

# THE RECORDER



Happy Easter

April 6, 2023  
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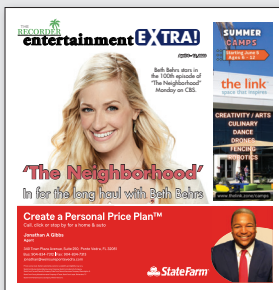
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**INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!**  
The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!

## GOING MAD FOR MULCH

Members of the Ponte Vedra High boys lacrosse team transport bales of pine straw to homes in a local neighborhood on April 1 as part of the team's 14th Annual Mulch Madness fundraiser event. Read the full story and see photos from the Sharks' fundraising efforts on page 36.



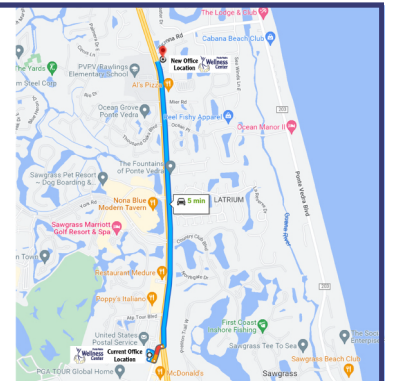
Photo by Anthony Richards

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## BRIEFS

### Amelia Island Opera to perform at Ponte Vedra library

The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will present the Amelia Island Opera from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 11. The presentation is part of the Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series. Doors open at 6 p.m.

The performance will feature an all-star, all-female cast of singers performing arias and ensembles from opera and musical theater as well as popular standards the audience is sure to recognize. There will be music written by Bernstein, Puccini, Mozart and Henry Mancini.

During the performance, the artists will talk about each piece they are performing so that audiences can understand the background of the musical selections.

Seating is limited.

### Grief support group to meet

A grief support group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Room 107 of the Family Life Center, 578 First Ave. North, Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 19. For information, call Kathy at 553-8933.

### 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.

### Local historian Scott Grant to speak

Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library will present Scott Grant, a local historian and asset manager, on April 18 as part of its speaker series. The presentation will take place in the FOL room at the library.

Grant's book, "The Merchant of Death is Dead: True Stories of the Progress of Humanity," gives readers an insight into the lives of famous people such as Alfred Nobel, Tommy Hilfiger, Gen. James Doolittle, golfer Jack Nicklaus and many others, as well as famous events.

Grant has a degree in economics and history, and earned a law degree from Rutgers University.

The program is free. Doors open at 6 p.m.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

# Admiral honored at U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association gathering

The U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation honored five extraordinary alumni at the 25th Annual Distinguished Graduate Award ceremony in Alumni Hall at the U.S. Naval Academy on March 24.

Each recipient has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to service, exemplary personal character and distinguished contributions to the nation and to their fields of endeavor. Each has also dedicated themselves to the support of the Naval Academy and alumni community.

Past awardees include the late Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale, USN (Ret.), the late Sen.

John S. McCain III, the late Col. John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret.), Roger T. Staubach, Janie L. Mines and David M. Robinson.

Among those honored were Admiral James G. Stavridis '76, USN (Ret.), who currently resides in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Stavridis was a surface warrior for his 37-year Navy career and is the only Naval officer to serve as Supreme Allied commander NATO, commander U.S. European Command and commander U.S. Southern Command.

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## Naval

Continued from 2

He was promoted directly from 1-star to 3-star vice admiral as the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense.

Stavridis began his Navy career as an anti-submarine warfare officer and served as executive officer of cruiser Antietam, which was deployed for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. While commanding destroyer Barry, Stavridis became one of the first destroyer commanding officers to add women as crew members.

He also commanded Destroyer Squad-

ron 21 and Enterprise Carrier Strike Group, both in combat. Stavridis has published 12 books — including six national bestsellers — and produced fundamental textbooks for the surface Navy including Division Officer's Guide, Watch Officer's Guide and Command at Sea.

Stavridis served five years as dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, where he earned a Ph.D. in 1984. He is currently vice chairman of the international private equity firm, The Carlyle Group, chairman of the board for the Rockefeller Foundation and chief international analyst for NBC News.



Admiral James G. Stavridis

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# Valley Ridge inducts new members into National Junior Honor Society

By Anthony Richards

Valley Ridge Academy welcomed the next crop of National Junior Honor Society club members during an induction ceremony in the school's cafeteria March 30.

Fifty students were inducted during the ceremony, which is an increase from the amount they have participating in this year's club, according to Aletha Dresback, a teacher at Valley Ridge and sponsor of the club.

Dresback praised the current leadership group with the NJHS club for their creativity and the initiative they showed when organizing projects within the community.

"As an honor society, service is at its core, and in the past we have had to come up with reasons and projects, but not with this group," Dresback said. "Every single one of them brought opportunities to the table from our very first meeting."

Some of the projects the club has been involved with this year has included collecting food items, numerous clothes drives and candy grams to raise money for different local nonprofit organizations.

"We were the only club that donated close to 2,000 individual items to feed the hungry through St. Johns CARES,"



The current leadership team of Valley Ridge Academy's National Junior Honor Society.

Photo by Anthony Richards

VALLEY RIDGE continues on Page 7

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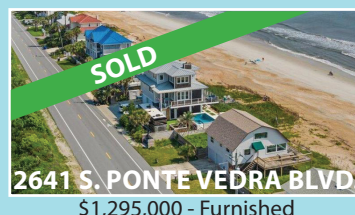
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*Lisa Farides and her brother Paul Hassan opened Modern Aesthetic Centers in December. Farides serves as the company's COO while Hassan is CEO. They have three full-time staff members. A native of Jacksonville, Farides enjoys life on the First Coast and all the amenities it offers.*

## Lisa Farides

### As told to Shaun Ryan

**Modern Aesthetic Centers recently opened its doors at 2050 Saint Johns Parkway, Suite 106. Tell me about the business and what services your clients will find there.**

Modern Aesthetic Centers is a privately owned medical facility offering a wide range of image-enhancing aesthetic services and wellness improvement modalities. Traditional offerings include wrinkle relaxers, dermal fillers, microneedling, facials, chemical peels, laser hair removal, hair restoration, body contouring and skin rejuvenation offerings. Our wellness offerings include IV hydration drips, weight loss programs, hormone replacement therapy, peptide therapy and women's wellness.

**I know Modern Aesthetic Centers also offers some unique services and cutting-edge approaches beyond what people might find elsewhere. Can you tell me a bit about that?**

We are constantly researching our industry for evidence-based treatments and cutting-edge services to add to our service menu. One of the most exciting opportunities we offer to our clients is adding Platelet Rich Fibrin (PRF) or Exosomes in conjunction with a microneedling treatment. Our providers also use PRF or Exosomes as an option to dermal fillers and as injections for hair restoration. We can also use them as an option for sexual rejuvenation. These options encourage new health cell growth and stimulate collagen production, which is truly a game changer in the aesthetics and wellness industry.

**Does Modern Aesthetic Centers have an overarching philosophy by which it abides?**

Modern Aesthetic Centers was founded on a vision of excellence:

Excellence in our foundation, offering result-driven, customized aesthetics and wellness services for everyone to afford.

Excellence in our environment, delivering a modern design with a first-class experience to all that walk through our doors.

Excellence in education, providing ongoing training for our staff, providers and clients.

Our mission is to meet these three pillars of excellence with every client on every visit.

**Tell me about your background. I believe you have extensive experience in aesthetics and related fields.**

I started my practice administration career in family medicine. In 2009, I moved on to aesthetics and plastic surgery working for a prestigious surgeon who is our medical director at Modern Aesthetic Centers. This is where my passion for the aesthetics and wellness industry was born. During these 14 years in this industry, I have gained extensive knowledge and experience in the most effective and proven treatments in the aesthetics and wellness arena.

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

When a client seeks us out for a service that they electively desire to have, our team has the honor to provide them with a full assessment and customized treatment plan to get them to their goals. My satisfaction comes when I see a smile on a client's face. If they leave our office feeling confident about their outcome and excited



Photo provided by Lisa Farides

to continue their journey with us, then that's a big win in my book.

**What do you like most about life here on the First Coast?**

Born and raised in Jacksonville, I know this city inside out and have a long list of why I love life on the First Coast. First and foremost, our beaches are a piece of heaven on earth. From sunbathing to fishing, you can't go wrong with a beach day. We also have lots of natural springs to keep us entertained with swimming, kayaking

and sightseeing. Did I mention the fun and exercise our nature trails provide?

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

In my free time, you can find me outdoors either at the beach, attending a festival or exploring our great state of Florida. I come from a large family and almost all of them live near, so I spend a lot of time with them. I have two beautiful girls that keep me on my toes, and we are always on the go.

# Valley Ridge

Continued from 4

Dresback said. “This club truly does foster leaders. I have taught every single one of them on stage tonight, and I’m always amazed at how much leadership grows when you are around people who want to lead.”

With that being said, she put out a call to all the new inductees for any who are considering becoming one of the eight leadership spots in the club, especially since each of the current leadership team are eighth graders and will be graduating at the end of the school year.

According to club president Cailey Price, she remembers initially getting started with the program because she saw others getting involved and it seemed like fun and great opportunities.

“I’ve always wanted to serve my community and make it better, so as soon as this opportunity popped up, I said ‘let’s go for it,’” co-president Rodrigo DeLeon Ruiz. “I believe it takes student leadership to change a school first and then the community. I hope that my career path is definitely headed toward leadership, so I’m definitely going to look back on this time fondly.”

Price and Ruiz both wished lucked to all 50 inductees and encouraged them that being part of the leadership team is well worth it and so many great memo-



Photo by Anthony Richards

## Fifty new members were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Valley Ridge Academy.

ries will be made as a result.

“There is no greater honor than standing at the podium and inducting new members,” Ruiz said. “Being able to go to school and know that you helped to make that happen is a joy that you pretty much can’t find anywhere else.”

Of all the events the club was involved in this year, the candy grams sold were the most memorable for Price.

“Those were definitely a big hit, and it was an opportunity for students all

throughout the school to donate lollipops to friends of theirs,” Price said. “We raised a lot of money which was great to see.”

Miss Nease Sofia Bostic was the guest speaker at the ceremony, as she spoke

to the crowd about how attending Valley Ridge Academy and being part of its junior national honor society helped shape who she is and the approach she has taken throughout high school en route to achieving Miss Nease.

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Golfers had a great day during the First Annual Vested Metals Charity Golf Tournament.



The First Annual Vested Metals Charity Golf Tournament gave everyone reason to smile.



The First Annual Vested Metals Charity Golf Tournament raised more than \$60,000 for local charities.

# Vested Metals golf tournament raises \$60K for local charities

Heavy rain transformed into sunny skies as the First Annual Vested Metals Charity Golf Tournament in Memory of John Mark Leach got underway on March 13 at the newly-renovated St. Johns County Golf Club in Elkton.

Spearheaded by Vested Metals International, a specialty metals and steels supplier based in St. Augustine, the charity tournament brought together more than 90 golfers and raised more than \$60,000 for local charities: THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club, Flagler College Cares: Emergency Relief Fund, St. John's Housing Partnership, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Flagler

Health Care Foundation and Adaptive Superstars.

"When our colleague and friend, John Mark Leach, passed away last year, I knew that I wanted to do something to commemorate his giving spirit and zest for life," said Viv Helwig, president and founder of Vested Metals. "At the tournament, we incorporated some of John Mark's favorite things like ice cream sandwiches delivered halfway through the golfers' round and a ginger ale toast during the reception. We will host this tournament every year with the goal of raising and donating \$1 million to local charities over the next 10 years."

Highlights of the First Annual Vested Metals Charity Golf Tournament included Dave Myers with Elite Putters Club professionally announcing each golfer on the first hole; two golfers winning an all-expenses paid trip to Pebble Beach by holing it in from 150 yards; THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club golf team teeing up and Boys & Girls Club 'Youth of the Year,' 17-year-old Ambrosia Campbell, giving an encouraging speech at the reception.

There were also members of Flagler College, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and St. Johns County government

in attendance and the "Leach Family Cup" was unveiled where each winning foursome will be listed annually. The trophy includes a favorite quote by John Mark Leach: "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming."

"Because of the generous support of our sponsors and all of the golfers that came out to play, to Vested Metals staff and, of course, John Mark's family, the First Annual Vested Metals Charity Golf Tournament was an incredible success," Helwig said. "Next year will be even bigger and better. Mark your calendar for the second annual charity golf tournament on March 18, 2024!"

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# Palm Valley Market celebrates one-year anniversary

By Anthony Richards

The Palm Valley Market recently celebrated its one-year anniversary March 28, and in just that short period of time it continues to show growth and added interest from the community.

The market is held at the Palm Valley Community Center located at 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach and is open every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

However, this is not the first version of the Palm Valley Market, as there was another market at the prior to it for about 25 years before it closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which left the center without a market for about three years before the Palm Valley Market was started.

“We were asked to bring it back because the community wanted it, and the community center board has been very generous with us and supported us every step of the way,” Dr. Leslie Taylor said.

Taylor along with Lisa Struble took on the resurrection project, which makes it very fitting that the one-year anniversary fell so close to Easter.



Photo by Anthony Richards

**MARKET** continues on **Page 27** Bee Pollen Farms is a regular vendor at the Palm Valley Market with its fresh produce.

## Let Your Home Blossom

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The Recorder's garden columnist Kathy Esfahani of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery shares her tips for growing gorgeous gardens in Northeast Florida.

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

**KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE**

# Topiaries and Ornamental Standards

"The earth laughs in flowers." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

By Kathy Esfahani



Many Topiaries and Ornamental Standards thrive in our Florida climate! Topiaries are plants that are pruned into ornamental shapes including balls, cones, and spirals or more intricate designs such as animals or birds. A Standard is a "lollipop" shaped form similar to a small tree with a bare trunk and round ball of leaves and blooms at the top. Topiaries and Standards come in both evergreen varieties as well as flowering plants. As medium sized plants, they create a perfect middle ground between low growers and high bushes or trees. These plant styles create a focal point in your garden and enhance your landscape. They can be planted on their



**Topiaries**

own or in groups to add a unique touch to your garden.

Evergreen Topiaries will stay green throughout all seasons of the year. Here in northeast Florida, the most popular evergreen Topiaries include Eugenia,

Juniper, and Podocarpus. Each of these can be shaped in many ways, but they are typically found shaped in cones or in 1-, 2-, or 3-balls stacked vertically.

Ornamental Standard trees are flowering plants that add vibrant color to your landscape. Most have one round ball at the top of the tree and require light pruning to maintain that shape. Look for Standards such as Angelina, Sapphire Duranta, and Shrimp Plants to attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. For a tropical look, select a Hibiscus Standard tree, available in a variety of colors. Hibiscus Standards can even be found grafted to include three different colors of blooms on one tree! If you have more of an English garden landscape, consider a Rose Tree Standard or Gardenia Standard for height and sweet-smelling blooms. A Mandevilla is typically a climbing vine, but it is also available as a Standard for a stunning feature in your landscape!

Topiaries and Ornamental Standards are also beautiful in planters. They



**Flower of the Week**

**Gardenia Standard**

provide height to the arrangement and can be surrounded with draping vines or seasonal annuals. These planters are perfect for framing a front entrance or highlighting a back patio.

Happy planting!

**Flower of the Week: Gardenia Standard**

**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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# A sampling of Easter events in the area

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Adventure Landing will hold its 27th annual Easter egg hunts on the mini golf courses from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 8, with a visit by the Easter Bunny.

There will be three egg hunts: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Registration is for kids age 12 and younger and begins at 8 a.m.

A donation of \$5 per child will benefit the American Red Cross Volunteer Life-Saving Corps. Each hunt is followed by a charity raffle, too.

Stay and play during this Egg Hunt Special. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., enjoy unlimited Mini Golf, Laser Tag and Go-Karts for \$19.99 per person. Golf courses will be available after egg hunts.

Adventure Landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach.

Tickets at: [jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.com](http://jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.com).

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Parade

The 64th annual St. Augustine Easter Parade will be held 9-10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 8. Enjoy seeing the decorated floats, marching bands, dancers, horses, the Easter Bunny and more.

The parade begins at 9 a.m. at the Old Jail and travels along San Marco Avenue onto Cathedral Place. It concludes on Cordova Street before the Visitors' Center.

For information, go to [oldestcityeaster.org](http://oldestcityeaster.org).

### Promenade

The St. Augustine Easter Week Festival will present the 2023 Easter Promenade, featuring St. Augustine people in their Easter finery 1-2 p.m. Sunday, April 9.

Categories include: Best Dressed



File Photo

### St. Augustine Easter Parade

Little Girl, Best Dressed Little Boy, Best Dressed Mother/Daughter, Best Dressed Father/Son, Best Dressed Family, Best Dressed Pet, Best Easter Hat and Furthest Traveled.

The Promenade is free and takes place at the gazebo in the Plaza de la Constitution, Cathedral Place, St. Augustine.

For information, go to [oldestcityeaster.org](http://oldestcityeaster.org).

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### Good Friday Service

6-8 p.m. Friday, April 7

A Good Friday service will be held at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, hosted by Colonial Church. Gates will open at 6 p.m. and the event will begin at 6:30 p.m. This free event is for the whole family, with bounce houses, food trucks, concessions and more.

Featured participants include: Pastors Matt and Jill McCloghry, special guest Ben Fielding and Colonial Worship.

For further information, go to [goodfridaysta.com](http://goodfridaysta.com).

### Crescent Beach Easter Sunrise Service

7-8 a.m. Sunday, April 9

The program, presented by Crescent Beach Baptist Church, begins with special music and an inspiring message. The address is Crescent Beach ramp, 45 Cubledge Road. For further information, call 904-794-7777 or go to [crescentbeachbaptist.com](http://crescentbeachbaptist.com).

### Vilano Beach Easter Sunrise Service

8-10 a.m. Sunday, April 9

Begin the Easter celebration with Turning Point Calvary at sunrise to rejoice in our Savior's Resurrection. Bring a chair, blanket or towel to sit. The service begins at 8 a.m. at Vilano Beach Ramp, 3070 Coastal Hwy., Vilano Beach entrance. For information, go to [tpcalvary.com/events](http://tpcalvary.com/events).

## EASTER BRUNCH

### Ruth's Chris Steak House

On Easter Sunday, the restaurant will be open early and the full menu will be available for the occasion.

Indulge in the selection of USDA Prime steaks complemented by one of the

restaurant's signature sides.

Ruth's Chris Steak House is located at 814 A1A N., Suite 103, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Make reservations at [ruthschris.com/promotions/easter-at-ruths](http://ruthschris.com/promotions/easter-at-ruths).

### Vernon's Restaurant

The Easter Sunday Brunch Buffet will be offered from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 9. The cost is \$85 for adults and \$35 for kids.

The restaurant is located at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, 1000 Tournament Players Club Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

To make reservations, go to [opentable.com/vernon-s-restaurant](http://opentable.com/vernon-s-restaurant).

### Pusser's Bar & Grille

Brunch is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 904-280-7766 for reservations.

816 State Road A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach.

### TPC Sawgrass

Brunch at TPC Sawgrass is from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach. Call 904-543-5105 or go to [tpc.com/sawgrassevents](http://tpc.com/sawgrassevents).

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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# Nocatee egg hunt tradition continues

By Anthony Richards

The annual tradition of Nocatee's community egg hunt will continue this year.

The event is for Nocatee residents only and will be held Nocatee Station Field April 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Six separate Easter egg hunts will be part of the featured fun during the free event for Nocatee residents.

The hunts will be divided up by age group, in an attempt to make things as fair as possible when searching for the eggs.

The Easter Bunny will make a visit at the egg hunt and will be there to pose for photos, while other entertainment will also include music provided by a professional disc jockey, a petting zoo and many more fun options for children and families to pick from.

To make sure everyone has a chance to share in the egg hunt, a special hunt for children with special needs will be held beginning at 10 a.m. To sign up for the special needs egg hunt send an email to [help@nocatee.com](mailto:help@nocatee.com).

Following the special needs egg hunt,



the rest of the egg hunt schedule will begin at 11 a.m. with another taking place every 20 minutes.

This year's egg hunt is sponsored by CKO Kickboxing, and children are advised to bring their own buckets or bags to collect their eggs.

# Christ Church to hold sunrise service at Inn & Club

Christ Church in Ponte Vedra Beach will once again be back for another year of tradition of holding its Easter sunrise service along the beach at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. Christ Church encourages all to come, and the public is welcome to take part in the ceremony. There will be limited parking available, so Christ Church advises that anyone planning to attend should arrive early to make so to get a spot.

Contributed photo



# Vilano Beach hosts sunrise service

There will be an Easter sunrise service at Vilano Beach presented by Turning Point. The service will be held at Vilano Beach Oceanfront Park in Saint Augustine and is scheduled to begin at 6:45 a.m. but people are asked to meet at the Vilano Beach boat ramp. Those attending are asked to bring their own chair, flip-flops and a friend to share in the memorable ceremony.

Contributed photo



**Community Easter Sunrise Service**  
on the beach at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

**April 9 6:30 a.m.**

DETAILS AND FULL EASTER  
SERVICE SCHEDULE AT [ccpvb.org](http://ccpvb.org)



**CHRIST CHURCH**  
400 San Juan Dr  
Ponte Vedra Beach

*Join Us For* **EASTER**

**Easter Sunday, April 9**

**6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service in the Oasis Garden**

**8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

**11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary/Online**

Easter photos will be available before and after the 8:30 & 11 a.m. services.

*All Are Welcome*

**Palms Presbyterian Church**

3410 Third Street S. • Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 • [palmschurch.org](http://palmschurch.org)

## CELEBRATE EASTER WITH O.C. WHITE'S

**BRUNCH SPECIALS**  
SERVED 9:30 AM - 1PM

**EASTER DINNERS**  
SERVED 1 PM - CLOSE

**BANANA FOSTERS FRENCH TOAST**  
Texas toast topped with walnuts, whipped cream and served with fresh fruit.  
\$15.99

**10 OZ PRIME RIB**  
Queen cut prime rib served with potato and veggie of the day.  
\$30.99

**GRILLED HAM AND EGGS**  
Honey baked ham with scrambled eggs, biscuit, fruit and home fries.  
\$16.99

**HONEY BAKED HAM DINNER**  
Served with potato and veggie of the day.  
\$20.99

**OMELETTE OSCAR**  
Three egg omelette with sauteed onions, asparagus and tomatoes with crab meat and topped with hollandaise sauce served with home fries.  
\$17.99

**BLACKENED SHRIMP & GRIT CAKES**  
Fresh local shrimp blackened and served over fried grit cakes topped with Red Eye Gravy.  
\$19.95



118 Avenida Menendez  
St. Augustine  
904-824-0808

\*Regular menu available.

# Shrimp cap opening home series with Easter egg hunt

By Anthony Richards

The Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp will provide a fun family option during the Easter weekend celebration.

The Triple-A affiliate of the Miami Marlins will be holding an Easter egg hunt on the outfield grass prior to Sunday's game against the Durham Bulls, which starts with a scheduled 3:05 first pitch.

However, the Easter Bunny will make an appearance during the egg hunt, which has become a staple over the years



anytime the Shrimp have a home game on Easter Sunday.

The players will also be wearing their

Sunday pink Scampi jersey, which pay homage to the team's beloved mascot.

The Easter festivities will end what will be a busy and fun opening home series of the 2023 baseball season.

Families can enjoy fireworks on both April 7 and 8, as a post-game fireworks show is set to follow each contest.

The Shrimp have worked on getting more fireworks shows in recent years as a response to the continued feedback they received over the years of fans asking for more fireworks opportunities.

## Be an Easter bunny for Betty Griffin Center

To bring the holiday home to children staying in its shelter, Betty Griffin Center is asking for donations to create 80 Easter baskets — items including candy, plastic Easter eggs, baskets and plastic straw, along with gift cards and monetary donations to purchase the items, as well.

Donations can be delivered to the Betty Griffin Center Outreach Center at 2450 Old Moultrie Road, Suite 202 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays. Donations will be accepted through Friday, April 7.

The nonprofit agency provides services to survivors of domestic and sexual assault in the community.

For more information, go to [bettygriffincenter.org](http://bettygriffincenter.org) or contact event coordinator Carole Sullivan at 904-808-8544, extension 201, or by email at [caroles@bettygriffincenter.org](mailto:caroles@bettygriffincenter.org).

## EASTER EGG COLORING TIPS & TRICKS

Coloring eggs is a popular Easter tradition, and there are many ways to ensure this beloved activity produces beautiful results.

1. Prevent cracked eggs. Most colored eggs are hard-boiled. To prevent cracking during the boiling process, add a teaspoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt to the boiling water.

2. Boil eggs and cool completely. Fill a pot with enough water to submerge the

eggs, then bring it to a boil over medium-high heat. Gently lower the eggs into the water with a slotted spoon. Cover, reduce the heat to a simmer, and cook for 10 minutes. Drain the eggs and cool in a bowl of water or run under cold tap water.

3. Don't forget the vinegar. Whether you use colored dye tablets or drops of food coloring from the pantry, use a mix of water and vinegar in the coloring solution to produce brighter colors.

4. Stick to white eggs. When coloring eggs, it might be better to purchase white eggs, as the dyes will show up more vividly on the white shells.

5. Create distinctive designs. By covering portions of the bare eggs before dipping into color, people can create unique designs. Things like masking tape, rubber bands, wax (or crayons), and even twine can be used. The dye will only take on the uncovered areas, leaving white behind.



## Spring Time AT SAWGRASS



**Easter Brunch at Vernon's First Coast Kitchen & Bar**

Celebrate Easter with a bountiful brunch buffet full of Spring menu items!

*Sunday, April 9, 2023 10am - 3pm*

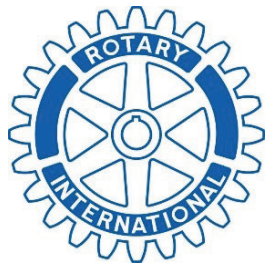


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The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach
in cooperation with The Ponte Vedra Recorder
2023 Local Heroes Awards
Nomination Form

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:

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

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

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

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

Title/Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

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!



2023

# KIDS' SUMMER FUN GUIDE

— FEATURING —

**SUMMER CAMPS OFFER  
VARIETY OF FUN TOPICS**

**NOCATEE FAMILY CAMP  
OUT FULL OF FUN, FOOD**

**YOUNG ANGLERS  
HAVE MULTIPLE SUMMER  
CAMP OPTIONS**

**A COLORING CONTEST**

**AND MORE!**

THE  
**RECORDER**

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

# Summer camps offer variety of fun topics

Summertime is almost upon us, so it's time to start getting signed up for special classes and camps offered in our community. Here's a helpful list of the season's top offerings.

## FIRST COAST CULTURAL CENTER

For summer camp information, locations, pricing and registration, go to [firstcoastculturalcenter.org/arts-programs/summer-art-camps](http://firstcoastculturalcenter.org/arts-programs/summer-art-camps). Contact Toni Thomas at [tthomas@firstcoastculturalcenter.org](mailto:tthomas@firstcoastculturalcenter.org) or 904-280-0614 ext. 1206 if you have any questions.

"Imagination Vacation" camps and Summer Art Camps have a strong arts-and-crafts focus. Campers explore mediums like watercolors, drawing, collage and novelty crafts like slime or clay. They will complete art projects to bring home. The center also incorporates additional aspects such as music, yoga, story time, drama or simple culinary activities.

All supplies are included, but campers will bring their own snacks, lunches and water bottles.

## "Imagination Vacation"

Weekly, themed art camps will be held at the Cultural Center, 3972 Third St. South, Jacksonville Beach.

## Fairytale Land:

Campers will create fairytale-inspired art projects, exploring new twists on classic stories.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. May 30-June 1
- **Where:** Cultural Center
- **Cost:** \$190 (\$170 for members)

## Enchanted Forest:

Campers will create whimsical and nature-inspired art projects.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** June 12-15
- **Where:** Cultural Center
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

## Making Magic:

Campers will conduct fun art-inspired experiments, such as color-changing and invisible/surprise-reveal art projects.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** June 19-22
- **Where:** Cultural Center
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

## Merry Monsters:

Campers will create their own merry monster village using various artistic mediums throughout the week.



- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** June 26-29
- **Where:** Cultural Center
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

- **Ages:** 7-9
- **Where:** Cultural Center
- **Cost:** \$190 (\$170 for members)

★ ★ ★

## Under the Sea:

The camp is all about ocean-inspired crafts, stories and songs, with an emphasis on magical and imaginary under-the-sea worlds ... and maybe a pirate or two.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** July 3, 5 and 6
- **Where:** Cultural Center
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

## Summer Art Camp

These camps will be held at PVPV- Rawlings Elementary School, 610 S.R. A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach.

## Camp Dinosaur:

Kids will learn about dinosaurs, make dino-inspired art and create their own class dinosaur world, complete with a volcano experiment.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. June 5-8
- **Where:** PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

## Enchanted Forest:

Campers will create whimsical and nature-inspired art projects.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. June 12-15
- **Where:** PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

## Merry Monsters:

Campers will create their own merry monster village using various artistic mediums throughout the week.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. June 26-29
- **Where:** PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

## Under the Sea:

This camp is all about ocean-inspired crafts, stories and songs, with an emphasis on magical and imaginary under-the-sea worlds ... and maybe a pirate or two.

- **Ages:** 5-11

## Adventures in Time Travel:

Campers will create projects inspired by the past and the future. Each day they will "travel" through time to visit a different time period.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** July 10-13
- **Where:** Cultural Center
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

## Candy Land:

From candy-inspired crafts to gingerbread houses, Candy Land week is the sweetest week of camp.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. July 17-20
- **Where:** Cultural Center
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

## If I Were a Superhero:

Campers will create their own class comic book and celebrate superheroes all week long. They will end the week celebrating real-life helper heroes in the community.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. July 24-27
- **Where:** Cultural Center
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

## Somewhere Over the Rainbow:

This camp is inspired by all things rainbow, from songs to crafts.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Aug.

**THE KNIGHT SCHOOL**

SUMMER CHESS CAMPS!

RUNNING JUNE 5 - JULY 28

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WEEK-LONG HALF-DAY MORNING OR

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THE BOLLES SCHOOL

June 19-23, July 10-14 & July 24-28

THE DISCOVERY SCHOOL

June 5-9, June 20-23 (4-Day Camp),  
June 26-30 & July 17-21

J. ALLEN AXSON

June 7-9 (3-Day Camp), July 3-7 (4-Day Camp), July 24-28

JACKSONVILLE CLASSICAL

July 17-21

JACKSONVILLE COUNTRY DAY

June 12-16, July 3-7 (Kindergarten Only),  
July 10-14, July 24-28

JEWISH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

June 12-16, June 26-30, July 3-7, July 17-21

SAN JUAN DEL RIO (JULINGTON CREEK)

July 10-14 and July 17-21

BEGINNERS WELCOME!

SPACE IS LIMITED!



REGISTER TODAY!

HTTPS://TKSJACKSONVILLE.JUMBULA.COM/

For info, email: [REB@TheKnightSchool.com](mailto:REB@TheKnightSchool.com)



# Camps

Continued from 16

- **When:** July 3, 5 and 6
- **Where:** PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

## Adventures in Time Travel:

Campers will create projects inspired by the past and the future. Each day they will “travel” through time to visit a different time period.

- **Ages:** 5-11
- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. July 10-13
- **Where:** PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School
- **Cost:** \$250 (\$225 for members)

★★★

## Ready, Set, Act — Acting Camp

Instructor Sheri Lahris began her career by teaching child actors on the sets of Disney, MGM and Universal Studios. She taught many child stars and worked on location and sound stages for TV sitcoms and feature films. The camp is open to all experience and skill levels.

Students will learn all aspects of acting, such as improv, character analysis, stage movement, scene study, relaxation and theater games. On the final day of camp,

parents will be invited to visit and watch campers perform monologues and skits.

- **Ages:** Kids 9+
- **When:** 9 a.m. to noon June 19-22
- **Where:** PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School
- **Cost:** \$145 (\$130 for members)

★★★

## Culinary Camp, Part 1

Kids will be introduced to age-appropriate cooking skills along with kitchen hygiene and other basics, introductory nutrition concepts and more. Each day campers will make a variety of dishes and explore new ingredients and foods. Make sure to contact the center about food allergies or dietary restrictions.

- **Ages:** 4-7
- **When:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 31 and Aug. 1
- **Where:** Cultural Center
- **Cost:** \$100

## Culinary Camp, Part 2

Kids will be introduced to age-appropriate cooking skills along with kitchen hygiene and other basics, introductory nutrition concepts and more. Each day campers will make a variety of dishes and explore new ingredients and foods. Make sure to contact the center about food allergies or dietary restrictions.

- **Ages:** 8-11

- **When:** Aug. 2-4
- **Where:** Cultural Center
- **Cost:** \$150 (\$135 for members)

★★★

## Alhambra Theatre Camp

This is a two-week summer theater camp for aspiring actors or for those who want to experience the theater and acting. The camp is currently full, but a waitlist is available.

- **Ages:** 8-17
- **When:** June 12-23
- **Where:** The Alhambra Theatre, 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville.
- **Cost:** \$560 (\$510 for members). Waitlist is free.

★★★

## JOHN BEARD ART GALLERY

This new gallery, located at 110 Cumberland Park Drive No. 105, just off Old County Road 210 across from Beachwalk, will offer two weeklong Kids' Summer Art Camps, one in June and the other in July.

In this progressive paint camp, attendees will learn about painting tools — both traditional and nontraditional — as well as paint materials and mediums. Creative problem solving will be practiced during the create-your-own paint tool challenge. Campers will learn to apply various mediums (pastels, ink, chalk, acrylic, paint

sticks, sand, etc.) to a large canvas, show their work at a Friday gallery show and take their art home to hang.

- **Week 1:** June 12-16 for ages 6-13. Sales end June 9. Lunch and snack provided. Waiver and allergy forms will be emailed. Cost: \$285 for the week.
- **Week 2:** July 10-14 for ages 6-13. Sales end July 7. Lunch and snack provided. Waiver and allergy forms will be emailed. Cost: \$285 for the week.

Drop off time: 8:30 a.m. Pick-up time: 3 p.m.

The parent gallery show is from 11 a.m. to noon.

To sign up, go to [eventbrite.com/e/kids-summer-art-camp-tickets-479137401867](http://eventbrite.com/e/kids-summer-art-camp-tickets-479137401867).

★★★

## THE LINK

The link, 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra (in Nocatee), is offering several camps between June 5 and Aug. 4. Camps are open to members and nonmembers. To register, go to [thelink.zone/camps](http://thelink.zone/camps).

## Healthy Hands Cooking Camp

Chef Corina Danielson will cover a variety of topics such as kitchen preparedness, kitchen safety, proper food handling,

CAMPS continues on Page 18

**Shipwreck Island WATERPARK**

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110696

**\$3 OFF Waterpark Admission**

Limit 1 per person per day. Not valid with any other discounts. Expires 8.31.23. SKU#8866

18866

# Camps

Continued from 17

hygiene, cross-contamination, measuring and proper food storage. Different skills will be featured each day. Campers will learn about the food supply chain, the decline of our food's nutritional impact and why some of the foods may be harmful.

Cost for each five-day session is \$250.

For ages 6-12.

Seven morning sessions open (9 a.m. to noon): June 12-16, June 19-23, June 26-30, July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28, July 31-Aug. 4

Eight afternoon sessions open (1-4 p.m.): June 5-9, June 12-16, June 19-23, June 26-30, July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28, July 31-Aug. 4

## Dance & Tumble Summer Camp

Kids will learn and practice basic dance and tumble skills under the guidance of experienced and qualified instructors. Pack a snack and bring a refillable water bottle for your camper. No nuts.

Cost for each five-day session is \$250.

For ages 5+

Two sessions from 9 a.m. to noon: June 12-16, June 26-30.

## LEGO Robotics

Lego Robotics focuses on building robots and other vehicles and programming them to move and perform tasks. Camp-

ers develop skills in spatial reasoning, problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking. Pack snacks, lunch and bring a refillable water bottle for your camper. No nuts.

Cost for each five-day session is \$350.

For ages 7-12.

Five sessions open (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.): June 12-16, July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28, July 31-Aug. 4

## Olympic Style Fencing

Coach Alan Chernomashentsev has more than 30 years of fencing and coaching experience, has won several medals and was ranked second in Veteran Men's Foil in 2018 by USA Fencing.

Pack a snack and bring a refillable water bottle for your camper.

Cost for each five-day session is \$250.

For ages 6-13.

Two sessions from 9 a.m. to noon: June 5-9, Aug. 7-11.

★★★

## SAPNA Summer Creativity Camp

Throughout the week, kids will have the opportunity to participate in various art projects, immersive (virtual) field trips, creative storytelling, real world math, hands-on science/engineering activities, interactive games, imaginative play, performance art and more.

Cost for each five-day session is \$250.

### • For ages 5-8:

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 5-9, June 12-16, June 19-23, June 26-30, July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28, July 31-Aug. 4

### • For ages 8-12:

1-4 p.m. June 5-9, June 12-16, June 19-23, June 26-30, July 10-14, July 31-Aug. 4

## Special Sapna Summer Creativity Camp

Cost: \$900. Offers expire April 15.

Two morning sessions (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.): June 5-30, July 10-Aug. 4. Ages: 5-8.

One afternoon session (1-4 p.m.) July 10-Aug. 4. Ages 8-12.

★★★

## LIMELIGHT THEATRE

Limelight Theatre, located at 11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine, offers theatre instruction for ages 5 to 18 in the KidzFACTory program, with fully staged shows, workshops, day camps, summer camps and outreach programs at area schools and organizations.

To register, go to [limelight-theatre.org/youth-programs](http://limelight-theatre.org/youth-programs).

## KidzSing Under the Sea!

Go under the sea through song, dance and costuming. This summer camp will culminate in a 10- to 15-minute free showcase for friends and family.

• Ages: K+

• When: Noon to 3 p.m. June 5-9, plus show.

• Cost: \$200

## KidzSing Broadway Babies! A Cabaret for Kids

• Ages: Grades 3+

• When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, June 5-16, plus show

• Cost: \$450

## Finding Nemo Jr.

A 60-minute musical adaptation of the 2003 Pixar movie "Finding Nemo."

• Ages: Grades 4+

• When: Weekdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 19-July 14 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 10-14, plus show

• Where: Kirk Auditorium, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

• Cost: \$450.

## KidzSing Disney Week

This summer camp will culminate in a 10- to 15-minute free showcase for friends and family.

• Ages: K+

• When: Noon to 3 p.m. June 19-23, plus show

• Cost: \$200

## The Spongebob Musical

• Ages: Grade 8+

• When: Weekdays, 2-5 p.m. June 26-July 21 and 1-5 p.m. July 17-21, plus show

• Cost: \$525

★★★

## YMCA

### Summer Day Camp

Dates: May 30-Aug. 11 (varies by location)

No camp on June 19 and July 4.

Ages: 5-12

Cost: Varies by camp location

Times for YMCA locations in Duval and St. Johns counties: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Each week, a new theme will help campers discover new skills, build self-confidence and feel a sense of achievement and belonging. Themes for this summer are:

• Week 1: Once Upon A Time, May 30 to June 2

• Week 2: Dinosaur World, June 5-9

• Week 3: Down on the Farm, June 12-16

• Week 4: Around the World, June 19-23

• Week 5: Tropical Paradise, June 26-30

• Week 6: Holiday Hoopla, June 3-7

• Week 7: JAW-some Week, July 10-14

• Week 8: Thingamajig Science Invention Convention, July 17-21

• Week 9: Animal Planet, July 24-28

• Week 10: Spirit Wars, July 31 to Aug. 4

• Week 11: Once Upon A Time, Aug. 7-11

Register at [fcymca.org/programs/camp/summer-day-camp](http://fcymca.org/programs/camp/summer-day-camp).

## Camp Immokalee

Camp Immokalee has been a favorite for generations of overnight campers since 1909. Camp Immokalee is a tech-free zone but with all of the fun things to do, campers love staying unplugged. Activities include: archery, pottery, canoeing, water sports, swim lessons, horseback riding, songs and skits, zipline and much more.

Ages: 7-17

Dates: Week-long summer overnight camp sessions from June 5 to Aug. 6

Cost: YMCA members \$575/week, non-members \$640/week

Location: Keystone Heights

If you have questions about Camp Immokalee, call 352-473-4213.

For more information, go to [camp.fcymca.org](http://camp.fcymca.org).



# Children's Art Classes

NOW REGISTERING FOR  
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Studio Art Curriculum for ages 3 and up!  
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[www.ChildrensArtClasses.com](http://www.ChildrensArtClasses.com)

*Where a kid can be an artist.*





# Let the slides begin!

*Nocatee opens water parks for residents*

**By Anthony Richards**

There are a variety of ways for children to have fun this summer, but there is just something about being around water that just feels right.

Whether that is going to the beach, the lake or the pool, for many families heading to the water is the primary objective.

The Nocatee Community is doing its part to make sure Nocatee residents have the opportunity to capture that sensation they are looking for with the recent opening of its two water parks.

Nocatee's Splash Water Park is a resort-style water playground and is a destination summer spot for Nocatee residents.

The park's signature ride includes a pair of slides that present an array of corkscrew turns, twists and slippery slope.

Combining all those creates an exhilarating experience for both children and adults.

However, the park also features a 377-foot zip line that reaches up to 37 miles per hour and starts at the Rip Tide Slide Tower, which also offers a panoramic view over all of Nocatee.

Spray Water Park, but it remains one of Nocatee's newest way to create fun with the use of water.

It features a four-story above ground interactive spray playground, which remains the tallest of its kind in the Northeast Florida area.

If the interactive spray is a little too much, a perfect family spot for lounging about and soaking up the summer vibes is Serenity Bay, which is located not far from the Spray entrance.

Some Nocatee residents may be too young to enjoy all of the exhilarating options of both the Splash and Spray Water Parks, for this situation there is the Scuttle Cove, which is in turn a smaller spray park option.

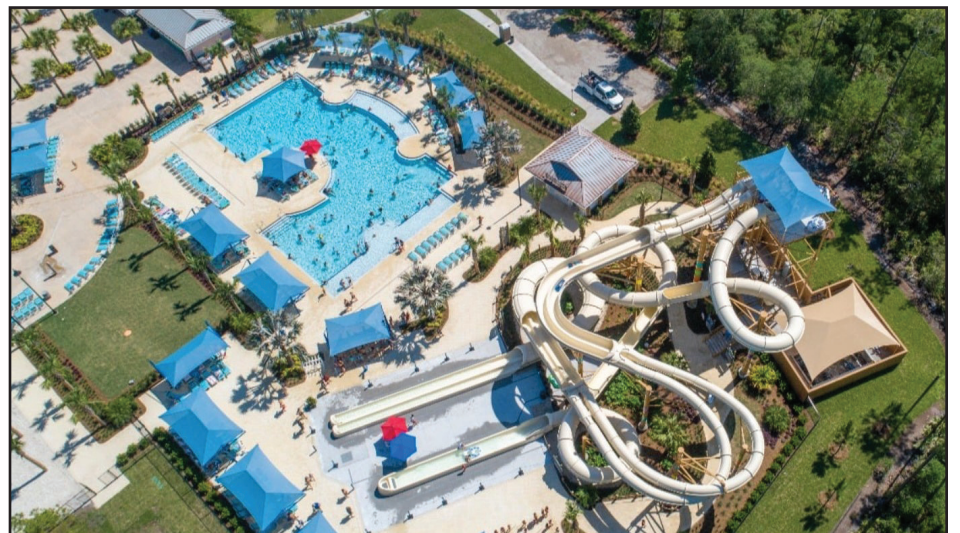
Also, nearby to Scuttle Cove is Paradise Park playground which features multiple tunnels, Astro turf and shaded areas to help protect from the sun when needed.

Both water parks are open to Nocatee residents only and their accompanied guests.

Photos courtesy of Nocatee Community



The lazy river at Nocatee's water parks is a perfect way for the entire family to spend time this summer.



An aerial view of Nocatee Spray Water Park.



**First Coast Cultural Center**

**IMAGINATION  
VACATION  
SUMMER CAMP, 5/30-8/9**

**Weekly art camps in TWO locations:**

**PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School  
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Plus, special Acting and Culinary Camps!

**SPACE IS LIMITED!  
REGISTER NOW AT:**

[firstcoastculturalcenter.org](http://firstcoastculturalcenter.org)





**2023  
SUMMER  
Events**

*Tommy Hulihan Basketball is offering sports camp, basketball camp, basketball league, and basketball training this summer!*

**ALL SPORTS CAMP**  
All summer starting June 5th!!!  
Sports Camp is open for girls and boys K (must be 5 years old) through current 5th graders.  
**Hours:** 8am-3pm  
**Extended Care:** 3pm-6pm.  
**Cost:** Sports Camp \$150 per week 8:00am-3:00pm. Extended Care 3pm-6pm \$50 per week.  
**Single Day Rates:** Monday – Wednesday \$35 per day Friday- \$40 includes (Pizza Party on Fridays)  
**Early Drop-Off:** 7:30am-8:00am – \$5

**TOMMY HULIHAN BASKETBALL CAMP**  
All basketball camps will be at Beaches Chapel School Gym  
610 Florida Blvd, Neptune Beach  
TWO SESSIONS: **June 5-9** AND **June 12-16;** 9am-12pm: Boys currently in 2nd - 7th Grade. Players will be on separate Courts. (2nd-4th/5th-7th)  
**June 26-30:** 9am-11am; Girls and Boys currently in K-2nd Grade

**BEACHES BASKETBALL SUMMER LEAGUE**  
Open to girls and boys 3 years old through current 5th graders  
**Deadline to register Monday, April 24th**  
*\*The League may fill up before the deadline*  
League runs May 20th – August 12th  
**Cost:** \$150 \*After April 1st \$170

To determine eligibility, please use this year's grade.  
Please subscribe to our email newsletter to be notified of all upcoming events!  
Connect with us on Facebook for Training Tips, News and Free Giveaways!

**904.349.2611**

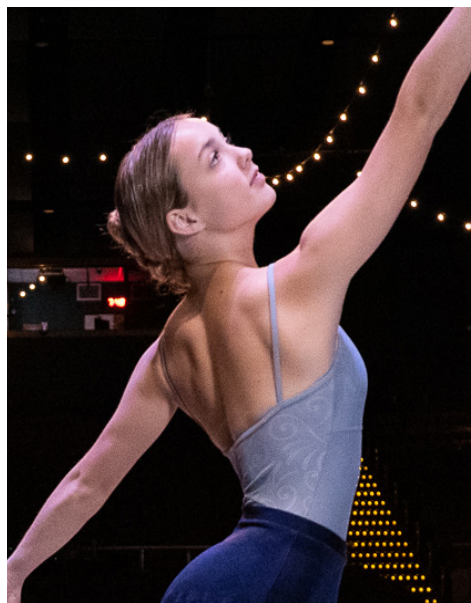
Please visit our website for more information and to register.  
[www.TommyHulihanBasketball.com](http://www.TommyHulihanBasketball.com)

**BASKETBALL TRAINING! OFFERING SHOOTING SCHOOL AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

# Nocatee Family Camp Out full of fun, food

The following are photos from the Nocatee Family Camp Out March 25. Nocatee residents made memories and had fun during the sold-out event. Camping is a time-tested activity for families, especially during the summer months.

Contributed photos



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4455 ATLANTIC BLVD., JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207  
904.396.7104

**BEACHES** PRE-K 3 – GRADE 5  
450 11th AVE. NORTH, JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250  
904.246.2466

**ST. MARK'S** AGE 1 – GRADE 5  
4114 OXFORD AVE., JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210  
904.388.2632



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SCHOOL of JACKSONVILLE

# More photos from the Nocatee Family Camp Out



### OUR PARTY PACKAGES

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These party packages are for up to 25 participants.  
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Phone: (904) 834-1311



[www.firstcoastfoamparty.com](http://www.firstcoastfoamparty.com)

# KIDS SUMMER ART CAMP

WEEK 1: JUNE 12-16

AGES 6 - 13 YR

WEEK 2: JULY 10-14

\$285 wk

MON-THUR 9 AM - 2 PM

FRI 9 AM - 11 AM  
[parent gallery show 11 AM - 12 PM]

8:30 AM drop off + \$50  
3 PM pick up + \$50



- progressive paint camp
- paint w/ traditional & non-traditional tools
- creative problem solving
- creative growth & expansion
- improved self-confidence & self-esteem

SCAN TO REGISTER  
[johnbeardcollection.com](http://johnbeardcollection.com)

MEET & INTERACT w/ MASTER ARTIST JOHN BEARD

JOHN BEARD GALLERY  
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**FSDB SUMMER QUEST**

**JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup>**

For more information,  
**SCAN HERE**





Contributed photos



There will be a variety of North Florida fishing camps taking place this summer.



Offshore fishing is included as part of the camp options.

# Young anglers have multiple summer camp options

By Anthony Richards

The North Florida Fishing Camp will be held this summer for the young anglers in the community to take part and grow their love of fishing even more.

The camp is actually made up of several camps held throughout the area designed to capture the interest and imagination of children out there that love to be outside and are happiest when they are near or on the water.

June and July are the months when the camps will be held, with the first taking place in St. Augustine June 19-23.

The St. Augustine camp is a day camp that will feature a mix of both offshore and inshore fishing.

Arrival will be at Fishbites Trading Post located at 170 Nix Boat Yard Road in St. Augustine at 7:30 a.m. each day, and will include dock fishing and an afternoon guest speaker before pick up time is at 3:30 p.m.

A similar camp format will be held the next week June 26-30, but instead drop off and pickup will be at Morningstar Marinas in the Mayport area of Jacksonville.

Children attending the camp will go on a charter fishing trip from 8 a.m. to noon followed by a guest speaker and dock fishing in the afternoon until pick up at 3:30 p.m.

All of the classes offered will be overseen by some of the best professional charter captains on the First Coast, so the children will be learning from someone who is skilled and knowledgeable within the field.

Morningstar Marinas will also be the home site for additional day camps July 3-7, July 10-14 and July 17-21.

The day camps will be followed by a pair of advanced offshore day camps, the first of which will be July 24-28 and the second scheduled for July 31-August 4.

Both advanced day camps will once again begin and end at Morningstar Marinas, but the main difference is that it is designed for more experienced anglers who are looking to hone their skills with longer offshore fishing trips each day during the week.

The week will include a pair of four and six-hour trips and one eight-hour trip.

All fish caught during the week will be cleaned and taken home. Attending the advanced camps is not recommended for children prone to sea sickness, due to the

long hours out at sea.

While arrival time remains 7:30 a.m. for the advanced offshore day camps, pickup time is between 3:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The advanced offshore day camps cost \$1,499 and a \$300 deposit will lock in a camper's spot for that week with the additional \$1,200 is due one week before the camp gets underway. Regular summer day camps are \$999 with \$200 reserving a spot.

One of the unique angles the North Florida Fishing Camp offers is what it calls sleep away camps, which will be held twice this year June 4-9 and June 11-16.

As the name implies, the sleep away camps will be held overnight and located at Jacksonville University.

The campers will encounter five consecutive days of professional charter fishing in the Atlantic Ocean and St. Johns River.

A fish fry will be held on the final day of both sleep away camps for families to enjoy, as well as an awards ceremony to highlight the best catches had throughout the week.

The sleep away camps cost \$2,250 to register, but a \$400 deposit can be made to make sure families reserve a spot for their child.

There is limited space in some of the camps. For additional details and to see available space go to [northfloridafishing-camp.com](http://northfloridafishing-camp.com).



**NEXT STOP Broadway®**

**June 12-16**

**FSCJ Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts**

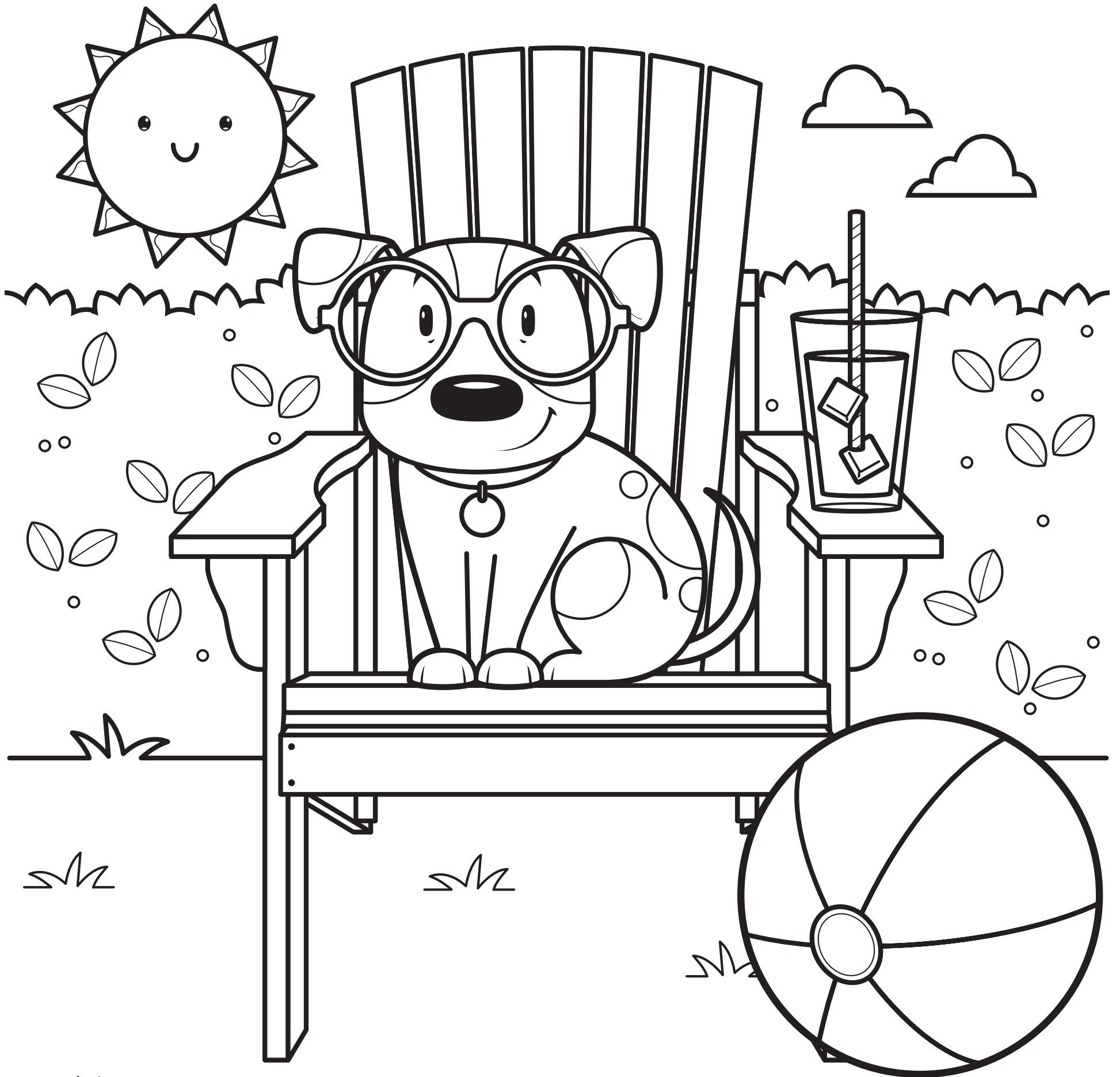
**Ages 10-17**

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- No Experience Required.

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BROADWAY IN JACKSONVILLE  
presented by FSCJ ARTIST SERIES



**Be creative!** Contest open to children ages 3-12 and will be judged in 3 categories: 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. Winners will receive a family four-pack of tickets to the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens. Please mail or bring in your entries on or before Friday, April 28, 2023.

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

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# Spring Coloring Contest!

MAIL OR BRING IN ONE COMPLETE PICTURE WITH ENTRY FORM TO:  
PONTE VEDRA RECORDER | 1102 A1A N., Unit 108 | Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Photos courtesy of St. Johns Stage



St. Johns Stage will offer summer programs May 29 to July 28.



Children kindergarten to seniors in high school are welcome to take part in the programs offered at St. Johns Stage.

# St. Johns Stage summer programs foster passion for performing arts

By Anthony Richards

St. Johns Stage is preparing for the second weekend of its spring showcase, “The Secret Garden The Musical,” which will be held April 15 and 16 with performances at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. both days.

Seats can be reserved for the shows

by going to [www.stjohnsstage.com/sjs-theatre-production-tickets](http://www.stjohnsstage.com/sjs-theatre-production-tickets).

The production is just the latest example of the many ways St. Johns Stage goes about educating and developing a passion for theater in students from kindergarten to seniors in high school.

As a result, all the performances done

by the arts studio have casts made up entirely of children within its program, which also leads to the scripts used being children’s classic tales.

“For the performances, we turn half of the studio into a black box theater,” owner and director Mindy Dushane said.

There are a couple of plays being offered this summer for middle school and high school students in the area, with the unique twist of the students only getting one week to work on the play and perform it, but they will have the chance to then perform what they worked on at the Florida Theatre Conference where they will compete in a regional event.

Ages 10 to 14 (middle school) will be performing “The Taming of the Shoe,” while those in high school ages 14 to 18 will perform “Red Herring.”

The final audition will be held at the studio beginning April 8 beginning at 10 a.m. The cost for a student per week is \$175 with a \$15 registration fee.

“We try to have a variety of plays and musicals because we know that different kids prefer different things,” Dushane said.

Although the casts for the performances or to be part of the studio’s Thespian competition group is based off of auditions, there are plenty of other ways that children of any age or talent level are welcome to enjoy all that theater has to offer.

Summer classes are broken down into three levels, and are not so much determined by age as much as it is experience and where a child is in the learning



process.

Classes will begin May 29 and go through July 28 with various classes being held each day of the week with start times no earlier than 4 p.m.

The range of styles taught include the likes of ballet, lyrical, contemporary, vocal and acting techniques, jazz, hip hop and tap.

A “Broadway basics” class will also be offered for those ages 3 to 5 years old just being introduced to theater and “skills for the independent actor,” for those looking to advance and build upon their acting skills.

There is a \$15 registration fee per family required to take part in the classes, and families can register their children online by going to [stjohnsstage.com](http://stjohnsstage.com) and clicking on the “summer programs & classes” tab.

“Here at St. Johns Stage, we’re all about making sure that every child who wants to, gets the opportunity to be included and express their creativity through the performing arts,” Dushane said. “We hope to kindle their passion for theater and the arts with our approach.”

## SUMMER '23 CAMPS

SPACES ARE LIMITED!



Grades 3+

June 5 - 16, M - F from 10am - 3pm  
Shows: June 16th & 17th at 7pm and June 18 at 2pm



Grades K+

June 5 - 9 from 12pm - 3pm



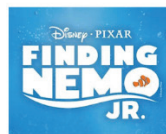
Grades K+

June 19 - 23 from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.



Grades 8+

June 26 - July 21, M - F  
June 26 - July 14: 2 - 5 p.m.  
July 17 - 21: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Shows: July 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. and July 23 at 2 p.m.



Grades 4+

June 19 - July 16, M - F  
June 19 - July 7 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
July 10 - July 14 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Shows: July 14th & 15th at 7p.m. and July 16 at 2 p.m.

(904) 825-1164, ext. 16

[limelight-theatre.org/youth-programs](http://limelight-theatre.org/youth-programs)





# Keep summer days fun and busy when camp ends

Many adults have fond memories of attending summer camp when they were children. The American Camp Association reports that each year more than 14 million children and adults take advantage of the camp experience. Summer camp is a place for kids to learn new skills, make new friends, experience being away from home for extended periods of time, and explore new locales.

Summer camp program lengths vary. Some children attend local camps that may last a week or two, while others attend sleep-away camps that last a little longer. Since summer vacation typically lasts between eight to 10 weeks, parents may discover there still is plenty of downtime after summer camp ends. Here are some ways to fill the gap between the end of camp and the start of a new school year.

## Schedule a vacation

What better way to keep the magic of summer going than by rolling summer camp right into a family vacation? Give kids time to enjoy a few days to relax at home, but then buckle up for the next adventure. This can be a trip away from home, or a series of day trips or activities guided by all members of the family.

## Organize a sleepover exchange

Parents of school-aged children can coordinate with one another to fill up a week or more with sleepovers. Each family can take a night or two, and the kids can jump from house to house extending the fun with one another. Sleepovers can occur inside the home or under tents in the yard.

## Recreate favorite camp activities at home

Why not take what makes camp entertaining and try it at home? Copy the camp's itinerary and engage in similar activities, such as canoeing or nature hikes. On nights when the weather cooperates, everyone can gather around a fire pit to roast marshmallows.

## Enroll in a recreational program

Some towns offer free or low-fee activities to residents through their parks and recreation departments. If budgeting does not allow for a camp experience, there are likely town-wide activities that can fill the gaps until it's time for children to go back to school. Some even may offer after-hours childcare options for parents who have scheduling conflicts with work.



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School of the Arts  
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# OUT OF COUNTY STUDENT AUDITIONS

*dates in May and August*



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# Market

Continued from 9

One of the big changes is that the market is now inside compared to in the past, which is nice according to Struble, because it allows for the market to go on rain or shine.

Although the market had grown so much in the last year that they have needed to expand outside with vendors on the front lawn of the center to greet the public as they walk in to see the ones inside as well.

According to Taylor, a typical market has about 11 to 16 vendors, featuring a variety of different products from soaps and lotions to jewelry and food, such as fresh produce, breads and frozen steaks.

“It’s something a little different every week because we do have vendors rotating to make sure we have a wide selection,” Taylor said.

One of those vendors is Bee Pollen Farms, which brings down their home-grown organic in-season produce down to Palm Valley from their farm in Baker County to take part in the market.

“This was our first venture into a



Photo by Anthony Richards

Shoppers at the Palm Valley Market look over the selection of bakery items at the Great Harvest Bread Co. table. Palm Valley Market with its fresh produce.

market, and now it’s become like a home to us,” said owner Anthony Ahrens.

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## VyStar Credit Union launches foundation

VyStar Credit Union announced on March 29 that it has launched VyStar Foundation, which will serve as the credit union's philanthropic arm.

VyStar Foundation will be dedicated to doing good and leading by example through collaborative partnerships that support youth, military members and veterans, and overall community vitality in the areas served by VyStar Credit Union.

"VyStar Credit Union's purpose is to Do Good," said Patricia McElroy, SVP/president VyStar Foundation. "That simple phrase describes the spirit of philanthropy that is deeply embedded in our organization. It inspires our teams in all that we do, whether we're serving our members, volunteering with nonprofit organizations or donating to community partners who share in our commitment to improve the places

we call home. We have seen the incredible power of what we can accomplish when we work together for a common good. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead VyStar Foundation to further expand VyStar's dedication to the community."

Grants through VyStar Foundation will be available to 501(c)(3) organizations whose purpose and mission align with the foundation's strategic giving pillars:

- **Military:** Ensuring military members, veterans and their families receive the social services they need and the recognition they deserve
- **Youth:** Empowering youth by providing equitable access to creative learning environments
- **Community Building:** Cultivating financially strong, culturally vibrant and interconnected communities

Each grant cycle will have a specific funding priority drawn from one of these strategic giving pillars. VyStar Foundation's first grant cycle opened March 29 and honors VyStar's roots at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. The grant cycle focuses on nonprofit organizations that support active military, veterans and their families. Specific funding priority will be given to programs that address food and housing insecurity, employment and small business counseling, or mental health services. Grant application information sessions will be held this month with the final application deadline on April 30.

"VyStar Foundation's launch will take our philanthropic efforts to new heights," said VyStar President/CEO Brian Wolfburg. "As VyStar continues to grow across Florida and Georgia, the foundation will

serve our new and existing communities, help us build important relationships with community leaders and support organizations that make a difference each and every day."

McElroy will serve as foundation president. VyStar Foundation will be operated by a volunteer board of directors, which currently includes McElroy, Wolfburg as chairman, VyStar EVP/Chief Operations Officer Chad Meadows as treasurer, VyStar Chief Marketing Officer Dana Karzan as secretary and VyStar Credit Union Board Secretary Diane Fears. Moving forward, the foundation board will include community members from areas served by VyStar Credit Union.

To learn more about VyStar Foundation, go to [vystarfoundation.org](http://vystarfoundation.org).

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GUEST COLUMN

# Paying down debt vs. investing



Jamie Seim, MBA, CFP®

Paying down debt is often difficult, especially in a challenging economic environment. You may be wondering which to tackle first — pay down your debt or invest for the future.

### Balance is best

A balanced approach to wealth management serves both today's needs and tomorrow's goals. For some that may mean paying off some debt today while simultaneously investing for the future.

Your own needs and circumstances will be unique. The following guidelines can help you evaluate alternatives and find an approach that fits your situation and goals.

### Don't forget your emergency fund

In addition to paying down debt and settling on an investment strategy, make it a priority to set up an emergency reserve. Traditional "rules of thumb" suggest setting aside three to six months or more of living expenses in traditional savings or very short-term, highly liquid, low-volatility investments.

While ideal, that goal may not be real-

istic for everyone. Start by building up a reserve of a month's expenses and make it a goal to increase your emergency fund over time as resources permit.

### Your future first

When making decisions about debt and investing, be a long-term thinker. Consider "what position do I want to be in 10 or 20 years from now?" Then evaluate what actions today should be most effective in helping you achieve your long-term financial goals.

For example, if you have high-interest debt that is compounding, this could eventually become a serious impediment to reaching your long-term goals. In contrast, you might not be in a hurry to retire low-interest debt if the potential return on long-term investing would be greater.

When making decisions about debt reduction vs. investing, keep in mind that the need to eventually pay off principal is certain but investment returns are not. Investment performance will vary over time, and it's possible to experience losses as well as gains. At the same time, it is well known that investors who start earlier may benefit from compounding and "time in the market."

If you have the opportunity to participate in a retirement plan at work and your employer makes matching contributions,

that could be a compelling reason to prioritize investing up to the amount that the employer will match.

But there are no magic numbers. That's why you may want to work with a financial advisor to create an investment strategy that fits your financial expectations for the future.

### Prioritize your debts

With your emergency fund and investment strategy in place, you can begin deciding on a strategy for reducing your debts. But how do you decide which debts to pay down first?

Mathematically, it makes sense to focus on paying off high-interest debts like private student loans and credit card debt first. Federal student loans and mortgages might be lower priorities because their rates are often lower and their terms longer. Vehicle loans might fall somewhere in the middle. Tax considerations may also come into play.

An alternative approach is to start with the smallest debt first. It might be motivating to get a "quick win" by paying off a smaller debt before beginning to chip away at a larger one.

Once you pay off one debt, add that payment amount to a different debt payment amount to accelerate its pay off.

### It's personal

One last tip: Don't discount your emotions. If paying off a certain debt will help you feel more secure, follow your gut. Or discuss with a financial advisor before you decide. Also, identify some key milestones that you want to reach, and celebrate (modestly) when you achieve those goals!

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This article was written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Ponte Vedra Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors - Jamie Seim, MBA, CFP®

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# Sailing a family affair for St. Augustine's business

For Rose Ann Points, sailing isn't just a family activity – it's a family business. That's because when you book a luxury sailing experience with St. Augustine Sailing, you're in the capable hands of a family that has lived and breathed the salt air for most of their lives.

After years of making her family at home living on boats, Points has built that strong family bond into her business.

"It wasn't until my mid-20s that I started spending time on boats," said Points, co-owner, captain and broker at St. Au-

gustine Sailing. "At first, it was a 27-foot Bayliner Cabin Cruiser that my kids and I would take out on the weekends when we lived in Vancouver, Washington."

Then, when Points was 30, the family decided to sell everything they owned and buy a sailboat to live the life of adventure. They purchased a 41 Morgan Out-Island ketch (a double-masted sailboat) named Tranquility and moved aboard for 13 years.

"They loved it," she said. "It was just the most wonderful time, giving my kids

that connection to the sea. And we've never looked back!"

Points' children are all actively involved in the business. Her daughter Toste Munoz serves as the main point of contact for passengers looking to book an excursion. Her two sons also help man the helm, so to speak. Derk Burkin is a photographer and videographer who documents the myriad momentous occasions on board. Lance Burkin manages

St. Augustine Sailing's extensive fleet of sailing yachts, keeping them afloat and in tip-top shape.

Lance's wife, Amberle, creates the delectable bites on-board, curating an extensive menu of options, including lush charcuterie boards and perfectly-paired beverages.

Rose Ann's husband, Chuck Points, is

SAILING continues on Page 31

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## GUEST COLUMN

# Commit to smart financial habits in recognition of Financial Capability Month

Submitted by Chris Thompson



Chris Thompson,  
CRPC®, CFP®

April is a month that often conjures thoughts of spring cleaning. Fittingly, it's also National Financial Capability Month, a time to reflect on the state of your finances and focus on organizing them in a way that will help you achieve your goals for the future. Here are five tried-and-true money habits I recommend to my clients this time of year, and all year long. These are also good principles to pass down to children and other dependents as they approach adulthood and become responsible for their own finances.

## 1. Create and follow a budget. A

budget is a key tool to help households improve their financial accountability and stability. It's a black-and-white reminder of monthly bills and the limits of household cash flow. As a rule of thumb, I recommend setting a 50/30/20 budget allocation, in which you assign 50% of your income to pay fixed expenses, allow 30% for flexible spending, and reserve 20% for savings. You can always modify the numbers as your income and expenses change over time.

## 2. Use credit wisely.

Loans and credit cards are financial tools that are best used carefully. My advice is to delay discretionary purchases you cannot pay for today to avoid the inevitable cost of borrowing money. In general, it's wise to keep your debt-to-income (DTI) ratio below 30% to avoid unwieldy payments. A higher DTI will require more of your resources and make it harder to get ahead.

Cap your credit card debt to 20% or less of your maximum credit limit whenever possible. I highly recommend that borrowers review their current debt and create a payment schedule to pay it down. It's especially important to pay installment loan payments and credit card bills on time to avoid late fees and maintain a high credit score.

## 3. Save for larger purchases and emergencies.

I tell my clients to maintain some level of cash reserves for unexpected expenses. When life takes an unexpected turn, your savings can be a lifeline. Grow an emergency fund equivalent to six months to one year of income. If you must tap into your emergency savings, set realistic goals to rebuild the fund.

## 4. Invest for your future.

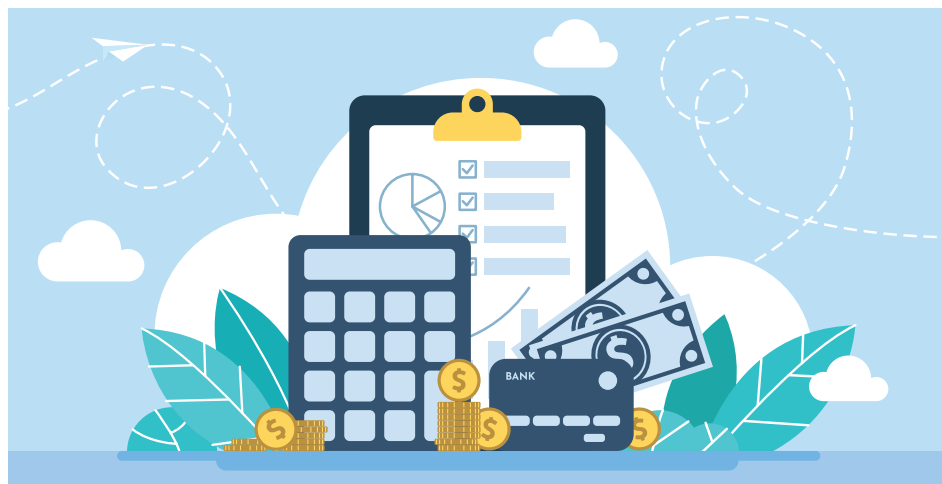
By giving your money the chance to grow, investments have the potential to help you create a more prosperous financial future. I urge clients to make maximum contributions to retirement savings accounts and take full advantage of employer match opportunities. Another best practice for investing is to build a diversified portfolio — in other words, not just stocks, but also bonds, real estate and other asset types. This principle of diversification can help balance risk against the volatility of any one asset class. Invest consistently, regardless of market conditions, to benefit from dollar-cost averaging (a lower average cost of shares).

## 5. Take time for financial wellness.

Your relationship to money matters as

much as your bank balance. Detrimental financial habits often have an emotional history. Identify triggers that lead to behaviors you want to change, such as overspending or neglecting bills. Pat yourself on the back for every positive step you take toward financial wellness. One of the most treasured rewards of my work is helping my clients strengthen their financial acumen and create a safety net for their families now and in the future. If this approach appeals to you, consider seeking the advice of a qualified financial advisor who can help you work to achieve your goals for the future.

Chris Thompson, CFP®, CMFA®, CRPC® is a Managing Director & Associate Branch Manager with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. in Jacksonville FL. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 30 years. To contact him, [www.ameripriseadvisors.com/chris.thompson](http://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/chris.thompson), 904-380-2290, 4601 Touchton Rd E, Suite 3120, Jacksonville FL. Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, a registered investment adviser. Investment products are not insured by the FDIC, NCUA or any federal agency, are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by any financial institution, and involve investment risks including possible loss of principal and fluctuation in value. Ameriprise Financial and its affiliates do not offer tax or legal advice. Consumers should consult with their tax advisor or attorney regarding their specific situation. Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2023 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.



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## Benchmarks of Success

*A look at major career changes in the area.*

**River Garden Senior Services CFO Betty Sorna receives award**

River Garden Senior Services has announced that Betty Sorna, chief financial officer and senior associate administrator, was named as the Association of Jewish Aging Services (AJAS) Professional of the Year on March 21 during the 2023 AJAS Annual Conference.

This award is given to honor and recognize an outstanding AJAS professional who reflects the highest standards of knowledge and expertise, has shown exceptional leadership and is highly respected by the staff, residents and families served.

Sorna holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in accountancy from The



Betty Sorna

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# Sailing

Continued from 29

not only the co-owner of St. Augustine Sailing. He's a steady, solid presence, overseeing all sailing operations and serving as the business's main delivery captain. He is also an award-winning ASA instructor who has guided numerous individuals on their path to becoming sailing instructors.

"Chuck actually came in to rent a boat, before I was involved with the business," said Points. "He got to talking to the previous owners and it turned out he had a captain's license and a whole lot of experience on the water. He's sailed all over the world — the breadth of his knowledge is so impressive! So they hired him. And that's how we met — I walked through the door and there he was. It makes this business even more meaningful for us because it's part of our love story."

St. Augustine Sailing Enterprises is a luxury adventure experience that offers a variety of sailing excursions to fit any occasion and budget. They offer private charters that can be customized to create a unique experience. Popular options include private chef-prepared meals, premium beer and wine upgrades and overnight adventures.

St. Augustine Sailing also offers sailing lessons and membership in SailTime, a club that allows members to rent a boat at franchises around the country. For more information on the programs, go to [sta-sail.com](http://sta-sail.com).



Contributed photo

St. Augustine Sailing has a strong family component.

# Home watch business earns accreditation

Hibiscus Home Management has earned accreditation from the National Home Watch Association (NHWA) for the second year.

The NHWA was formed in 2009 in order to establish and maintain the highest industry standards for home watch and absentee homeowner services throughout the United States and Canada ([www.nationalhomewatchassociation.org](http://www.nationalhomewatchassociation.org)). Home watch is a visual inspection of a home or property, looking for obvious issues, which means that it is a service that "keeps an eye on things" at your vacation or primary home while you are not in residence. All principals of NHWA accredited member companies are background-checked, insured and bonded.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Shon Fleming has been a resident of St. Augustine for 18 years. He has a background in engineering and construction and has a master's degree. He currently manages a team of engineers in the field of utility construction.

Born and raised in St. Augustine, Karissa Fleming spent 13 years as an ocean lifeguard for St. Johns County, with an additional two years as a professional EMT/firefighter. She holds a bachelor's degree in business, with an emphasis on marketing, now specializing in HVAC/R products

ACCREDITATION continues on Page 33

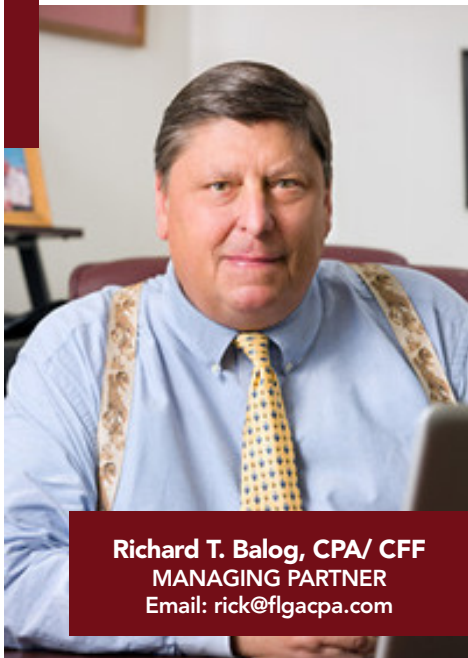
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## GUEST COLUMN

# Silver and Gold

*Nixon, FDR, Smedley Butler, and the Crime of 1873*

By Scott A. Grant, JD

I recently saw a Tik-Tok celebrity predicting economic doom and gloom. To be fair, this same man has been predicting doom and gloom for the past three decades and has mostly been wrong.

Right now, he is calling for a massive financial meltdown because Richard M. Nixon took us off the gold standard back in 1971. What that meant at the time was that foreign nations could no longer redeem dollars for gold from the Federal Reserve. Apparently, over 50 years later, that decision will now lead to our financial ruin.

“Gold,” the Tik-Toker claims “is God’s money.” That statement raises more than a few eyebrows. I grew up in the church and was unaware that God had his or her own money. It certainly adds a twist to

the biblical admonition to “render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and unto God what is God’s.” The Romans used silver coins.

1971 was not the first time that the U.S. was taken off the gold standard nor the first time that portions of the public were enraged by changes to the backing of our currency. In 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt suspended the conversion of currency into gold and made it illegal for U.S. citizens to own gold bullion or treasury issued Gold Certificates.

FDR wanted to increase the money supply in order to combat the Great Depression and this was impossible if terrified citizens hoarded gold.

The decision caused so much outrage that a group of businessmen put together a plot to oust Roosevelt and replace him with a retired Marine Corp General named Smedley Butler.

According to the plan, Butler would lead a march on Washington where he would be installed as a dictator. It is unclear to this day, if the “Wall Street Putsch” was real or just imagined. In any event, Butler refused to go along with the idea and instead alerted Congress. Hear-

ings were held. Nothing happened.

In the early days of our Republic, our currency was backed by silver. As the 1800s unfolded we moved towards a system of bimetallism where our currency, issued by local banks, was backed by a combination of silver and gold.

Massive silver strikes beginning in 1851 in Nevada led to an inflation of the currency. So, Congress passed the Coinage Act of 1873. Henceforth, the treasury would no longer use silver to back currency. Signed into law by Ulysses S. Grant, the act effectively put the U.S. onto the Gold Standard and became known as the “Crime of 1873.”

The act resulted in a shrinking of the money supply and a huge six-year long recession that historians now call the Panic of 1873. At the time, it was referred to as the “Great Depression” until that term was co-opted in the 1930s for another massive recession.

For the next four decades, the question of silver became a major political issue. “Free silver” political parties rose up across the nation. Their standard bearer was William Jennings Bryan. He ran for President three times and won Florida in



each of those elections.

At the Democratic Convention in 1896, he delivered a famous speech in which he declared “You will not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.”

The issue then and now, is that an expanding currency leads to economic growth. A contracting currency leads to economic contraction. Too much economic growth is inflationary. Too much economic contraction leads to recession.

Scott A. Grant is a local author and frequent contributor to the Recorder. Scott believes Tik-Tok should be banned. He welcomes your comments at [scottg@standfast.com](mailto:scottg@standfast.com)



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# Benchmarks

Continued from 30

University of North Florida. She is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Sorna has chaired the Medicaid Reimbursement Committee of LeadingAge Florida and has also served as a resource to many colleagues in the field. She has prepared testimony for presentation to the Florida Legislature which has been effective in helping direct additional funding to high quality Florida nursing homes.

As River Garden’s chief financial officer, Sorna has responsibilities that span four interrelated not-for-profit corporations: River Garden Senior Services, River Garden Hebrew Home, The Coves at River Garden and River Garden Foundation. She also has operational responsibilities for admissions and human resources within the 180-bed skilled nursing facility. As CFO, she is responsible for development and implementation of annual budgets in excess of \$30 million, and oversees a staff of more than 300.

## Sarah Dobson appointed WJCT vice president of development

WJCT Public Media recently announced the appointment of Sarah Dobson as the organization’s vice president of development, effective March 13. In her new role, Dobson oversees the organization’s major gifts fundraising program,



Sarah Dobson

known as the “First Coast Society,” along with campaign fundraising and planned giving.

Dobson previously served as the senior director of development for Feeding Northeast Florida, expanding the role she held since 2018. She has worked in the Northeast Florida nonprofit sector since 2007, including independent consulting with the Jacksonville Symphony, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida, Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, the University of North Florida and more. Previously, she was the director of annual giving for Harvard Medical School.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



# Accreditation

Continued from 31

for contractors.

During the initial phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Flemings worked from home, with more time to enjoy walking around their community. They couldn’t help but notice how many unoccupied homes they came across. It was brought to their attention that one such “snowbird” neighbor later discovered their hot water tank had leaked for three months, which unfortunately resulted in a house full of mold.

With experience in building construction, they saw an opportunity to prevent something like this from happening to other neighbors. This marked the birth of Hibiscus Home Management. Karissa Fleming, with a long history of focusing on accident prevention, quickly coined their slogan, “Trust us to keep watch.”

Hibiscus Home Management serves Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach, South Ponte Vedra Beach and Vilano Beach.

The business can be reached at 904-792-9322 or at [info@hibiscushomemanagement.com](mailto:info@hibiscushomemanagement.com). Learn more at [hibiscushomemanagement.com](http://hibiscushomemanagement.com).

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# In the Arts

Send your arts news to  
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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## “ShakesBeer: A Brewery Tour” offers a unique view of the Bard’s work

On March 27, Lumen Repertory Theatre announced the opening production of the 2023 inaugural season. Part Shakespeare, part interactive storytelling and part brewery tour, “ShakesBeer” is an inventive foray into the world of the Bard that tackles theatre, art and craft brews at a breathtaking pace.

Tickets are \$45 (includes one free drink) Go to [lumenrep.org/shows/shakesbeer](http://lumenrep.org/shows/shakesbeer) to purchase tickets.

Somewhat improvised and interactive, this slightly inebriated Shakespeare performance shines a light on scenes from some of Shakespeare’s most well-known plays while seamlessly flowing into an interactive show where the audience can be spectators, participants, beer drinkers ... or all three.

Performances of “ShakesBeer” begin April 15 and run until May 3 and will take place at well-known breweries located in the Jacksonville and Jacksonville Beaches area. This innovative slice of theatre

begins with the Lumen Repertory Theatre cast gathering the audience around them, spinning a wheel and then performing whatever type of Shakespeare scene is selected.

“In the intimate setting of a brewery, “ShakesBeer” audience members will experience high-quality Shakespeare that is accessible, understandable, fun and ultimately meaningful, allowing us all a chance to see ourselves reflected throughout the many possibilities the format of this show provides,” said Brian Niece, Lumen Repertory Theatre co-founder and artistic director. “Shakespearean style improv? Of course! Sword fights so close you feel it? Sure! I might get to act on stage with the pros? Indeed! Drinking games at a Shakespeare show? Why not! Stumble into a brewery and find myself moved in powerful ways? Absolutely!”

“Shakesbeer: A Brewery Tour” shows:

- April 15, 8 p.m. Ink Factory Brewing, 602 Shetter Ave., Jacksonville Beach



Photo by Josh Andrews

The cast of “Shakesbeer: A Brewery Tour” are, from left, Mike Niedzwiecki, Kathryn Kuhn, Josh Andrews, Kate McManus and Jeff Drushal.

- April 16, 4 p.m. Ink Factory Brewing
- April 23, 4 p.m. Bold City Brewery, 2670 Rosselle St. No. 7, Jacksonville
- April 26, 8 p.m. Strings Sports Brewery, 1850 N. Main St., Jacksonville
- April 29, 8 p.m. Ink Factory Brewing
- April 30, 4 p.m. Ink Factory Brewing
- May 2, 8 p.m. Bold City Brewery
- May 3, 8 p.m. Intuition Bier Hall, 929 E Bay St., Jacksonville

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## Beaches Fine Arts Series presents ‘father and son’ concert with Stoltzmans

The Beaches Fine Arts Series is proud to host the return of this fabulous duo of

Richard Stoltzman and Peter John Stoltzman, who performed on the series 20 years ago, in a free concert scheduled for April 16 beginning at 4 p.m. at St. Paul’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.

Doors for the concert will open at 3:15 p.m., and a reception will follow the showcase with artwork featured by photographer Scott Blake.

The famed Grammy-winning clarinetist Richard Stoltzman is joined by his “monster jazz pianist” (LA Times) son, Peter John, in a fabulous program of works by George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein.

The father and son combination have delighted audiences in the U.S. and throughout Italy and Japan.

They have been featured on “CBS Sunday Morning”, NPR’s “Performance Today”, and “Weekend Edition” shows as well as the Voice of America network.

Richard Stoltzman’s virtuosity, musicianship and sheer personal magnetism

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# Photographer's images capture the land, seascapes and wildlife of Florida



Photographer David Fain recently joined the Professional Artists of St. Augustine Fine Art Gallery.

The Professional Artists of St. Augustine (PASTA) Fine Art Gallery, of 214 Charlotte St., St. Augustine, has announced that photographer David Fain has joined the gallery to showcase his fine art Florida photography.

After he was born the youngest of a large family in California, Fain's family

moved to South Florida in the early 1960s where the wildness of the Everglades inspired his creativity and respect for our natural resources.

His father gave him his love for all things wild, and he spent much of his time outdoors, hunting, fishing, swimming in the springs and the St. John's River. He began drawing wildlife and landscapes as a youth with the help of field guides. A friend of the family gave him an old camera, and the new creative outlet soon became his "sleeper hobby" until 20 years ago when ventured forward with his photography, showcasing his passion for the great outdoors and Florida wild places.

"My specialties are landscape and wildlife photography," Fain said. "I like to reflect the ideas of different styles through my photography, borrowing from plein air painting and the light balancing of famed photographer Ansel Adams. I am convinced that every image should be a window of the photographer's experience, conveying a story that lingers in the thoughts of the observer."



Contributed photos

One of David Fain's spectacular photos.

Prior to his retirement, Fain was a local tour guide and still maintains a tourism license in St. Augustine. Fain and his wife Debbie have seven children and 10 grandchildren — all native Floridians. In his spare time, Fain likes to play

acoustic guitar and sing. He maintains a strong interest in the natural sciences and is a strong advocate for conserving natural resources.

For more on Fain and his photography go to [pastagalleryart.com](http://pastagalleryart.com).

## Stoltzmans

Continued from 34

have made him one of today's most sought-after concert artists.

As soloist with more than a hundred orchestras, as a captivating recitalist and chamber music performer, as an innovative jazz artist, and as a prolific recording artist, two-time GRAMMY® Award winner Stoltzman has defied categorization, dazzling critics and audiences alike throughout many musical genres.

Stoltzman's unique style of playing the clarinet has earned him an international reputation as he has opened up possibilities for the instrument that no one could have predicted.

He gave the first clarinet recitals in the histories of both the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall, and he became the first wind player to be awarded the Avery Fisher Prize.

He was featured in the International EMMY® Award-winning series "Concerto!" with Dudley Moore and Michael Tilson Thomas, and was awarded the prestigious Sanford Medal by the Yale School of Music.

As the son of Grammy-winning clarinet legend, Richard Stoltzman, and renowned violinist and educator, Lucy Chapman, jazz pianist and educator Peter John Stoltzman naturally grew into a career as both a performer and teacher.



He has worked at the highest levels of the industry in virtually every style, from recording contemporary classical music with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, to headlining festivals with the American Music Award-winning funk-rock band, The Bomb Squad, recording with the innovative drum'n'bass legend, Deantoni Parks, making Hip Hop tracks with Che Pope at Warner Bros., to performing classical and jazz music at the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall with his father, and recording original songs with winner of The Voice, Javier Colon.

Current projects include Peter's New Standards Project (modern jazz arrangements of pop songs), Coexistence Trio (original Indie-Jazz), Spiraling Inward (with saxophonist John Ellis), The Democracy (Denver-based original modern jazz quintet), and collaborations with spoken word artists Theo Wilson and Dominique Christina, and Brazilian guitarist Gabriel Santiago.



Jim Biond, Jewelry Artist, Best in Show 2022

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# Sports



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The Ponte Vedra High boys lacrosse team's 14th Annual Mulch Madness fundraiser was held April 1 and 2.



Head coach Chris Polanski says a few words to the squad before heading out.

Photos by Anthony Richards

## MULCH MADNESS 2023

### Ponte Vedra boys lacrosse fundraiser continues for 14th year

By Anthony Richards

Lacrosse and mulch may seem like an interesting combination at first glance, but as one looks deeper into it there is a lot of tradition involved with the two, 14 years of it to be exact.

The Ponte Vedra High boys lacrosse team recently finished its 14th Annual Mulch Madness fundraiser April 1 and 2.

"It is a real tradition at PV, because when I was coming up I always saw the guys doing mulch madness and thought 'that looks really cool and I want to be out there doing that one day,'" junior face-off specialist Lad Harper said. "It's great for the program as a whole, and we're really appreciative of everyone who comes out and buys mulch."

The group delivered hundreds of bags of mulch as well as bales of pine straw to homes throughout the Ponte Vedra community that ordered the material through the fundraiser to help provide support for the program moving forward.

"You're pretty much here moving mulch around for days but you've got your teammates around you," senior goalie Brett Reed said. "It's a lot of work, but when you have the right people around you it just goes, and I have a lot of fun with it every year."

However, as a senior Reed has noticed



The players had fun with the event by drafting their mulch delivery teams.



Parents make sure players are signed in prior to the fundraiser.

more of a leadership role for Mulch Madness this time around.

"I have been helping lead the operations more as a senior, rather than when

you're a freshman and you're just told what to do," Reed chuckled. "It's definitely more strategical."

Someone who surely understands the

scale of the project and that a lot goes into preparation and devising of the routes to make the deliveries as quick and seamless as possible is parent Laura Shoemaker, who has been involved with the fundraiser for five years.

"This is a well-oiled machine, and it already was when I started as a freshman parent," Shoemaker said. "Every year we just try to make some tweaks and fine-tuning to make it even more efficient, and we always have new parents coming in."

One of the unique things about the fundraiser is the different ways the players have developed to make the most of it over the years, including have a draft party where the seniors are in charge of choosing the teammates they wish to have on their delivery "teams."

Other than getting the community more acquainted with the program and those on the teams, the team building that takes place is something head coach Chris Polanski has enjoyed most over the years.

"There's a competition of who can carry more bags, and it really does turn into a really fun team building thing, and not just for kids, but for the parents too," Polanski said.

"There's families that have been here involved since way back in the day, and now are back doing it again for the second or third time with another son," Polanski said.

So, although March may be over, for all the college basketball fans out there, the madness was still not quite done, at least for the players and parents of Sharks lacrosse.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Ponte Vedra senior Mark Romano shows off his skill against rival Nease.



Photo by Alex Shepherd

The Romano family on senior night

# Romano follows family tradition to become an Osprey

By Anthony Richards

For Ponte Vedra High senior Mark Romano, there were many decisions that led him to signing a soccer scholarship with the University of North Florida, but at the end of the day it simply came down to family.

After all, both his dad and uncle played for the Ospreys and were part of the school's inaugural soccer team, and his uncle is actually in the UNF athletic hall of fame and holds the record for the most goals scored in a career.

"It's really cool to have those family ties there," Romano said.

However, the ties to UNF do not stop there, as his mom also went to the school.

According to Romano, it definitely made his college decision an easier one, because he had been so involved around the UNF program over the years, and he always imagined what it would be like to step on the field for the Ospreys himself one day.

"I remember going to events with my dad and I've always just been around it," Romano said. "It's going to be pretty cool to now have the

chance to go there and make it your own."

When he woke up the day of his signing the reality of it all did not hit him fully until he signed the letter of intent and saw his name on the paper.

"I was like 'wow, I'm actually going to play soccer at a place I always watched and imagined growing up,'" Romano said. "It was definitely something I always wanted to do."

He started playing soccer when he four years old in three vs. three games against his friends, but then once he turned seven years old, he transitioned to playing for a travel team.

Part of his development over the years also involved going to soccer camps hosted by UNF, with his first coming when he was 10 years old.

He has played an array of positions throughout the years, but he has found a home in the last several years as a midfielder.

"I just seem to have the skills for it, because I'm very smart when it comes to soccer, and it's a position where you can really work out the game," Romano said.

He had focused on playing travel

ball, until this year when he decided as a senior to play for his school soccer team for the first time.

"I had never been able to play because at that level of travel ball, they don't let their kids play school ball," Romano said. "I committed to UNF going into my senior year, and I knew it was the last year I could ever do it. I'm so grateful that I got to get out there and just enjoy playing my senior year, because I would have definitely regretted it looking back."

There is not one thing in particular that Romano is looking forward to college more than others, but instead he is anxious for the experience as a whole.

"I've watched it, but never actually been in that environment, so I don't really know what to think about it until I get there," Romano chuckled. "I'm excited for the mystery of it all."

He will enter college with the hopes of earning a degree in business, but he also understands that path is still susceptible to change once he gets on campus and hones in on what he wants to do.



Contributed photo

Mark Romano shares a moment with his dad Mark Romano Sr., who also played soccer for UNF, during signing day.

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### CROSSWORD

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
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- ACROSS**
1. Colas
  7. Single-celled animals
  13. The rear car of a train
  14. Endangered
  16. It cools your home
  17. Helper
  19. "The First State"
  20. More aged
  22. Partner to cheese
  23. Type of wrap
  25. From a distance
  26. Satisfies
  28. "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared
  29. God of battle (Scandinavian)
  30. Cooking utensil
  31. Soviet Socialist Republic
  33. Able to perform
  34. Big man on campus
  36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
  38. Porticos
  40. Alban and Peter are two
  41. Gets up
  43. Humble request for help
  44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
  45. Unhappy
  47. Hint or indication
  48. A way to plead
  51. Digits
  53. Broadway actress Daisy
  55. Jewish calendar month
  56. Author Gore \_\_\_
  58. Peacock network
  59. White poplar
  60. Promotional material
  61. A period of calm
  64. Take too much
  65. Emit energy
  67. Something you can take
  69. Mended with yarn
  70. Inconsistent
3. One who pretends
  4. Hang glide
  5. Distinctive practice
  6. Mariner
  7. Peaks
  8. Queens ballplayer
  9. Geological times
  10. Twofold
  11. Atomic #13
  12. Tranquillizing
  13. Metric weight unit
  15. Indicates
  18. Unwanted rodent
  21. Partly cooked with hot water
  24. One who can be recommended
  26. Resembles a bag or pouch
  27. Midway between south and southeast
  30. Sets up for a photo
  32. California white oak
  35. More (Spanish)
  37. After B
  38. Decorated tea urn
  39. Island
  42. Car mechanics group
  43. Wordplay joke
  46. Cut a rug
  47. Prickly plant
  49. Speech in praise of a deceased person
  50. European buzzard
  52. Influential linguist
  54. West African languages
  55. Siskel's partner
  57. Skinny
  59. Oblong pulpit
  62. Consumed
  63. Small, mischievous sprite
  66. Powerful lawyer
  68. Indicates position

### SUDOKU

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Level: Advanced

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 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!



Clark Tiller and Johnny Watts teamed up to win the gross division. Photos courtesy of Jacksonville Area Golf Association

# JAGA Spring Four-ball crowns winners

By Anthony Richards

Forty one teams competed in the Jacksonville Area Golf Association's Spring Four-ball tournament played at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club March 27. The teams consisted of a variety of men and women of all ages and included an interesting mixture of amateurs and professionals. The results of the competition crowned champions in both gross and net divisions. Par for the course was 72, and the format was one best ball of each twosome. Clark Tiller and Johnny Watts teamed up to win the gross division with a score of 7-under, which was one better shot better than Colby Misora and Taylor McCorkle, as well as the tandem of Alex Grote and Molly Holbert, who both finished tied for second place. It was not the first time Johnny Watts found himself fighting at the top at the end of a JAGA championship, as he finished in a tie for second place at the 2022 JAGA Jacksonville Amateur at Deerwood Country Club.

Meanwhile, in the net division, it was Skip Lunsford and Kevin Buller who reached double digits and won by two strokes with a final score of 10-under. Mitch Howard and Cairo Santos challenged for the victory but finished in sole position of second place by posting a score of 8-under, while Jeff Johnstone and Joe Cronauer come home third at 7-under. The winning pairing of Lunsford and Buller, who both call host Jacksonville Golf and Country Club their home course, captured the net division title at the event for a second consecutive season. Chairing this year's spring four-ball tournament were Lunsford and Dennis Fallen, JAGA directors at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club along with JAGA vice president of tournaments Johnstone and Gregg Deiboldt, both of Sawgrass Country Club. Next up on the JAGA tournament schedule is the St. Johns County Four-ball tournament at St. Johns Golf Club in Elkton May 6-7.



Kevin Buller and Skip Lunsford were four-ball net champions for the second straight year.

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*Celebrating the Community Association's 75th Anniversary.*

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