



February 2, 2023 Volume 54, No. 14 \$1.00 PonteVedraRecorder.com

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



Special focus on Spa Time and Valentine's **Day Gifts** Page 13



**Lightner Museum marks** 75th Anniversary Page 26



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



Members of the Nease High paleo club unwrap and clean fossilized dinosaur bones. The club is currently learning the cleaning and preserving process prior to their trip to Montana in July to search for dinosaur fossils themselves. Read the full story on page 8.





Serving Ponte Vedra and the Beaches since 1969





Photo by Anthony Richards

## INSIDE

One of Us Page 6

Business Weekly Pages 23-25

In the Arts Pages 26-27

Sports Pages 28-30



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

Joe Wilhelm

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

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### Send us your news

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



Visit our new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

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

# BRIEFS

### Sports Illustrated names Stillwater course 'Most Innovative'

Stillwater Golf and Country Club, the hallmark of Lennar's 549-home active adult gated community in St. Johns, was named a top 10 most notable golf course to open in 2022 by Sports Illustrated. Recognized as the "Most Innovative Course Design," Stillwater is the first new 18-hole layout in Northeast Florida in 20 years.

Designed by renowned architect Bobby Weed, Stillwater's 18-hole routing includes "loops" of three, six, nine and 12 holes that start and finish near the clubhouse, giving members the freedom to play as their time allows. Players can also enjoy Stillwater's 16-acre practice facility year-round, with lighted driving range and covered hitting bays equipped with Toptracer Range.

To learn more, go to StillwaterGCC.com.

### 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.

### Democratic Club to meet

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting on Feb. 21. Chat

and chew is at 5:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Ponte Vedra Branch Library, 101 Library Road.

The featured speaker will be Ben Frazier, president, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville, and the program will be "Activism in Jacksonville: How can we bring about change in Florida."

For more Information, email jkary@ verizon.net.

### North Florida Land Trust receives donation of 2.48 acres of land

North Florida Land Trust has received a donation of 2.48 acres of land in St. Johns County. The property, classified as trade land, was donated by Inman Park Lofts LLC. A trade land is a nonconservation property that is intentionally donated for subsequent sale. The proceeds will be used to help North Florida Land Trust fund its mission to protect North Florida's irreplaceable natural environment.

"We will use the money we receive from the sale of this property to fund and forward our mission to protect our area's most environmentally sensitive lands," said Allison DeFoor, interim president of North Florida Land Trust.

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

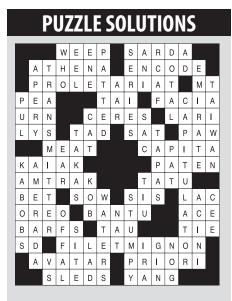
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### Ponte Vedra Recorder · February 2, 2023



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







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The property is located along Thompson Bailey Road near the Lennar's St. Augustine Lake Subdivision which is currently under construction. The property has been appraised for \$86,000 and is zoned for residential use.

Those interested in learning more about purchasing the property can contact Conservation Transaction Manager Kim Hall at khall@nflt.org or at 904-557-7986.

### **Record & CD Festival is Feb. 11**

The Jacksonville Record & CD Festival, North Florida's premier music collectors show, returns to the campus of the University of North Florida on Feb. 11. Find vinyl records, CDs, tapes, turntables and stereo gear, instruments, storage supplies and concert and band memorabilia.

With more than 20 vendors packing the 65 tables with boxes of vinyl records and CDs to dig through, this show will be a treasure trove for music lovers.

Admission and parking are free at the Adam Herbert Center at UNF, 12000 Alumni Drive in Jacksonville. Doors open at 9 a.m.; show closes at 5 p.m.

For further information, go to facebook.com/JacksonvilleRecordCDShow or email thatcdguyjax@gmail.com.

### Expert to speak on the stock market

The Speaker Series sponsored by The Friends of the Library, Ponte Vedra Beach, presents Gail Dudack, chief equity strategist for the Dudack Research Group, a division of Wellington Shields & Co. at 2 p.m. Feb. 25 in the FOL room at the library.

Her topic is "The 2023 Outlook for Stocks and a Discussion on the U.S. Economy and Stock Market."

The Dudack Research Group is an

independent research firm that provides economic, quantitative and technical strategy and tools to mutual funds, hedge funds and private money managers.

Dudack was a panelist on "Wall Street Week with Louis Rukeyser" for more than 20 years and on the PBS show "Wall Street Week with Fortune."

She has received several awards honoring her career and contributed to many documentaries and books on the stock market and the industry.

The program is free and open to the public. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan





**Exceptional View** in Sawgrass Country Club

Beautifully updated home in Sandpiper Cove in Sawgrass CC. Cul-de-sac lot, spectacular water to golf views. Built for year-round outdoor living with both a winter lanai with fireplace off the living room and a summer lanai off the family room with pool, spa and summer kitcher

3 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 1 Half Bathroom \$1,800,000



Amazing Vistas in Deercreek Country Club Spacious living with pool/spa and lake-to-preserve views in Deercreek CC, making it ideal for easy commutes. Owner's suite is located on 1st floor along with living room, dining room, kitchen, butler's pantry, powder room, family room and office. Upstairs are 3 additional and spacious bedrooms, 2 full baths plus a flex space/theatre room. Sellers have many updates

including fully renovated kitchen and bathrooms. Don't miss this one!! 4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, 1 Half Bath \$930,000



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Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nurserv

### 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**

# **Be patient — spring is almost here**

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." — Hal Borland

### **By Kathy Esfahani**



Spring temperatures and flowers are right around the corner! This week is even starting to feel warmer, but it is still too early to cut back the brown, frost-

Kathy Esfahani

damaged leaves and branches in your yard. Resist the urge to pull out brown plants, and do not prune at all until the freeze season is over! The brown leaves help the plant to survive in case of additional freezes before spring growth begins.

Although early March is even safer, wait at least until after Valentine's Day before you consider pruning your plants. Then, look at the extended weather forecast. If temperatures are predicted to stay warm for the couple weeks ahead, it



Frost damaged but alive: Hawaiian ti

may be safe to begin cutting back your plants. Keep these tips in mind when helping your plants recover from the winter freezes:

• Cold/frost burn causes the brown leaves. Many of these plants are not dead!

• Once warmer temperatures are here to stay, prune plants down to at least where the first green shows. If you do not see green stems and leaves, the plant is most likely dead.

• It can sometimes be difficult to determine if the plant is still alive. If you are unsure, allow three weeks for a plant to produce new growth. If there is still not new growth after a few weeks, remove and replace the plant.

• Fertilizing is also important at this time. Be sure to follow the instructions on your specific fertilizer.

Remember to continue fertilizing your palms and citrus trees every three months. If you have not fertilized recently, February is a great time to give these plants some extra nutrients ahead of spring growth. Look for fertilizer that is specific to palm trees or citrus trees, and carefully follow the instructions on the label.

Finally, it is a good time to prepare your lawn for the coming spring and summer seasons. Use warm days to check your irrigation system for broken or misdirected sprinkler heads. Once temperatures will remain above



**Red Petunia** 

65 degrees for four to five days, it is important to apply a pre-emergent weed killer to your lawn. Note that this pre-emergent is not a "weed and feed" fertilizer; it is solely a weed treatment to help control weeds in your lawn throughout the coming season. For best results, it is important to time this application just as temperatures warm up. Happy February!

Flower of the Week: Red Petunia

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.

# CADDYSHACK COCKTAIL PARTY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023 FROM 5-9P

3 Palms Grille and The Yards will host our fundraising cocktail party (Chemo Noir Gala) with an elevated Caddyshack theme. There will be a closest to the pin golf opportunity, with a champagne wall, music, silent auction, our traditional cork pull, photo booth, beer, wine, full cash bar and a delicious spread of food throughout the evening. Cocktail or high-end golf attire.

**GET TICKETS: chemonoirgala.com** 





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44

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351 POSSUM TROT RD. \$1,499,000 - Preserve at Palm Valley





\$615,000 - Bartram Springs



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\$2,395,000 - Marsh Landing



#804 - \$1,195,000 | #203 - \$999,000





\$353,900 - Jacksonville Beach



Contact us for any of your real estate needs and for a complimentary estimate of your home's value!





204 Laguna Villas #A34 - \$2,100 Furnished - Rented

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\$2,575,000 - Marsh Landing

108 Laguna Villas #D25 - \$1,800 Unfurnished - Rented

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All properties listed are in Ponte Vedra unless otherwise noted.

John DiPatre is the owner of New Meridian Fitness, which is located in The Veranda office complex. Recently, he held a "grand reopening" to unveil a 1,300-square-foot expansion.

### As told to Shaun Ryan

### Tell me a little bit about New Meridian Fitness.

There's 24/7 access, and we have six trainers — very qualified, many years' experience. But the best part about this gym is it's really like a neighborhood environment where you can get a fun, challenging workout.

If you want to work hard, you can work hard. If you just want to feel good, you can do that. But the best part about it is people meet people and they form relationships. They develop clients for their businesses from people they meet here. That's what we've always wanted to establish, just a neighborhood environment.

### What kind of equipment and programs do you have?

The equipment is basic. We've added cardio since we had the expansion. We have selectorized equipment. We have tons of free weights. We have stability balls, bands — everything you need for rehab to muscle-building and general fitness and weight loss.

We have group training, which is probably the most popular and affordable, and one-on-one training. We have added a chiropractor who does acupuncture, cupping and dry needling. And we have a massage therapist.

### When did you take over ownership of the facility?

It was August of '21. Initially, I worked for Meridian Fitness back in 2003. It was in another location. That owner moved it here. And after about three years, he sold it to someone else. And I worked for (the second owner) until 2019. I went to another gym. Then, here, the owner's lease was up, and he decided to close it down.

I bought some equipment from him, and then revamped it. Changed the whole look of it, put a lot of money into it. Bought new equipment, painted it, renovated it, basically.

I started up with basically the clientele I had at the other gym. Then, one of the trainers who worked with me came with her clientele. And Angela (Richmond, DiPatre's girlfriend) had some clients. We just started growing it from there.

I decided to do some memberships. Then, in the summer, three other trainers came from another gym and brought their clients with them.

### Tell me about your background.

I've always been into lifting weights because I played football. I played professionally in Canada and Europe. I got out of football when I was 29 years old; I had a shoulder injury, and I just knew I was not going to be able to compete at that level.

I started working the front desk at a Gold's Gym, and there was a guy who was opening a personal training gym, first of its kind in San Marco, back in 1999. He said, "Hey, you might be good at this."

So, I started doing that. And then I moved to California and continued personal training out there. When I moved back, I started at Meridian Fitness in 2003.

### What do you like most about what you do?

You meet all kinds of people. ... What I really enjoy is just seeing personalities change, such as with young athletes. They come in real timid, and they start lifting weights. They're feeling good and they come in and they're talking and laughing.

Same thing with the grown-ups. They lose a little bit of



Photo by Shaun Ryan

John DiPatre, right, and his girlfriend, Angela Richmond, celebrate the expansion of New Meridian Fitness, located at 820 S.R. A1A North, suites W20 and W21.

weight, and they feel good about themselves. They've got more energy. And then they develop into a personality here, because we do have fun.

I enjoy coming to work every day, working with the clients, the trainers. There's always energy and it's upbeat and fun.

### Where are you from originally?

Initially born in California. Kind of moved all over the East Coast with my family in my teenage years. Ended up in Jacksonville because my father started a business here. So, probably since the mid '80s I've been in the Jacksonville area.

I had a brief stint in California for a couple of years.

Since I moved back in the early 2000s, I've been in Ponte Vedra.

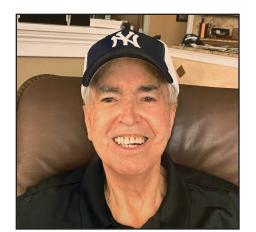
### What do you like about living here?

I love the sunshine. I love the warm weather. Some of the people I've met. The Jaguars.

### How do you spend your free time?

[Laughs] At the gym! We both [DiPatre and Richmond] love lifting weights, so this is really our home away from home. We love our families, and we spend time with them, and really working out and trying to better the facility is a lot of our time.

### **OBITUARIES**



### Robert J. (Bob) Maxwell

Robert J. (Bob) Maxwell passed away peacefully at the McGraw Center for Caring Community Hospice in Jacksonville, FL, on January 14, 2023, just shy of his 86th birthday surrounded by his family.

Bob was a supportive and loving father and a devoted husband to his wife of 64 years, Ann, with whom he built a wonderful family and homelife.

Born in the Borough of Queens in the City of New York, he grew up in the shadow of the elevated railways that traverse

### **DEATH NOTICES**

### **David John Blackman**

David John Blackman, 89, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Jan. 26, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

### **Ruby Juneil Burney**

Ruby Juneil Burney, 82, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Jan. 27, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

### **Arthur Hayden**

Arthur Hayden, 78, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Jan. 20, 2023. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

### Jule A. Howell

Jule A. Howell, 96, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died Jan. 28, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-

the city, playing baseball on the sandlots and streets in his neighborhood.

Upon graduating high school, Bob worked in the legal department of the United States Steel Company. After marrying Ann, Bob attended Queens College and also joined the United States Army Reserve, where he served his country for a number of years. In search of better prospects for his career, Bob met with a corporate recruiter, leading to a position in the C.O.D department of United Parcel Service. Bob's penchant for customer service was evident in the way he answered customers' billing inquiries and he was soon assigned as the customer service representative to some of Manhattan's largest department stores. As the years went by his assignments increased in responsibility, from district manager, to regional manager, to National Accounts. Bob then moved his family to Omaha, Nebraska as West Region Customer Service Manager responsible for 10 states. In that role, Bob appeared many times before the Interstate Commerce Commission as part of the team tasked with helping UPS expand into all the states.

In 1985, Bob co-chaired the committee

Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation

**Rick LaFountain** 

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904-249-1100

904-249-1100.

Juanita Melendez

**Rubie Crump Porter** 

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

Rick LaFountain, 72, of Ponte Vedra Beach,

Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center &

Cemetery - 904-285-1130 - www.ponteve-

Florida, died Jan. 22, 2023. Ponte Vedra

Juanita Melendez, 78, of Atlantic Beach,

by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com.

Florida, died Jan. 28, 2023, Arrangements

Rubie Crump Porter, 83, of Neptune Beach,

Florida, died Jan. 26, 2023, Arrangements

Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com.

by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home &

to initiate UPS's international air service, where he worked on the team selecting service partners in Europe as well as Japan.

Bob retired from UPS in 1992 as the Air Region Customer Service Manager overseeing Air Cargo Service, UPS Air Charter, the UPS International Information Center, and Air Group Telecommunications. He was very proud to have been part of the teams which built UPS into what it is today and which laid the foundation for today's UPS Worldport in Louisville, KY.

Upon his and Ann's retirement to Ponte Vedra Beach, Bob took up painting and over the next 30 years became an accomplished painter, with hundreds of works of vibrant color and exacting detail now displayed in homes throughout the United States and a few other countries.

In addition to his lovely wife Ann, Bob is the beloved father to three children, Jim (Beverley), Nina (Paul), and Patty (Kevin). He was a terrific and very much loved grandfather to Jacob (Serena), Lily (Edmond), Elliott, Jack, and Taylor, and was delighted at the birth of his great-grandsons Geo and Felix. Bob was sadly predeceased by his grandson Cayman.

> On a Private lane off Roscoe Blvd.!

This home was designed to take advantage of its 100' of Intracoastal Waterway beauty. Two sets of pocketing sliders bring the outside in! The house has primary and guest suites down, 2 other bedrooms and a bath up, plus 2 ancillary structures, a beautiful office and a work room. The dock is ready for fun, with a boat lift and fish cleaning station. This is a cool opportunity on the water. Don't let it pass you by! \$2,000,000.



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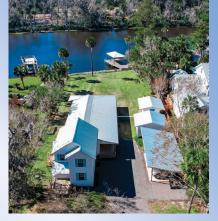
Bob is also survived by his brother-inlaw John (Agatha) and his nephews John (Jackie) and Andrew (Vickie) and their children Grace, Vincent, and Savannah.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 11 a.m. Arrangements made by Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Beaches Medical Center-PCU, 2nd Floor in Memory of Robert Maxwell. 841 Prudential Drive, Suite 1300, Jacksonville, FL 32207

Or to: Cancer Specialists of North Florida, PAFCSNF Beaches Location in Memory of Robert Maxwell. 7015 A.C. Skinner Parkway, Jacksonville, FL 32256. Please sign the online guestbook at www. pontevedravalley.com.

PONTE VEDRA VALLEY "A Family Owned Funeral Home with On-site Cremation Center and Cemetery" 904-285-1130 www.pontevedravalley.com





Katherine Fasula works on cutting through plaster to unveil the preserved dinosaur fossil inside.



Lara Sgouridis and Kendra Lay in the midst of the fossil-cleaning process.

# Nease paleo club creates legacy one fossil at a time

### **By Anthony Richards**

The Nease High paleo club has been elbows deep in dinosaur fossils of late, as they are learning the proper cleaning and preservation process while working with dinosaur fossils found by previous Nease students.

According to teacher Kevin Lay, who oversees the club, the difference with the current group compared to previous ones is in the approach they are taking to learn about these processes before they take a trip to Montana in July to dig for dinosaur bones in the Badlands area. "It's not just a field trip," Kevin Lay said. "For five days we are out in the field and hopefully preparing these kids to get better and better each day at paleontology."

In the past the students would have learned about the procedures once they arrived on site but having that knowledge prior to the trip should allow the current group to dive right into their search instead of taking the first couple of days to get caught up.

"This is the start of something really special, because these students have a really unique perspective where they have had the experience of being able to handle, prepare and see what fossils look like before they actually go out into the field," Kevin Lay said. "If you've never seen a fossil before, you don't really know what you're looking for. These ladies will be more prepared than any group I've taken out before."

Of the 10-member club, Kendra Lay is the only one that has been on the trip before, and although she is doing her best to prepare her fellow students for what the experience will be like, she also understands that there is nothing like seeing it with their own eyes. Even those who have not been fully understand that real world paleontology is not as neat and tidy as the "Jurassic Park" movies make it out to be.

What makes the club even more unique is that all of its members are girls.

"This is a legacy that they want to leave, and they are a very determined group," Kevin Lay said. "They are going to be making history and be the first to lay eyes on something that no one in the world will have ever seen before."

Helping to preserve that legacy is the

FOSSIL continues on Page 12

Parkinson's Disease? Essential Tremor ? Learn how to take control of your Disease



101 Library Road • Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32081 • Friends of the Library Room



# Jaguars legend Tony Boselli to receive 'Rock of the Community Award'

Jacksonville Jaguars legend Tony Boselli will receive the 2023 "Rock of the Community Award" at the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach's annual Mineral City Celebration charity gala.

Boselli, a 2022 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee, will be honored for his devotion to the First Coast and his philanthropic efforts through The Boselli Foundation, which provides educational support and professional development for local youth and teachers.

"Tony Boselli is a true champion for local kids and families," noted Dr. Ronald "Doc" Renuart, president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach. "From fellowships for local teachers and afterschool programming for at-risk youth to mentoring in detention centers, The Boselli Foundation is helping First Coast kids succeed at home, at school and in the community."

The first draft pick in Jacksonville Jaguars franchise history, Boselli was a four-time NFL Pro Bowl selection. He was twice named NFL Lineman of the Year and was named to the All NFL Team in 1997, 1998 and 1999. In 2022, he became the first Jacksonville Jaguars player to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Since retiring from football, Boselli has become an accomplished businessman, owning several corporations while sitting on several nonprofit boards. He and his wife, Angi, live in Ponte Vedra Beach with their five children.

"The Rotary Club created the Rock of the Community Award to recognize individuals who dedicate themselves to making a positive impact on Ponte Vedra Beach and the First Coast," Renuart said. "Both on and off the field, Tony Boselli is amply deserving of this honor."

To be held May 13 at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, the Mineral City Celebration is the signature annual fundraising event for the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach. Proceeds from the event have benefited more than two dozen local nonprofit organizations and charities, including the Beaches Dial-a-Ride program, Mission House, BEAM, HEAL, the Council on Aging and more.

For event tickets or more information, go to mineralcitycelebration.com.



Jacksonville Jaguars legend and 2022 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee Tony Boselli.

# FEATURED PROPERTIES

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# Finally! A lazy run for everyone

Have you ever wanted to sign up for a race but don't really like to run? No sweat! The 904 Now has you covered, with a lazy run for everyone!

The 904 Now presents the first-ever 0.5K Beer Run! (Yes, you read that right — 0.5K — or about three-tenths of a mile.) Slated for Feb. 25, the "run" begins at 9:04 a.m. sharp, starts at one end of St. George Street, and finishes at the other. There will be rest stops along the route, entertainment to keep everyone on track and, thanks to Ancient City Brewing, beer (or a beer alternative) to keep participants motivated.

Choosing the VIP ticket option gets vou champagne and charcuterie at Bin 39, and shuttle service to the finish line by Old Town Cart. Proceeds will go to support Jimmy Jam Community Outreach, a nonprofit organization

that offers hard-working people a helping hand. Over the years, Jimmy Jam has assisted St. Johns County folks with everything from purchasing laptops to paying unexpected medical or utility bills to helping struggling families make their mortgage payments.

Learn more about Jimmy Jam Community Outreach at jimmyjamoutreach.com.

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**Sontag Foundation** marks 20 years of funding brain cancer research

In recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Sontag Foundation, its founders Rick and and the late Susan Sontag, have committed an additional \$100 million dollars to advance brain cancer research and provide support for brain tumor patients and their caregivers.

This latest funding infusion increases the Sontag family's financial commitment to eradicating brain cancer to more than \$200 million.

Since 2002, the Sontags, through the Sontag Foundation's Distinguished Scientist Award program, have launched the careers of young scientists at academic medical institutions throughout North America. Many of them will be sharing their thoughts and ideas on the advancement of brain cancer research at the Sontag Foundation Retreat, Feb. 6-9 in Ponte Vedra Beach.

This preeminent gathering of more than 100 thought leaders dedicated to eradicating brain cancer is a rare opportunity for collaboration and conversation that has historically been a catalyst to transformative ideas in brain cancer research and care.

In 2022, More than 93,0001 people were diagnosed with primary brain tumors. Through the Brain Tumor Network, a first of its kind, free individualized navigation service, developed by the Sontag Foundation through the support of the Sontag family, patients and loved ones have access to a service to help manage their brain tumor diagnosis, overcome treatment obstacles and facilitate access to quality health care across their entire journey.

The Sontags also believe in supporting local and have provided more than \$10 million in support to nonprofit organizations in Northeast Florida and established a brain tumor support group, which meets monthly to support locally families impacted by a brain tumor diagnosis.



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# Churchmen have new meeting place

The Churchmen have moved.

The group began more than 45 years ago as a club for male members of Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra. Today, it is a nonsectarian organization of more than 100 members.

The group meets for lunch and fellowship nine times per year on the third Thursday of the month. Lunch is served at noon, but many members arrive early to socialize with their friends. Each luncheon features a speaker. The Churchmen pride themselves on their exceptional speakers who offer an eclectic mix of entertaining, educational and inspirational presentations. The speaker is always a well-guarded secret, which is never announced in advance.

For the first 10 years, the group met at Christ Church. The next 10 years found them at the Ponte Vedra Inn. For most of the past 20 years, they have met at the Sawgrass Country Club. In 2023, they have moved to Marsh Landing Country Club.

The group had a successful first luncheon of 2023. More than 80 members were in attendance. The speaker was the nationally recognized political commentator Charles C. W. Cooke, who spoke about the Jaguars' postseason and national politics.

For information on membership, contact Craig Wantoch at cjwantoch@hotmail.com.

<image>

Contributed photo

Members of the Palm Valley Rotary Club recently had the opportunity to tour the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications and Training Center. They toured the training facilities and got a look at the 911 Dispatch Center and the real-time Intelligence Operations Center. Lt. George Harrigan led Rotary Club members around the facility and answered questions.



# **Green to headline PLAYERS concert**

THE PLAYERS Championship has announced that country music star Riley Green will headline its annual Military Appreciation Day concert this year.

Green is a singer-songwriter who was named ACM's New Male Artist of the Year and MusicRow's Breakout Artist of the Year in 2020. His multiple platinum-certified hits include, "I Wish Grandpas Never Died" and "There Was This Girl." His current single, "Half of Me" with Thomas Rhett, has been dominating the country charts. Green has toured with Brad Paisely, Jason Aldean and Jon Pardi, and will be touring with 2018 PLAYERS headliner Luke Combs this summer.

This year's Military Appreciation Day ceremony will take place at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, on the Island Green 17th hole. The Military Appreciation Day ceremony and concert are free to any Tuesday ticket holder; a Tuesday Stadium Pass starts at \$30 and is available for purchase at THEPLAYERS.com/ tickets. Tuesday parking is separate and must be purchased in advance.

"We are excited to have Riley Green join the ranks of the many great artists that have performed in our annual salute to service and know he will deliver an incredible show for our fans onsite," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "Military Appreciation Day is such an important part of the fabric of this championship, and we are thrilled to continue



the concert tradition in 2023 and beyond." THE PLAYERS will offer several programs to honor military members, veterans and their families at the 2023 championship.

### Fossil

Continued from 8

fact that many of the fossils the students are working on will continue to be stored at Nease and there are discussions to put them on display at the school.

Paleo club in general is not something that is common at high schools and according to Kevin Lay, Nease is the only one that he knows of that participates as a high school in this type of program at least in the state of Florida.

"I really like the 'Jurassic' movies and I just always grew up loving fossils and dinosaurs and all that stuff, so I was really excited when I got to Nease and found out that there was a paleontology club," sophomore Katherine Fasula said.

As a foreign exchange student at the school, junior Loane Moureau was excited when she first heard about paleo club, because she thought it would be just another memorable experience to add to her time spent at Nease and in the United States.

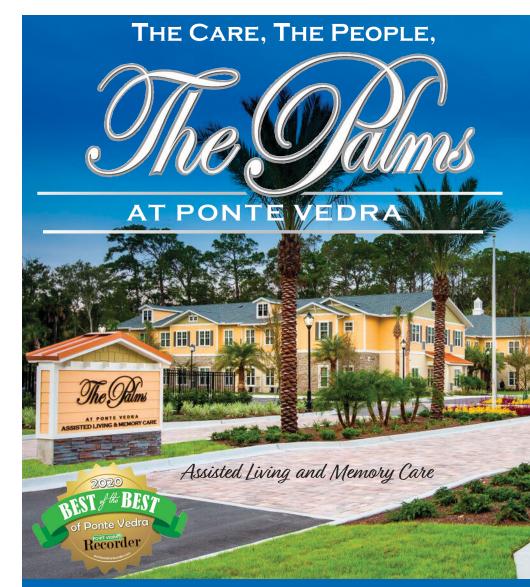
"It is crazy because these are things that we could never learn in class, but here we can," Moreau said.

One of the things sophomores Gioconda Tefel and Iva Koytchev were tasked with was helping glue together parts of a dinosaur's rib bone.

"I really like how you can see it all come together right in front of your eyes," Koytchev said.

The trip is put on by a program called Paleo X and the Montana-Dakotas Bureau of Land Management is the organization that signs off on all of the permits that make such a trip possible.

"I wanted to thank them, because they know how special it is to be able to bring in students for something like this," Kevin Lay said. "None of it would be possible if not for them making sure we have this opportunity."



# Meet the team behind our five-star dining!

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PALMSATPONTEVEDRA.COM

# Goat yoga comes to St. Augustine just in time for Valentine's Day

### **By Anthony Richards**

Goat yoga continues to grow in popularity and residents will soon have the opportunity to take part in all the fun when Lazy Day Farm brings their traveling goat yoga to Ancient City Brewing in St. Augustine Feb. 10 and 11.

The Feb. 10 session will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Ancient City Brewing location at 3420 Agricultural Center Drive, Suite 8, while the Feb. 11 outing is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. at Ancient City Brewing's downtown location at 18 Cathedral Place.

According to Lazy Day Farm owner Dennis Sugar, the fact that the dates occur just days before Valentine's Day is perfect timing for couples looking to do something unique to celebrate the holiday.

"We are getting a lot of couples that have shown interest and taken part," Sugar said. "It is always a great time by all and there will definitely be some memories created."

As if goat yoga was not unique enough, another interesting approach Lazy Day takes is by partnering with local breweries throughout Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

"We've had a lot of breweries come to us and ask about it because it is always such a hit wherever we go," Sugar said.

The setup depends on the layout of the brewery with some having enough space for the goat yoga to be held inside the brewery and others being held outside.

The downtown Ancient City location on Feb. 11 will be inside and the Feb. 10



Lazy Day Farm traveling goat yoga will be making stops at Ancient City Brewing locations in St. Augustine Feb. 10 and 11.

session will be outside in a sectionedoff area of the brewery's parking lot. Ancient City has hosted the goat yoga sessions in the past.

"We try to build a good partnership with these breweries, and love anytime we get to schedule future dates," Sugar said. "We're always looking for other breweries who would want to partner with us. This area of Northeast Florida has been a real hit for us."

As the name suggests, goats are a big part of the experience and really steal the show in many ways.



The goats have a tendency to climb on people taking part in the class.

"There's definitely a lot more playing with goats than actually doing yoga," Sugar chuckled. "It's a calming and relaxing experience in general."

Baby goats are used, and one thing Sugar has realized is that not all goats are the same in how they interact during the yoga session.

"Some goats will jump on people and others will just be happy just sitting and chilling next to a person for most of the time," Sugar said. "Every goat has their own personality, which makes each class different."

The classes typically have about 50 to 70 people and last between 45 minutes to one hour long, but the event often ends up lasting much longer than that.

"We've been there for about an hour after before because we let the people just hang out and spend time with the goats," Sugar said.

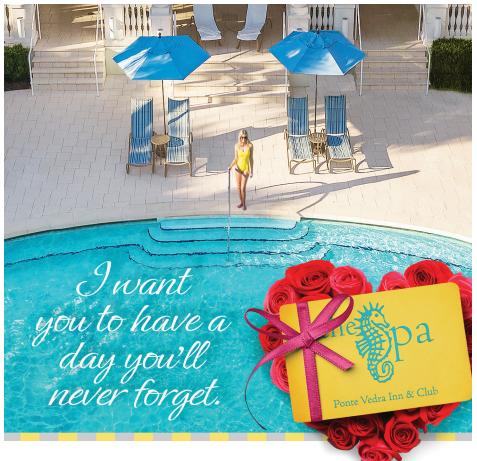
According to Sugar, they try to keep the cost to attend the event less than \$28 in the hopes of making it an affordable outing for anybody who wants to join, but that price can vary.

For more information about the two



Photos courtesy of Lazy Day Farr A perfect mix between a petting zoo and yoga.

upcoming events in St. Augustine and to purchase tickets go to lazydayfarm.com or the Lazy Day Farm Facebook page.



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# Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club offers luxurious experiences

This most romantic of months is full of special events at The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

The service of the month for February is the Cinnamon Cream Pedicure, which offers a 60-minute luxury treatment.

Here's how the spa describes this experience: A buttery brúlée whole milk elixir envelops the feet, hydrating parched winter skin. Rough skin disappears with a creamy sweet sea salt exfoliating scrub. A spicy, warm cinnamon massage with antioxidant-rich olive fruit and grapeseed oil rejuvenates the feet.

Guests will be served a complimentary lavender lemonade cocktail while enjoying this pedicure in February.

In addition, the spa has introduced the HydraFacial to its menu of services. This is a personalized system that delivers immediate, noticeable results and is safe for all faces without any downtime. The treatment is effective for diminishing fine lines and wrinkles, improving firmness, enhancing smooth texture and providing an even and radiant tone.

HydraFacial treatments include:

• Signature HydraFacial: This 60-minute treatment includes a deep cleanse, exfoliation, extractions and skin hydration.

• Deluxe HydraFacial: This 75-minute treatment includes everything that the signature treatment does, with an addi-

FHF

kocolak



The spa is currently holding a Valentine's Day gift card promotion.

tional booster, signature neck and décolleté treatment, and LED light therapy to further reduce signs of aging.

The spa is also holding a Valentine's Day gift card promotion now through Feb. 14. Anyone purchasing \$200 or more in gift cards receives a \$15 voucher that can be used for services through Dec. 31, 2023.

Here's a look at some of the other highlights for this month:

• SkinMedica: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 3. Drop in for a consultation and experience these age-defying products, which are rooted in science.

• Alastin: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 10. The latest Alastin product launch — Aluminate Brightening Serum — is the focus this month. Meet with an Alastin



Photos courtesy of The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is offering special services, promotions and events this month.

representative for a consultation.

• Member shopping day: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 14. Members enjoy a 15% discount on retail products in The Spa Boutique. Discounts don't apply to gift cards or sale items.

• Obagi: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 17. Meet with the Obagi Medical representative for a complimentary consultation in The Spa Boutique to align skin type with the proper system.

Also, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are Member Discount Days with special savings. Every Thursday is Gentlemen's Discount Day, offering a discount on full-priced services.

For further information, go to pvspa. com.





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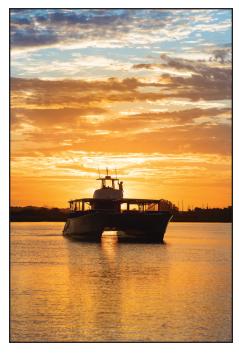


### **Sunset Cruise**

What can be more romantic than a sunset cruise?

Sabrage Charters, 117 Dockside Drive, St. Augustine, invites the public to step aboard for this 90-minute experience featuring spectacular views of the Nation's Oldest City. Includes complimentary glass of champagne.

Online: sabragestaugustine.com Phone: 904-310-4999



### Get married this Valentine's Day

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Office will host the first Valentine's Day multicouple wedding in partnership with the Seventh Judicial Circuit at 1 p.m. Feb. 14 in the Courtroom Annex, Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine.

To tie the knot on Valentine's Day, couples can register for the event online by visiting stjohnsclerk.com/wedding or by calling 904-819-3604 no later than Feb. 12. The ceremony is limited to the first 50 couples. For a \$30 fee, couples will receive a digital photograph and video of the event.

Couples are still required to pay for a marriage license. More information about license requirements and fees is available at stjohnsclerk.com/marriage-licensesceremonies. Due to Florida's mandatory three-day waiting period for marriage licenses, couples must obtain their license by Feb. 10.



### **LMS Jewelry**

LMS Jewelry Designs by Lisa Struble is a collection of earrings, bracelets and necklaces. Each design is unique using semi-precious metals and a variety of natural gemstones. This distinguished collection is priced between \$18 to \$128 and is available at the Palm Valley Market every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information go to @ LMS\_JewelrybyLisa on Instagram or call 904-314-4406.



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# Coastal Home Group to host annual Galentine's Day event

### **By Anthony Richards**

The Coastal Home Group believes that Valentine's Day should not be a holiday just for couples, and that is why they will hold their third annual Galentine's Day event at Clean Juice in Nocatee Feb. 11 from noon to 3 p.m.

According to Nikki-Lyn Holm, founder and listing specialist with the Coastal Home Group, one of the ideas for the initial Galentine's Day event was to showcase local businesses and give the residents in the community a fun event to call their own.

"I'm a big fan of doing what we can to support small businesses," Holm said. "We at Coastal Home Group love to connect people and give back to our community whenever we can. This is definitely one of those opportunities."

The event is designed with

women in mind and to provide a social and fun atmosphere for women to have a day of their own and enjoy all that the event will offer including a bloom bar, where attendees can make their own flower arrangements while sipping on complimentary champagne and juice.

"The event is all about women celebrating women," Holm said. Coastal Home Group clients as well as the first 75 people will receive goodie bags to take home and there will be about a dozen vendors on hand for people to peruse while they listen to live music.

Holm has really seen the event grow since it started. Including when it comes to the date it is held.

The first year it was held on Thursday and the second year it took place on a Friday, while this year it will be held on the weekend

GALENTINE'S continues on Page 18



Coastal Home Group is partnering with Clean Juice in Nocatee to host a Galentine's Day event at the location Feb. 11 from noon to 3 p.m.



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# Tips for planning a memorable Valentine's Day

Couples have been commemorating their love for one another in February for quite some time. Couples may go about such celebrating in their own unique ways, but it's not uncommon to focus on a night out on the town.

Valentine's Day is a busy holiday for many businesses, but especially so at restaurants and other romantic venues. So it's best to plan ahead to ensure a perfect evening. These tips can help you organize a Valentine's experience to remember.

### Tip #1: Reserve early

The closer to Valentine's Day, the more likely popular restaurants will be all booked up. If the goal is to dine at a particularly trendy spot - or anywhere but the most obscure establishment - be sure to make a reservation well in advance. Start planning the Valentine's Day dinner in December so you won't have to look far and wide to book a reservation. If a restaurant does not take reservations that far out, ask when they will start collecting names for Valentine's Day and book the moment you can.

### Tip #2: Secure transportation

One way to make the night more romantic is to snuggle in the back seat of a vehicle and have someone else do the driving. This also is a safer option if you plan to pop a bottle of bubbly or sip some wine while celebrating. Hiring a limousine, luxury car, horse-drawn carriage, or something similar also will require advanced reservations. However, going the extra mile can make the night memorable.

### Tip #3: Emulate a scene from a favorite film

The person you love may adore a romantic movie, whether it's a classic or more recent tear-jerker. When planning a romantic evening out, consider reenacting a movie scene with you and your special someone in the starring roles. For example, recall when Tom Hanks met Meg Ryan at the top of the Empire State Building in "Sleepless in Seattle." Include a visit to the observation deck or roof as part of a whirlwind Valentine's Day experience.

### Tip #4: Attend a live music performance

Music can touch the heart and soul. That makes an evening watching a band play or enjoying a musical on the stage even more memorable if it occurs on Valentine's Day. Select an intimate venue to add to the romantic ambiance of the night.

### Tip #5: Think outside tradition

While dinner and a movie are Valentine's Day favorites, any activity done together can be memorable and romantic. Why not book a couple's cooking class? Or enjoy a winter sport like skiing or ice skating? Or warm up after window shopping on Main Street by sipping hot cocoa and snuggling on the sofa under a blanket at a nearby B&B?

Romantic nights out on Valentine's Day can be made even more special with some forethought and planning.

# Different types of chocolate to give this Valentine's Day

Chocolate is a popular gift on Valentine's Day. According to the Nielsen Company, Valentine's Day is the third busiest holiday for chocolate sales, following Halloween and Easter.

More than 70 million pounds of chocolate are purchased each year and offered as Valentine's Day gifts. Chocolate connoisseurs can learn more about the different types of chocolate to find the one their loved one will find most appealing.

• Milk chocolate: Milk chocolate is produced with low levels of cocoa and high amounts of sugar and milk. In addition, it contains cocoa butter and chocolate liquor. Milk chocolate often is made up of 3.39 percent butterfat, 10 percent chocolate liquor and 12 percent milk solids.

• Semi-sweet chocolate: Semi-sweet chocolate is largely an American creation

and term. It contains at least 35 percent cocoa solids and is darker than sweet dark chocolate. The amount of sugar varies across brands.

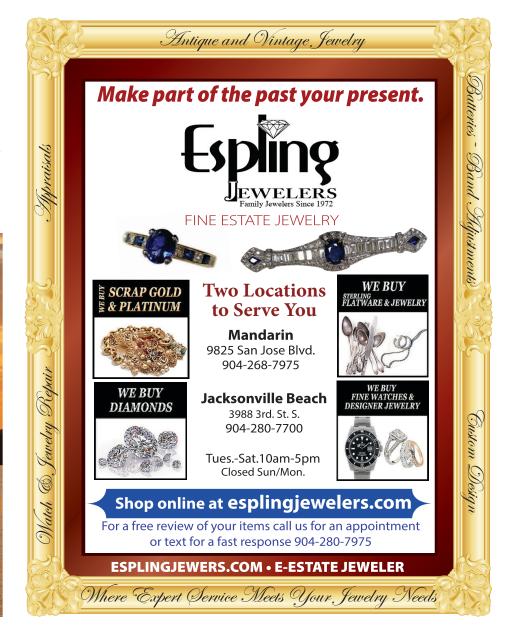
• Bittersweet chocolate: Bittersweet chocolate typically contains at least 50 percent chocolate liquor, but some will have between 70 and 80 percent. The sugar content is unregulated, so one manufacturer's bittersweet may not be as bitter as another's.

• Baking chocolate: Also known as bitter chocolate, this is pure chocolate liquor made from ground cocoa beans. It may look like chocolate, but it is used in recipes where it is combined with sugar. It should not be eaten on its own.

• White chocolate: White chocolate has cocoa butter but no chocolate liquor or cocoa products. Therefore, it is not truly chocolate. • Candy coating chocolate: This has no cocoa butter and uses vegetable or palm oils in the recipe. It often is used in dipping or enrobing because of its excellent melting ability.

• Couverture chocolate: In the United States, the ideal standard for couverture chocolate involves a minimum of 35 percent cocoa solids and 31 percent cocoa butter. This chocolate is tempered and used when coating ingredients or dipping items in chocolate.

Chocolate shines on Valentine's Day. Gift givers can select a chocolate variety that appeals most to their recipients' palates.





# Galentine's

for the first time.

That continued progression has proven to Holm and the Coastal Home Group that the Galentine's Day event has a true place on the calendar and is something the community has embraced.

According to Holm, the event has received great crowds the past couple of years, but she expects even more interest, especially with it being held on a weekend, which means that more people are off from work and school.

Whether it is friends or mothers and daughters, Holm encourages everyone to come out and enjoy a fun time and meet some amazing fellow women in the community.



One of the ideas behind the third annual event is to create a social and fun environment where women celebrate women.



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# Specials, fun vibe to highlight Local Wellness Galentine's event

### **By Anthony Richards**

As a new business, having only been opened independently since December, Local Wellness Ponte Vedra looks to hold its first public event with a Galentine's event Feb. 15 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Owner Lauren Cowgill encourages all women in the community to bring their best friends and enjoy some champagne and food while indulging in some welldeserved self-care.

According to Cowgill, everyone wants and has the right to feel their best and she wants Local Wellness to be an outlet people can depend on to help get them there.

Other than the social aspects of the event, there will also be certain Galentine's specials that guests can take advantage of, including \$30 Cryofacials, half off discounted IV treatments, \$10 per unit of Jeuveau, which is a new form of Botox and \$20 vitamin injections.

There will also be special pricing for Celluma light therapy, microneedling and CoolSculpting.

"Definitely booking during the event will allow you to get that pricing that you will not find very often," Cowgill said.

Having been a wedding planner for 18 years, Cowgill understands what it takes to host and run a proper social event.

"The events in my head never stop, and I'm always thinking of fun things that we could do, and the Galentine's is just one of those," Cowgill said. "It will serve as a pre-launch to some of the things we're adding such as CoolSculpting and Jeuveau."



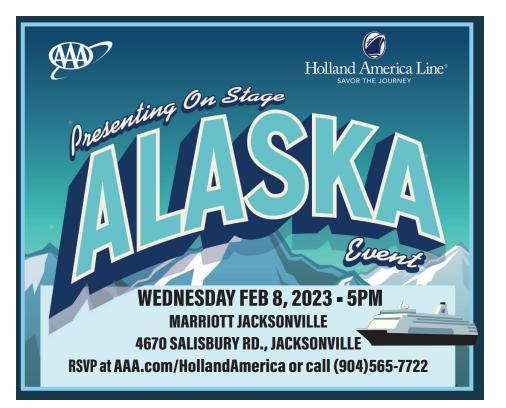
Photo by Anthony Richards

The interior of Local Wellness Ponte Vedra has a homey vibe to it, which owner Lauren Cowgill hopes will add to the business's upcoming Galentine's event.

According to Cowgill, the idea for the Galentine's event came about following the Jacksonville Jaguars home playoff victory against the Los Angeles Chargers a couple of weeks ago.

"My husband and I were over at Chubby's and I just knew we were going to win that game, so before the third quarter we came over here to turn on the cryo and get it cold, and after we won, we invited a bunch of people over from Chubby's and did a big group selfie with about 15 people in the cryo," Cowgill said. "People were saying how the atmosphere was so nice in here, especially at night so we decided to put something together. It is going to be fun to see how big this can take off."

The event is free and open to the public, but anyone interested is asked to RSVP by calling 904-473-5022. Local Wellness Ponte Vedra is located at 2 Fairfield Blvd., Suite 9, in Ponte Vedra Beach.



# Upcoming Valentine's Day events to know about

### **Riverside Arts Market Valentine's Day**

Enjoy Valentine's Day with your loved ones at the Riverside Arts Market. Whether it's a significant other, a friend or yourself, spend the day at RAM shopping small to find that perfect gift.

Even better, plan a date, because there's not much better than a beautiful afternoon walking around RAM, while you enjoy your favorite meal from one of our many food trucks and take in the sounds of live music from the river stage accompanied by views of the St. Johns River.

There will also be a table staffed and set up for kids to have fun and create a fun Valentine's Day card for mom, dad or whomever they may have in mind to be their valentine.

The Riverside Arts Market will be open for the final time before Valentine's Day on Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Rethreaded to hold Valentine's Day immersive event

Rethreaded invites you to join them for an immersive buying experience on Saturday, Feb. 11th, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Rethreaded warehouse for their pre-Valentine's Day event.

They have a fun-filled day planned with an exclusive toffee tasting and wine pairing, shopping for him or her, and maybe a little bit of shopping for yourself.

Pre-Valentine's Day Shopping Event Information:

Toffee: Ditch the heart-shaped chocolate boxes and elevate your chocolate game with delectable toffee.

Not sure which one to get? No worries, Rethreaded is setting up a free toffee station where you can sample all nine flavors and decide which one tickles your taste buds the most.

Wine: The best way to shop is with a little bit of wine. That's why toffee samples will be accompanied with a wine tasting.

Shopping: The most important part of this whole event is the opportunities created for survivors of human trafficking.

Every item bought at the store directly supports women in rebuilding their lives. The event will take place at 515 Ninth

Street East in Jacksonville.

### JAX Cooking Studio offers Valentine's cooking class

Enjoy some time with family and friends creating some fun and tasty treats in this Valentine's Day-themed cooking class.

You will eat some in the studio and take the rest home to share with the ones you love most. Complimentary wine will also be served during this cooking experience.

The menu will include Valentine's Day-themed sugar cookie cut outs decorated with royal icing, heart-shaped red velvet whoopie pies with marshmallow filling, Valentine's cake pops decorated with pink chocolate and sprinkles, and personalized dark chocolate covered strawberries, a Valentine's Day staple.

The special event will be Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at JAX Cooking Studio, which is located at 14035 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.

### Galentine's party with Jaffi's and Jacksonville Mom

Enjoy sips, snacks and fun prizes from 5 to 8 p.m. February 8.

Plus, a special Galentine's Day retail happy hour will take place live from the event at Jaffi's, a women's boutique located at 200 First Street in Neptune Beach.

You don't want to miss out on this fun night.

All attendees will be entered into a drawing to win one gallon of coveted Tyler Diva Laundry Detergent (a \$95 value) and guests will be given Valentines that contain discount coupons and prizes.

The event will partner with Jacksonville Mom, which is a top resource connecting moms to their surrounding communities.

# Lika Behar Trunk Show



Representatives will be on hand with Lika Behar's latest designs and collections created in Istanbul as wearable art in 22 karat gold, 18 karat gold, silver, and mixed metals with and without diamonds and other gems.

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# St. Augustine Yacht Club breaks ground for youth sailing center

The St. Augustine Yacht Club (SAYC) celebrated the groundbreaking of the Stanley and Catherine Paris Youth Sailing Center on Saturday, Jan. 21.

Located on Salt Run adjacent to the club, the center will be completed in 2024. It is being made possible through the donation of the property by Drs. Stanley and Catherine Paris to the City of St. Augustine. The property was deeded to the city and then leased to the club for 99 years.

David Patrick, SAYC commodore, welcomed the Parises and Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline and gave special thanks to the City of St. Augustine Commissioners for helping with the project.



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ETHICAL & ECO-FRIENDLY IS THE NEW SEXY "Over the past 10 years, we have taught almost 2,000 youngsters, ages 8-15, how to sail," Patrick said. "The first year we had 54 sail campers, but this year almost 300 attended. With this center we can assure the program can continue and with increased safety."

"The facility that will be constructed here, along with the dock, will enhance the experience of youth sailing, providing young campers with a life skill and personal achievement that will lay a groundwork for being able to take on challenges throughout their life," Stanley Paris said. "They may vacate sailing, but the skills learned will not vacate them."

Paris acknowledged Roy Jaeger for his help in getting the program underway and being instrumental in encouraging the donation of the property. He also thanked Jim Gajewski for acting as SAYC spokesperson with the city and former Mayor Tracy Upchurch and City Manager John Regan for their help.

"This new sailing center will allow the children, their coaches, and their families to participate in programs in a safe



SAYC Commodore David Patrick, Mayor Sikes-Kline and Commodore Roy Jaeger

environment, with their own facilities, classrooms and docks," Sikes-Kline said. "It will be safely away from the public ramp, the power boats coming and going, the kayakers launching from the beach and the fishing pier."

The mayor also remarked on SAYC's other contributions to the city, including its organizing of the annual Blessing of the Fleet and the Regatta of Lights during the holiday Nights of Lights.

Other officials attending were city commissioners Jim Springfield and Cynthia



Contributed photos **Drs. Catherine and Stanley Paris** 

Garris; City Manager John Regan; Assistant City Manager David Birchim; Communications Director Melissa Wissel; and Port, Waterway and Beach Commissioner Linda Thomson. Other SAYC members taking part in the ceremony were Kathleen Floryan, Barbara Dolan and Justin Muller.

The ceremony concluded with the actual groundbreaking and presentations, including a framed proclamation to the city from SAYC, the oldest yacht club in Florida.

## **DONNA Foundation announces PUMA partnership**

The DONNA Foundation, now celebrating its 20th anniversary year, has announced a new partnership with global sports brand PUMA. Beginning this year, PUMA will be the Fearless Series sponsor of the DONNA Marathon Weekend, the Black Knight DONNA Mother's Day 5K in May and THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K in October.

PUMA's support of the DONNA Fearless Series will give more than 10,000 runners the opportunity to test and review PUMA running shoes and apparel at all the races.

The sponsorship also includes: • PUMA Finisher Shirts to be given

to all registered participants of DONNA Fearless Series events for 2023, including DONNA Marathon Weekend (Feb. 3-5).

• DONNA Galloway Pacers will now be supported by PUMA. Program directors and Pace Group leaders from around the



country will help pace runners to Boston Marathon-qualifying times, personal bests and an official finish. The team will be outfitted with PUMA apparel and shoes. "Meet the Pacers" events will be held at the DONNA Expo on Friday, Feb. 3, and Saturday, Feb. 4, throughout the day.

"The DONNA Foundation is proud to partner with a brand of this magnitude for our 16th annual DONNA Marathon Weekend, and throughout the rest of our Fearless Series events this year," said Amanda Napolitano, executive director of The DONNA Foundation. "As we celebrate 20 years of progress since the foundation's establishment and look forward to a future free from breast cancer, we are grateful for the partners that come alongside us to continue this important work for breast cancer patients and their families. Outfitting our Pacers, finishers and supporters in PUMA is a testament to their belief in this work, as well."

A full calendar of events for DONNA Marathon Weekend can be found at breastcancermarathon.com/athlete-guide.

Registration for DONNA Marathon Weekend 2023 races, fundraising and exhibitor space at the DONNA Health & Wellness Expo presented by the Jacksonville Jaguars is now open, including the DONNA 5K and DONNA Dash to be held at TIAA Bank Field.

For additional information, go to BreastCancerMarathon.com or thedonnafoundation.org.





Tim Hofacker's YouTube channel offers a variety of interesting content. He says his best ideas generally form when he's not trying to think of something.



Local basketball is one of the main subjects for videos on Tim Hofacker's YouTube channel.



Tim Hofacker gets ready to create a video for his YouTube channel.

# Local man's YouTube channel getting noticed

### **By Shaun Ryan**

Ponte Vedra resident Tim Hofacker is building a community online. He's doing that by inviting people to share his observations, his interests and his challenges via social media, especially his YouTube channel.

While others have tried the same thing with varying degrees of success, the 2021 Nease grad's focus on his viewers, his determination to create videos with value and the techniques he employs have borne fruit. What started with just a handful of subscribers when he launched youtube. com/@TimHofacker three years ago has grown to nearly 5,000 with some viewers checking in from as far away as Australia.

But it hasn't been easy. In fact, much of the success he's now seeing can be attributed – at least in part – to a difficult and courageous decision he made last April.

As a high school freshman in 2017, Hofacker enrolled in the communications career academy and quickly discovered that he had a talent for editing video. A year later, while taking a sports media class, he got a unique opportunity. He was selected to shadow an ESPN camera operator covering a University of North Florida basketball game.

A whole production team was there, but the camera operator didn't show. Someone would have to pinch hit.

Before he knew it, Hofacker was signing a contract and directed to a very expensive camera with which he – a high school sophomore with no real experience – would cover the game.

"I'm getting calls from my dad, like, "We see your camera moving on TV!"" he recalled.

He went on to freelance, covering high school sports games. By his senior year, he had a revelation.

"This is not a side hobby; this is a passion," he said. "This is something I love."

His other great interest was basketball, which he had been playing since middle

school. But in his senior year, COVID-19 broke out and Hofacker had a difficult decision to make. Due to an ailment he'd had since childhood, his immunity was compromised. Because the coronavirus was little understood at the time, he faced the possibility that he was especially vulnerable.

"I decided to call up the head coach," he said. "I was like, 'I'm not playing; I'm looking out for my health.""

That left him with a lot of free time, which he filled by pursuing his videography. With the first video he posted online, he knew he was hooked. His YouTube channel was born.

"I hit my first 100 subscribers a year and a half in," he said. "I hit my first 1,000 probably this time last year, 2022. Now, beginning in 2023, I'm almost at 5,000."

Many of the videos, particularly the early ones, focus on basketball. But there are a variety of topics. The style always upbeat, positive. Watching his videos, one gets the sense of being a close friend, sharing in his exploits and hearing what he has to say.

But it was one particular video that electrified his channel and garnered him more than 20,000 views. In a 20-minute post that went live on April 24, Hofacker opened up about a condition he has been struggling with since he was 13 years old: a form of arthritis called ankylosing spondylitis.

It was something he'd never before shared with anyone outside his immediate family, and the decision to create this video was fraught with doubts and concerns. He called it the hardest video he's ever done.

"The thing what scared me about it was I didn't know how people would perceive me," he said.

Would they view him differently? Would they devalue him?

He rolled the dice and punched the



Tim Hofacker prepares to create a video for YouTube.

publish button. When the comments came in, they were very supportive.

"As soon as I put that video up, it was one of the biggest reliefs of my life knowing that people took it very well," he said. "I won a lot of people's hearts."

He's heard from viewers dealing with the same condition and people facing other challenges. People praised him for his courage, and more than one person called the video inspiring.

"Blown away Tim," wrote one viewer. "I've always viewed you as a very strong and determined individual, but this just magnifies how strong you really are."

People have sent him direct messages and approached him when they've recognized him out in public. He's heard from young people dealing with illnesses, both physical and mental.

"I'm glad that I make people feel comfortable talking about something," Hofacker said. "You know, it's a big deal to them."

He called this a turning point in his channel.

.

"I think I can talk about anything now," he said.

The confidence that experience gave him may be partially responsible for his growing success. But there are other things that help. He puts emphasis on eye contact with the camera, and by extension with his viewers. He uses hand motions and other actions to keep viewers' attention. And he has a clear understanding of the demographics of his core audience, and therefore what content will keep them engaged.

He also does a podcast called "Real Talk With Tim Hofacker" and maintains a presence on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok where he posts abbreviated versions of his videos.

"Social media is kind of like trailers," he said. "YouTube's the movie."

For his viewers, he has a central message.

"Make your mind a happy place," he said. "Make what's going on a happy place. And just be an outlet for somebody."

# Events and activities at the link

There's always something happening at the link, which is located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra Beach. You can learn more about any of the programs by visiting thelink.zone.

### Open House at the link

5-7 p.m. Feb. 3

Learn more about upcoming spring break and summer break camps for kids, and programming for adults and kids.

### Collisions & Coffee — Monthly Meeting Up

9-10:30 a.m. Feb. 8

Collisions & Coffee is designed to bring people together in a great setting, where ideas flow freely, to network and discuss business and entrepreneurship. The goal is to bring people together who may not interact in everyday life. Attendees can expect to be "intentionally collided," connecting and building relationships. It's about providing a smart space that allows people to connect with each other. RSVP at app.thelink.zone.



The Floral Design Workshop is planned for Feb. 23.

### **Spring Floral Design Workshop**

6:30 p.m. Feb. 23

Bring some friends and your favorite bottle of wine and join in for this handson workshop taught by professional florists. Learn about the flowers, how to prepare and arrange them as you create a masterpiece to take home or give away as a gift. Register at app.thelink.zone.



Yin Yoga provides an unusual aural layer.

### **Yin Yoga with Crystal Singing Bowls** 5:30 p.m. Feb. 24

During this slow paced and deep stretching yoga class, led by Gigi, participants will be enveloped in sound and vibrations from crystal singing bowls and other instruments played by Julie with Wise Waves Wellness. Register at app. thelink.zone.

### Spring Break Kids Camps March 13-17

The link offers high-energy camps with professional instructors with both halfand full-day options. This spring, there will be: Culinary Arts, Art for Young Minds — I am empowered, LEGO Robotics and Dance & Tumble Intensive. Go to app.thelink.zone to get all the details about the camps, read instructor bios and register your kids.

### Immersive Dining Experience — Asian Fusion

March 26

The journey begins in the lobby as you watch an introductory movie about Asia. You will meet Chef Wesley and then be invited into the Flagler Health 360 Immersive Studio to take a seat with family and friends. The Immersive Studio will come alive as you are transported to Asia. Course by course, you will be immersed further into Asia. Go to app.thelink. zone to learn about the menu, meet the chef and register for this amazing dining experience.

### **CLASSES AT THE LINK**

Did you know the link has an amazing array of classes? You will find Cheerleading, Kids and Adult Yoga, and Stretch and Sculpt class for the adults (complimentary for the members) and more. Check these out:

### Jiu Jitsu — Kids & Adults — Age 7+

Weekly Jiu Jitsu classes taught by Danny Yakel

### LEGO Robotics — Age 5-12

STEM-based classes taught by Coach Ivan Ramirez

### **GEMS LEGO Robotics**

Girls Engineering Math & Science — Amazing Girls Only STEM classes taught by Alice Prytkova

### Dance & Tumble

Dance & Tumble classes taught weekly. Both recreational and team classes taught by Reilly and Madison Hughes. Dance team tryouts coming up in May.

### **Chess Club**

Fun Interactive learning club that meets once a week, taught by Christpher McLaughlin.

### **Kids Night Out**

The link's famous Kids Night Out events allow mom and dad to take a break while the kids have fun. Dates



Contributed photos The link is offering several camps for kids during spring break.



The Immersive Dining Experience takes you away to exotic places with eclectic menus.

are offered twice a month on a Saturday night, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Each event is themed with movies, music, dance, arts and crafts and more.

Learn more about the link at the link. zone.

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# Here's the deal

Amber's Turn carries on consignment tradition

### **By Shaun Ryan**

Amber Fuchs has always appreciated a great deal, and that's why she has long been a patron of consignment shops. Because the stock is previously owned — though still of high quality and sometimes even new condition — it is available at a bargain.

Having a daughter in 2018 gave new meaning to Fuchs' love of consignment shopping. That's when she discovered a kids' consignment store called Amy's Turn in Neptune Beach, where she bought pretty much everything her daughter needed.

In the meantime, Fuchs opened a consignment store of her own. It is called YOLO Luxury Consignment and is accessible online exclusively. Because it debuted just before the world locked down to wait out the pandemic, it met a need for those who could not visit brickand-mortar stores, which brought YOLO success

Then, in 2021, she learned that the owners of Amy's Turn planned to close the shop. Fuchs, who has a background in corporate buying and inventory management, thought she could help them keep

the store open but soon learned that they simply wanted to retire.

"But they were very hopeful that someone else in their local area would carry on the tradition," Fuchs said.

Thus, an opportunity presented itself. She took over the business and tweaked the name just a bit to reflect the change.

Amber's Turn opened last August.

The shop offers children's clothing, sizes infant to 14, as well as strollers, car seats, cribs, swings, bouncers, blankets and more.

"Anything that you might need to help you get started and keep your kids happy and healthy," Fuchs said.

But it would be a mistake to confuse the shop with a thrift store. Fuchs carefully chooses what items she puts up for sale.

"We select the product based on condition and also what the inventory need is within the store," Fuchs said. "So, we can provide what our shoppers are looking for through the selection process."

She also ensures that the stock is priced at a fair market value. That way, the shoppers save money while the consigners see the best possible return on their items.

This is made possible by conducting full-market research. In fact, Fuchs has one person dedicated to just that.

"We want to make sure that we're



Amber Fuchs opened her Neptune Beach consignment shop, Amber's Turn, in August.

offering the most competitive and fair market value for a product," she said.

This is particularly important because customers can also shop Amber's Turn online, where it's very easy to compare prices.

So, Fuchs always tries to see things through the eyes of her customers, a task made easier by her own years of consignment shopping.

When something is sold, the store splits the profit with the consigner.

One of the benefits of consignment shops is that they are good for the environment. Buying something that is not

brand new helps to reduce a shopper's carbon footprint. It's something Fuchs cares deeply about. She also participates in beach cleanups and volunteers with the Beach Turtle Patrol.

Amber's Turn is located at 1541 Atlantic Blvd., Neptune Beach. It's open Monday by appointment in the morning and then from 1 to 5 p.m. Hours for Tuesday through Saturday are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To shop online or learn more about consignment at Amber's Turn, go to ambersturn.com.

The shop can also be contacted via email at hello@ambersturn.com.

# What to know about life insurance

Life insurance is a vital component of asset protection that can offer peace of mind to policy holders who want to ensure their loved ones are provided for in the wake of their death.

### **Explaining life insurance**

Life insurance is both similar to and different from other types of insurance. Like homeowners and auto insurance policies, life insurance provides financial protection in difficult circumstances. A life insurance policy is a contract between an insurance provider and a policy holder that guarantees a payout to beneficiaries designated by the insured individual in the wake of that individual's death.

### **Personal history**

Insurance providers differ, but individuals interested in life insurance can expect to be asked about their medical histories and lifestyle habits when discussing policies. Prospective policy holders will often be asked to sign waivers that allow providers to access their medical records. This is necessary so companies can get an idea of the health of the person applying for life insurance, which will determine the cost of a policy. That information, as well as

family history, is important because it can serve as an indicator of future health risks.

### Coverage

Coverage needs vary depending on the individual. Life insurance is intended to provide for loved ones in the aftermath of a policy holder's death. How much money will those individuals need to pay their bills? Young adults who are just starting their families may want more coverage than aging adults who have already paid off their homes and saved a considerable amount for retirement.

### **Types of coverage**

Insurance providers offer various types of life insurance policies. Term life policies are among the most popular because they tend to be affordable while offering substantial coverage. There are different types of term life policies, but policies tend to run for anywhere from 10 to 30 years and expire around the time individuals reach retirement age. That's because many people save enough for retirement and don't have the sizable expenses, such as a mortgage, to account for at this point in

# **Benchmarks of Success**

A look at major career changes in the area.



### **North Florida Land Trust** names DeFoor president

North Florida Land Trust has named Allison DeFoor its new president. DeFoor had been serving as interim president since

**Allison DeFoor** 

August 2022 after the former president stepped down from the position.

DeFoor joined the board of directors of NFLT in 2018 and was asked by his fellow board members to serve as interim president when Jim McCarthy stepped down from the role. In the last six months, DeFoor has had some big achievements. Under his leadership, the nonprofit land conservation organization has been able to exceed its year-end fundraising goals. He has built the team by hiring a top-notch CFO and COO while lowering the nonprofit's internal costs. DeFoor also helped to pass a referendum in Nassau County with 68 percent of the vote to provide up to \$30 million in general obligation bonds to help fund land conservation.

### Hatin named VP of real estate firm's commercial division

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices



Florida Network Realty has named J. Joseph (Joe) Hatin as vice president of the company's commercial division. In his role, Hatin will lead the division and oversee the education, training and

coaching programs for all Realtors. Hatin comes to Berkshire Hathaway

HomeServices Florida Network Realty with more than 25 years of real estate experience. He entered the real estate appraisal field and obtained his state qualification as a certified general appraiser prior to becoming a licensed broker. His work with both residential and commercial properties led him into career that included property resale, purchase and investment opportunities, and a reputation as a leading professional in the field.

During his career, he owned and operated an appraisal business and a brokerage.

Hatin has a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida. He is active in numerous community and industry organizations.

### Tyrell Hill joins real estate firm's Ponte **Vedra office**

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has added Tyrell Hill to the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office. Hill was previously with another lo-

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cal brokerage. He has experience in residential. investment and commercial sales. His interest in business and working with people led him to a career as a Realtor. Prior to real estate, Tyrell was

a music teacher and plays several different instruments. His passion is brass, and he was a tuba player in the marching band for Greensboro College in North Carolina. When he is not working, Tyrell loves spending time with his wife and two daughters.

For more information, Tyrell can be reached at 904-760-1327, Tyrell.Hill@ FloridaNetworkRealty.com and THill.FloridaNetworkRealtv.com.

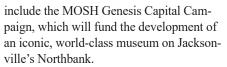
The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office, located at 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach, is managed by Holly Hayes, who can be reached at 904-802-0432, Holly. Haves@FloridaNetworkRealty.com. and floridanetworkrealtycareers.com.

### Mercho appointed MOSH chief development officer

The Museum of Science & History (MOSH) has announced the expansion of its executive leadership Maureen Mercho team, bringing on Mau-

reen Mercho as the chief development officer. Mercho began her new role on Jan. 3.

Mercho brings more than 20 years of executive leadership experience to her new role with the museum. Her responsibilities include oversight for all fundraising strategies and activities that enable the museum to continue to grow and serve Northeast Florida. A major focus of her role will also



Prior to coming to MOSH, she served in a variety of leadership positions with not-forprofit organizations including local, national and international organizations. Most recently, she served as the chief development officer for United Way of Northeast Florida. She holds a Master of arts degree in international relations and conflict negotiation from the University of Indianapolis, as well as a Bachelor of arts degree in communication and public relations from Purdue University.



Fiato joins real estate firm's Ponte Vedra office

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has added Azriel Fiato to the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office. Fiato brings to her real

**Azriel Fiato** 

estate career valuable experience in the banking and treasury services industry. Her communication, interpersonal skills and attention to detail will give her a solid base to build on as a Realtor. When she is not working, she loves golfing, enjoying the beach, and spending time with her family.

For more information, Fiato can be reached at 315-882-3891, Azriel.Fiato@ FloridaNetworkRealty.com and AFiato. FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office, located at 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach, is managed by Holly Hayes, who can be reached at 904-802-0432, Holly. Hayes@FloridaNetworkRealty.com, and floridanetworkrealtycareers.com.

- Compiled by Shaun Ryan

# **Answer Aide ribbon cutting**



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division joined David and Amy Kimble on Jan. 17 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the grand opening of their new office in Nocatee. Answer Aide provides an answering service for businesses.

# VyStar donates \$31K to schools through debit card program

VyStar Credit Union held a ceremony Wednesday, Jan. 25, to celebrate the first year of its High School Debit Card Give Back Program and announce an overall donation of more than \$31,000 to the 18 area high schools that participate in the VyStar Academy of Business High School Branch Program.

The program was launched in 2022 as a way to bring the community together in support of local education. Each school in the program has a unique debit card that is branded with its school logo. VyStar donates 5 cents to the corresponding school for every purchase made with that school's debit card, up to \$10,000 per school each year.

"We are incredibly grateful for everyone who shares in our commitment to support students and educators in our communities and helped make the first year of this program such a success," said VyStar EVP/Chief Operations Officer Chad Meadows. "This program is meant to be an opportunity for students, teachers, alumni and anyone with pride in their neighborhood school to make a difference through their everyday purchases. We encourage anyone who is interested in participating to get involved."



Contributed photo \$2

Pictured from left: Dr. Gregory Bostic, Ribault High School principal; Emily Harrison, St. Johns County School District director of career and technical education; Catherine Farina, Bartram Trai;, Michelle Kisch, Bartram Trail; Kelly Mosley, Clay County Career and Technical Education; Chad Meadows, chief operations officer/executive vice president; Michael J Rathjen, vice president, High School Program; Megan Brink, high school program graduate; Joel Swanson, chief member experience officer; Dana Karzan, chief marketing officer; and Lysa Barbano SVP market president — Florida. The following five schools were the top earners in 2022: • Bartram Trail High School, \$7,584.90

• West Nassau High School, \$3.709.25

• Fleming Island High School, \$3,570.85

• Palatka High School, \$2,462.80

• Pedro Menendez High School, \$2,407.50

Any VyStar member with a personal checking account can visit a branch to request a school-branded debit card. Additionally, opening a personal checking account can be done online, at a branch or by calling VyStar's Contact Center at 904-777-6000 or 800-445-6289.

VyStar's Contact Center representatives are available every day, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., excluding holidays.

"We are so proud of the schools in our High School Branch Program, and we know these funds will be put to great use," said Michael Rathjen, VyStar's vice president of school programs. "It's exciting to know how popular these debit cards have become. This is only the first year of our Give Back Program, and we look forward to donating even more money to our school partners in the future."

# Cadence at Nocatee welcomed



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Assistant Community Director Gretter Anderson and Community Director Brieanna Houk wielded the scissors for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Cadence at Nocatee apartments on Jan. 24. Members and ambassadors of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce participated.

# Insurance

Continued from 23

their lives. That means loved ones won't necessarily need to be provided for in the wake of a policy holder's death.

Permanent life insurance policies last until the policy holder's death so long as he or she continues to pay the premiums on time. Financial advisors can help individuals understand the ins and outs of the various types of permanent life insurance policies, which differ from term life policies because they can serve as investment vehicles and sources of loans in certain instances.



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022 • PAGE 26

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# Lightner celebrates diamond anniversary with exhibits, open house

### **By Shaun Ryan**

The Lightner Museum in St. Augustine will conduct an open house 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, as part of its yearlong 75th anniversary celebration. St. Augustine residents will be admitted free. Museum members are invited to a free preview starting at 5:15 p.m.

The highlight of the event will be the debut of three major exhibitions. Here's a look:

• "Ride On! Historic Bicycles from the Collection of Keith Pariani" — Exhibit runs Feb. 2 to Sept. 30. It presents the American bicycle as an object of beauty and engineering ingenuity, featuring design innovations from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

• "75 for 75: Lightner Museum Diamond Anniversary Exhibition" — Exhibit runs Feb. 2 to Feb. 16, 2024. Founded in 1948 as the Lightner Museum of Hobbies, the museum has its origins in the hobby boom that swept America in the early 20th century. The museum exhibits countless objects in its collection, including lamps by Louis Comfort Tiffany, exquisite shells and geological specimens from the world over, porcelain produced at Sèvres and Victorian mechanical musical instruments. The exhibit will feature artwork and objects from the collection, including enlarged images of covers

from Otto C. Lightner's Hobbies Magazine. • "St. Augustine Through the Lens of William Henry Jackson" — Permanent exhibit. Jackson played a major role in shaping public perception of the American landscape. In the 1890s, he was commissioned by Henry Flagler's East Coast Railroad to photograph St. Augustine to help promote it as a tourist destination. The high-definition photos remain an outstanding record of the Nation's Oldest City at the turn of the 20th century.

The iconic poured-concrete building that houses the museum was built by Henry Flagler in 1888 and opened as the Alcazar Hotel. It closed in 1931 and was purchased 16 years later by Chicago publisher, collector and professional hobbyist Otto Lightner, who opened the museum the following year, exhibiting his collection of interesting objects.

Lightner died in 1950, but the museum continued on. It was briefly closed in the 1970s for repairs and reopened in 1976. Today, it is owned by a trust, and the city rents a portion of it for offices. Shops occupy parts of the building ringing the courtyard.

The museum was closed during the pandemic to give the first floor a facelift and move the museum store to a better location. Floors were refurbished and the HVAC system was updated. The museum reopened in June 2020.

Aside from the open house, the museum's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Admission is \$17 for adults; \$14 for



Photo courtesy of the Lightner Museum William Henry Jackson, "The Alcazar, St. Augustine, Florida," c. 1890s

seniors (65+), military and college students; \$10 for youth ages 12-17; and free to children 11 and younger.

The museum is located at 75 King St., St. Augustine. For information, go to lightnermuseum.org.

# Douglas Anderson prepares for 38th Annual Extravaganza

### **By Anthony Richards**

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville will hold its 38th annual Extravaganza that will showcase its talented students.

The show will be held at the Moran Theater in the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts Feb. 10 beginning at 7 p.m.

THEATRE & DINING

Performances will focus on a wide range of areas that will allow for more than 580 students' creativity to be on display in fields, such as, theater, music, dance, creative writing and visual art.

These various disciplines performed on one night is one of the things that makes the showcase so unique.

According to Douglas Anderson principal Tina Wilson, Extravaganza is a celebration of the arts that promotes the best the school has to offer. It has always been a special evening in the past and in 38 years it continues to get better and better.

Pre-sale tickets are no longer available, but those interested in attending the event can purchase tickets by going to the Ticketmaster.com.

Over the years it has become tradition to hold the Extravaganza at the Jacksonville



904-641-1212 | alhambrajax.com Just 5 minutes from Town Center.

Center for the Performing Arts, which gives the students an opportunity to perform and display their works in front of a venue that holds a capacity crowd of 2,900.

The majority of students that attend Douglas Anderson dream of one day performing on the biggest of stages and for many the night will be one that they will be able to look back on fondly when they look back one day at how their career in the industry got started.

One of those past performers who has gone off to develop a career of his own is Chase Finn, who graduated in 2009 and specialized in cinematic arts.

Since then he has become a successful professional artist and his work has won several film awards nationally.

As a result of all his accomplishments, he is this year's "shining star" for the event.

Douglas Anderson's mission is to strive to be the leading public arts high school in the nation by combining arts and academics to create a top notch atmosphere for learning.

Creative freedom and rigorous discipline are the basis by which the courses offered are taught and in many ways the Extravaganza allows for all the hard work students have put in behind the scenes to come to the forefront to share with their fellow community.

The Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts is located at 300 Water Street in downtown Jacksonville.

### CANVAS, STAGE AND MORE

### A look at what's happening in the arts locally.

### Writers group to hear from expert in international undercover operations

The Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime will meet at noon Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

Randy Bohman, who has more than 30 years as a law enforcement officer, will share real-life stories. His career has included serving as a federal DEA agent and a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES). He has extensive experience in undercover operations, confidential informant programs, physical security, management, policy and procedures development, and asset forfeiture programs. He has conducted drug investigations targeting international and domestic narcotic traffickers' organizations throughout the world.

Since his retirement in 2013, Bohman has been a licensed private investigator conducting a myriad of investigations within the State of Florida. He also has experience in banking, serving as a vice president for anti-money laundering, a financial investigative unit at an international bank.

The group welcomes "misters and sisters" to learn more about writing, promoting and enjoying crime fiction.

For further information, email floridasis-

tersincrime@gmail.com.

### **UNF alumnus exhibits work at MOCA**

MOCA Jacksonville, a cultural institute of the University of North Florida (UNF), has announced a new exhibition presenting the work of its 2022 UNF student artist-inresidence. "Brennan Wojtyla: Cathedral of Labor" is on view now through May 21.

Wojtyla is a multi-disciplinary artist and a recent UNF alum. He graduated in 2022, earning a Bachelor of fine art with a concentration in graphic design. With "Cathedral of Labor," Wojtyla presents an exhibition grounded on his transdisciplinary exploration of the utilitarian form and processes.

"My work has a base in industrial processes and contemporary urban living," he said. "By taking elements seen in our daily lives and placing them into a place of observance and analysis, I hope to introduce questions about our surroundings and what can be labeled 'art.' This can be a concrete wall, a cinderblock, curb markings, debris, and other artifacts of modern living and human intervention."

MOCA Jacksonville's UNF Student Artist-in-Residence Program is a highly competitive opportunity that awards access to a MOCA Jacksonville studio and exhibition space to complete a new body of work and hone skills over the course of a final semester.

Support for this exhibition was made in part by the City of Jacksonville, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville. the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts and the University of North Florida.

### Sundays At Stetson's set for Feb. 12

The next Sundays At Stetson's will be on Sunday, Feb. 12, and will feature The John French Band. This will be an outside event. Music starts at 2 p.m. Reservations are not required. A donation of \$10 is requested per person.

The John French Band consists of singer-songwriter John French on guitar and vocals; Laura Greaney on keyboards, bass guitar and vocals; Joe Greaney on electric guitar; and Steve Waters on guitars and vocals.

French has spent more than 35 years as

a creative musician beginning at the age of 15 when he taught himself to play the guitar and began writing original material. At the age of 19, he was playing and writing in original rock bands.

One such collaboration resulted in a co-written song appearing on the debut album release of a Knoxville, Tennessee, band known as the V-Roys, co-produced by Steve Earle in 1995. By 2011, and with the release of French's solo album "All Roads," he had discovered his niche in music as an Americana genre singer/ songwriter, recognized for his unique style of music combining bluegrass, folk and country.

The performance will be held at Beluthahatchee Park, 1523 State Road 13, Fruit Cove.

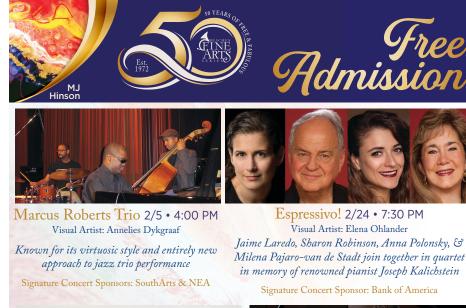
— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



Shines Like Gold

PONTE×VEDRA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25





Chanticleer 3/5 • 4:00 PM Visual Artist: Vanessa Withun

"The world's reigning male chorus" (The New Yorker)

Signature Concert Sponsor: Ann Brodt Burridge in memory of Roger Brodt

St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church 465 11th Ave. N • Jacksonville Beach Doors open 45 minutes prior to each concert.

Alon Goldstein piano 3/24 • 7:30 PM Visual Artist: Jessica Hall

"Such performances take a kind of courage so seldom heard these days you want to hear him at every possible opportunity" (Philadelphia Inquirer)

Signature Concert Sponsor: Barb Wenger





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The Ponte Vedra girls soccer squad defeated Fleming Island 3-0 to win the 2023 District 3-6A championship.



Ponte Vedra's boys soccer team defeated Nease 3-1 to clinch a spot in the district title game.

# Sharks cruise past Golden Eagles for girls soccer district title

### **By Anthony Richards**

Champions of District 3-6A has a nice ring to it if you are the Ponte Vedra High girls soccer team, which earned that title following a comfortable 3-0 win at home against Fleming Island.

The championship also marked the sixth straight win for the Sharks who have had their way with the majority of their opponents this season en route to a 15-3 record.

Defeating rival Nease 2-0 in the semifinals was the path for the Sharks through the district tournament, which was made easier thanks to a first round bye as the No. 1 seed heading in.

It was the 10th time this year that the Sharks had shut out an opponent and it was the eighth time they won by at least a three-goal margin.

If the Sharks continue to play excellent all-around soccer like they have been playing where the defense is creating a wall and the offense is taking advantage of scoring chances at the other end, they will be a tough team to beat the deeper the postseason goes. The Panthers handed the Oakleaf

Knights a 2-0 defeat in the quarterfinals to advance to the semifinals before their run came to a halt against the Sharks.

On the boys' side of things, the Sharks have earned a spot in the District 3-6A championship game as well with a 3-1 win over rival Nease in the semifinals of the district tournament Jan. 30.

The Sharks (11-2-3) grabbed the lead early with a pair of first half goals and despite the Panthers (9-4-4) getting on the board in the second half with a goal, it was not enough as the Sharks scored an insurance goal of their own to secure the victory.

The two rivals had battled on Dec. 7

during the regular season and it ended in a 1-1 tie despite the Sharks striking first.

The Sharks would do the same this time around, but they learned from the previous meeting and did not surrender the lead once they gained it.

The Sharks had a bye in the quarterfinals as the No. 2 seed, while the Panthers as the third seed cruised past No. 6 First Coast 8-0.

The win sets up a matchup for the Sharks in the title game against No. 4 Oakleaf Feb. 1 at 7 p.m., which upset top-seeded Fleming Island 2-1 in the other semifinal battle.

# Sharks defense smothers Yellow Jackets for big road win

### **By Jim Moyes**

Trailing at the halftime break by three, the Ponte Vedra Sharks boys basketball team tightened up their defense in the second half to earn their sixth straight victory with a 63-46 road win at St. Augustine Jan. 27. Five of those wins came on the road as the Sharks perhaps clinched the top seed in their upcoming 6A district tournament.

All five starters were nearly all in double figures with Ben Ritchie with nine falling but one point short. Nathan Bunkosky led the balanced Shark scoring attack with 13 points and 7 assists, Israel Nuhu tallied 12, Brandon Hynes had 11 and Sam Ritchie 10.

The Sharks took the lead for good early into the second half when Bunkosky hit a historic 3-pointer. Not only did the senior playmaker give the Sharks the lead they would never give up, but the shot moved Bunkosky into fifth place among all-time Shark scorers with 872 career points.

The Sharks host archrival Nease on Feb. 3.

### SPORTS 29

# A full day's worth of racing tradition

The following are photos from the 61st running of the Rolex 24 at Daytona International Speedway, also known as the World Center of Racing. The event was won by Tom Blomqvist, Colin Braun, Helio Castroneves and Simon Pagenaud. Photos by Anthony Richards



Helio Castroneves points to the crowd as he walks across stage during driver introductions. The Meyer Shank Racing team won the race for the second straight year.



Fans gather on the infield grass and track during the pre-race festivities.



Drivers take a moment to relax on the grid before the race gets underway.



Cars exit the International Horseshoe turn.



The Wayne Taylor Racing with Andretti Autosport No. 10 Cadillac finished runner-up in the race.



It was 24 hours of close racing.



Both Chip Ganassi Racing Cadillacs make pitstops at the same time.

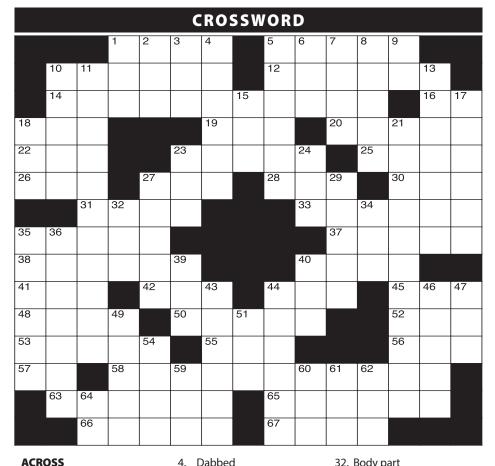


Spiderman made an appearance in the garage area prior to the race.



Fireworks go off over the track and infield Ferris wheel during the race.

Contributed photo



### ACROSS

- 1. Shed tears
- Luxury jewelry designer 5.
- 10. Goddess of wisdom
- 12. Convert into a
- particular form
- 14. Working-class people
- 16. It borders Canada (abbr.) 18. A princess can detect
- its presence
- 19. Red-brown sea bream
- 20. Defunct retail empire
- 22. Vase
- 23. Demeter's equivalent
- 25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 26. French and Belgian river
- 27. Small amount 28. High schoolers' test
- 30. Animal's foot
- 31. Some is red
- 33. Per \_: each
- 35. Swedish jazz pop duo
- 37. Plate for Eucharist
- 38. Train line
- 40. Russian pop duo
- 41. Stake
- 42. Plant by scattering
- 44. Female sibling 45. City of Angels hoopsters
- (abbr.) 48. Popular cookie brand
- 50. Group of Niger-Congo languages
- 52. A team's best pitcher
- 53. Vomits 55. 19th letter of the
- Greek alphabet
- 56. Men's fashion accessory 57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
- 58. Expensive cut of steak
- 63. Popular James Cameron
- film 65. A \_\_: relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
- 66. Kids' snow toys
- 67. Flip side to yin

### DOWN

- Global public health 1. agency
- Snake-like fish 2.
- 3. Midway between northeast and east

- 4. Dabbed
- 5. TV show
- Folk singer DiFranco 6.
- 7. Canadian flyers
- Of the dowry 8.
- 9. Commercial
- 10. The act of imitating
- 11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
- 13. Lands of an emir
- 15. Swiss river
- 17. Island
- 18. Monetary unit of
- Afghanistan 21. One who surrenders
- under agreed conditions
- 23. Garfield is one 24. A baglike structure in a
- plant or animal
- 27. Small boats used in the Black Sea
- 29. Small savory Spanish dishes

35. Popular grilled foods on a stick

34. Touch lightly

- 36. <u>Hess: oil company</u>
- 39. Antelope with a reddish coat
- 40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- 43. Pink Floyd's Roger
- 44. Short and thick
- 46. Small, sac-like cavities
- 47. Performer \_\_-Lo 49. Entrails of animal used
- as food 51. \_\_King Cole, musician
- 54. Where construction
- is done
- 59. Chap
- 60. Investment vehicle
- 61. Often mixed with tonic
- 62. Holiday beverage egg \_\_\_\_
- 64. Against

### SUDOKU

6			5				8	7
	7	9						5
2		8		6		4		1
					1			8
4		2			5	9		6
		1				5		
7				8	4		3	9
	8	3	2	5			6	
					7		5	
Level: Beginne								

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!

# Local professional among 2023 PGA of America National Award winners

**Grace Hurley** 

PGA Section

New York.

gan.

Country Club, The Woodlands, Texas.

• Herb Graffis Award: Southern Texas

• PGA Merchandiser of the Year —

Resort Category: Grace Hurley, Ponte

Vedra Inn & Club, Ponte Vedra Beach.

• PGA Merchandiser of the Year

- Private Category: Katie Wiedmar,

Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck,

• PGA Merchandiser of the Year ----

Dunes Golf Club, Grand Haven, Michi-

Hurley is the 2023 PGA Merchandiser

Public Category: Ian Ziska, American

of the Year Award - Resort Category

professionals who excel in business and

merchandising for the promotion of golf.

Hurley's merchandising philosophy

is to create featured displays that tell a

story throughout the golf shop. She and

ping experience to everyone who walks

She is a two-time winner of the North

her team provide a customized shop-

Florida Section PGA Merchandiser

of the Year - Resort Category award

(2021, 2022) and an Association of Golf

She is a graduate of the University of

Idaho PGA Golf Management Program,

where she also played Division I Golf for

The formal National Awards ceremony

is scheduled for November during the

2023 PGA Annual Meeting in Frisco,

Texas. The Herb Graffis Award will be

presented during the annual meeting

content that week as well.

Merchandisers Platinum Winner (2017,

through the doors.

2018).

the Vandals.

winner. The award recognizes PGA

PGA Golf Professional of the Year Jeff Kiddie, Teacher & Coach of the Year Kevin Weeks and PGA Golf Executive of the Year Bernie Friedrich headline the Class of 2023 PGA of America National Awards honorees. Among this year's winners is Grace Hurley, director of sports retail at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

All 13 award recipients were announced at the 2023 PGA Show on Jan. 25 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando.

Here are the 2023 PGA of America National Awards Recipients:

• PGA Golf Professional of the Year Jeff Kiddie, Aronimink Golf Club, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

• PGA Teacher & Coach of the Year Kevin Weeks, Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, Lemont, Illinois.

• PGA Golf Executive of the Year Bernie Friedrich, Boyne Resorts, Petoskey, Michigan.

• Bill Strausbaugh Award: Jack Druga, Life Member, Metropolitan PGA Section, Southampton, New York.

 PGA Professional Development Award: Nick Papadakes, Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Illinois.

• Deacon Palmer Award: Jamie Nieto, The Preserve at Oak Meadows, Addison, Illinois.

• PGA Patriot Award: John Carpineta, Bensalem Township Country Club, Bensalem, Pennsylvania.

• PGA Player Development Award: Josh Tremblay, Springfield Golf & Country Club, Springfield, Virginia.

• PGA Youth Player Development Award: Susie Redman, The Woodlands

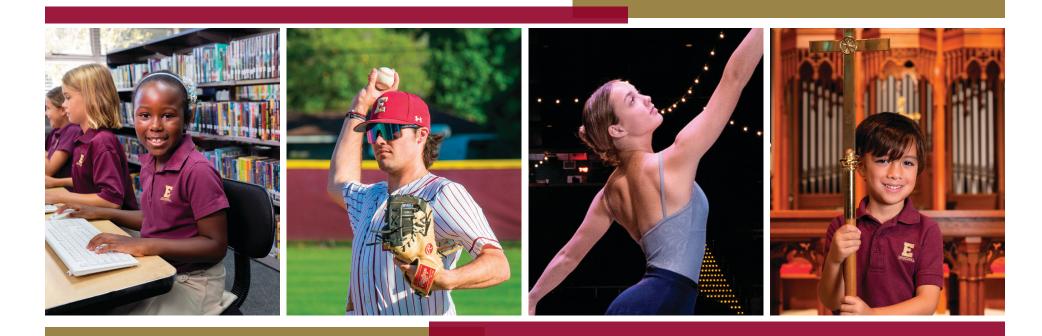
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