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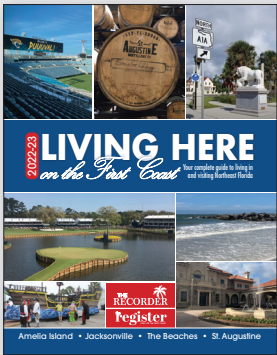
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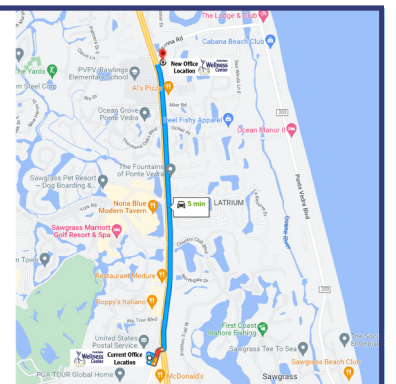


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## Send us your news

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](mailto:news@pontevedrarecorder.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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# A Look Back at 2022

2022 was the year everything pretty much got back to normal following the pandemic. Here's a look at some of the notable news from the past 12 months. Articles associated with each item can be found at [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com).

### JANUARY

- Valley Ridge Academy band director Andrew Burk was named St. Johns County School District 2021-22 Teacher of the Year on Jan. 20. Kaitlyn Holle, a middle school science teacher at Mill Creek Academy, was named Rookie Teacher of the Year.

- Judge Lauren P. Blocker of the 7th Circuit took her oath of office Jan. 21 in an investiture ceremony at TPC Sawgrass.

### FEBRUARY

- The 15th DONNA Marathon Weekend concluded Feb. 6. A 24% increase in families served was reported for the fiscal year.

- The Ponte Vedra High School Sharks Cheerleaders have made school history by winning their first state championship title.

- The Nease girls basketball team defeated St. Augustine 49-33 in the Class 6A Region 1 final on Feb. 18.

- The Ponte Vedra High School boys soccer team makes it to the Final Four.

### MARCH

- Cameron Smith won THE PLAYERS Championship.

- Ponte Vedra High School junior Olivia Richie was crowned the girls wrestling state champion in the 140-pound class at the 2022 FHSAA State Championships on March 3-5.

- The Ponte Vedra High School Splash Dance Team finished in the top 10 of the best squads in the nation at the National Dance Alliance High School Nationals competition on March 4-6.

- Tiger Woods was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame on March 9.

- Flagler Health+ announced the appointment of Carlton DeVooght as president and CEO of the St. Johns County-based health enterprise.

### APRIL

- Nease won the team district title in boys weightlifting.

- The Ponte Vedra boys lacrosse team won the district title on April 13.

### MAY

- The Ponte Vedra High School boys tennis team won the state title May 2.

- Several Nease and Ponte Vedra track and field athletes won state championships in their respective disciplines May 14.

### JUNE

- Nease NJROTC was named the best unit in the nation.

### JULY

- Ascension St. Vincent's Health Center opened a new hospital July 1 in St. Johns County.

- St. Johns County School District was awarded an A grade on July 7 by the Florida Department of Education.

- The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Public Library reopened July 19 after being closed for two weeks due to electrical and roof damage from a fire caused by a lightning strike.

- The World Golf Hall of Fame announced plans to close its local site in 2023 and move to North Carolina in 2024

### AUGUST

- Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville Ponte Vedra Sawgrass announced completion of a significant renovation.

- The United Soccer League announced on Aug. 30 that professional soccer would be coming to the First Coast in 2025.

### SEPTEMBER

- Tropical Storm Ian, formerly Hurricane Ian, swept through Sept. 29.

### OCTOBER

- St. Johns County District 3 Commissioner Paul Waldron died Oct. 18

### NOVEMBER

- Ponte Vedra girls and Nease boys were Class 3A state champions in swimming during Nov. 4 meet.

- St. Johns County voters rejected a one-cent sales tax increase at the Nov. 8 general election.

- Tropical Storm Nicole swept past on Nov. 10.
- The St. Johns Golf Club reopened Nov. 29.

### DECEMBER

- The Grand Cypress Winn-Dixie store opened on Dec. 14.

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# St. Johns County mourns Waldron, who died Oct. 18



Originally published online on Oct. 18, 2022

St. Johns County District 3 Commissioner Paul Waldron died early Tuesday morning.

A lifelong resident of St. Johns County, Waldron has been called a true champion for residents, always putting their needs first. He served honorably as the representative for the county's southeastern region after being elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2020.

As a small business owner, Waldron always brought a business approach to the organizations he served.

"Paul's passing is a tremendous loss for our county," said Chairman Henry Dean, District 5 Commissioner. "He was the type of person who was always willing to help. He was not only my colleague and fellow commissioner but also my friend. I will miss him."

As commissioner, Waldron served on various committees, including the Northeast Florida Regional Council, the Recreation Advisory Board and the Tourist Development Council.

"Paul was a great man who loved his

family, served his community and lived by faith," said Hunter Conrad, St. Johns County administrator. "His legacy of public service will live on through the lives of everyone he inspired. This community will deeply miss him."

Waldron is survived by his wife of 34 years, Stephanie, and their two daughters, Ashley and Kati

Gov. Ron DeSantis will appoint someone to finish the remainder of Waldron's term, which is set to expire in November 2024.

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# Ponte Vedra girls, Nease boys are best in state swimming

Originally published on Nov. 10, 2022

By Anthony Richards

It could not have been a better last couple of weeks for the Nease boys and Ponte Vedra girls swimming and diving teams.

During that stretch, both teams were able to cap a magical run to end the season as Class 3A state champions at the state meet November 4 in Stuart.

Both squads entered the state meet having won their respective district and region championships and followed it up with memorable performances that resulted in various individual state titles en route to bringing home the team title as well.

The Nease boys scored 290 points thanks to winning the 200-yard medley and 400 freestyle relays.

The Panthers' set a new team record, as the combination of Dylan Ramos (backstroke), Rich Nguyen (breaststroke), Joseph Wyatt (butterfly), and Matthew Koziol (freestyle) set a time of

1:32.88, which was also an automatic All-American time.

Wyatt and Koziol were back at it, this time teaming up with Brandon Gear and Walker Lanoue to post a winning time of 3:08.64 in the 400 freestyle relay.

Koziol's freestyle expertise continued to be on display as he finished 3rd in both the 50- and 100-yard distances in that discipline.

Nguyen was in contention for the victory in the 100 breaststroke and scored a runner-up finish in the race.

The Ponte Vedra girls team defended their state title from a year ago and did so leaving very little doubt who the best team was in the competition by earning 340 points, which was 125 more than their nearest opponent.

The Sharks were able to post that high score because they took full advantage of their opportunities to gain points with all 11 girls competing at the state meet reaching finals.

Nine out of 11 school records were set during the event and the result included a pair of individual state cham-

pions with Annie Wohlgemuth winning the 100 backstroke with a time of 54.40 and Penny Zarczynski winning the 100 freestyle with a time of 51.19.

Zarczynski is only a sophomore and appears to have a promising two more years ahead of her, as she looks to continue her progression as a swimmer and defend her state title.

Wohlgemuth and Zarczynski continued to shine for the Sharks, as they each threatened to win a second state title but added a runner-up to their resume instead.

Wohlgemuth's runner-up came with a time of 54.84 in the 100 butterfly and Zarczynski's time of 23.36 in the 50 freestyle earned her a runner-up as well. Both times broke the previous school record and the performances earned them All-American consideration.

As was the case at districts and regionals, the Sharks proved a force to reckon with in the relays.

Wohlgemuth, Annabelle MacAdams, Mary Agnes Smith and Sophie Fox are state champions in the 200 medley



Contributed photo

**Penny Zarczynski is surrounded by loved ones following her individual state championship in the 100 freestyle.**

relay, while the team of Wohlgemuth, Kate Pelot, Liv Copland and Zarczynski won the 200 free relay.

Both events were also won by the Sharks at last year's state meet.

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FEBRUARY



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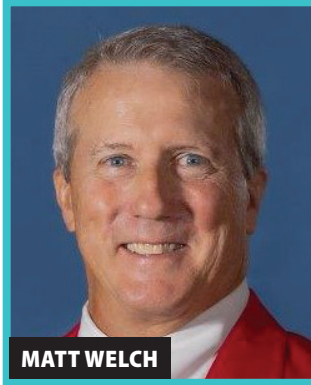


JONATHAN ZISSER



SARAH FERRER-BRUKER

MARCH



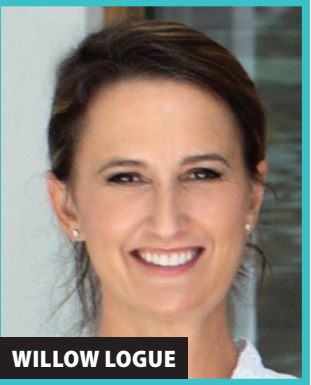
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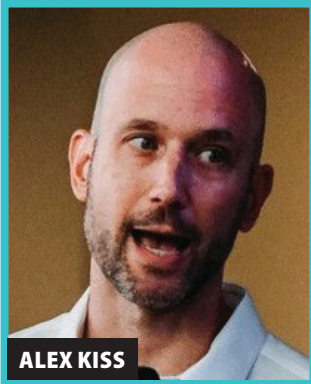


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JUNE



DENNIS HOLLINGSWORTH



ALEX KISS



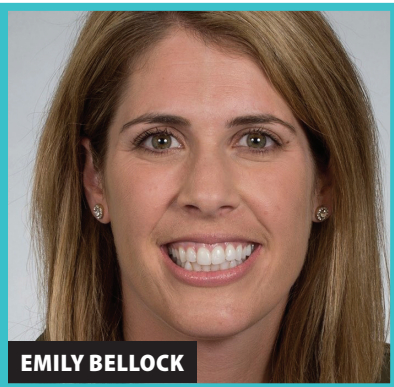
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JULY



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AUGUST



ERIK LARSEN



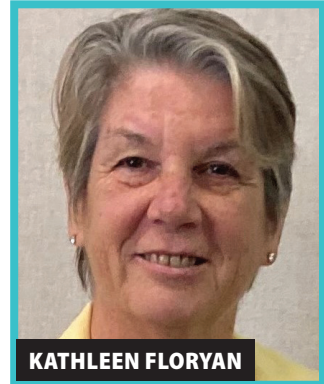
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SEPTEMBER



DAVID LEININGER



TRACIE RAMPLEY



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STEPHANIE CLARKSON

OCTOBER



JASON NETTLE



MELINDA MCMANUS



DONNA LUEDERS



DANA RECTOR

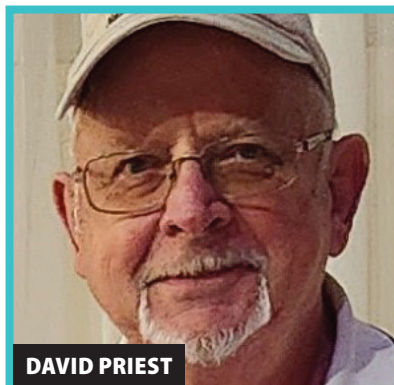
NOVEMBER



KIM ODOM



STEVE TERRELL



DAVID PRIEST



CLAIRE KENDRICK

DECEMBER

# Sharks end memorable season in final four

Originally published on Feb. 24, 2022

By Anthony Richards

Going undefeated is not an easy thing to do, and the Ponte Vedra boys soccer team was able to carry that standing all the way to the final four.

When the squad finally suffered a loss, falling 4-2 to Doral Academy in the Class 6A state semifinal Feb. 19.

Time after time this season the Sharks proved not to be fazed by the pressure and instead embraced the situation they were in and the magical season they were having.

In the matchup, the Sharks found themselves in a 3-0 hole to the Firebirds before Liam Burchell put the Sharks on the scoreboard with a goal in the 53rd minute.

The Sharks never quit fighting as Johnny Luce cut the Sharks' deficit to 4-2 in the 78th minute, but they could not comeback like they did to secure its spot in the final four following a 2-1 victory over Clermont East Ridge Feb. 16.

"I've never been this far before (in playoffs)," Ponte Vedra captain Cade Greenwald said. "I'm so lucky and fortunate to have such a great team to play with."

The Sharks fought back to win the re-

gional championship after falling behind 1-0 early in the second half.

However, the team kept pushing forward and began to create more golden scoring opportunities.

"We knew we had opportunities earlier, but we just had to focus on putting them away," Ponte Vedra goalie Will Sheehan said. "We knew that wasn't the way our season was going to end and just didn't give up."

Andres Villasana made a nice run toward the goal and drew a foul and a free kick just outside the penalty box.

Villasana finished the job by sailing the free kick over the wall of defenders and curving the ball into the top left corner of the goal to tie the game at 1-1 right before the water break that designates the midway point of second half.

"A lot of times last year when we went down, we kind of lost focus, but this year we always keep that drive going and just keep moving the ball around as much as we can," Greenwald said.

Sheehan came up with some big saves for the Sharks throughout the contest, none more clutch than the leaping save he made on a free kick by the Knights with about five minutes to play.

"It's not just me, we've really grown as a team and a defense," Sheehan said. "We do it together."



Photo by Anthony Richards

Senior captains Cade Greenwald and Aaron Novak walk off the field with the regional championship trophy.

The save proved even more crucial because shortly after, the Sharks were awarded a penalty kick following a hand ball in the box by a Knight defender.

Villasana took the penalty kick and following a deep breath beat the goalie to give the Sharks a 2-1 lead with 4:19 remaining.

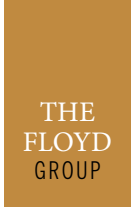
There was a lot of pressure on Villasana walking up to the penalty kick, but he knew he had to block it out and visualize putting the ball in the back of the net.

"I was super nervous, but in the end, I knew I was going to score," Villasana said. "We train for that and in practice, I always make every single one."

From there the Sharks were able to tighten up their defense and punch their ticket to the next round.

Sheehan established a rhythm early on in goal and that included a pair of consecutive saves during a sequence of pressure applied by the Knights right before halftime.

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# Larsen-designed St. Johns Golf Club reopens

Originally published on Dec. 1, 2022

Golf course architect Erik Larsen and St. Johns County reopened the St. Johns Golf Club in southern St. Johns County on Tuesday, Nov. 29.

A brief ceremony with remarks, a ribbon cutting and a nine-hole, shotgun start were scheduled to offer a first glimpse at the course, with full public play beginning on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Larsen, a Ponte Vedra Beach resident and former executive vice president of Arnold Palmer Golf Design Company, has been working on the St. Johns Golf Club project for seven years – from feasibility study to planning and finalization.

Larsen worked in concert with General Manager/Director of Golf Wes Tucker and his staff, St. Johns County, its Board of County Commissioners and Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. of Plainfield, Illinois. The St. Johns Golf Club work follows Larsen’s successful 2015 reinvention of the Atlantic Beach Country Club course and its infrastructure east of Jacksonville.

The St. Johns Golf Club is in Elkton amid the 550-home Cypress Lakes sub-

division two miles west of Interstate 95 at State Road 207 and approximately 10 miles west of downtown St. Augustine.

St. Johns Golf Club was established as a county-owned facility in 1989. After weighing whether to sell the land for housing, the county opted in 2021 to approve funding on an \$8 million renovation to develop an 18-hole course.

The county will use the excess 80 acres to build new fire and sheriff’s stations and establish to-be-determined amenities.

Larsen and Tucker decided to use “traditional throwback” design principles. Features include wide fairways, Biarritz, Punchbowl and Redan green designs and square, low maintenance “coffin” bunkers throughout, tributes to architects C.B. Macdonald and Seth Raynor from the early 1900s.

An expansive short-game area and finishing and beginning holes and the practice area situated much closer to the clubhouse are also part of a completely new complex.

St. Johns County-established greens fee rates range from \$25 for afternoon walkers to \$59.50 for out-of-state visitors.



Photo courtesy of Patrick Price, Brew Media

Aerial of holes (foreground, to back left) 18, 10 and 9 and the clubhouse, practice facility and short-game area.

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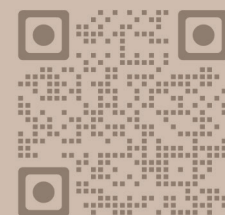
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# Voters reject one-cent sales tax increase

Originally published on Nov. 10, 2022

By Shaun Ryan

St. Johns County voters have rejected a one-cent surtax that would have raised sales taxes in the county from 6.5 cents to 7.5 cents for every dollar spent on the first \$5,000 of taxable personal property purchases. Nontaxable items, such as groceries, would have been exempt.

The referendum was put on the ballot after the County Commission voted 4-1 in March to allow voters to decide it.

The extra penny would have generated an estimated \$500 million over the next decade, enough to fund a list of projects identified as priorities by the various county department heads. The list included \$240 million for road improvements, some of which were slated for Ponte Vedra, such as a widening of Mickler Road.

Some residents have signaled an unwillingness to support some or all of the projects on the list.

The referendum's rejection will likely put those projects in limbo, as county commissioners have said they would not raise taxes to pay for them. In the words of Commissioner Christian Whitehurst, "There is no Plan B."

County officials have identified various causes for a shortfall in funds that might have paid for the proposed projects, most notably a decision by a previous board to reduce impact fees after the 2008 recession to encourage development.

The vote was 63.14% against and 36.86% for.

Both School Board races were close.

In the contest for District 1, incumbent Beverly Slough edged out challenger Racheal M. Hand, 52.21% to 47.79%. The difference between them was slightly more than 1,000 votes.

In District 3, Jennifer Collins prevailed over Lauren Abell, 52.41% to 47.59%.

In the race for Anastasia Mosquito Control District Seat 2, Martha Gleason

was the top vote-getter with 41.78% of the votes. For Seat 4, Trish Becker led Chris George, 56.75% to 43.25%.

The race for St. Johns County Airport Authority Group 1 was very nearly a three-way tie, but Michelle Cash-Chapman received the most votes, 35.36% of the total. Group 2 went with Dennis M. Clarke, who received 47.37% of the vote. In Group 3, Jennifer Liotta received the most votes, 29.72% of the total.

By a wide margin, St. Johns County voters elected to retain all of the state's Supreme Court justices and judges on the District 5 Court of Appeal.

Voter turnout was high in St. Johns County for a midterm election. Out of 223,774 active eligible voters, 144,941 — 64.77% — cast a ballot.

Statewide, Gov. Ron DeSantis beat Charlie Crist, 59.38% to 39.96%. U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio beat Val Demings, 57.69% to 41.26%. In the attorney general race, Ashley Moody beat Aramis Ayala, 60.06% to 39.94%. In the

race for chief financial officer, Jimmy Patronis beat Adam Hattersley, 59.49% to 40.51%. Wilton Simpson beat Naomi Esther Blemur in the race for commissioner of agriculture, 59.31% to 40.69%.

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# Chamber Connections



## 2022 IN REVIEW



Jingle Mingle



TPC Sawgrass Before Hours



St Johns County Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic

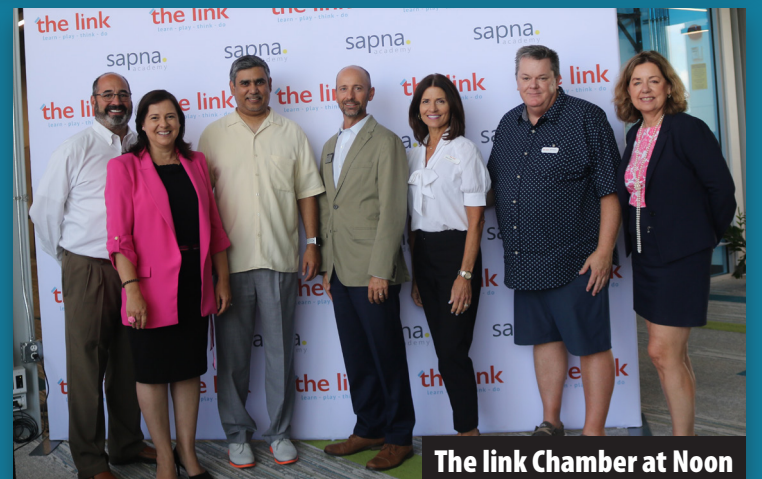


2022-2023 Ponte Vedra Beach Division Board of Directors

December 2022



After Hours at THE PLAYERS



The link Chamber at Noon



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



**Isabelle Renault**  
President/CEO  
St. Johns County  
Chamber of Commerce

Onward to a new year! Many of you gathered with us on Nov. 17 in St. Augustine at the Lightner Museum for fellowship as we honored some of our members at Celebrate 2022.

The Award Winners included: **Viv Helwig**, Member of the Year; **Advanced Business Solutions**, Small Business of the Year; **Beth Tate**, Public Policy Member of the Year; and the **Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge** community received the Economic Development Award of the year.

**Jim Bush** was honored as the outgoing Chairman of the Board and **Beth Sweeny** was ushered in as the new Chairman of the Board. The Chamber Ambassadors are the backbone of our organization and **Will Barnes** was recently honored as the Ambassador of the Year from the St. Augustine Group and **Trudy Toche** and **Karina Coryell** were tied for Ambassadors of the Year from the Ponte

Vedra group. Congrats to these three and thanks for all your hard work! We now have a strong, unified Ambassador Group that promotes the Chamber throughout the county and attends many ribbon cuttings.

These volunteer leaders joined our Chamber members and staff to produce an economically strong fiscal year. Congratulations, and I know we are all looking forward to a busy vibrant 2023!

Regards,  
**Isabelle Renault**  
President and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Karen Everett**  
Director, PVB Division  
St. Johns County  
Chamber of Commerce

What a year! As we head into 2023, we have many blessings to count. Key blessings include the volunteer leaders who ably serve as the members of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division board of directors. Their December board meeting included member appreciation visits! Led by Chair Kathleen Floryan, the Ponte Vedra Beach Division Board meets monthly to review new members, discuss retention efforts and much more.

And our many Chamber Ambassadors welcome new businesses at ribbon cuttings, assist at Chamber events and strengthen our community. Our Ponte Vedra and St. Augustine ambassador groups have merged to reflect our growth throughout the county, but our Ponte Vedra Ambassador group recognized **Trudy Toche** and **Karina Coryell** at the Jingle and Mingle earlier this month for their leadership in the last fiscal year.

Please join us for our many events in the Ponte Vedra area and throughout the county in 2023 and come visit the Chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach office at 200 Solana Road, Ste. B. We are also a Visitor Information Center and welcome your questions. Thanks for your continued support!

Regards,  
**Karen Everett**  
Director, Ponte Vedra Beach Division  
St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

## CHAMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

**PVB Division Chamber at Noon (w/JAX Chamber)**  
**Date:** Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Speaker:** Jared Rice, Tournament Players Championship  
**Location:** Casa Marina Restaurant, Jax Beach  
**Sponsor:** Fields Auto Group

**PVB Division Chamber After Hours**  
**Date:** Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, 5:30-7 p.m.  
**Location:** Beard Art Gallery, 110 Cumberland Park Drive, No. 105

**PVB Division Chamber Before Hours**  
**Date:** Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023, 8-9 a.m.  
**Location:** Coastal Compass Executive Suites, 4210 Valley Ridge Blvd., Ste. 107-148, Nocatee

**PVB Division Chamber At Noon**  
**Date:** Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023, 11:30-1 p.m.  
**Speaker:** John Delaney, President, Flagler College  
**Location:** Marsh Landing Country Club, Ponte Vedra Beach  
**Sponsor:** Fields Auto Group

**PVB Division Chamber After Hours**  
**Date:** Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, 5:30-7 p.m.  
**Location:** America's Choice Title, 170 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach

**Chamber After Hours at TPC (with JAX Chamber)**  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2 (Mark your calendar!)

More information and to register at The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce website: [www.sjcchamber.com](http://www.sjcchamber.com)

### Chamber hosts after hours at Seaside Bank & Trust



Photo by Susan Griffin

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held an after-hours event at Seaside Bank & Trust on Nov. 16.

### Chamber celebrates holidays with Jingle and Mingle



Photo by Susan Griffin

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce 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. Pictured: **Martha Gleason**, **K.C. Padgett** and **Cindy Bishop**.

### A chance to dance



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Rescheduled from November due to the hurricane, a light-filled ribbon-cutting was held for the new Arthur Murray Dance Center in Ponte Vedra Beach on Wednesday, Dec. 21. Co-owned and opened by **Jessica Megargle** and **Heiko Leyhausen**, the new space guarantees that visitors will "Walk In, Dance Out."

## Modern Aesthetic Centers opens St. Johns location



Photo by Susan Griffin

Modern Aesthetic Centers recently held a ribbon cutting for its new center located at 2050 Saint Johns Parkway, Suite 106 in St. Johns. COO Lisa Farides joined her brother and CEO Paul Hassan to open the business.

## Baptist HealthPlace services on display for meeting

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held its After Hours gathering on Oct. 19 at Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee. This evening of networking gave attendees a better look at the innovative, state-of-the-art facility, which includes a Baptist Center for Healthy Living, YMCA, an onsite café and a variety of medical services. Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee is located at 400 Colonnade Drive, Ponte Vedra. Pictured from left during the recent After Hours gathering are: Kim Sole, Felicia Cox, Tom Campbell and Karen Everett.



Photo by Susan Griffin

## Ponte Vedra Wellness hosts 'before hours,' celebrates anniversary



Photo by Susan Griffin

Ponte Vedra Wellness hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce "before hours" event that coincided with the business celebrating its 18th anniversary. Pictured: Ericha Gore, Jackie Smith and Elaine Raby.

## JAXUSL talks economic impact during EDC breakfast

Representatives from JAXUSL were on hand during a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce EDC breakfast Dec. 2 to talk about the economic impact expected in St. Johns County with the return of professional soccer to the area in 2025. Pictured: JAXUSL founding owner and managing director Steve Livingstone speaks to those in attendance.

Photo by Susan Griffin



## Hydro Infusions hosts Chamber 'before hours' event



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Hydro Infusions recently partnered with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce to host a "before hours" event. A variety of Chamber members were on hand and shared smiles and laughs during the networking event. Pictured: Isabelle Renault, Sherry Jeffords, Dr. Melissa Withers, Dr. Travis Jeffords, Carlie Quinn and Kathleen Floryan.

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# John Beard Collection holds ribbon cutting



Photo by Susan Griffin

John Beard Collection officially joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce in 2022. A ribbon cutting coincided with the opening of the Collection's art gallery on County Road 210.

# Tikka Bowls and Tacos opens



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The Tikka Bowls and Tacos team and family cut the ribbon for the new business. The business is located at 155 Fountains Way Suite 4, St. Johns. The restaurant offers Indian fusion tacos, burritos and bowls, curries, chicken wings and more. For more information, go to [tikkabowlsandtacos.com](http://tikkabowlsandtacos.com).

# Joy Vision Acupuncture opens



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Erica Joy Siegel, acupuncture physician, cuts the ribbon Monday, July 18, during a ceremony marking the opening of Joy Vision Acupuncture, located at Mickler's Landing, 1106 State Road A1A, Suite 201A. The business is the only acupuncture practice in the Southeast United States specializing in the complementary treatment of eye diseases with the Acunova Protocol. The event was conducted in conjunction with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

# VyStar executive speaks at joint Chamber lunch



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held its joint lunch with the JAX Chamber. Jenny Vipperman, chief lending officer at VyStar Credit Union, was the speaker. Pictured from left are Tierney Anderson, Fields Auto Group; Tom Patton, chair, Beaches Division – Jax Chamber; Josh Hull, VyStar Nocatee; Kathleen Floryan, chair, Ponte Vedra Beach Division – St. Johns County Chamber; and Vipperman.

# Chamber at Noon



Photo by Susan Griffin

St. Johns County Deputy County Administrator Joy Andrews was the speaker for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Chamber at Noon event Aug. 17 at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa. She spoke about the importance of infrastructure and balance needed in the county. The luncheon was sponsored by Fields Auto Group.

# Sheriff speaks at Chamber at Noon event



Photo by Susan Griffin

St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick was the speaker for the Chamber at Noon event on Sept. 21. His topic was public safety in St. Johns County. The event was held at the Hilton Garden Inn. The luncheons are sponsored by Fields Auto Group, and the sponsor for this specific event was Pinnacle Communications Group. Here, members of the Chamber and the Sheriff's Office pause for a photo.



# A look at labor



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Labor Economist Ron Hetrick spoke at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council (EDC) Quarterly Breakfast on Sept. 23. He addressed the labor crisis in St. Johns County at the Renaissance Resort in World Golf Village.

# The Yards joins Chamber with ribbon cutting



Photo by Susan Griffin

The Yards officially joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony July 22. The Yards offers golf, pickleball and tennis and is open to hosting a variety of events at its complex.

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# Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery opens newest location



Photo by Susan Griffin

Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery opened a new location along County Road 210 with a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony in partnership with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. It is the fifth location for Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery, with others in Ponte Vedra, Nocatee, Amelia Island and off Gate Parkway.

# The next wave of office complexes



Photo by Susan Griffin

Coastal Compass Executive Office Suites has been open for about a year and now they are official members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce following a ribbon cutting ceremony July 20. The complex opened in August 2021 and is located at 4210 Valley Ridge Blvd., Suite 101 in Ponte Vedra.

# The DRIPBaR hosts Chamber Before Hours

The DRIPBaR hosted a “Before Hours” event with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division on Aug. 10. The morning was full of networking possibilities, as well as food and fun.

Photo by Susan Griffin



# After Hours at the link



Photo by Susan Griffin

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held its Chamber After Hours at the link in Nocatee on June 29. Sponsors were Nissan of St. Augustine, Oxi Fresh Carpet Cleaning, Coffee News NE Florida and GEICO.

# Dolly Llama creates sweet partnership with Chamber



Photo by Susan Griffin

The Dolly Llama Waffle Master has opened a location at 830 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach and made it official with a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony. The business combines ice cream and waffles to give customers a unique experience. The franchisees are Josh and Wendy Popkin of Ponte Vedra.

# Ascension opens new hospital in St. Johns

Ascension St. Vincent’s Health Center opened a new hospital in St. Johns County and did so in the grandest way, as the facility hosted the public for a community event and ribbon cutting on site July 1. The hospital is on County Road 210 in St. Johns.

Photo by Susan Griffin



# Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners celebrates new office



Photo by Susan Griffin

In June, Keller Williams Atlantic Partners moved to a new location. The new office is located at 13000 Sawgrass Village Circle Building 1, Suite 3, in the Village Professional Center. Margaret Sherrill, operating principal, cuts the ribbon during a ceremony Sept. 15 as team leader Mark Dilworth looks on. St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division conducted the ceremony.

# Chamber Before Hours held at TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse



Photo by Susan Griffin

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a Before Hours event for its members at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse on Sept. 14. The Chamber thanked the staff at the clubhouse for all they did to help put on the networking event. Pictured are Mark Ryan, Kathleen Floryan and Peter verDorn.

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# The link hosts Chamber at Noon



Photo by Susan Griffin

The link hosted a Chamber at Noon event July 14. Owner Raghu Misra spoke to those in attendance about the state-of-the-art facility and the unique business it brings to the Nocatee community. The New York Butcher Shoppe catered food for the event.

# Renovated Hilton Garden Inn, Mulligans hosts After Hours

The Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville Ponte Vedra Sawgrass hosted the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce for an “After Hours” event Aug. 24. The event was held at Mulligan’s Pub, the hotel’s on-site restaurant, which was recently renovated along with the hotel. Here, Bob Arndt, general manager at Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville Ponte Vedra Sawgrass, speaks to attendees.

Photo by Susan Griffin



# Quiet Tiger ribbon cutting



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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

# The Yards hosts Chamber social event



Photo by Susan Griffin

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a social gathering for its members at The Yards. The night was full of networking, drinks and socializing by all who attended.

# Chamber hosts Politics St. Johns event



Photo by Anthony Richards

Political candidates running in this year’s election were given the opportunity to spread their messages and interact with residents during the Politics St. Johns event at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall July 27. The event was hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

# Bike Haven Ribbon Cutting

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

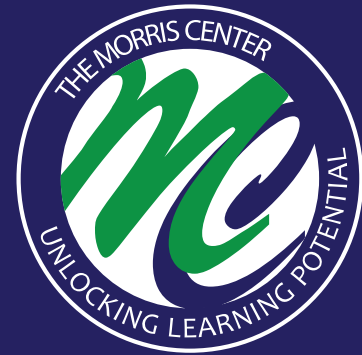
Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



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# Chamber After Hours at Sawgrass Marriott



Photo by Susan Griffin

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its Chamber After Hours event May 25. Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa was the host. It was an evening of networking, food and fun. Pictured are: Kari Zerrahn, Lori Adams, Jackie Smith, Felicia Cox, Gloria Dongara, Christine Ondek, Michael Benko and Mark Ryan.

# Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosts Chamber Before Hours

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



Photo by Susan Griffin

# New York Butcher Shoppe joins Chamber



Photo by Susan Griffin

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

# Hydro Infusions ribbon cutting



Photo by Susan Griffin

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

# Keeping up to date on elections



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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

# DRIPBaR Ribbon Cutting



Photo by Susan Griffin

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

# Edie Williams State Farm ribbon cutting



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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

# Facility provides latest options for pets



Photo by Susan Griffin

The Palm Valley Veterinary Center and Dr. Louis Mack wanted to bring the best pet care to the Ponte Vedra area. In pursuit of that goal, the business held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on May 31.



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# Hotworx ribbon cutting

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

Photo by Susan Griffin



# St. Johns Sport and Spine Chiropractic ribbon cutting



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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

# St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic



Photo by Susan Griffin

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce 2022 Golf Classic was held May 16 on the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club Ocean Course. Here are the winners: Team Cecil W. Powell (Luke Gowen, Bill Toth and Gerry Lee) won first place. Team Florida Blue (Sid Roberson, Mike Graves, Brian Adcock and Tim Simokonis) won second place. Legacy Roofing (Kayleb Burrirt, Jeremy Janes, Dylan Adams, Shane Moore) won third place.

# Ribbon cut for The Great Greek Mediterranean Grille



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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

# First Horizon hosts Chamber After Hours

First Horizon Bank hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division After Hours event April 27. It was a night full of networking, food and fun for all that attended. Pictured are: Lesley Vitel, Felicia Cox, Karen Everett and Trudy Toche.



Photo by Susan Griffin

# Truist holds ribbon cutting, host Before Hours



Photo by Susan Griffin

Truist Bank held a ribbon cutting ceremony during a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Before Hours event that it hosted at its No-catee location May 11. Karen Gable, vice president and branch leader, is surrounded by staff members as she cuts the ribbon.



# Legislative Update



Photo provided by The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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

# Rice talks THE PLAYERS at joint Chamber at Noon



Photo by Anthony Richards

Weeks into 2022, the focus began to shift to Ponte Vedra Beach's most marquee event, THE PLAYERS. Tournament vice president and executive director Jared Rice (center) was the guest speaker at the Jan. 12 Chamber at Noon event, which was hosted by both the St. Johns County and Jacksonville Chambers of Commerce.

# Hurricane preparedness



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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

# Dean addresses growth in the county



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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

# Chamber Before Hours at Flagler Health+ Palencia



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

Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

*Why has Kathleen been involved with the Chamber since 2004?*

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## After-Hours at THE PLAYERS



Photo by Susan Griffin

After-Hours at THE PLAYERS Championship, an annual networking event, was co-hosted March 3 by the JAX Chamber and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. It was held in the Stadium Village at TPC Sawgrass. Shown is the crew from the Ponte Vedra Wellness Center and their table.

## Workforce discussion at EDC breakfast

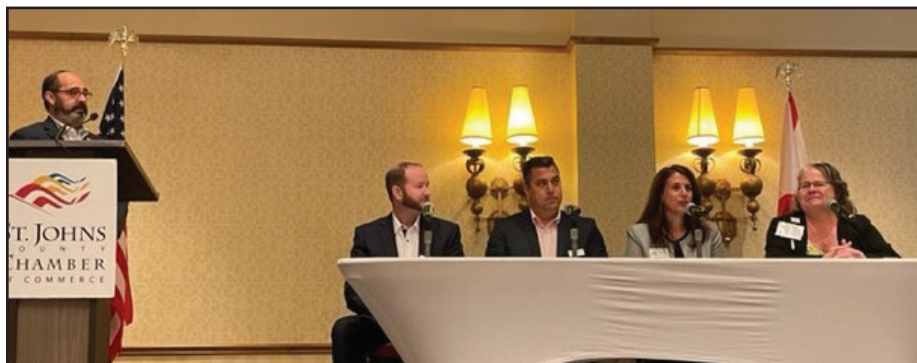


Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

A full crowd attended the Chamber's Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast on Feb. 25 at the Renaissance in World Golf Village. Scott Maynard, economic development director, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, at the podium, facilitated a workforce panel discussion with, from left, Nick Solomon, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; Kyle Kramer, EmployU; Doreen Lund, CareerSource Northeast Florida; and Chris Force, First Coast Technical College. The panel focused on expanding the pool of applicants and identifying additional recruiting methods.

## Halo Spa hosts Chamber After Hours



Photo by Susan Griffin

The site of the Jan. 19 Chamber After Hours was Halo Spa, 320 Town Plaza Ave., Ste. 110, Nocatee. In the photo, Emily Carpenter, left, and Halo Spa owner Monica Ketterman are seen at the event.

## Patty dives into county finance guide at Chamber luncheon



Photo by Anthony Richards

County clerk of circuit court and county comptroller Brandon Patty was the guest speaker at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division luncheon at Ruth's Chris Steak House Feb. 16.

## Board and Brush hosts Chamber before hours



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Division

Board and Brush Creative Studio hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Division before hours event Feb. 9 at 840 A1A N., Suite 150 in Ponte Vedra Beach. The event was an opportunity for Chamber members to network and get acquainted with other local businesses.

## Richardson offers Chamber members tips on digital marketing

Molly Richardson, owner and founder of TotallyInfused Digital Marketing, presented digital marketing tips to the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce at its Chamber at Noon on March 16 at Pusser's Grille in Ponte Vedra Beach. Pictured from left are Matt Price, chairman of the board, Ponte Vedra Beach Division, St.



Johns County Chamber of Commerce, First Horizon Bank; Molly Richardson, speaker and founder of TotallyInfused Digital Marketing; Aaron Mong and Tierney Anderson, both with Fields Auto Group, sponsor of Chamber at Noon; and Karen Everett, director, Ponte Vedra Beach Division, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

# Intelligent Office introduces new Nocatee location



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division  
Intelligent Office joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting and after-hours event Feb. 23 at the new location at 90 Fort Wade Road, Suite 100 in Ponte Vedra.

# ScanManFL cuts ribbon, joins Chamber



Photo by Susan Griffin

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 17 for the new business at its location in the Village Professional Center at 13000 Sawgrass Village Circle, Building 3, Suite 13.

# Chamber a sponsor of EnterCircle event



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Entrepreneurs, business leaders, successful professionals in a variety of fields and people who wanted to learn gathered Nov. 16-18 at the link for the EnterCircle Summit 2022. Scott Maynard, vice president of economic development for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber was excited to be a sponsor of the EnterCircle Summit. Pictured: Steven Hertzberg speaks to students from Pedro Menendez High School about cryptocurrency on day two of the summit.

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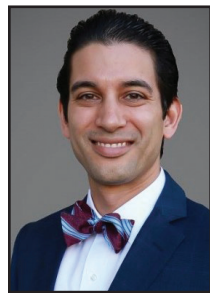


THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022 PAGE 29 [www.PonteVedraRecorder.com](http://www.PonteVedraRecorder.com)

GUEST COLUMN

## Hiring counsel for estate, trust administration may help avoid conflict

By Alessandro A. Apolito



Losing a family member or friend is a difficult situation for everyone. In 1969, the Swiss-American psychiatrist Elizabeth Kübler-Ross wrote in her book “On Death and Dying” that grief could be divided into five stages: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Despite how severe or long the grieving process is for you, a person’s death can require a time-consuming and expensive process of administering the estate. While some estates are as simple as dividing tangible personal property and reimbursing a family member for funeral costs, many estates require a formal probate administration, which can last six to 12 months or more.

In Florida, the personal representative of an estate is required to have an attorney, who must help a lay person navigate the court system, the fiduciary obligations imposed by the Florida Probate Code and the occasional unreasonable or litigious beneficiary. The personal representative is a fiduciary for both beneficiaries and creditors. Therefore, responsibilities include, but are not limited to, notifying all interested parties of their basic rights in the estate, identifying and collecting all estate assets, paying debts, distributing assets and accounting for all the financial activity of the estate. The possibility for litigation in an estate administration can happen over mistakes in administration, unequal distributions between beneficiaries, resentment over who is in control, or

blended families with rocky relationships.

Unlike personal representatives, trustees appointed in a revocable or irrevocable trust are not legally required to have an attorney even though the requirements of the Florida Trust Code are just as strict as the probate code. Additionally, trust administrations tend to last many years. While people typically use trusts to avoid the probate process, there is still a possibility for litigation for all the same reasons.

Beneficiaries of an estate or trust are also not legally required to have an attorney. Unfortunately, many beneficiaries have the false impression that the personal representative’s or trustee’s attorney either represents the beneficiary too or is required to act in the beneficiary’s best interests. This is simply not true. Beneficiaries will receive legal notices, be subject to deadlines to exercise certain rights, and be required to make complicated legal decisions. Additionally, the fiduciary handling the estate may be improperly handling the estate, or even worse, may be misappropriating the estate’s assets.

We highly recommend that personal representatives, trustees and beneficiaries hire counsel with trusts and estates litigation experience so that they can either try to avoid possible litigation or have the proper representation if conflicts should arise. Luckily, both personal representatives and trustees are allowed to hire professionals, at the expense of the estate, to ensure a proper administration of the estate. Hiring a professional could even possibly shield them from liability.

For questions or more information, contact practice team leader David

Siegfeld, 518-462-0110 x1425 or any attorneys in our Trusts & Estates practice at Lippes Mathias LLP to schedule a consultation.

**Alessandro Apolito is a partner in the Jacksonville office of Lippes Mathias LLP Attorneys at Law who focuses on trusts and estates.**

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GUEST COLUMN

# Selling your business to private equity group vs. strategic buyer

If you own a business, it can be overwhelming to think about selling it. One way to gain some control is to learn about your alternatives so you better understand what is best for you, your family and your company. While buyers come in all shapes and sizes, perhaps the most sophisticated are private equity groups (PEGs) and strategic buyers.

## Private equity group

A PEG is made up of financial professionals who have raised money to buy —

and eventually sell — companies.

**Key considerations:** It is important to consider your financial and timing goals to determine if a PEG sale is a fit. Your continued involvement will be based on your current role in the company. Are you comfortable running the company with another majority owner? PEGs usually target a three-to-five year holding period, after which the PEG attempts a second sale of the company (in which you may be able to completely exit).

**What happens:** As a simple example,

assume you sell for \$1,000. Assume also that the PEG funds the transaction with \$500 debt and \$500 equity and asks you to roll over \$100 to own a 20% equity interest. Your existing management — and likely you — will be tasked with growing the business while paying down the debt.

Now, let's say you double the profits while completely paying off the debt and then the business is sold. Assuming the same valuation multiple of profit/cash flow, the business would be valued at \$2,000 and you would get 20%, or \$400, for your \$100 investment because all the debt was paid off.

**Risks:** Of course, there's no guarantee the business will grow while paying down the debt or it will then sell on favorable terms. In the meantime, you will have a majority owner that is looking to exit in a few years, so its goals may not align with yours. When considering a PEG, you want to be comfortable with its level of involvement in the running of the company and how decisions will be made.

## Strategic buyer

A strategic buyer is usually a company in the same or related industry that has some overlap or synergy that would result in incremental savings or revenue if it bought your company.

**Key considerations:** Your company may be absorbed, which is important to consider if you value legacy. There may be a heightened risk for job loss, especially among senior leaders, as your team may overlap with that of the buyer. The flip side is you may find it easier to walk away after a strategic sale.

**What happens:** Unlike a PEG, you will usually not be asked to reinvest in the company, and depending on your current role, you may be involved in a transition period of only a few months. What happens to your management team and the rest of your workforce depends on the overlap with the buyer and its strategic direction.



Contributed photo

The Ponte Vedra Wealth Management team.

**Risks:** If you are paid in the acquiring company's stock, you need to consider the risk of owning that much of one security. If the buyer is a public company, you may be able to sell that stock and diversify over time, but that can be delayed if the stock is restricted. In that case, you can be prohibited from selling until after a vesting period or certain conditions are met.

If the buyer pays with private company stock, you need to know your path to liquidity. Until you do so, you will own shares in a larger company you no longer control, and it likely will represent a large percentage of your personal assets.

Transitioning your ownership of a company is more complex than a typical retirement, but it can be less daunting if you understand your options.

**This article was written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Ponte Vedra Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors — Jamie Seim, MBA, CFP First Vice President – Investment Officer, Stephen T. Foody, CFP Managing Director — Investments Officer in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL at 904-273-7934. 0122-00768**

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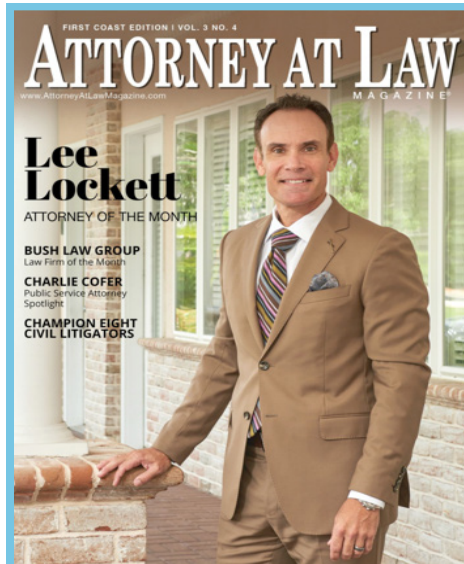
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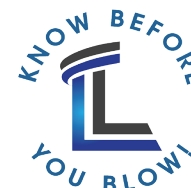
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Photo courtesy of Matt Price

The Sharks are the 2022 Class 3A tennis state champions.

# Sharks secure place in history with tennis state title

Originally published on May 5, 2022

By Anthony Richards

Winning a state title is the epitome for every high school athlete, but what makes the title so special is the ride it takes to get to that point.

For the Ponte Vedra High boys tennis team winning a state title was something they felt confident in since the start of the season, and it came to fruition with them handing over the school's first tennis state championship trophy to athletic director Michael Harrison during a presentation May 2.

"You can't script it any better," Weiland said. "Winning a state title in Florida is not easy. It will be nice to see that banner up (in the gym)."

Senior Adam Logan battled back from trailing two match points early in a tiebreaker to eventually win his match and secure the title for the Sharks.

"It was definitely stressful, knowing that everything was riding on me, but I just went back to everything I've been

working on my whole life and just tried to stick with my gameplan and stay aggressive," Logan said.

It was just as nerve-racking for Logan's teammates as they watched him and rooted him on.

According to fellow senior Andrew Kelley, the group got into a prayer circle at one point.

"We believed in Adam the whole way," junior Ofek Blank said. "We just knew he was going to pull it off."

The victory will always hold a special place in Logan's heart, not only because of the magnitude of the win, but also because his dad passed away earlier in the year.

"I've been playing since I was 6 years old and my dad was my coach," Logan said. "We learned how to play by watching YouTube together and then going on the court and figuring stuff out. He got me to where I am today, and I just devoted this season to him and wanted to do everything I could to honor him. This is the best way to do it."

Logan is one of five seniors on the roster that will end their high school tennis careers as state champions and go down in history as the group that won the school's first in tennis.

"This is the peak of my high school career," senior Callum Searle said. "It's a pretty awesome feeling, and it's something I'll remember for the rest of my life."

Senior Elias Missa was slotted in as the team's No. 6 player for most of the year and had played in seven matches, mostly in the doubles format.

However, he was thrust into a singles role to fill in for an injured player and stepped up in a big way by not losing a match at states after not playing at districts or regionals.

"Coach texted me and said that I might be playing, so initially it was a big surprise, but I knew I had been ready and was prepared," Missa said. "I just tried to treat it like one of the thousands of matches that we've all played."

Coming off the bench when your name is called is one thing but doing

it in the most crucial of moments is another thing all together.

It was obvious to each of the Sharks that the intensity of the state tournament is unlike anything they see during the season, even at the district and regional levels.

"It's a lot more intense and everyone has a chip on their shoulders because its win or go home," sophomore Grant Price said.

One match the specifically stands out for Kelley during the Sharks postseason path was during the regional final against Vanguard, when he found himself down early.

"I got beat pretty bad in the first set, and I haven't had an easy season with some tears in my knee and I've been injured a lot, but I thought to myself at the changeover 'playing like this is not going to get us to our final goal and the state championships,' so I slapped myself in the face and said 'this is going to change right now,' and I came back and won that match," Kelley said.

# Ascension opens new hospital in St. Johns

Originally published on July 7, 2022

By Anthony Richards

Ascension St. Vincent's Health Center opened a new hospital in St. Johns County and did so in the grandest way, as the facility hosted the public for a community event and ribbon cutting on site July 1.

The free event was a chance for the public to get acquainted with their new hospital as well as share in some fun family activities while they were there, as games, vendors and mascots from local sports teams were present.

According to Sean McAfee, vice president of nursing with Ascension St. Vincent's, pride was the No. 1 emotion he and the staff at the facility were feeling.

"As a member of St. Johns County, myself, I can't be prouder of this facility," McAfee said.

The hospital hopes to fill a need for the residents in the northwestern region of the county by providing them with another necessary option when medical issues arise.

"This county is the fastest growing county in the United States, so the access was very much needed," McAfee said.

Even prior to the hospital taking its

first patient, McAfee had already heard positive feedback from the community, the county's emergency medical services and the police departments that they are partnering with.

The hospital's construction began in December 2020 and that idea was made a reality and revealed when the public laid its first eyes inside the building during to start July.

The structure is 150,000 square feet with 56 in-patient beds, 15 emergency room beds and six operating rooms.

"It really is a state-of-the-art facility, not only in a high-tech perspective, but when it comes to low tech as well," McAfee said.

An example of the efficiency of even the low-tech aspect of the hospital is with its "medical mall," which greets anyone who first walks in through the main entrance of the building.

This is done by cleaning up the sight lines and helping a person find where they need to go to help speed up their process and make the situation as seamless as possible.

"When you walk in, you can see everywhere you need to go," McAfee said. "The elevators to the patient floors, the cafeteria, a personalized help desk, surgery check-in and even kiosks along



Photo by Anthony Richards

The main desk in the emergency room.

the wall if you can register yourself. That is a highly unusual approach in your traditional hospital."

Some of the little things the hospital is doing that they hope goes a long way in adding to a patient's experience, include a "living wall," which is featured as part of the "medical mall" and has live greenery

on it that can be touched, and towel art that is a common sight in many of the rooms.

Many of the usual specialties that have become expected from most hospitals will also be offered at the facility, such as orthopedics, neurology and general surgery.

"Really any service line you can imagine, we've got," McAfee said. "From a staffing perspective we really do have strong care teams, but from a personal and Ascension perspective, we really want compassionate people and I think we've been successful and getting that."

Being part of the Ascension outfit of facilities can not only be a helpful tool when sharing resources, but it also played a large role during the developmental phase of the hospital, as they figured out what ideas they could borrow from other hospitals while making it the best fit for St. Johns County.

"We were really fortunate here to have already had built a facility in Clay County not too many years ago and we were really able to learn from that to improve here," McAfee said. "We have some really highly-skilled leaders at the other Ascension facilities here in the Jacksonville market, and it's been a real blessing to have."

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# Tebow among ownership group bringing men's, women's soccer

Originally published on Sept. 1, 2022

By Anthony Richards

Professional soccer is coming to the First Coast in 2025 after an announcement made during a press conference by the United Soccer League at TPC Sawgrass on Aug. 30.

According to league CEO Alec Papadakis, the USL is much more than just the play on the field, but the goal is to bring communities together through soccer.

As a result, one of the ways the USL differs from other professional leagues is that it has a direct connection between pro and youth teams in the area.

The youth soccer organization in this case will be Florida Elite, which was established eight years ago and has roughly 15,000 players participating, some of which were present during the press conference.

“They will be able to eat, train and watch film alongside and in the same facilities as the pros in their town,” Papadakis said.

Another unique way JAXUSL will be unique is that it will not just introduce a men's pro team to compete for the USL Championship, but it will also create a women's pro team that will be part of the USL's W League.

“This is the most exciting time for soccer in the history of the United States,” Papadakis said.

He stated how the 1994 World Cup hosted by the U.S. was intended to get soccer introduced to Americans on a mainstream level and now the 2026 World Cup, where the U.S. is one of the hosts, will serve as the bookend to that process.

According to Papadakis, over the years he has seen the game of soccer continue to grow not just in the USL, but as a whole throughout the country, and it has led to an increase in job opportunities not just on the field but in the business side of soccer.

“You can stay in the sport we love so much and make it a career,” Papadakis said.

The JAXUSL ownership group includes Ricky Caplin, Tim Tebow, Steve



Tim Tebow

Livingstone and Tony Allegretti.

Caplin believes that Northeast Florida is the perfect fit for a pro soccer team because of the area's passion for sports and a growing diverse community.

“Although I may not know much about soccer, but I do know about dreams, visions and goals,” said Tebow, a local sports legend from his time playing at Nease High School and the University of Florida.

Although the team will not begin play until 2025, the group expects the excitement to only continue and grow.

The next steps include finding a venue and facilities to play and train at locally.

The name of the squads and the team colors will be determined in the coming months as they hope to get feedback from the community to help with those decisions.

More information about the team and how to get involved is available by going to [jaxusl.com](http://jaxusl.com).



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# Ponte Vedra Library re-opens after fire

Originally published on July 21, 2022

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Public Library opened its doors to the public once again July 19 after being closed for two weeks due to electrical and roof damage from a fire caused by

a lightning strike.

“Any time that you’ve been closed for a period of time, whether it’s a situation like this or a hurricane, that first day back, people need you,” said Anne Crawford, Ponte Vedra Beach Library assistant branch manager. “The library is part of the fabric of the family community feel we have here in Ponte

Vedra Beach.”

According to Crawford, staff was greeted with an abundance of enthusiasm when they re-opened at 10 a.m. July 19.

“It has been wonderful to see lots of smiling faces coming through the door of all ages,” Crawford said. “Everyone that I’ve seen has been very happy,

positive and just relieved to know that their library is here and open again. They’ve said several times about how much they’ve missed us and are glad that we’re back, and we as a staff feel the same way.”

The damage to the building has been repaired and none of the collections were affected during the fire.

“You can still smell a hint of smoke, but aside from that everything looks exactly as it did before,” Crawford said. “We were very fortunate in that regard.”

Although the Ponte Vedra Beach branch was physically closed, it did not stop the amount of people interested in searching and reserving books online for when the library eventually re-opened.

“People really did miss their library, and many of them know the staff by name,” Crawford said.

All the holds of materials that were sitting on the library’s shelves during the closure were extended until July 23.

Although the holds were turned off while the branch was closed, there remained a “pull list” of materials waiting to be processed when the doors opened back up.

“It’s a list of all the items we have to pull either for our patrons or for patrons at other branches, and it was at more than 400 items,” Crawford said. “The library never sleeps.”

The amount of the “pull list” is probably the best example of how much the local community missed the library during its absence.

The outside book drop opened one day prior to the entire library to give staff a day to do some catching up and get organized once again prior to returning to regular hours.

Crawford held a pizza party for the staff during the day as a way of welcoming everyone back, after many spent time working at various other branches in the county during the two-week closure.

*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.

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Photos by Anthony Richards

# World Golf Hall of Fame plans to leave county in 2023

Originally published on July 28, 2022

By Anthony Richards

After 25 years of calling St. Augustine home, the World Golf Hall of Fame has revealed its plan to move to North Carolina in 2024.

The move is part of a partnership between the United States Golf Association and the World Golf Hall of Fame that will lead to the creation of a new visitor experience at the USGA's Golf House Pinehurst campus.

"Since the World Golf Hall of Fame moved to St. Johns County in 1998, it has honored golf's history and the legacies of those who have made it great," said a World Golf Hall of Fame representative. "The Hall of Fame is proud of the 25 years spent at World Golf Village and is grateful for the support from the northeast Florida community and state of Florida."

Several factors were considered prior to making the final decision to relocate, but the two primary factors centered around history and a strong financial investment by the North Carolina General Assembly, which recently awarded the USGA \$7 million designated toward the World Golf Hall of Fame project and construction.

The USGA broke ground on its six-acre Golf House Pinehurst campus last month. It is a vision that has come to life through state and community-based partnerships in North Carolina.

The World Golf Hall of Fame has a rich history with the area that dates to its founding in Pinehurst in 1974, as it was operated by the resort's management company until 1983, when ownership was transferred to the PGA of America.

Residents will still have some time to visit the hall of fame before it leaves, as it is scheduled to close in late 2023 at the conclusion of its long-term lease of the property at World Golf Village.

"The Hall of Fame acknowledges that today's generation of golf fans consume the sport and its history differently, and the decision to expand its partnership with the USGA will position the Hall of Fame to be able to evolve in the same manner," said a

Hall of Fame spokesperson.

According to representatives with the Hall of Fame, they have been meeting with stakeholders for months, including St. John's County officials and World Golf Village partners, to evaluate options for the future of the World Golf Village and its entities.

That process has also included hearing from the World Golf Village community on what they believe to be the best future use for the area.

Additional details pertaining to World Golf Village's future, including the IMAX theater, will be made available later.

Many of the most cherished items in the Hall of Fame's existing collection will be relocated to Pinehurst as part of the creation of a new Hall of Fame locker room.

Last year's World Golf Hall of Fame induction ceremony took place on site in St. Augustine and the class included Tiger Woods.

The USGA will be responsible for day-to-day operations, management and artifact preservation related to the World Golf Hall of Fame displays, as well as the content, presentation and overall look and feel of

the visitor experience.

The association will leverage the assets of its USGA Golf Museum and Library – the most comprehensive collection of golf artifacts worldwide – to add to the visitor experience.

The Hall of Fame will continue to operate as an independent organization as part of the World Golf Foundation, serving as the sole administrator of the Hall of Fame induction (process, criteria and ceremony).

The Hall of Fame also will collaborate with the USGA on digital and interactive

content that celebrates Hall of Fame members and complements the artifacts on display.

"I'm confident today's announcement and alignment with the USGA will further cement the long-term relevance and viability of the World Golf Hall of Fame, all while continuing to honor golf's most storied individuals and artifacts," said Jay Monahan, PGA Tour commissioner and World Golf Foundation chairman. "Both organizations are committed to prioritizing the preservation of golf history, which will serve fans well in the years to come."

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# Tiger Woods inducted into World Golf Hall of Fame

Originally published on March 17, 2022

By Kathy Bissell

To absolutely no one's surprise, Tiger Woods was selected for induction to the World Golf Hall of Fame. The induction, held on March 9, was at the new PGA TOUR World Headquarters building. One reason Woods qualified so soon is that those in charge decided to lower the age to from 50 to 45. Woods turned 46 last December.

To everyone's surprise, Woods teared up even before he started talking.

"I just lost a bet to Stricker that I wouldn't cry," were Woods' first words. Everyone laughed.

Stricker is Steve Stricker, the recent Ryder Cup captain who is known for crying when he wins and sometimes just when he gets good news. The man is a waterworks machine.

It was unusual to see someone as con-

trolled in his comments as Woods usually is crying on stage, his human side exposed. Perhaps the tears were because his daughter Sam had just done the introduction.

"I inducted you into the Dad Hall of Fame a long time ago, but today I am so proud to present my dad, Tiger Woods, into the World Golf Hall of Fame," she said.

That apparently did it. Tears flowed.

In their speeches, Sam and Tiger Woods did give us some new information on his formative years.

He once had a dog called Boom Boom, named after Fred Couples.

He has dressed up as Batman to go to Comic-Con.

When he was young used to play putting games and would win quarters from people at the golf course. His dad told him he couldn't putt for quarters anymore. So, he went for dollars. His dad stopped that, too. The next week, he came home with more dollars and again his dad asked him how

he got them. The answer was that he beat people at skins.

When he was 8, he was "too young" to be on the golf course. The acceptable age was 10. But his mother used to drop him off near the course, and he'd sneak on and hide under a culvert on the third hole until his dad arrived after work. Then the two of them would play until they lost a ball. The longest they played was 17 holes. In the winter, that meant playing in the dark.

"We had a rule," Woods explained. "If you ever lost the golf ball, we'd be done, and we'd have to drive in. So, part of understanding how to shape shots and knowing where I hit it on the face, where I would hit it, all started then. So, if I hit it, Dad, I pulled it left, it's up the left side, it's going to be here."

Realistically, what qualifies for dark in a large metro area is different than in the middle of farm country or being in an unpopulated area of the desert at night. That

can be amazingly dark. Night in Ponte Vedra is often light enough to find your way around, but certainly not ideal for golf.

Now, Earl Woods, Tiger's father, taught him to have a great work ethic. Because of that, he has opinions on the kind of effort needed to improve and stay on top.

"If you don't go out there and put in the work, you don't go out and put in the effort; one, you're not going to get the results, but two, and more importantly, you don't deserve it. You need to earn it," Woods said.

Woods said several times that he did not have success all on his own.

"I had unbelievable parents, mentors, friends who allowed me and supported me in the toughest times, the darkest of times, and celebrated the highest of times," he said.

With Woods' career, the World Golf Hall of Fame induction was a given. His humbleness and tears were not.

# PLAYERS, Jay Fund team up to deliver meals to families

Originally published on Sept. 22, 2022

By Shaun Ryan

Little Liliana Rodriguez clutched her stuffed unicorn and beamed as a group of visitors presented a delicious, healthy meal and a \$200 gift card from Publix to her mom, Tiffany Rodriguez.

Liliana's family was one of 31 Tom Coughlin Jay Fund families to receive a specially prepared meal and gift card on Saturday, Sept. 17. The Jay Fund provides financial, emotional and practical support to families tackling childhood cancer. Kindergarten-age Liliana is fighting leukemia.

Among those making the deliveries were team members and volunteers from THE

PLAYERS. The meals were created by PGA TOUR Chef Director Eric Butcher and his team.

"I have a great team who came out and helped support this today, helped put everything together," Butcher said. "We are really excited about this initiative."

Jay Fund CEO Keli Coughlin said the nonprofit was happy to partner with THE PLAYERS and Butcher to make the deliveries possible.

"We know that prices have gone up," she said. "It's always challenging for families to deal with childhood cancer, regardless, but we've really seen an increase in need."

She said the deliveries would mean one less thing for the families to worry about —

what would be on the table that night.

Families — like Liliana's — face not just the obvious medical costs, but hidden costs, as well. There's regular transportation to the hospital and back, having to eat out more frequently and childcare for siblings. For that reason, about 65% of the assistance the Jay Fund provides is financial.

"Almost always when one child is diagnosed with cancer, a parent has to stop working and become a fulltime caregiver," Coughlin said. "Often, that means there's a decrease in their income at the same time that their costs are going up."

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 38 million Americans, including 12 million children, experience

food insecurity. At the height of the pandemic, the Jay Fund saw a 52% increase in requests from its families for emergency financial assistance.

The Rodriguez family has been working with the Jay Fund since Liliana's diagnosis. Tiffany Rodriguez said the nonprofit's help means a lot to them. She called the delivery on Sept. 17 "super helpful," because it's hard to carve out time to cook. Among other things, the family is moving into a new home and her husband, Gregory Rodriguez, who serves in the U.S. military, had been away for a period of deployment.

PLAYERS Executive Director Jared

MEALS continues on Page 38



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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

# Celebrate the New Year with flowers!

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written." — Melody Beattie

By Kathy Esfahani



Kathy Esfahani

With 2023 right around the corner, what flowers are best for New Year's festivities?

Many blooms symbolize luck or new beginnings and are, therefore, perfect for the

holiday! Look for the following flowers as you plan hostess gifts, centerpieces, decorations or just new additions to your home.

- Orchids represent luck, wealth, abundance, luxury and beauty. They are available in a variety of colors and make a thoughtful gift. An orchid prefers



Happy New Year!

a bright environment, but not direct sunlight, and requires little maintenance other than proper watering.

- Daffodils are traditional symbols of new beginnings or rebirth. Although many associate these blooms with spring, they are also a popular gift for the new year — just be sure to give more than one as some believe a single daffodil bloom symbolizes bad luck!

- Lotus flowers submerge into the water and mud around them at the end of each day but blossom again the following morning as a beautiful bloom above the water. Their waxy petals do not hold the mud, producing a clean, bright bloom

each day. For these reasons, a lotus flower is a symbol of rebirth and purity, but they also represent wealth, peace, grace and devotion.

- Calla lilies symbolize youth, purity and new beginnings. Their name comes from the Greek word for beauty, and the blooms have silky, elegant petals. The white calla lily is most recognizable and often used in wedding bouquets. However, these flowers are available in a variety of colors including yellow (meaning friendship), black (meaning mystery) and purple (meaning royalty).

- Alstroemeria represents fortune, prosperity and wealth. It is also known as the Peruvian lily and features a trumpet-shaped bloom. These flowers are wonderful additions to arrangements as they can last up to two weeks when cut.

- Hyacinth flowers are signs of new beginnings and change, but they are also used in Christian churches to symbolize joy and love. A hyacinth plant has long leaves and one to three spikes full of purple/blue flowers. They have a pleasant

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

### Flower of the Week



Orchids

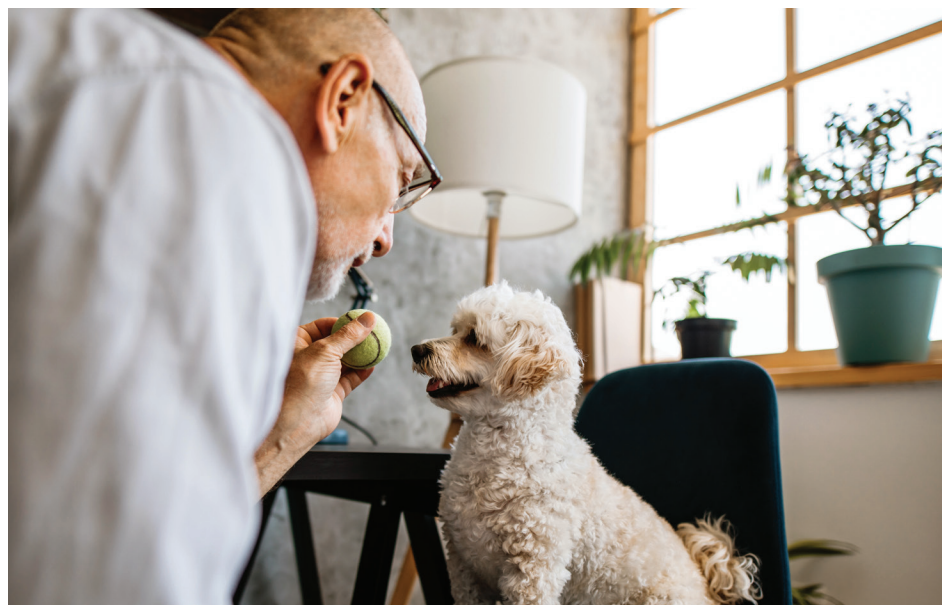
scent but contain oxalic acid that can cause skin irritation. (Be sure to wear gloves if working with the blooms!)

- Peonies represent prosperity, innocence, dignity and compassion. Red blooms in particular are symbols of good luck and, therefore, are often seen in gifts or decorations around New Year's. Peonies produce large blooms in a variety of colors.

Happy New Year!

**Flower of the Week: Orchid**

**Please email Kathy at [kcg.pvr@gmail.com](mailto: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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### CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18					19					
20			21					22						
23						24	25						26	27
		28				29				30				
31	32					33		34	35	36			37	
38				39	40							41		
42				43						44	45			
46		47	48				49			50				
51				52	53	54				55			56	57
		58							59					
60	61						62	63				64		
65						66						67		
68						69						70		

- ACROSS**
1. Product or \_\_\_ (abbr.)
  4. Zodiac sign
  9. S. China seaport
  14. Former OSS
  15. Early English printer
  16. Aphid genus
  17. General's assistant (abbr.)
  18. Aussies
  20. Dissuades
  22. Make law
  23. Drench
  24. Soak in a liquid
  28. Male child
  29. It cools your home
  30. Small constellation
  31. To call (archaic)
  33. Explores beneath the Earth
  37. Commercial
  38. W. hemisphere organization
  39. You can find it in a can
  41. "Land of the free"
  42. 36 inches
  43. Footwear
  44. Challenges
  46. They hold things together
  49. Of I
  50. Partner to flow
  51. Not connected by kinship
  55. Worries
  58. Garlic mayonnaise
  59. A way to take by force
  60. Legendary English rockers
  64. Your consciousness of your own identity
  65. Fencing swords
  66. Silly
  67. Actor DiCaprio
  68. Encircles with a belt
  69. Mails a message
  70. Longing
- DOWN**
1. Horse mackerels
  2. It can be viral
  3. Prickly plants
  4. Consciousness
  5. Type of sarcoma
  6. Tax collector
  7. Sun up in New York
  8. One who scorches
  9. Influential psychotherapist
  10. Situated at an apex
  11. Communicative
  12. Forearm nerve
  13. Former CIA
  19. Folk singer DiFranco
  21. Employee stock ownership plan
  24. Large-scale
  25. School environment
  26. Remove
  27. Male parents
  31. Large rodent
  32. Weighed down
  34. Held tightly
  35. \_\_\_ route: going there
  36. Explains again
  40. Exclamation of surprise
  41. Courteously
  45. Lying down
  47. Judge
  48. Forcefully took
  52. Loosely compacted sediment
  53. High mountain
  54. Portable conical tents
  56. Cereal grass
  57. Dining utensil
  59. Thoughtful
  60. Helps you walk
  61. Indicates near
  62. Midway between northeast and east
  63. Local area networks

### SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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



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

# Nease named best NJROTC unit in the nation

Originally published on June 16, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nease's main identity is its drill team that competes in a compilation of 10 academic, athletic and drill individual events at 12-16 school meets. This past year, Nease placed first at Sprayberry (Georgia), Lee County (Georgia), Martin Luther King (Georgia), Mandarin (Florida), Flanagan (Florida) and Area-12 State Championship and third overall at the Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships.

Among other noteworthy achievements, Nease also won first place in athletics, academics, air rifle and orienteering competitions across Florida and the state of Georgia. Cadets completed 5,800 community service hours. And nine seniors received service academy appointments or ROTC scholarships.

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

## Meals

Continued from 36

Rice said the Jay Fund was "a high priority for us."

"THE PLAYERS Championship has been a partner with the Jay Fund for a number of years, and we just take a ton of pride in being able to support Coach Coughlin and Keli and the amazing things they do for families fighting cancer," said Rice. "Chef Eric from the PGA TOUR had heard about

our relationship and wanted to do something special. He's an amazing chef." Butcher's team had been preparing the meals over a course of three days. Each meal consisted of soup, salad, a roast chicken and strawberry vanilla bean cheesecakes. Preparing for the delivery, Butcher's culinary staff cooked about 70 chickens and 100 pounds of mashed potatoes. The Jay Fund is always looking for volunteers who want to help. For further information, go to [tcjayfund.org](http://tcjayfund.org).

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