

THE RECORDER



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November 3, 2022
Volume 54, No. 1
75 cents

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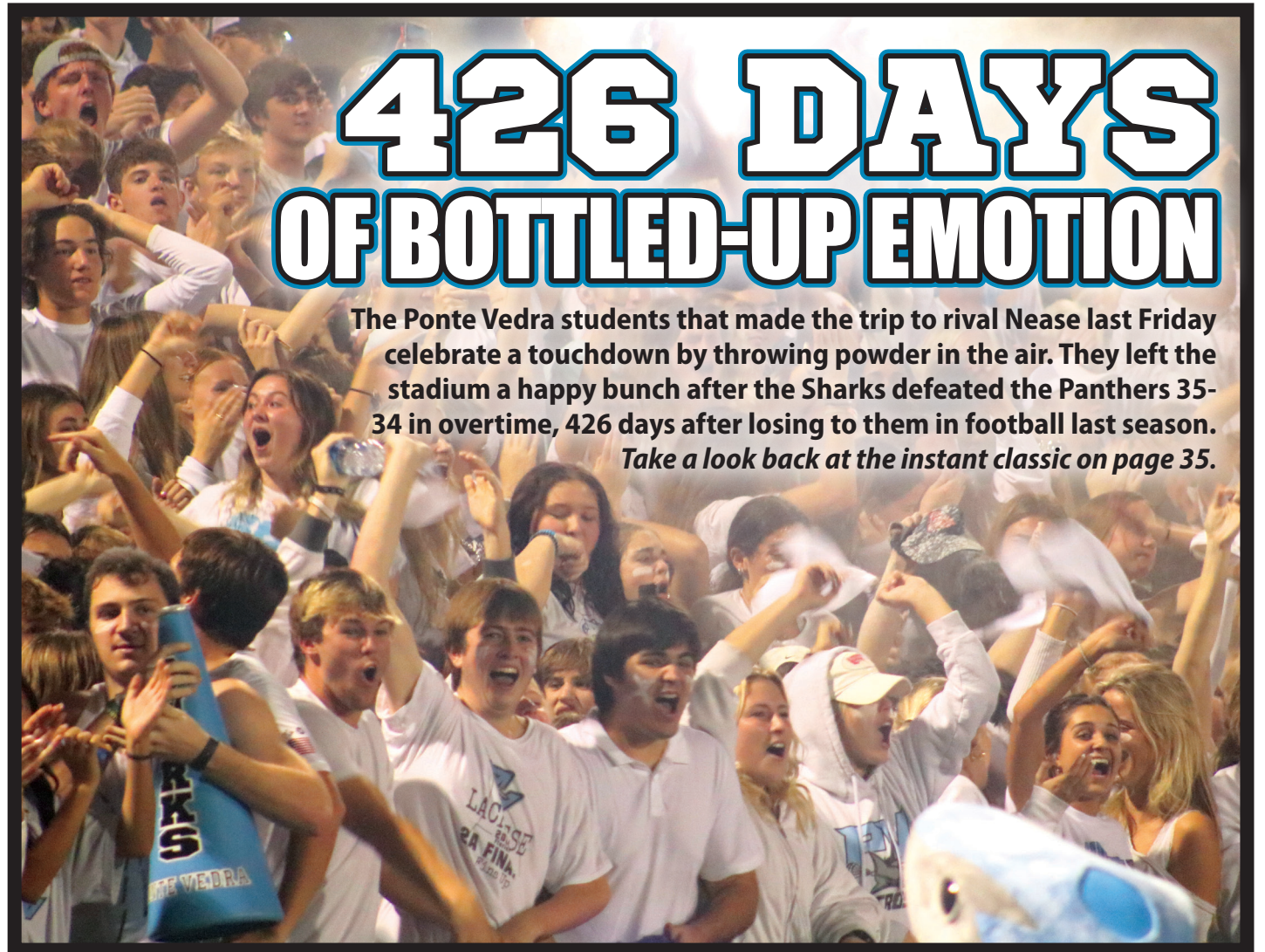
Business Weekly
Featuring *Who's Who in Law*
and *Faces of Finance*
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The Recorder celebrates
53 years
Page 8



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



426 DAYS OF BOTTLED-UP EMOTION

The Ponte Vedra students that made the trip to rival Nease last Friday celebrate a touchdown by throwing powder in the air. They left the stadium a happy bunch after the Sharks defeated the Panthers 35-34 in overtime, 426 days after losing to them in football last season. Take a look back at the instant classic on page 35.

Photo by Anthony Richards

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One of Us

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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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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

BRIEFS

Democratic Club to meet

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting on Nov. 15 at Christ Episcopal Church's Westbury Hall, 400 San Juan Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. "Chat & chew" is at 6 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. The program will be a recap of Election 2022. 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 inside 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.

Lawson Ensemble to perform Nov. 15 at library

The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library will present the Lawson Ensemble at 6:30 p.m. at the library. Doors open at 6 p.m.

The Lawson Ensemble was formed in 2015 as a result of the group members' desire to consistently perform chamber

music at a level of excellence and commitment to share with the Jacksonville and regional community. Founding members are violinist Aurica Duca, violinist/violist Clinton Dewing and cellist Nick Curry. Duca and Dewing are husband and wife and are both full-time members of the Jacksonville Symphony. Curry is the associate professor of cello studies at UNF where he teaches.

The concert is free to the public.

Free passport photos, notary services for veterans, military

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller is honoring veterans, active-duty military, reservists and their dependents by providing free passport photos and notary services throughout November.

Complimentary passport photos and notary services are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, Nov. 1-30, at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. Present your military discharge record (DD Form 214), military ID, military dependent ID or show a driver license with the veteran designation.

In addition, veterans are encouraged to file their DD-214s with the Clerk of Courts for safekeeping and easy future access.

Staff will record DD-214s at the annual Veterans Council of St. Johns County's Veterans Day Celebration on Nov. 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S., St. Augustine, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Discharge papers may be recorded with the clerk's office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays year-round at the St. Johns County courthouse.

For more information, call 904-819-3632.

Bingo Bash supports Humane Society

LaRosa Realty and the St. Augustine Humane Society have partnered to present a festive night full of fun, food — and bingo. It is scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Nov. 15 at the



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Briefs

Continued from 2

Fraternal Order of Police 113, 5050 Inman Road, St. Augustine. The \$25 donation price includes dinner, drinks and 10 bingo games. This is a cash-only event and tickets can be purchased at the door. Proceeds from ticket sales and the 50/50 raffle will go to support the programs and services of the St. Augustine Humane Society.

For more information or to RSVP, email bingolarosastaug@gmail.com.

Duval County eligible for FEMA public assistance

Duval County is eligible for debris removal and repair or replacement of disaster-damaged public facilities. It were previously approved for emergency protective measures.

Winter Design Show raises funds for Wolfson unit

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital will host their 2022 Winter Design Show: Flaunting the First Coast on Dec. 2-4. The three-

day event is a reimagined version of The Women's Board's Art & Antiques Show. It will help raise funds for the newborn intensive care unit at Wolfson Children's Hospital's new Critical Care Tower.

The show will feature more than 45 exhibitors, including local and nationally recognized designers, artists, antique dealers and decor retailers. The show will also include a black-tie gala, the Children's Fashion Show featuring Wolfson Children's patients and lectures from renowned speakers such as Emmy-award-winning TV show host Ty

Pennington; neonatologist and co-star of TLC's "The Little Couple," Dr. Jennifer Arnold; and Janie Molster, interior designer and author of "House Dressing: Interiors for Colorful Living."

The show will be held at Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, 1000 Water St., Jacksonville.

General admission tickets are \$15 and individual lecture tickets start at \$30. For tickets or further information, go to womensboardwch.com/2022-winter-design-show.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



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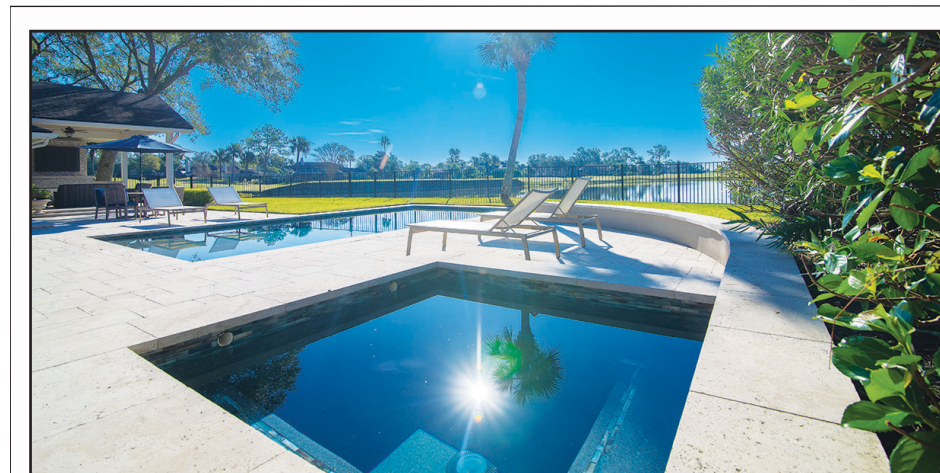
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The Recorder's garden columnist Kathy Esfahani of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery shares her tips for growing gorgeous gardens in Northeast Florida.

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

Snapdragons — More than just a pretty face!

"Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul." — Luther Burbank



By Kathy Esfahani

It is hard to resist squeezing the sides of a snapdragon bloom to watch its "jaws" open and snap shut! These flowers add beautiful color to

your garden and are ideal to plant now as the temperatures cool down. Look for snapdragons in almost any color and height to suit your desired location.

Snapdragons have been a popular flower since the rise of the Roman Empire. Their botanical name, "Antirrhinum majus," means "like" (anti) and "snout" (rrhinum) in Greek and reflects the dragon-like appearance of the bloom. Originating in the Mediterranean, snapdragons were believed to guard

against witchcraft or any negative influences.

Early Greeks and Romans would plant them around castle gates or even wear them as necklaces for protection. In the Victorian era, they had a more romantic edge — the gift of a snapdragon bouquet indicated a coming marriage proposal, and wearing them under clothing was believed to make a person more alluring. Snapdragons were brought to America as the colonists moved into the states. Other types of snapdragons have been created over the past century, one with a bloom resembling a butterfly and the other looking more like an azalea. However, the traditional plant with the dragon snout bloom is still the most popular.

With their long stems, snapdragons are well-suited for bouquets, but they also have a variety of other uses. In early history, women boiled snapdragons and applied the infused water to their skin in hopes of rejuvenating a youthful appearance. The seeds were also used to make an oil used similarly to butter. Both the flowers and the leaves of snapdragons

have anti-inflammatory traits that can be helpful for healing wounds and/or ulcers on the skin. Although bitter tasting, snapdragons are edible and often used for garnishes.

Snapdragons are a popular annual that look wonderful in garden beds, as borders, or in containers. Because they are deer resistant, snapdragons can provide color in areas where these visitors may wander or be scattered in vegetable gardens as a deterrent.

Look for a sunny area with well-drained soil. For the first few weeks after planting, keep the soil around your snapdragons moist. Once the plants are more established, water regularly when the top layer of soil (approximately one inch deep) is dry. Regularly removing old blooms will encourage the plants to continue producing new flowers.

Enjoy your colorful snapdragons outdoors, but don't forget to bring them indoors for beautiful cut arrangements! Happy snapping!

Flower of the Week: Snapdragons

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

Flower of the Week



Snapdragons



Snapdragon bloom

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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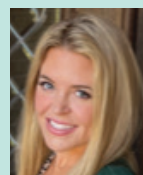
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Jason Nettle has had a rich career in one of the most difficult professions to break into: the theatre. He has performed in major professional shows and has brought his talents to Northeast Florida. Today, he shares his dedication to the theatre with his students at Ponte Vedra High School.

Jason Nettle

As told to Jada Montesione

How did you first get into theater?

I was 10 years old, in fifth grade, and they were having auditions for “The Music Man” at my high school. I auditioned for that, and I haven’t stopped since.

How long did it take you before you got your first professional role?

I moved to New York when I was 22, and the first show that I did was a children’s show that toured the nation. Then I got little jobs here and there, but my first big show was [a national tour of] “Cabaret,” and I had been in New York for two-and-a-half years before that happened. They say that for every 100 shows you audition for you might get one. That is the hard part.

Do you have advice for someone pursuing theater professionally?

You have to be obsessed with it but in a healthy way. It’s just like if someone wants to be a professional golfer, they have to learn everything about golf. The same thing is with acting. I think a lot of people think that acting is really easy because you just memorize lines, but it is an art, and it is a craft. If you want to be professional, you just have to be obsessed with the history of it and what it takes, and put yourself out there, and fail and succeed.

What brought you to Ponte Vedra?

I was a stage manager at the Alhambra Theater and Dining in Jacksonville, and I was also a professor at Jacksonville University. The teacher who knew me was the teacher who worked here before me. Through my reputation at those two jobs, he reached out and said, “Do you want to interview for this job?” and I did.

What do you like best about what you do?

Meeting students as freshmen who don’t know anything about theater and what it takes to do theater, and by the time they are seniors, they are ready to take on the world and go into programs. I have alumni who are already working professionally. I have one student who auditioned for “The Voice,” and then I have some who are auditioning in New York City and Atlanta, and one who just graduated last year wants to be a director. She is directing her first show at UCF next month, so it is nice to hopefully put them in the right path.

What do you hope your students take away from theater?

To be creative, to learn how to problem-solve, to learn better time management, and most importantly to take care of one another. In theater, you find out that you can’t do everything by yourself. You have to collaborate, and you need other people to help you do that, and that is going to stay with you forever.

What are you most proud of in the theater department?

The fact that we do three shows a year, and each one does not look like a typical high school show. We put in all of our effort, time, blood, sweat and tears, and the outcome and product are always fascinating to the audience.



Photo provided by Jason Nettle

Jason Nettle performs his one-act play, a study in how the events of Sept. 11, 2001, impacted people.

Do you have a favorite play you have put on?

I think “Footloose” was one of my favorites. We had like 90 people, but it worked out so perfectly. We had a live band on stage for that. I thought “High School Musical” was great, we had the jazz band play. “Rumors” was great because the set was so big. I love one specific thing; in every show, something stands out.

Do you face any challenges running the theater program?

Yes. The biggest challenge is that I do it by myself. To run it smoothly, it would take about four people: musical director, producer, set builder and mental-health faculty director [laughs]. There are a lot of moving parts, and I am in charge of all of them, so that is probably the hardest part.

What is your hope for the future of the program?

We are pretty strong number wise, but I would love more guys to get involved. Every time guys get involved they wish they had done this sooner. They had such a pessimistic attitude about theater or looked down on people who did theater, but then they do it, and they love it.

What would you like people to know about the theater program?

We are a family, and it is a lot of hard work, but it is also a lot of fun. People come here in the mornings, and they all become lifelong friends. I was in Drama Club when I was in high school, and when I got married 25 years later, all of my groomsmen were from my high school Drama Club. That is the kind of bond you share. When you collaborate and you do so much together, you build a friendship that can’t die, and that is what has been happening in this department.

I know you did a one-act play in honor of 9/11. Can you tell me more about that?

It was a one-man show that I had written in grad school at UCF. All of the students that were with me in grad school weren’t in New York, or they were too young, so they didn’t really understand anything about that day. I felt like I should do something to keep the memory living on. I play 18 different characters, New Yorkers, and I explore how they experience the day and how they dealt with the day differently. Twenty-one years later, I am still doing the show, and it is to educate, entertain and to share that message that this could all be over tomorrow, so we should do the best we can today.



Photo credit, Nikki Brubaker

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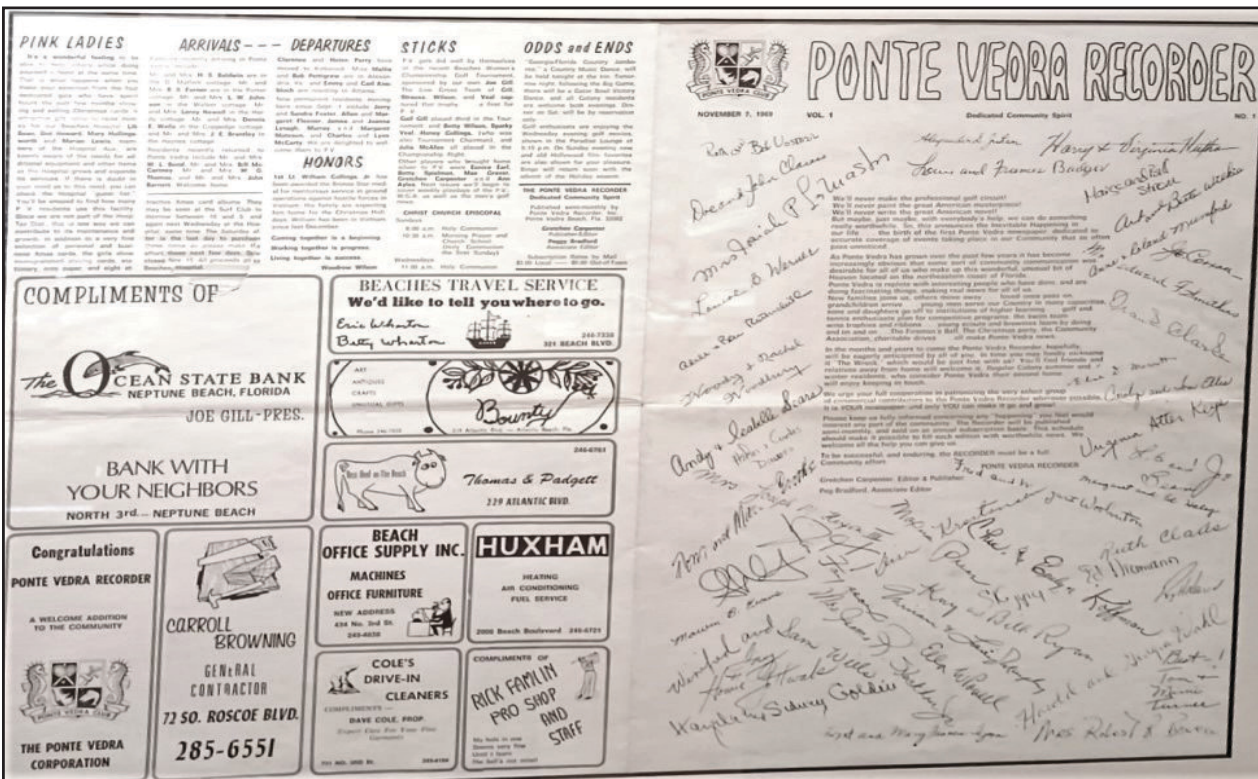
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November 7, 1969



November 8, 1974

Recorder celebrates 53rd anniversary of its founding

By Shaun Ryan

What do Matthew McConaughey, Cate Blanchett, Jennifer Aniston and Jennifer Lopez have in common with The Ponte Vedra Recorder?

They all celebrate their 53rd birthdays this year.

The news in 1969 was full of soaring victories and painful defeats. Big names in media told us about the ongoing war in Southeast Asia, civil unrest in America and man's first step on the Lunar Surface.

But news on a local scale for residents

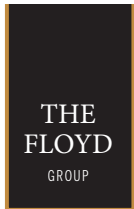
of Ponte Vedra Beach and the surrounding area was going untold.

That is, until Gretchen Carpenter and Peg Bradford launched The Ponte Vedra Recorder on Nov. 7. In a now-famous declaration printed in that first issue, the pair wrote:

"We'll never make the professional golf circuit! We'll never paint the great American masterpiece! We'll never write the great American novel! But maybe, just maybe, with everybody's

BIRTHDAY continues on Page 10

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December 17, 2015

Birthday

Continued from 8

help, we can do something really worthwhile. So this announces the Inevitable Happening in our life ... the birth of the first Ponte Vedra newspaper, dedicated to the accurate coverage of events taking place in our Community that often pass unnoticed."

The paper grew from that humble beginning and continues to grow today. Ownership has changed over the years. Carpenter passed away in 1980 and Bradford followed four years later. The reins passed to Bradford's son, Tim,



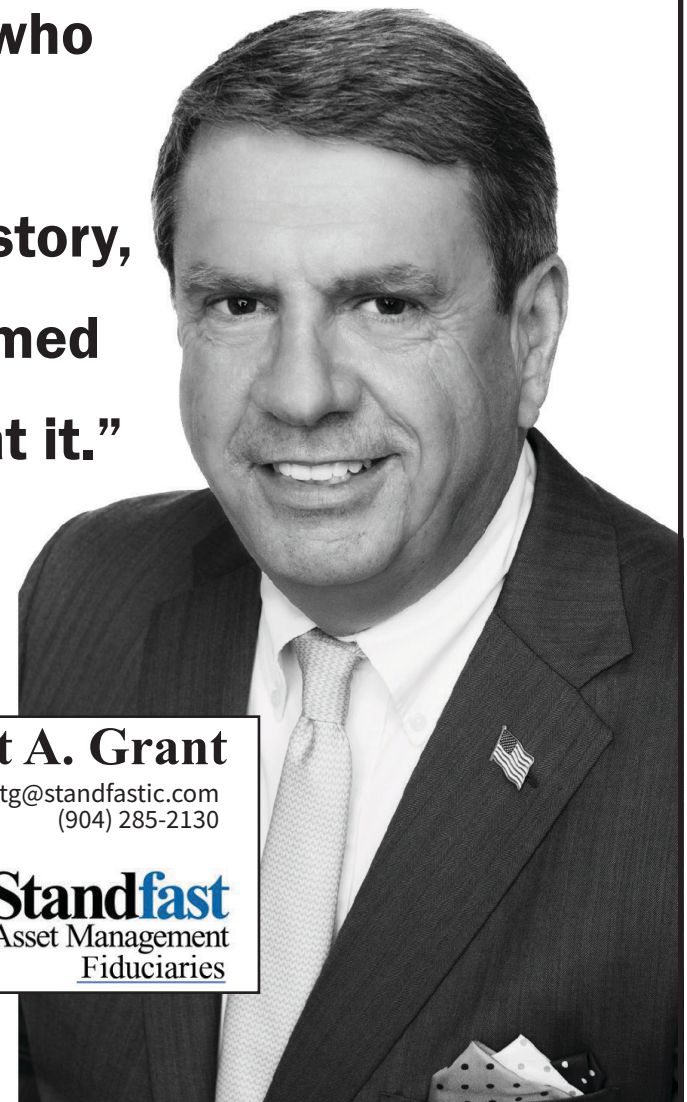
October 27, 2022

who served as publisher, editor, writer and photographer for many years until his death in 1997. His widow, Pamela Bradford, kept the paper going until 1999, when she sold it to Journal Community Publishing Group of Wisconsin.

In 2011, the paper was sold to the Osteen family of Sumter, South Carolina. Today, it is a product of the Osteen Media Group.

Movie stars may be big news on the big screen, but in Northeast St. Johns County the big news involves our community, our friends, our neighbors. It's the news the Recorder has delivered for 53 years and continues to deliver every week.

“Those who do not learn history, are doomed to repeat it.”



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Underwood Jewelers hosts Erica Courtney trunk show



Clayton Bromberg, Erica Courtney and John Rutkowski

Famed jeweler Erica Courtney was on hand for a trunk show hosted at Underwood Jewelers Shoppes of Ponte Vedra location Oct. 20. Items from her Red Carpet Jewelry Collection and 2022 Drop Dead Gorgeous pieces were on display.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Karen Darr and Elise Mecredy



Sean Fleming and Leah Young



Rebecca Mason and Emily Murillo



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Residents raise objections to one-cent surtax

Ballot referendum comes before general election voters

By Shaun Ryan

St. Johns County voters might be forgiven for a certain ambivalence when considering a ballot referendum concerning a proposed sales tax increase of 1%. Differing sets of numbers presented by the county and referendum opponents during a town hall meeting Wednesday, Oct. 26, prove difficult to reconcile, leaving the issue potentially unsettled for the undecided voter.

If approved during the Nov. 8 general election, the surtax would raise sales taxes in the county from 6.5 cents to 7.5 cents on every dollar spent on the first \$5,000 in taxable personal property purchases. This would not apply to things like groceries or prescription medications that are exempt from sales tax.

The surtax would sunset after 10 years and can only be applied to capital infrastructure expenses. It is projected to generate about \$500 million over the next decade, enough to compensate for a revenue shortfall and to fund several

projects identified by county department heads as priorities.

County officials have identified several causes for this shortfall, most notably a reduction in impact fees levied on residential property developers in the wake of the 2008 recession to encourage development at a time when it had come to a halt.

In 2018, the County Commission corrected its course as development returned, increasing impact fees to the maximum allowed by state statute. But that did nothing to compensate for a loss in revenue attributed to the reduced fees.

But, depending upon whom you ask, either 85% or 60% of the surtax burden would be borne by the residents, while visitors in the tourism-rich county would fund the remainder.

At the meeting, hosted by the Palm Valley Community Association, resident Nicole Crosby presented data she'd found on the county's website showing that visitors would pay only 15% of the tax. The site reported that tourist spending was about \$712 million in the last fiscal year, about 15% of overall spending on taxable personal property during that period.

Since Crosby first brought this to the county's attention, however, the site was updated to say visitors spent \$2.4 billion and that the \$712 million figure was 10 years old. This supports the county's position that visitors' purchases account for an estimated range of 28-40% of all spending on taxable personal property.

However, because web pages are preserved on Internet Archive, it is possible to verify that the outdated figure was being presented to the public as current as late as May 16, 2022.

The degree to which visitors pay the surtax doesn't directly address the need for the increase, as put forth by the county, but the mix-up contributed to the overall confusion.

"It would be nice if we could agree on those numbers and if county administrators would pay more attention to the details as to what's on the website," said



Photos by Shaun Ryan

Nicole Crosby presents her objections to a one-cent increase in sales tax.



Jesse Dunn, director for the county's Office of Management and Budget, presents data related to a sales tax increase that comes before voters this month.

one member of the audience. "Not doing that does not help the trust relationship."

At the same time, opponents presented some figures that Jesse Dunn, director for the county's Office of Management and Budget, disputed.

A self-proclaimed political advertisement paid for by 1st Coast Conservatives United and handed out at the meeting claimed that the penny would be a 15% increase in the retail sales tax burden on county consumers.

The claim is not incorrect, but a careful reading is required. One penny is 15% of the current 6.5 cents; thus, changing to 7.5 cents would represent an increase of 15% of the existing rate. However, it would not mark a 15% increase in the sales tax itself. That remains 1%.

If you spend \$100 on taxable personal property today, you would pay an additional \$6.50 in sales tax. If the referendum passes, you would pay \$7.50 on that same purchase.

The handout also claims that the commission voted to increase the property millage rate by 12.5% over last year. This is incorrect. However, in her presentation, Crosby correctly stated that the current

rate is 12.5% over the rolled-back rate.

Another sticking point for opponents of the surtax was the list of projects it would fund, one of which is a widening of Mickler Road, which Crosby opposed.

Some attendees also opposed various projects on the list with one member of the audience saying he didn't support any of the projects.

This may be the proposal's Achilles heel. Dunn admitted that any list of essential projects the county drew up would always find detractors.

While residents in one area of the county feel a new park or library, or, for that matter, police or fire station, is essential, residents living elsewhere may differ.

In preparing the list, the county asked department directors for projects they deemed priorities. The cost of these projects adds up to about \$500 million — including \$240 million for road improvements.

If the referendum fails, the only other way to pay for these projects would be to raise property taxes. And that is something no county commissioner has yet to support.

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DONNA Foundation teams up with Jacksonville Jaguars in new partnership

The DONNA Foundation has announced a new partnership with the Jacksonville Jaguars, making the NFL team the presenting sponsor for the 16th annual DONNA Marathon Weekend Health & Wellness Expo, and the “Fearless” presenting sponsor of the Athletes’ Village for all DONNA Signature Events in 2023.

The partnership includes moving several 2023 DONNA Marathon Weekend events to TIAA Bank Field, including the two-day expo with packet pickup, the DONNA 5K and DONNA Dash. Moving these events to the stadium will elevate the experience for the more than 10,000 runners, survivors, volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors and other participants who travel from all 50 states and around the world each February.

The Jaguars will also have a presence at other DONNA signature events in 2023, including the Black Knight DONNA Mother’s Day 5K in May and THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K in October.

As changes to the Downtown Jacksonville landscape continue, the DONNA Foundation began a search for its new home for several events for the 2023 DONNA Marathon Weekend. A longtime partner, the Jaguars stepped in to become the presenting sponsor, giving DONNA Marathon Weekend Downtown events a home base.

The partnership expands a longstanding pairing of the two Jacksonville-based organizations to raise awareness and funds for families living with breast cancer. Under current owner Shad Khan, the Jaguars became the presenting sponsor of the DONNA 5K and Family Fun Run in 2016 and in that same year made a \$1 million commitment to the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center’s new facility.

Participants in the 2023 DONNA 5K and DONNA Dash will race into TIAA Bank Field, home of the NFL’s Jacksonville Jaguars, to the finish line — symbolically crossing the finish line of breast cancer. With the Jaguars as its presenting sponsor, the two-day DONNA Health &

Wellness Expo will be held in the Daily’s Place Flex Field. The premier facilities will have the capacity to serve even more runners than in previous years and bring a new level of excitement to these DONNA events.

Registration for DONNA Marathon

Weekend 2023 races and fundraising is now open, including the DONNA 5K and DONNA Dash to be held at TIAA Bank Field. Exhibitor space at the DONNA Health & Wellness Expo presented by The Jacksonville Jaguars will open for sales this month. A full schedule of

events for the 2023 DONNA Marathon Weekend can be found at breastcancer-marathon.com/athlete-guide. For additional information or to sign up, go to BreastCancerMarathon.com or thedonnafoundation.org.

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Saturday, November 12th

Show Hours 10 AM - 5 PM

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Pro-am party produces fun atmosphere

The following are photos from the 2022 PXG Women's Match Play Championship's pro-am party hosted by Murray Bros. Caddyshack located at World Golf Village in St. Augustine. Proceeds from the pro-am benefited Investing in Kids (INK!), which is a nonprofit that seeks to provide assistance for educators and students in St. Johns County.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Taylor McCorkle, Morgan McCorkle and Bobbi Stricker



Alexis Phadungmartvorakul, Saifon Foocharoen and Keera Foocharoen



A silent auction was held during the pro-am party.



Smiles were shared by all attendees at the pro-am party.



Deb Kazaluskas and Sam Fritzing



Mark and Laura Davenport



Lauren and David Lightfritz



Michelle Hutchison and Hamilton Neal.



Food and fellowship were enjoyed during the event.



Tim and Andrea Lannan.

Is that a backpack?

Nease students think of creative ways to carry books

Students at Nease High School took part in “anything but a backpack” day as part of the school’s spirit week festivities. The following are some of the unique items used instead of a backpack.

Photos courtesy of Nease High School



GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2022

OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY

VOTING BY MAIL?

Secure Ballot Intake Stations are available at all 8 early voting locations during the hours of voting.

Vote-by-mail ballots **CANNOT** be returned at the polls on Election Day.

Vote-by-mail ballots **MUST** be received by the Supervisor of Elections Office no later than **7 PM** on **Election Day, November 8!**

If your vote-by-mail ballot is returned late, it will not count.

VOTING EARLY?

October 26 - November 5
8 AM - 6 PM Daily at all locations

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101 Library Blvd
Ponte Vedra Beach

Ponte Vedra Concert Hall
1050 A1A North
Ponte Vedra Beach

Julington Creek Annex
725 Flora Branch Blvd
St. Johns

SilverLeaf Amenity Center
218 Silver Forest Dr
St. Augustine

Supervisor of Elections Office
4455 Avenue A, #101
St. Augustine

St. Augustine Beach City Hall
2200 A1A South
St. Augustine

Southeast Branch Library
6670 US 1 South
St. Augustine

Hastings Branch Library
6195 S. Main St
Hastings

ELECTION DAY

November 8, 2022
Polls are open 7 AM to 7 PM

When voting on Election Day, you **MUST** vote at your assigned polling place.

To locate your polling place, visit www.votesjc.gov or call the Elections Office at 904-823-2238.

REMINDER:

Please have current photo and signature ID ready when voting in person. If you do not have proper ID, you must vote a provisional ballot.

Jenna Bush Hager to speak on Nov. 8

The Florida Forum Speaker Series, presented by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, will welcome television news personality and author Jenna Bush Hager on Tuesday, Nov. 8. The program begins at 7 p.m. at the Center for the Performing Arts in Jacksonville.

Hager is a best-selling author and co-host of NBC's "TODAY." She is also the founder of the "TODAY" Book Club called Read with Jenna. Hager has authored and co-authored multiple New York Times best-selling books, "Ana's Story: A Journey of Hope"; "Our Great Big Backyard" and "Read All About It"

with her mother, Laura; "Sisters First" and "The Superpower Sisterhood" with Barbara, her sister.

Her newest book, "Everything Beautiful in Its Time," shares moving, funny stories about her grandparents, George and Barbara Bush, and the wisdom they passed on that has helped shape her life. Hager and her husband, Henry, are the proud parents of three children.

Presented by The Women's Board, the Florida Forum raises awareness and funds for Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville, supporting its mission to provide the highest quality of advanced pediatric health care regardless of abil-

ity to pay. The series is made possible by long-time partners and generous sponsors Wells Fargo, Florida Blue and Landstar.

Since 1992, the Florida Forum has hosted renowned speakers from around the world offering insights and discussions on a broad range of issues. In addition to enriching Jacksonville's intellectual and cultural life, the Florida Forum has contributed more than \$9.2 million to Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville.

For ticket information, go to the-floridaforum.com, call 904-202-2886 or email womensboard@bmcjax.com.



Jenna Bush Hager

FPL awards \$7,700 to INK

Florida Power & Light Co. recently awarded more than \$7,700 to Investing in Kids (INK) in St. Johns County as part of its statewide EmPOWERing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Educators Program. The program's goal is to increase teacher knowledge of effective math and science instructional practices that align with Florida Standards through peer-to-peer learning of best practices within a district.

The funding will support Investing in Kids' "STEMpowering St. Johns County Educators" project, which aims to increase teacher knowledge and broaden STEM instructional practices in the courses covered by the General Science Certification Exam.

Teacher specialists will lead the program, and they will create tutorials for their peers as well as serve as a resource for any questions or support needed. The schools that will benefit from this grant

include Gamble Rogers Middle School, Murray Middle School, St. Augustine High School, Pedro Menendez High School and Mill Creek Academy.

"High-quality, engaging, standards-based instruction is critical for students to build strong foundations in math and science," said Mary Chance, president and CEO, Consortium of Florida Education Foundations. "Through this program, we are grateful to provide our teachers with a valuable learning opportunity that will benefit both their professional development and the education of students across five schools in St. Johns County."

FPL is partnering with the consortium to bring the EmPOWERing STEM Educators Program to school districts throughout the state. Since 2010, the consortium has administered hands-on, workplace-based STEM classroom learning experiences to increase student awareness and interest in STEM careers.



Contributed photo

Education foundation leaders from 11 counties across Florida were awarded grants from FPL.

Together, the consortium and FPL developed this program specifically for math and science teachers.

"We know that when you invest in teacher development, you are also investing in every student they will instruct and inspire for many years to come," said Sarah Marmion, education and outreach centers manager for FPL. "Supporting our local students and educators' education helps better prepare tomorrow's leaders and innovators while also making

Florida an even better place to live, work and raise a family."

Including Investing in Kids, FPL is awarding a total of \$131,000 to 11 local education foundations across the state.

FPL and the NextEra Energy Foundation will also award up to five schools this year in Florida each a \$50,000 classroom makeover grant to improve technology, equipment and resources to empower for the next generation of leaders, thinkers and innovators.

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Village Arts open house is chance to meet the artists

Village Arts Framing and Gallery, located in Sawgrass Village, is celebrating 47 years in business. From 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, Village Arts will host its annual artist open house.

Visitors will find paintings and photography by award-winning local and regional artists. They will see local Florida-inspired art as well as still life, floral and portrait art.

It's an opportunity to meet the artists and learn about their techniques and the inspiration for their works.

"Serving the Ponte Vedra Beach community has been an honor over these many years, and we have a loyal following of clients who come in to purchase art as birthday and anniversary gifts for friends, family or

for themselves," said gallery owner Pamela Keegan. "Our gallery provides an intimate space for viewing art in small and medium sizes, but if you want a larger piece for over the fireplace or in an entry hall our artists are happy to work on those commissions too."

Keegan adds that "our selection of frames is one of the largest in Northeast Florida, and our expert framing ensures that you will love your new artwork. We are here to help."

Village Arts Framing and Gallery is located next to Trasca Eatery in the Sawgrass Shopping center with plenty of free parking.

For additional information, go to villageartspvb.com or call 904-273-4925.



Artwork shown is by: Lisa Cederberg at left, Karen F. Rose and Mary O. Smith in the center and Sandra Hughes at right.

Contributed photo

Local girl is finalist for International Junior Miss

Gianna Capri, 8, has qualified as a finalist for the International Junior Miss Pageant to be held the week of Thanksgiving at the Hyatt Regency Orlando.

Gianna will represent Miss Sunshine State Jr. Pre Teen at the event. The pageant is held for girls ages 4 through 24 across six different age divisions.

Gianna's activities include All Star Cheerleading for Infinity Cheer in Jacksonville Beach and dancing at The Scott Jones School of Dance in Jacksonville. She also enjoys raising awareness for Michael's 'Ohana in memory of her Uncle Michael, who died of a degenerative neurological disease. He was a longtime resident of Ormond Beach.

Gianna raised more than \$20,000 in toys for Wolfson Children's Hospital last holiday season with the support of community members from both Central and Northeast Florida.

Gianna is excited to be partnered with The Arc Jacksonville this year. The Arc Jacksonville serves and advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental differences to achieve their full potential and to participate in community life.

The newly crowned International Junior Miss will receive the official crown and banner, a bouquet of roses and up to a \$5,000 cash scholarship. She will also enjoy a paid international travel opportunity during her reign in addition to many other prizes and opportunities.

Contestants will compete in three overall categories, including Evening Gown, Fun Fashion Modeling and Interview. Inter-



Contributed photo

Gianna Capri

national Junior Miss also offers optional contests, such as the Top Model Search, Talent and Actress competitions.

Each year IJM, which is part of the iam Pageant Powerhouse, awards thousands in cash and prizes to recognize and assist in the development of young ladies worldwide. All activities are age-appropriate and family-oriented.

Emphasis is placed on the importance of gaining self-confidence and learning new skills, such as setting and achieving personal goals.

Families interested in learning more about this program may go to ijminternationals.com.



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Lt. Col. Allen West, Brian Kilmeade to headline Heroes Gala

Charity benefit helps veterans transition to the civilian workforce

Lt. Col. Allen West and journalist Brian Kilmeade will headline the ninth annual Heroes Gala supporting the work of Jacksonville-based Operation New Uniform (ONU).

To be held Dec. 3 at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach, the gala will feature West as guest speaker, with Kilmeade serving as the evening's master of ceremonies. State Sen. Aaron Bean, meanwhile, will serve as guest auctioneer for the event, which will include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dinner as well as a raffle and both live and silent auctions.

Proceeds from the gala will support ONU's mission to assist veterans and military spouses in making the transi-

tion to the civilian workforce.

"We are thrilled to have such nationally recognized patriots here to support ONU's mission," CEO Michele McManamon said. "Both Col. West and Brian Kilmeade are well known for supporting our military men and women, and we are so grateful for their support."

McManamon noted that the nonprofit ONU's career transition training program is provided free of charge to veterans and military spouses, who often find it difficult to adapt their military skills and experience to the corporate world.

"In the military, there is a very clear pathway for advancement as well as camaraderie and support from fellow soldiers — but when a veteran leaves the service, that all goes away," McManamon said. "Through our training programs and support network, we help veterans take off their old uniform and put on a new one — a business suit — by showing them how to apply the valuable skills they gained in the military to a new environment."

Since ONU's inception, more than 350 veterans have graduated from the program, with 97% of them securing employment within four months of completing the program. Much of that is only possible, McManamon said, because of the support from Heroes Gala sponsors and attendees.

"Many of our donors and sponsors view the gala as an opportunity to thank our veterans for their service by hosting them as guests at their table," she said. "It's a wonderful way to show our veterans that we appreciate all their sacrifices and the sacrifices made by their families in support of our freedom."

Sponsors of this year's Heroes Gala include Ascendo Resources, Swisher, Aegis Pension Services, NLP Logix and community partners such as K9s for Warriors. A limited number of tables and sponsorship opportunities are still available.

For more information on sponsorship for the Operation New Uniform Heroes Gala, go to onuvets.org/heroes-gala.

Heroes Gala to highlight veterans' challenges in transitioning to civilian workforce

Gary VanDyk was enjoying a 24-year career in the U.S. Navy when he learned he was being forced to retire due to diabetes. The news, coming amid the disruption of the COVID pandemic, hit both him and his family hard.

"Overnight, the life we planned just completely changed," said Kristi VanDyk, who as a military spouse had supported her husband's two-plus decades of service to his country. "This was our life, and all of a sudden it was like, 'Oh, by the way, you have to retire.'"

Then a friend told Gary VanDyk about Operation New Uniform, a Jacksonville-based nonprofit that provides military veterans and spouses with free training programs that help them make the transition to the civilian workforce. In addition to building a resume and providing networking resources, VanDyk said, ONU helped him identify skills from his military career that would be valuable in the business world while also helping him develop new skills, like public speaking.

"Before ONU, I had no ability to speak before a crowd of people," he said. "Somehow, going through the ONU process, I have the confidence to do that now."

VanDyk is among the local veterans whose stories will be shared at the ninth annual Heroes Gala. To be held Dec. 3 at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach, this year's gala will feature national media personality Brian Kilmeade as master of ceremonies and Lt. Col. Allen West as guest speaker. Proceeds from the event enable ONU to offer its services free of charge.

"Veterans like Gary and spouses like Kristi are the reason we do what we do," ONU CEO Michele McManamon said. "Our veterans have so much to offer the civilian workforce; they just need some help in taking off their old uniform and learning to put on a new one — a business suit."

Since its inception, McManamon said, more than 350 veterans have graduated from the ONU program, which in addition to training offers veterans access to year-round career fairs and networking events to connect them with both employers and fellow veterans. Statistics show that 97% of ONU graduates secure employment within a few months of completing the program — a success rate that is only possible, McManamon said, because of the support from Heroes Gala sponsors and attendees.

For couples like the VanDyks, the

ONU program has been transformational. Kristi VanDyk was so impressed by the changes she witnessed in her husband, in fact, that she enrolled in ONU's program for military spouses.

"I used to think I should be thankful just to have any job because as a military spouse I had gaps in my employment from moving so much," she said. "ONU has given me confidence as well as access to resources and networking opportunities to find a job that's a good fit for me."

Armed with newfound skills and confidence, the VanDyks are now actively seeking new civilian employment. And they encourage other veterans to overcome any feelings of self-doubt and participate in Operation New Uniform.

"Everyone has feelings that they are not good enough," Gary VanDyk said. "ONU has a special way of really bringing out the best in you."

The ninth annual Heroes Gala will include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dinner as well as a raffle and both live and silent auctions. Sponsors include Aegis Pension Services, Arlington Toyota, Ascendo Resources, Autrey Research, Fields Automotive, NLP Logix, Nimnicht, Swisher and community partners such as K9s for Warriors. A limited number of tables and sponsorship opportunities are still available.

For more information on sponsorship for the Operation New Uniform Heroes Gala, go to onuvets.org/heroes-gala.

Don't miss our next issue!

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American Legion post donates \$90K toward suicide prevention

American Legion Post 129's membership voted to donate \$90,000 to Here Tomorrow, a nonprofit suicide prevention organization, to fund a fulltime veteran peer counselor position over a three-year period.

"Thanks to a matching grant made to Here Tomorrow by the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund and J. Wayne Weaver Fund, our donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar ... allowing them to hire a veteran who has faced suicide and overcame it and can share their experience with fellow military personnel contemplating suicide," said post Commander Joe Maichle. "We're grateful we'll soon have a veteran peer support specialist at the beaches where we can refer those veterans for help."

A survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs showed that about 22 veterans are dying by suicide each day in the United States.

In April, Here Tomorrow launched a Match to Reimagine Suicide Prevention campaign with the goal of raising \$4 million to help expand access to mental health services in Northeast Florida over the next three years. Both the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund and the J. Wayne Weaver Fund have pledged to match contributions up to \$500,000 for a total of \$1 million. Likewise, Here Tomorrow founder Joe Kenney will match donations up to \$1 million. The multi-year challenge grant will run through December 31, 2024.

"We are excited to build this relationship with American Legion Post 129, which has made this generous con-



Contributed photo

American Legion Post 129 Treasurer Jim Wineland, left, and Commander Joe Maichle, right, present Here Tomorrow President Joe Kenney a check for \$90,000 to help the nonprofit agency hire a veteran peer counselor for the next three years. The donation will be matched by the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund and J. Wayne Weaver Fund.

tribution to our organization," said Here Tomorrow Board Chair and Founder Joe Kenney. "With their financial support, we will soon have a peer veteran support specialist

on board who can draw from their own experience to help reach military personnel who are contemplating suicide and save more lives in the process."

Here Tomorrow uses a peer support model to offer same-day mental health support to those in crisis. Peer support specialists provide immediate support and systematic follow-up phone calls over the course of a year.

"People thinking about seeking professional help and those who love them need support, answers to their questions and someone to listen who truly understands," said Hannah Hackworth, Here Tomorrow's executive director. "We aren't waiting for those most at-risk for suicide to come to us and ask for help. We're collaborating with community partners like American Legion Post 129, along with the suicide hotline, other community partners and using search engine optimization, our goal is to identify and engage people before it's too late."

Founded in 2021, Here Tomorrow is a nonprofit organization serving the Beaches communities and Northeast Florida with a mission to prevent suicide by building a community where mental health care is acceptable and accessible.

If you or someone you know is experiencing hopelessness and contemplating seeking help, contact Here Tomorrow, 904-372-9087, or hello@heretomorrow.org. There is no cost for the support and follow-up services provided by Here Tomorrow. For more information and resources or to donate, go to heretomorrow.org.

American Legion Post plans craft fair on Nov. 12

American Legion Post 129 Auxiliary is hosting a Christmas Craft Fair & Open House event for the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at Ocean's Beaches Post 129, located at 1151 South 4th St. in Jacksonville Beach.

In addition to the artist's booths and exhibits, a bake sale and silent auction will take place, along with food truck vendors Patty Shack and E&W Barbeque from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature music from acoustic guitarist David Bronson from noon to 2 p.m.

More than 20 local artisans, many American Legion members, are taking part in the event.

Other artists interested in taking part in the event can

contact event coordinator Linda Zepp at 215-435-9224 by phone or text for more information.

For more information, go to www.post129.org/2022-events.com.

Also, the American Legion Post 129, the Post 129 Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion will also have booths at the event where people can find out more about the legion's activities and membership opportunities.

Legion membership is open to all veterans, while men and women with past or current active members in their immediate families may join the Sons of the American Legion or the American Legion Auxiliary.



Contributed photo

Acoustic guitarist David Bronson will perform at the event.

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Students celebrate Hispanic cultures



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Students at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Beaches Campus give a presentation on Hispanic cultures.

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 — Oct. 15), students at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Beaches Campus learned about Hispanic culture across multiple disciplines (art, music, dance, library and, of course, Spanish).

They held a Hispanic Heritage Celebration in the Gym and Performing Arts Center for parents and guests. The students participated in song, dance, a soccer

demonstration, poetry and prayer as part of the event.

“The Hispanic Heritage Celebration is a wonderful opportunity for our students to reflect and broaden their perspectives,” said Jennifer Ketchum, head of Lower School, Beaches Campus. “We are thankful for FALA Language Academy and all their hard work in making this such a successful event for our students.”

Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants plans program

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants (Cathy Snyder and Marilyn Smith) is back in person and ready to demonstrate how to make fun, holiday arrangements with “Downton Abbey” as the inspiration.

Get in the holiday spirit and revisit the Crawley family and their “Downstairs” counterparts with fellow Sisterhood and “Downton” enthusiasts during this program for adults. Bring a friend and make an afternoon of it.

Everyone is invited to the FOL Community Room at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library from noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 19 for this special Sisterhood event featuring fun banter, step-by-step demonstrations of flower arrangements and holiday cheer. Light refreshments will be available and raffle tickets will be sold for chances to win the arrangements the Sisterhood creates. The proceeds from the raffle help pay for this special event sponsored by the Friends



Contributed photo

Cathy Snyder, left, and Marilyn Smith are the Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants.

of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

No online RSVPs are required. For further information, call the library at 904-827-6950.

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HALLOWEEN FUN IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Once again this year, Sykes Family Farms in Elkton offered adventurous members of the community a chance to get lost in its crop maze.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Sykes Family Farms in Elkton had a large assortment of pumpkins for sale at its annual crop maze.



Photo courtesy of Nease High School

Nease High School's track was used for Halloween fun Oct. 27.



Photo courtesy of Nease High School

There were games to play for children of all ages.



Photo courtesy of Nease High School

Students volunteered to help make the event a memorable one.



Photo courtesy of Nease High School

The atmosphere was festive, from the games to the costumes.

See more HALLOWEEN photos on Page 23



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Halloween

Continued from 22



Photo courtesy of Nease High School

Different tables were set up for children to go to on the track. The event featured activities for the whole family, including trunk-or-treating and music.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee held a "drive-through" Halloween CARnival, a fun family event to enjoy trick-or-treating safely. There were treats and giveaways, interactive themed stations, photo opportunities and Halloween music. In addition, there was a Golf Cart Costume Contest.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Some famous personalities were on hand for photos during the Halloween CARnival at Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Flagler Health+ held a "Spookyktacular at Nocatee" on Oct. 19. The event featured activities for the whole family, including trunk-or-treating and music.



Photo by Susan Griffin

You just never knew who would show up when Flagler Health+ held its "Spookyktacular at Nocatee."



Photo by Susan Griffin

Flagler Health+ held a "Spookyktacular at Nocatee" on Oct. 19. The event featured activities for the whole family, including trunk-or-treating and music.



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McCarthy awarded Conservation Medal

The Ponte Vedra Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution awarded Jim McCarthy the NSDAR Conservation Medal on Oct. 4 in recognition of his efforts to improve the environment.

McCarthy was president of the North Florida Land Trust from 2015 until 2022 focusing on preserving and enhancing the North Florida quality of life by protecting its irreplaceable national environment.

He was instrumental in protecting almost 28,000 acres in Jacksonville during his tenure. He also helped in the acquisition of multiple properties, including the \$6.5 million Fish Island in St. Augustine, and secured more than \$46 million in funds to purchase and protect property for future generations.

McCarthy has served on the state Environmental Regulation Commission in 2016

and 2020 and is currently on the Board of Governors of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a patriotic organization which promotes historic preservation, education, conservation and patriotic citizenship.

For more information contact regent. darpontevedra@gmail.com or go to darpontevedar.org.



Contributed photo

Phyllis Baehrend, Jim McCarthy, Lee Anderson Louy (NFLT Director of Philanthropic Services) and Allison DeFoor.

Students learn about employment in visit to Humane Society

A group of young adults interested in employment opportunities within the animal science field visited the St. Augustine Humane Society recently. The students are participants in the St. Johns County School District's Life Work Transition Program and are concentrating on developing the skills required for successful employment.

Staff and volunteers with the Humane Society spent a few hours with the students, touring the surgery center, administrative offices and Society Pet Spa. A few potential apprentices and their instructors are planning a return visit for more in-depth information about employment

and volunteer opportunities with the St. Augustine Humane Society.

"We so appreciate our community partnerships," said Lynn Washington, community outreach director for the Humane Society. "People helping people is what St. Johns County is all about. Programs like this can be a win-win situation for everyone involved."

Organizations interested in partnering with students in the St. Johns County School District's Life Work Transition Program can contact Jennifer Argentina at Jennifer.Argentina@stjohns.k12.fl.us.



Contributed photo

Pictured from left are, front row: Faith Northrup and Taylor Brooks; second row, Noah Brzinski, Hector Diaz-Cabrera, Ethan Johnson, Kai Duren, Sam Morrison, Cyris Matern, Matthew Sponagle, Patrick Timoney, Zach Conway, Krisina Hess, job coach Tracy Munoz, Humane Society volunteer Vanessa Hofer and job coach Ami Brennan; third row, teacher Tracy Holland, Marion Boyd, Kevin Harrison, Parker Andersen and Aiden Chubbuck; back, teacher Adam Ringwood.

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Blue Angel Cary Rickoff visits Jacksonville Country Day School

By Natalie Jackson

On the eve of the 2022 NAS Jax Air Show, Lt. Commander Cary Rickoff, a highly decorated lead solo pilot for the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron: the Blue Angels, paid a visit to Jacksonville Country Day School. Rickoff selected the school so that he could see his cousin, Alexa, and her second-grade class. In keeping with the theme with the weekend, Rickoff read “Tuesday Bluesday” by Angel Stull-James to all of second grade. Following the story, second graders were able to participate in a Q&A with Rickoff who described what it is like to be a Blue Angel and what an honor it is to serve in the U.S. Navy.

“I think it was a really unique experience to see him and hear about his job,” said second grader Simon. “I wanted to be a pilot before I met him, but now I am just even more excited to be one.”

When Rickoff asked if any student had aspirations to be a pilot an overwhelming amount of hands shot up.

“I thought that the students would enjoy seeing him in his uniform, getting inspiration from someone who is so passionate about their career, and learning the importance of practice and dedication,” said Lindsey Upchurch, Jacksonville Country Day School second grade teacher.

Head of School Pat Walker noted that “our school places an emphasis on character education and focuses on incorporating

the seven mindsets throughout our student’s daily routines. The ‘Passion First’ and ‘Everything is Possible’ mindsets are ones that Commander Rickoff exemplifies daily with his career in the Navy.”

Alexa described how she felt about her cousin visiting her classroom. “I was really happy my friends got to meet him,” she said. “Not a lot of people get to see a Blue Angel pilot who comes to their school. I felt very special.”

At the end of the visit, Rickoff pre-

sented Walker with a special edition of the “Best Wishes Blue Angels Poster.” Students took home similar Blue Angels posters to remember the morning, and perhaps inspire a few future careers in aviation.

Alexa was thrilled to attend the NAS Jax Air Show with her family, where more than 300,000 people watched a variety of military and civilian demonstrations, but of course she was the most excited to see her cousin perform in the grand finale with the Blue Angels.



Contributed photo

Commander Cary Rickoff with the second-grade class at Jacksonville Country Day School.

Training Exercise

Ponte Vedra native Cpl. Steven Taylor, U.S. Marine Corps, recently conducted training alongside Japan’s Self-Defense Force Soldiers in Hokkaido, Japan. Taylor is a water support technician with 3rd Transportation Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group. Information provided by Capt. Johnny Coronel, Communication Strategy and Operations Director 3d Marine Logistics Group.



Photo provided by USMC



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United Way grant to help HUGS stock student food pantries

HUGS St. Johns has received a financial grant for its 17 school-based emergency food pantries from the United Way of St. Johns County.

HUGS school pantries provide child-friendly items for food-insecure students identified by their school counselors who arrive to school hungry or who need to bring food home to prepare for dinner. The pantries are restocked each month by HUGS volunteers, and the United Way donation allows them to purchase needed food items that are combined with non-perishable food donations from the community.

“Our school-based pantry program has grown since the program began in 2017, and significantly since 2019,” said volunteer food program coordinator, Holly Ross. “The funds from United Way make it possible to continue to provide for the growing need here in St. Johns County.”

“The team at HUGS does an amazing job of working to address a growing need with a mighty group of caring volunteers in our community,” United Way of St. Johns County President and CEO Mark LeMaire said. “United Way is proud to support this important hunger program serving children in St. Johns County.”

“We are incredibly thankful for our new food pantry for our students that are experiencing food instability,” said



Contributed photo

The United Way of St. Johns County recently provided a grant to HUGS St. Johns, which maintains 17 school-based emergency food pantries.

Pedro Menendez High School counselor, Stephanie Toffaletti. “This service gives them peace of mind knowing that their school community cares about them and their well-being, while giving them one less thing to worry about at school.”

United Way of St. Johns County sup-

ports health, education and financial assistance through their support of nonprofits throughout St. Johns and Putnam counties.

HUGS St. Johns is an all-volunteer 501c(3) that provides food, clothing, shoes and more to thousands of St. Johns

County children-in-need identified by school counselors, social workers and agency partners.

To donate food, host a food drive or volunteer to help restock HUGS’ St. Johns County school pantries, email info@stjohnshugs.org.



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FEATURING
Who's Who in Law
— AND —
Faces of Finance
PAGES 27-33

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AT THE LINK

Marketing leader serves elder law and estate planning attorneys

Bambiz maintains office at the link

By Shaun Ryan

For attorneys practicing in elder law and estate planning, it isn't enough to have the requisite education and expertise. Reaching the population most needing those services is critical to success.

And that relies on effective marketing, which requires that the person or firm providing it appreciates the nuances of that particular field. Perhaps too frequently, attorneys will employ a marketing company that serves a diverse clientele and may employ the same approach it uses with the local grocery store or automotive repair facility.

That's where Bambiz Marketing stands apart.

"The reason that we're really popular with the elder law and estate planning firms is because we only work with them," said Bambiz founder Jim Blake.

Another difference between Bambiz and other marketing agencies is that Blake's company doesn't tie its clients to long-term contracts.

"Our contract is: You're going to like working with us so much that you're not going to want to quit," Blake said.

In other words, Bambiz has to produce results to ensure its own future success.

The five-person agency provides digital marketing for attorneys across the nation, managing websites, lead generation, social media and other

types of online services. Most of the agency's clients call upon Bambiz to fill events, such as presentations at hotels and community centers where attorneys offer important information regarding wills and trusts, avoiding probate, privacy and more.

Some attorneys approach Bambiz simply seeking content for blogs, newsletters or social media. It saves the attorney time.

Others want help with search engine optimization to increase online traffic or lead generation, getting their message to the desired population.

And some attorneys prefer to turn over all marketing to Bambiz because they want to focus on practicing law.

Building a business

The roots of Bambiz (which stands for Blake Advertising and Marketing Business) go back to Blake's decade doing marketing and sales for the world's largest tire and rubber company, Bridgestone Corp. He had earned a degree in business and communications from Illinois State University in 2007, and discovered he had an interest in helping businesses to grow.

At first, he managed Bridgestone products at large companies but was later moved from Chicago to Tampa, where he worked with independent retailers.

At the time, his wife worked for companies that presented educational events for lawyers. She suggested that he could help these lawyers with their marketing.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Jim Blake, founder of Bambiz Marketing, enjoys having an office at the link.

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GUEST COLUMN

A Brief History of Stock Market Crashes and Corrections



Scott A. Grant

By Scott A. Grant

Stock market corrections are painful. They tear at our psyches and damage our emotions. They often cause widespread panic. Fear is one of the strongest human emotions. For all of our outward bravado, we scare pretty easily. When the stock market starts to go down it can cause us to panic. What if I lose all of my money? How will I feed my children? Panic can lead us to make bad emotional decisions. And let's be honest, when we make bad decisions, those decisions usually come from our emotions, not from our logic.

As I am sure everyone is aware, we have recently experienced one of these painful declines. It might be helpful to look at past stock market declines and see what they can teach us about today and tomorrow. The granddaddy of all stock market declines was the crash of 1929. In September, the Dow Jones Industrial Average peaked at 381. Beginning in October, the market

began a devastating four-year decline that brought the Dow all the way down to 41. That decline created the Great Depression. People starved.

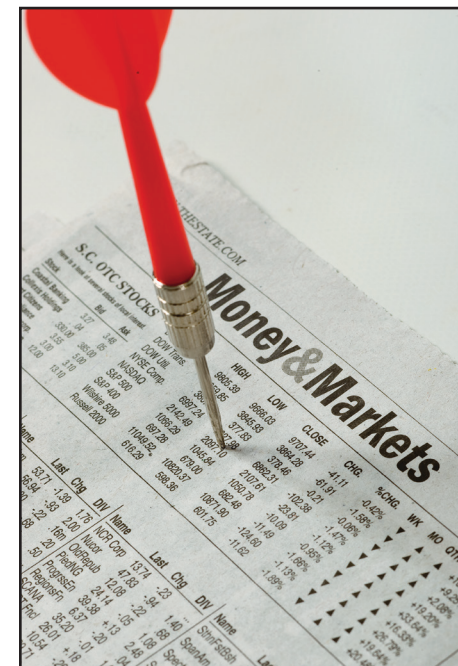
In 1962, the market endured a sharp decline known as the Kennedy Slide or Flash Crash of 1962. From a high of almost 750 in 1961, the market tumbled to a low of under 550. At the time, in a rare moment of candor, the chairman of the American Stock Exchange credited the steep decline to the market correcting from an overbought position.

The next major event occurs between 1970 and 1982. This was a period of high inflation and is certainly the one that scares many investors today. Inflation is insidious and, like black mold, it is hard to kill. Over the 12-year period, as four different presidents attempted to Whip Inflation Now, the Dow bounced up and down from a low of just over 600 to a high of just over 1,000 on four separate occasions. Each time the Dow hit 1,000 it immediately went back down. That is until the fourth time during the Regan administration. The fourth assault on Dow 1,000 proved to be the charm. The Dow rocketed to 2,750 in five years.

1987 was painful. The Dow dropped 22.6% in a single day in October. I remember sitting in my office at EF Hutton & Co. It felt like the world was coming to an end. In total, the market would give up 1,000 Dow points, dropping from 2,750 down to 1,750. It then recovered. By July of 1990, the Dow set a new high of 2999.75. It took three years, which is a lifetime for an individual and a drop in the bucket for our country. In total for the decade, the Dow jumped from a low of about 800 to a high of about 3,000, which is pretty good especially considering that 30% decline in 1987.

The worst stock market event of this century occurred when the Dot Com bubble burst in January of 2000. The market began a debilitating decline that lasted three long years. That three-year decline took the Dow from a high of 11,700 all the way down to a low of 7,500. The constant, never-ending decline of that three-year period was hard to stomach. The market would not set a new high until sometime in 2006.

Many people remember the Great Recession of 2008-2009 as the worst financial calamity this country ever endured. It wasn't. However, the market decline was exceptionally steep. After reaching a high of just over 14,000, the Dow dropped to



6,600 on March 10th of 2009. A year later, the Dow had regained most of its losses and within two years almost all.

Recently, the market has experienced another large decline. After ending last year at around 37,000, the Dow declined to a low at 28,600 before bouncing back up to just over 32,500 on October 28, the 93rd anniversary of the 1929 crash.

All of these events followed periods of irrational exuberance, often driven by younger investors and built around the myth that the market always goes up. It doesn't. The market goes up and the market goes down. It is like life. During periods of investment turmoil, scammers crawl out of the woodwork like cockroaches offering high-commissioned secret magic that promises to alleviate all of your emotional and financial angst. Don't be fooled. There is no such thing as magic. Cults often promise the same thing, secret knowledge that will alleviate all of your emotional and financial angst. Joining a cult is almost never a good idea.

Examining the past, we can see that when the market has declined in the past, it has always recovered and gone higher. That is likely to be the case again, although there are no guarantees. If you are still nervous and scared, my best advice is to call me. I will give you honest advice and help you as much as you let me.

Scott A. Grant is a local author and historian. By day he is a fiduciary asset manager with Standfast Asset Management. He doesn't believe in magic. scottg@standfast.com

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[L-R]: Brian, Molly, Terry, Diana, John, Sharmaine

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Tally-to-Jax marathon series to fund medical legal partnership

Members of the Jacksonville Bar Association (JBA) representing Big Law, alternative dispute resolution and solo/small firms are entering into an epic battle to see who can garner the most support for Freed to Run 6.0, which is expected to fully fund an endowment for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid's Northeast Florida Medical Legal Partnership (NFMLP) this month.

In this three-way showdown, teams called Too Big to Fail (Big Law), Neutrals Never Quit (JBA alternative dispute resolution practitioners committee) and Too Small to Fall (solo and small-firm committee) will use sheer will and persuasion to determine who can:

- sign up the most JBA members,
- run the most aggregate miles, and
- raise the most money for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid's Northeast Florida Medical Legal Partnership.

Each group will field a relay team to run in the last of the six Freed to Run marathons, which will be run on Nov. 19. Freed to Run will provide buses to transport runners from the Duval County

Courthouse to the start at the Baker County Courthouse in Macclenny, and to pick up and drop off relay participants along the route.

The Northeast Florida Medical Legal Partnership provides civil legal aid to pediatric patients and their families to help the children overcome barriers to their wellness, including landlord-tenant, health coverage, family law and other issues.

Gunster shareholder Asghar Syed, captain of Too Big to Fail, said he thinks Big Law is going to crush it.

"As we all know, 'Size matters,'" Syed said. "And we're out to prove it yet again. But in the end, this is all for the kids, so whether we win or lose, the kids win."

Robert Travieso of The Travieso Law Firm, captain of Too Small to Fall, agreed.

"We are having a lot of fun with the rivalry, but only to draw attention to this very important issue," Travieso said.

"Children who are already dealing with health issues shouldn't have to worry about things like being denied insurance

coverage or substandard housing conditions that are making their health matters worse. By permanently funding the NFMLP, we are ensuring they'll have a lawyer in their corner."

Jennifer Grippa of Miles Mediation and Arbitration, co-captain of Neutrals Never Quit along with Penny Schmidt of Jax Mediation Center, said she's happy to be part of a truly "healthy" competition.

"Of course, I never take sides, so it's nice that all of our teams are in total agreement here," Grippa said. "We all have the same goal in our sights, which is to put the NFMLP endowment over the top."

All donations go to endow the Northeast Florida Medical Legal Partnership and are matched at 125% by Baptist Health up to \$1.25 million. With the match, the six-year fundraising total is expected to reach the goal of \$2.25 million to fully fund the endowment by the end of the year.

To register with or support one of the teams, go to:

- Too Big to Fail: www.jaxlegalaid.org/toobig

toobig

- Too Small to Fall: www.jaxlegalaid.org/toosmall

- Neutrals Never Quit: www.jaxlegalaid.org/neutral

For more information, contact:

Too Big to Fail — Asghar Syed: asyed@gunster.com

Too Small to Fall — Robert Travieso: robert@traviesolawfirm.com

Neutrals Never Quit — Jennifer Grippa: jgrippa@milesmediation.com

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Austin Lankford and Clair Williams are part of the all-student staff that runs the "Shark Shack" at Ponte Vedra High School.



Clair Williams folds a shirt and makes sure merchandise is stocked in the "Shark Shack." Photos by Anthony Richards

Shark Shack sells school pride, teaches business concepts

By Anthony Richards

One of the new things this year at Ponte Vedra High School has been the introduction of the school's "Shark Shack," which is a fully student-run outfit that sells everything from school-related merchandise to candy.

There are currently 16 students in the international marketing academy at Ponte Vedra and they are the ones that are in charge of the "Shark Shack's" day-to-day operations.

"It's all about teaching them how to start and run a business," international marketing teacher Lisa Lankford said.

Although this is the first time something like this has been in place at the school, it is something that Lankford has had success with in the past while teaching in Georgia.

According to Lankford, the idea was

initially floated around at the end of last year, which is also when the shelves for the merchandise were ordered and started the entire venture in motion.

Her son Austin has been helping out since the beginning and is deeply involved with the project.

"I've grown up my whole life with her as my teacher, so I've sat here for 16 years learning about all this stuff," Austin Lankford said. "I watched her run it up in Georgia, but now to finally be a part of it and have an impact is amazing. It's been crazy to see our ideas appear."

Both Austin Lankford and Clair Williams are juniors and have been part of the program at the school since they were freshmen.

"It's been such a great learning experience, because this is what we're learning in class, but to be able to apply that

to the real world and others around us has been a great opportunity to have," Williams said.

Williams and Kayla McLaughlin work together to create the majority of the designs and logos on the merchandise sold. They are also vice presidents of promotion for the school's DECA Club.

According to Williams, it is a surreal feeling anytime she sees someone pass her either in the halls of the school or in public wearing a piece of clothing that has one of her designs on it.

"When I see that, I just stand there and think, 'Wow, I made that,'" Williams chuckled.

One thing that hit McLaughlin not long into at the store is that "simple sells."

"At the beginning we were definitely overthinking everything, but really we've found that people just want the 'PV' logo, and it sells," Williams said.

Ideas have changed and there are several things about the Shark Shack that the students have realized are continually shifting over the first couple of months since it opened its doors, and they are learning how to better be equipped for such instances.

One of the areas where they have witnessed trial and error at times is when deciding what items or selection they should order.

They do the best they can to gauge the feeling of their fellow students by offering opinion surveys during lunch periods in an attempt to best understand the needs and wants of the market they are selling to.

"One thing that has been really cool to see is what things sell more than others," Austin Lankford said. "For example, the trucker hats are something that we've had to restock I don't know how many times."

Another interesting challenge that they have come across is the wide range of age groups they are marketing towards with both students and parents purchasing items from the store.

That means a wide range of demographics must be considered before decisions are made.

"Definitely one of the best parts has been getting to know the people more, because you're out there getting to know what they like, so that you find out what they want," Austin Lankford said.

Additions to what is stocked at the store have been being made since the start of the school year, including offering candy.

Just to get candy allowed to be sold involved quite the approval process, which was another thing they found both surprising and intriguing to see the steps needed to be taken when introducing a food product.

According to Austin Lankford, now that it is in place, he can't even imagine what continued expansion and improvement of the Shark Shack will look like later this year, much less years from now.

"It's crazy to think that after we graduate, where this could end up going with the future generations of DECA and marketing students," Austin Lankford said. "It's quite the honor."

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Benchmarks of Success

A look at major career changes in the area



Dr. Garrett Schwarzman

Schwarzman joins Flagler Health+ Orthopedic Specialists

Dr. Garrett Schwarzman, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, has joined Flagler Health+ Orthopedic Specialists. Schwarzman is now practicing at the Flagler Health+ Orthopedic Specialists locations at Flagler Hospital's St. Augustine campus and at

the Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee.

Schwarzman joins the Flagler Health+ team after completing his sports medicine fellowship at the Andrews Research Education Foundation in Gulf

Breeze, Florida.

He earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine and his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin, majoring in chemistry and history with a pre-med focus.

Schwarzman was the team physician for Auburn University football, UIC basketball, the AA Pensacola Blue Wahoos and the WNBA Chicago Sky. He also has worked closely with Team USA Volleyball, Team USA gymnastics and multiple high school teams in the Chicago and Pensacola areas.

An accomplished athlete, Schwarzman competed in crew at the University of Wisconsin and is a Half-Ironman finisher who has twice run, and finished, the Chicago Marathon.

Graziuso named to Crowley post

Crowley has named Erika Graziuso its new chief information officer, a key step in providing customers efficient and sustainable digital solutions, supporting supply chain integrity and maintaining global competitiveness alongside its partners. In her role, Graziuso will lead Crowley's information



Erika Graziuso

technology and digital transformation strategy with a key focus on digital solutions, cybersecurity and responsible data management.

Graziuso previously served as global chief information officer for LHH, a human resources solutions firm, and group senior vice president of technology, both under The Adecco Group.

There, she led the development of digital transformation efforts, resulting in digital solutions to support new market trends.

Graziuso holds a master's degree in financial institutions from Bocconi University in Milan, Italy, and completed the Global Leadership Program at ISEI Business School in Shanghai, China.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

How alternative investments may fit your portfolio

Submitted by Chris Thompson

portfolio.

The state of the markets in 2022, where both stocks and bonds experienced declines in the first half of the year, may have you thinking about other investing options. If you're wondering how to further diversify your portfolio, alternative investments are one option to consider. They include real estate, commodities, hedge funds, private equity and private debt, and venture capital. Before you dive in, here's what you should know about these nonconventional assets. You should also be sure to seek the advice of a trusted financial advisor who can help you evaluate your risk tolerance, time horizon and whether alternatives could have a suitable place in your

A different kind of investing

Alternatives, as the name implies, are not mainstream investments, and if included in a portfolio, should only make up a small portion of it (no more than 15% to 20% is one rule of thumb, but the appropriate amount may vary).

Commodities can include natural resources such as crude oil, wheat, corn and coffee. Trading typically occurs on the futures market, which means the investments are more complex than typical securities. Real estate includes publicly traded real estate investment trusts (REITs), which trade on the stock market, or private REITs, which have different investment requirements. Investors may also invest directly in land

or property.

Private equity, private debt, hedge funds and venture capital are available to individual investors through professionally managed funds. These segments of the market were off limits to all but the wealthiest investors and institutions until recently. Such assets are more accessible today than they were in the past and, like other forms of alternatives, can play a role in your portfolio.

The potential benefits of alternatives

The primary benefit of including alternatives in your asset mix is portfolio diversification. An effectively diversified portfolio can help you generate more consistent investment perfor-

mance over time. Historically, some types of alternatives have shown the potential to hedge against the negative impact of weaker performance periods in stock and bond markets.

Further, alternatives may be a hedge against higher inflation. These types of assets have the potential to keep closer pace with rising living costs.

Potential challenges with alternative investments

Alternative investments are a long-term portfolio position. You need to be certain that you won't need to liquidate assets early to access money committed to alternatives.

In addition, some alternatives aren't

INVESTMENTS continues on Page 33

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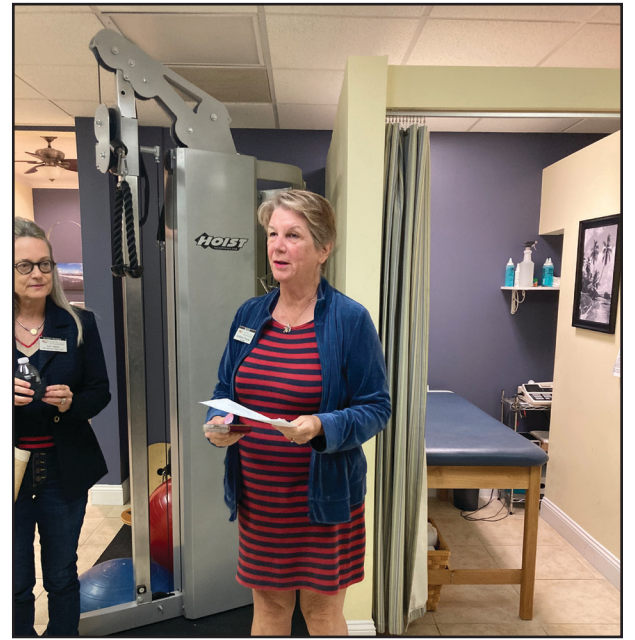
Ponte Vedra Wellness hosts 'before hours,' celebrates anniversary

Ponte Vedra Wellness recently hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce "before hours" event, which coincided with the business celebrating its 18th anniversary.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Dr. Erika Hamer



Kathleen Floryan




Ericha Gore, Jackie Smith and Elaine Raby




Lori Adams and Michael McCarthy

Thank you for voting us Best of the Best

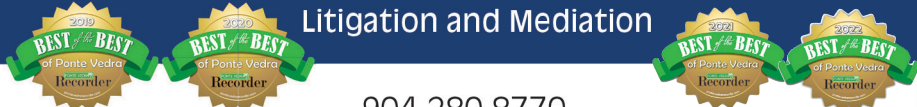


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Investments

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subject to the same level of regulatory oversight as other securities. Be certain you fully understand the nature of the investment you select and the terms of the offering.

It may not be as easy to determine whether a specific investment is truly appropriate without significant research or professional guidance. To that end, talk

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to your advisor about how alternatives can most effectively be incorporated, and which types are a good fit, for your own portfolio.

Chris Thompson, CFP®, CRPC®, Associate Manager, Vice President is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. in Jacksonville, FL. He specializes in financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 29 years. To contact him, chris.thompson@ampf.com, 904-708-3817, Ameripriseadvisors.com/chris.thompson.

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Bambiz

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He agreed but offered his services for free because he wanted to get educated in the field before charging a fee. Soon, it became apparent that he really knew his stuff because his efforts on behalf of these lawyers succeeded.

“It was just one of those things in life where you're like: Wow, I guess this is where I was meant to be,” he said.

Friends suggested that he charge for his work, so in 2016 he left his job and replaced his salary supplying marketing for attorneys. He became educated in elder law and estate planning and today has amassed enough knowledge that he said he could probably run one of the educational workshops himself.

And his hard work has paid off. Bambiz is now one of the top marketing agencies for elder law and estate planning attorneys.

The link

Bambiz has been with the link since it opened its doors in No-catee in 2021.

Blake and his family had moved to Northeast Florida from

Miami, where he had an office at WeWork, a provider of co-working spaces.

When he heard that the link – a business incubator, co-working space and community centerpiece that offers a variety of programs – would soon open, he made inquiries and was pleased with what he learned.

He started by acquiring a dedicated desk at the new facility.

“I liked it so much that I upgraded to the office,” he said.

One appeal of the link is its propinquity. It's close enough to his home that Blake can walk to work, or ride a golf cart or scooter there.

“I can get back and forth between my house and here in less than five minutes,” he said.

The link, located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., also offers a lot of fun activities, and Blake said his daughter has participated in its Kids Night Out, while he has taken her to the Daddy-Daughter Dances.

“It's pretty cool,” Blake said. “My daughter knows I work here, but she also knows that she has fun times playing here.”

To learn more about Bambiz, go to bambiz.net. To learn more about the link, go to thelink.zone.



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R. Scott Costantino **The Costantino Law Firm, P.A.**

Scott Costantino is Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Civil Trial Law. He is also Board Certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He has received an AV rating from the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory and has over 33 years' experience in civil trial practice.

Mr. Costantino has been inducted into the International Society of Barristers and serves on its Board of Governors. He is also a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and was selected as the ABOTA-- Jacksonville Chapter's Lawyer of the Year for 2012. He served as the statewide President for FLABOTA in 2019 and is currently an ABOTA National Board Representative.

Mr. Costantino has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the publication *The Best Lawyers in America*.

The Costantino Law Firm, P.A. has also been named a Best Law Firm in Jacksonville by U.S. News - Best Lawyers® “Best Law Firms” for 2023. Mr. Costantino has also been selected for inclusion in *Super Lawyers* magazine.

The Chester Bedell Inn of Court has designated Mr. Costantino as a Master of the Bench. He has also been named a Life Member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

Mr. Costantino represents clients in complex personal injury matters, including wrongful death, professional liability as well as car, trucking, motorcycle, scooter, one wheel and bicycle accident cases. Mr. Costantino received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida. He is the managing shareholder of The Costantino Law Firm, P.A.

In the Arts

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Grand Bohemian hosts master artist

Reception planned for Nov. 4

By Shaun Ryan

The Grand Bohemian Gallery in St. Augustine will host a reception Friday, Nov. 4, for expressionist-colorist Jean Claude Roy to mark the opening of his “20th Annual Art Tour” exhibit. The exhibit will showcase Roy’s latest works.

The artist was born in 1948 in Rochefort-sur-Mer, located on France’s western coast. He is a highly accomplished artist on the international stage, known for his dramatic, vibrant landscapes painted in oil using a palette knife technique.

At the age of 7, Roy knew he wanted to be an artist. As a teenager, he took a job as an apprentice electrician on a cable-repair boat. Over his subsequent years at sea, his artistic interests settled upon landscapes. By 1973, he was selling his paintings in galleries, and, in 1974, he had his first solo exhibition.

His work reflects the season, the weather, the stories

of passers-by, his mood and a “feeling of the place.” It serves as both a page in his diary and a tribute to the places he paints, including scenes from the Nation’s Oldest City. Viewing his works, one is held by his bold choice of colors and dramatic placement of structures and human activity amidst natural surroundings.

In the late 1980s, Roy began adding an iconic sun to his landscapes. His sun is not round but rather appears as the human eye perceives it while trying not to stare into its painful brightness.

Roy divides his time between France and Newfoundland. He is a featured artist in galleries located in Kessler Collection hotels across the United States.

Both the reception and exhibit are free and open to the public.

The reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 4. The exhibit will be open at the gallery from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Nov. 4-30.

The Grand Bohemian Gallery is located at 49 King St. in St. Augustine’s historic district at the iconic Casa Monica Resort & Spa.



Contributed photo

New paintings by Jean Claude Roy will be featured in the “20th Annual Art Tour” exhibit on display Nov. 4-30 at the Grand Bohemian Gallery. An artist reception will take place 6-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4.



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Blues artist Curtis Salgado to perform

Award-winning vocalist, instrumentalist and songwriter Curtis Salgado, the man NPR calls “an icon” with “a huge

voice,” will perform with his band at Cafe Eleven in St. Augustine on Sunday, Nov. 6. Salgado’s latest album, “Damage Control,” is being hailed as the best of his long career. Produced by Salgado, “Damage Control” is packed with soul-searching, street-smart, vividly detailed, instantly memorable songs.

With a career spanning more than three decades, Salgado, a seven-time winner of the Blues Music Award for Soul Blues Male Artist of The Year (most recently in 2022), is a one-of-a-kind talent whose music is as compelling as his story. From co-fronting The Robert Cray Band to leading his own band (and recording nine solo albums) to helping transform John Belushi into “Joliet” Jake Blues to touring the country with Steve Miller and Santana, he is a true musical giant.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. Nov. 6 at Café Eleven, 501 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 day of show. For tickets and more information, go to original-cafe11.com/curtis-salgado-nov-6-2022.

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Sports



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Romano's extra point sends Sharks past Panthers in overtime

By Anthony Richards

Regulation was just not enough when the Ponte Vedra Sharks and Nease Panthers met on the football field Oct. 28, as the Sharks wound up beating their rival 35-34 in overtime following a touchdown run from Brian Case and an extra point by Mark Romano.

"It had been 426 days (since last year's loss to Nease)," Senior linebacker Trooper Price said. "I just want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for giving me the ability to play football. I'll never take anything for granted."

As soon as Romano's kick sailed through the uprights, Ponte Vedra students stormed the field and shared in the celebration with players and coaches.

"Your emotions are just flying everywhere, especially in big rivalry games like this," Romano said.

It is a game that those in the stadium either on the sidelines or in the stands will not soon forget.

As with most memorable games, it was a roller coaster of momentum swings throughout. Below is a look back at each of the swings that took place along the journey:

Momentum swing No. 1

As with many classic games, it went through its share of momentum swings, and it all started with the Sharks jumping out to a 14-0 lead thanks to a 40-yard touchdown from quarterback Ben Burk and Brian Case punching it in from a yard out.

Momentum swing No. 2

However, the Panthers were quick to punch back and put together two masterful scoring drives of their own that resulted in Marcus Stokes taking off for touchdowns of 7 and 25 yards respectively to cut the deficit to one, 14-13 after a missed extra point.

Momentum swing No. 3

The Sharks extended their lead to 21-13 heading into halftime as Burk conducted a late drive to end the half and capped it off with a perfectly placed ball to tight end Landon Okla, who got behind the defense on a wheel route.

"Everyone that played in the game last



Captains for both teams meet at midfield for the coin toss prior to the showdown.

year told us about how much it hurt, and we knew we needed to do something to make up for that," Ponte Vedra junior defensive back Joe Mahoney said.

Momentum swing No. 4

The Panthers offense tied the contest at 21-all heading into the fourth quarter as Stokes found a streaking Maddox Spencer down the middle of the field for a 28-yard scoring strike. He then connected with Gavin Gmeiner standing alone in the end zone for a successful two-point conversation to knot things up.

Momentum swing No. 5

Just when the Sharks needed an answer, Burk took to the air and hit Wyatt Rogers on a pair of deep balls, the second of which resulted in a touchdown to put the Sharks back up 28-21 early in the fourth quarter.



Ponte Vedra's James Richardson hits Marcus Stokes of Nease in the backfield.

Photos by Anthony Richards

Sharks ride wave of momentum into states

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra girls swimming team continues to rack up the hardware as they followed up their district title by winning the Region 1-3A championship.

The Sharks' strength in relay competitions continues to stand out as once again they won the 200 medley relay with the team of Annie Wholgemuth, Annabelle MacAdams, Mary Agnes Smith and Penny Zarczynski combining to do so.

Another powerful grouping was the 200 freestyle relay team of Zarczynski, Sophie Fox, Kate Pelot and Wholgemuth, which proved too much for the rest of the competition and took home the victory in the category.

Just like she did at districts, Wholgemuth won both the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke and proved that she will have something to say when it comes to those disciplines at the state meet, which will take place in Stuart Nov. 4.

MacAdams doubled up her success at regionals with a win in the 100 breaststroke.

Several Sharks had stellar performances and the depth of the team is one of the main reasons why they continue to win competition after competition and will have a shot to keep it going at states.

The strong performances included Zarczynski with a pair of runner-up showings in the 50 free and 100 freestyle and Agnes Smith finishing second in the 200 freestyle and third in the 100 butterfly.

Pelot finished behind Zarczynski with third place in the 50 free and also claimed a runner-up in the 100 backstroke.

It was all Sharks in the 100 breaststroke, as Liv Copland followed MacAdams for a 1-2 finish in the event.

Fox, Pelot, Valentina Fraga and Copland also combined for a runner-up finish in the 400 freestyle relay.

The success the Sharks have had to this point has them riding a wave of momentum and with that comes excitement for what the states could present.

They head to the state competition as one of the favorites to bring home a state team title and will have the shot at several other individual titles.



Photos courtesy of Ponte Vedra High Swimming

Ponte Vedra High won the Region 1-3A championship.



Next up for the Sharks is the state meet in Stuart Nov. 4.

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Jessica Shattles and Chelsea Sutton leap to block a shot at the net against Tallahassee Chiles in the regional quarterfinals.



Zeta Washington was one of the senior leaders on this year's team.

Photos by Anthony Richards

Legacy of leadership left behind by Shark volleyball seniors

By Anthony Richards

This year's postseason run came up shorter than what both Ponte Vedra High volleyball fans and players have become accustomed to in recent years following a loss on the road to New Smyrna Beach, 26-24, 24-26, 25-20, 20-25, 15-13, in the Class 6A regional semifinals Oct. 29.

It was a hard-fought battle that the Sharks took the distance but came up just shy of victory in the fifth game.

This playoff run was the last for a group of seniors that experienced so much success and memorable times together throughout their high school careers.

Zeta Washington, Jessica Shattles, Ava-Grace Redick and Priya Rajhansa combined to make going on deep runs the norm within the program, including winning two straight state titles and playing in three consecutive state championship games.

Prior to the narrow loss to New Smyrna Beach, the Sharks looked the part and had everything clicking against a visiting Tallahassee Chiles squad that they were able to pounce on from the beginning and sweep in three sets.

"I feel like we played one of the best games we had ever played against Chiles," Shattles said. "Everybody on the team was just playing so well together and as a team."

One of the unique things about this year's squad is the number of young players that found themselves as major contributors by season's end.

"Our lineup was really different from the beginning of the season, and we had to work through a bunch of different things, but we eventually found that perfect lineup and it just happens to include

a lot of young players."

The mix of both the veteran and youthful talent was something that the seniors on the team really came to appreciate.

"We had a lot of new faces this year, but it was really exciting to see these girls as they come into the program," Redick said.

Some of the positions where a youth movement took place this year included a freshman libero in Avery Webb and a sophomore right side in Ryan Murphy.

"For us (seniors) we're kind of used to how it goes, because we've been to states every year, but it's been fun to see their curiosity as they encountered it for the first time," Redick said.

According to Zeta Washington, the questions from the younger players to the upperclassmen have been endless at times, but ones that she welcomed with open arms.

"These young souls definitely bring a different dynamic to the team," Washington said. "As seniors sometimes we tend to be a little more serious, but all these young girls are so goofy, and they make the energy on the court do much better."

In fact, it found her looking back as a senior and reminiscing about when she was a young freshman and pondering the journey she has made to get to the point where she is at in her career with an opportunity to play at the college level on the horizon.

"It's great knowing that I could be a mentor to them and do what I can to help them succeed and grow," Washington said.

That legacy of leadership that the senior class has put forth this year is something special and a building block that head coach John Goings will look to maintain into the future.



Ava-Grace Redick digs a ball while freshman Avery Webb and sophomore Avery Meide look on.

CROSSWORD

			1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		
			10				11							
12	13		14					15						
16		17						18				19	20	21
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48				49					50					
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									58					
									59					
									60					

ACROSS

1. The central bank of the US
4. Direct one's ambitions
10. Only
11. "Nothing ventured, nothing ___"
12. Lead
14. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
15. Indicates the pitch of notes
16. Set up to blame
18. States of rest
22. Complete
23. Be around longer than
24. Instructs
26. Childless (abbr.)
27. Coffee machines do it
28. Bowfin
30. A group separate from established Church
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
34. Mends with a needle
36. When you hope to get there
37. Popular 80's pop duo
39. Beloved Mexican dish
40. Extremely small amount
41. Special therapy
42. Cause to move slowly
48. A person's natural height
50. Elicited
51. Legislator
52. Baking ingredient
53. Sandwich store
54. Peyton's little brother
55. Southeast
56. Popular Mexican beer
58. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
59. Car body manufacturer
60. Midway between south and southeast

DOWN

1. Colorless volatile acid
2. A way to tangle
3. Jam rock band devotee
4. The nation's highest lawyer (abbr.)
5. Inviolable
6. Collision
7. Clumsy
8. Bends again
9. "Pollock" actor Harris
12. Flew off!
13. Soft creamy white cheese
17. Comedienne Gasteyer
19. Exclamation used for emphasis
20. Expel from one's property
21. Philly transit body
25. Small amount of something
29. Retirement account
31. Holey type of cheese
32. Young pig
33. Climbing palm
35. Discomfort
38. Bullfighter
41. High-level computer language
43. Fleshy extensions above the throat
44. Request
45. Equal to 10 meters (abbr.)
46. Bruce and Spike are two
47. Precipice
49. Wombs
56. A radio band
57. Emphasizes an amount

SUDOKU

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

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!



Photos by Anthony Richards

Ben Burk (No. 12) surveys the field while in the pocket.

Sharks

Continued from 35

Momentum swing No. 6

Samuel Milton and the Panthers had a response of their own. The senior running back ran hard all game and broke free for some chunk plays during the drive, including capping it off with a touchdown to tie it at 28 with 5:13 to play.

Momentum swing No. 7

Mahoney flies in from the left side of the line and blocks a field goal attempt that could have given the Panthers the lead with 2:40 left.

"I told my coach to let me go and I could get there," Mahoney said. "I knew I could get around the edge and he trusted in me, and I made a play."

Momentum swing No. 8

The Sharks had a shot at their own field goal attempt to win the game, but it went wide left as time expired and the game went to overtime.

Momentum swing No. 9

Nease had possession first in the overtime period and Stokes punched it in from fourth and goal from a yard out. However,



Nick Severt (No. 71) of Nease and Robbie Grieco (No. 48) of Ponte Veda battle one-on-one.

the Panthers misplay the extra point attempt and only lead by six points, 34-28.

Momentum swing No. 10

Case proved once again that he has a nose for the endzone with his second rushing touchdown on the night and Romano made up for missing the field goal at the end of regulation by burying the extra point and securing the monumental victory for the Sharks.

"I just had to bring my hopes back up, because I knew that my teammates were going to need me," Romano said. "They believed in me, and walking out there, I knew I would get it."



The Nease student section was noisy throughout the game.

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