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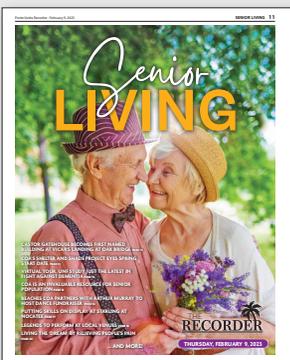


26 Days until
THE PLAYERS

February 9, 2023
Volume 54, No. 15
\$1.00

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

PonteVedraRecorder.com



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

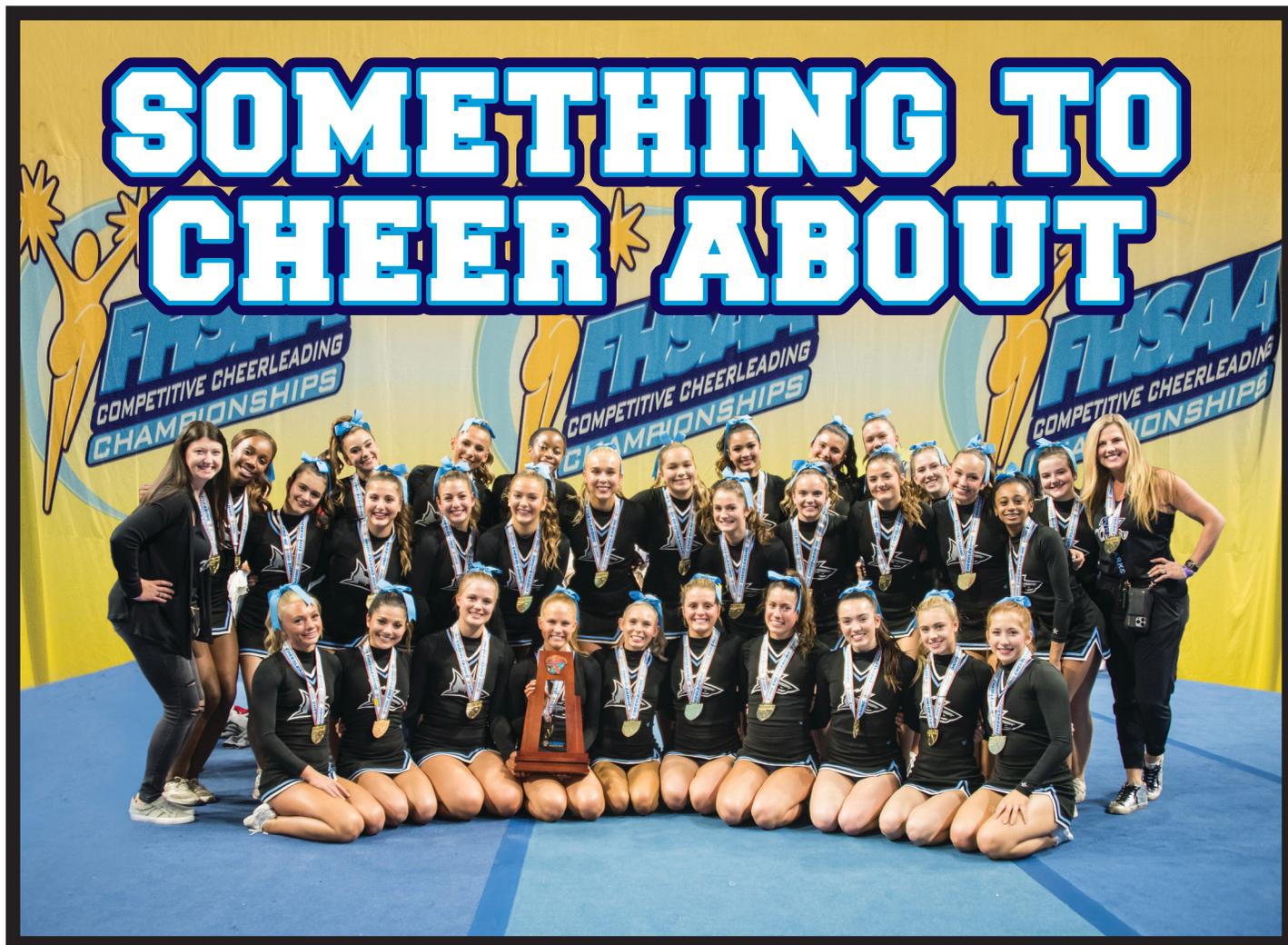


Photo by Erin Marie Stehl

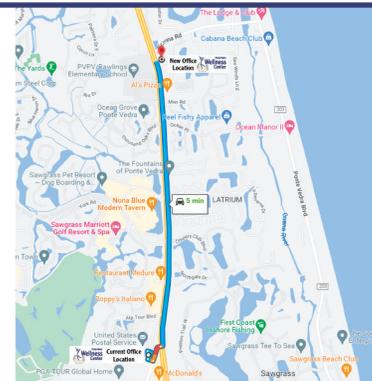
The Ponte Vedra High School Shark Cheerleaders have made school history again by winning a back-to-back state championship titles. The Sharks finished first in Class 1A Extra Large Division.

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New Office Location in Ponte Vedra Beach

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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

Public hearing on Palm Valley project set

A hearing has been scheduled with the Palm Valley/Ponte Vedra Architectural Review Committee for Feb. 22 regarding a proposed development called "Downtown Palm Valley." Design approval for this mixed-use commercial development located on North Roscoe Boulevard at the intersection with Canal Boulevard has been requested.

In a separate motion, the applicants are requesting a non-zoning variance to allow for a 30-foot setback in lieu of the required 50-foot setback for a building fronting a local or collector roadway within the Palm Valley Overlay, and to waive the requirement for a 20-foot buffer on the southern property boundary.

The owners of this proposed project held an open house at the site last year during which they described their plans and shared preliminary drawings.

The hearing will be held at 5 p.m. in the Ponte Vedra Public Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

Members of the public can review the material in the Planning and Zoning Division, located in the Permit Center, 4040 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. If you have any questions about this application, contact NBR Administration at 904-209-0579.

To view a map, go to https://www.gis.sjcfcl.us/NBR_Viewer/?NZVAR_2022000006. Note: The zoom in (+) and zoom out (-) symbols are located in upper left hand corner of the map.

Mega Open House Weekend is Feb. 11-12

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty will host its Mega Open House Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 11-12.

The Mega Open House Weekend features open house viewings of the company's listings of available homes. The listings encompass homes in a wide range of prices, styles and neighborhoods in Northeast Florida. In addition to the in-person open houses, the Mega Open House event features virtual open houses on social media to ensure maximum reach and engagement.

Go to OpenHouseNEFlorida.com for a list of open houses. Go to the company's Facebook page, facebook.com/FloridaNetworkRealty, and Instagram, instagram.com/FloridaNetworkRealty, to view the homes virtually during the event.

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, go to FloridaNetworkRealty.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.

Ribault Garden Club plans big sale

Ribault Garden Club in Jacksonville Beach will hold its Trash to Treasure FUNdraiser from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 18 at 705 Second Ave. North, Jacksonville Beach. It's open to the public and admission is free.

There will be a wine-and-appetizer preview party, 5-7 p.m. Feb. 17. Donation per person is \$10.

Items for sale include a crafters delight, furniture, home goods, kitchenware, jewelry, fishing gear, golf clubs, books, games, toys and a variety of plants, planters and vases. In addition, Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions.

Learn about Canine Companions

Ribault Garden Club in Jacksonville Beach invites the public to a program featuring Canine Companions, whose service dogs help provide independence, freedom and dignity to those facing challenges due to disability.

Canine Companions has a program where puppies are in training for approximately 18 months. After that, the puppies enter professional training at a regional training center for six to nine months. The canines learn about 40 different commands.

Attendees can learn about becoming a volunteer and raising a puppy.

The program will be held 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 23 at 705 Second Ave. North, Jacksonville Beach.

Admission to the event is free. There will be refreshments, door prizes and a raffle. For further information, call 904-246-4641.

Job hunters workshop planned

A free in-person workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 23 for savvy job hunters. It will be held at Christ Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, in Room 106 of the Formation + Arts Building.

"Must-Have Interviewing Tips and Mock Interview" will be presented by Buddy Webster, partner, LEADERS Professional Recruiting Inc.

During this interactive workshop, Webster will conduct a mock interview and provide important feedback and essential must-have interview skills to get hired.

Email Pam Ottesen at pottesen66@gmail.com to register. You will receive a confirmation email upon reserving your seat.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

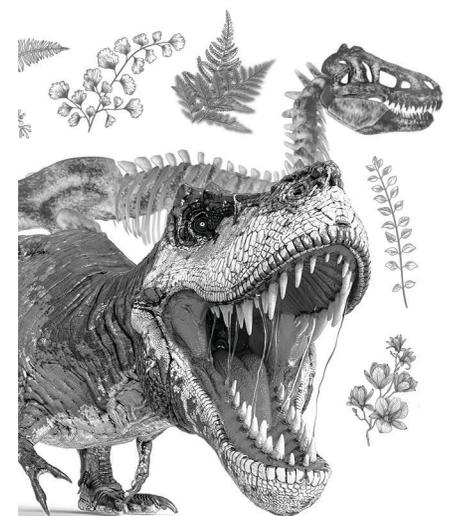
PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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'Day Without Violence' calendar contest underway

Betty Griffin Center is accepting submissions from St. Johns County Students for the 2024 "A Day Without Violence" Art and Poetry Contest.

The project is open to all St. Johns County students in kindergarten through 12th grade, whether they attend public school, private school or are home-schooled. All entries are due by April 30.

Prizes are awarded to the winners, who are selected by a group of independent artists: first place is \$50; second place is \$25; 11 honorable mentions will be presented \$10 each.

All 13 winning artists and 12 poets will have their work reproduced in the Betty Griffin Center "A Day Without Violence 2023

Calendar." The agency prints more than 3,000 calendars for distribution throughout the county. Hartley Print is the print sponsor for the 2023 calendar.

"With the support of St. Johns County school teachers, we receive around 1,000 art and poetry entries from students each year during the contest," said Betty Griffin Center CEO Kelly Franklin.

Winners will receive special recognition during a St. Johns County School Board meeting and have their artwork displayed at a local art gallery this October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Student artists and poets can drop off their submissions at the following locations:

- Betty Griffin Center Thrift Shoppe, 445 S.R. 13 North, St. Johns (corner of Race Track Road and S.R. 13) or 1961 A1A South, St. Augustine
- Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
- Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd., Fruit Cove
- Hastings Branch Library, 6195 S. Main St., Hastings
- Main Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine
- Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine
- Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main St., St. Augustine Beach, Florida

To be eligible, artwork must be in color and able to be reproduced at 8-by-10 inches and suitable for framing (horizontal format only). All original 2D media is acceptable. The theme "A Day Without Violence" must be reflected in the art or words.

An entry form must accompany each piece of art, which can be downloaded from the Betty Griffin Center website at bettygriffincenter.org/day-without-violence-calendar-contest.

Any businesses or other donors interested in sponsoring the printing of the calendar should contact event coordinator Carole Sullivan at 904-808-8544, extension 201, or email caroles@bettygriffincenter.org.



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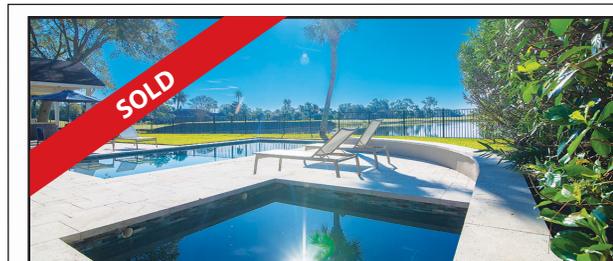


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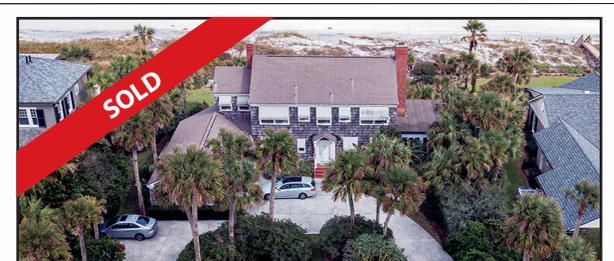
3 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 1 Half Bathroom \$1,800,000



Marsh Landing Country Club

Elegantly appointed 1-story ranch home with water to preserve views. Sought-after Marsh Landing Country Club. Fully equipped with open floorplan, the flow of the home is comfortable and easy. Spacious screened porch off of formal living room provides nice space for casual entertaining and perfect spot to watch the wildlife in the backyard lagoon sanctuary.

5 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms \$1,500,000



Oceanfront Home on Ponte Vedra Blvd.

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



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!!

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Why moving public notices to government websites is a bad idea

By Jim Fogler

Last year, the Legislature passed a public notice bill (HB 7049) that went into effect Jan. 1. The new law gives counties the option to place public notices solely on their own government website and dispense with any such notice in the traditional format — newspapers and newspaper websites.

The reasons given for county websites vary — saving the government money, newspapers are dying, it's a newspaper subsidy, no one reads public notices, etc. But a closer look reveals another side to the story, one that casts doubt and reveals the downsides of such a plan.

In fact, government website-only notice will push government actions further into the shadows and make it harder for Floridians to monitor their local government and hold their leaders accountable.

Public notices cover a host of government activities, ranging from local millage rates and zoning changes to delin-



Jim Fogler

quent taxes and school board decisions. They can herald an important hearing by elected officials on matters crucial to everyday lives. The notices are, in fact, a form of basic constitutional due process protecting the rights of citizens and their

property in a functioning democracy.

Under the traditional process, the notices are not just placed in the printed newspaper. They are also required by law to be posted visibly on the newspaper's website. In addition, the notices are required to be uploaded to a searchable FPA website that aggregates all Florida government notices at floridapublicnotices.com.

If a citizen wants follow-up notices to those posted to the site (or the newspaper's site), he or she can request email alerts of the new notices. These services — required by law — are free to the public; there is no paywall. What's more, the aggregated site continues to be modernized and upgraded to serve Florida's state government, as well as its towns, municipalities, businesses and taxpayers.

If this traditional process is discarded and notices move to the county website, they no longer will be posted in newspapers or on the statewide website. The result will be a county-by-county patchwork of notices around the states

— making public notices less visible and accessible to the public.

What about the claim that newspapers are dying? While print circulation in daily papers has declined, weekly newspapers are growing, and our dailies are seeing increases in digital subscriptions and page views. In some cases, newspapers are experiencing double-digit online growth.

Newspapers in Florida alone reach 5.6 million readers in any given week, and our newspaper websites typically reach more audience than most city or county websites and draw a minimum of 53 million unique online users in any given month. The claim of newspaper irrelevancy is simply not true. They are more relevant than ever.

So, what about cost savings the government websites will produce? In the counties considering this change, no specific savings have been outlined. If county websites replace newspapers, the local governments will be required to recreate the same infrastructure newspapers have already have — increasing the cost of government.

In addition, without an investment in marketing to direct citizens to hundreds of government websites, the public will not know where to find public notices. Also, on the expense front, county government public notice websites will also be required to provide citizens, if requested, a copy of notices via email or first-class mail — another new cost.

As for the charge that the notices are a newspaper subsidy, it's true newspapers derive some revenue from them but calling it a subsidy ignores the fact that newspapers perform a service just as other county vendors do.

This issue is not only about the money. It's about an independent publisher helping to ensure government transparency and honesty.

Public notices belong in a public forum — newspapers — where citizens are most likely to see them. Public notices should remain in newspapers, not placed on hundreds of different government websites with the hope that people will find them.

Call your county and city officials to share your views. Tell them the other side of the story — and directly from citizens who care.

Jim Fogler is the president and CEO of Florida Press Association representing the daily and weekly newspapers of Florida. 336 E. College Ave. Suite 304, Tallahassee, FL 32301 P: 321-283-5255 ext. 140 E: jfogler@flpress.com

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ETHICAL & ECO-FRIENDLY IS THE NEW SEXY

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

Dianthus

"Love is like a flower — you've got to let it grow." — John Lennon

By Kathy Esfahani



Kathy Esfahani

Symbolizing admiration, happiness and love, the dianthus flower is blooming now, just in time for Valentine's Day! These fragrant plants make beautiful gifts on their own or

combined with other flowers in colorful bouquets. They are wonderful as splashes of color in a planter or garden but also as a bright border to outline a landscape bed.

Dianthus flowers are available in pinks, purples, reds and whites and have delicate blooms featuring five petals with fringed edges. These blooms can be a single color or multicolor. The blue-green leaves of dianthus are long and thin, almost like blades of grass. Dianthus grows in clumps and varies from small groundcover plants

to stems 30 inches tall.

Although dianthus can tolerate partial shade, it is best to plant them in areas of full sun (at least six hours per day). Prepare for planting by digging a hole twice the size of the plant's root ball. Space the plants at least six inches apart and use only a thin layer of mulch if any at all. It is important for the stems to have ample room for air circulation.

Dianthus prefers well-drained soil, even bordering on slightly dry. Wait for the soil to feel dry to the touch before watering. Yellow leaves may be a sign of too much water.

Remove old blooms and leaves to encourage growth throughout the season. Dianthus blooms bring birds, bees and other pollinators to the garden. Also, enjoy watching the hummingbirds and butterflies that dianthus may attract!

The leaves and stems of dianthus plants should not be ingested and can be mildly irritating to human skin. Be sure to wear gloves when working with these plants and wash irritated skin with soap and



Dianthus blooms

water. Dianthus can be toxic to animals if eaten, possibly causing nausea, vomiting or other digestive issues. Look for areas safe from roaming animals and children when planting dianthus.

However, when grown organically, the blooms of dianthus plants have both medicinal and culinary uses. They can be used as herbal diuretics or applied to the skin to treat infections or swelling. Dianthus blooms are edible for humans and often used as culinary garnishes. In ancient Rome, dianthus flowers were used to flavor oils and wine. Their spicy fragrance and taste can add interest

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

Flower of the Week



Dianthus

to salads, cake decorations or syrups. Whether decorating a romantic plate or starring in a beautiful bouquet, dianthus flowers are perfect for celebrating love! Happy Valentine's Day!

Flower of the Week: Dianthus

Please email Kathy at kcg.pvr@gmail.com for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future. For more information & ideas, visit Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. The phone number is 904-655-7373.

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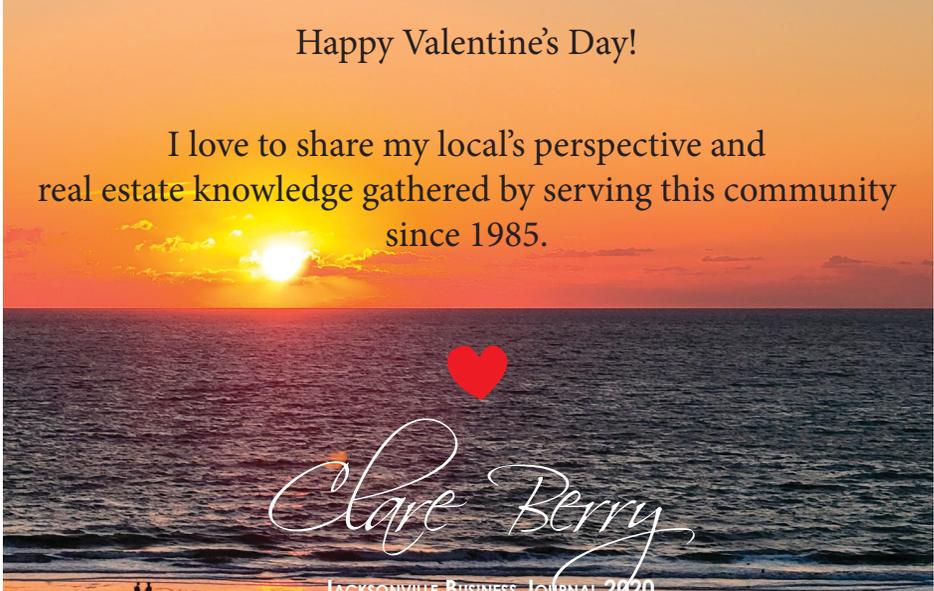


Grooming shouldn't be an all day event! Your pup will be groomed in a stress free environment. Here at Pawgrass Dog Spa, we provide private spa rooms for your dog to feel comfortable during their spa session — you'll be able to pick them up as soon as we are finished! Private rooms by appointment only. We also carry all natural dog treats, toys, leashes, collars, brushes, shampoos and much more!

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Happy Valentine's Day!

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Clare Berry

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Dr. Tim Conway is president of The Morris Center clinics and a UF professor with an extensive background in research into, and evidence-based treatment of, neurodevelopmental disorders. Families struggling with these disorders travel here from all over the country — and even the world — to access his clinics. He's also the founder of an online instruction service called "NOW!" which reaches an even wider clientele.

Tim Conway

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me about The Morris Center.

The Morris Center is three companies in one building. It's a neurodevelopmental disorders assessment treatment clinic, which means language problems, learning disabilities, Down syndrome, intellectual challenges, autism. The team is specially designed to do assessments of that and also to do customized, individualized research in what we call evidence-based treatments.

Also, there is the Morris Center Academy, a private school. Follows all the state standards of curriculum, but it pushes in two of our proprietary programs. One changes reading and spelling skills. That's the one we've done about a million-plus dollars of NIH-funded research to make sure that program is highly effective. It's the only literacy program for dyslexia and reading problems. It's been tested well in the United States.

The other programs are research-based programs. That means you don't have those big studies on it yet, but it comes with a lot of theoretical background, which is how to change listening comprehension, reading comprehension and verbal expression.

Those are actually integrated into the school's classrooms. The teacher's able to reinforce it, do small group instruction, and it's all built in as the part of the actual school classroom day.

Now, some kids who have learning disabilities also need other services. So, they might have fine motor skill trouble, gross motor skill trouble, trouble learning to ride their bike, trouble learning to tie their shoes, trouble with their pencil grip — so, occupational therapy. There's a specialist in that service. If they're here in the classroom, the family has the option to have them actually get OT during the school day without going someplace else.

And then the third thing is an afterschool tutoring program.

The latest NAEP [National Assessment of Educational Progress] data is that 25% of Florida's third-graders are proficient readers, which means accurate reading skills, fluent reading skills and comprehension all at grade level.

That's why we built the afterschool tutoring program. We have the evidence-based programs that have been tested and proven to be highly effective. ... You're going to get five sessions a week. And in about 10 months, those kids will be completely done with the program and will need no more additional reading instruction.

In what way is your company's approach unique?

Two things. One, it's evidence-based. Two, it's got a transdisciplinary team. ...

We have educators and they're all cross-trained. The "trans" means "across." So, it's a transdisciplinary team because speech cross-trains with OT [occupational therapy]. And OT cross-trains with speech. And speech and OT cross-train with neuropsychology. And that's how we then have a team where everyone's coordinated in what they're doing.

What is your background?

My background is a Ph.D in neuropsychology, but I'm trained in three areas. I'm trained in neurodevelopmental



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Dr. Tim Conway is seen at his desk with his resource booklet for "NOW! Foundations for Speech, Language, Reading and Spelling."

disorders. Those are the ones that are genetic. I'm trained in neurorehabilitation. Those are the brain-injury-related issues. But I'm also trained in neuroimaging.

... I started working with a medical clinic in 1986 called San Luis Obispo Medical Clinic. Later on, that medical clinic was renamed and rebranded as a different company called Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes. The woman and the husband who founded that company built this medical clinic in the early '80s and then changed the name.

This was my aunt and uncle. So, lucky for me, I had an aunt and uncle who were world famous in their work on dyslexia. But it's not only lucky. It's life-saving for me. Because I'm dyslexic.

But you would never know it. Because I can speak very fluently, I can write, I can publish, I can read easily, but I was in their intervention program at age 5.

... Essentially, my work is an extension of what the Lindamoods had started back in the '60s. We just built a much more advanced program.

Some of your clients come from far away. For families living right here and dealing with these issues, this clinic must be a great benefit.

For the Ponte Vedra, Beaches, Jacksonville area, to have a clinic like this with this many resources, whether it's the private school, or afterschool tutoring or the medical team, is really just unparalleled.

My clinic in Ocala has had families from India, families from Singapore, families from Latin America, from the Caribbean, from the U.K. Pretty much all over the world. So, for Ponte Vedra to have this in their backyard, that's just one in a million.

There are only five clinics like this in the nation, and I own or run four of the five.

What do you like best about what you do?

The best part of my day is we get to see children empowered. And an empowered child empowers a family.

When you see a kid who doesn't struggle anymore, you relieve the stress for Mom and Dad. They have better hopes for this kid. You decrease frustration in the family because Junior's not struggling so much at school. Or, you know, Sally doesn't have so much angst and frustration and tears and temper tantrums about doing homework.

It just improves the quality of life for the whole family.

You have worked to make services more affordable for families.

The typical family pays about \$10,000 a year for tutoring every year the child's in school. Some of the tutors in this area charge \$100 to \$145 an hour for instruction. I can give it to you for \$40.

Some of the tutors who are charging \$100 to \$145 for instruction are using programs that aren't tested and proven effective, so you're going to see that tutor pretty much for three to five years.

We're going to be done in less than about 10 months.

We've designed it purposefully to make sure we cover all price points, and that way we can help the widest range of children.

What do you like best about living in this community?

I love being close to the river and the beach. I love the weather here. I love the people here.

Pet adoption fees waived for ‘Mutts and Putts’

Photos courtesy of THE PLAYERS Championship

The Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) and THE PLAYERS Championship have teamed up to waive adoption fees for all pets during “Mutts and Putts” this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 11-12. The adoption event will take place at the Jacksonville Humane Society.

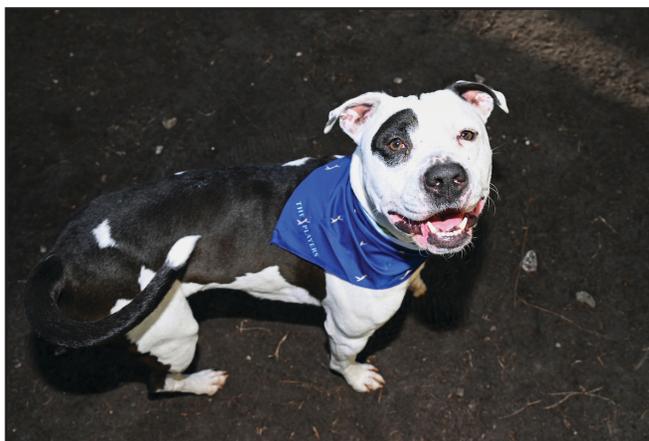
JHS will have more than 100 pets, including dogs and cats, available for adoption. All dogs will go home with a bonus bandana from THE PLAYERS and a package of treats from Barkin’ Biscuits of Berry Good Farms.

This pet adoption event will take place at the JHS Adoption, Education and Pet Help Center located at 8464 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. JHS will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

“We are so thrilled that we are able to do this for our four-legged friends here in Northeast Florida,” said Emily Bellock, community outreach director, THE PLAYERS. “Thank you to the Jacksonville Humane Society for including us in this incredible opportunity. Let’s find these dogs and cats a place to call home!”

“The Jacksonville Humane Society is excited to partner with THE PLAYERS for this special adoption event, just in time for Valentine’s Day,” said Denise Deisler, JHS CEO. “If you’ve been considering pet adoption, this is a perfect weekend.”

All pets are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped prior to adoption. Adoption fees are waived during this event; additional fees may apply. For more information, go to jaxhumane.org or call 904-725-8766.



One of the canines awaiting adoption sports his PLAYERS bandana.



Two friendly dogs await adoption at the Jacksonville Humane Society.



One of the dogs awaiting adoption smiles for the camera.



A canine at the Jacksonville Humane Society is hoping someone will open up their home during an adoption event this weekend.

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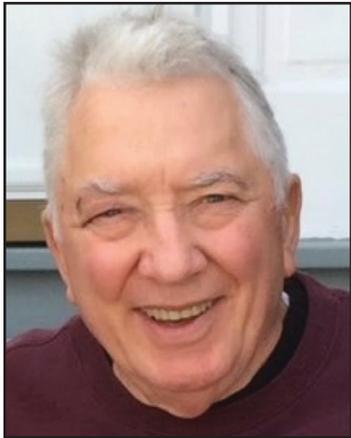
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OBITUARIES



William R. Hessemer

William (Bill) Hessemer, 83, of Nocatee, Ponte Vedra, FL, formerly of Fords, NJ, and Brooklyn, NY, passed away on January 29, 2023 from multiple myeloma, a rare form of cancer.

Bill is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carole, and his children: William Hessemer II and his wife Ann Marie of Hunterdon County, NJ; Janene Cummings of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL; Dr. Carole A. Hessemer and her husband Laurence Bernas of Columbus, OH; and Susan Dalina and her husband Stephen of Monroe Township, NJ. He is also survived by his sister Regina Craven of Garden City, NY and his 7 grandchildren: Bryan Cummings and his wife Thamy of Easton, PA; Ashley Hessemer of Phillipsburg, NJ; William Hessemer III and his wife Bryanna of Spotswood, NJ; Jordan Bernas of Columbus, OH; Trevor Bernas of Los Angeles, CA; Stephen Dalina IV of Monroe Township, NJ; and Jayson Dalina of Monroe Township, NJ. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased

by two sisters: Marie Tarr and Anne Bacula. Bill also had many adored nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Bill was born and raised in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn. His family operated a commercial fishing boat, the Elsie K., which led Bill to a lifelong love of fishing and boating. Bill and his wife moved to Fords, NJ, in 1972 to raise their family. He was active in the Boy Scouts and served as assistant director and a volunteer firearms safety instructor for the Woodbridge Police Junior Rifle Association, supervising the teen competition team for more than a decade. He worked as a machinist for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey at John F. Kennedy Airport and Newark International Airport until his retirement in 1995. Bill was a devoted parishioner of Our Lady of Peace Church in Fords, NJ, and achieved the rank of fourth degree knight with the Knights of Columbus. Bill continued his proud membership in the Knights of Columbus at St. John Paul II Catholic Church in Nocatee, Ponte Vedra, FL.

Memorial masses will be held in both Florida and New Jersey. The Florida mass will take place on Friday, February 10, 2023 at 10 a.m. at St. John Paul II Catholic Church in Nocatee, Ponte Vedra. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that memorial donations be made to The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, P.O. Box 414238, Boston, MA 02241-4238 or online at give.themmr.org/williamhessemer.



Mary Virginia (Ginny) DeCaindry Matson

Mary Virginia (Ginny) DeCaindry Matson passed away, Tuesday, January 24, 2023. She was born in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania in 1938. Ginny grew up in Swarthmore, and lived 16 years in Fredericksburg, VA before retiring to Panama City, Florida in 1993.

Ginny received her BS in Physical Therapy from The Ohio State University in 1959 the same year she was married to her husband, Raymond Eugene Matson. She was a proud military wife and traveled to many military bases across the United States over the 24 years of Ray's active duty.

Ginny was a very social and active minded person. She loved entertaining, music, the arts, choral singing, traveling and playing bridge. An avid reader and lifelong learner, she became a school librarian and paralegal and often took classes at the local college to study art history and Shakespeare. She volunteered at many hospitals

and civic organizations including most recently The Science and Discovery Center of Northwest Florida and the Bay Arts Alliance. She was a talented pianist and craftsperson who enjoyed knitting, quilting and sewing.

Fond remembrances from her family include her excellent cooking and culinary explorations, which embraced the best of cuisines from around the world, especially French and Asian. Ginny enjoyed sharing recipes and her culinary expertise with her children and grandchildren.

Ginny is survived by husband of 64 years, Ray; son, Alex (Stacey), and daughter, Susan Relihan (Bud); grandchildren: Zoe Matson, David (Alice), Augie and Andrew Relihan. Ginny was a loving wife, mother, and devoted grandmother.

A Memorial Service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church at 10 a.m., Monday, March 13, 2023, at the small chapel with a reception to follow. The burial will be held at Jacksonville National Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Ginny Matson to the Science and Discovery Center of Northwest Florida, 308 Airport Road, Panama City, FL 32405.

Please visit her Tribute online at www.quinn-shalz.com.

Arrangements by



DEATH NOTICES

Suzanne Siegal Harbison

Suzanne Siegal Harbison, 96, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Jan. 31, 2023. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Becky Su Jager

Becky Su Jager, 71, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died Feb. 4, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Patricia Ann Murphy

Patricia Ann Murphy, 87, of St. Augustine, Florida, died Jan. 24, 2023. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Catherine L. Sciotto

Catherine L. Sciotto, 65, of Palm Valley, Florida, died Jan. 27, 2023. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com



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Dreicer begins role as president for Baptist Beaches

By Shaun Ryan

On Jan. 10, Jarret Dreicer, FACHE, MHA, took over as the new president of Baptist Medical Center Beaches following the retirement of former president Joe Mitrick.

Dreicer, who earned his master's degree in health care administration from the University of North Florida, joined Baptist Health in 2005 as a research analyst. In 2013, he was named system-wide director of operational performance improvement. He also served on the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center leadership team for program implementation.

Most recently, he served as vice president of operations at Baptist Beaches.

As president, Dreicer — a self-professed “people person” — will oversee direct operations at the hospital.

“I’m extremely excited about the role, mostly because we just have an absolutely incredible team at Baptist Medical Center Beaches,” he said. “Eight hundred spectacular team members who really help us create an exceptional patient experience and world-class quality outcomes.”

He added that the hospital has more than 250 medical staff members.

In addition, he will continue his active involvement in the community.

He sits on the board of the Jacksonville Beach Chamber of Commerce, DLC Nurse & Learn and Jacksonville Country Day School and works with Rotary clubs from Ponte Vedra, Atlantic Beach and Jacksonville Beach.

He has served as the chair for Beaches Habitat for Humanity and the Baptist Health United Way campaign.

That community connection is important, and it is part of what makes Baptist Beaches so effective.

“We’re governed by a local board of directors,” Dreicer said. “I report in to the board chair. The reason



Jarret Dreicer

that’s significant is decisions about Baptist Beaches are made locally by people who know and understand our community rather than by executives who are miles away in another state.”

Baptist Medical Center Beaches has earned recognition from several sources. It was named a World’s Best Hospital by Newsweek, received a 5-star rating from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services, received the Pinnacle of Excellence award for patient satisfaction from Press Ganey and earned an A rating in patient

safety from the Leapfrog Group for nine consecutive years.

“We’ve accomplished so much in terms of helping Beaches residents live healthier lives, and we are going to add to those services with innovation over time,” Dreicer said.

One of the big innovations the hospital plans to make over the next 18 months is the creation of an outpatient cardiology center at a stand-alone building on the campus.

“It’s going to be a Center of Excellence for all cardiac services, which will include our Baptist heart specialist physicians, all of our diagnostic testing, our cardiac rehab, wound care and research,” Dreicer said. One advantage of such a facility is that cardiologists will be working in close proximity with the hospital’s cardiac staff, augmenting communication.

“I’m really excited about it,” Dreicer said.

Technology will continue to play an important role in health services, as well. In fact, Baptist recently launched an app that streamlines patient care because it puts each person’s health care information into one record, accessible by primary care doctors and the hospital, thereby keeping everyone in the loop. The app allows patients to track their care, see test results and physicians’ notes and even pay their bills.

Such innovation earns praise from the new president; however, Dreicer saves his greatest accolades for his team.

“I think I’m most proud of building an incredible leadership team of talented individuals that care about the mission at Baptist Health,” he said. “They wake up every day and they’re motivated to exceed the health system’s goals. And, as clichéd as that may sound, I’m a team builder. I believe it’s the talent around you that makes you successful and makes the hospital successful.”

TrailMark 5K is Feb. 11

The 6th annual Conquer the Trails 5K will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at TrailMark, 805 TrailMark Drive, St. Augustine. The event is open to the public, and the road race takes place in the natural settings of the TrailMark community.

The race is professionally chip timed by Florida Race Day 5K. All participants get a race shirt (while supplies and sizes last — first come, first served.)

All finishers get a 5K finisher’s medal.



Awards will be given out to fastest male and female runners in the following categories: Top male and female overall, ages 14 and under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70 and older.

The event’s charity partner is Fur Sisters – Furever Urs Rescue, a non-profit organization that saves dogs from overcrowded shelters and other urgent situations. The volunteer-run, foster-based rescue provides veterinary care and anything needed to care for the dog until adopted.

Fur Sisters has found homes for more than 1,000 dogs since the rescue was founded in 2016.

Entry fees for the race are \$30 for the first 50 to register, \$35 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and younger.

Go to runsignup.com/Race/FL/SaintAugustine/ConquertheTrails5kRace to register for the 5K.

TrailMark is located five miles west of the I-95/International Golf Parkway exit 323 on Pacetti Road.

To learn more about TrailMark, go to TrailMarkLiving.com or follow TrailMark on Facebook.

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Black History Month events announced

The storied past of Black American history is well documented and celebrated throughout the year in St. Augustine. Black History Month offers an opportunity to better share stories about black culture from the 16th century through the civil rights era and today.

Best known for its Spanish and British history, the Nation's Oldest City was significantly impacted by African-American culture, as well. From its beginnings during the Spanish age of exploration to the American civil rights era, African-Americans have played key roles in the story of St. Augustine.

Africans were among the first to explore Florida upon its discovery. In the 1500s, they joined Ponce de Leon and Pedro Menendez as soldiers in the service of Spain.

Then, African-Americans established the first legally sanctioned free Black settlement in what would become the United States in 1738. Escaped British slaves found freedom in St. Augustine by converting to Catholicism and joining the

Spanish in defending their territory. Their home was chartered as the settlement of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, or Fort Mose for short, where free men and their families formed a militia and the northern defense post for the Nation's Oldest City.

The summer of 1964 in St. Augustine was hot — as is every summer. But in this year, for the first time in the long history of the Nation's Oldest City, the June weather was not the main topic of conversation. Instead, it was the daily struggle for (and against) civil rights taking place in the city's streets that captured the attention of millions of people worldwide.

Starting with local protests against racial segregation, the marches and rallies soon attracted America's most well-known civil rights leaders and organizers.

Black History Month is a time to recognize the pages from St. Augustine's Black history. There are dozens of important historic sites that can be visited every day throughout the year, and in February

there are a several events, exhibitions and programs that help tell these stories.

"I Lived Here as Well – Together":

Now through Feb. 25. This experience at Ximenez-Fatio House Museum tells the story of urban slavery from the male and female perspectives of living and serving in the Ximenez-Fatio House during the 19th century. It will be offered at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings. The tour is open to the public, led by costumed historical actors and lasts approximately 60 minutes. Admission is \$22 per person and must be purchased in advance. Where: 20 Aviles St., St. Augustine. For further information: 904-829-3575 www.ximenezfatiohouse.org/ILHAW

The Woman Behind Frederick Douglass: Anna Murray Douglass:

February 9-14. The Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center and the Woman's Exchange of St. Augustine will host and celebrate Anna Murray Douglass, wife of Fredrick Douglass, during a week of interactive, educational, social and fun activities at the Cultural Center and at the historic Peña-Peck House. The week will culminate with a celebration of Fredrick Douglass' birthday on the 14th and a

commemoration of St. Augustine's many great thinkers and historic moments that helped shape history as we know it.

Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series:

Feb. 10-19: Over the course of two weekends, Fort Mose Historic State Park will host its second annual Jazz and Blues Series. This year's edition features some of America's most well-known and accomplished performers, including the legendary Mavis Staples and Gladys Knight. The series consists of six unforgettable performances at the heart of Black History Month. Additional performers include Christian McBride's New Jawn, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, Rhiannon Giddens and Valerie June. For further information: discoverfortmose.com

Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King Jr.:

Feb. 25. The Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center presents the San Marco Chamber Music Society in a production of the children's book "Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr." by Doreen Rappaport with an original score by composer Kevin Day. A quartet will perform the Day composition and other arrangements during a multi-media presentation.

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CASTOR GATEHOUSE BECOMES FIRST NAMED BUILDING AT VICAR'S LANDING AT OAK BRIDGE PAGE 12

COA'S SHELTER AND SHADE PROJECT EYES SPRING START DATE PAGE 13

VIRTUAL TOUR, UNF STUDY JUST THE LATEST IN FIGHT AGAINST DEMENTIA PAGE 14

COA IS AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE FOR SENIOR POPULATION PAGE 15

BEACHES COA PARTNERS WITH ARTHUR MURRAY TO HOST DANCE FUNDRAISER PAGE 16

PUTTING SKILLS ON DISPLAY AT STARLING AT NOCATEE PAGE 17

LEGENDS TO PERFORM AT LOCAL VENUES PAGE 18

LIVING THE 'DREAM' BY RELIEVING PEOPLE'S PAIN PAGE 20

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023



Photos by Anthony Richards

The Castor gatehouse was the first building to be named on the Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge property.

Castor gatehouse becomes first named building at Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge

By Anthony Richards

The first thing every person that enters Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge sees is the facility's entrance gatehouse, and now moving forward it will be called the Castor gate house thanks to a generous donation by Debbie and Tony

Castor to the Vicars Landing Foundation recently.

According to Bruce Vorsanger, Vicar's Landing chief development officer, the Vicar's Landing Foundation is in place to enhance the lives of members through a variety of services offered.

The name only seemed fitting since

the gatehouse was finished and has been operational.

New residents are joining the Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge community and the gate is the first sight they see when they enter the property.

For the Castors they will be frequenters through the gate, as they have plans to one day move in and become residents at Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge.

"It really is a beautiful facility," Debbie Castor said.

The gatehouse became the first building to be named after someone on the Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge property, which makes it even more of a special moment for the Castors.

"We believe in what they're doing here, and felt that it is something that we eventually want to be a part of," Tony Castor said. "Where else better to put your money toward than an organization that you know is going to do something good with it."

According to Tony Castor, seeing their last name for the first time after the plaque on the side of the gatehouse was unveiled was a crazy feeling.

"We initially heard about all that they're doing here from Bruce, because he's been a good friend for quite a while," Tony Castor said. "Once he started telling us all that's going on here, it didn't take us long to start getting pretty enthusiastic."

When the Castors first heard about the little ceremony that was planned as part of the gatehouse name unveiling it was something that was sort of a surprise



Debbie and Tony Castor unveiled a plaque with their name on it during a recent naming ceremony of the Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge gatehouse.

and they were humbled by the entire experience.

"We really are very low-key people," Debbie Castor chuckled.

The Castors have lived in the area for many years, as Debbie Castor had been a frequent visitor to the area since her dad retired in 1975 in Atlantic Beach and the couple bought their house and moved to the area in 2013.

"We've really seen Ponte Vedra grow over those years," Tony Castor said. "We live in Sawgrass now and just really enjoy playing golf and this is the mecca when it comes to golf."

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COA's shelter and shade project eyes spring start date



A rendered view of what the completed shelter and shade project will look like from the north on Marine Street.

By Anthony Richards

The St. Johns County Council on Aging has been working on its “shelter and shade” project, which revolves around improvements to the senior center and adult day care at 180 Marine St. in St. Augustine, for quite some time now.

However, the project is getting close to finally getting underway as the process of gathering permits for it is taking place.

According to St. Johns County COA Executive Director Becky Yanni, the project is expected to get started this spring and although a timeline of completion is still not ironed out, she does not expect it to be too long before people will be able to take advantage of the updates.

“Everything is exterior, so only a little bit of electrical work will have to be done with

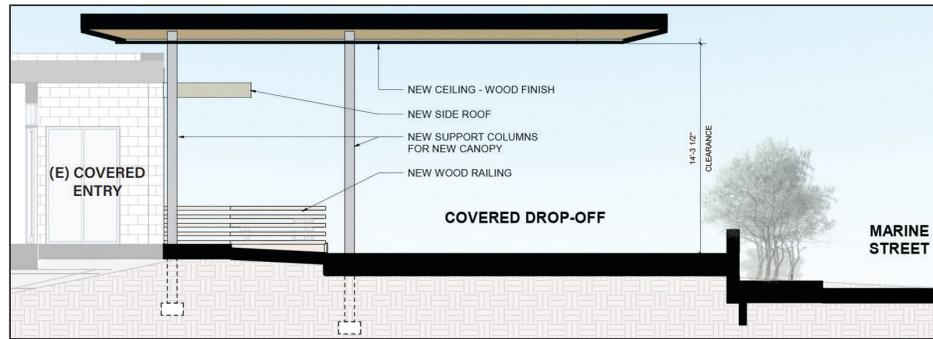
a few ceiling fans and lighting that may slow it down some,” Yanni said. “Everyone can’t wait to get the bulldozers moving dirt around.”

The focus of the project is to create a covered bus portico where seniors currently get dropped off at the front entrance of the center, which will help eliminate seniors getting dropped off having to deal with rain and the ever-changing Florida weather.

Along with the covered shelter, the drop-off area roadway will also be elevated so that anyone exiting the bus will not have to use a ramp to get to the entrance of the center.

“It’s all about providing the best accessibility possible for all those who use our shelter,” Yanni said.

The project is not expected to interfere



A plan of what the new canopy at the front entrance of the center will entail as part of the shelter and shade project.

Photos courtesy of St. Johns County Council on Aging

with the day-to-day operations of the center while the construction is going on.

“We’re fortunate to have another back entrance with a handicap ramp so the operations will not be disrupted and people can continue to use the center as they usually would,” Yanni said.

The Coastal Community Center and the Sunshine Center, which serves as the adult daycare portion of the facility are all one building, and another aspect of the project will be covering and screening in a wooden deck currently attached to the Sunshine Center.

The goal of covering it and installing fans is to provide a place for those at the Sunshine Center to relax and be out in the fresh air year-round regardless of the elements. Installing heaters is also something

that has been discussed.

The proposed building updates will not stop there, as painting and adding landscape around the building is also something that will be done as part of the finishing touches of the project.

A marsh surrounds the center’s property, so a nature trail will be created that will allow for that natural beauty to be fully enjoyed by those at the center.

According to Yanni, extending the sidewalks and having a retaining wall along Marine Street leading up to the center is something that has also been talked about so that the community can have easier access to the center.

“We want the campus to be more accessible for everyone, but also a sense of pride for the entire community,” Yanni said.

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Virtual tour, UNF study just the latest in fight against dementia

By Anthony Richards

Our memories are how we cherish the lives we've had and as you get older you have even more precious memories from the years lived.

However, Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are diseases that attack long-term memory and can keep a person and their families from being able to reminisce and share those memories together.

As a result, research is continuing to take place with the hopes of combatting those terrible diseases.

A virtual dementia tour will be held at the St. Johns County Council on Aging Center at Flagler Health+ Village in No- catee Feb. 28 from 10 am. to noon.

The tour is designed to help those living with someone with dementia have a more informed approach of how to best care for them.

Simulated training for families, staff and friends will be offered during the two-hour tour, which is being put on with the hopes that the sensory training will give those who take the class a stronger understanding of the realities associated with dementia and a better idea of what those dealing with it are going through.

For more information or to attend the virtual tour, RSVP by sending an email to pbrunell@stjohnscoa.com or by calling 904-819-3234.

Another example of the ongoing research being done is that the University of North Florida is one of five universities conducting a cognitive training study. The other four universities include Florida, South Florida, Duke and Clemson.

Currently they are looking for volunteers to take part in the PACT study, which is being done in hopes of finding out if there is a correlation of computerized training exercises and the reduced risk of Alzheimer's disease.

In order to qualify for the study, volun-



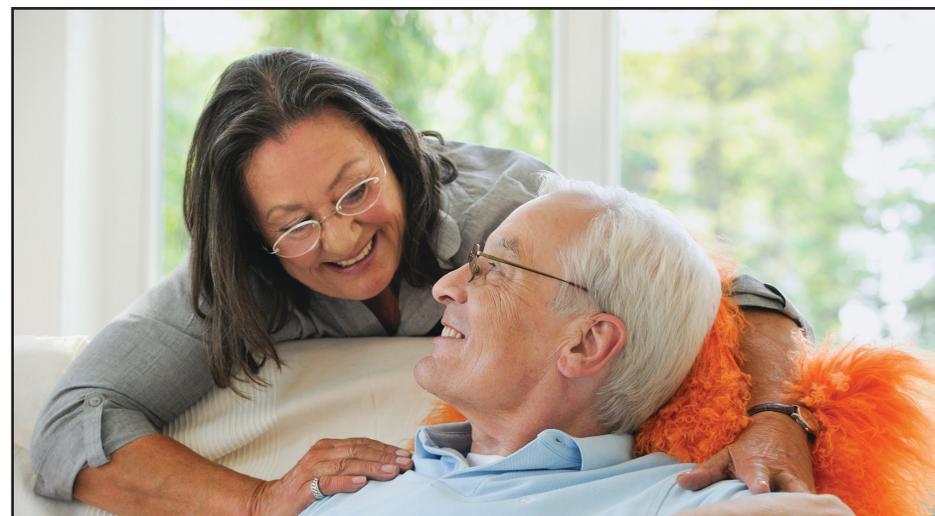
teers must be 65 years of age or older, do not have any neurological disorders, have not had a stroke or other brain-related injury, and do not already have mild cognitive impairment or form of existing dementia.

The study is trying to prove previous research that states that playing computerized brain games can help protect against dementia such as Alzheimer's, enhance mental quickness and visual attention, improve gait speed and balance, improve driving safety, maintain a person's health and allow them to perform everyday tasks quicker and protect against depression.

If a person qualifies to be part of the study, it will entail three study visits of up to two hours each for about a three-year span. Forty-five one-hour computer training sessions on their own and from their own home will also be required.

The study must take three years to complete because it is all about finding a possible correlation with the training, but that discovery cannot be made without seeing the possible progression from year to year.

Anyone interested in being in the study can call 904-620-4263 to see if they qualify.



COA is an invaluable resource for senior population

Since 1973, the central hub of information and activities for older adults, their families and caregivers in St. Johns County has been the Council on Aging.

The COA operates six senior community centers, delivers more than 300 Meals on Wheels each day, offers five integrative memory enhancement programs and an adult day care center. It provides services and companionship for elder residents through its social services department.

And it maintains a full schedule of classes, presentations and activities.

What to know

The place to start is the agency's website, coasjc.org. The main phone number is 904-209-3700. Individual centers maintain their own web pages. The centers are:

- **COA Center at Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee**, 351 Town Plaza Ave, Ste. 205, Ponte Vedra. Phone: 904-819-3234. Or go to coasjc.org/center-at-nocatee.

- **THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center**, 175 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach. Phone: 904-209-3659. Or go to coasjc.org/ponte-vedra-center.

- **Coastal Community Center**, 180 Marine St., St. Augustine. Phone: 904-209-3636. Or go to coasjc.org/coastal-community-center-2.

- **Hastings Senior Center**, 6150 S. Main St., Hastings. Phone: 904-209-3694. Or go to coasjc.org/hastings-center.

- **River House**, 179 Marine St., St. Augustine. Phone: 904-209-3655. Or go to coasjc.org/river-house.

- **Trout Creek Senior Center**, 6795 Collier Road, Orangedale. Phone: 904-209-3658. Or go to coasjc.org/trout-creek-center.

Services

- **Memory services:** This important resource can be found at coasjc.org/memory-services.

- **Meals on Wheels:** Volunteers provide nutritious meals to homebound

elders. For information, go to coasjc.org/meals-on-wheels.

- **Caregiver support:** Being a caregiver for an ailing loved one can be overwhelming. The COA offers support. Go to coasjc.org/caregiver-support.

- **Independent living services:** Many elder people prefer to stay in their own homes. Both fee-based and subsidized community programs that facilitate at-home, independent living for older adults (age 60 and older) can be found at coasjc.org/independent-living.

- **Care Connection:** Life is sometimes very complicated, and making sure all our demands are met can be challenging. This volunteer-run program is here to help. For information, go to coasjc.org/care-connection.

- **Transportation:** Need to get somewhere? COA's Transportation

Department offers a variety of mobility options, including the Sunshine Bus, Paratransit and Coastal Transportation. To learn more, go to coasjc.org/transportation.

Other services

- **Resource Center:** Looking for a food bank? Want to get a library card? How about free medical and dental services for those with low financial means? This is a good place to find out what's available. Go to coasjc.org/community-resource-center.

- **COA Travel Club:** Do you like travel? Seeing new things? This partnership with Bartimus Travel Group offers opportunities to get away from it all. Go to coasjc.org/coa-travel-club.

- **Support groups:** Links to several support groups can be found at coasjc.org.

coasjc.org/active-living.

Activities, classes and more

Each month, the centers announce upcoming activities, classes, presentations and more on their web pages. Ever wanted to learn to tap dance? How about painting or playing a musical instrument? Here, you'll learn about lunches being served, genealogy, card games and other diversions, bingo, exercise classes and book discussions. There is information on nutrition and health. Get advice on life's many issues. Attend a movie or a party. Learn a language.

There's always a lot happening at the COA centers.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



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Beaches COA partners with Arthur Murray to host dance fundraiser

By Anthony Richards

The Beaches Council on Aging is partnering with Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Ponte Vedra Beach to host a fundraiser March 1 beginning at 7 p.m.

The event is \$50 per person and will include group lessons followed by the opportunity to schedule one-on-one lessons with the owner Heiko Leyhausen. Champagne and snacks will be provided as part of the event.

It will be held at Arthur Murray Dance Studio, which is located in the Mickler's Landing Shopping Center at 1108 Highway A1A, Suite 104 in Ponte Vedra Beach.

According to Beaches COA Executive Director Lori Anderson, the partnership between the COA and the dance studio first started about a year ago.

"He (Leyhausen) was very gracious to give us a silent auction item for one of our fundraisers, and he reached out wanting to do more," Anderson said.

The money raised will benefit the Beaches COA and their dial-a-ride program, which currently has three vans running and the ability to have four running daily routes.

The program is designed to help provide transportation to senior citizens who no longer have the ability to drive get to the necessary places they need to go.

It provides transport to more than just doctor offices, but will help people get anywhere they need to be, whether that is to get their haircut or the grocery

store.

"We want to be there to give people the assistance they need," Anderson said. "The greatest thing about our assistance is that we are not only helping them get to where they need to be, but we are helping give seniors the option to live in their homes longer."

The bus routes patrol from Jacksonville Beach to Mayport and south into Ponte Vedra Beach, stopping around County Road 210.

According to Anderson, THE PLAYERS Senior Center in Ponte Vedra Beach is a very popular stop.

The dial-a-ride program is also available to be used by anybody more than 18 years old with a disability that prevents them from driving.

The ride is free for all those eligible with no qualifying application required. A \$5 donation is asked for but not required to take the shuttle.

The only thing that the Beaches COA asks is that people call at least three days ahead of time to reserve a spot.

Anderson says that the Beaches COA takes pride in giving seniors the chance

to maintain their independence and stay active despite not being able to drive.

"Senior isolation has always been a problem way before COVID, but it just exasperated it," Anderson said.

The first pickup for the dial-a-ride program is made at 8 a.m. and the last drop-off is completed by 4 p.m.

In the past year, the dial-a-ride program extended its services to Saturday as well, although it is still on a more limited basis that during the week.

"It's great because our drivers are so wonderful to the riders," Anderson said. "When you're driving someone three times a week, you really get to know them."

According to Anderson, a recent census showed that the senior population increased 34% in Florida and that number only continues to climb, which makes the services Beaches COA offers even more vital.

There are a handful of slots remaining to take part in the dance fundraiser event. Tickets can be purchased by going to beachescoa.org/donate and by typing "dance" into the memo box.

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Putting skills on display at Starling at Nocatee

The following are photos from Starling at Nocatee Independent Living, where residents got the chance to practice their putting skills in anticipation for THE PLAYERS which is nearly a month away.

Photos courtesy of Starling at Nocatee Independent Living



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Legends to perform at local venues

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall continue to stage top acts this year. And some of these are seasoned performers who have built large fan bases over the course of their careers. Here's a look at a few concerts local residents may want to check out.

Willie Nelson & Family

Willie Nelson has earned just about every musical award possible over his seven-decade career. In addition, he has achieved a notable reputation as an author, actor and activist.

But he's not finished yet.

In recent years, he has delivered more than a dozen new albums; released a Top 10 New York Times bestseller; headlined Farm Aid, an event he co-founded in 1985; been honored by the Library of Congress with their Gershwin Prize for Popular Song; received his fifth degree black belt in Gong Kwon Yu Sul; headlined the annual Luck Reunion food and music festival during SXSW; launched his cannabis companies, Willie's Reserve and Willie's Remedy; and appeared on the covers of Rolling Stone and AARP The Magazine.

In July 2020, he released "First Rose of Spring," an atmospheric, soulful album

of beautifully written songs and poignant performances. In September of that year, he and his sister, pianist Bobbie Nelson, produced a memoir, "Me and Sister Bobbie: True Tales of The Family Band."

In February 2021, he released "That's Life," an album of standards and classics made famous by Frank Sinatra. This was a follow-up to Nelson's 2018 Sinatra tribute, "My Way," which earned him a Grammy for Best Traditional Pop Solo Album.

In June that same year, Nelson published "Willie Nelson's Letters to America," a collection of his thoughts about America, family, faith and music.

Willie Nelson & Family will perform two shows at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre: 8 p.m. Feb. 24 and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26. Also appearing will be alternative rock-folk band Deer Tick.

The Beach Boys

Since The Beach Boys formed in 1961 in Hawthorne, California, the band has had numerous hit singles and sold tens of millions of albums. Its influence on the music scene cannot be overstated.

The band is led by Mike Love, who is joined by longtime member Bruce Johnston, musical director Scott Totten, Brian Eichenberger, Christian Love, Tim

Bonhomme, John Cowsill, Keith Hu-bacher and Randy Leago.

Johnston joined The Beach Boys in 1965, replacing Glenn Campbell, who filled in for Brian Wilson, on vocals and bass, when he retired from touring.

The band's current lineup will perform at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre.

The Moody Blues' John Lodge

John Lodge, bass player, songwriter and vocalist of The Moody Blues, returns to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on March 10 with his new show, which starts at 8 p.m.

Lodge and his 10,000 Light Years Band will perform The Moody Blues' iconic "Days of Future Passed" album in its entirety.

The audience will be transported back to 1967 with "Nights in White Satin," "Tuesday Afternoon" and "Peak Hour" and hear how 55 years of technical advancements gives these hits a modern sound.

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A South, St. Augustine. Box office hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets sold at the box

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

Tickets may also be purchased at ticketmaster.com.

For further information, go to theamp.com/events.

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach. Purchase tickets at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office or ticketmaster.com.

For further information, go to pvconcerthall.com/events.

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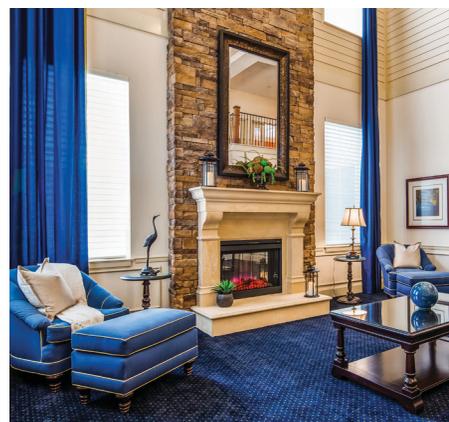
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Contributed photos

The Palm Valley Community Center is a former World War II barracks.

Palm Valley History Festival set for April 22

The inaugural Palm Valley History Festival will be held from 1 to 7 p.m. April 22 at The Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd. This special event will highlight the unique history, culture and fortitude of the original pioneer families of Palm Valley and feature popular storytellers and local authors signing their books, plus a variety of arts, crafts, activities and “moonshine” tasting.

Noted local historian Scott Grant will share his newly created visual presentation about the rich history of the greater Palm Valley area and its founding families. Learn about Spanish settlers, a British indigo plantation, moonshine-making sheriffs and Nazi spies. Enjoy an outdoor

Farmers Market and live folk music.

The Palm Valley History Festival coincides with the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Palm Valley Community Center, a former World War II barracks that was donated to the community and transported to the Palm Valley Landing by barge on the Intracoastal Waterway in 1948.

The Community Center is the home of the Palm Valley Community Association, one of the oldest continually operating community associations in North Florida. The mission of the association is “to engage our residents, celebrate our community and advocate for continuing the unique Palm Valley lifestyle.”

Chico’s fashion show set for Coastal Friends luncheon

Chico’s fashions and accessories will be modeled at the Coastal Friends luncheon on March 1 at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach. The luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This year’s theme is “Coastal Friends Sail Into Spring In Style.”

Coastal Friends members Donna Berger, Barbara Busby, Bonnie Chandler, Debra Dooney, Lynn Medis, Helen Perry, Nancy Scott and Jeanne Stevens will model Chico’s clothing. Linda Fazio, Chico’s manager, will moderate the event.

The luncheon is open to the community, members and guests of Coastal Friends. The cost to attend is \$25. Reservations must be made in advance to reserve a seat by contacting the luncheon chairman at bartshar@comcast.net as soon as possible. The deadline to sign up and get your check in is Feb. 24. The

luncheon menu will consist of field green salad with house vinaigrette, apple-glazed chicken with Yukon mashed potatoes and asparagus, and cheesecake.

Coastal Friends (formerly known as Newcomers Alumnae) is a social group of women who live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach, St. Augustine and the surrounding area. It was formed in 1988.

Some of activities offered are adventures and outings, book club, bunco, canasta and canasta lessons, happy hour, lunch in, lunch out, mahjonnig and wine socials. Luncheons are held on the first Wednesday of every month except for July and August. New members are welcome throughout the year.

For more information on how to join, contact brookemeister@msn.com or go to coastalfriends.wildapricot.org.



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Photos by Susan Griffin

Riddle Wellness officially joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division with a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 1

Living the 'dream' by relieving people's pain

Riddle Wellness holds ribbon cutting for Ponte Vedra Beach location

By Anthony Richards

Riddle Wellness officially joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division with a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 1.

The business is located at 151 Sawgrass Corners Drive, Suite 201 in Ponte Vedra Beach and was started by Dr. Nathan Riddle who moved with his family from Rochester, New York, to the area in July.

He still has a practice in Rochester, which he has had for 15 years, although

he has shifted his focus toward growing the Ponte Vedra Beach location.

"Our dream was to always move to Florida," Riddle said. "I love golf and I always knew about TPC and Sawgrass. The Southern hospitality we've felt has been very nice to experience."

Riddle is excited to be part of the Chamber and is ready to connect and grow those relationships with the local community even more.

As a chiropractor he sees patients dealing with an array of ailments and conditions, but many of his patients have neuropathy and are faced with progressive nerve damage, especially to the hands and feet.

According to Riddle, this can lead to numbness and pain in those areas. Numbness in the feet can increase the

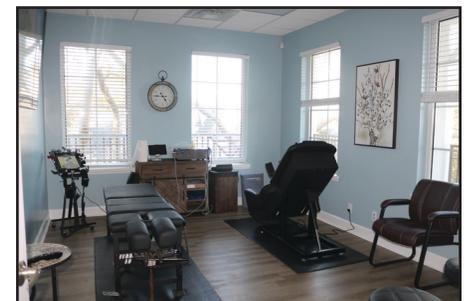
risk of stumbling, which could result in falling and even further serious injury.

"There are more than 100 different causes for neuropathy, but we have developed a four-part approach to handling it."

However, Riddle also helps anyone dealing with back and neck pain or spinal disk decompression. He also uses sound wave technology to help with people dealing with osteoporosis and knee pain.

The methods he uses are aimed to be more natural and less medical, which is something he truly believes in, and the reason he wanted to make sure wellness was in the name of the business.

"This is a wellness revolution that's going on," Riddle said. "People are sick and tired of being sick and tired."



Riddle Wellness is located at 151 Sawgrass Corners Drive, Suite 201 in Ponte Vedra Beach, where Dr. Nathan Riddle offers his chiropractic services.

He also understands that there are aspects of the medical world that can be very helpful when mixed with the more natural ways of finding wellness.

"I love to integrate with medical doctors when I get the chance, and they have been very interested in the results that we get," Riddle said.

Being personal and getting to know his patients is all part of the family atmosphere and vibe he looks to create in his practices.

"All my patients get my phone number and we're always talking back and forth," Riddle said. "I just love helping people and being there for them when they need my help."

The yearning to offer assistance to those in need is something that he has had from an early age.

"I've always had a passion for empathy," Riddle said. "It was something that my mother instilled in me. There are hundreds of chiropractors out there and we all practice very differently."

Riddle Wellness works with people that have insurance, but also offers payment plans for those that do not.

Offering free health screenings and health talks are other ways that Riddle demonstrates his passion for community outreach.

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World Golf Village hosts Active After 50 Expo this weekend

By Anthony Richards

Keeping active is an important aspect for a healthy life and especially as one gets older, and now there is a expo with that as the main theme.

The Active After 50 Expo will be held at the St. Johns County Convention Center at World Golf Village on Feb. 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission is free and the event will have plenty of local vendors and exhibits to take part in, which includes offering free health screenings on site.

A free pickleball clinic with instruction and tips provided will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Paddles and balls will be provided and beginners to intermediate levels of experience are welcome, as the fastest growing sport in America will be taught to anyone who has an interest.

Following the clinic will be an exhibition match between local competitors Team Gamboa and Team Shields.

Selkirk paddleball gear will be raffled off for \$5 per raffle ticket. The winner will be announced at 1:30 p.m., but the winner will not have to be present to win.

Proceeds from the raffle will benefit COA's Meals on Wheels program, which helps to provide meals to seniors.

Other active showcases during the expo

will be a belly dance demo performed by Blue Lotus Dance Studio at 11:45 a.m.

Though the demonstrations will be a popular destination for people during the expo, there will also be other information and insight available at the fingertips of all those who attend.

For many people being active is the goal, but the most difficult part is finding the right path to take to get started on that journey to a more active and healthier lifestyle.

That is the main reason behind the expo, as achieving a more active senior community locally is the ultimate goal, and there is no better way to do that than to have as an informed community as possible.

The COA has been serving St. Johns County older adults, their families, and caregivers since 1973.

During that first year, the organization served a daily congregate meal in Flagler Hospital to 60 participants, and meals on wheels were delivered to a total of five homebound elders.

As it enters its 49th year of service to the community, the COA has become the gateway to information on successful aging, and it now operates six senior community centers in St. Johns County, delivers more than 300 meals every day and offers five integrative memory enhancement programs and an adult day care center.



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Photos provided by Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort and Spa



Those who purchase a service at the Sawgrass Spa can enjoy the amenities, such as the relaxation pool.



The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort and Spa is a great place to relax and share a romantic getaway.

Sawgrass Marriott Spa offers romantic ideas

By Shaun Ryan

Romance is in the air this month and for many couples that means sharing a luxurious and leisurely getaway with a special person to Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort and Spa.

For those seeking a relaxing way to reconnect, the spa offers a couples massage. This 50-minute massage is enhanced with relaxing aromatherapy essential oils in a special room made for two. To arrange for the couples massage, call the spa directly at 904-674-4772 for availability.

Looking to pamper yourself? Try the Cocoa Vino Seasonal Facial by Farm-

House Fresh, which is available now through May 31.

It encompasses a blend of products from Farmhouse Fresh starting with a deep cleanse using the spa's green tea cleanser. Sundae Best is a natural, blended active face mask with soothing, wholesome ingredients like cocoa, coconut milk and honey in addition to powerhouse enzymes that boost your natural defenses against the look of wrinkles and sagging skin.

You can also select add-ons: collagen décolleté treatment, Pro Intense eye treatment, hydrating neck treatment and Pro Intense lip treatment.

To book, go to na.globalspa.marriott.com/jaxsw/25616962/spa-service/service-item/35830384.

Friendly reminder: When you have a service at the Sawgrass Spa, you can enjoy the amenities like the relaxation pool and Soothies Café, etc.

Seeking a really romantic getaway? Try the Valentine's Escape. Book a room at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort and Spa and occupy it by Dec. 18 of this year and use the promo code ROM to enjoy this special package. It includes a bottle of sparkling wine, chocolate-covered strawberries, a \$50 daily resort credit and complimentary valet parking.

How about a romantic Valentine's Day dinner? Make a reservation for the prix fixe dinner between 5 and 10 p.m. at Vernon's First Coast Kitchen & Bar. Reservations are available on OpenTable, along with the specialty menu. Complimentary valet parking is offered for locals dining. To learn more, see the menu or book a time, go to opentable.com/vernons-restaurant.

If you're looking for some ideas or want to make reservations, go to <https://promos.marriott.com/JAXSW/valentines-escape>. The spa phone number is 904-280-3405. Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort and Spa is located at 1000 TPC Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

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Photos by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade



The cast of "Pretty Woman: The Musical"



Jessica Crouch, left, and Olivia Valli

'Pretty Woman: The Musical' to be staged Feb. 15-19

The FSCJ Artist Series, sponsored by VyStar Credit Union, will present "Pretty Woman: The Musical" on Feb. 15-19 for



Kyle Taylor Parker

seven performances at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are available at fscjartistseries.org and by phone at 904-632-5000.

"Pretty Woman: The Musical" is based on the Hollywood film. With Broadway star and Tony Award-nominee Adam Pascal as Edward Lewis and newcomer Jessie Davidson as the charming and charismatic Vivian Ward, "Pretty Woman: The Musical" springs to life with a powerhouse creative team led by two-time Tony Award-winning director and cho-

reographer Jerry Mitchell ("Hairspray," "Kinky Boots," "Legally Blonde").

Pascal is known for his performance as Roger Davis in the original 1996 Broadway cast of Jonathan Larson's musical "Rent," the 2005 movie version of the musical and the Broadway tour of "Rent" in 2009.

Brought to the stage by lead producer Paula Wagner, "Pretty Woman: The Musical" features an original score by Grammy-winner Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance ("Summer of '69," "Heaven"), and a book by the movie's legendary director Garry Marshall and screenwriter J. F. Lawton.

This show is ideal for Valentine's week, in keeping with the romantic theme.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday and 1:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday.

The Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts is located at 300 Water St., Jacksonville.



Adam Pascal, left, and Olivia Valli



Adam Pascal

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VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT GUIDE



Dinner and a show

With eight exceptional Broadway shows to choose from this season, gift cards from Alhambra Theatre & Dining are always the right size and color — and no Valentine ever takes them back. The iconic Alhambra Theatre & Dining has been serving up memories for more than 50 years. All tickets include dinner, the show and parking — also making it one of the best entertainment values on the First Coast. If you and your Valentine love live theater and great food, the Alhambra is the perfect date night!

Alhambra Theatre & Dining is at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville.

Online: alhambrajax.com. Phone: 904-641-1212.



Valentine's Day Party

Get together with your friends for a fun event with Modern Aesthetic Centers, 2050 St. Johns Parkway, Suite 106, St. Johns. A Valentine's Day Party is planned for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 14.

There will be specials on wrinkle relaxers, lip filler and all skincare products. Free dermaplane with purchase of a hydrafacial. Bring a friend who is a new client and both will receive \$50 towards their next service. There will be desserts, roses, champagne and raffles.

Services must be scheduled in advance.

Can't make it on Valentine's Day? No worries. These deals last now through



Feb. 14.

To make an appointment, go to <https://macflorida.com>. Phone: 904-526-7480.

A rose for seniors

Love is in the air, and the Beaches Council on Aging is doing its part to show how much it cares and appreciates



the senior citizens that use its dial-a-ride program for transportation. This Valentine's Day they want to hand out roses to the seniors that get on the bus that day. Anyone wanting to help Beaches COA share the love can purchase a rose to be given by donating \$5 by going to beachescoa.org/donate.

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.

3 Days Only

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Flagler Health+ announces plans to join UF Health

Flagler Health+ and UF Health, the University of Florida's academic health center, announced Feb. 2 that they have entered into an exclusive, non-binding letter of intent to develop plans to transform health care delivery in the region.

The move comes in the wake of the recent decision by Flagler Health+ to explore joining a like-minded health system to enhance local health care services and expand access to care in the community. The Flagler Health+ Board of Trustees and leadership team selected UF Health because they felt the nationally renowned health system offers the strengths of a top 5 public research institution coupled with innovative, high-quality, leading-edge care that will benefit the residents of Flagler, St. Johns, Putnam, Clay and Duval counties.

The two organizations will now move forward with detailed due diligence toward the goal of Flagler Health+ becoming part of UF Health later this year.

"We envision a future where the services provided by Flagler Health+ meet all our community members' needs," said Flagler Health+ Board of Trustees Chairman Todd Neville. "We are pleased with how our exploration is progressing and

look forward to the possibility of making this vision a reality with the University of Florida. Moving forward with UF Health is the right next step because of our shared commitment to those we serve."

Mori Hosseini, chair of the UF Board of Trustees, said university and health system leaders are looking forward to magnifying opportunities to offer hope and healing for patients and their families through the delivery of world-class, compassionate care.

"UF and UF Health are re-energizing health care delivery throughout the state of Florida," Hosseini said. "We seek to transform lives, and plans like these are a step toward tackling patients' greatest challenges and improving the health of our communities. Collaboration and a keen commitment to solutions is in our DNA. We are up to the task and intend to lead the way."

Flagler Health+ explored options from some of the most respected health care organizations in the country, with a specific focus on:

- Continued enhancement of quality and patient satisfaction through the sharing of best practices.
- Supporting key community-focused

service lines (e.g., behavioral health, women's health, etc.) while expanding the breadth and depth of services provided locally.

- Enhancing Flagler Health+'s ability to provide high-quality health care services to underserved populations.

- Strengthening recruitment and retention of team members, physicians and advanced practice providers to enhance the community's access to local quality health care.

- Adding technology resources and expertise, including an integrated enterprise-wide technology strategy, electronic health record implementation and new clinical technology and equipment to support health care professionals.

- Enhanced access to capital to support future investments in facilities, infrastructure, technology and growth initiatives.

"Everything we do is driven by our longstanding commitment to our community and our dedication to our team members, providers and patients," said Flagler Health+ CEO Carlton DeVooght. "We are excited about this potential opportunity and our next steps with UF Health."

Together, Flagler Health+ and UF Health pledge to deliver the highest level

of clinical quality and safety, said David R. Nelson, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs at the University of Florida and president of UF Health.

"UF Health has a long track record of bridging scientific discovery with clinical advances that improve the lives of countless patients and of training the next generation of health care providers," Nelson said. "We are excited about our shared vision with Flagler Health+ to take health care to the next level and look forward to our ongoing discussions as we collectively focus efforts on delivering outstanding care for area residents."

Flagler Health+ and UF Health will begin a formal due diligence period to fully determine the details of a final agreement. A final decision is expected later this year.

This process does not impact daily operations. Flagler Health+'s priority continues to be providing exceptional care to patients, and patients can continue to see their current doctors and access the services they always have.

Go to FlaglerHealthForward.org to learn more, review frequently asked questions or submit a question.

Real estate firm sees \$1.6B sales volume in 2022

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has announced that the company achieved \$1.6 billion sales volume in 2022. The company celebrated this milestone and its Realtors' highest honors and achievements at the company's annual awards celebration.

"Our Realtors, managers and support team members are dedicated industry leaders and professionals with an enduring commitment to their clients, the

community and our company, and I'm so appreciative of their loyalty and their contributions to our success," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty President Ann King.

The event brought hundreds of real estate professionals together at St. Johns Golf and Country Club to gather, connect and honor the company's top producers. The top company award winners include:

- Realtor Allison Steilberg of the

Avondale office led the company as the top producer with \$44.4 million in closed volume.

- Realtor Anita Vining of the San Marco office was honored as the company's top listing agent with 28.5 listings, the top transaction agent with 122 transactions and the top sales agent with 54 sales.

- The O'Steen Group of the Avondale office was recognized as the top producing team (volume) with \$36.8 million in closed volume.

- The Ricci Group of the St. Augustine office was named the top listing team with 20 listings, the top transaction team with 100 transactions and the top sales team with 47 sales.

- Realtor Sharon Dennis of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office was named Rookie of the Year with seven closed units and

\$10.9 million in closed volume.

- The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office, under the leadership of Holly Hayes, received the Top Office/Chairman's Cup award, which recognizes success in a number of categories, including client feedback, selecting talent, listing sides, closed sides, per person productivity, closed volume and profitability.

"I am incredibly proud to work with the best Realtors and team in the business," Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder and Chairman Linda Sherrer. "Our forever agents can provide you with the best information and guidance about today's market."

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, go to FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Haiku accepted for contest through Feb. 28

The St. Johns Cultural Council has announced its third annual Haiku Contest. Local poets of all ages are invited to submit up to three haiku with the theme “Natural Florida” through the online application portal at <https://form.jotform.com/230044722386048>.

Applications must be submitted on or before Feb. 28. The following guidelines apply:

- Applicants must be residents of St. Johns County, Florida.
- Each applicant may submit up to three haiku.
- The theme of this year’s contest is “Natural Florida.” Haiku need not mention the words “nature” or “Florida,” but work should be inspired by the natural landscapes, flora and fauna of St. Johns County.
- Although haiku are not usually titled, entries should include titles to help identify the work.
- All haiku must be previously

unpublished and original.

A selection committee will choose three first place haiku, one each in the following categories: students ages 12 and younger, students ages 13 to 17, and adults ages 18 and older.

Authors of the first place haiku will each receive a \$100 prize, and the winning haiku will be published on stjohnsculture.com, in the organization’s electronic newsletter, and in the AC PAPA Literary Journal.

The selection committee will recognize up to six honorable mentions (two haiku in each category) that will also be published on St. Johns Cultural Council’s website and newsletter. Each author of an honorable mention haiku will receive a \$25 gift certificate.

Authors of the winning haiku will be selected and notified no later than March 24 and recognized April 15 during St. Augustine PoetFest at Flagler College in St. Augustine.

UNF alumnus exhibits work at MOCA

MOCA Jacksonville has announced a new exhibition presenting the work of its 2022 UNF student artist-in-residence. “Brennan Wojtyla: Cathedral of Labor” is on view now through May 21.

Wojtyla is a multi-disciplinary artist. He earned a bachelor’s degree in fine art with a concentration in graphic design in 2022. 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.

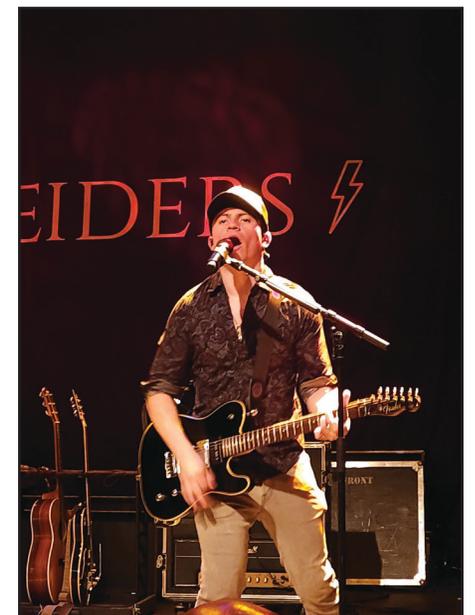
Support for this exhibition was made in part by the City of Jacksonville, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts and the University of North Florida.



Warren Zeiders rocks Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The following are photos from country artist Warren Zeiders’ concert at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Feb. 3. It was the second stop of Zeiders’ Pretty Little Poison Tour.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts
Award Nominations are OPEN!

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Casa Marina Hotel
6 – 8pm



First Coast Cultural Center

For more information, visit:
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Sports



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Photos by Stacy Bunkosky

The Ponte Vedra boys basketball team honored its seniors and celebrated a win over rival Nease by going to Mr. Chubby's Wings in Ponte Vedra Beach afterward.

Sharks take bite out of rival Panthers on senior night

Second half surge leads Sharks to victory in regular season finale

By Jim Moyes

Ponte Vedra capped their regular season with a 42-32 victory over arch-rival Nease in front of a full house of spectators at the Shark Tank Feb. 3.

If one wanted to watch a run-and-gun game featuring the Loyola Marymount five from 1990 then this game was not for you. However, if one likes a pitcher's duel with Sandy Koufax opposing Juan Marichal then last night's low scoring battle was much more to one's liking.

With both teams coming out of the gates exhibiting a patient (or tentative) old-style basketball, the scoreboard at the end of the first quarter showed Nease scoring seven points with Ponte Vedra limited to a scant five tallies.

Nease took but four shots in the entire quarter but two of those buckets were three pointers, their only made 3's for the entire contest.

Coach Josh Bailen's Panther five padded their score in the second quarter to up their lead to 17-9 before the Sharks were able to close out the first half with a 7-0 run to trail by one slim point at the halftime break.

Ponte Vedra took the lead that they wouldn't relinquish on a Ben Ritchie 3-pointer early into the third period.

Israel Nuhu then brought the home crowd to their feet



Ponte Vedra's Nathan Bunkosky and Nease's Cael Thompson, both seniors and friends, played each other during the regular season finale Feb. 3.

with the first of his two thunderous dunks during a Ponte Vedra 10-0 run to give the Sharks a 27-17 lead.

The Panthers were shut out for nearly the first six minutes of the third quarter but scored the final four points of the period and trailed 27-21 heading into the game's final eight minutes.

With the Sharks attempting to just milk the clock for much of the final quarter, Nease parlayed four Sharks' turnovers into eight points to cut the deficit to two, 32-30 with just over two minutes left in the contest.

It was at this point where first year Sharks head coach Ben Wilson inserted sophomore David Sanchez-Berrera into the lineup.

Hanging on to that slim two-point lead, the Sharks missed an ill-advised 3-pointer but Berrera made perhaps the biggest play of the game, as it was Berrera who rebounded the long-range miss and was fouled.

Although his second made free throw was waved off because he had his foot on the line, his first free throw proved to be the game winner.

After playing tentative basketball for the first seven minutes of the final quarter, the Sharks then went into an attack mode and scored 10 points in the game's final minute of action that included a 3-point play from Nuhu and two clutch free throws from Berrera.

The game was the 33rd meeting between the two rivals and with the win, the Sharks now hold a one-game lead in the series that dates back to 2008 with 17 wins to Nease's 16 victories.

So tight as this series been over the years that each team had scored exactly 1,555 points before the start of this game.

Nuhu added to his resume in a campaign for Player of the Year honors in St. Johns County with 15 points, seven rebounds and five steals.

Three Panthers had seven points, including Jake Larson, Brooks Utter and Bryson Utter to lead all Nease scorers.

Amongst the capacity crowd at the game where a number of former Nease standouts, of those Panthers from yesteryear was Chet Stachitas, who had a great college career at St. Joseph University in Pennsylvania.

THE PLAYERS Profiles: Jon Rahm, Max Homa, Si Woo Kim

With less than four weeks to go until the strongest field in golf reconvenes at TPC Sawgrass, THE PLAYERS Championship will profile three players each week to highlight the biggest storylines and set the stage for the 2023 championship. Jon Rahm, Max Homa and Si Woo Kim will be among those who arrive at THE PLAYERS having already won on the PGA TOUR in 2023.

Jon Rahm

Jon Rahm opened 2023 with victories in consecutive starts at the Sentry Tournament of Champions and The American Express, with the latter giving the Spaniard his first career lead in the FedExCup. He nearly added a third

in a row at the Farmers Insurance Open before settling for T7, his fourth top-10 in as many starts during the 2022-23 season. His two wins mark the second time in his career with multiple victories in a season (2020). At THE PLAYERS, Rahm owns two top-15 finishes in five career starts, including a T9 in 2021. As the 54-hole leader in 2019, he closed with a final-round 76 to finish T12.

Max Homa

Max Homa continued his torrid record in his home state of California, coming from five strokes back in the final round to win the Farmers Insurance Open for his sixth career PGA TOUR

title and fourth in The Golden State. He joins Rahm as the only two multiple winners on TOUR in 2022-23, with Homa having already won the season-opening Fortinet Championship in September. The win elevated Homa to No. 13 in the Official World Golf Ranking, a career high for the 32-year-old who endured an up-and-down journey to the PGA TOUR that saw him lose his card in 2015 and 2017. But since May 2019, Homa is one of only five players on TOUR with six or more victories. In two career starts at THE PLAYERS, Homa posted a T13 in 2022.

Si Woo Kim

Still the youngest to hoist THE

PLAYERS Championship trophy at 21 years old in 2017, Si Woo Kim returned to the winner's circle in January with a come-from-behind victory at the Sony Open in Hawaii for his fourth career PGA TOUR victory and first since the 2021 American Express. Kim is the second player from Korea to win THE PLAYERS after K.J. Choi accomplished the feat in 2011. In what was his second PLAYERS appearance, Kim overcame a two-stroke deficit in the final round with a bogey-free 69 — which included pars on his final nine holes — to win by one. Since his win, Kim has added one top-10 finish at TPC Sawgrass — a T9 in 2021.

Pros win Underwood Cup for first time since 2016

Relief, jubilation and satisfaction could all be used to describe the feelings shared by the winning professional team from the Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at the 32nd Underwood Cup matches at San Jose Country Club.

After claiming the Cup only once in the previous 12 Cup matches (2016) against their amateur counterparts, the professionals were long overdue. A squad featuring several new faces met the challenge this year garnering a 14½ to 9½ victory with the difference being strong play in the concluding singles matches. The final score was identical to the defeat the pros suffered last January.

Played over two days at the 1925 Donald Ross-design, the Monday morning four-ball and afternoon foursome matches both wound up tied 3-3. The 6-6 score set the stage for some Tuesday drama.

The amateurs jumped to a quick lead, with Jeff Golden and Duke Butler IV capturing convincing 5-and-4 and 6-and-5 victories, respectively. An Aaron Russell-Jacob Posze standoff added a half point to the amateur edge. But the tide would then turn as Stephanie Connelly-Eiswerth recorded six birdies to take out Toby Ragland 3-and-1 in the third match.

More dominoes would fall the professionals' way as they racked up wins in matches 5 through 9, enough to claim the elusive Underwood Cup. Posting wins during this stretch were Rob Lee (3-and-2), Taylor Davis (7-and-6), Josh Wolfe (2 up), Jennifer Borocz (5-and-4) and Will Rehberg (2-and-1).

The clinching shot will go down in Underwood Cup lore. With his opponent, Nate Mosby, eyeing a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-5 17th hole, Will Rehberg splashed one out of the greenside bunker and into the hole for an eagle, setting off a tumultuous celebration from his spectating captains, teammates and caddies. The Cup was decided, and the Profes-



Contributed photo

The 2023 Underwood Cup tournament sponsor Clayton Bromberg of Underwood Jewelers holds the Underwood Cup with professional team captain Tim Peterson seated to his right.

sionals' long dry spell was finally over.

New to the professional team this year were Borocz, Davis, Lee and Mitchell Haley. Borocz won all three of her matches in a sparkling debut.

Connelly-Eiswerth had perhaps the sharpest round in the singles matches, recording six birdies against one bogey in her 17 holes of play. She missed just one green, No. 2, by about 10 feet, making life tough for her opponent, Ragland.

The teams were captained by Tim Peterson (professionals) and Steve Carter (amateurs) for the second year in a row. Both had played in 23 previous Underwood Cups. Mike Broderick (professionals) and Michael Del Rocco (amateurs) returned to serve in assistant captains'

roles as well. Carter became a playing captain when Paul Tesori was forced to pull out of the competition.

The amateurs' lead is now 17-12-3.

The Underwood Cup mirrors the Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup. It features the elite players among Northeast Florida PGA professional and amateur golfers.

The professionals' strongest run in the Underwood Cup was in its early stages when they won the first six playings of the prestigious event that consists of six fourballs, six foursomes and 12 singles matches over two days.

Launched in 1992, the first 30 Underwood Cups were contested at Timuquana Country Club before moving to San Jose in 2022 and '23. The 2024 venue has not

been announced.

Underwood Jewelers, with Underwood President Clayton Bromberg serving as honorary starter and host of the post-event luncheon and awards ceremony, is the title partner and has been all 32 years.

The matches are conducted by the Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA and supported by the Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) and Florida State Golf Association (FSGA).

Other Underwood Cup partners are Cutter & Buck, Devant & Pukka/Chandler Altman, Club Car/Danny Eckles, Don Poag, and Chip Holcombe Brands.

The teams were comprised of the fol-

CROSSWORD									
1									
11				12		13			14
15						16			17
	18				19	20			21
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25	26	27	28	29					
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47	48							50	51
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59								61	
62									64

ACROSS

- Functions
- Records electric currents associated with contractions of the heart
- Trigonometric function (abbr.)
- Secret political clique
- Type of gibbon
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Famed American playwright
- Mesopotamian goddess
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Long ridge of gravel and sediment
- A place to stay
- Actor Idris
- One who behaves in a rebellious way
- A way to measure movement
- Distinguish oneself
- Type of drug (abbr.)
- Basketball great Baylor
- Masses of salivary matter
- Calls balls and strikes
- Plant that grows along the ground
- A recreational activity in the air
- Consumes too much
- Island nation
- Pistol
- Mixtures of soul and calypso
- Ancient Greek City
- Similar
- Roughly trimmed tree trunk used in a Scottish game
- Semitic fertility god
- Born of
- Frogs, toads, tree toads
- School in the northeast (abbr.)
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- "__ the Man" Musical, baseball player

DOWN

- Fiddler crabs
- Discount
- Partner to "flows"
- Ethnic group of Laos
- Beloved "Seinfeld" character
- Book of tickets
- The last name of "Hermione"
- Type of TV package
- Helps to heal a cut
- Town in Galilee
- Actor Horsley
- "Hocus Pocus 2" actor Ed
- Bird-loving group (abbr.)
- They respond when someone is sick
- Emerged
- Midway between south and southeast
- Monetary unit of Afghanistan

- Unit of work or energy
- Indicates near
- Famed river
- For each
- News organization
- CNN's founder
- They __
- Areas off to the side
- Satisfies
- A spare bed
- Legendary singer Diana
- Frothy mass of bubbles
- A kind of sorcery
- River in South Africa
- Philippine Island
- County in China
- S. American plant
- Beverage containers
- Edge
- Protein-rich liquids
- Moved quickly on foot

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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



Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra High Athletics

Six Ponte Vedra High football players signed letters of intent to play at the next level. They included Kingston Kamal (Southeast Missouri State), Layne Swafford (Florida), Xavier Agatep (United States Merchant Marine Academy), Wyatt Rogers (Stetson), Trooper Price (Colgate) and Billy Boss (Utica).

Episcopal Signing Day



Contributed photo

Episcopal School of Jacksonville held a National Signing Day ceremony in the Semmes Gym on the Munnerlyn Campus on Feb. 1 to honor members of the class of 2023 who are committing to play a sport in college next year. Episcopal seniors who signed Feb. 1 included: Reese Edwards, Florida Atlantic University for beach volleyball; Ella Parker, Coastal Carolina University for lacrosse; Aubrey Finn, University of South Carolina for swimming; Ralphie Weakland, Drexel University for swimming; Sophia Bailey, Colorado Mesa University for lacrosse; and Bradlie Hicks, University of Louisville for rowing.

Cup

Continued from 29

lowing captains and players:

Amateur team: Steve Carter, TPC Sawgrass; Mike Del Rocco, San Jose CC; Duke Butler IV, TPC Sawgrass; Steve Carter, Sawgrass G&CC; Jeff Golden, Jax Beach GC; Chris Henderson, San Jose CC; Kirk Irvin, St. Johns G&CC; Kevin McDonald, Eagle Harbor GC; Nate Mosby, Windsor Parke GC; Jacob Posze, Queen's Harbour Y&CC; Toby Ragland, San Jose CC; Len Schonfeld III, unat-

tached; Michael Smith, TPC Sawgrass; and Mark Spencer, Eagle Landing GC.

Professional team: Tim Peterson, PGA Life Member; Mike Broderick, Deerwood CC; Jennifer Borocz, North Florida Section; Stephanie Connelly-Eiswerth, Eagle Harbor GC; Taylor Davis, Timuquana CC; Jake Etherton, World Golf Village; Hayes Farley, San Jose CC; Mitchell Haley, Deerwood CC; Jeff Hanson, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club; Gerry James, The Palencia Club; Rob Lee, Westside Golf Center; Will Rehberg, Deerwood CC; Aaron Russell, Sawgrass CC; and Josh Wolfe, San Jose CC.

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<p>Private Party Line Rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$14.00 1 week • \$23.00 2 weeks • \$31.00 3 weeks • \$37.50 4 weeks <p>Add lines \$2.15 each</p> <p>(Couches, TV's, Beds, Household Items, Etc.)</p>	<p>Commercial Line Rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$22.50 1 week • \$39.00 2 weeks • \$55.50 3 weeks • \$70.00 4 weeks <p>Add lines \$2.15 each</p> <p>(Animals, Cars, Renting or Selling a Home or to Advertise Your Business or Services)</p>	<p>Employment Spotlight/Real Estate</p> <p>1x2 (2"x2") \$40.50/1 wk • \$70.00/2 wks. • \$100/3 wks. 1x3 (2"x3") \$61.50/1 wk. • \$112.00/2 wks. • \$150.00/3 wks. 2x2 (4"x2") \$82.00/1 wk. • \$153.00/2 wks. • \$200.00/3 wks. 2x3 (4"x3") \$123.00/1 wk. • \$225/2 wks. • \$300/3 wks.</p>	<p>Business & Worship Directory</p> <p>1.5 x 2 \$55.00/month 1.5 x 4 \$96.52/month 1.5 x 6 \$149.52/month</p> <p>Rate Guide for: The Recorder</p>
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TPC/Sawgrass Estate Sale - Feb. 17 & 18 from 8am-3pm at 6534 Burnham Cir. House is loaded. See estatesales.net for pictures & details.

Auctions

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AUCTIONEERS • LIQUIDATORS • APPRAISERS

Online Auction Only
Florida Spine and Joint Institute, LLC d/b/a IRISE
Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors Case No. CACE22-013385
Assets located in: Pompano Beach, FL 33069
Auction ends: Tues, Feb 14, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.
Auction will consist of: computers, networking equipment, servers, batter back-ups, Apple iPads, electronics, printers, laptops, computer peripherals and related items.
Registration, catalog, photos and terms available at www.moecker-auctions.com
Preview: 02/13 by appointment. Call for details (954) 252-2887 | (800) 840-BIDS
<https://moeckerauctions.com/2022/12/14/florida-spine-and-joint-institute-llc-d-b-a-irise-2/>
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AB-1098 AU-3219, Eric Rubin

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