinner theater would be built along Beach Boulevard in Jacksonville.

Alhambra

ing in Jackson-

ville recently

lost one of its

founders with

the passing of

Ted Johnson at

up with the ini-

tial idea for the

Alhambra, and

his vision is still

54 years later

Johnson came

86 years old.

Theater and Din-



Photos courtesy of Alhambra Theater and Dining

The Alhambra Dinner Theater in the early years.

Alhambra founder's legacy lives on years later

By Anthony Richards



Ted Johnson recently passed away at 86 years old. He helped create the Alhambra Dinner Theater in Jacksonville.

going strong.

Current Alhambra owner Craig Smith initially met Johnson years ago before he became owner of the theater in 2009, as they were both Rotarians.

Smith was always amazed at the great foresight Johnson demonstrated in the

creation of the theater.

"The man made decisions in 1967 that still have a lasting effect on myself and others today," Smith said. "Without him, there would not be an Alhambra."

One of the things that Smith enjoyed most was the appreciation he often received from Johnson.

"I did not have a conversation with him in the last 10 years without either he or his wife mentioning how proud they were with how the theater turned out all these years later," Smith said.

Chuck Day was able to get acquainted with Johnson while he was working on gathering information for the Alhambra's 50th anniversary publication in 2017.

Day recalled that Johnson had his share of doubters that questioned whether building a theater along Beach Boulevard was the right financial thing to do.

"Back then, Beach Boulevard west of Kernan, where the theater is today, was in the middle of nowhere," Day said. Although Johnson stepped away from his ownership role with the theater in the 1970s, it still held a special place in his heart, which Day said remained evident decades later.

However, the theater made quite the name for itself in those early days, as it hosted some bigtime Hollywood stars in its productions, including being the site of Betty Grable's last performance in

Other stars to grace the stage in Johnson's days of ownership were Don Ameche, Vivian Vance and Mickey Rooney.

"At one point during the late '60s and '70s, there were hundreds of dinner theaters across the country," Day said. "The Alhambra is now the oldest continually operated dinner theater in the country. I would argue that it is stronger now than it ever has been. It's got a strong following, and it has continued to be the thing to do in Jacksonville."

Alhambra customer experience manager Becky Uibel is one who has been part of that strong following throughout the years.

She remembers seeing shows there with her mom growing up and has now worked 27 years with the theater. She even met her husband at the theater.

"Ted just had an appreciation of theater," Uibel said. "There are a lot of people that wouldn't have their families without his influence on their lives," Uibel said. "He touched a lot of lives, even more than he knew."

Not only did Johnson leave a lasting mark on the local performing arts scene, but he also played an important role in helping put Jacksonville on the map as a place that can offer top notch professional entertainment.

"The local leaders owe a big thanks to Ted for everything that he was able to accomplish and make happen," Smith said.

Dee Roberts featured artist for July

Butterfield Garage Gallery will present Dee Roberts as its featured artist for July.

Roberts is highly recognized for her diverse skills. During July, her nature-inspired works will be on display through-



Contributed photos

out the gallery. An artist talk at 6 p.m. on First Friday, July 1, will present an opportunity to hear about her inspirations and processes.

Roberts' goal as an artist is to catch the spirit of what she sees, in abstract form as well as through naturalistic nature and wildlife paintings. Regardless of the medium, her finished works are stunning. She works flawlessly with pastels, watercolor, collage and acrylic, and has garnered many top awards around Florida and Georgia with each of them.

She consistently surprises the viewer with the strength and confidence in her work. With minimal brushstrokes her subjects come to life, seemingly ready to jump off the canvas.

Her work has been displayed in all the major museums and galleries in the Jacksonville area. Roberts had a two-person show at the Cummer and has art in the permanent collections of the University of North Florida, St. Johns Country Day School, at AT&T and in the homes of many private collectors.

Roberts went to the Philadelphia College of Art with a major in Illustration. She has won numerous awards for best painting, best pastel, best figure and best watercolor painting. In 2010, she was

named Watercolor Artist of the Year.

She has attained signature status in the Florida Watercolor Society and was juried into the National Watercolor Society's 2014 International Watercolor Show.

She has had several important solo shows and currently shows at Butterfield Garage Art Gallery, located at 137 King St., St. Augustine.

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Potential at its purest form

Chloe Pierce wins European Junior title as 9-year-old

By Anthony Richards

Summer is a special time for children, and for Chloe Pierce of Ponte Vedra Beach, she started it off with a bang by winning the 2022 European Junior Golf Championship in the 9-year-olds division earlier this month.

The event was held at Longniddry Golf Club in East Lothian, Scotland, and is considered the second largest junior golf tournament in the world for golfers younger than 13 years old, only behind the world championship.

"I really felt nervous but also knew that I was ready to play," Pierce said. "I knew I would have a chance to win, because I love playing golf and the competition gives me motivation to try and win."

Consistency was the key to Pierce's game throughout the event, as she shot 37 in each of the three rounds she played to finish at three-over par. Each round consisted of nine holes.

However, Pierce founded herself tied for the lead after all the rounds and wound up sinking a 15-foot putt on the first hole of a sudden death playoff to secure the victory with nearly 300 people huddled around the green watching.

Although the situation seemed to be a pressure-packed one, the 9-year-old remained calm and showcased a maturity for such a young age.

"I take the pressure that I have on the course to motivate me instead of having it mess me up," Pierce said.



Chloe Pierce and her brother Stephen both qualified and competed in their respective divisions at the tournament.

Her confidence continued to build as the tournament went on, and she began to realize winning the event was a possibility after her brother Stephen told her she was in the lead after the first day.

When she saw the ball go into the cup for the final time following the putt, she and her family were overcome with emotions.

"I was speechless and could not even talk, so I just hugged my dad," Pierce said.

It was a family victory in many ways, as her dad was her caddie, and her brother was also playing in the tournament in the 11-year-old division with their mom as his caddie.

"I really enjoy it, because you get to spend five or six hours with your kid and we're not on our phones," said Stephen Pierce, Chloe's dad. "We're just walking, talking and hitting shots."

With the win, Pierce beat an international field that consisted of many of the world's most highly ranked 9-year-old golfers.

What makes Pierce's win even more amazing is the fact that she only began playing golf about two years ago.

"She started playing because our oldest was really into golf and she would always come along and ride in the cart with us," Stephen Pierce said. "We were like, 'Hey, if we're going to go to these tournaments, you are going to start playing, too."

She made the cut to qualify for last year's tournament after just her first year playing, but her game continues to grow and after her win in Europe, she is looking forward to this year's world championship in August at Pinehurst Golf Course in North Carolina.

There were many things different about playing in Scotland compared to what Pierce was used to in Florida, including the weather conditions and the makeup of the course.

"The first round was terrible weather," Stephen Pierce said. "It was 41 degrees with wind and rain, but she played great. The good thing about her is that she doesn't get fazed emotionally."

As a result, hitting bump-and-run shots is an important aspect when playing "links" style courses, which meant that she had to adjust the way she approached the holes and the tournament in general.

PIERCE continues on Page 38



Chloe Pierce won the European Junior Golf Championship in the 9-year-olds division.



Chloe Pierce hugs her dad and caddie following her victory in a playoff.



The trip was not just about golf, as the Pierce family was able to tour Scotland prior to the event

Ponte Vedra Recorder · June 30, 2022



Overall winner Elizabeth Kondal is presented a pair of trophies by Melissa Gotfredson with the championship.



Players of all ages gathered to take part in the 2022 First Coast Women's Amateur Championship.

First Coast Women's Amateur crowns champions

By Anthony Richards

One of the largest women's golf events in the area is the First Coast Women's Amateur Championship, the latest of which was held at King & Bear golf course at World Golf Village in St. Augustine June 22 and 23.

The two-day event featured female golfers across a wide range of ages and crowned champions in three divisions.

The overall winner and amateur division champion was Elizabeth Kondal, who shot the lowest round both days with a 70 and 69 for a 139 total. Her second day score was the only round in the 60s posted during the tournament.

Tama Caldabaugh won the senior division for the fourth time thanks to rounds of 74 and 70 for a three-shot victory, while Mary Helen McElreath enjoyed a six-shot win in the super senior class.

"I love golf and competing, but I es-

pecially love supporting women's golf," Caldabaugh said. "I was on the committee that revived the tournament several years ago, so I'm going to continue to support it."

The relationships that Caldabaugh has developed over the years through the game of golf is what she cherishes the most, and the difference she has seen the championship make in helping grow the game locally among the next generation of girls.

"I don't think I ever hit it as long as they do now, but it's just great to see so many more of them (younger girls) playing, because where I grew up in South Carolina, I was probably the only one in my town," Caldabaugh said.

Kondal is an example of that growth, as a St. Johns County native who attended Bartram Trail High School and currently plays on the women's golf team at Rollins College.

She had played in the championship the past couple of years, and she believes that, as well as being familiar with the course helped a lot.

"My game has grown so much," Kondal said. "Before, I hadn't even thought about winning it, but I thought I could definitely do it this year. The way this course sets up is just perfect for me. I love the way it looks and the way it plays."

The thing about Kondal's game is that there is not just one area where she has seen improvement, but rather across the board.

"My game has just gotten so much tighter with more distance, and I'm hitting it closer now and making more putts," Kondal said.

Players battled the summer heat, which on the tournament's second day had a predicted high of 103 degrees.

"It gets exhausting, and I think the one

important part about the heat is staying mentally stable and being very focused," Kondal said.

That was coupled with greens that just about everyone was saying were playing fast but fair.

"It's really cool to see the different age levels and who is playing in the event," Kondal said. "The vibe of this tournament is more so to have fun, and I feel that I play better when I'm just trying to enjoy myself on the golf course instead of trying to force something."

Kondal grew up playing sports and she picked up the game of golf when she was about 11 years old, following her father who began really getting into the game around that time as well.

"There are so many parts to the game that go into it," Kondal said. "Its all about finding something that's unique to yourself and then making it work to capitalize on what your strengths are."



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	CROSSWORD														
			1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9			
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			53						54				55		
		56					57		58						
		59							60						

ACROSS

- 1. Basics
- 4. In a new way
- 10. __ Paulo, city
- 11. Jailhouse
- 12. Expresses surprise
- 14. Trigraph
- 15. A small stream
- 16. Dissimilar
- 18. Promote
- 22. Gives a boost
- 23. Lawmaker
- 24. Orthodox Jews
- 26. Actor Harris
- 27. Wild cherry
- 28. Participate in
- democracy
- 30. Opposite of begins
- 31. A Brit's mother
- 34. Set of moral principles
- 36. Very fast airplane
- 37. Czech river
- 39. Private school in New
- 40. Israeli dance
- 41. Electron volt
- 42. Adjusting
- 48. Duct by the bladder
- 50. Small burger
- 51. Begin again
- 52. Unstuck
- 53. Jai ___, sport
- 54. Get free of
- 55. For instance
- 56. Hotel chain
- 58. A team's best pitcher
- 59. Extracts from various sources
- 60. Indefinite period of time

DOWN

1. St. Francis of

- 2. Supported
- 3. United in working
- 4. It cools your home
- 5. Predicting
- 6. Irritated 7. Popular talk show host
- 8. Fabric edge
- 9. A resource for employees
- 12. Broadway's Jackman
- 13. Small water buffalo
- 17. City of Angels: __
- **Angeles**
- 19. Asteroids
- 20. Tailless amphibians
- 21. German expressionist painter
- 25. What drives you
- 29. N. Vietnamese ethnic group

- 31. Gold coin used in British India
 - 32. Have deep affection for
 - 33 Ponds
 - 35. Breaks between words
 - 38. Hairstyle
 - 41. Print errors
 - 43. Family of iron alloys
 - 44. Sidelined in bed
 - 45. Many couples say it
 - 46. Brazilian hoopster
 - 47. Allman Brothers late frontman
 - 49. German city
 - 56. One hundred grams
 - (abbr.)
 - 57. One billionth of a second (abbr.)

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

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!



Members of the Ponte Vedra Thunder team celebrate their championship win at All Star Village in Cooperstown, New York.

Ponte Vedra Thunder team wins big in Cooperstown

A team from the Ponte Vedra Thunder Travel Baseball organization took top prize recently at All Star Village in Cooperstown, New York.

The team is made up of 11 Jacksonville-area 12-year-olds and is coached by Brian Hudgins, Terry Hagy and Mike Stockwell, who are also area residents and have sons on the team.

The boys went 9-2 for the week and had to win three games on the final day to get to the championship. They beat a tough team from Orlando by going up early in the game and staying composed and focused to the end. They had a combined five home runs in that game and won 16-6 in front of a large crowd of other visiting teams.

The team racked up 40 home runs during the week and faced teams from Ohio. Texas, California and New York

A trip to Cooperstown is the ultimate goal of any youth travel baseball player. Thunder raised more than \$25,000 for the trip over the last year, and more than 40 family members made the trip to support the team. It was the ultimate moment for the players and their families.

The team competes all over Florida at the Majors level and will finish up their stellar season next month at the invitation-only USSSA Elite World Series in Viera, Florida.

The team practices at Davis Park in Nocatee.

Pierce

Continued from 36

"It was very hard to hit because your hands are freezing cold," Chloe Pierce said. "The bunkers were way bigger and there were so many hills that were kind of like mini mountains. The greens were rock hard and were very fast.'

However, she was able to quickly adapt and felt comfortable with the course after just one practice round.

According to her dad, she was clutching the trophy almost the entire time on the plane ride back to the states and even used it as a pillow at times. The trophy currently has a place on the TV stand in the living room of the family's home.

"It's front and center," Kelley Pierce

The trip was not entirely about golf, as the family also made sure to take some

time to enjoy the Scottish culture in the days leading up to the tournament.

'We were able to tour Edinburgh going to the churches and castles and whatever else we could," Kelley Pierce said. "There were a lot of bagpipes, and we got to hold a barn owl. The big part for us was letting them experience and be immersed in a different culture rather than just reading about it. For us, it was a win all the way around."



Chloe Pierce (far right) beat an international field of competitors to win the championship.

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