

# THE RECORDER



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April 13, 2023  
Volume 54, No. 24  
\$1.00

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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 Susan Griffin

The Easter Bunny made an appearance at the holiday celebration at the Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee April 5. The annual event included photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny and games for families in attendance.

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# Send us your news

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



Visit our new website at [www.pontevedrarecorder.com](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com)

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder](http://www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

# PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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## BRIEFS

### Kids Sing-a-Long set for Sunday in Nocatee

Now is the Time with two vocalists will lead a free Kids Sing-a-Long event from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 16, at Nocatee Station Field, 400 Nocatee Center Way. There will be Disney characters, a petting zoo and dessert food trucks. The event is being sponsored by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library and Nocatee. Remember to bring your own seating.

### Career search workshop set for April 28

The Savvy Job Hunters Ministry of Christ Church will host a free Zoom workshop, “Your Professional Package and Tools for a Successful Career Search,” from 10 a.m. to noon April 28. The workshop will be presented by Dr. Priscilla Berry, owner and president of Berry and Associates. Sign in and networking begin at 9:45 a.m. Email [pottesen66@gmail.com](mailto:pottesen66@gmail.com) to register.

### 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.

### Mega Open House Weekend is April 15-16

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty will conduct its next Mega Open House Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, April 15-16.

In Northeast Florida, new listings are up 8% over a year ago, and up 4% month-over-month. Pending sales are up 10% month-over-month. While increased listings provided buyers with more inventory to shop, it is still a seller’s market with a 3.4-month supply of homes. According to the National Association of Realtors, mid-April is the best time to put a home on the market.

The Mega Open House Weekend features open house viewings of the company’s listings of available homes. The listings encompass homes in a range of prices, styles and neighborhoods throughout Northeast Florida. Along with the in-person open houses, the event features virtual open houses on social media.

Go to [OpenHouseNEFlorida.com](http://OpenHouseNEFlorida.com) for a list of open houses. Go to [facebook.com/FloridaNetworkRealty](http://facebook.com/FloridaNetworkRealty) or [instagram.com/FloridaNetworkRealty](http://instagram.com/FloridaNetworkRealty) to view the homes virtually during the event.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

# Grant would fund veterans' recreational activities

By Jada Montesione

On Tuesday, April 4, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Parks and Recreation Department’s request to apply for an Adaptive Sport Grant through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The application will be submitted on behalf of Parks and Recreation by the county administrator.

The Parks and Recreation Department works with the Department of Veteran Affairs to provide all current and retired members of the armed services monthly recreational activities that include kayaking, fishing and art programs. Currently, the recreation program-

ming operating budget covers the equipment and costs associated with these programs.

The county is seeking \$30,000 of the \$750,000 available grant funding to cover program expenses and to expand the programs offered to possibly include archery and pickleball.

Receiving this grant will also allow the Parks and Recreation Department to buy adaptive equipment, providing the opportunity to make accommodations for veterans with disabilities.

If the county is awarded this grant, this item will be brought back to the Board of County Commissioners for approval and to appropriate grant funding.

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# Centenarian luncheons to be held in May

Council on Aging (COA) will honor St. Johns County centenarians and nonagenarians at two centenarian luncheons, scheduled for noon May 4 at River House, 179 Marine St., St Augustine, and 11:30 a.m. May 18 at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach.

If you or a loved one will be turning age 95 or better this year, contact Council on Aging to register to participate in the celebration nearest to you.

“Please help us get the word out to all of our cherished elders in the community

who are age 95 and up,” requested COA Executive Director Becky Yanni. “Council on Aging relies upon members of the community to help us invite all those eligible to attend.”

Advance registration is required as space is limited. Each honoree is invited to bring one complimentary guest to the luncheon. Tickets for additional guests may be purchased if space is available.

“We are thrilled to be able to be able to host these very special events,” Yanni said. “The entire community looks forward to the chance to recognize our

St. Johns County elders and honor their exceptional lives.”

Sponsors are needed to finance the events. Table sponsorships are available for a donation of \$250 and include table recognition and one seat to attend the centenarian luncheon of your choice.

To register to attend or to become a sponsor, contact COA’s Sheri Brideson at 904-209-3700 or sbrideson@coasjc.org.

The RSVP deadline for the May 4 River House event in St. Augustine is April 20. The RSVP deadline for the May 18 Ponte Vedra Beach event is May 4.



Contributed photos

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# Winn-Dixie store presents \$5K check to school

Dr. Joy Reichenberg, principal of Palm Valley Academy, accepted a \$5,000 donation from the Grand Cypress Winn-Dixie store team for winning the store's flyer contest. The community celebration was held noon to 2 p.m. March 25 at the store, located at 100 Little Cypress Drive. Pine Island Academy came in second and received a \$2,500 donation, and Bartram Springs Elementary School received a \$1,000 donation for third place.

Contributed photos



# Palm Valley/South Roscoe traffic light getting closer to operational

By Anthony Richards

The new traffic light at the intersection of Palm Valley Road and South Roscoe Boulevard was erected weeks ago, but it will soon be operational any day now.

According to Greg Leonard, vice president of the Ponte Vedra Beach Citizens Traffic Task Force, he was informed on April 10 by St. Johns County engineer Duane Kent that the light had been placed in flash mode now and is expected to be operational within the next 10 days.

Once it is operational, there will be

lights helping to direct traffic going both ways along Palm Valley Road as well as traffic coming onto the road from South Roscoe Boulevard.

Signs warning drivers of the upcoming light have been placed heading both directions, including one near the top of the bridge going over the Intracoastal Waterway on the way to the light.

On April 4, Kent informed Leonard that there was still some "minor site work," such as striping, pavement work and conduit installation that needed to be finished before the signal was activated.

# Villages of Hope co-founder to speak at Coastal Friends luncheon

Donna Fenchel, co-founder of The Villages of Hope, will be the guest speaker at the next Coastal Friends monthly luncheon, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 3 at Marsh Landing Country Club.

Fenchel will speak about the non-profit organization called The Villages of Hope, which helps fill the void of housing for women survivors of sex trafficking. Since Jacksonville is ranked third in the state of Florida for the amount of reported cases of sex trafficking, their mission is to provide a sanctuary, a place of refuge, healing and restoration to women seeking a life free from trafficking, prostitution and addiction.

During their two-year rent-free program, a woman living at The Villages of Hope will have access to trauma-based therapy, life skills, education and job placement.

Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach, will serve a classic Caesar salad,

chicken parmigiana with penne pasta and green beans, and tiramisu for dessert. The luncheon is open to the community; the cost to attend is \$25. Reservations must be made in advance by contacting the luncheon chairman at bartshar@comcast.net. Checks must be received prior to the morning of April 28.

Coastal Friends (formerly 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. Activities include adventures and outings, book club, bunco, canasta, happy hour, lunch in, lunch out, mah jongg and wine socials.

Luncheons are held 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.

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Contributed photos



# Motorcycle ride to benefit hometown heroes



When last year's Hometown Hero's riders kicked up their stands and motored off, they did so in support of retired Jacksonville Sheriff's Officer Lonnie J. Mills, who was injured in a motorcycle accident last March.

What the riders may not have known is that they were setting a precedent. The inaugural ride drew more than 300 riders and raised more than \$35,000, enough to expand the original project's scope to multiple families.

This year's benefit is providing assistance to four emergency first responders, military veterans and their families as well as scholarships to a program that aids former soldiers battling PTSD. The Second Annual Hometown Hero's Ride will take place on April 22.

"We have a lot of veterans and public servants in our area with unique assistive needs," said Mike Minter, event organizer, and senior builder with MasterCraft Builder Group, one of the sponsors of the event along with Adamec Harley-Davidson and RightWay Integrated Lawn and Pest Control Solutions. "The overwhelming proceeds from last year's event allowed us to help additional families by providing mobility assistance in the form of wheelchair ramps and other construction needs. This year, we're helping four emergency first responders, military veterans and their families by performing necessary mobility alterations and repairs to their existing homes through Builders Care, the nonprofit arm of Northeast

Florida Builder's Association."

Additionally, the Hometown Hero's Ride will provide scholarships to Horse-Play Therapy's Rise Up For Veterans, a program that helps veterans and wounded warriors battling PTSD through equine-assisted learning and therapy.

Many first responders and military vets injured either on or off the job also require assistance in the form of wheelchair ramps and other construction needs. Since 2001, Builders Care, a faith-based nonprofit, has been filling the needs of the elderly and disabled and other nonprofits in the area.

"It's not just about building a ramp or widening doorways, it's about strengthening the community around these families through support," said Minter. "These people who have dedicated their lives to caring for the public need to know that those same people are in their corner. We want them to know that we're here for them."

The Second Annual Hometown Hero's Ride will be held April 22, starting and ending at Adamec Harley-Davidson of St. Augustine, 380 Outlet Mall Blvd. Registration is from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and the ride kicks off at 11 a.m. Registration cost is \$25 per bike and the first 300 regis-

tered bikes include a ride T-shirt. Lunch and refreshments provided.

The fundraiser will benefit Builders Care and is presented in coordination with the Veteran Enforcers Motorcycle

Association St. Johns County Chapter and Adamec Harley-Davidson of St. Augustine.

To become a sponsor, contact Krissy Barkas at kbarkas@nefba.com.

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Ponte Vedra resident Kenneth Heinrich IV began working for StevenDouglas in the Human Resources Search Division in 2017 and is currently the division director. His focus is human resources recruitment at all levels for companies of all sizes.

## Kenneth Heinrich

### As told to Shaun Ryan

#### As director of the HR Search division at StevenDouglas, what are your responsibilities?

Companies reach out to us to find HR talent. We go out and find what they're looking for, so my responsibilities are twofold.

One, getting out into the community to partner with companies that either could use our services now or may need to in the future. Two, building relationships with potential candidates.

Generally speaking, it really means just being involved with the HR community, getting to know all the people, all the players, what they do and the companies that they work for.

It really is about building long-term relationships. Because our business is one where you don't necessarily need our services today. You're not always looking for a new job. It's about meeting people today so that two, three, four, five years down the road when they are looking for their next role as an HR leader, we're the ones that they go to.

#### What is the advantage for companies that choose to work with a human resources business partner such as StevenDouglas?

Having expertise in the market is going to help you identify the best candidates, and typically, the best candidates aren't going to be applying to jobs. If you're one of the best human resources executives, you're worried about your company and the day-to-day issues that you're dealing with. You're not on job boards or posting your resume.

It goes back to those relationships and knowing what the top talent is looking for. When a company reaches out to us and says we're looking for X, Y and Z, we reach out to someone we met four or five years ago, because we know that's the type of person who's going to be able to fill that role.

And sometimes it's better to have an outside firm deal with some of the confidential aspects that come along with an HR search.

#### Tell me a little bit about the company itself.

Our company handles executive searches across the board. My specific qualifications are in HR recruitment. All I do is look for top HR talent.

We have other divisions that specialize in finance and accounting searches, sales, marketing and operations searches and more. It does work cross-functionally, too, where sometimes the head of HR reaches out to me and says, "Our company's looking for a new director of finance; can you help us?"

So, I refer them over to our finance and accounting search team. They do the same thing over there that I do in HR.

#### As the community grows, are you seeing an increase in demand for the quality candidates that you refer?

Absolutely. In general, we've seen the Florida market, especially since COVID, really take off. We've seen that a lot in Jacksonville, as well. With companies coming to the area and the talent pool growing as well we get people — HR executives included — from other markets moving to Jacksonville.

So, over the past two to three years, we've been able



Contributed photo

Kenneth Heinrich is director of the Human Resources Search Division of executive search firm StevenDouglas.

to increase the amount of placings and the amount of business we've done every year. It's partially due to the Jacksonville market growing.

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

Working with people and their careers that are so important to them.

On the opposite side, finding a company that really needs to find the right talent. When you make that perfect match, you help solve a problem for a company that had a need. Now they can take that next step. It's great to see the evolution of a company you've worked with that had 100 people and five years later has grown exponentially and now has 2,000 people.

And the HR person we found for that role was the person that helped grow that company and get them to where they needed to be.

Equally as important on the other side is talking to someone who is not happy in their current role, not happy in their career. And finding them something that's a better fit, makes them more money, gives them an opportunity to spend more time with their family, challenges them, gives them an opportunity to advance their career.

That's really fulfilling. It's tough for people to look for jobs. They don't know where to look. A lot of times they don't have the time to do it. So being someone who can step in, find that for them, guide them through that process and then ultimately get them to the point where they're taking a new job that's fulfilling is the best part.

#### What do you like best about living here?

I grew up in New Jersey, but I've lived in South Florida, as well. And I think Jacksonville is the perfect combination of both.

I like to golf. We like to go to the beach. We like to take hikes. Just like to be in the outdoors in general. Jacksonville's a place where you can be outside 12 months out of the year, but you also have seasons. It's not like South Florida where it's just brutally hot all the time.

Beyond that, it's a great place to raise a family. It's also at an interesting stage where it's big enough that it has everything that you want but it doesn't feel overcrowded.

We love it here.

**NOTE: This is an abridged version of the article. To read the full interview, go to [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com).**

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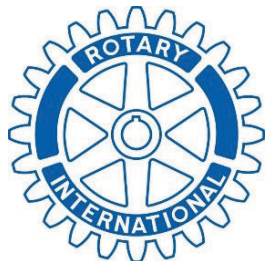


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The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach
in cooperation with The Ponte Vedra Recorder
2023 Local Heroes Awards
Nomination Form

Nomination Deadline:
April 15, 2023
Email entries to:
stevecrosby101@gmail.com
or mail to:
Local Heroes Awards Committee
Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach
P.O. Box 70
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004
Or submit your nomination online at: pvbrotary.org

The Local Heroes Awards recognize individuals who give back to the community and reflect the spirit of the Rotary Club's motto, "Service Above Self." From volunteering with local charities to giving back through the arts, education, environmental protection activities or doing your job in an exemplary way, we seek to recognize the "unsung heroes" who make Ponte Vedra such a special place to live, work and raise a family.

Please complete this nomination form and return it to the address below by April 15, 2023. For more information or any questions, contact Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club member Steve Crosby at stevecrosby101@gmail.com.

Nomination Submitted By:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Information:

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Nominee's activities and/or contributions to the community:

Please provide sufficient details so the nominating committee may give your nominee every consideration! Feel free to attach additional pages as well as a resume, articles or other supporting materials (optional).

Multiple horizontal lines for providing details on the nominee's activities and contributions.

Thank you for your nomination!



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

# Climbing Flowers and Plants

"Never underestimate the healing power of a quiet moment in the garden." — Josephine Albert



**By Kathy Esfahani**

The burst of color from a climbing flower is a stunning addition to any landscape. These plants provide a vertical design element with minimal space requirements. The plants listed below are perennials, but they are tropical — be sure to cover them when temperatures drop below 38

degrees. Visit us at the nursery to explore these beautiful climbers:

- **Allamanda** is an evergreen vine that produces trumpet-shaped, bright yellow blooms. This plant prefers exposure to morning sunlight but can adapt to an area of full sun. As a tropical plant, allamanda loves moist, but well-drained soil. Although it is a beautiful vine to have around a patio or pool, allamanda can be poisonous to animals if ingested.

- **Bleeding heart** is a tropical vine that thrives with full shade or morning sun. This evergreen plant has dark green leaves and clusters of white flowers with red accents. Bleeding heart prefers consistently moist, but not soggy, soil and can be pruned into the shape of your choice.

- **Bougainvillea** is a woody, tropical plant that loves the Florida heat! This vine can grow up to 40 feet long and produces beautiful flowers in pink, purple, red, white, orange and yellow. Bougainvillea will climb quickly on a trellis or arbor. Beware of thorns when working with this climber and look for an area of full sun to encourage blooming throughout the season.

- A **Carolina jasmine vine** is an evergreen climber with fragrant, yellow blooms. Barring extensive cold temperatures, these plants bloom late winter through spring and thrive in Northeast Florida. Also known as Carolina Jessamine, the Carolina jasmine prefers areas of full sun. Prune when the plant finishes flowering to maintain a controlled shape and encourage fullness in the lower areas of the stem.

- **Confederate jasmine** is easy to grow in partial to full sun. Also known as star jasmine, these plants produce small white, star-shaped blooms. Confederate jasmine can grow to more than 20 feet long if left unpruned! With a bit of attention, however, it can be shaped, and pinching off the tips of the vines will encourage fuller growth.

- **Mandevilla vines** grow quickly and produce red, pink or white flowers from spring through fall. These fragrant blooms have five petals and sometimes feature a yellow center. Mandevilla loves the Florida sunshine but may need shade during the hottest part of the day.

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery



**Climbing flowers**

Add these plants to your landscape to encourage hummingbirds to visit.

Use climbing flowers and plants in your landscape to incorporate height and color. Not only are climbing plants helpful for privacy and shade, but they can also add interest to a fence or wall. Prune your climbing plants and flowers when they are not blooming to maintain your desired shape and keep their growth under control. As always, be sure to note the sunlight requirements for your climber as you select the perfect location for these decorative plants.

Happy planting!

*Flower of the Week: Bougainvillea*



**Bougainvillea**

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

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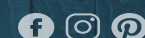
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# Gamble Rogers Folk Festival to feature children's activities

The 27th Annual Gamble Rogers Folk Festival and St. Johns Cultural Council have announced a family weekend of free outdoor activities for children 16 years of age and younger accompanied by adult ticketholders from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 15-16, at the Children's Area, St. Johns County Fairgrounds, 5840 State Road 207 East in Elkton.

A myriad of cultural events will include musical instruments and live animal petting zoos, pony rides, lawn games with bowling, cornhole, hula hoops, stilts and bubbles, to name a few. Additionally, volunteer artists will help youngsters create artwork and handmade crafts to take home. The Youth Stage at the Fairgrounds will feature live entertainment with emerging artists and professional performers from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in a family-friendly environment.

The festival celebrates the legacy of legendary troubadour Gamble Rogers, whose balladry and storytelling helped shape American folk music. This year, events have been held at The Waterworks in historic downtown St. Augustine and continue at the fairgrounds from Friday, April 14, to Sunday, April 16, on four stages, featuring performers in a wide variety of musical genres.

Activities attract thousands of spectators to hear renowned singers, songwriters, storytellers and Americana acts who were influenced by Rogers' music. The entire music festival showcases dozens of national, regional and local musicians and storytellers.

Food trucks and arts-and-crafts vendors will be available all weekend.

Festival attendees have the option to stay and camp at the venue, with advance reservations. Camping reservations must be made in advance and day-of festival tickets will be available at the gate. Children 16 years of age and younger are admitted free of charge during all festival days with adult ticketholders.

Proceeds of the Gamble Rogers Folk Festival provide funds for youth music programs for school-aged children. The organization is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit which commemorates Americana folk music with support from the St. Johns Cultural Council, which promotes and presents arts, culture and heritage activities in St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and the Beaches.

The 2023 festival is funded in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

For further information, go to [gamblerogersfest.org](http://gamblerogersfest.org). For tickets, go to [eventbrite.com/e/the-27th-annual-gamble-rogers-folk-festival-tickets-555819108917](http://eventbrite.com/e/the-27th-annual-gamble-rogers-folk-festival-tickets-555819108917).

## About Gamble Rogers

Known as the "Florida Troubadour," Rogers popularized the state's folk traditions in music, storytelling, writing and philosophical humor. After Rogers died in 1991 while trying to save a man from drowning at Flagler Beach State Recreation Area, the park was renamed Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area. Gamble Rogers Middle School in St. Augustine is also named in his honor.

Learn more about Gamble Rogers and the festival at [gamblerogersfest.org](http://gamblerogersfest.org).

## About the St. Johns Cultural Council

In partnership with the cultural community on Florida's Historic Coast, the St. Johns Cultural Council promotes arts, culture and heritage activities and events in St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and the Beaches. St. Johns County offers more than 450 years of history to explore. As America's oldest city, St. Augustine's historic sites are plentiful, including the iconic fort, museums and many attractions that offer reenacted history. For further information, go to [historiccoast-culture.com](http://historiccoast-culture.com).

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## PALM VALLEY HISTORY FESTIVAL

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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 a delightful outdoor market, local business exhibits, and live folk music. For more sponsorship info call (904) 285-2130.

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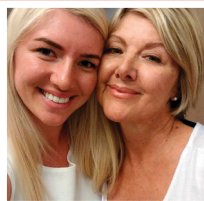
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Photos courtesy of Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra



The annual Rubber Duck Race is one of the marquee fundraisers for the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra.



The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra is making a last call for local businesses or residents that want to be sponsors for the event.

# Last call for Rotary Rubber Duck Race sponsors

By Anthony Richards

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra is looking for any businesses or community members that would like to be sponsors for the 2023 Rubber Duck Race.

The annual fundraiser is scheduled for May 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill and will benefit several charities, including Bit of Faith Ranch, Learn to Read of St. Johns County, Port in a Storm, and the Ponte Vedra Rotary Foundation.

Club members were responsible for helping select the three specific charities chosen to help from the local area.

There are various levels of sponsorship opportunities available from \$5,000 to be a platinum sponsor to being a patron sponsor with a donation of \$500.

Sponsorships can be held by both business or individual residents and can be paid by going to [pontevedrarotaryduckrace.com](http://pontevedrarotaryduckrace.com) or by writing a check payable to the Ponte Vedra Rotary Foundation and giving it to

club treasurer Sean Smith.

Social media promotion will be included for any sponsors, so businesses are asked to email an image of their logo to duck race chair Gary Smith at [garysmith317@gmail.com](mailto:garysmith317@gmail.com).

However, anybody can get involved with the annual Rotary community tradition by buying rubber ducks to run in the race or by volunteering.

The club asks that residents consider purchasing at least 10 rubber ducks for

the race, which also serves as a building block of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra's foundation endowment.

The foundation grants money to local charities, so more rubber ducks sold means more money available to in turn make an impact for those in need in the community.

Thousands of rubber ducks will be poured from the Palm Valley Nocatee Bridge before splashing and floating down the Intracoastal Waterway to decide the winner.

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# PLAYERS Championship surprises team with customized van

## Edward Waters University women's golf team will travel in style

The Edward Waters University (EWU) women's golf team will arrive in style to their tournaments moving forward thanks to a gift from THE PLAYERS Championship. Earlier this month, THE PLAYERS surprised the team with a customized van to use for all their tournament travel.

In 2021, THE PLAYERS announced a \$50,000 donation to help reinstate the women's golf program at the university. THE PLAYERS' grant helped Edward Waters University recruit and select a coach, fund student-athlete scholarships and assist with overall operational expenses. However, the biggest obstacle that the athletes have faced in the past year has been access to safe, reliable transportation.

"I'm very excited for the team to have consistent and reliable transportation," said Kelly Allen, Edward Waters University's Women's Golf Coach. "Since I took over the program, getting to practice has been a struggle for us. I am extremely grateful that those days are behind us. This van is truly a game-changer for our program, and I cannot thank THE PLAYERS enough for their intentional and continued support of the EWU women's golf program. This van will have a significant impact on our program, and our young ladies will benefit directly from this contribution."

The van is a customized 2023 Ford Transit 15-passenger van that is wrapped in the colors of Edward Waters University to ensure that when the team travels to their next



Photo courtesy of the PGA TOUR

**The Edward Waters University women's golf team recently received a new custom van for tournament travel from THE PLAYERS Championship.**

tournament in Charlotte later this month, they will arrive in style.

"When we make a commitment to an organization, it is so much more than writing a check," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS Championship. "We truly strive to have a continued partnership, so when EWU shared that they were in need of transportation, we knew we had to act. We are honored to have the opportunity to

help elevate the student-athlete experience at EWU and promote and grow the game of golf right in our hometown."

Located 30 minutes from the PGA TOUR's flagship property and Global Home, the state's first private Historically Black College and University (HBCU) is one of only two HBCUs in Florida to offer a dedicated women's golf program.

# Bass tournament to benefit Wolfson Children's Hospital

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Registration is open for the 34th annual Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament. The event, which benefits Wolfson Children's patients, will return May 18-20 at the city docks in Palatka.

This year, more than \$48,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to competitors from across the Southeast.

Also, for \$20, anyone may enter a drawing for a chance to win a 21-foot

2023 Bullet Boat model 21XRS with a trailer, courtesy of Bullet Boats, valued at \$78,000 (motor to be included).

All proceeds from the drawing will help fund new technology for the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Heart Institute at Wolfson Children's Hospital. To enter the bass boat drawing, go to [wolfsonbasstournament.com](http://wolfsonbasstournament.com). Ticket sales close at noon June 2. This year's drawing

will be broadcast on Facebook Live at 11 a.m. June 3.

The Wolfson Children's Bass Tournament is one of the largest bass fishing tournaments in Florida, and one of the longest-running, now in its 34th year.

Since the first tournament in 1989, the event has raised more than \$6 million for Wolfson Children's and the patients treated there.

Featured events of the tournament:

- May 18: Lads & Lasses Tournament (one male, one female boater). Palatka City Docks.
- May 19: VIP & Friends Tournament (sponsor boats pre-fish). Palatka City Docks.
- May 20: 34th Annual Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament. Palatka City Docks.

Register online at [wolfsonbasstournament.com](http://wolfsonbasstournament.com). Register before noon May 16. In-person registrations will take place at the Palatka City Docks from 4 a.m. to safe light the morning of May 18 and May 19 and from 3 a.m. to safe light the morning of Saturday's tournament. Boats launch at safe light.

The Palatka City Docks are located at 309 River St., Palatka.

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# 11th Annual MS Silent Auction scheduled for May 1

A tradition is heading back to Ponte Vedra, benefiting both local residents and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, North Florida Chapter.

The 11th annual Multiple Sclerosis Awareness silent auction will be held May 1 at Mr. Chubby's Wings, 150 Valley Circle, Ponte Vedra Beach. Admission is free.

The silent auction includes 10 vacation/trip packages, California and French wines, sporting and concert tickets, more than 80 local restaurants, salons, pick-

leball lessons, massages, golf, jewelry, service providers and much more. In addition, there will be a special 50/50 drawing.

New to the tables this year are: Mavi Waterfront Bar & Grill, Alhambra Theatre, I Fly, Napoli's, Sea Love Fishing Charters, Vicious Biscuit, Tranquility Technology and Yard Milkshake Bar. Longtime donors include Aqua Grill, The Addison on Amelia, Bent Oak Nursery, World Golf Village, Cooper's Hawk, European Street, The Florida Theatre, Ponte

Vedra Concert Hall, Kudos Massage, Medure, Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp, Pusser's, Tropical Smoothie Cafe and the YMCA.

Special items include a five-night stay in Pinehurst, North Carolina, a two-night stay in New Bern, North Carolina, ice cream a month for a year from Flo's Premium Ice Cream, a sandwich and smoothie a month for a year from Tropical Smoothie Cafe, and an entree and beverage a month for a year from Cruiser's Grille.

In all, more than 250 items valued at more than \$35,000 will be available for local residents to bid on. In 10 years, the event has raised \$250,000 for the MS Society.

The auction is from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and 100% of the proceeds reach the North Florida Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, providing programs and services for the more than 18,000 North Floridians impacted by MS.

To view all items up for bid, go to [silentMSauction.weebly.com](http://silentMSauction.weebly.com).

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# Volunteers at Ocean Palms and Landrum recognized

St. Johns County School District recognized outstanding school volunteers at the district level on March 30 in the categories of youth, adult and senior volunteers. After the votes were tallied from the more than 40 schools in the district, Ocean Palms Elementary's senior volunteer, Sharon Kehoe, took home the district's Outstanding Senior Volunteer of the Year award.

Additionally, PTO presidents Jennifer Werba of OPE and Kristin Glunt of Landrum Middle School tied for second place in the Outstanding Adult Volunteer of the Year category.

Finally, Evie Smith, Landrum student and OPE's youth volunteer, was recognized at the event.

For the past 13 years, Kehoe has worked to fight childhood hunger as the coordinator of the local Blessings in a Backpack program. She plans meals, organizes volunteer teams and work locations, raises funds for purchases and delivers food backpacks to 195 students in need in local schools. Believing that "Kids don't choose to be hungry," she has been called an inspiration to volunteers everywhere.

Werba has tirelessly led the initiative to secure funding and installa-



Contributed photo

Pictured from left are Jennifer Werba, OPE PTO president and runner up; Evie Smith, youth volunteer from OPE; Sharon Kehoe, Senior Volunteer of the Year award winner; Tiffany Cantwell, OPE principal; Kristin Glunt, Landrum PTO president and runner up at the St. Johns County School District awards event.

tion to not one, but two phases of playground renovations. Additionally, she has helped secure new technology for the school, such as computers and printers. She has also worked to ensure that the teachers and staff are regularly recognized and appreciated for their dedication to education with teacher appreciation lunches and gifts. She has been there to collaborate with and support the school in countless ways.

Glunt has worked to ensure the teachers feel appreciated at Landrum, something that often goes by the wayside at the middle school level. From a complete remodel of the staff lounge to regular giveaways and gift cards, to surprise theme decorating of the staff lounge, to lunches and cookouts, the staff are made to feel honored and recognized on a regular basis. Additionally, Glunt has helped provide added technology to the school in her role.

Smith volunteers to help the kindergarten teachers at OPE read with students, organize supplies, set up class lessons and assist children with classroom learning in various ways. She has enhanced the lives of seven teachers and more than 150 students in her endeavors.



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# K9s United hosts 9K for K9s to benefit four-legged crime fighters

K9s United will host its seventh annual 9k for K9s on April 29 at World Golf Hall of Fame, 1 World Golf Place, in St. Augustine to support and honor canine law enforcement officers who protect and serve our communities. The family-friendly event will include a one-mile fun run, classic 5K, challenging 9K and virtual “no excuse” race options.

The race will begin at 8 a.m.

The event will honor the bravery and perseverance of Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office K-9 Huk, who will attend the race to inspire participants as he continues to recover after being shot last year in pursuit of an armed suspect. Huk’s life was saved after being airlifted to an emergency vet thanks to K9s United’s efforts to pass legislation which allows working dogs to be transported via emergency vehicles, such as ambulanc-

es and helicopters.

Both seasoned and beginner athletes are invited to sign-up now to participate in the 9K for K9s. Each registrant will receive a race T-shirt or dog bandana (while supplies last), along with a finisher medal featuring a signature design to honor K-9 Huk for his service. The deadline to guarantee participants will receive an official race T-shirt is Sunday, April 16. Both the 5K and 9K will be chip timed with awards for the top runners in each category. All races are open to runners and walkers of all levels.

Following the race, participants and supporters can enjoy children’s activities, a photo booth with K9 heroes, a K9 demonstration, local vendors and more. For the safety of participating law enforcement K-9s, only service dogs are permitted to attend.

# Science of aging is topic at Whitney lecture

The Evenings at Whitney Lecture Series hosted by the University of Florida Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience continues at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 13, with the program titled “Fountains of youth discovered through the biology of aging.”

Christiaan Leeuwenburgh, professor of physiology and aging, College of Medicine at the University of Florida, will be the speaker.

This free lecture will be presented in person at the UF Whitney Laboratory Lohman Auditorium, 9505 Ocean Shore Blvd., in St. Augustine. Those interested also have the option of registering to watch via Zoom live the night of the lecture.

Register to watch online at [https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gB1JOqa-nSIeyrBNDVw\\_DvQ](https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gB1JOqa-nSIeyrBNDVw_DvQ).

Although aging is complex Leeuwenburgh’s team made significant advances in better understanding the biology of aging by understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms. As they learn more about these biological pathways’ (senescence, genome instability, oxidative damage, epigenetics) experiments can be



Contributed photo

**Christiaan Leeuwenburgh will speak on discoveries about aging April 13.**

designed to better understand when and how pathological disease changes begin with aging.

Furthermore, this research provides important clues toward developing interventions and optimizing the timing of specific interventions. The overall goal is to improve physical and cognitive health, prevent disease and thereby optimizing the quality of life.



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# Ponte Vedra students successful in recent competitions

Ponte Vedra High School students recently won accolades at March competitions in Daytona Beach.

In an exciting conclusion to their 2023 season, Ponte Vedra High School Percussion gave a well-received performance at the Daytona Beach Ocean Center on March 25. Despite facing stiff competition, the dedicated team emerged victorious, securing an impressive second place in A class.

This achievement has firmly estab-

lished Ponte Vedra High School Percussion as one of the leading high school ensembles in Florida.

Eager to take on new challenges, the team is gearing up for next year's competitions, striving to surpass their own achievements in 2024.

The Ponte Vedra High School Winter Guard recently completed their 2023 season at the Daytona Beach Ocean Center on March 24.

After coming off a tumultuous season

in 2022 placing second overall in the AAA class at the Florida Federation Color Guard Circuit Championships, the team continued their momentum in 2023 by getting promoted to the AA class midway through their season.

This promotion meant that the team exceeded the expectations of the previous classification and were ready to be promoted to the next highest classification. While this was unprecedented territory for many of the students on the team,

they stepped up to the challenge of a new class and had a successful championship run.

The team finished fourth overall in the AA class and has put the winter guard program on the map in the state of Florida.

The team is looking to compete on an international level next season by going to their first Winter Guard International regional and are eager to perform once again.

## Birth Day

Many families celebrate the Miracle of Easter, but one St. Johns County family is celebrating a miracle of their own. Two brothers who have been close all their lives are now a little closer with each of their wives giving birth at Flagler Hospital on the same day. Brooks Hitchcock was born at 8:04 a.m. on Thursday, April 6, to older brother David and his wife, Jackie, and their daughter. Then, Peyton Grace Hitchcock was born at 2:59 p.m. to younger brother Cody and his wife, Whitney.

Contributed photo



## Jacksonville Humane Society offers heartworm tips

This is National Heartworm Awareness Month, and the Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) is working to dispel myths around the disease, sharing stories of heartworm-positive dogs and tips for keeping pets safe, and raising funds to provide lifesaving treatment for dogs.

Heartworms are a parasite that are transmitted by mosquitoes. It only takes one bite from an infected mosquito to spread heartworms to your pet. According to the American Heartworm Society, "Although easy to prevent, heartworm disease continues to be a major health problem for dogs living in the United States and wherever mosquitoes live. If you ever see or get bitten by mosquitoes, your dog is at risk."

Cats, too, can contract heartworm disease, but unlike dogs, they are not a natural host. JHS recommends speaking to your veterinarian to understand more

about your cat's risk and prevention methods.

During Heartworm Awareness Month, the Jacksonville Humane Society is sharing the following information:

- Giving your dog a prescribed prevention from your veterinarian is the best option for keeping your dog safe.
- Dogs who recover from heartworm can still live full, happy lives.
- You can help a dog with heartworm by donating during the month of April using [jaxhumane.org/donate](http://jaxhumane.org/donate) or calling 904-725-8766.

JHS covers the cost of heartworm treatment for each pet that enters the shelter, the majority of which are dogs. The cost of treatment is approximately \$250 per dog, totaling about \$100,000 each year. Treatment includes, but is not limited to, a 30-day supply of oral medication to begin treatment, multiple lifesaving injections to kill heartworms and an overnight hospital stay.

"It is only with the help of our generous community that we can provide compassionate care to each and every pet, regardless of any obstacle or ailment," said Denise Deisler, JHS CEO. "Every dog deserves a second chance, this your opportunity to provide just that."

To learn more, donate or view dogs waiting to be adopted, go to [jaxhumane.org/heart](http://jaxhumane.org/heart) or follow along on social media with #HeartwormAwareness.



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# Link announces programs, activities for April

There's always something going on at the link, located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra.

## KIDS' PROGRAMS

Register at [app.thelink.zone](http://app.thelink.zone) for these programs.

### Storyteller Story Time

Each Wednesday Morning  
10-10:30 a.m.

This activity is free.

### Kids Yoga

Each Wednesday Afternoon  
4:15 to 5 p.m.

Free to all link members. Non-members pay a \$10 drop-in fee per person per class.

### Kids Night Out

Saturday, April 15  
5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Kids Night Out equals Parents Night Out!

There will be Dino Mania, a PJ pizza party, games, arts-and-crafts and movies. Fun for ages 4 to 11.

Available to link members and nonmembers.



File photo

The link is located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra.

### Kids Night Out

Saturday, April 22  
5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The focus will be Earth Day. There will be a PJ pizza party, games, arts-and-crafts and movies. Fun for ages 4 to 11.

Available to link members and nonmembers.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

Go to [app.thelink.zone](http://app.thelink.zone) for further details and registration.

### Stretch & Sculpt — Comfort and Fitness

Each Monday  
Noon to 12:45 p.m.

Audience friendly. Tone and sculpt, promote body awareness, find comfort and fitness, and have fun.

Free to all link members. Nonmembers pay a \$10 drop-in fee per person per class.

### Yoga/Pilates Fusion

Each Monday  
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

This class is appropriate for all ages and body types.

Free to all link members. Nonmembers pay a \$10 drop-in fee per person per class.

### Yoga for Adults

Each Thursday  
5-6 p.m.

Free to all link members. Nonmembers pay a \$10 drop-in fee per person per class.

### Book Signing Event

Wednesday, April 26  
7-9 p.m.

Dr. Abigail Levrini Ph.D is a licensed clinical psychologist, ADHD specialist, renowned speaker and bestselling author. She will sign her latest book at the link.

## SNEAK PEAK MONTH OF MAY:

### Floral Design Workshop

Tropical flowers  
May 18 at the link

Go to [app.thelink.zone](http://app.thelink.zone) for more details.

### Level Up Dance Company

Competition team auditions  
May 20 at the link

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## LUNCH & LEARN

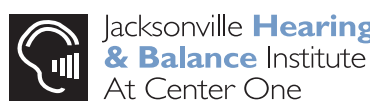
### Demystifying Over-The-Counter (OTC) vs Prescription Hearing Aids

*Learn the signs and causes of hearing loss.*

**RSVP by Friday, April 21st at 904-399-0350. The event is Wednesday, April 26th from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Free event with lunch included.**  
Presented by J. Douglas Green, MD, FACS, Elizabeth Selle, Au.D., CCC-A and Rebecca Burden, Au.D



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# Rutherford speaks at Churchmen luncheon



Contributed photo

Pictured from left are Peter Karpen, Craig Wantoch, U.S. Rep. Rutherford and Quentin Walsh.

The Churchmen had another interesting luncheon on March 16 at Marsh Landing County Club. More than 70 members joined together for food and fellowship. U.S. Rep. John Rutherford was the luncheon speaker. Rutherford serves in the U.S. House of Representatives from the 5th district of Florida. This district covers much

of Jacksonville and St. Johns County. Rutherford gave some behind-the-scenes insights into the workings of Congress and the importance of resuming the basic processes of “Regular Order” and “Budget Appropriations.” During the Q&A, a number of questions were raised by the members.

# 11th annual Derby Run event announced

Tip your hats and celebrate the 149th Kentucky Derby at St. Augustine’s Tringali Barn from 4 to 8 p.m. May 6. There will be food, fashion and fun at the 11th annual Derby Run, a benefit for Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

Attendees will enjoy the Derby’s signature drink, the mint julep, and be treated to hors d’oeuvres, festive live music and a silent auction. Racing fans are encouraged to wear their finest and fanciest Derby attire, and all proceeds from the event stay in St. Augustine and St. Johns County to support the end-of-life care needs of the community.

“As a resident of St. Johns County, I am so happy that we are able to present this wonderful event that supports the community,” said Jane Boles, chair of St. Augustine/



St. Johns County Advisory Council. “We hope you will join us and get as close as you can get to the Derby without going to Kentucky and support a great local cause.”

For more information, go to [DerbyRun.CommunityHospice.com](http://DerbyRun.CommunityHospice.com) or contact Community Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation at 904-886-3883.

# Baptist Health Clinical School launching summer cohort

Baptist Health Clinical School opened applications for a 15-week Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) preparation course. This will be the second cohort through Baptist Health Clinical School, which is licensed by the Florida Board of Nursing and the Commission for Independent Education.

The program will prepare the student to take the CNA certification exam through

the Florida Board of Nursing. Training will be:

- Comprised of classroom sessions, a skills lab, testing and clinicals within a hospital and a long-term care facility
  - Teaching students to care for patients in all types of care settings
  - A mix of members of the public and Baptist Health team members
- Successful candidates will have an

opportunity to interview for a position to work at Baptist Health following certification, where they will also receive a year of mentoring within the health system. Once employed, Baptist Health offers team member education support as a benefit.

Candidates must:

- Have a passion for helping others
- Be at least 18 years old

- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Pass an academic assessment test
- Participate in an interview

The deadline to submit applications is May 5. Classes will begin in July.

Learn more about the program and download the application at [baptistjax.com/about-us/baptist-health-clinical-school](http://baptistjax.com/about-us/baptist-health-clinical-school)



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# Debate at states

*Nease represented well at civics and debate state championship*

**By Anthony Richards**

Eighteen students from Nease High School recently took part in the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative State Championship Tournament in Orlando.

It was an impressive outing for the group, as a dozen students reached the quarterfinals and five advanced all the way to the final rounds, and the result was several trophies and memories gained from the experience.

The event consisted of several different forms of debate that students competed in.

Nease finalists included Eva Gassert and Rachel Ball in novice congressional debate and Mina Dryden was recognized as a pre-

siding officer for a congressional debate round.

Daniel Gassert finished runner-up in the novice extemporaneous speaking competition, while Rich Nguyen was runner-up novice impromptu speaking.

Pranav Devanand was state champion in novice Lincoln Douglas debate and made the semifinals in Lincoln Douglas debate.

However, he was not the only representation from Nease to hold their own in the Lincoln Douglas debate category, as Nihal Kondabrolu and Saicharan Ramineni each made runs to the quarterfinals.

Mayukha Das came home in sixth place in novice original oratory speaking.

Other competitors who made the trip to compete at the state tournament included Cailey Green, Kaitlyn Williams, Ian Canfield, Roshan Chak, Paxton Beidle, Shreyas Sindhaval, Manogna Chandra and Rishi Chandra.



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# Foundation donates \$1M to MOSH

Renderings provided by MOSH



The "Nature Island" area is seen in this rendering of the proposal for MOSH's new structure.



This rendering shows the museum's future exterior.

The Museum of Science & History (MOSH) announced on April 6 that the Neviaser Foundation has donated \$1 million to the MOSH Genesis capital campaign.

The gift will be honored through the naming of the small traveling exhibition space, which would host a rotating schedule of exhibitions at the museum's proposed new facility on the Northbank of Downtown Jacksonville.

For Nancy Neviaser Baker and her husband, Robert Baker, supporting the museum's relocation campaign as a family honors cherished memories made at MOSH when their daughter Jennifer was young —

and paves the way for future generations to enjoy similar experiences on a larger scale.

"The Neviaser Foundation is extremely excited to join many others in the MOSH Genesis campaign to make the museum a beacon on the Northbank and a continuing fixture of our community," said Nancy Neviaser Baker. "My family and our foundation are proud to continue our history of supporting children and families in Northeast Florida, and we think this opportunity to get behind MOSH Genesis is fantastic. We encourage everyone in Northeast Florida to join us to support this effort."

MOSH has operated in its current location on the Southbank of Downtown

Jacksonville since 1969. The museum's operations have outgrown the 77,000-square-foot facility. Building a new museum will significantly expand the organization's capacity to serve more students and visitors. Plans for the new museum comprise approximately 100,000 square feet across three floors, with the option to build a future expansion of an additional 30,000 square feet.

The Downtown Investment Authority Board approved the allocation of 2.5 acres of land for the MOSH building and 4.7 acres of surrounding public and partnered communal space in December 2022.

Legislation for the disposition and develop-

ment of the property, ground lease of the land, design of the park and the Riverwalk and other agreements are currently under review by the Jacksonville City Council.

"The Neviaser family's experiences at MOSH symbolize what makes a museum like ours so important to the community, and we are honored to have their support as we plan for the future," said Bruce Fafard, CEO of MOSH. "This generous donation will help us bring more complex, modern exhibits to Northeast Florida. It's an honor to welcome the Neviaser Foundation as our naming rights partner for one of our exhibition spaces planned for the new museum."

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# How to shop for an insurance policy

Adults need insurance for a variety of reasons. Insurance provides a safety net when accidents or injuries occur, and the right insurance policy can help policy holders make it through such instances as smoothly as possible.

• **Research ratings.** Various groups rate insurance companies based on everything from the usefulness of their websites to how satisfied their customers are with the claims process. J.D. Power conducts surveys of customer satisfaction and product quality for various industries, including insurance. The results of those surveys can be found at [www.jdpower.com](http://www.jdpower.com) and can provide valuable insight into insurance providers.

• **Emphasize customer service.** Customer service reputation should bear considerable weight when shopping for an insurance policy. Many policy holders want readily available access to a human being when they have an insurance question or need to submit a claim. When shopping for policies and seeking estimates, take note of how easy or difficult it is to speak with an agent at each company. Is the quotes process entirely automated, or is an agent walking you through the estimate and carefully explaining each component of the

policy? Rating agencies rank companies based on customer service offerings, and those ratings should not be overlooked.

• **Seek recommendations.** Ask friends or relatives which companies hold their policies and how easy or difficult it's been for them to file claims in the past. Google reviews and other online review boards also can be great resources to see how existing or past policy holders feel about a given provider. Pay attention to how quickly claims are settled and paid out, as policy holders, in most instances, should not have to wait months or years to be reimbursed for costs covered by their policies.

• **Avoid being fixated on cost.** Cost is a significant consideration when shopping for insurance policies, especially costly policies like homeowners and auto insurance. But cost should not be the deciding factor. A company that offers especially low rates may only do so because it offers very limited coverage, while a more expensive policy may provide more extensive coverage that helps policy holders make it through accidents or injuries with their savings intact. Carefully read estimates to determine how much coverage you will be getting with each policy.

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## Subaru of Jacksonville donates \$160K to Wolfson Children's Hospital

Subaru of Jacksonville presented its largest single gift yet to Wolfson Children's Hospital on March 29: a \$160,000 check from the 15th annual Share the Love campaign. For the second straight year, the local dealership also had the single largest donation to one charity among Subaru dealerships nationwide.

To date, Subaru of Jacksonville has committed to donate \$1.3 million to Wolfson Children's Hospital, with funds supporting care and advanced technology to treat critically ill and injured children at Wolfson Children's Porter Family Children's Trauma Center, in addition to child passenger safety education through THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children's.

During this year's campaign, Subaru donated \$250 for every new vehicle purchased or leased from Subaru of Jacksonville between Nov. 17 and Jan. 3. Customers could choose from four national charities for the \$250 donation — including ASPCA, Make a Wish Foundation, Meals on Wheels and the National Park Foundation — or Subaru of Jacksonville's hometown charity, Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Subaru of Jacksonville matched every \$250 donation, plus more, regardless of the charity chosen by the customer, with all matching funds benefitting Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Additionally, Subaru of America and Subaru of Jacksonville donated \$2 and \$3, respectively, to Wolfson Children's for every Subaru oil change at the dealership during the campaign. This is seventh year Wolfson Children's has been Subaru of Jacksonville's hometown charity.

Subaru of Jacksonville was the first corporate partner to support trauma services at Wolfson Children's and established the Subaru of Jacksonville Porter Family Trauma Services Endowment, creating a legacy of support for generations to come. To recognize their generosi-

ty, Wolfson Children's named the region's only American College of Surgeons-Verified Level I Pediatric Trauma Center in the Porter Family's honor.

"We continue to be incredibly grateful that we're able to make a contribution of this size, and very thankful of our relationship with Wolfson Children's Hospital," said Phil Porter, owner of Subaru of Jacksonville. "We are aware that our donations impact lives and that is an incredible feeling."

In addition to donating to Wolfson Children's through Share the Love, Subaru of Jacksonville is also the presenting sponsor of Wolfson Children's annual summer toy drive, Christmas in July, and supports two of Wolfson Children's signature fundraisers, the Wolfson Children's Challenge and Smoking Clays for Kids, which raise critical funding for life-saving equipment and technology.

Subaru of Jacksonville, in collaboration with Wolfson Children's Hospital and THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health, will also continue to host free child passenger car seat safety checks the first Friday of each month to ensure children are safe on the roads.

"Since arriving in Jacksonville, I've been astounded by the community's generosity and support," said Allegra Jaros, MBA, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital. "Thanks to people like Phil and Roxanne Porter, along with businesses like Subaru of Jacksonville, we're able to continue our mission serving ill and injured children, while supporting programs to prevent injury outside the hospital."

As a not-for-profit organization, Wolfson Children's Hospital relies on charitable donations to provide world-class, specialized pediatric care for all children in the region, regardless of ability to pay. The hospital opened in 1955, with the aid of an initial gift from the Wolfson Family Foundation, as a place for all children to be admitted and treated without regard to creed, religion, race



Contributed photo

**Pictured from left are: Phil Porter, owner, Subaru of Jacksonville; Allegra Jaros, president, Wolfson Children's Hospital; and Phil Porter Jr., executive management, Subaru of Jacksonville.**

or financial position. That original mission remains today.

Subaru of Jacksonville is a family-owned and -run business that was opened in August 2000 by current owner R. Phil Porter in order to serve the people of Jacksonville and its surrounding communities. The Subaru of Jacksonville team lives in the community, works in the community and supports the community through donations, sponsorships, volunteerism and community events.

Subaru of Jacksonville has been awarded DealerRater's Florida Subaru Dealer of the Year for the past nine years, the only Subaru retailer to achieve this award for so many consecutive years, and DealerRater's National Subaru Dealer of the Year in 2020 and 2023.

Subaru of Jacksonville was awarded the 2017 Subaru Love Promise Award, a national Subaru award given to only one of more than 600 dealerships, for their commitment to the community and multiple monthly awards for community service.

Phil Porter believes that with great reward comes great responsibility and that means treating others the best way and meeting needs whenever possible, from a personal level, dealership level, and community level.

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# The many roles played by different types of lawyers

The legal profession casts a wide net. Lawyers and attorneys wear a number of different hats, and knowing how to distinguish between the many types of legal professionals can help people find the right fit when they're looking for legal representation or guidance.

• **Defense lawyer:** Thanks to Hollywood, the general public has a good idea of what defense lawyers do, even if most people will never need one. Defense lawyers defend people who have been accused of breaking the law. According to the Legal Information Institute, the Sixth Amendment guarantees the right to a defense lawyer. People accused of crimes who cannot afford to hire a private attorney can be assigned a public defender to represent them as the legal process plays out.

• **Family lawyer:** Family lawyers specialize in many different areas. Some family lawyers may specialize in divorce cases, while others may specialize in child adoptions. Lawyers who specialize in domestic violence cases also may qualify as family lawyers.

• **Estate planning lawyer:** Over time, just about anyone might require the services of a lawyer who specializes in estate

planning. These professionals help people with their wills and can help ensure asset transfers go as smoothly as possible. Estate planning lawyers also can help people establish trusts.

• **Personal injury lawyer:** Commercials for personal injury lawyers dot the television landscape, making these professionals among the most recognizable legal professionals. Personal injury lawyers specialize in civil litigation while representing clients who may have been injured at work or in public or in another setting.

• **Real estate lawyer:** Homeowners utilize real estate lawyers when buying their homes. These lawyers can represent both buyers and sellers (though not both at the same time) as the parties negotiate the sale of a home, essentially serving as intermediaries between the two parties. Real estate lawyers are often present when closing documents are signed. Real estate lawyers also work on disputes between tenants and property owners.

Lawyers serve in various capacities and specialize in many different areas of the law. Knowing which professional to look to when in need can help people successfully navigate any legal issues that arise.



# ABA Connection holds ribbon cutting

ABA Connection recently joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony at its location at 175 Cumberland Park Drive, Suite 100 in St. Augustine. The business offers applied behavior analysis therapy for children and adults in-home, at school and in their on-site clinic.

Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



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Students competing in the JA Stock Market Challenge make their trades on the simulated floor of the stock market.



Contributed photos

A team from Bartram Trail High School holds their trophy from the JA Stock Market Challenge.

# Bartram Trail teams take top spots in Stock Market Challenge

Junior Achievement of North Florida hosted 23 teams from four local high schools at its inaugural JA Stock Market Challenge.

The event held at TIAA Bank Field's East Club was set up to allow students to experience a real-world stock market trading floor. Teams from Raines, Englewood, Fletcher and Bartram Trail high schools were set up at tables on the trade room floor and followed the trade tickers and news of the day.

The teams were given "\$1 million" to trade and used paddles to alert the traders of their desire to buy or sell stocks during a 60-day period. The live competition was the finale of the JA Take Stock in Your Future pilot program designed to stimulate young people's interest in personal finance and managing their money before they move on to college or the workforce.

"You could see the excitement in these students as they were working together in teams to create a stock portfolio with the highest value," said Shannon Italia, president of JA of North Florida. "This JA learning experience helps students

to build key competencies like critical thinking and collaboration skills, which are essential for success in post-secondary education and industry. It also drives a higher level of inspiration and motivation and stimulates their interest in personal finance and fiscal responsibility."

The 23 teams earned their spots in the live competition after completing five classroom sessions and additional activities where they were introduced to the basic concepts of how the stock market works and how current events can impact the trade. The students then competed in a classroom trading simulation where the top teams were chosen to compete in JA of North Florida's inaugural live JA Stock Market Challenge.

"Take Stock in Your Future provides foundational concepts for financial literacy, investing and making better financial choices," said Charlie Saman, JA volunteer and vice president of commercial lending, RadiFi Credit Union. "It was a rewarding experience for me to be involved in the hands-on preparation of the stock simulation, coaching and engaging with Raines JROTC students

one on one. This has been one of the most memorable experiences and opportunities to connect with the students."

"What this program has really allowed us to do this year is to take something they are learning in the classroom, and it provided the opportunity for a practical experience," said Kristy Mattice, Bartram Trail High School teacher. "Whenever the students get that opportunity their level of learning is so much deeper. They get the opportunity not only to see it in action but to make those critical thinking connections. They get to take their individual interests and research it a little bit deeper and then the sky is the limit in terms of what they can learn and where they might take it in the future."

The trading session was for a period of 60 days with each "day" lasting 60 seconds. They were given QR codes to track their portfolio or they could get the information from a help desk using a punch card. The teams were allowed only three trades during a single visit by the trader before the trader moved on. The students were not allowed any contact or help from adults on the sidelines.

When the closing bell rang, the portfolios were tallied, and the top three winners were announced. Bartram Trail High School teams swept the competition and took the top three spots. Coming in third was White Collar Stocks. The second-place winner was Team Rio and the big winner of the day was The Stocksonville Jaguars whose portfolio was listed at \$1,700,326.50.

"I think it is a lot of fun, and I know a lot about financial literacy, but I didn't know a lot about stocks so I feel like coming here I was able to learn more about where it is smart to buy and where it is smart to sell," said Maria Mankin, Bartram High School student and first place winner. "It is really doing a lot for high schoolers. It is teaching them about finances and teaching them about stocks and the future."

TIAA Bank was the title sponsor of the JA Stock Market Challenge and Publix Supermarkets was the presenting sponsor of the event. The UPS Foundations was the JA Take Stock in Your Future program sponsor.

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# In the Arts

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## Plein air painter featured at gallery

The Professional Artists of St. Augustine (PASTA) Fine Art Gallery, 214 Charlotte St., St. Augustine, has announced that member Pamela Geiger is the featured artist for April. Her plein air oil paintings of local architecture and the surrounding coastal areas are on display in the front room of the gallery.

Born in Ohio, Geiger's fascination with art and sailing came into her life early. As a child, she sailed with her family on the Great Lakes during the summer months. Drawing also became a consistent presence in her life, starting with the familiar and eventually moving into drawing boats and harbors.

Geiger worked in Cleveland while caring for her small family, but after an especially brutal winter, she decided to pack up and head west for California. After a stint in L.A., she was on the move again, this time heading north to Mendocino County. During the turbulent and often creative '70s, she worked the land, worked in a print shop, raised animals and lived in a Native American teepee. Combining her interests in animal husbandry, textiles and herbology, she started a home business of offering naturally dyed wool and batiks.

It wasn't until she was back East, working as an X-ray tech in a hospital on Nantucket, that her interest in pursuing art as a potential profession struck hard. She worked during the day and read art books, practiced with materials at night, and visited many museums during



Contributed photo

Artist Pamela Geiger is seen surrounded by some of her work.

her time off. She continued her self-education when a move to Cambridge, Maryland, brought her into contact with the artist and owner of Troika Gallery in Easton, Maryland.

Finally settling in St. Augustine in the '80s, Geiger's artistic journey blossomed. The Ancient City, during that time, had seen better days, but its charm captivated Geiger. She set up a studio in an old,

dilapidated Victorian (now known as the Collector Bed & Breakfast). She placed her art in a gallery on Anastasia Island, and in an effort to get her work seen downtown, she applied to, and was accepted by PASTA Fine Art Gallery. When an opportunity opened on Aviles Street, she and several other artists opened the Aviles Street Art Gallery.

The wanderlust bug bit Geiger again, and she and her husband, Andy, took to the sea in their 28-foot sailboat, "Grace," and sailed around the Caribbean for nine years before settling back on land. She has since returned to PASTA, where she draws from her inspiring life to fill canvases with the beauty of Northeast Florida's unique architecture and breathtaking land and seascapes.

For more on Pam Geiger, plein air artist, go to [pastagalleryart.com](http://pastagalleryart.com) or [facebook.com/pastaartgallery](https://www.facebook.com/pastaartgallery) Facebook page. Her work can be seen at [pamelageiger.com](http://pamelageiger.com).

The Professional Artists of St. Augustine Fine Art Gallery was founded in 1982 by Jean Wagner Troemel, a champion of the arts, founder of the Winter Haven Ridge Art Association, served on the Florida Arts Group Board and spearheaded St. Augustine's First Friday Art Walks. The gallery has served an international clientele a wealth of local talent and award-winning artists. The gallery's mission is to showcase local and regional art and to educate and encourage area artists.

## Symphony's Lewis to conduct Paris Opera Ballet

Jacksonville Symphony Music Director Courtney Lewis has been invited to conduct the Opéra national de Paris (Paris Opera Ballet) during select performances of "The Dante Project," a ballet by composer Thomas Adès, at the Palais Garnier in Paris, France.

Lewis is stepping in to fill the role of conductor for Gustavo Dudamel, music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. During his time in Paris, Lewis will share responsibilities for the multi-performance project with Thomas Adès, internationally-renowned composer, pianist and conductor.

"The Dante Project" journey began

in July 2019, when the first section, "Inferno," a proverbial love letter from Adès to Hungarian composer Franz Liszt, was one of many substantial premieres celebrating the Los Angeles Philharmonic's centennial. Inspired by his complex, colorful orchestral score, the Paris Opera Ballet and The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, commissioned Adès to compose the score for a three-act ballet inspired by Dante Alighieri's "The Divine Comedy" alongside dynamic British choreographer Wayne McGregor and featuring designs by the artist Tacita Dean.

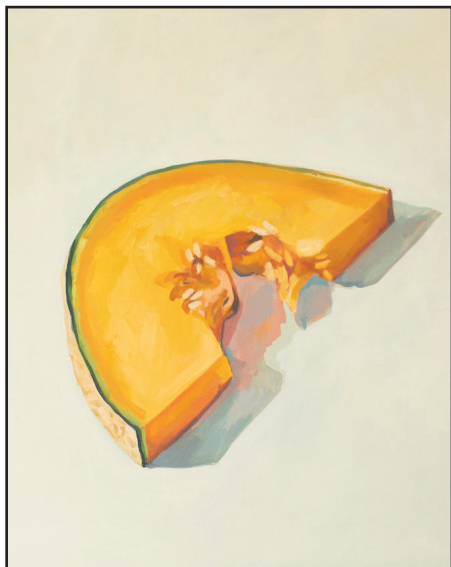
Adapted from the original work writ-

ten in the 14th century, "The Dante Project" recounts and dramatizes the journey through Hell, Purgatory and Paradise as described in "The Divine Comedy." In his interpretation of the story, McGregor brings this medieval Christian fantasy to life through dance as a young woman, Beatrice, embodies a promise of love and hope. Through hyperkinetic, complex choreography and evocative orchestral storytelling, "The Dante Project" reconstructs a timeless narrative arc taking audiences on a nonstop journey where sound, movement and light form the substance of a mysterious and changing constellation.

"I am delighted to be working with the Paris Opera for the first time, especially on the music of Thomas Adès, which has meant an enormous amount to me for decades," said Lewis.

Lewis has served as the Jacksonville Symphony's music director since 2015, a position permanently endowed by Haskell in 2009. Currently in his eighth season as music director, Lewis has designed an ambitious plan to enrich the surrounding community with innovative symphonic programming, creating the highest quality of art possible.

Contributed photo



# Jenna Alexander to debut 'Modern Summer' collection

The days are just starting to get longer and warmer, but local artist Jenna Alexander has been cultivating a summer vibe all winter. She is set to debut her newest collection, "Modern Summer," at her studio located at 73 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine.

"In college, I was enamored with the work of Wayne Thiebaud," Alexander said. "The way he took commonplace objects and transcended them to a new level through negative space, heavy pigment and bright colors — it just spoke to me. I wanted to take the emotion I got from his art and imbue it into mid-century coastal scenes that evoke the feel of 'The Endless Summer' — one of my favorite surf documentaries."

Alexander's newest series consists of 25 original, large-

scale pieces that feature figurative studies and fruit still-lives with pops of color and saturated hues.

One canvas boasts a juicy slice of melon, the next a serene cloudscape, while another captures an intimate and relaxing moment of a woman enjoying a drink. The colorful scenes are artfully balanced with purposeful swaths of neutral space. To create a lived-in feel, the artist worked with local stylist Tara Ferreira to create curated mid-century outfits, that were then modeled and photographed for reference.

"This collection is inspired by all the little moments that seem mundane," said Alexander. "Slicing a lemon



ALEXANDER continues on Page 28



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# Local authors write thriller with unusual twist

By Shaun Ryan

As he frantically hunts down a serial killer on the loose in Jacksonville, Detective Jim Castile receives clues from a strange source: voices coming over his walkie-talkie – voices of the killer’s victims. But that’s not the only thing that sets this case apart for Castile. Because everything is about to get personal.

The final voice he hears is that of his wife.

“White Noise Whispers,” a crime thriller co-written by local authors Tracy Tripp (writing as T.S. Tripp) and Edward Mickolus, actually tells two stories: the detective’s mission to stop the murders and the events that made the killer what he is.

The novel’s antagonist is a psychiatric patient, a former U.S. Marine who fell in love with an embedded journalist during his service in the Iraq War. The horrific acts he’s forced to commit in the line of duty precipitate his decline, and the journalist becomes his first victim.

It’s an unusual premise that brings together elements of traditional crime fiction with a deep character study and questions about the impact of battle on those who must engage in it.

And, like all good reads, it started with an idea.

## Getting it right

Mickolus, the author of 50 books (and counting), was at a book festival three years ago when he first met Tripp, who approached him hoping that the prolific writer and the former CIA analyst could help her with the verisimilitude of her latest romantic suspense novel, “Something Like a Dream.”

Mickolus read the book and was impressed.

“She’s the best writer I’ve ever read,” he said.

Mickolus suggested they collaborate on something and gave Tripp a list of ideas he’d been saving up. She liked one about an investigator who solves crimes by hearing voices over a walkie-talkie.

Over the next two years, they developed the story and its characters. But it wasn’t as simple as spinning a yarn for their readers. Both authors were committed to getting their facts right, and that meant research. A lot of it.

“I had to learn about the Iraqi people,” said Tripp. “I had to learn about religions and really delve into it.”

Interviewing experts was an essential part of the research.

“We had great resources to help us,” Tripp said.

For background on the Marines, Tripp turned to a relative who was a veteran. Mickolus, meanwhile, found a former military officer who had served dur-



“White Noise Whispers” co-authors Tracy Tripp and Edward Mickolus show off some of their other books. Their new novel will be available for purchase May 8.

Photo by Shaun Ryan

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# Writing from life experiences topic of panel discussion

Every writer draws from their life experiences when fleshing out scenes for both fiction and nonfiction. But how to use the most impactful life experiences and translate them into a meaningful narrative takes time and thought.

The FWA Ponte Vedra Writers group will explore “Writing from Life Experiences” with a panel discussion featuring three authors who have mined specific life-altering events for their books.

The meeting takes place at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 22, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

The panelists will discuss specific life experiences that they used in their writing, including decisions made about what to use and what not to use. Those in the audience will have a chance to ask questions as well. The three panelists are Judy Holmes, Margaret (Peggy) Nicholson and



Judy Holmes



Margaret Nicholson



Linda Sexton

Linda Sexton.

After 27 years teaching English to middle and secondary students, and more years coaching teachers and teaching college students — not to mention raising her own children and nurturing 11 grandchildren — Holmes has used that hard-earned wisdom to write her award-winning book, “Responsible Kids: 6 Steps to Raising

Them in an Irresponsible World.”

Nicholson had been working on a travel memoir when the birth of her grandson sparked an interest in genealogy, and she began researching her family tree. Through DNA testing she discovered an unexpected birth father. This led her to write “My Surprise Family: Find Your Ancestry Story.”

Sexton was a pioneer as a woman engineer, and later a pioneer in open adoption. She and her husband adopted two children, both in open arrangements with the birth parents. She became determined to help others embarking on the same adoption journey and wrote “The Branches We Cherish: Twenty-Five Truths About Open Adoption.” The book won Gold in last year’s Royal Palm Literary Awards competition in the Unpublished Nonfiction category.

The Ponte Vedra Writers group is part of the Florida Writers Association, a state-wide, membership organization dedicated to the support of both aspiring and published writers in any genre.

The April 22 meeting is free and open to members and nonmembers alike. For information on FWA go to [floridawriters.org](http://floridawriters.org).

## Ballet

Continued from 25

Throughout his tenure, Lewis has dramatically reimagined the symphony’s musical offerings, reinvigorated the symphony’s long tradition of commissioning works from today’s brightest composers, championed more diversity

within the orchestra and pushed the limits of creativity to launch the Jacksonville Symphony on the international stage.

A passionate opera conductor, Lewis introduced symphonically staged productions of “Hänsel und Gretel” in 2017, excerpts from “Götterdämmerung” with Christine Brewer and Jay Hunter Morris in 2018, “Don Giovanni” in 2019 and

“La Bohème” in 2022. While Lewis was slated to conduct this season’s production of “The Magic Flute,” associate conductor Kevin Fitzgerald will take the podium in his place.

Lewis will return the Jacksonville in time to conduct the symphony’s world premiere of its commission by composer Sean Shepherd on May 19 and 20.

The Jacksonville Symphony is North

Florida’s leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. In addition, the symphony provides music instruction for youth and operates the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras.

For more information about the symphony, go to [JaxSymphony.org](http://JaxSymphony.org).



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## Alexander

Continued from 26

for the first summer lemonade stand, or friends hauling their boards to the beach for a morning surf session. These works celebrate the beauty of everyday life.”

Jenna Alexander Studios is hosting an opening from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, to celebrate the release of “Modern Summer.” In addition to the original works, fine art prints will be available, ranging in sizes from 8-by-10 inches up to 48-by-72 inches. Neighboring business and local eatery Sunday Gathering Table will provide complimentary charcuterie; beer and wine will be available for purchase. Live music will be provided by The Dewars.

More information about the collection can be found at [jenna-alexander.com/collections/modern-summer](http://jenna-alexander.com/collections/modern-summer).



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# Sports

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## BRINGING THEM HOME

*Timely hitting continues to be key for Sharks*

**By Anthony Richards**

The Sharks lineup has continued to produce a lot of late defeating Middleburg 8-0 on the road on April 4 and then coming home to beat St. Augustine 9-5 on April 6.

They have scored six or more runs in each of their 10 wins this season, which proves that when the offense is rolling, the Sharks are a hard team to beat.

It did not take long for the Sharks to grab control against the Broncos, as they jumped out to the lead with three early runs in the first inning and never looked back.

Six different Sharks had a hit in the contest, led by two hits apiece from senior Ethan Yesensky and juniors Dominic Masto and Parker Gunnell.

Yesensky hit his fourth home run of the season and had a double as he drove in two of the Sharks' eight runs on the night.

Matt Hoag took care of business on the mound en route to striking out 13 Bronco batters and walked none while allowing just five hits thanks to a precision shutout performance.

With the win, Hoag improved to a record of 3-3 with a 1.35 era on the season.

The Sharks were able to light up the scoreboard first in their victory over the Yellow Jackets as well but found themselves in a back-and-forth game before a six-run sixth inning proved enough to put the game out of reach.

Masto was at it again at the plate for the second time in three nights, this time leading the Sharks with two singles and a trio of runs batted in.

Braden Kessel, Jack Ottesen and Austin O'Hara each had two hits apiece, including a double for O'Hara, his second in as many games.

Timely hitting was key in the game for the Sharks, whose eight hits matched



Photos by Anthony Richards

**The entire Sharks' batting order has been feeling confident at the plate of late.**



**Carson Evanger pitched in relief for the Sharks against St. Augustine April 6.**

that of the Yellow Jackets, but they were able to convert those baserunners into runs on the scoreboard.

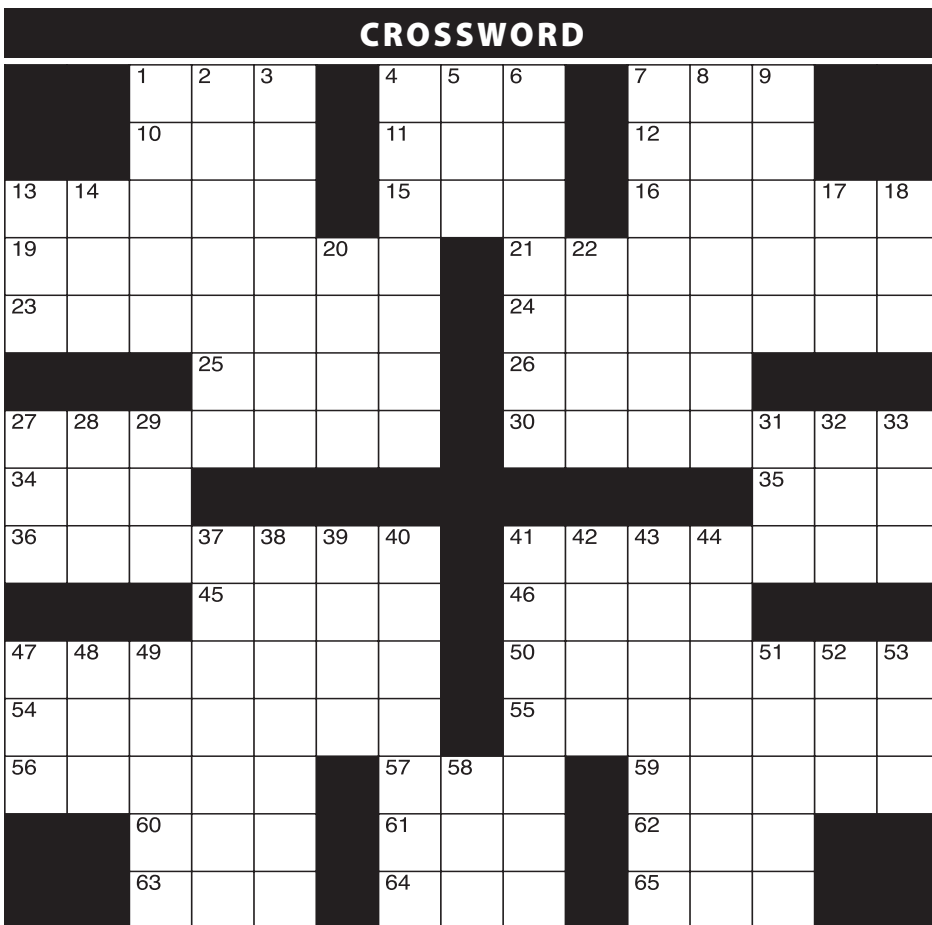
It is one thing to get hits, but it is another thing entirely to make those hits count and to limit the number of runners

left in scoring position.

Timely hitting like that has made the Sharks a very dangerous team of late and they will continue to be that moving forward if they continue to see the ball well and make the best of their opportunities

at the plate.

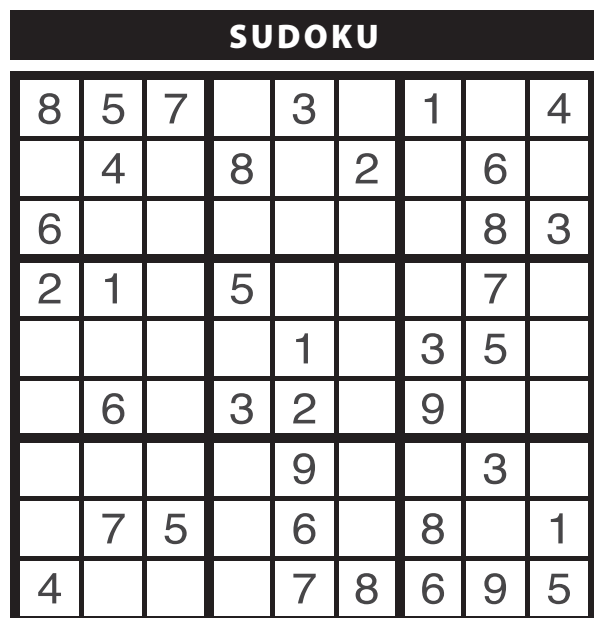
Senior Eric Anderson got the win for the Sharks with three innings of relief where he allowed no earned runs on two hits, while striking out two and walking four.



**ACROSS**

- 1. Atomic mass unit
- 4. Criticize mightily
- 7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 10. Stand in for
- 11. Everyone has one
- 12. Brew
- 13. Rectify
- 15. Popular Dodge truck model
- 16. Beef or chicken intestine
- 19. Satisfy
- 21. Of a particular people or localized region
- 23. Movements in quick tempos
- 24. Able to pay one's debts
- 25. Fleshy bird beak covering
- 26. Dueling sword
- 27. Helps
- 30. Court is in it
- 34. Touch lightly
- 35. Airborne (abbr.)
- 36. Of one
- 41. Baked good
- 45. Jai \_\_, sport
- 46. About aviation
- 47. Low oval mound
- 50. Rugged mountain ranges
- 54. Compel to do something
- 55. A way to carve
- 56. Sao \_\_, city in Brazil
- 57. Mustachioed actor Elliott
- 59. American Idol runner-up Clay
- 60. A way to soak
- 61. Car mechanics group
- 62. Born of
- 63. Time zone
- 64. Sea eagle
- 65. Even's opposite

- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Ottoman military title
- 6. Banes
- 7. Horse-riding seats
- 8. Arms of a shirt
- 9. Narrow path along a road edge
- 13. Viper
- 14. Disfigure
- 17. Variety of Chinese language
- 18. Portray in a show
- 20. Wrongful act
- 22. No (slang)
- 27. State of agitation
- 28. \_\_ Diego
- 29. One point east of due south
- 31. 007's creator
- 32. The NBA's Toppin
- 33. Midway between north and northeast
- 37. Examples
- 38. \_\_ Gould, actor
- 39. The habitat of wild animals
- 40. Artful subtlety
- 41. Infielders
- 42. Keep under control
- 43. Herb
- 44. Distressed
- 47. A way to go down
- 48. Type of acid
- 49. Take by force
- 51. Collected fallen leaves
- 52. Shout of welcome or farewell
- 53. Monetary unit
- 58. Swiss river



**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!

- DOWN**
- 1. Sharp mountain ridge
  - 2. Thin, fibrous cartilages
  - 3. Provides new details

# Twist

Continued from 27

ing the fighting in Fallujah, as well as a Gulf War vet. A forest ranger described techniques that might be used to locate a body dumped in the woods. And, to make their investigators sound authentic, the authors researched “cop talk.”

“How people in LAPD speak is just different than NYPD and different from JSO,” said Mickolus. “So, I interviewed various police officers and sheriffs. We are aiming for accuracy throughout this.”

In fact, they even researched the type of walkie-talkie their protagonist uses.

But facts are not all that must be correct. Readers will only become invested in the characters if they ring true. Here, the author’s sensitivities come into play.

Within the writer, Tripp said, there are a million different people. She must put herself inside the mind of the character, see through the character’s eyes in a creative process that might be compared to method acting. In this way, the writer can believably render the thoughts and observations of, say, a priest, a detective, even a serial killer.

“Tracy has a wonderful ability to sit in each of the characters’ heads so that you can really empathize with what’s going on in there,” Mickolus said.

“You have to find that little seed inside of you and then research it, let it go and really kind of sympathize with all your characters to make them really well-rounded,” Tripp said.

This safeguards the characters from becoming two dimensional. It’s especially important in the case of the antagonist so that readers can appreciate the forces that made him what he is. As with the best characters in a Hitchcock film, the readers are challenged by a villain they are compelled to understand.

“You really get into his head,” Tripp said. “And you see the whole process of where it started to go wrong.”

## At The Keyboard

Where do you get your ideas? A question every teller of tales has heard since the campfire stories of our pre-historic ancestors.

A lot of times, the writer will admit they don’t really know. But in many

**“White Noise Whispers,” published by The Wild Rose Press, will be released May 8. It will be available on Amazon.com and other places.**

cases, they get their best ideas when doing some activity that doesn’t require attention by the right side of the brain.

“A lot of people tell me, ‘When I’m showering, I get my great ideas,’” said Mickolus, who lives in Nocatee and occasionally teaches courses in creativity at the University of North Florida. “So, clever people are a clean people.”

Most of Mickolus’ books are nonfiction and fall into several categories: terrorism, intelligence, inspiration, humor, how to, trivia and advice for writers.

He generates his works concurrently so that there’s always something new on the market. Currently, he’s working with about 20 other CIA retirees to produce a novel to which each will contribute a chapter, a process he calls “a blast.”

With a Ph.D from Yale, Mickolus served in analytical, operational, management and staff positions at CIA for 33 years. Read more about him and his writing at [edwardmickolus.com](http://edwardmickolus.com).

Tripp, of St. Johns, writes about “broken spirits” and has authored two romantic suspense novels, “Something Like a Dream” and “Awaken,” two novels of women’s fiction, “Parting Gifts” and “Still Life,” and two books of children’s fiction, “The Wealthy Frog” and “Sammy the Snowman.”

A self-proclaimed “observant introvert,” she’s always watching the dynamics of the world around her, a key factor in her writing and something that may have its roots in her childhood. She said her mother insists that she didn’t speak until she was 4 years old.

“I think as a writer, you should be observing,” she said. “Just the little things that pass people by. That helps you get into people’s heads and create the character, because you’re really just seeing different nuances and kind of guessing at who they are inside.”

Learn more about Tripp and her works at [tracytripp.com](http://tracytripp.com).

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2x2 (4"x2") \$82.00/1 wk. • \$153.00/2 wks. • \$200.00/3 wks.  
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### Business & Worship Directory

1.5 x 2 \$55.00/month  
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Rate Guide for: The Recorder

www.pontevedrarecorder.com

CLASSIFIED LINER DEADLINE  
MONDAY NOON

CALL APRIL SNYDER  
904-285-8831 ext. 1204

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY DEADLINE  
FRIDAY 5PM

RECORDER FAX #  
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**Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS!** A cheaper alternative to high drug store prices! 50 Pill Special-Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. **CALL NOW: 866-259-6816**

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### Home Improvements

**BATH & SHOWER UPDATES** in as little as **ONE DAY!** Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. **Call: 888-460-2264**



Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB**  
**1-855-417-1306**

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

# Worship DIRECTORY

To advertise in the Worship Directory call April at **904-285-8831**

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church**

Worship service held in an open-air building  
A simple place for reflection, surrounded by nature.  
Come as you are. All are welcome — even dogs.  
**Sundays at 9:45 a.m.**

276 N. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach  
(904) 285-5347 • www.LordofLifePVB.org

**Prepare for power outages today**

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

**FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty\***  
A \$695 Value!

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE**  
CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE  
**(866) 643-0438**

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

## To inquire about placing an ad in this section, call 579-2154

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Free high speed internet if qualified. Govt. pgm for recipients of select pgms incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet. Android tablet free w/one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping. Call Maxisp Telecom! 1-833-758-3892  
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For more information call (904) 285-8831 to speak with a Sales Rep. today!

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**To Qualify:**  
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- Have hearing loss or speech disability  
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Florida residents with hearing loss are eligible to receive **FREE CELL PHONE AMPLIFIERS**

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REACH 20 MILLION HOMES  
NATIONWIDE WITH ONE BUY!



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## UF Health East NOW OPEN

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