

THE RECORDER

MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 22, 2022
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75 cents

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Intersection Improvements Coming
Page 7



Soccer for a cause
Page 21

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

Christmas time is here

The holiday season is in full swing, and the photos are from Deck the Chairs at Jacksonville Beach, which was just one of the festive celebrations that went on in the community. See inside for more coverage of Christmas and Chanukah events that took place.

Photos by Anthony Richards



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INSIDE

One of Us

Page 6

Business Weekly

Pages 15-18

In the Arts

Page 19

Sports

Pages 20-22

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.**



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BRIEFS

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.

St. Francis in-the-Field plans services

St. Francis in-the-Field Episcopal Church, 895 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra, will have the following Christmas services: Christmas Eve: 2 p.m. Traditional Christmas Service, 4 p.m. Children's Christmas Service, 8 p.m. Traditional Christmas Service with Candle Lighting; Christmas Day: 10 a.m. service.

For more information, call 904-615-2130 or go to stfrancisinthefield.org.

Attorney to speak at Coastal Friends meeting

John McE. Miller, founding attorney at Rock Solid Law & Title, will be the guest speaker at the Coastal Friends' Jan. 4 monthly luncheon at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Miller will address various legal matters such as trusts, health surrogates and directives. Afterwards,

there will be a question-and-answer period, followed by lunch and chef's special dessert.

The meeting is open to the community, members and guests of Coastal Friends (formerly Newcomers Alumnae). The cost to attend is \$25. Reservations must be made in advance to reserve a seat by contacting the luncheon chairman at bartshar@comcast.net as soon as possible since the deadline to sign up and get your check to her is Friday morning, Dec. 30.

Alzheimer group to meet virtually

The Alzheimer Association's virtual caregiver support group will meet online from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 2, 2023.

Support groups create a safe, confidential, supportive environment or community and a chance for participants to develop informal mutual support and social relationships. They also educate and inform participants about dementia and help participants develop methods and skills to solve problems.

To register, call the Alzheimer Association's 24/7 Helpline at: 800-272-3900.

Beaches Community Fund seeks grant applicants

The Beaches Community Fund, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, is accepting applications for grant funding available in 2023. The Beaches Community Fund makes grants to nonprofit organizations serving the Beaches communities from Mayport to Guana, east of the Intracoastal Waterway. Last year, the Beaches Community Fund granted \$263,000 to Beaches nonprofits.

In the 2022-23 grant cycle, priority will be given to applicants addressing the needs of low-income Beaches residents, including: basic needs (food, emergency financial assistance, housing, shelter, health care and mental health); supports for K-12 students; early learning; and transportation to essential goods and services.

Applications will be accepted through Jan. 9. To learn more and to apply, go to www.jaxcf.org/learn/beaches-community-fund.

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Hugh Osteen

COO/VP
hugh@osteenmediagroup.com
(904) 285-8831

Susan Griffin

Publisher
susan@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 686-3938

Shaun Ryan

Editor
shaun@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1202

Anthony Richards

Reporter
anthony@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1207

Don Coble

Contributor
don@claytodayonline.com

Amber Anderson

Page/Graphic Designer
amber@pontevedrarecorder.com

April Snyder

Sales Assistant
april@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1204

Kristin Flanagan

Account Executive
kristin@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1206

Adele McGraw

Account Executive
adele@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1208

Debbie Apple

Account Executive
debbie@osteenmediagroup.com
(904) 285-8831

Christina Donato

Account Executive
christina@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831

Joe Wilhelm

Circulation Manager
joe@osteenmediagroup.com
(904) 300-5374

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— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Real estate office provides gifts, donations for children in foster care

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty is helping to brighten the holidays for children in foster care.

The company's metro offices of Avondale/Ortega and San Marco/San Jose supported Family Support Services of Duval and Nassau Counties' annual Be an Angel holiday drive, an effort to make Christmas extra special for First Coast children in out-of-home care. Angels buy gifts from a child's wish list or make a monetary donation so that the children

receive Christmas presents they would not otherwise be able to enjoy this time of year.

For the second consecutive year, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Realtor Kimberly Waterhouse managed the real estate firm's initiative. With the support of the metro offices team, she collected and purchased gifts to make Christmas wishes come true for 40 children in foster care. Additionally, Waterhouse secured a generous donation from the Gray Family Foundation

that will help fulfill Christmas wishes for more than 200 children served by Family Support Services. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty is among Family Support Services' top donors supporting the Be an Angel campaign.

"We are so proud of our metro team and their support of the Be an Angel initiative to ensure more children can have a gift under the tree this Christmas," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty CEO Kevin

Waugaman. "Our company is committed to making a positive difference in the lives of many local children and families, and we are grateful to be in business with such dedicated, talented and passionate professionals."

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, go to FloridaNetworkRealty.com. For more information about Family Support Services of Duval and Nassau Counties, go to familysupport.org.

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This oceanfront home on Ponte Vedra Blvd. with 110 ft. of ocean frontage sold for lot value only at \$10,500,000.




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Sarah Alexander, REALTOR®
904.334.3104 cell
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Elizabeth@ElizabethHudgins.com
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ELIZABETH HUDGINS

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

Winter Wonderland: Protecting your North Florida landscape

"Christmas, my child, is love in action." — Dale Evans

By Kathy Esfahani



Kathy Esfahani

North Florida is not known for ever resembling a winter wonderland ... but this weekend could bring us closer to a white Christmas than we are dreaming of! It's time to protect your landscape, especially tropical plants!

In preparation for this weekend's freeze:

- Bring potted plants inside if possible.
- When temperatures drop below 40 degrees (but not sooner!), cover tropicals, sensitive plants, and citrus trees with frost cloth (available online or at a local hardware store). Without frost cloth, linens and blankets may work, but they can weigh down plants and block sunlight if left on for multiple days. Do



Snowy Christmas Tree

NOT use plastic to cover plants as it can worsen a frost burn. Use clothes pins, stakes, rocks, etc to hold cloth down to the ground... form a tent by securing the edges of the cloth to the ground to hold warm air around the plants.

- Mulch. If you haven't mulched lately, a new layer of mulch can help protect plants from the freezing temperatures.
- After the freeze, remove cover as soon as temperatures will be over 40 degrees. You may need to recover plants if evening temperatures drop below 40

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery



Holiday Poinsettia

degrees again.

Tropical plants are the most sensitive to freezes; they do not like temperatures below 40 degrees. Be sure to protect crotons, Hawaiian ti, arbutus, ginger,

bird of paradise, hibiscus, Roebellini palms, Adonidia palms, lady palms, bougainvillea, mandevilla, gold mound, sea grapes, stromathia, tibouchina, philodendron, xanadoo, crown of thorns, kalanchoe, sunpatiens, etc.

Below 32 degrees, be sure to protect sensitive plants such as blue daze, pentas, geraniums, bush daisies, gold dust, sedum and salvia.

All citrus trees should be protected/ covered below 30 degrees!

Winter annuals such as snapdragons, pansies, petunias and supertunias should manage the freezing temperatures even if they get a bit frost burned. Covering them can help but is not necessary.

From our family to yours, we wish all of you a Merry Christmas!

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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OBITUARIES

Dr. Richard J Kostecki, MD

Dr. Richard J Kostecki, MD, 86, of Ponte Vedra, FL passed away Sunday, November 27, 2022, following a lengthy illness. He was surrounded by his children, just having spent Thanksgiving with his visiting grandchildren. Born in 1936 to Helen and Joseph in New York, N.Y., he married his wife Emily in 1961. After graduating from Brown University and NYU Medical School, and a short stint in the army, Emily and Dick went to

Kenya with their family where Dick was a member of the Flying Doctor Service. Returning to the U.S. he practiced plastic surgery in Waterbury, Connecticut for 28 years, serving as chief of staff at St. Mary's Hospital for many years. Dick and Emily moved to Ponte Vedra 24 years ago in order to be near their grandchildren. Emily passed away in 2008 after 47 years of marriage. Until recently, Dick spent most days playing tennis and enjoying the company of "the guys" at Sawgrass Country Club. He loved spend-

ing time with his daughter and her family who live in nearby Jacksonville, attending Grandparents' Day, sporting events and graduations. He looked forward to his son Geoffrey's visits and the wonderful meals Geoff and his wife Kristin prepared.

He is survived by his daughter, Dr. Carrissa Kostecki, MD (Jason Monroe); son, Geoffrey Kostecki (Kristin Bock), two beautiful grandchildren, Sydney Monroe and Max Monroe; and sisters Phyllis Kupiszewski and Tina Califano.

The entire family thanks all our friends who have shown support, love, and caring to us during this difficult time.

A memorial celebration will be planned for a later date. Please visit his online tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com.

Arrangements by



DEATH NOTICES

Peter Revere Burton

Peter Revere Burton, 91, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Dec. 12, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Mary Gail Gibson

Mary Gail Gibson, 88, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Dec. 17, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Evelyn G. Kessler

Evelyn G. Kessler, 92, of Jacksonville, Florida,

died Dec. 18, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Nicolette "Nicki" LaPorte

Nicolette "Nicki" LaPorte, 70, of St. Augustine, Florida, died Dec. 12, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Jeremie Daniel Martin

Jeremie Daniel Martin, 38, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Dec. 10, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation

Centre. 904-249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Maxine Miller

Maxine Miller, 75, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Dec. 14, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Floretta J. Pemberton

Floretta J. Pemberton, 91, of Galveston, Texas, formerly of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Dec. 12, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

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Claire Jane Kendrick is a local artist who lives in Vilano Beach and has a studio in St. Augustine. She specializes in plein air painting and is inspired daily by the natural beauty and landscapes of the First Coast and strives to capture that beauty in her artwork.

Claire Jane Kendrick

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I was born in Northern Ireland and have been in the U.S. for 18 years, becoming a U.S. citizen last year.

I worked in the fashion industry and for some prestigious names throughout Europe for years. I worked with runway shows and even pressed the outfits worn by Bono.

However, I decided in 2006 to go back to my fine arts roots, which I first discovered as a child, and that's where I find myself today.

What was the transition to the fine arts world like?

It was a massive pivot for me in my life, and it was a risky decision, but I had my husband's full support and we decided to give it a go.

I segwayed into the fine arts field seemingly overnight, and I got my first opportunity to show my work thanks to Worley Favor, who is a local potter, and his wife Dena, who allowed me to place my artwork in their gallery.

They were just great patrons of art, having been a part of that world themselves. I walked in off the street as a rookie, and they took a chance on me.

Worley appreciated that I had decided to shift careers and go into the fine arts, because he had done so as well.

I started with having three or four paintings on display, but soon I had a full wall in their gallery.

Not long after that, I met Anne Packard and really admired her work. She said one day that she would give me 15 minutes to critique my work, and we just hit it off.

Since then, she has always been there to be a mentor for me, and I credit all of them for helping create a massive shift that took place in my work.

I used to work on these big creative teams in the fashion industry, but I've found that even as an independent artist, you have to find that same type of structure but for yourself.

The galleries are so helpful in spreading the word, and I could not do it without them.

Is there a certain style of artwork you specialize in?

I work in a form called plein air painting, which is French for "outdoor painting."

I've got a sketch book in the car at all times, because you never know when you'll cross something that makes for a



Photo courtesy of Claire Jane Kendrick

Local plein air artist Claire Jane Kendrick transitioned from the fashion industry to the fine arts world almost two decades ago and she has never looked back.

great subject to capture.

I'm known for doing large scale seascapes, landscapes and some botanicals and florals.

What do you enjoy most about being an artist?

You're always developing your voice through your work and define who you are with your paintings.

Since then, I've gotten galleries that show my work all around, including ones in Naples, Fernandina Beach and Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Plus, I have my little studio in St. Augustine that sits one block from the bay.

It is so rewarding to just stand there off to the side and watch people and their expressions when they first see my work. The work has to speak for itself and to the person looking at.

I've even spent time imagining the type of homes it would go in once sold, and how amazing it would look hanging in a room and adding to a person's home.

Art is one of those things that can add such personality to a room.

Where do you get your ideas for your artwork from?

We are blessed to live in this idyllic

part of the world and it's all about capturing what's around me.

I can get so many ideas just driving to my studio from Vilano Beach, where we have the marshes and then into St. Augustine where you've got the amazing seascape. It's just so beautiful and there's so much to capture.

I always take the coastal drive anytime I go up to my Fernandina Beach gallery, because the landscape is incorporated into my work like nothing else.



An open house was held at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Dec. 13 to get public feedback about the proposed intersection project at State Road A1A, Mickler Road and Ponte Vedra Boulevard.



Photos by Anthony Richards

County officials talk with residents about the upcoming State Road A1A, Mickler Road and Ponte Vedra Boulevard intersection project.

A1A, Mickler Road intersection improvements in works

By Anthony Richards

St. Johns County has a plan on how to improve the traffic and extended backups taking place at the intersection of State Road A1A, Mickler Road and Ponte Vedra Boulevard.

That plan was presented to the community for feedback during an open house at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Dec. 13, where members of the county's

public works department were on hand to answer questions and explain the project to residents.

The goal of the project is to improve traffic flow by adding two additional turn lanes on Mickler Road to turn onto A1A heading north; one additional left-turn lane from Ponte Vedra Boulevard for those heading south on A1A; and one additional lane northbound on A1A.

The estimated project budget is \$4.3 million and will be funded through impact fees and a grant awarded from the Florida Department of Transportation.

"About five or six years ago, the North Florida TPO (Transportation Planning Organization) did a study along A1A and identified some intersections that needed improvements, and this is one of those intersections," St. Johns County Engi-

neer Duane Kent said. "In the mornings and in the evenings, you wait for several cycles of the light to get through."

According to Kent, if nothing is done, the length of time with which people are having to wait will only continue to grow.

"Right now, it's kind of bad for an

INTERSECTION continues on Page 10

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Nocatee holds Chanukah celebration

The annual Chanukah celebration was held at Nocatee Station Field Dec. 20, as dozens of residents took part in the festive atmosphere, which included a large glowing menorah, gelt being dropped from a helicopter and a kosher food truck. The event was put on by Chabad St. Johns County.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Carl and Gabriel.



Amanda and Liam Davidson.



Sadie, Grayson and Jon O'Donnell.



Ari, Eyal and Hadassah.



Children sing songs next to a giant menorah on stage.



Kosher food was being served.



Many residents came out to celebrate Chanukah at the event.

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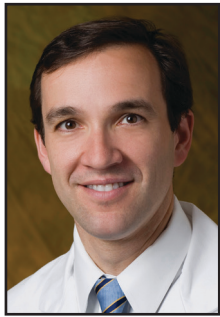
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Holiday heart syndrome — what you need to know

By Anthony Magnano M.D.
Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside



It's the "most wonderful" time of the year, but maybe not when it comes to our hearts. Unfortunately, more heart-related ER visits and deaths occur during

the Christmas and New Year's holiday season, according to the American Heart Association. A study in the British Medical Journal shows the risk of heart attack actually peaks at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve, especially for older and sicker people.

Another concern is "holiday heart syndrome," which typically presents with an abrupt onset of atrial fibrillation (AFib) after drinking more alcohol than usual. This can be frightening, including symptoms of rapid heart rate, shortness of breath, fainting, fatigue and heart

palpitations. For many, temporary AFib linked to holiday heart syndrome will resolve itself. But you can reduce your risk by being aware of the triggers and taking emergency steps when needed.

Don't Binge Drink

One of the top culprits of holiday heart is binge drinking. This typically occurs when men have more than five servings of alcohol in a two-hour span or women have more than four drinks in the same time period. Alcohol causes blood pressure to rise, but also exerts direct effects on the heart rhythm that promote arrhythmias. This puts us at risk for AFib symptoms and can even trigger a heart attack for those with underlying or undiagnosed heart issues.

It's important to note that the effects can last beyond the time you're binge drinking. In fact, a Harvard research review found that binge drinking six or more drinks in one night may raise a person's risk of heart-related events for an entire week after consumption. If you're going to drink alcohol, moderation is key. For best heart health, I recommend



zero to one drinks per day and never exceeding two drinks in a day.

Battling Heart Risk Factors Around the Holidays

The holidays usually bring heightened stress levels amidst all of the shopping, cooking and entertaining guests. These activities can raise blood pressure and set off a "fight or flight" response in the body that's hard on the heart. That's why taking time to relax, exercise and

de-stress is a top priority during the holidays.

Another issue is holiday weight gain from overeating. It may be tempting to indulge, but eating large amounts of food high in saturated and trans-fat, cholesterol, salt and added sugars can put your heart at risk. I always recommend looking at all of your food options first. Then choose which food you'll eat or

HEART continues on Page 10



Scot A. Regner Achieves Milestone

Richard Allen, Executive Vice President, Southeast Region of Equitable Advisors, LLC would like to thank and recognize the efforts of Scot A. Regner, Financial Consultant and Retirement Planning Specialist*, who has recently received Equitable's Advisor's prestigious Hallmark 7 distinction.

Allen noted, "Only a few Financial Professionals have obtained this milestone and during his 42 years with Equitable Advisors, LLC, Scot has displayed a model of integrity with his clients, helping them toward achieving their investment and risk management goals. He is a pillar in his community, continues to serve his clients, and embodies all of the core values of our firm."



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Intersection

Continued from 7

hour, well if we let it go, then it will be an hour and a half to two hours and just keep growing,” Kent said. “A lot of accidents are caused by people being impatient and pulling out when they shouldn’t because they’ve been waiting so long. By reducing the time it takes to get through the intersection, it will improve the quality of life.”

There will be two lanes to receive traf-

fic turning onto A1A going north from Mickler road, but one of those lanes will eventually merge into the other as it gets farther away from the intersection.

“A lot of people in the Ponte Vedra area are worried about the four-laning of Mickler and the four laning or six-laning of all of A1A,” Kent said. “St. Johns County is growing, but we’re not at the point where we need to do that right now.”

However, he did not rule out the fact of that being a viable solution down the road, but at this point he sees the inter-

section improvements as the best fix for the current situation.

“There’s always a few people who are vocal, but there just being passionate about where they live and what’s going on in their neighborhood, and that’s a great thing,” Kent said. “If there is something that needs to be changed or can be changed, we will remain active during the construction.”

Danielle Faldetta was one of the residents who attended the event and left with concerns about the project.

“I feel that they dropped the ball

year’s ago, even though there was a massive plan for Nocatee,” Faldetta said. “They really didn’t do a great or thorough traffic plan of what this would do to what I would call the ‘locals.’ At this point, the traffic is so bad, that most people can’t even make a righthand turn (onto A1A), forget about making a lefthand turn and going across traffic. Now we’ll increase it to two turning lanes and have even more traffic flow, so it’s only going to exasperate the issue.”

Faldetta was also concerned about the safety of pedestrians walking and biking along the route with the proposed intersection improvements, because she herself enjoys biking.

“I fear that pedestrian safety wasn’t taken into proper consideration, and it was all about the (vehicle) traffic,” Faldetta said.

The permits and bids process will take place in spring 2023 with the construction of the project slated to begin in summer 2023. Kent stated that it will take about nine months to complete.

Dear loyal readers,

As 2022 draws to a close, we’d like to thank you for your readership and continued support this year and every year since we became Ponte Vedra’s hometown paper of record in 1969.

Being a community’s source of local news and information is a great responsibility. Our staff works tirelessly to bring to you thoughtful, in-depth articles on important issues that matter to you and your neighbors. Along the way, we try to spotlight some of the inspiring and uplifting people, events and happenings that make Ponte Vedra and the Beaches such a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

But we couldn’t do it without you. We thank you for your news tips, your readership, your advertisements and most of all your commitment to our community. It is our privilege to serve you.

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Heart

Continued from 9

skip and control quantities carefully.

People also often tend to delay medical treatment when the holidays get busy or pharmacies are closed on holidays, but don’t make this mistake. Don’t forget to get your medication refills in a timely manner and always take your medications as prescribed.

Reduce Your Risk and Enjoy This Holiday Season

Always listen to your body and stay aware of any unusual symptoms you may experience, especially after drinking or eating a big meal. Remember, it’s very important to not ignore signs of a heart attack or heart emergency when they happen. These include chest pain; discomfort in other parts of the body like arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach; shortness of breath; nausea; cold sweat and lightheadedness. Many people try to brush health problems off around the holiday, often to spend more time with their families. But the sooner you seek medical attention, the better your outcome is likely to be. If you think you’re having a heart attack or any other emergency, call 911.

Give yourself a gift this season by taking care of your heart. After all, a healthy heart will help you enjoy many merry holidays to come.

Dr. Anthony Magnano is a Ponte Vedra resident and Chief of Cardiology at Ascension St. Vincent’s Riverside. For more information on Dr. Magnano and his specialty treating Atrial fibrillation, visit Healthcare. ascension.org or call 904-388-1820.

Chamber celebrates holidays with Jingle and Mingle

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division celebrated the holidays by holding its Jingle and Mingle event for its members at The Yards. Guests enjoyed delicious treats and drinks while having a festive and fun time. The following are photos from the event.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Lisa Farides, Tanya Temple, Bobbi Stewart and Kristen Parker.



Keith Johnson, Kathleen Floryan and Dan Floryan.



Martha Gleason, K.C. Padgett and Cindy Bishop.



Karina Coryell, Malcom Anthony and Lucia Miller.



Trudy Toche and Michael McCarthy.



Sarah Bonham and Molly Beard.



Liesl Savage, Malcolm Anthony and Lori Adams.

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Breakfast with Santa

Primrose School on Crosswater Parkway in Ponte Vedra recently held its sixth annual Breakfast with Santa. About 425 students from Nocatee attended to have a picture with Santa, have breakfast, make a craft and purchase books from the Scholastic Book Fair. Everyone had a wonderful time with family making cherished memories. Here are some photos from the event.

Photos by Susan Griffin



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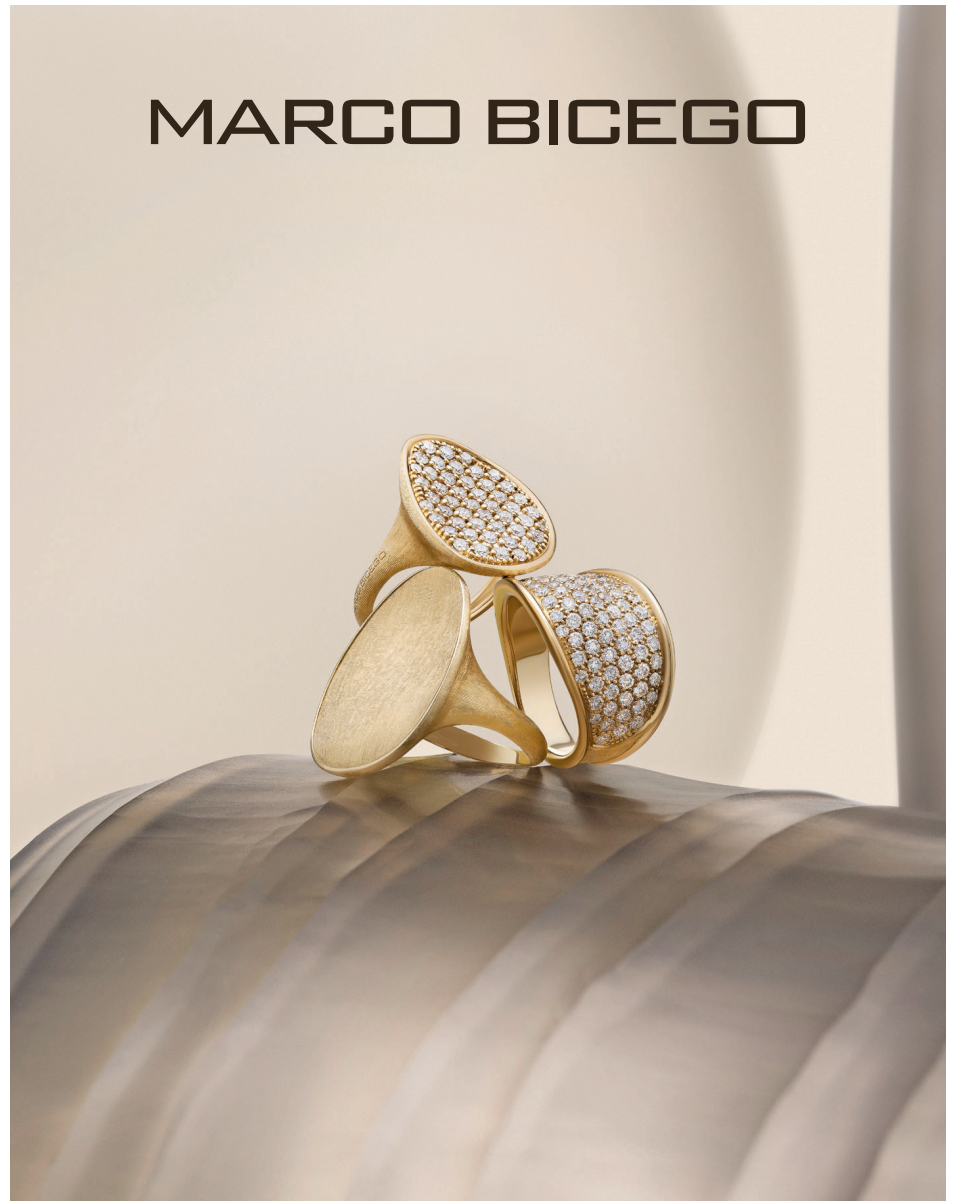
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Tree Lighting Event

The Ponte Vedra Community Association held its annual tree lighting and toy drive in collaboration with the Clauses and St. John's County Fire Rescue. Hundreds of toys were donated to the Firefighters for Families 'Wonder of the Holidays' food and toy drive. It was a lovely kickoff to the holiday season on the lawn at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

Contributed photos



MARCO BICEGO



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Photos by Anthony Richards

The Storytellers at TPC Sawgrass donated a record \$36,000 to four local charities during its annual end-of-year luncheon Dec. 13.

More than just a story

TPC Storytellers give record \$36K to four charities

By Anthony Richards

The TPC Sawgrass Storytellers are known for two things, their amazing story-telling ability and raising money for charity, which they are getting just as good at, after raising \$36,000 for charities during 2022.

According to Storytellers captain Jim Kleck, the money raised this year set a record for the most money the group has brought in.

“Since 2007, we’ve given away more than \$263,000 to charities,” Kleck said. “It’s a big deal, and they are really happy to have that support.”

What makes it even more special is that the \$36K raised by the group all came from tips that they had received throughout the year from guests who they toured around TPC Sawgrass, since they do not charge for the tours they offer.

“The Storytellers program started up at TPC in 2007, and this past year we gave tours to 7,200 people from 45 different states and 35 foreign countries,” Kleck said. “These tours are free to the public, but some are so gracious about the tour that they want to give us a gratuity, and when they do, we save it and at the end of the year we count up to see how much we have.”

According to Kleck, meeting people from all over the world and sharing the TPC Sawgrass story is one of the most

interesting parts of the position.

Tours not only involve seeing around the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse, but also going out to see the final three holes on the stadium course, which is called “the gauntlet.”

“And of course, part of that is No. 17 with its ‘island green,’ and everyone wants a picture with that,” Kleck said.

There are currently 45 “storytellers” in the group, but there are more in the wings that are in the process of joining.

“Most of these folks are retired like myself, who are looking for a volunteer job, and this is a really neat volunteer job, because you get to end up giving money to charity,” Kleck said. “It’s a highly-sought after volunteer job that people want to be a part of.”

Once the money is counted the next step is giving it away to local charities, which is always done at the group’s yearend meeting.

“We like to find small charities, where \$5K to \$10K really means a lot, and they can really use the help,” Kleck said.

This year’s charities included a wide range of initiatives, including helping people fighting cancer, young adults with autism and veterans.

The four charities receiving donations were Chemo Noir, Peace of Heart Community, First Coast Honor Flights and Hugs Across the County, which were chosen by STAC, which is a committee comprised to sort through the applications sent in by charities in the area.

“This year they started out with 15 charitable organizations for review and worked their way all the way down to four,” Kleck said.

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There are currently 45 storytellers as part of the group, and the money they donated was raised from the tips they make by giving tours of TPC Sawgrass throughout the year.

Business Weekly

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go to [facebook.com/
ThePVRecorder](https://facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

PAGE 15 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

New Grand Cypress Winn-Dixie opens with many festivities

Parent company Southeastern Grocers (SEG) opened its newest Winn-Dixie location on Wednesday, Dec. 14, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 7:30 a.m. The Grand Cypress store is the grocer's first ground-up store build in more than a decade and is a continuation of Southeastern Grocers' commitment to expansion throughout the Southeast and its home in North Florida.

The new Grand Cypress store, located in the Grand Cypress Marketplace at 100 Little Cypress Drive (southwest corner of Race Track Road and Philips Highway), is designed to provide customers with a unique, localized shopping experience. The grocer utilizes a specialized approach to provide a wide product selection, along with additional jobs and opportunities

in this growing area for local St. Johns County community members.

The store boasts fresh concepts with extensive offerings, including:

- A wide range of specialty food selections for various dietary preferences throughout the store, including an expanded offering of organic, natural and gluten-free options.
- A farm-fresh produce department with a vast selection of signature categories, such as fresh and dried peppers, tomatoes and mushrooms and a unique assortment of tropical fruits and berries, along with more than 10 organic varieties.
- Enhanced deli department with convenient grab-and-go meal options, including take-and-bake pizzas, fresh sushi

WINN-DIXIE continues on Page 18



Photo by Shaun Ryan

The World-Famous Budweiser Clydesdales attracted a large crowd to the new Winn-Dixie store.



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Modern Aesthetic Centers opens St. Johns location



A modern approach is what Modern Aesthetic Centers hopes to bring to the local med spa industry.

By Anthony Richards

Modern Aesthetic Centers recently held a ribbon cutting for its new center located at 2050 Saint Johns Parkway, Suite 106 in St. Johns.

The center's COO, Lisa Farides joined her brother and CEO, Paul Hassan with to open the business.

According to Farides, the two grew up in Jacksonville, so they know the area and believe that Modern Aesthetics can help fill a void that had been existent.

"We know St. Johns County is up and coming," Farides said. "We also know that the med spa industry is growing, and we could be more dynamic and diverse in that field. So, it's a great location, where we can really fill a need."

They both have a healthcare background with Hassan having started an occupational healthcare business 10 years ago, so he understands what it takes to build a business from the ground up, while Farides has been in the aesthetics and plastic surgery industry for more than a decade and has family practice experience prior to that.

"He (Hassan) has an incredible sense of business development," Farides said.

One of the things that Modern Aesthetics hopes separates it from other



Photos by Susan Griffin

Modern Aesthetics COO Lisa Farides (black dress) speaks during the ceremony.

similar businesses in the area, is the way they wish to approach things.

"We don't just concentrate on a person's outside image but also their wellness on the inside," Farides said. "Our goal is to enhance your image and improve your wellness."

In order to achieve that, one of the unique services they offer is a hormone therapy program, which is designed to help balance hormones for both males and females.

MODERN continues on Page 17

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Modern

Continued from 16

Other services include some of the cutting-edge approaches that exist out there, such as IV therapy and B-12 injections and platelet-rich plasma treatment, where a client's blood is drawn and separated and then implemented to service a certain area.

According to Farides, an example is that men can use PRP injections in their skull to help hair grow back.

There are three full-time staff members at Modern Aesthetics currently and they are nurse practitioner Tanya Temple, aesthetician Bobbie Stewart and client coordinator Kristen Parker.

Providing on-going training and staying on top of the new advancements and trends taking place in the med spa world is how the business will go about making sure it stays up to date with the latest in modern approaches.

“Our staff is medically trained and knowledgeable about skin and even dermatology,” Farides said. “We also have a very modern center, so when you first walk in it feeds to all the senses. Every client is offered beverages and chocolate. It’s just another way for our clients to feel comfortable and to let them know that we have their best interest in mind.”



Modern Aesthetic Centers held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its St. Johns location.

Photos by Susan Griffin

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The opening ceremony included a check presentation for \$1,000 to the Bartram Springs Elementary School to aid the school's recycle programs.



St. Johns County Commissioner Christian Whitehurst speaks at the grand opening of the new Winn-Dixie store.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Employees and management of the new Winn-Dixie store line up to cut the ribbon.

Winn-Dixie

Continued from 15

made daily and a sandwich station.

- The full-service meat department features Certified Angus Beef and prime beef with cuts carefully inspected for marbling, maturity, sizing, quality and tenderness with hand-carved meats cut to order, including pork loin, Certified Angus Beef roast beef, oven-roasted turkey breast and roasted eye round, as well as 12 traditional and trendy flavors of fresh-made sausages ranging from sweet Italian to habanero mango.

- Fresh bakery selections with more than 10 varieties of artisan-baked breads with eight varieties of take-and-bake options available, and pastries and desserts featured throughout the bakery department.

- New seafood department features whole fish showcased on ice beds, with selections such as snapper and salmon, as well as an expanded offering of fresh-caught fish, including tuna, tilapia and swordfish, along with locally caught selections, including Mayport shrimp, as well as seasonal favorites such as lobster tails, grouper and mahi mahi.

- New liquor store with a price-match guarantee on a wide selection of beer, wine and spirits. The grocery store also features an in-store wine chiller to chill customers' wine while they shop.

In celebration of the new store, Winn-Dixie hosted several days of activities, special appearances and giveaways for customers.

The opening ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 14, included a check presentation for \$1,000 to the Bartram Springs Elementary School to aid the school's recycle programs and support Grand Cypress' future leaders. Throughout the



Chester Cheetah was on hand Wednesday for the grand opening.

day, live entertainment was provided by the Party Ball Band and DJ EL.

Activities continued on Thursday, Dec. 15, and Friday, Dec. 16, with DJs, giveaways and samplings. Friday also featured an appearance by two of the World-Famous Budweiser Clydesdales for customers to take photos outside the store.


On Saturday, Dec. 17, and Sunday, Dec. 18, the store hosted a community celebration. On Saturday, a free interactive fan experience was held outside of the store with appearances by the Winn Win Twins featured in Winn-Dixie commercials.

There were interactive family games, the return of the Party Ball Band and DJ EL, cooking demonstrations, store samplings, free raffle giveaways for \$100 gift cards every 30 minutes and free big prize drawings.


On Sunday, Dec. 18, the DJ entertainment and additional giveaways continued.

The store is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Liquor store hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1-8 p.m. Sunday.


Winn-Dixie is now offering online shopping and delivery in as little as two hours for added convenience. Customers can shop online through the Winn-Dixie website and app and receive the same great promotions, savings and prices found in stores. Shop online this holiday season and receive \$10 off orders of \$50 or more with free delivery, for a limited time.



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In the Arts



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022 · PAGE 19 www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Contributed photos



First Coast Opera will perform Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.



The First Coast Opera cast of "Die Fledermaus."

First Coast Opera to stage 'Die Fledermaus'

Ring in the New Year with "Die Fledermaus" ("The Bat") with First Coast Opera, on stage at 7 p.m. Dec. 31 and at 3 p.m. Jan. 1 in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St., downtown St. Augustine. This is the fully-staged production with orchestra of Johann Strauss Jr.'s classic 19th-century Viennese operetta, performed in English.

Nelson Sheeley ("The Marriage of Figaro," "H.M.S Pinafore") directs and FCO Artistic Director Curtis Tucker conducts. House seats are \$70; general admission tickets are \$50; and student tickets are \$20. Complimentary champagne will be served during intermission. Tickets are available at firstcoast-opera.com.

"This particular opera is a New Year's Eve tradition in Vienna," said Tucker. "We are thrilled to stage 'Die Fledermaus' for St. Augustine residents and its visitors during the holiday season."

First Coast Opera recently became a professional company member of Opera America, an important designation. Founded in 1970, Opera America leads and serves the entire opera community, supporting the creation, presentation and enjoyment of opera. It has accepted First Coast Opera as part of a network of companies across North America that produce or present opera at the highest standards of professionalism.

"First Coast Opera was founded in 2000, based in St. Augustine, Florida," said Tucker. "This nonprofit organization has a board of directors that strives to produce high quality opera perfor-

mances. We are honored to become a professional company member of Opera America."

"Opéra Mystique" will be performed in February 2023 at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., in uptown St. Augustine. Opera and the supernatural combine in FCO's inaugural production at the renovated historic building. This other-worldly program features staged performances with orchestra of Menotti's séance-filled "The Medium" and "Holst's Sāvitrī," based on an episode from the Sanskrit epic Mahābhārata.

In March 2023, "An Evening of Arias" will return, an annual event that

features heavy hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and performances by First Coast Opera guest artists.

Tickets and details about upcoming performances are available at firstcoast-opera.com.

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Sports



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022 · PAGE 20

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Sharks complete comeback over Panthers with 35-point second half

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Sharks boys basketball team summed up their early season success with another marquee win, this time over the rival Nease Panthers, 48-44 on the road following a late comeback.

The Panthers led 22-13 at halftime and were looking in control, having grown their lead to double digits in the second half.

However, the Sharks began to storm back with a 20-point third quarter that

led to them erasing the halftime deficit and knotting up the contest at 33-all heading into the fourth quarter.

From there, the Sharks continued to push and once again outscored the Panthers 15-11 in the final quarter to win the game and they now sit at 8-1 on the season following a 76-32 win at home against Bishop Snyder on Dec. 20.

With the loss, the Panthers dropped to 8-2, and although losing to their rival is never what they want, there are still plenty of things they can take away

from the outing, including the consistency they continue to play with this season.

Despite the loss, the Panthers proved to be very consistent, scoring 11 points in all four quarters, however it was just not enough to hold up against the second half offensive onslaught the Sharks were able to muster.

Senior Israel Nuhu led the Sharks with 19 points and seven rebounds, including shooting 55% from the field and making seven of nine of his free throw

attempts on the night, as he continues the Sharks with a nice offensive lift with his production during his senior season.

Sam Ritchie scored nine points in the contest, including a jumper in the final minute that proved to be a deciding factor in the final outcome.

The Sharks made five three-pointers in the game, including a pair from long range by Cole Simmons, while senior Nate Bunkosky made his usual presence known with a team-high four assists to go with four steals.

Track and field superstar Allyson Felix to speak

The Florida Forum Speaker Series, presented by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, will welcome American track and field athlete and entrepreneur Allyson Felix on Jan. 18. The program begins at 7 p.m. at the Center for the Performing Arts in Jacksonville.

One of the most decorated track and field athletes in history, Felix has achieved 11 Olympic medals (seven gold) and 18 world championship

medals, including 13 gold, surpassing Usain Bolt's record 12 gold medals. Her accomplishments solidify her as one of the greatest female athletes the world has ever seen.

Felix is also making a name for herself as a powerful voice and advocate for women and mothers in sports. She left her high-profile Nike sponsorship in 2017 over what she felt was a lack of maternity protections. Felix took home her 13th world championship gold

in fall 2019 after giving birth to her daughter in 2018. Felix is now applying her advocacy and passion to her newly launched shoe company, Saysh.

Felix is included on Inc.'s Female Founders 100 list. TIME Magazine named Felix as one of its 100 Most Influential People of 2020 and 2021.

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

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Cardiac Cats strike again, as Panthers draw with Knights in Holiday Cup

By Anthony Richards

The Nease Panthers remained undefeated thanks to a 2-2 tie against Creekside in comeback fashion during the Second Annual Holiday Cup Dec. 20.

“I believe this team’s got a lot of heart, and we don’t like to quit easily,” Nease senior Brogan Donnelly said. “I really wish we could have gotten the win, but we’ll take the tie.”

It was the third tie of the season for the Panthers (5-0-3) and not the first time they’ve used a second half comeback to tie or win a game.

After Creekside (9-3) scored two first half goals, the Panthers found themselves trailing and looking for answers during the half.

They wound up finding them in the form on both sides of the ball, as the offense spent a lot of time in possession during the second half and the result was crisp passing and plenty of scoring opportunities.

Donnelly scored both of the Panthers’ goals, the first coming after he had a penalty kick blocked but was in perfect position to knock in the rebound to cut the deficit to one goal with seven minutes into the second half.

“My one and only mentality at the half was that I knew I had to score,” Donnelly said.

The penalty kick was setup after Aiden Kennedy was pushed in the back by the Creekside goaltender in the penalty box.

The game-tying goal was of Donnelly being on the receiving end of a beautiful pass and then slicing through a pair of

Knights’ defenders before burying a shot with a powerful swing of his right foot.

“We’ve been close so many times to finishing on our chances, and he (Donnelly works really hard at finding those spaces,” Nease head coach Fred Hallett said. “We switched him up to forward there for a little bit (in the second half) just to give us a little extra punch, and he definitely took advantage of it.”

Evan Miriello and the Panthers’ defense also adjusted in the second half and did not allow a goal after surrendering two in the first.

Miriello made key stops, including a double save early in the second half and one as the Knights made a push in the final minute to preserve the tie.

The game was part of a doubleheader of contest that made up the Second Annual Holiday Cup, where fans could donate money or items that will go toward local nonprofits Soaring High and the Betty Griffin Center. Bartram Trail and Mandarin played each other in the first game of the night.

Hallett has seen the event take steps forward in its first two years, after having Nease and Creekside as the only two teams involved last year. He is excited to see the path it takes in the years to come.

“I think it was really cool, because all of us coaches are friends and we joke with each other all the time and our players know each other really well, so it was fun to get the chance to play them,” Hallett said. “It’s so great when everyone gets invested to make something like this happen.”



Photos by Anthony Richards

Nease senior Brogan Donnelly slices through a pair of Creekside defenders. He scored both Panthers’ goals on the night.



The Panthers have a golden opportunity at a scoring chance following a corner kick.

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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60					61					62			
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

ACROSS

1. Take weapons away from
6. Soviet Socialist Republic
9. Most ancient Hindu scriptures
13. Actress Lathan
14. Baseball's strikeout king
15. British codebreaker Turing
16. One who lives by disreputable dealings
17. Tropical American plant
18. Opposite of right
19. Importance
21. Monetary units
22. Lawmen
23. Cool!
24. Affirmative answer
25. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
28. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
29. Muslim nobleman
31. About aviation
33. Scientific instrument
36. Protests strongly
38. Not polished
39. Grab
41. Alias
44. Large wrestler
45. Relative quantities
46. One who is big and awkward
48. Sunscreen rating
49. Atomic #90
51. Mock
52. Whales
54. Peoples
56. A state of being unclothed
60. Ottoman military commanders
61. Gatherer of fallen leaves
62. Norse personification of old age
63. Muslim mystic
64. German river
65. Measuring instrument
66. Have witnessed
67. Disallow
68. Proverb

DOWN

2. The back side of the neck
3. A type of imine
4. Black bird
5. Partner to "Pa"
6. Puts together in time
7. Lucid
8. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
9. Demonstrates the truth of
10. Ancient Greek City
11. Nishi language
12. Slang for fidgety
14. Southwestern farmers
17. Metric weight unit
20. Instant replay in soccer
21. Less polished
23. Popular pickup truck model
25. Slang for a cigarette
26. Large pile
27. Solid geometric figure
29. One from the Big Apple
30. Male admirers

32. Balsam is one
34. Local area network
35. Canadian law enforcers
37. Koran chapters
40. Cooperstown, NY museum (abbr.)
42. Certificate (abbr.)
43. An official who carries a mace of office
47. Briefly in fashion
49. Volcanic ash
50. Dutch city
52. Made of wood
53. Legendary golfer
55. Restaurant
56. None
57. Spanish city
58. Stony waste matter
59. Father
61. Confederate soldier
65. The ancient Egyptian sun god

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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!



Photo courtesy of JAGA

John Milton (left) accepts the gavel as the newly elected president of the Jacksonville Area Golf Association from outgoing president Jeff Adams.

Milton of Jax Beach Golf Club elected JAGA 2023 president

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association recently elected its 2023 officers at its end-of-year annual meeting at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club.

"JAGA has had tremendous success under Jeff Adams' leadership," Milton said. "We are in a strong operating position and have seen an influx of talented and motivated directors during his tenure. In the coming year I hope to be able to consolidate the gains we've made and continue to find ways to build our bench strength through training and recruitment. We will continue to refine the execution of our tournaments, always seeking to provide enjoyable competition at venues participants look forward to playing."

John Milton of Jax Beach Golf Club was elected president and will lead the organization in 2023, its 70th year.

Milton replaces Jeff Adams of TPC Sawgrass, who served as JAGA president in 2021 and 2022.

John Tancredi of Marsh Landing Country Club was re-elected to serve as vice president/administration for the third year.

Billy Walker of Cimarrone Golf Club was re-elected treasurer, a position he will hold for the fifth year.

Jeff Johnstone will return as vice president/tournaments, a role he shared in 2022 with fellow Sawgrass Country Club

member Gregg Deiboldt.

Vincent Celestino of Marsh Creek Country Club was re-elected secretary for the second year.

"Our 'majors', the First Coast Amateur and the Jacksonville Amateur, continue to improve in quality of field and national reputation," he said. "We will strive to build the reputation of these events to showcase amateur golf in Jacksonville and the First Coast. Lastly, I look forward to continuing to support the JAGA Scholarship Trust and the many organizations that promote junior golf along Florida's First Coast."

Several prominent members of the Northeast Florida golf community were honored as recipients of the 2022 JAGA Awards at the organization's end-of-year annual meeting held today at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club.

The honorees included Matt Durkee of Sawgrass Country Club as Superintendent of the Year; Ken Hicks of Deerwood Country Club as Director of the Year; Matt Borocz of TPC Sawgrass as Professional of the Year; Nick Clark of San Jose Country Club as the Earl & Eleanor Kelly Long-Term Service Award recipient; Jack Aschenbach of the North Florida Junior Golf Foundation as Community Service Award recipient; and Russ Libby of Hidden Hills as Club Executive of the Year.

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