

THE RECORDER



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October 6, 2022
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75 cents

Serving Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, The Beaches and Greater St. Johns County

PonteVedraRecorder.com



Breast Cancer Awareness
Page 10



Ponte Vedra Football
Page 28

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



Photo by Susan Griffin

St. Augustine sustained serious flooding during Tropical Storm Ian and proved disastrous for some property owners. This boat was sunk in Matanzas Bay. For more photos of the storm's aftermath, turn to page 8.

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INSIDE

One of Us

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Business Weekly

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In the Arts

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Sports

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Send us your news

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



Visit our new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

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

BRIEFS

Mystery mishaps and behind the scenes of a network TV series

Award-winning writer, editor and former owner of an interactive live murder mystery production company, John Boles will offer the Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime chapter insight this Saturday, Oct. 8, based on his personal experiences. He will discuss a few pitfalls that mystery writers should avoid. He will also share some behind-the-scenes stories from his work on the ABC prime-time mystery series "Hart

to Hart." The meeting will start at 10:15 a.m. and end by 12:45 p.m. It will be held at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

For further information, contact floridasistersincrime@gmail.com.

Good Halloween fun for a good cause

On Oct. 15, Community Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation's 18th annual

BRIEFS continues on Page 3



Covering Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, and Greater St. Johns County

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Publix weekly ad update.

Due to the effects of Hurricane Ian, our weekly ad will not be printed for your area. You can still view it online at publix.com/ad.

Thank you for your understanding.



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Briefs

Continued from 2

Halloween Doors & More will transform the Jacksonville Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall into a magical, superhero-themed day of family-friendly fun.

Halloween Doors & More will offer fun attractions with candy, toys, food, interactive experiences and live characters from 2 to 7 p.m. Trick or treat at 14-foot-high Fantasy Doors, stroll the Magical Meet and Greet Streets to see favorite costumed characters, show off dance moves in the Fiesta Family Disco, visit the Boautiful Salon for a spooktacular make-over and stop by the Grown-Up Grotto and Food Court to enjoy gourmet foods and drinks.

Proceeds benefit Community PedsCare.

Jacksonville Fairgrounds is located at 510 Fairground Place, Jacksonville.

To purchase admission, call 904-886-3883 or go to HDM.CommunityHospice.com.

Democratic Club program is 'Our Region's Waterways'

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will meet Tuesday, Oct. 18, at Christ Episcopal Church's Westbury Hall, 400 San Juan Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. "Chat & chew" is at 6 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. The

speaker is Jen Lomberk, the Matanzas Riverkeeper. The program will be "Our Region's Waterways: Trouble, Terror, or Terrific?" For more information, email jkary@verizon.net.

Palm Valley Market every Tuesday

The Palm Valley Market is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday at the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Road. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, local honey, tea, seasonal treats, soap, jewelry, plants and more.

Cleanup referrals offered

For those needing assistance with damage from Tropical Storm Ian, a home cleanup hotline has been arranged. Call 800-451-1954 to ask for help. Volunteers will connect callers with representatives of local relief organizations, community groups and faith communities who may be able to assist with cutting fallen trees; drywall, flooring and appliance removal; tarping roofs and mold mitigation. All services are free, but the service is not guaranteed due to the overwhelming need. The hotline will remain open until Oct. 28. To learn more, go to crisiscleanup.org.

Sunshine Bus running again

St. Johns County Council on Aging's Sunshine Bus resumed its normal service and schedule on Saturday, Oct. 1,

following Tropical Storm Ian. For updates, go to sunshinebus.net or call 904-209-3716.

\$7 million grant to help ease teacher shortage

The University of North Florida's College of Education and Human Services has been awarded a \$7 million partnership grant, Project PREP (Partnering to Renew the Educator Pipeline), alongside Clay County District Schools and UNF's College of Arts and Sciences to address the critical teacher shortage and create equitable teaching outcomes for every student.

Awarded by the U.S. Department of

Education, Project PREP is the largest single grant that the College of Education and Human Services has received to date. Spanning five years, the total amount awarded will be \$7,023,252, with the first-year funding at \$1,012,347.

This school-university-district partnership grant is a systemic approach to building an educator pathway to enhance recruitment, preparation, induction and retention of teachers and teacher leaders across the teacher pipeline in a high-need school district.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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Students clean up Mickler Road

Nease High School kicked off the first Beaches Go Green Mickler Road Clean-up of this year. Beaches Go Green student clubs have adopted the one-mile stretch of Mickler Road from the Mickler Beach access to the Publix roundabout. There was a large turnout and several local schools were represented including: Nease, Fletcher, Toco Creek and Providence high schools; Fletcher Middle School and Jacksonville Beach Elementary School. A total of 87 volunteers collected eight bags of trash and several large items with a \$6,036.25 total volunteer value and trash abatement contribution to the community.

Contributed photos



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Edwards & Ragatz, P.A.



David Leininger is on the planning committee for Caring Chefs, which benefits the Northeast Florida programs of The Children's Home Society of Florida. As such, he plays an important role in bringing this Jacksonville tradition back after two years' hiatus during the pandemic. Here, he tells The Recorder about the event and its importance.

David Leininger

As told to Shaun Ryan

Please tell me about Caring Chefs and how it benefits the Northeast Florida programs of The Children's Home Society of Florida.

Caring Chefs has been a Jacksonville tradition for 38 years. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold the event in 2020 and 2021. It has previously been held at the Avenues Mall, but this year we've decided to move to The Glass Factory, a more intimate location in downtown Jax. Some of the best First Coast restaurants will offer an amazing spread of quality cuisine at stations throughout the Glass Factory venue. You can roam from station to station and feast on a wide variety of dishes and drinks served by local restaurants. It's always lots of fun.

Tell me about The Children's Home Society of Florida, what it does and how important it is to children and families — especially here in Northeast Florida.

Funds raised through Caring Chefs will benefit our Northeast Florida programs and help us continue to do good for our CHS children and families. These programs include Early Childhood services, Community Partnership Schools, Buckner Place Teen Parenting and Mental Health Counseling and Services. Our ability to provide all of these and other services is dependent upon private donations to supplement other sources of revenue. To learn more, please visit <https://chsfl.org/locations/greater-nefl/>

I understand you are on the planning committee for Caring Chefs. What's involved in putting together an event of this scope?

Many volunteer and staff hours are required to pull off an event of this magnitude. We have committees to recruit restaurants, find sponsors, set up the venue, promote the event and sell tickets. With restaurants facing labor shortages, restaurant recruiting has been particularly challenging this year. We're extremely grateful for those restaurants that are participating. It's shaping up to be an amazing event!

If readers are interested in getting tickets or purchasing sponsorship packages, how might they do so?

Tickets, along with information about sponsorships and restaurant participation, can be obtained online at chsfl.org. You can also contact our event coordinator and CHS development manager, Kristina Curre, at Kristina.curre@chsfl.org.

How did you first become involved with The Children's Home Society and Caring Chefs?

I joined the CHS Northeast Florida Board in 2007 and have been a Caring Chefs sponsor and involved with a committee most every year. It's a great event and benefits an amazing organization that truly makes a difference both in our local community and throughout the State of Florida.

Many people have praised residents of Northeast Florida for their compassionate response to various causes. It's also a great place to live. What do you like best about this area, and when you speak with people living elsewhere, what do you tell them about our community?

I've lived in the Jacksonville area most of my adult life. It never ceases to amaze me how many people here step up and donate their time and money to those in need. I know there are many worthy organizations vying for donations this time of year, but I can personally attest to the fact that Children's Home Society is among the best and most worthy.

Editor's note: The 38th Annual Caring Chefs will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 23 at The Glass Factory, 601 Myrtle Ave. North, Jacksonville. For information and tickets, call 904-806-5811 or go to chsfl.org/chefs.



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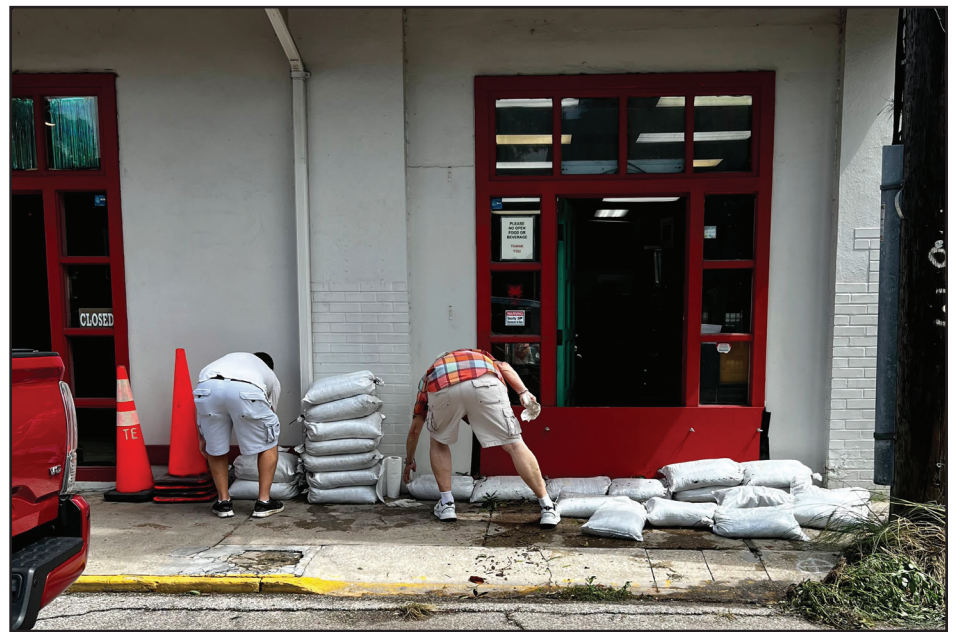


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St. Augustine businesses boarded up their storefronts to protect them from the storm.



Once the storm had passed, businesses had to begin the process of cleaning up.

County cleaning up after the storm

Now that Tropical Storm Ian has passed, residents and businesses are beginning the process of recovery. Here are a few items worth noting.

Trash collection

Residential garbage and recycling collection in St. Johns County has resumed its normal schedule now that the storm

has passed.

In addition, household and yard debris for those cleaning up after the storm may be taken to the Stratton Road Transfer Station, 250 N. Stratton Road, St. Augustine, and the Tillman Ridge Transfer Station, 3005 Allen Nease Road, Elkton. The stations are open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Those using this service are asked to separate trash from vegetation.

For information related to residential waste collection, contact the St. Johns County Solid Waste Division at 904-827-6980 or email solidwaste@sjcfl.us.

Business losses

St. Johns County business owners who have damage or loss from the storm may want to complete the Business Damage Assessment Survey at the below link through FloridaDisaster.biz, which is a partnership between the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Florida Division of Emergency Management. Survey responses help the state and counties assess the needs of affected businesses and expedite recovery efforts. To complete the survey, go to floridadisaster.biz/BusinessDamageAssessments

Disaster assistance

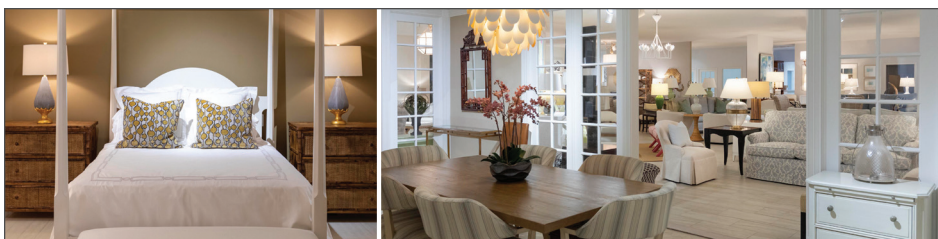
St. Johns County residents and businesses may be eligible to receive assistance for uninsured and underin-



Photos by Susan Griffin

The pavement was broken at one place in downtown St. Augustine.

STORM continues on Page 9



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Storm

Continued from 8

sured damage and losses resulting from Tropical Storm Ian. Disaster assistance may include financial help with temporary lodging and home repairs, as well as other disaster-related expenses.

Residents should notify their insurance agents of any damages sustained to their property. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance, though eligibility may be determined for expenses not covered under the policy.

Residents and businesses do not have to wait to find out if federal assistance will be available before beginning their clean-up. However, they should keep repair receipts and document damages whenever possible.

Disaster assistance applications can be submitted online at www.disasterassistance.gov, by calling 800-621-3362 between 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. or by using the FEMA mobile app (fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/mobile-products).

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and Small Business Development Center will provide additional information and resources on the Small Business Administration loan application process. For updates, go to sjcchamber.com.



A mailbox sits wrapped in plastic to protect its contents.



Plywood protects the doors on one St. Augustine business.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Utility crews were out repairing lines after the storm had passed.



This boat succumbed to the elements during Tropical Storm Ian.

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DONNA Foundation continues mission that started 20 years ago



DONNA Foundation organizers are gearing up for the 2023 Fearless Series in recognition of the foundation's two decades of fighting breast cancer and helping those impacted by it.

On June 26, 2003, the foundation officially launched with its first fundraiser in Neptune Beach. Since then, The DONNA Foundation has helped more than 17,000 families living with breast cancer through The DONNA CareLine, contributed more than \$3.3 million towards groundbreaking breast cancer research and celebrated survivorship with more than 140,000 athletes

across DONNA finish lines including The National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer.

The 2023 Fearless Series planned events will include:

- DONNA Marathon Weekend, Feb. 3-5
- DONNA Mother's Day 5K, May 6
- THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K, October 2023

This year's theme, Destination DONNA, celebrates DONNA Marathon Weekend as a destination race, bringing thousands of runners to Jacksonville from around the world. The theme also reinforces the

foundation's destination vision of a future without breast cancer as it celebrates its 20th anniversary year.

"We are so excited to share our 2023 Fearless Series events with everyone — including the "streakers" who have been with us from the beginning, and those who are just joining us in celebration of our 20th anniversary year," said Amanda Napolitano, executive director of The DONNA Foundation. "This year's theme is especially significant as we celebrate where we've been and where we're going."

"From the start, our focus has been on creating a sense of well-being in the most trying time many people will face, a cancer diagnosis," said Donna Deegan, founder of The DONNA Foundation. "I'm so incredibly proud of this community for wrapping its arms around these families and for literally running with us on this journey for 20 years. I am looking forward to celebrating all that we've accomplished together and all that's yet to come as we look to a day when cancer is a word in the medical history books."

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, The DONNA Foundation will reflect on all of the lives it has positively impacted over

the years with the support of its partners and donors and chart a course for the future and how to best serve families living with breast cancer. This includes new goals that will focus on lifting up more families who are in financial distress, paving the way for future advances in research and fostering a greater sense of wellbeing through movement.

20th anniversary goals include:

- Serve at least 2,000 patients through The DONNA CareLine by June 2023 (an almost 20% year over year increase). This is significant compared to helping only a few hundred families per year in its first few years.

- Launch a new breast cancer research seed grant program, with the goal of disbursing up to \$50,000 to qualifying health care partners in support of innovative research projects.

- Establish a new DONNA 110 Mile-A-Day Challenge, encouraging families to collectively walk 20,000 miles while focusing on living a healthy, fearless and sustainable life.

Registration for 2023 DONNA Marathon Weekend events is going on now at BreastCancerMarathon.com.



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Skin cancer screenings offered to breast cancer patients, survivors

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Advanced Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery has announced that it will offer complimentary skin cancer screenings to breast cancer patients and survivors. Complimentary screenings will be given across its network of clinics in October.

This national initiative is to raise awareness about the reciprocal link between breast cancer and melanoma, a form of skin cancer.

“Studies have found that patients with breast cancer have up to a 2.5 times greater risk of developing melanoma,” said Advanced Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery Chief Medical Officer Dr. Mark Kaufmann. “Having the BRCA2 or breast cancer gene also substantially increases the risk of melanoma. In addition, patients who have or have had melanoma have a 1.4 greater chance of developing breast cancer, making regular screenings crucial for early detection and vital for saving lives.”

Reduced access to care nationwide during COVID-19 shutdowns has raised concerns that patients may have experienced significant delays in detection and care. A study published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, an American Society of Clinical Oncology Journal, analyzed data from 143 U.S. dermatology practices (350 providers), covering 4.7 million patients across

13 states. It found the total 2020 skin cancer diagnoses trailed that of 2019 with concerns that initial diagnosis or treatment of over 1 million cases was delayed.

“Advanced Dermatology is committed to not only bringing the latest diagnostic technology available to our patients but also raising awareness of the importance of annual skin cancer screenings,” said Kaufmann. “Across our practice, we diagnose more than 100,000 occurrences of skin cancer each year and our team of world-class dermatologists, dermatopathologists, surgeons, clinicians and researchers are dedicated to performing these life-saving screenings and treating skin cancer.”

Advanced Dermatology clinics offer a number of treatments, including topical chemotherapy, freezing (cryotherapy), scraping and burning, photodynamic therapy (PDT), excisional surgery, Mohs micrographic surgery and more. Treatment plans are customized specifically to a patient’s skin cancer, skin cancer location and unique medical condition.

In addition to breast cancer patients and survivors, new patients — anyone who has not visited an Advanced Dermatology clinic in the past three years — can schedule a skin cancer screening free of charge. Appointments are limited by availability and new patients should call 844-987-3376 to schedule an appointment at a participating location. This preventive screening is

not tied to the provision of any additional services or purchase of goods.

To learn more about Advanced Dermatology, go to AdvancedDerm.com.

Advanced Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery has a Ponte Vedra location at 520 A1A North, Ste 203. The phone number is 904-567-3291.



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Several events on the First Coast focus on breast cancer



SenioRITAs 2022 Tennis Tournament

Though registration is at capacity for the tournament, people are welcome to add their names to the waitlist by filling out an online registration form. There is no charge to add a team to the waitlist; if a spot opens up, the registrant will be contacted to pay at that time.

Tournament play begins at 8 a.m. Oct. 14 at Sawgrass Racquet Club, 9175

Preston Trail East, Ponte Vedra Beach. Play continues through Oct. 16. Cost is \$135/player for the tournament, \$40 for the auction party ticket (not included in tournament fee).

The RITA (Research Is The Answer) Foundation is a Jacksonville-based volunteer nonprofit organization. Its mission is to raise awareness and money to help in the fight against all cancers, with emphasis on breast cancer.

For information, go to the-rita-foundation.org/senioritas.

Breast Cancer Lunch & Learn

A "Breast Cancer Lunch & Learn" event is planned for 2-6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, at Greater Grant A.M.E. Church, 5533 Gilchrist Road, Jacksonville. Admission is free, but registration is required. Vending and screening appointments begin at 2 p.m. Lunch & Learn is at 3 p.m. For more information, go to GreaterGrant-LunchAndLearn.eventbrite.com.

Breast Cancer Support Group

The Breast Cancer Support Group of St. Augustine meets at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in Flagler Hospital's Matanzas Room, 400 Health Park Blvd. This is an independent group, not sponsored by Flagler Hospital or any other group or society. For further information, email bcsgofsa@gmail.com.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

This is a 5k non-competitive fundraising walk at TIAA Bank Field, 1 TIAA Field Drive, Jacksonville. Opening ceremonies are at 8:45 a.m. and the walking begins at 9 a.m.

There is no registration fee or minimum donation required. Everyone is welcome. Register at www.makingstrideswalk.org/jacksonvillefl or call 1-800-227-2345.

This year, there will be entertainment, a fitness warm up before the walk, kid zone, a photo booth, "Star Wars" costumes and more.

The annual Survivors and Thrivers appreciation breakfast will be held in a V.I.P. area of the Plaza. The breakfast starts at 8 a.m.

To register for the 5k or learn more about Survivors and Thrivers, go to makingstrideswalk.org/jacksonvillefl.

To learn more about the Making Strides of the First Coast Presented by Florida Blue or for other information, call 1-800-227-2345.

Friends of Chili 12th Annual Cookoff

The 12th Annual Friends of Chili Cook-Off benefiting the Two Titmice Foundation will be held from noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 5 at Sneakers Sports Grille, 111 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach. For individual tickets or to register a team, go to twotitmicevodka.com/events.

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Girl Scouts conduct recruitment campaign for new members

The Girl Scouts of Gateway Council (GSGC) is launching its fall recruitment campaign for new members.

The council currently serves more than 6,000 girls across 35 counties, and there's always room for more girls to join. The organization is emphasizing reasons to join Girl Scouts during its 110th anniversary year:

- Girl Scouts prepares girls for the future, empowering them through the organization's four pillars: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), lifeskills, outdoors and entrepreneurship.

- Girl Scouts promotes a sense of leadership, compassion, courage and confidence in girls in kindergarten through grade 12 through many programs, including the ever-popular Girl Scout Cookie Season, coming in January 2023.

- Girls work together as troops and individually to earn badges throughout the year by completing various challenges, and can also earn special awards, including the Girl Scout Gold, Silver and Bronze awards — the organization's highest honors.

"At GSGC, the girl experience is of utmost importance," said Mary Charles, interim CEO, Girl



Contributed photo
Cookie Season is always a busy time for Girl Scouts.

Scouts of Gateway Council. "We celebrate what it means to be a girl and encourage girls to find their place in the world through avenues they may never have considered. We look forward to welcoming new girls to our council this fall and all year long."

Recruitment efforts align with the return to school, encouraging girls to find out just who they are and what

they want to be. Through programs like Sweets & Treats, an initiative underway now in which girls sell candy, nuts and other goods, girls learn entrepreneurship skills and build upon other pillars they've been exposed to throughout their tenure.

In addition, the council is looking for adult volunteers. This group makes up more than 4,000 members of the organization at present and helps lead the girls as troop leaders, outing chaperones and positive role models.

Girls can get involved for \$25 for a full-year membership, which runs from Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2023.

For more information, to find a troop near you or to get your girl involved with the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, go to joingsgc.org.

Rutherford praises passage of Invest to Protect Act

U.S. Rep. John Rutherford (FL-04) released the following statement on Thursday, Sept. 22, in support of the passage of H.R. 6448, the Invest to Protect Act of 2022, by a vote of 360-64:

"Attacks against law enforcement over the last two and a half years have left officers demoralized, causing them to leave the profession in droves. I am pleased that the House passed the Invest to Protect Act which will provide small police departments with the resources they need to hire and retain the best officers, provide necessary training, and improve officer well-being. It has been an honor to work with Representative Gottheimer on this bipartisan bill that will make an impact on smaller communities."

The bipartisan, bicameral Invest to Protect Act was introduced by Gottheimer (NJ-05) and Rutherford to make targeted investments in small police departments with fewer than 125 sworn officers to support critical recruitment, retention and training.

These law enforcement departments make up more than 96% of local U.S. police departments. The Invest to Protect Act simplifies the grant process and gives departments the flexibility to make meaningful investments in their officers and communities, by:

- Creating grants for small departments to recruit and retain new officers with signing and retention bonuses
- Funding officer safety, de-escalation and domestic violence response training
- Investing in mental health resources for the departments' officers

The Invest to Protect Act has been endorsed by the National Fraternal Order of Police and the National Association of Police Organizations.



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Chef's competition precedes 'Whiskey Wine & Wildlife' festival



Photos by Leigh Cort

A chef's competition anticipating the 'Whiskey Wine & Wildlife' festival resulted in some inspired culinary creations.

By Leigh Cort

Nothing could be more thrilling for local and regional foodies than to announce www.WhiskeyWineandWildlife.com — a new culinary weekend festival coming to Vilano Beach on Nov. 4-6. For three days, the events that have been created just for this event offer, among other scheduled interactive experiences, master classes with cookbook authors and beverage experts, whiskey and spirit tastings, wine pairings, creative culinary tastings, cooking demos and a grand finale brunch at one of Northeast Florida's historic hotels (circa 1888).

Preceding the three-day event, many regional chefs matched skills in a culinary competition. Four judges gathered in Vilano Beach to meet with, sample and vote for the winning chefs and restaurants. The participating restaurants were

Michael's St. Augustine, Lotus Noodle Bar, Blacksheep Restaurant Group, Costa Brava, Catch 27, Cap's on the Water, The Reef, Beaches at Vilano, Silkie's Chicken & Champagne Bar, Amici Italian Restaurant, Odd Birds Kitchen & Cocktail Lounge and Vilano Main Street Diner. Winners will be announced soon.

A tasty glimpse into the sampling of their dishes included: smoked shrimp chimichurri with boiled peanut hummus, pan-seared scallops served over sweet potato gnocchi, jambalaya with blackened chicken, andouille sausage and scallops, chicken and waffles served on churro-style waffle with pimento cheese butter and pickled pineapple on the side.

The festival artfully combines our culinary superstars with a chance to experience coastal wildlife up close at the GTM Reserve while raising funds and awareness for Vilano Beach Main Street.

Private guided tours will be offered at the GTM Reserve showcasing programs from sea turtles to alligators — along with oceanside musical entertainment and the relaxed Vilano Beach vibe.

Sip, savor and join the mouthwatering fun. It's a 'spirited' oceanside and river-

front celebration.

Whiskey Wine & Wildlife is made possible in part by support from the St. Johns Tourism Development Council.

To join the fun, purchase tickets at www.WhiskeyWineandWildlife.com.





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Panthers battle Saints for homecoming

The following are photos from Nease's home football game against the Sandalwood Saints Oct. 4. It was homecoming for the Panthers as current students and alumni were on hand to root on this year's squad.

Photos by Anthony Richards



The Panthers charge through a banner as they take the field.



Young fans interact with the Panthers' mascot.



Marcus Stokes turns the corner on a run.



Riley Mariani (No. 50) blocks a Sandalwood edge rusher.



The Nease student section had a luau theme on the night.



Nease captains walk to midfield for the coin toss.



The Panthers prepare to take the field.



The Panthers' band performs.



The Nease dance team and cheerleaders donned pink pom poms in conjunction with breast cancer awareness month.



Gavin Bogart (No. 17) tackles the Sandalwood quarterback for a loss.



Marcus Stokes (No. 2) and Camryn Smith (No. 20) perform a read handoff.

Democratic Club hosts faith leaders for discussion on common ground



Imam Bilal Malik



Rabbi Merrill Shapiro



Father Justin Yawn



Contributed photos

Imam Bilal Malik, Rabbi Merrill Shapiro and Father Justin Yawn discuss ways to disagree without becoming disagreeable during the Sept. 20 meeting of the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club.

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club's Sept. 20 meeting featured faith leaders from differing perspectives, offering respect to each other and thoughts on seeking common ground between those who disagree.

Bridging the religious divide is not dissimilar to bridging political ones. Speaking were Imam Bilal Malik from the Islamic Center of Northeast Florida; Rabbi Merrill Shapiro, president of the St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society; and Father Justin Yawn, rector of St. Francis in the Field Episcopal Church.

Malik spoke about lessons from the Quran. He mentioned that the fabric of our culture often depends on the beauty of different points of view: If we all thought, acted and felt the same, where would the

richness of discussion lie? Perhaps a better perspective is to celebrate our differences, while engaging with one another with kindness and humility. In such situations, he said, listening sincerely to another view is much more important than speaking.

Shapiro added levity to the evening by relating the story of the Jewish people wandering to the promised land. In the Old Testament book of Numbers, chapter 26 indicates a gathering of 601,730 men, such that with likely another 600,000 women and lots of children, there were close to 2 million in all.

He said, "Do you think there wasn't a difference of opinion in this massive group every day?" Likely: "Why are we going this direction?" "Manna to eat — yet

again?" "We need to stop for a break!" "No, we need to keep going!" Moving to the practical, he mentioned that as much as we seek to understand — and be understood — sometimes you just have to walk away, instead of saying something you'd later regret.

Yawn agreed and reminded attendees that God's love and forgiveness isn't just for people who agree with us; it's for everyone. While treating others as we'd wish to be

treated is basic, he acknowledged how difficult some conversations have been among families, among work groups, among congregations. Finding points of agreement on which to build can be a start, frankly, avoiding topics of disagreement until a relationship can be forged.

All the speakers agreed we should work, not just hope, for kindness to prevail, and certainly by people professing of any faith tradition.

CHARLIE HARB EXTENDING RUG GIVEAWAY

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Second chances in life come around rarely, and if you haven't taken advantage of C. Harb's Rug Gallery's liquidating stock already, now is

the time to reconsider. Charlie Harb, owner of C. Harb's Rug Gallery in the Southside area, is liquidating thousands of rugs stocked in his Phillips Highway



showroom, with a Buy 1, Get 2 Free Promotion. "This is a chance to get a once-in-a-lifetime deal on art for your floor," Harb said.

Don't need three rugs? No problem. Charlie will give you the deepest discount possible on the rugs of your choice.

"It's my way of giving back before I ride off into the sunset" he said.

He can accommodate a range of budgets, and the gallery carries a mix of both hand-knotted authentic Oriental rugs and machine-made reproductions. Among the authentic pieces, the gallery has rugs woven in Asian countries, as well as rare finds, including new and used antique and semi-antique Persian rugs. Included in the sale are items from Charlie's personal collection of rugs, which contains several unique and interesting pieces not seen before.

The inventory includes rectangular



rugs from 12 X 18 inches up to 12 X 18 feet and circular, square and octagonal rugs. Styles available include traditional, contemporary and transitional. He

can even get certain select rugs in any custom size, up to 10'X18', including rounds, in three weeks. Bring your impossibly unusual size needs to Charlie soon, and he will get a rug to you before he retires.

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Woody's Bar-B-Q seeks 'Total Pigs' for rib-eating contest

Having opened its doors to barbecue fans in Jacksonville in 1980, Woody's Bar-B-Q is firing up the smoker in preparation for its 42nd Anniversary Celebration.

Set for 2-4 p.m. Oct. 22 at Woody's Bar-B-Q of Ponte Vedra Beach, the event will include the much-anticipated return of the classic Southern barbecue chain's rib-eating contest, which has been on a three-year hiatus due to COVID.

As has been the case for the last two years, 100% of the proceeds from the event will benefit the Tim Tebow Foundation's Anti-Human Trafficking Ministry. For taking part in the contest, participants will receive a "Total Pig" T-shirt and the winners will be awarded \$100 for first place and \$50 for second place.

In addition to the rib-eating contest, the event will include a silent auction, live music, magician, raffle, door prizes and great food.

"We held our very first rib-eating contest at our original location in Jacksonville in 2008, so we're really excited to bring back this time-honored tradition among our loyal fanbase," said Yolanda Mills-Mawman, Woody's Bar-B-Q co-founder and president. "Our anniversary celebrations have always featured a fundraising component, benefiting everyone from the Tim Tebow Foundation and K9s for Warriors to No Kid Hungry and First

Coast Florida Child Protection Team. The mission at the heart of TTF's Anti-Human Trafficking Ministry really resonates with the entire Woody's Bar-B-Q team. We'd love to see an end to this global atrocity that impacts as many as 40 million people in the world today, and we truly admire the work TTF is doing to rescue those who are enslaved and bring hope and healing to the survivors."

To impact the crisis of human trafficking in the world, the Tim Tebow Foundation applies a three-pronged approach:

- Proactively, through international community resource centers that come alongside at-risk families, providing training and support to strengthen the family unit, preventing them from being taken advantage of in their vulnerability or having to turn their children into commodities out of desperation;

- Reactively, through support of rescue operations that extract victims from the darkest of places and bring them to safety; and

- Relationally, through a holistic community of care that addresses survivors' physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual needs in long-term residential settings that nurture their healing and give them the tools for a life of freedom.

In hopes of raising as many funds as possible to support TTF's mission,



Photo provided by Woody's Bar-B-Q

Woody's Bar-B-Q 2014 rib-eating contest winner John Bello.

Woody's Bar-B-Q will collect a participation fee of \$10 from each of the participants. There will also be a silent auction at the event, so the Woody's is seeking donations from local, regional and national businesses for attendees to bid on.

All proceeds from the rib-eating contest, silent auction and raffle will benefit TTF's Anti-Human Trafficking Ministry. Woody's will also donate 10% of its sales from all three of its corporate locations — at 1638 University Blvd. South in Jacksonville, 226 Solana Road in Ponte Vedra Beach and 1301 N. Orange Ave. in Green Cove Springs — on the day of the

anniversary celebration.

Mills-Mawman encouraged those who can't attend to donate directly to The Tim Tebow Foundation through its website at TimTebowFoundation.org.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the event or donating an item or service for the raffle or silent auction may reach out to admin@woodys.com.

Aspiring rib-eating contestants can contact Woody's Bar-B-Q of Ponte Vedra Beach at 904-280-1110 to have their names added to the list or let their server know the next time they're at the restaurant at 226 Solana Road.



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

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

Crotons thrive on Northeast Florida's climate

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul."
— Alfred Austin



By Kathy Esfahani

As fall nears, the colorful leaves of croton plants begin to stand out around Northeast Florida. Crotons ("crow-tun") are tropical plants known for their bright and varied foliage featuring hues of red, orange, yellow, green and pink. There are an unlimited number of shapes and colors of croton leaves. These plants are easy to maintain and perfect for adding a splash of color to a landscape!

Crotons are perennials in the warm, humid climate of a tropical environment. Because they love the heat, they may



Crotons in landscape

lose their leaves in cooler temperatures, but they will recover as warm weather returns. Northeast Florida's climate supports these plants, but they can struggle if temperatures stay too cool for too long — a freeze lasting several days will cause crotons to drop their leaves and may kill the plants.

Crotons look stunning when grouped together! They can be planted to line a walkway or fence, surround a palm tree, or accentuate an entryway. In a landscape, crotons grow well with ixora, hibiscus, loropetalum, podocarpus and

viburnum. Crotons are also successful in containers and can be potted to add interest to a patio, porch or pool area.

Consider the space available when selecting croton plants. There are dwarf varieties and also larger options that can grow up to 10 feet tall. When planting crotons, space the plants 2-3 feet apart. Crotons are well-suited to areas of full and/or shifting sun, but some varieties can tolerate partial shade. A reliable light source will allow the plant to develop and maintain its vibrant colors. Remember to water crotons regularly, but be very careful not to overwater. The plant needs water if the soil is dry to the touch or new leaves begin to wilt. The most popular croton varieties in Northeast Florida are the "mammy" and "petra" crotons.

Although crotons can be a wonderful addition to a landscape, they can be dangerous to curious children or pets! All parts of these plants are poisonous to humans and animals, particularly the seeds. In addition, the milky substance

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

Flower of the Week



Crotons

that oozes from a damaged croton can be irritating to the skin. Careful consideration of placement can allow safe use of this beautiful plant!

Happy gardening!

Flower of the Week: Croton

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.

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LOTS OF HALLOWEEN FUN PLANNED AT XIMENEZ-FATIO HOUSE

Just in time for fall and spooky season, the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum, a circa 1798 former boarding house located on the oldest street in America, will hold candlelight tours titled “Mourning and Mortality — A Century of Death.”

Tours will take place on select dates from Sept. 30 through Oct. 30 at the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum, 20 Aviles St., St. Augustine.

Enjoy a guided spooky candlelight tour through the 224-year-old historic house museum and learn about the ways that St. Augustine townfolk of the 1800s practiced medicine and mourning rituals from Spanish-American last rites, Victorian spiritualism and Afro-Caribbean practices.

Learn how illnesses were treated with at-home remedies from the colonial garden and original 1798 kitchen. This is a family-friendly nighttime activity for anyone looking to get into the Halloween spirit.

Tours will take place every Friday and Saturday, Sept. 30-Oct. 30, at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person. Tickets are available in advance. RSVP at ximenezfatiohouse.org/mortality-mourning.

A combo ticket that includes “Everyday Life” daytime museum tours and the “Mourning and Mortality” tour can be purchased for \$20 per person. Details at ximenezfatiohouse.org.

In addition to the “Mourning and Mortality” tours, other Halloween activities in October will include:

- True crime author Elizabeth Randell will give a talk about “Murder in St. Augustine: The Mysterious Death of Althalia Ponsell Lindsley” at 4 p.m. Oct. 8 at the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum. The

murder re-mains unsolved. Discover the details of the murder that took place in St. Augustine, learn about the investigation and who may have committed the crime — through research done by the author. The author will sign copies of the book, along with additional titles, “Women in White” and “Haunted St. Augustine and St. Johns County.” Call 904-829-3575 or go to ximenezfatiohouse.org

- The first-ever overnight paranormal investigations of the Ximenez-Fatio House will be offered by A Night Among Ghosts from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. on select dates in October. Reserved for ages 18 and older, this experience will include the use of ghost hunting equipment, a guide familiar with the history of this house and free roaming time throughout the property. The former boarding house has 13 documented deaths. Snacks, bottled water, sodas, coffee, midnight pizza and a light continental breakfast also are included. Tickets and details at theoddmacabre.com/category-halloween.

- A Night Among Ghosts will host a Victorian Parlor Night combined with a “Mourning and Mortality Tour” on Oct. 22. Experience the candlelight tour and then enjoy a Victorian Era Parlor Night of séance-style investigation. Details at theoddmacabre.com/category-halloween

- Trick-or-Treating for children will be available from 1-4 p.m. Oct. 29 and includes a courtyard Harvest Festival with crafts, games and a candy-apple bowl bar. Children can wear costumes and go trick-or-treating at every door of this three-story former boarding house. Admission is free. For more details, go to XimenezFatioHouseMuseum.org or call 904-829-3575.



The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum is planning lots of fun Halloween-themed events throughout October.



The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum was built around 1798.



This photo, taken in 1874, shows some of the boarders at the Ximenez-Fatio House when it had stood for about 76 years. Are any of them still in residence?

Photos provided by the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum



The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum in St. Augustine is offering candlelight tours throughout October.



A window in the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum admits a bit of sunlight into the 224-year-old structure.



A historic photo of the Ximenez-Fatio House.

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HALLOWEEN DOORS & MORE TO TAKE GUESTS ON MAGICAL JOURNEY

On Oct. 15, Community Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation's 18th annual Halloween Doors & More will transform the Jacksonville Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall into a magical, superhero-themed day of family-friendly fun and entertainment.

Northeast Florida's premier Halloween event, Halloween Doors & More will begin at 2 p.m. for fun attractions with candy, toys, food, interactive experiences and live characters. Trick or treat at 14-foot-high Fantasy Doors, stroll the Magical Meet and Greet Streets to see favorite costumed characters, show off dance moves in the Fiesta Family Disco, visit the Booutiful Salon for a spooktacular make-over and stop by the Grown-Up Grotto and Food Court to enjoy gourmet foods and drinks.

Fantasy Smiles are required, and costumes are encouraged.

Proceeds from Halloween Doors & More benefit Community PedsCare,

the pediatric program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care, supporting children living with serious and life-limiting illnesses and their families. Most Community PedsCare services are provided without charge regardless of insurance coverage. All vital care and support are provided at no cost to the family, which is made possible through generous community supporters, efforts of Community Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation, and Medicare.

"The committee is hard at work and thrilled to host this spectacular annual event," said Neill Lasher, Halloween Doors & More Event co-chair. "We look forward to welcoming children and families back, in-person, with new, exciting activities and fantastical creative doors."

To purchase admission and sponsorships for Halloween Doors & More, call 904-886-3883 or go to HDM.CommunityHospice.com.

Frightful fun for the whole family

There's more Halloween fun brewing this week. Check these out.

lebusinessconnections.com/events/4th-annual-halloween-bash-1.



Halloween Bash

Jacksonville Business Connections invites the public to the 4th Annual Halloween Bash Community Event at the World Golf Hall of Fame from 11 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8. This free, pet-friendly event features vendors, music, candy, food, a bounce house and a car show & trunk or treat.

World Golf Hall of Fame is located at 1 World Golf Place, St. Augustine. For further information, go to [## Cirque de la Symphonie: Spooktacular](http://jacksonvil-</p>
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Cirque de la Symphonie returns to Jacoby Symphony Hall with a spooky twist. Rope aerialists, acrobats and jugglers transform into goblins swinging on blood-red ropes for this performance filled to the brim with tricks and treats. Witches soar through the air and skeletons perform death-defying acts. Bring your friends and family to experience the orchestra as it performs some of Halloween's most haunted scores like "Phantom of the Opera," "The Nightmare Before Christmas," "Jaws," "Beetlejuice" and more. Dress up in your favorite costume for a night of musical excitement and daring acrobatics. The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14 and 15 at Jacoby Symphony Hall, 300 Water St. No. 200, Jacksonville. Kevin Fitzgerald will conduct. For tickets, go to my.jaxsymphony.org/cirque-de-la-symphonie.



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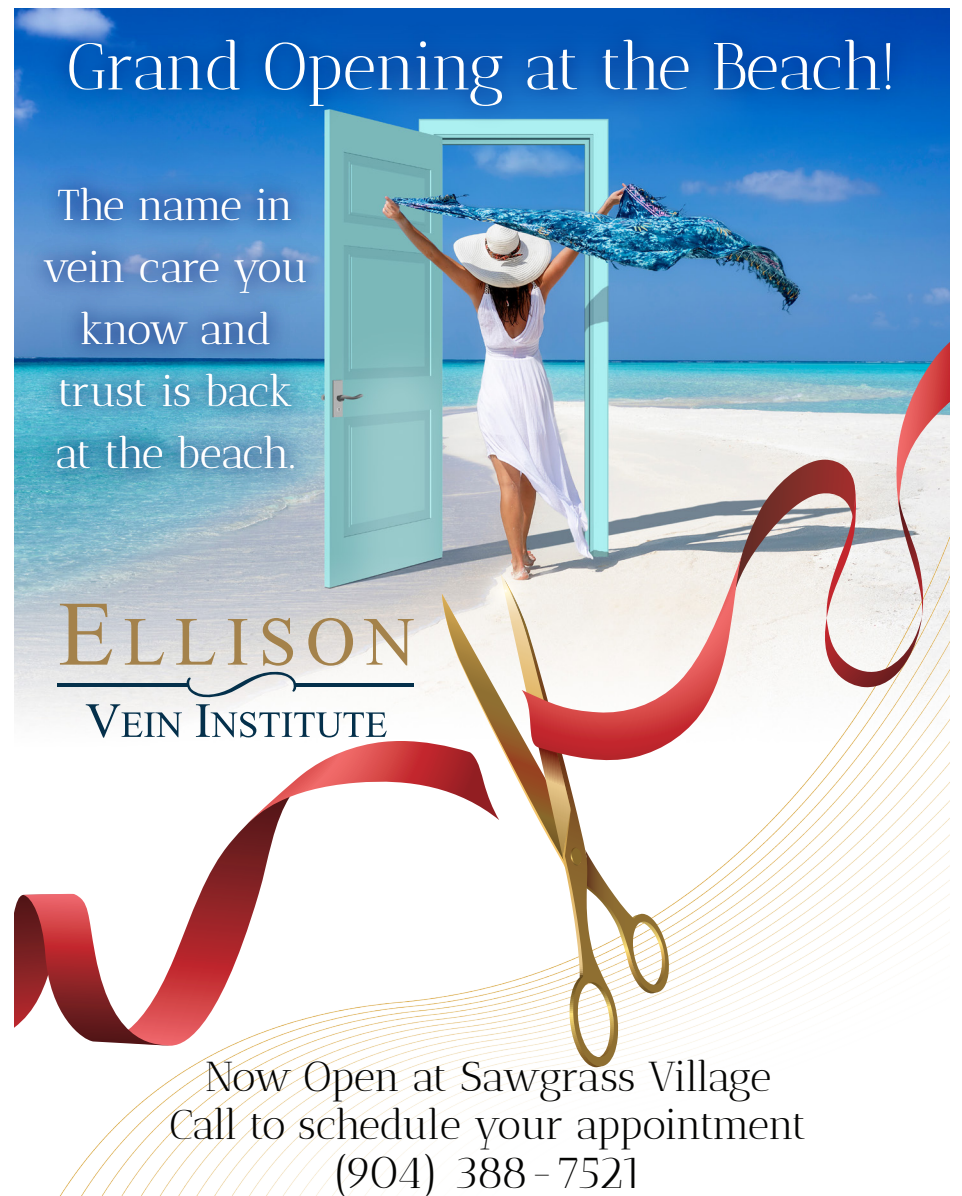


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Bolles students celebrate International Day of Peace

The Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus celebrated International Day of Peace on Sept. 21 with a special, student-only flag ceremony. Grade 5 teachers Kaki Movsovitz and Jeni Strain worked with their students to plan this event, which included poetry readings, a group song and a Peace Walk.

Along with hand-crafted doves that adorned trees on campus, lower school art teacher Kimberly Thomas helped grade 5 students paint colorful peace poles for display during the Peace Walk.

These poles, each unique in design, featured the words “May Peace Prevail on Earth” written in English on one side and the same phrase written in another language on the opposite side. Students across all grade levels stopped to admire the peace poles during the school-wide walk.

Movsovitz and Strain drew inspiration for this initiative from their Ottenstroer Fellowship called “Pathways to Peace.” In addition to touring the United Nations in New York City, the pair visited sites and attractions that represent peace, compassion and unity in Ireland and Switzerland, two countries that rank in the top 10 of the most peaceful countries in the world. They both believe it is important to incorporate peaceful resolution strategies, problem solving skills and compassion in grade 5.

The Ottenstroer Fellowships identify and reward excellence in teaching at Bolles by providing opportunities for professional growth among faculty.

Photos provided by the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus



Students pass one of the peace poles on the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus during a Peace Walk.



Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus students advocate for peace during the International Day of Peace.



Bolles fifth-graders paint a peace pole for the International Day of Peace.



Students at The Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus celebrate the International Day of Peace.



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The U.S. Flag and Air Force flag were on display at the celebration.



Bob Bathke and Erlane Tait were honored during the celebration.



Attendees raise a glass in honor of the U.S. Air Force.

Photos provided by Cypress Village

Cypress Village celebrates 75th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force

Sept. 17 marked the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United States Air Force, and the occasion was celebrated by residents and staff at Cypress Village. The Loon's Nest Bar and Grill was filled with resident veterans and friends as the community honored the patriotism of those men and women who answered the call to serve their country.

Resident Bob Bathke was celebrated

for his service in the Air Force, and Erlane Tait was honored for her husband's service as well. Guests enjoyed cake and wine as they shared stories of service and engaged in some friendly banter between the veterans from different branches of service.

The Department of the Air Force, an agency of the Department of Defense, was established on Sept. 18, 1947. On

Sept. 26, 1947, by order of the Secretary of Defense, personnel of the Army Air Forces were transferred from the Department of the Army (formerly the War Department) to the Department of the Air Force and established as the United States Air Force.

Cypress Village proudly boasts more than 150 veterans from the various branches of military service, and

celebrations like this are not uncommon as they regularly honor those who served their country and live at the community.

Even as Cypress Village residents and staff wrapped up the celebration, they were looking ahead to Oct. 13, when they plan to celebrate the 247th birthday of the U.S. Navy.



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Business Weekly

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Junior Achievement adds 7 board members

Junior Achievement of North Florida has named seven new members to its board of directors. Nader Farhat, Patty Keenan, Jennifer Kirouac, Mike Knox, Shehani Ranadewa, Trish Skoglund and Shatara Troy have joined the board.



Jennifer Kirouac



Mike Knox



Shehani Ranadewa



Nader Farhat



Patty Keenan



Trish Skoglund



Shatara Troy

an executive coaching firm where she coached CEOs and their executive teams for more than 15 years.

Trish Skoglund is the director of mergers

“We welcome everyone to the board and look forward to working together to achieve our mission of inspiring and preparing young people to succeed,” said Shannon Italia, president of JA of North Florida. “Each person brings experience and skill to their new role that will help guide our organization and drive results

that increase our impact on students in Northeast Florida.”

Three of the new members come from the banking industry.

Jennifer Kirouac has more than 25 years in banking and is currently the vice president, senior business banking relationship manager for First Horizon Bank.

Mike Knox is the senior vice president/senior relationship manager for PNC

Financial Services and has been a volunteer for JA.

Shehani Ranadewa, an AVP with Deutsche Bank, also started with JA as a volunteer and has helped to coordinate several JA fundraisers.

Nader Farhat is the managing partner of the Jacksonville office for pWc.

Patty Keenan is the chief learning officer for Miller Electric Company and founded

and acquisitions with Crowley.

Shatara Troy is a JA alumna who currently serves as both the COO of Harbor View Advisors and the managing director of the firm’s consulting practice area.

The seven members are now part of a board made up of 36 community leaders who volunteer their time to help promote and enhance the mission of JA of North Florida.

Home builders announce Seven Pines sales teams

ICI Homes and David Weekley Homes have announced their respective sales teams at Seven Pines, a new master-planned community in Jacksonville’s Southside near the St. Johns Town Center and just south of the University of North Florida.

At Seven Pines, ICI Homes sales team includes sales manager Alaina Record and sales associates Kim Holder, Kelly Nowak and Barbi Rinks. Sales associates Mike Daniel, Terry Santos and Ashley Thompson



Alaina Record



Kim Holder



Kelly Nowak



Barbi Rinks



Mike Daniel



Terry Santos



Ashley Thompson

at Seven Pines.

The new contemporary homes of Seven Pines will offer a fresh take on Jacksonville style. They will be nestled within walkable neighborhoods with lush green space, water and tree-lined streets. Eight decorated model homes will open soon. Home prices start in the upper \$600,000s.

With more than 1,000 acres of natural beauty, Seven Pines will offer a vibrant village center, parks, trails, lakes and family outposts that bring residents closer to nature. Plans for the community include a 34-acre Central Park and a 7,900-square-foot Residents Club located alongside a sparkling lake.

The Residents Club will offer a resort-style pool, a lap-lane pool and children’s “sprayground” with interactive water features and slides. The clubhouse will provide nearly 3,000 square feet

of fitness space that will include a group fitness area and a cardio workout area in addition to meeting/event space.

Plans for the amenity area include an Outpost building by the lake for canoes and kayaks.

For further information, go to sevenpines.com.

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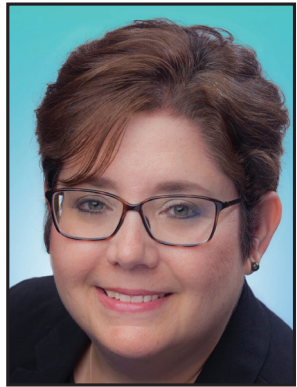
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Benchmarks of Success

A look at major career changes in the area.



Wendy Hughes

Episcopal Children's Services names chief financial officer

Episcopal Children's Services has named Wendy Hughes as chief financial officer for the nonprofit, which has been serving North and Central Florida families for nearly 60 years. Hughes brings more than 20 years of experience and a wealth of executive leadership knowledge

with a deep understanding of the nonprofit sector. Most recently, she served as the CFO of Hubbard House in Jacksonville, overseeing all regulatory and legal aspects of compliance efforts for state, federal and local requirements.

Hughes will provide oversight for the fiscal department including financial and accounting services, fiscal reporting as well as leading and implementing innovative business strategies for the agency by providing cross-functional leadership in all departments.

She is a graduate of Georgia State University, earning a Bachelor of business administration in accounting. She also holds a Master of business administration degree from Valdosta State University and is a licensed certified public accountant.



Jessica Tittl

Green Chamber names executive director

The North Florida Green Chamber of Commerce has announced that Jessica Tittl will serve as the new executive director for the four-year old organization.

The Green Chamber is a regional organization for all sizes of businesses in Northeast Florida whose mission is to promote the

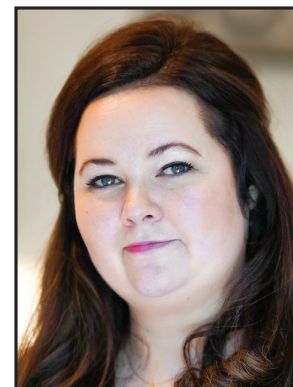
region's economy by helping businesses thrive with a focus on people, planet, and prosperity for generations to come.

Tittl resides in Keystone Heights with her husband, Tom. Tittl's background is in new technology development. After settling in North Florida, Tittl launched Biome Future, a nature-inspired technology company. She is also a PhD student at the University of Florida, where she studies coral reef microbiomes and the role of business in driving conservation efforts and policy.

Pineapple Corp. adds three to team

The Pineapple Corporation, a luxury design-build firm in Northeast Florida, continues to grow and has announced several new additions to its team of professionals. These key hires reflect The Pineapple Corporation's continued momentum and will enable the company to meet the increasing market demands for luxury residential construction.

- Erin Hunt joins the company as an interior designer, bringing extensive industry experience including design



Erin Hunt



Parker Murray

consultation, space planning and project management. She has a bachelor's degree in interior design from Miami International University of Art & Design.

- Parker Murray enters the company as a purchasing representative, supporting efforts to find, evaluate and purchase products and services to construct a

luxury home. Murray has a bachelor's degree in business management from Florida State College of Jacksonville.

- Colton Hathaway joins the company as a construction/warranty representative. In his role, he coordinates and completes customer warranty requests. Hathaway earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North Florida.



Colton Hathaway

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Leadership Jacksonville class of 2023 announced

Fifty-seven community leaders have been selected to participate in Leadership Jacksonville's flagship program, class of 2023.

Leadership Jacksonville educates, connects and inspires diverse leaders to build and strengthen their communities. Since the first graduating class of 1977, more than 2,300 alumni have completed the yearlong program exploring the dynamics of society, analyzing major areas of community concern, facilitating the development of

leadership capacity and promoting a network of community trustees.

"I am very inspired by the class of 2023," said Leadership Jacksonville Chief Executive Officer Gracie Simendinger. "These leaders have already formed strong bonds with one another and are asking the tough questions. I look forward to watching their development throughout the program year as they evolve into strong community trustees benefiting Jacksonville and beyond."

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In the Arts



Send your arts news to
news@pontevedrarecorder.com

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CANVAS, STAGE AND MORE

A look at what's happening in the arts.

Mystery mishaps and behind the scenes of a network TV series

Award-winning writer, editor and former owner of an interactive live murder mystery production company, John Boles will offer the Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime chapter insight this Saturday, Oct. 8, based on his personal experiences. He will discuss a few pitfalls that mystery writers should avoid. He will also share some behind-the-scenes stories from his work on the ABC prime-time mystery series "Hart to Hart." The meeting will start at 10:15 a.m. and end by 12:45 p.m. It will be held at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

For further information, contact floridasistersincrime@gmail.com.

Organ music in spotlight for symphony concert

The Jacksonville Symphony will present "Organ Chamber Music" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, at Jacoby Symphony Hall, 300 Water St. No. 200, Jacksonville.

The historic Bryan Concert Organ is widely considered the monumental heart of Jacoby Symphony Hall. This is the first of three performances in this season's Concert Organ Series. Featuring guest artist Joshua Stafford, this performance highlights the warm and tender side of the organ with string and wind players from the Jacksonville Symphony and a selection of colorful chamber repertoire. Kevin Fitzgerald will conduct.

For tickets, go to my.jaxsymphony.

org/events and click on Organ Chamber Music.

Family concert to feature Latin American melodies

For Día de los Muertos, the Jacksonville Symphony is planning a concert for the whole family.

Witness the beauty of a cultural tradition that brings the whole family together as Jacoby Symphony Hall blossoms with vibrant Latin American melodies in a colorful and lively celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Family concerts are perfect for young listeners 4-10 years of age to help create successful students and ultimately, successful adults through music education, the joy of storytelling and artistic expression.

The concert is 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, at Jacoby Symphony Hall, 300 Water St. No. 200, Jacksonville. Kevin Fitzgerald

will conduct.

For tickets, go to my.jaxsymphony.org/events and click on Día de los Muertos — Family Concert.

Jazz ensemble to perform

The University of North Florida Jazz Ensemble I will open the 2022-23 Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Oct. 11. This is the flagship ensemble of the UNF Jazz Studies Program and has been called one of the finest collegiate jazz ensembles worldwide. Jazz Ensemble I has won numerous group and individual awards and has been invited to perform at jazz festivals in the United States and Europe. It is under the direction of J.B. Scott. The concert is free. Doors open at 6 p.m. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m. The library is located at 101 Library Blvd. For further information, call 904-827-6950.

Van Gogh is topic of presentation

The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library presents their October Speaker Series on Oct. 18 with Professor of Art History at University of North Florida Debra Murphy, who is also the inaugural chair of the department of art and design at the university. She has served on the Board of Trustees of the Jacksonville

MORE continues on Page 27

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Museum of Contemporary Art and its executive committee.

Her talk, “Beyond Van Gogh,” will provide insight of the artist’s work and life in a scholarly and entertaining lecture. The program will be held in the FOL room of the library at 6:30 p.m. and is free to the public. Doors open at 6 p.m.

The library is located at 101 Library Blvd. For further information, call 904-827-6950.

Free Nuevo Tango concert

Beaches Fine Arts Series opens its 50th anniversary season with Argentine-born Pablo Ziegler and his Pablo Ziegler Trio, performing Nuevo Tango music. This free concert on Oct. 9 will be followed by a reception to meet the artists and enjoy an art exhibit by Dawn Montgomery. The concert begins at 4 p.m. and doors open at 3:15 p.m. with seating first come, first served. It will be presented at St. Paul’s By-The-Sea Episcopal Church, 465 11th Ave. North, Jacksonville Beach. For more information, go to Beachesfinearts.org.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

ON STAGE

A roundup of musical acts appearing before Nov. 5 at local venues

PONTE VEDRA CONCERT HALL

1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach

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

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

- **Jen Fulwiler** — 7 p.m. Oct. 8
- **Acoustic Alchemy** — 8 p.m. Oct. 9
- **Bob Mould** — 8 p.m. Oct. 14
- **Steve Vai** — 8 p.m. Oct. 21
- **Pablo Cruise** — 8 p.m. Oct. 23
- **Steep Canyon Rangers** — 7 p.m. Nov. 4

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Box office hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays.

Tickets sold at the box office are available via credit- and debit-card only. A valid ID is required for all box office transactions and ticket purchases must be made in person.

Tickets may also be purchased at ticketmaster.com.

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

- **The War on Drugs** — 7 p.m. Oct. 6

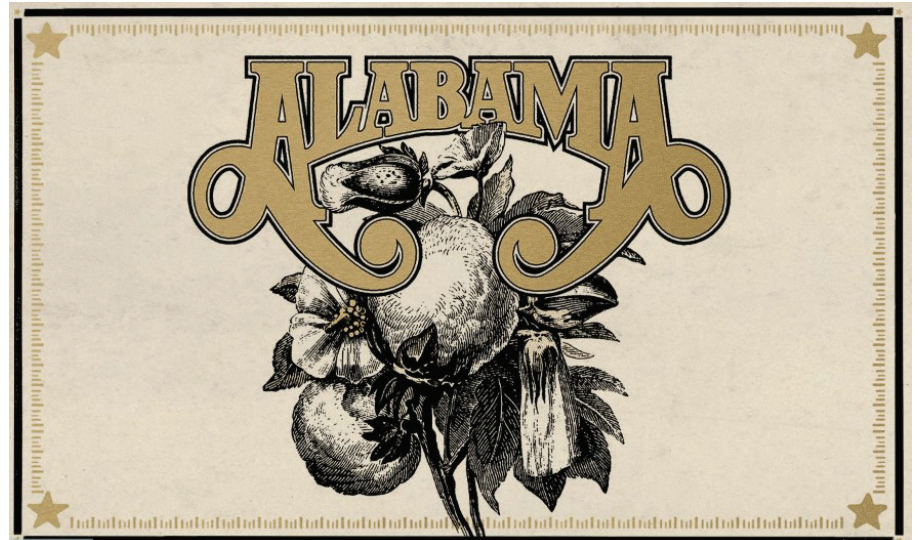


Image from The Amp

Alabama will perform Nov. 4 and 5 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre.

- **The Head And The Heart** — With special guest Shakey Graves. 6:30 p.m. Oct. 13
- **Gov’t Mule & Old Crow Medicine Show** — 7 p.m. Oct. 14
- **Trace Adkins** — 7 p.m. Oct. 15
- **Lauren Daigle** — With special guest Blessing Offor, 6 p.m. Nov. 2 and 3.
- **Alabama** — With special guest The Red Clay Strays, 6 p.m. Nov. 4 and 5

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

On the same day in Las Vegas when Presley jumped from the observation deck of the Flamingo Hotel to the Strip, a woman was teledynamically banned from the strip clubs, the oldest parts of a woman from a thirty-five-minute game in Las Vegas who died of cancer, four from heart attacks, the release of a gun shot as well as a suicide from

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Pablo Ziegler Trio <i>Visual Artist: Dawn Montgomery</i>	SUNDAY 10/9 • 4:00 PM
David Briggs* <i>organ</i> St. Johns Cathedral	SUNDAY 11/13 • 4:00 PM
Soweto Gospel Choir <i>Visual Artist: Chris Clark</i>	FRIDAY 12/16 • 7:30 PM
Marcus Roberts Trio <i>Visual Artist: Debbie Pounders</i>	SUNDAY 2/5 • 4:00 PM
Laredo–Robinson–Polonsky Pajaro-van de Stadt <i>Visual Artist: Elena Oblander</i>	FRIDAY 2/24 • 7:30 PM
Chanticleer <i>Visual Artist: Vanessa Withun</i>	SUNDAY 3/5 • 4:00 PM
Alon Goldstein <i>piano</i> <i>Visual Artist: Jessica Hall</i>	FRIDAY 3/24 • 7:30 PM
Italian Saxophone Quartet <i>Visual Artist: Scott Blake</i>	SUNDAY 4/16 • 4:00 PM
American Brass Quintet <i>Visual Artist: Marisa Yow</i>	SUNDAY 5/7 • 4:00 PM
Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra <i>Visual Artist: Lisa Lofton</i>	FRIDAY 5/26 • 7:30 PM

*All concerts except 11/13 are held at our home venue: St. Paul’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church
465 11th Ave. North Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 • Doors open 45 minutes prior to each concert.

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Beaches Fine Arts Series is a 501-c3 nonprofit organization, Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.



Sports

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Ben Burk carries the ball against Flagler Palm Coast Oct. 3. He ran for two scores on the night.



Trooper Price (No. 18) meets a Bulldog ball carrier in the hole and drops him for a loss.

Sharks drop district opener on last-second field goal

By Anthony Richards

The monumental district football matchup between Ponte Vedra and Flagler Palm Coast lived up to all the hype as the Sharks showcased their resilience and a lot of heart but came up just short of victory after Flagler Palm Coast kicked a 22-yard field goal as time expired to win 20-17 Oct. 3.

“The kids played hard, and we did our best, but just came up a little short,” Ponte Vedra head coach Steve Price said.

It was a roller coaster of a game with both teams putting together clutch drives

at key points throughout the night.

Overtime seemed a real possibility after the Sharks (2-3, 0-1) drove down the field for a 75-yard scoring drive that was fueled by a couple of fourth down conversions on the ground by quarterback Ben Burk, the second of which he went around the left end and dove for the pie line for an 11-yard touchdown run.

Mark Romano’s extra point one play later tied the game at 17-all with 1:32 left in regulation.

However, the Bulldogs (4-2, 1-0) answered the impressive drive by the Sharks with one of their own and although Sharks were able to keep them out of the end zone, they were able to kick the go-ahead field goal.

There was an anxiousness throughout the Shark Tank prior to the ball being snapped because not only was it a pressure-packed kick, but it had also been an adventurous night for kickers to that point.

The Sharks had blocked a field goal attempt on the Bulldogs’ previous drive, which gave the offense the ball with a chance to go down and tie it up and an extra point had also been missed earlier by the Bulldogs.

However, the final kick went through the uprights to the heartbreak of the Ponte Vedra players and faithful who wound up on the losing end of the hard-fought battle.

Burk scored both touchdowns for the Sharks in the game and did it with his legs on both occasions, with the first one



Wyatt Rogers leaps to battle for a ball in the air.



Photos by Anthony Richards

The Sharks’ defense celebrates after a measurement confirmed they had stopped the Bulldogs short on a fourth down attempt in the first half.

coming from a quarterback keeper from two yards out early in the second quarter. He now has six rushing touchdowns on the season.

His first score capped a much-needed drive for the Sharks after they fell behind 12-0 in the first quarter.

“I’m still really excited and I feel good about our team,” Price said. “Unfortunately, we just didn’t play well early.”

After the Bulldogs found success with their rushing attack on their first two offensive possessions, the Sharks were able to make in-game adjustments and began limiting the chunk plays on the

ground, especially by opposing quarterback D.J. Murray, who proved to be elusive in the open field.

“Our defensive staff did a great job of making the adjustments,” Price said.

Despite the loss, the Sharks are still in the hunt for a playoff spot in the three-team district 4-4S, as they will now need to finish ahead of Nease in the district standings at season’s end to clinch a spot.

Next up for the Sharks is a road game in Jacksonville on a short week against the Bishop Kenny Crusaders (6-0) Oct. 7 at 7 p.m.



Former Super Girl champions Caroline Marks rides a wave in Jacksonville Beach during 2021's competition.



Super Girl Jacksonville defending champion Alyssa Spencer demonstrates her surf skills during the 2021 competition in Jacksonville Beach.

Super Girl Surf Pro set for Nov. 11-13 in Jax Beach

ASA Entertainment has announced that the World Surf League U.S. Air Force Super Girl Surf Pro will return to the Jacksonville Beach Pier and Seawalk Pavilion, Nov. 11-13. The nationally televised event is the second largest female surf contest in the world, with more than 90 of the world's top pros scheduled to compete. All competitions and activities are free to the public.

Some of the biggest names in women's surfing are expected to attend, including former Super Girl champions Caroline Marks, Lakey Peterson, Sage Erickson, Courtney Conlogue, Caitlin Simmers, Samantha Sibley and Super Girl Jacksonville defending champion Alyssa Spencer.

Beyond surfing

In addition to the world-class surfing, the event features an action-packed Festival Village headquartered at Seawalk Pavilion with 12 live concerts and family-friendly activities; the annual Super Girl Gamer esports tournament; an all-female DJ competition; women's beach soccer, beach volleyball and beach lacrosse tournaments; free classes in fitness, yoga, Zumba, Pilates, wellness and dance; female comedienne; a professional skateboarding competition; celebrity speakers; women's longboarding; panel discussions promoting female leadership and sustainability; a female art exhibition; social influencers; autograph signings; a beer garden and 14 food trucks; a military appreciation program; and a mentorship event with U.S. Olympian Caroline Marks.

The Nissan Concert Series will include 12 artists performing full live concerts, including star acts like Smash Mouth, Less Than Jake, The Expendables and Kira Kosarin. Additional performers will be announced in the coming weeks. All concerts are free and open to the public.

New to the event this year is a female comedy showcase, a revised format for the surf competition and the Brine Super Girl Beach Lacrosse Tournament.

Empowering women

The event is part of the Super Girl Series, a mission-based platform that includes four women's action sports, esports and lifestyle events designed to promote female empowerment, inclusion and equality. Each of the Super Girl events are centered around providing athletic, social, cultural, educational and entertainment opportunities for young women in traditionally male-dominated industries.

"We are thrilled to have such an exciting and diverse lineup of activities at the event in addition to world-class surfing," said Rick Bratman, CEO of ASA Entertainment, the event's producer. "To have artists like Smash Mouth, Less Than Jake, The Expendables and Kira Kosar-

in performing and using their voices to help promote Super Girl's empowerment platform is absolutely incredible. On the surfing side, the U.S. Air Force Super Girl Surf Pro is not only a showcase for the top-ranked surfers in the world, but also a springboard to help launch surf careers and provide unmatched mentorship between pros and newcomers. We can't wait to get back to Jacksonville Beach."

Event support

The event is supported by the U.S. Air Force, Florida Blue, CSI Companies, CELSIUS, Atlantic Self Storage, White Claw, Gillette Venus, Jolyn, Kroger Delivery, the Courtyard Oceanfront by Marriott, Perfect Hydration, Logitech, Sierra Nevada, The Mayo Clinic, Sambazon, Ithaca Hummus, Sunglass Hut, Day Chaser, Brine Lacrosse and the City of Jacksonville's Tourist Development Council.

The event is in its 16th year in San Diego and second year in Jacksonville after expanding to the East Coast in 2021. The U.S. Air Force is its new title partner.

"We are incredibly grateful for the men and women of the U.S. Air Force and how they have consistently supported Super Girl's mission to celebrate female strength and empowerment," said Bratman. "The Air Force has been part of Super Girl for nine years and recognizes that importance of offering athletic, cultural, educational, business and social opportunities for young women in areas where they have been traditionally underrepresented. Elevating the Air Force to the title partner role made so much sense given their long-standing backing of the entire Super Girl Pro Series and the strong military community in Jacksonville."

Times and dates

The surf portion of the event will run daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jacksonville Beach Pier Friday, Nov. 11, through Sunday, Nov. 13. The Festival Village at Seawalk Pavilion will run from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, and from noon to 8 p.m. Sunday Nov. 13.

Surfing, concerts, esports, panels, classes, speakers, volleyball, soccer, lacrosse, skateboarding, comedy and all elements are free to attend.

The event will be televised throughout January and February on Bally Sports and will be streamed live from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 12-13 via 15 digital partners, including at supergirlsurfpro.com and twitch.tv/supergirlseries.

For more information on the concert lineup, surfing, classes, schedules, esports and more, go to supergirljax.com. To connect via social media, follow @SupergirlPro on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and Twitter.



Twelve live concerts will be presented free during the event.

Contributed photos

CROSSWORD														
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ACROSS

- 1. Bay Area humorist
- 5. Hurt
- 10. Icelandic poems
- 14. A taro corm
- 15. Metaphorical use of a word
- 16. It fears the hammer
- 17. Excessively quaint (British)
- 18. Laid-back California county
- 19. Cook in a microwave oven
- 20. Not late
- 22. Go from one place to another
- 23. Peoples living in the Congo
- 24. Popular pasta
- 27. Available engine power (abbr.)
- 30. Popular musician Charles
- 31. Angry
- 32. Spelling is one type
- 35. One who makes a living
- 37. Indicates location
- 38. Imperial Chinese dynasty
- 39. Small water buffaloes
- 40. Hungarian city
- 41. Fabric
- 42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 43. Precursor to the EU
- 44. Philly footballers
- 45. Female sibling
- 46. "When Harry Met Sally" actress
- 47. Magnetic tape of high quality
- 48. Insecticide
- 49. Apparatus to record and transmit
- 52. Some is considered "dog"
- 55. Israeli city ___ Aviv
- 56. Fencing sword
- 60. Ottoman military title
- 61. Wise people
- 63. Cold wind
- 64. Popular type of shoe
- 65. Administrative district
- 66. A way to reveal
- 67. Cooked meat cut into small pieces
- 68. Actress Zellweger
- 69. Romanian city

- 2. Site of famed Ethiopian battle
- 3. German river
- 4. Christmas carols
- 5. Cash machine
- 6. Rough and uneven
- 7. Rumanian round dance
- 8. Widespread occurrence of disease
- 9. A place to relax
- 10. Feeling of listlessness
- 11. Coat or smear a substance
- 12. Wild mango
- 13. Brews
- 21. Belgian city
- 23. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 25. Swiss river
- 26. Small amount
- 27. Part of buildings
- 28. Vietnamese capital
- 29. Sailboats
- 32. Shelter
- 33. Terminated

- 34. Discharge
- 36. Snag
- 37. Partner to cheese
- 38. A container for coffee
- 40. Spend time dully
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Snakelike fish
- 44. Consume
- 46. Type of student
- 47. Erase
- 49. Instruct
- 50. Girl's given name
- 51. Jewish spiritual leader
- 52. "To ___ his own"
- 53. North-central Indian city
- 54. Greek alphabet characters
- 57. Weapon
- 58. Amounts of time
- 59. American Nobel physicist vital to MRIs
- 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 62. Witness

SUDOKU

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	9						2	8

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

DOWN

- 1. Small town in Portugal

'Blackout mode' produces school record 63 for Smith

By Anthony Richards

Ponte Vedra senior Cam Smith is in his first year at the school, but he has already left his mark after shooting a school record 63

He was also named the school's athlete of the week after setting the record.

"It felt pretty special because it's just my first year here, and I've already got an award one month in to school," Smith said. "To get the school record is pretty cool, because there's been some pretty good guys that have come through here."

He shot the 63 during the Randy Warren Invitational at Fleming Island Club Sept. 15, which also proved to be the low for the tournament.

"It was a pretty tricky course, but the back nine opened up pretty well for my game," Smith said. "I was just able to hit driver everywhere and wedge it pretty close. I've always been a smaller guy, but I hit it pretty far for my size."

Smith took advantage of it suiting his game and shot a 28 on the back nine and finished off the magical round by sinking a birdie putt on the final hole.

Despite the low round, Smith's personal best is a 61 that he shot about a year ago, which showcases the potential for even more that he has in him.

His play is something he and the rest of the Sharks' boys golf squad looks to capture moving forward.

"That 61 I shot really boosted my confidence and has helped get me to where I'm at right now," Smith said.

When the round began Smith was not definitely thinking of shooting a 63 after starting things off bogey, par, bogey on the first three holes.

"I was actually thinking, 'oh man, this could be bad,'" Smith chuckled.



Ponte Vedra High senior Cam Smith.

"But I made some puts heading into the back nine and I didn't even know I was playing that good until somebody said something to me. By that point, I was just in blackout mode and was playing the best I could."

The first time the reality of his record-setting round began to sink in was when he got a text from his friend as he stood on the 18th tee, which was a par-five.

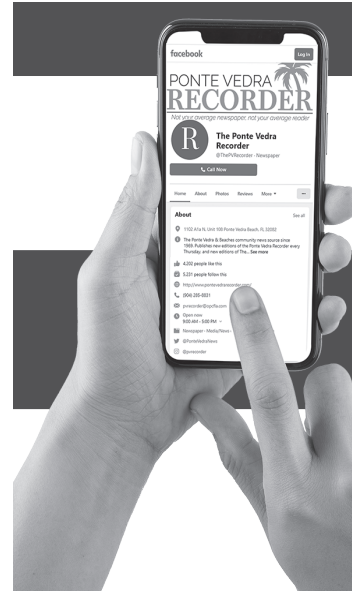
"It was a cool to be able to share that moment with my teammates and all my friends," Smith said.

Smith only started playing golf three years ago, but it was something that he realized came natural for him from the start.

"I played basketball forever, and first picked up a club a couple of years ago," Smith said. "My dad played professional golf, so he knew what it took but he never pushed me into it. He always let me do my own thing growing up. He always said he thought I could be something special one day, and that's always a special thing to hear from your dad."

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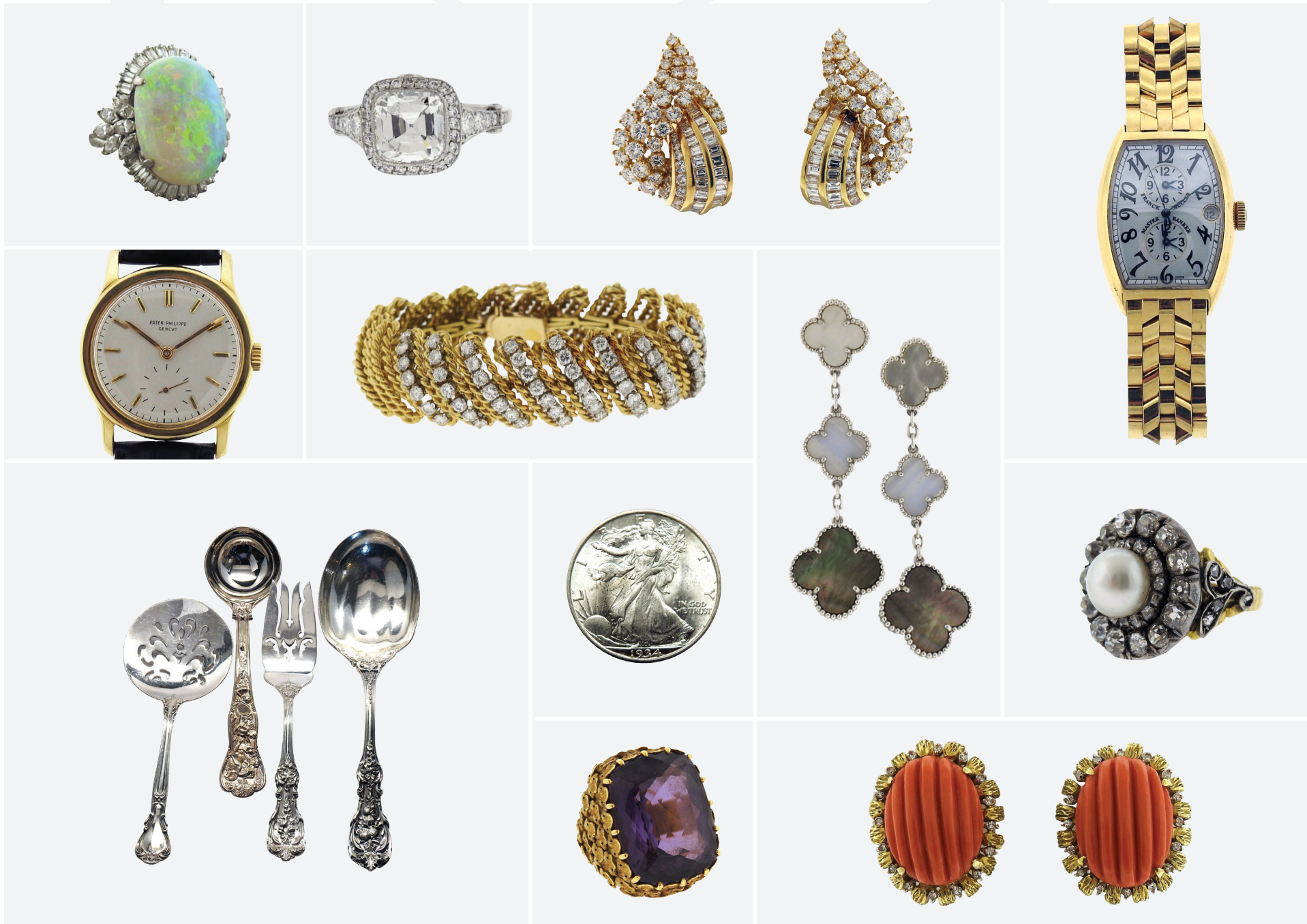
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