



THE RECORDER



The Register
INSIDE

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

Thursday, October 12, 2023

PonteVedraRecorder.com

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Historic house offers fun for Halloween

By Shaun Ryan

Halloween has arrived at the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum in St. Augustine.

The house is the perfect place to experience the spirits of the past. It was completed in 1798 by Spanish merchant Andrés Ximenez for his wife Juana Pellicer and their children. The three-story structure was made of coquina.

After the deaths of the original owners, the house was rented out to various tenants and purchased in 1830 by Margaret Cook, who converted it into a boarding house. In 1855, the house came into the

HALLOWEEN continues on **Page 9**

WEEK 8 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

District play, playoff hopes in full swing

By Anthony Richards

It is at that point in the season where playoff hopes for teams are either taking one step closer to being realized or dashed.

The Ponte Vedra Sharks (5-1) have already played and won a district game and look to improve that mark to 2-0 in district play when they face the Toco Creek Toros (4-3) at 7 p.m. Oct. 13.

This will be the first contest for the Toros in District 4-4S and the first meeting between the two St. Johns County schools on the football field.

The Sharks have been on quite the roll having won five straight since an season opening loss to Bartram Trail and during that stretch they have had their way with many of the opponents.

Progression continues to be made with each week that passes and it goes for both sides of the ball.

Offensively, the Sharks have



Photo by Anthony Richards

Brian Case (No. 27) attempts to break a tackle. He is averaging 106.7 rushing yards per game for the Sharks.

WEEK 8 continues on **Page 37**



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

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Send us your news

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



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Hugh Osteen

COO/VP
hugh@osteenmediagroup.com
(904) 285-8831

Susan Griffin

Publisher
susan@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 686-3938

Shaun Ryan

Editor
shaun@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1202

Anthony Richards

Reporter
anthony@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1207

Don Coble

Contributor
don@claytodayonline.com

Amber Anderson

Page/Graphic Designer
amber@pontevedrarecorder.com

April Snyder

Sales Assistant
april@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1204

Kristin Flanagan

Account Executive
kristin@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1206

Adele McGraw

Account Executive
adele@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1208

Chris Ratliff

Multimedia Specialist
chris@osteenmediagroup.com
(704) 640-8408

Joe Wilhelm

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

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BRIEFS

Ponte Vedra Woman's Club plans lunch meeting

The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club will hold its October general meeting at noon Wednesday, Oct. 18, at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Pkwy., Ponte Vedra Beach. The topic will be "Accessible Mental Health & Homelessness in NE Florida" with speaker Michelle Tucker, director of operations from Here, Tomorrow. Also, there will be a spotlight on St. Augustine Youth Services. Lunch buffet is \$30. Register at pontevedrawomansclub.com/eventregistrations.php.

Birthday party planned for Seymour's 20th

Seymour's Book Store will celebrate its 20th birthday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, 101 Library Blvd. The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library invites kids and adults to a free party at that time. The fun will include a scavenger hunt, photo booth, games, birthday cake and the Nitrogen Creamery Food Truck.

Self-defense workshops planned

Hopefull Handbags Global Inc., Strikeback Self Defense for Women and Ponte Vedra Brazilian Jiu Jitsu will host self-defense workshops this month for women, students and kids. No experience necessary.

Classes are: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for women and students age 12 and older and 3-4 p.m. for boys and girls ages 5-11 on Saturday, Oct. 28, and Sunday, Oct. 29. The cost is \$20 for women, \$10 for students and kids, free to members of Ponte Vedra Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

Ponte Vedra Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is located at 880 U.S. A1A North, unit 14, Ponte Vedra Beach. For further information, call 904-383-7158 or go to hopefullhandbags.org/hopefullhandbags-self-defense-workshops.

Republicans to meet

St. Johns County Republican Party District 4 will meet from 6:15 to 8 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach. Email wwjdew@me.com for more information.

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.

Family seining event at GTM Research Reserve

The public is invited to join a guided family seining activity 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM). Learn about the animals and their roles in Guana Lake by pulling a seine net and collecting species of fish, crabs and other marine life.

Meet at GTM Research Reserve Guana Dam, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

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Briefs

Continued from 2

Registration is required. To register, go to gtmnerr.org/visit/events.

Program will include stories, songs about national parks

Timucuan Parks Foundation is teaming up with the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve — National Park Service for Songs and Stories of Our National Parks, a Healthy Living event. It will be from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, at The Ribault Club at 11241 Fort George Road. The event is free, but

registration is required.

Retired national park ranger and storyteller Gary Bremen will be joined by Grant Livingston, a singer/songwriter and Florida Historian-in-Song. Guests will experience 100 years of national park history through songs and stories. Bremen will tell the tales of Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Mammoth Caves, Selma, Stonewall, Everglades, Biscayne National Park and more. He will be accompanied by Livingston who will be playing folk songs of the times and his original songs.

Registration is limited to 100 people and can be done at timucuanparks.org/HL-event.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Music festival benefits music therapy program

Healing Harmonies will present “Boots on the Green,” a live music festival event from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22, at The Yards, 254 Alta Mar Drive, Ponte Vedra.

The lineup includes: multi-cultural sound sensation Trevor Bystrom, country music artist Jonathan Lee and country music artist and “American Idol” contestant Katie O.

This fun and meaningful music festival will benefit the music therapy

program for pediatric patients at Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

Admission is \$100 and includes: live music, delicious food and two signature cocktails.

The event also includes a beer truck and closest to the pin, as well as a chance to win two box seat tickets to the U.S. Open Tennis, men’s quarterfinal.

For further information or tickets, go to thefoundationcares.org/events/boots-on-the-green.



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Business owner, publisher share enthusiasm for EnterCircle

EnterCircle 2023 invites more than 25 speakers to share their stories of thriving and finding purpose in the work they do. The three-day summit gives these speakers a platform to motivate entrepreneurs across generations and industries, through informative TED-style discussions, panels and interactive breakout sessions.

This year, EnterCircle welcomes speaker Sonya Morales-Marchisillo and sponsor The Ponte Vedra Recorder.

Morales-Marchisillo, founder and owner of Pinnacle Communications, is excited to speak at EnterCircle because she believes her story will inspire women to collaborate with each other and walk in their own power.

“The one thing I want to talk about is

championing women. Too many times we are in competition with each other ... We aren’t expected to collab and communicate and there needs to be more of that and it needs to be showcased,” Morales-Marchisillo said.

Morales-Marchisillo will speak at one of two Women in Business panels at the Women’s Day program on Nov. 17. The program consists of panel discussions on women in business and tech, leadership lessons, mastering work-life balance and a business expo for woman-owned businesses.

Since she started Pinnacle Communications with her two daughters four years ago, Morales-Marchisillo has seen immense growth in her company, and she aspires to



**ENTERCIRCLE
SUMMIT 2023**

keep her seat at a table where few women have sat.

“What I wanted to do was show the girls that we can push the needle and we can help because only 5% of women are in technology ... We wanted to give women a hand-up in tech.”

She hopes that attendees at EnterCircle will see her as a proven concept for success, even in male-dominated fields. According to Morales-Marchisillo attending events like EnterCircle is the first step toward shattering glass ceilings.

Susan Griffin, publisher of The Ponte Vedra Recorder, also believes that EnterCircle will promote growth and impact the community of Northeast Florida. To her,

EnterCircle is a great opportunity for businesses to promote themselves.

“I think with the growth that is coming into St. Johns County, which has the third highest per capita income in the state of Florida, it’s important to get your name out there with all the new people moving here. EnterCircle is a great opportunity to get exposure for your business, and interact with the community,” Griffin said.

The Recorder has been a supporter of EnterCircle for the past two years, with this year marking its first year as a sponsor.

Griffin is most excited for the impact Women’s Day will have on women entrepreneurs in the area.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for people to know there are so many women in power that are entrepreneurs and women business owners... it’s important to recognize how powerful women are in the business sector these days,” Griffin said.

A full agenda for the day can be found at entercircle.zone as well as information on how to purchase tickets and expo tables for the Premier Business Showcase & Awards Night (Nov. 15) and Women’s Day (Nov. 17).

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Carolynn Castillo's real estate business is unlike most others. Though she represents traditional sales, she specializes in probate cases and other complicated situations. Her YouTube channel is the best place to learn about her work.

Carolynn Castillo

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me about Absolute Top Dollar.

We're a real estate office, and we specialize in working with families that either recently inherited a property or they're currently going through the probate process. We also work with families that have to put a family member into a nursing home or something like that.

So, we service that portion of the real estate market. Most of the homes we're speaking of are heavily targeted by investors because there are a lot of problems wrapped around them.

We know the law. We know the process. We know how to get through it — and we get the families as much money as possible.

What is the central issue with these types of properties?

When someone passes away and you inherit, you are now a real estate partner with other people. So, you can't just buy and sell or do whatever you want to do. You've got to get people to get along.

Florida is a retirement place. This is where everybody wants to come to.

So, the families that are inheriting these properties are in New York, Chicago, you know, they're all over. They don't know Florida. They don't know real estate. So, it's a challenging transaction. That's why we're here.

When the client comes to us, we just take everything over for them and get them as much money as possible.

Do you negotiate with multiple family members during one of these transactions?

Pretty much when you work with this type of real estate, you're almost like the Realtor for the family. Because all the sellers live in different places.

We're in a time now where the baby boomer generation is aging out of our communities and society, and when you look at the wealth that they have, about 60% is in real estate. So, the inheritance is real estate.

It's a high target for investors. They'll say, "Hey, I'll take care of it for you." Even though they're coming in the name of help, trust me, you're getting about 50% of what the asset is actually worth.

So, I really am an advocate for setting up your trust, getting a will, doing the legal things that you need to do so that you're protected.

How can people become better prepared?

We're going to be doing events at the link. We're going to be educating the community about wills and trusts and how to prevent these things from happening.

The thing about this type of real estate is that no one ever knows they're going to be here. All of a sudden, somebody dies, or grandma has a fall. Everything just happens so rapidly.

How did you get into this particular specialty?

I've actually been licensed since I was 18 years old. I started doing rentals. I remember my first job as a Realtor; I was working at a rental agency, because this was before the internet. So, if you needed an apartment, you literally had to go to a real estate office to get the information.

I did residential real estate for so many years, and then, my first probate case came around 2017. I had never seen



that side of real estate — I was always in the residential and upsizing, downsizing, rentals, that kind of thing — and I just fell in love with it after that.

To me it's enjoyable because I really get to help the families. It's different than when people are upsizing and downsizing. It's cute to be part of that moment, but this is really changing lives.

What else is happening with your business?

The really exciting thing that's happened is I just got chosen to be on the national show, "The American Dream."

It's a lifestyle show that features different cities. It will show how it is to live in Jacksonville and the surrounding area.

Every market is different, so, basically, they get about four or five Realtors or mortgage professionals from the area. Each agent or broker or whatever they are will get about a five- or six-minute segment.

We're going to be able to feature local business owners. That's typically what the show's about — featuring local business owners and the lifestyle and the amenities that we have here.

It's a beautiful show. It's been nominated for an Emmy. The guys that run it, the producers, they've just been amazing. It looks like it's going to be a lot of fun.

When did you move to Nocatee?

We're from South Florida, and we migrated here in 2021.

When COVID hit, there were very extreme restrictions down there. So, people were selling their houses and they were moving to Tampa, Fort Myers. ... Everybody was leaving Miami.

We moved one family, five of them; they moved to Middleburg. I got to hear about this whole Northeast area.

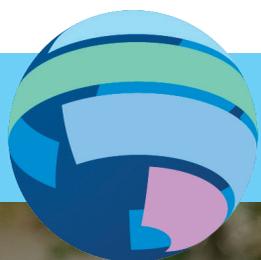
When I started looking it up, I saw Nocatee, and I was like, there's no way that's a real place. But it has literally been everything that we thought it was.

You have an office at the link.

What a great place! I had no idea what I was even walking into. [Laughs] I just thought it was a working space, where you rent an office. The people have just been so incredible. So many great business owners in there.

What do you like best about living here?

I love it so much. To raise your family, and to build your dreams and build your company and just live your life in these younger years when you have kids and stuff, I can't even imagine a better community to be a part of.



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Informal MSD vote favors PUD request, special meeting not coming

By Anthony Richards

The MSD meeting on Oct. 9 was all set for the board to officially vote on whether they are in favor of Ponte Vedra Cooperation's PUD application that they have requested as part of their renovation plan of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and The Lodge properties.

However, the meeting did not go quite to plan, and the end result was an informal vote being taken with 6-1 voting in favor of it, as Kitty Switkes was the lone trustee against it.

The vote was taken at the end of the meeting and Switkes stated that she did not believe a vote was the right thing to do at that time because so many of the residents with questions earlier in the meeting had left after the board stated that they would hold a special meeting with an official vote to be taken and public comment to be heard at a time and location to be determined next week.

However, chairman Al Hollon informed the Ponte Vedra Recorder two days after the meeting that he de-

ecided to not issue a notice for a special meeting due to discussion of the PUD application already having been on the agenda four times.

A need for a special meeting was initially prompted because there were several residents on hand that spoke during the public comments portion at the beginning of the meeting stating their displeasure that the topics of the agenda had not been posted to the MSD website until earlier that day.

As a result, they said that many more people would have attended the meeting but were not provided with proper notification.

MSD attorney Wayne Flowers agreed with the points raised and recommended that a special meeting should be considered to give the residents a proper notification period.

Most of the people who raised concerns left the meeting after the news of the special meeting, however, Ellen Avery-Smith, an attorney with Rogers Towers representing the project filled out a comment card and spoke later in

the unfinished business portion of the meeting.

She along with John Peyton, owner of the properties being discussed, requested that they would like to see the board hold a vote during the current meeting as it was the fourth time that it had been placed on the agenda for discussion and possible vote.

According to Peyton, the cooperation would love the MSD's support of the project, but he also wanted to make it clear that they are not asking for a special meeting and did not plan to be back in attendance if they had one.

"This is a business, and it's not a charity, so trying to find a way to make these buildings viable is the challenge," Peyton said. "There are examples all over this country of clubs that do not reinvest, and they go downhill, and the properties go with them. We've got a great team of professionals that I think have tried their best to be sensitive to the character of the neighborhood but also support the viability of a business."

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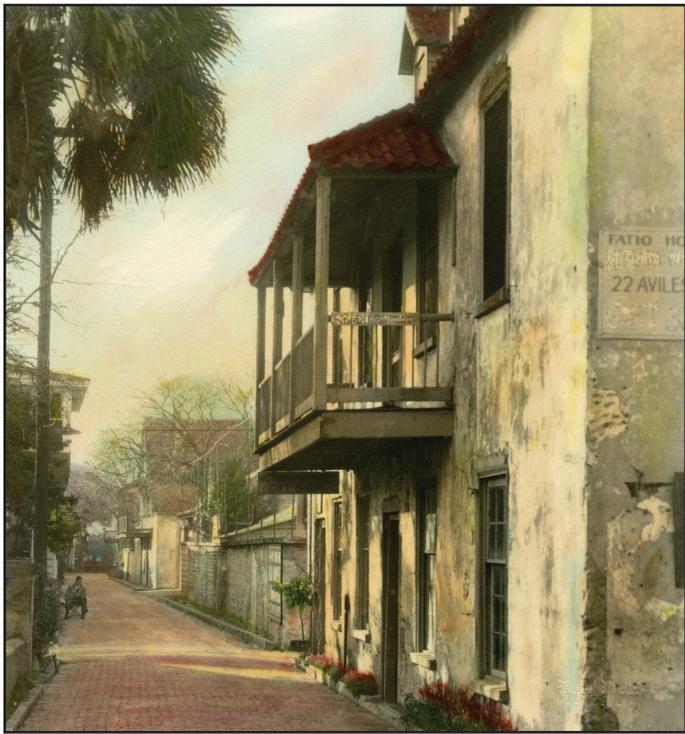
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Contributed photo

The Ximenez-Fatio House dates back to 1798.

Halloween

Continued from 1

ownership of Louisa Fatio and it remained in her family until 1939 when the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Florida purchased it and began the decades-long process of meticulously restoring and furnishing the home with the intent of making it a museum. The Dames still own and operate the museum today.

This year, visitors can learn about forgotten cultural practices and hear spine-chilling stories from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Friday and Saturday, now through Oct. 28 during “Mortality & Mourning Candlelight Tours — Death in the 19th Century.” This is a family-friendly event. For tickets, go to ximenezfatiohouse.org/my_calendar.

Then, from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 28, the museum will host trick-or-treat and the harvest festival. This community event features an afternoon of safe trick-or-treating, tours of the 225-year-old museum, contests, games and fun for children of



all ages. Costumes are not required but are very much encouraged. This is a free event.

For more information, go to ximenezfatiohouse.org or call 904-829-3575. The Ximenez-Fatio House is located at 20 Aviles St., St. Augustine.

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Sponsors sought for Child Safety Pro Am tournament

The Monique Burr Foundation for Children (MBF) has announced its annual Champions for Child Safety Pro Am Golf Tournament, co-chaired by Jim Furyk and Mark McCumber, and the various opportunities to support its mission.

The foundation encourages individuals and companies to become a champion for child safety by sponsoring the 2023 Dream Finders Homes Champions

for Child Safety Pro Am Golf Tournament, presented by AT&T, Impact Landscaping and Irrigation, and MJC Land Development. The tournament will be held Dec. 4 at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine. The tournament's pairings party is on Dec. 3.

"This signature golf tournament and pairings party help support our efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of our youth, raising critical funding that will

make a significant impact on the lives of children and communities served by MBF Programs," said Tanya Ramos-Puig, foundation chief executive officer. "Please help us continue to educate and protect children by participating in our Champions for Child Safety Pro Am Golf Tournament as a sponsor, which provides us with the much-needed resources to reach youth with prevention education, build a brighter and safer

future for generations to come and make a lasting impact on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens around the nation and across the globe."

The community response has been positive, and while the foundation has sold a great number of sponsorships, there are still sponsorship opportunities ranging from \$2,000 to \$25,000, available.

For further information, go to ChampionsForChildSafety.org or contact Ashle Fike at ashle@mbfpreventioneducation.org or call 904-299-6128.

Proceeds from the tournament support the foundation's prevention education programs, a series of comprehensive, evidence-based, trauma-informed programs that educate and empower youth (pre-K to grade 12) with knowledge and strategies to prevent, recognize and respond appropriately to bullying, cyberbullying, online dangers, child abuse and exploitation/trafficking.

The programs equip students with education, tools and resources to recognize unsafe situations and make informed decisions to ensure their safety.

The foundation expressed gratitude for its 2023 Dream Finders Homes Champions for Child Safety Pro Am Golf Tournament Pro-Am event sponsors, including title sponsor Dream Finders Homes, and presenting sponsors AT&T, Impact Landscaping and Irrigation, and MJC Land Development.

Other sponsors include: Ahead, Auld & White Constructors, Barraco and Associates, Basham and Lucas Design Group, Black Rifle Coffee Company, Blue Stream Fiber, Bo Jahna, Callaway Golf, Carlton Construction, Clockwork Marketing, Club Car, England-Thims & Miller, Inc. (ETM), EW Consultants, The Fiorentino Group, FMSBonds, Governmental Management Services, GreenPointe Holdings, H & J Contracting, Hampton Golf, Homes By WestBay, Jacobsen Textron, Jax Utilities Management, Kearney Companies, KPMG, Lee Mar Building & Construction, Lennar Homes, Mahoney Law Group, Master-Craft Builder Group, The Palencia Club, Pepsi, PGA Tour, Richmond American Homes, State Farm/Denny Doyle, Superior Construction, Taylor Morrison, Tidelands/Higginbotham Automobiles, Tito's Vodka, Tommy Isaacs, Vallencourt Construction, Volato, Vulcan Materials, Wells Brothers Construction and Yellow Dawg Striping.

To join this list, go to ChampionsForChildSafety.org.

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CBV Cares presents check to BEAM



Contributed photo

On Oct. 4, Coldwell Banker Beaches Realtor Group CBV Cares and Broker Manager Michele DeLiberto presented a \$500 grant check to BEAM Executive Director Lori Richards. Pictured from left are CBVR Realtors Jeanie Leapley and Peyton Stockton, DeLiberto, Richards, CBVR Realtor Joe Denny and Realtor Co-Chair CBV Cares Carole Bayer. BEAM is a Jacksonville Beach organization serving low-income residents in the beaches area. CBV Cares is a charitable fundraising organization created by Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty agents who support area charitable, non-profit organization efforts. For more on BEAM, go to jaxbeam.org. For more on CBV Cares, go to facebook.com/CBVCares.

Photographer is PASTA featured artist

The Professional Artists of St. Augustine (PASTA) Fine Art Gallery, of 214 Charlotte St., St. Augustine, is hosting member and local photographer Meghan Holder as the featured artist for October. Her series on “Natural Beauty” is displayed in the North Gallery. Her photography will be on display and for sale throughout October.



of life, and organizes environmental cleanup events. She has a degree in marine environmental science, minors in visual arts and chemistry, and holds multiple certifications to include neurofeedback and Reiki master teacher.

She received an award in 2021 in St. John’s County for being one of the Top 25 under

40 most charitable young professionals. Since 2019, she has resided in St. Augustine. She uses a portion of the proceeds from every photography sale to help her environmental cleanup efforts.

To see Holder’s work, go to pastagalleryart.com or facebook.com/pastaartgallery. Her work is also featured at facebook.com/beholder.of.beauty.maholder.

In this series, Holder explores the natural beauty within landscapes and seascapes. She captures the organic beauty of twisting tree trunks and rocky shorelines, complementing the ethereal skies and atmospheric conditions she finds in nature.

Besides her passion for photography, Holder works with local people and organizations to improve quality

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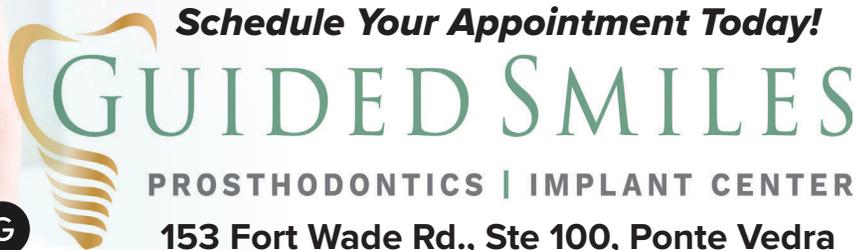
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GUEST COLUMN

Planning for the future with Ponte Vedra Resort's PUD

By John Peyton,
President of GATE Petroleum

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and The Lodge & Club Ponte Vedra Beach have been cherished venues for some of life's greatest celebrations. From weddings to milestone birthdays, holiday parties and many others, the clubs serve as gathering places for family and friends. Even more, they also play a role in helping local professionals develop and grow business relationships. These personal and professional moments benefit members, guests and the Ponte Vedra community.

At GATE, we are honored to play a part in so many meaningful events, and we are committed to preserving and investing in the future of these resorts. That is why we created a master plan that allows more resilient buildings that can withstand damage from severe weather events and enhance the resorts' amenities. Key to delivering the master plan is a request to rezone just under a third of our existing property to planned unit development (PUD). The PUD not only guarantees that the properties can only be used for resorts, but it also ensures that the redevelopment will be done in a way that maintains the unique character and charm of the resorts.

Since our initial proposal, we have actively listened to the feedback from neighbors, community members and St. Johns County officials. As a result, we have amended our plans significantly and we are confident the current proposal reflects the best interests of the community as well as the clubs.

For example, we clarified that no development will occur on golf courses, removed the Palmer Building (located on the corner of Corona Road and Ponte Vedra Boulevard) from the PUD, eliminated a request for additional height on the Oceanfront Lodge building, lowered a height request for future room buildings at PVIC and much more. These conversations and plan revisions build upon years of diligent, thoughtful planning required to replicate and duplicate our nearly century-old resort, The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, as well as The Lodge & Club at Ponte Vedra Beach.

Together, the two properties attract more than 130,000 visitors each year and generate upward of \$10.8 million in annual tax revenue. Additionally, the resorts employ more than 1,100 individuals. By voting in favor of the PUD, St. Johns County officials are ensuring the clubs continue to positively impact our local economy through both tourism and



Contributed images

Rendering of the proposed new fitness center and pool amenities at The Lodge & Club at Ponte Vedra Beach.



Rendering of the proposed new Surf Club at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

property values. It also allows the resorts to create more resilient facilities that ultimately will enhance member experience and allow the clubs to be relevant and competitive in the hospitality sector for years to come.

As we have demonstrated over the past several months, we are dedicated to being a good neighbor, and we strongly believe our investment in the club is just one more way we are meeting that commitment. We are proud of what the Ponte

Vedra Inn & Club and The Lodge & Club have, and with PUD approval, can continue to contribute to our community.

To learn more about recent updates to our proposal, please visit pvresortspud.com.



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Donation means weekend meals for more students

Nemours Children's Health, Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation support Blessings in a Backpack

Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville and the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation have partnered to make a donation that clears a years-long

waiting list at existing Blessings in a Backpack schools with a critical need.

The expanded support will provide healthy weekend food for 880 children in Northeast Florida during the 2023-24 school year.

Millions of students nationwide get food during the school week through federal meal programs. However, many struggle with food insecurity on the weekends — or limited access to enough food to support a healthy life. Blessings bridges the gap in child nutrition over the weekend by provid-

ing ready-to-eat food for school-age children across America who might otherwise go hungry.

"We know that food insecurity has serious implications for childhood development, including physical and mental health, cognitive and social development and academic achievement," said Nemours Children's Health President and CEO R. Lawrence Moss, M.D. "We are so grateful for Jim and Tabitha and the work done by Blessings in a Backpack in helping our community's kids get the food they need to be healthy today and into adulthood."

Long-time Blessings partner, the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation, has worked closely with the nonprofit for more than 10 years, supplying food each Friday for many students over the school year. Through the Blessings in a Backpack First Coast Chapter, they have provided millions of hunger-free weekends to students in Duval and St. Johns counties.

"Blessings in a Backpack has always been near and dear to our hearts," said Jim Furyk, PGA Tour golfer. "Having the opportunity to partner with Nemours Children's Health to add these additional children so that hun-

dreds of kids have hunger-free weekends has been so impactful."

With the expanded support of Nemours Children's and the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation, Blessings in a Backpack First Coast Chapter will make hunger-free weekends a reality for 5,300 students in Northeast Florida this school year.

"Kids can't be kids when they're hungry," said Erin Kerr, CEO of Blessings in a Backpack. "The consequences of childhood hunger are much more than a growling stomach ... fatigue, the inability to concentrate, mood swings and depression. We're grateful to partner with Nemours Children's Health through the 'Well Beyond Medicine' initiative to prevent weekend hunger and create a healthier future for Jacksonville kids."

The children added to the Blessings program encompass two counties and seven schools: Andrew Robinson Elementary School, Annie R. Morgan Elementary School, Hyde Grove Elementary School, Mayport Middle School and San Jose Elementary School in Duval County; and James E. Webster Elementary School and John A. Crookshank Elementary School in St. Johns County.

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HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

POPULAR HALLOWEEN COSTUMES FOR 2023

The following are some costume ideas that figure to be wildly popular in 2023.

- **Barbie™:** Due to the release of the mid-summer motion picture "Barbie," starring Margot Robbie as the titular character and Ryan Gosling as "Ken," there are bound to be many pink-clad trick-or-treaters traveling through neighborhoods this fall. Barbie always has had an impressive wardrobe, so fans of the film can dress up in any of her signature looks.
- **Ariel:** Disney has reinvented many of its popular animated classics into live-action retellings, and "The Little Mermaid" took its turn this year. Life is more fun under the sea, so costumes for Ariel the mermaid and her underwater friends and foes figure to be popular.
- **Creed:** Rocky's boxing spin-off series "Creed" gave fans its latest installment with "Creed III" in 2023. The boxing champ dons all-white or all-red color schemes in this movie, and fans may want to emulate that in their costumes.
- **Geralt of Rivia:** "The Witcher" fandom is

widespread, and viewers were treated to another season of the Netflix series this summer. This is the final season with Henry Cavill in the titular role (Liam Hemsworth is reportedly set to take over), so fans may be inspired to dress the part for Halloween this year.

- **Jigsaw:** "Saw X" will be released on October 27, and the Jigsaw Killer might be a choice for those looking to instill fear around the neighborhood.
- **Wednesday Addams:** Fans took to the inspiring new Addams Family spinoff that explores life through Wednesday's eyes. With her signature black frocks and pigtails, it doesn't take much to look like this macabre teen.
- **Ted Lasso:** The main character from the Apple TV series potentially has made his last appearance on the pitch, as the most recent season, which premiered in March, is rumored to be the show's last. Nevertheless, Lasso's goofy, down-to-earth-isms and unique look will live on through those who wear his signature mustache, jacket and visor.

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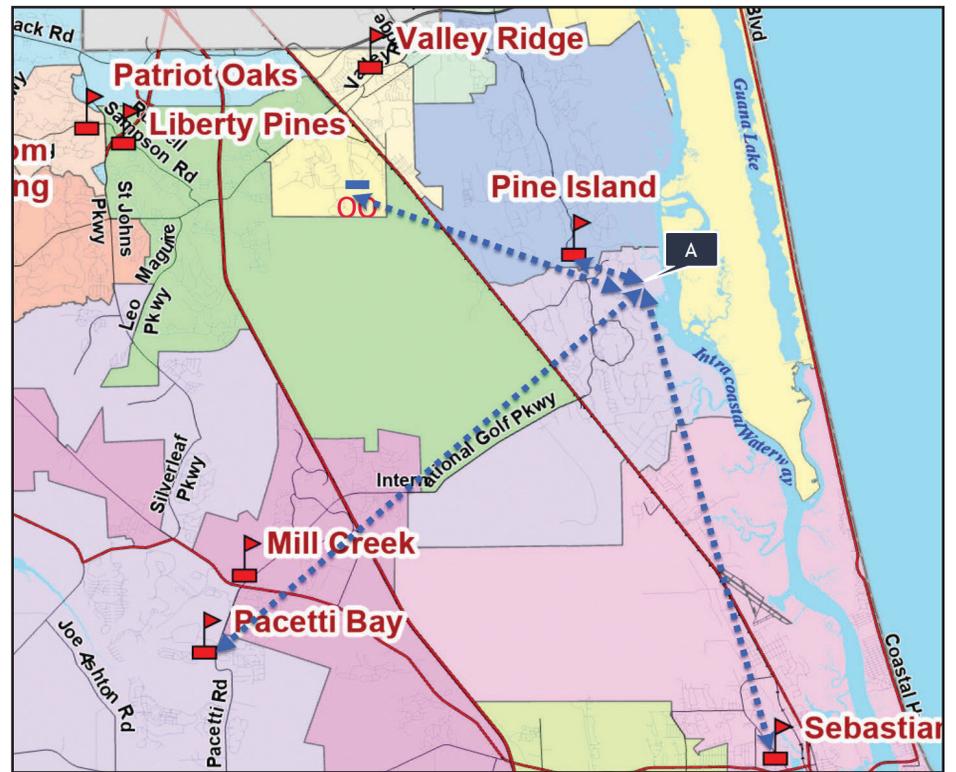
Navigating the school transportation maze: A call for sustainable solutions

By Ali Molavi

St. Johns County in Florida has witnessed a remarkable population growth of over 40% in the past decade. This rapid expansion has placed considerable stress on the local infrastructure, particularly in the realm of public schools and school transportation. Over the past few years, the norm has become the construction of new schools and rezoning of existing students. More recently, the challenges have intensified, particularly in the wake

of the COVID-19 pandemic. Transportation constraints have compounded the difficulties faced by parents, students and the school district. Delays and overcrowding on school buses have become commonplace, while the transportation department has struggled to recruit and hire drivers over the past two years.

Despite these formidable challenges, it appears that the school district lacks a comprehensive plan to enhance transportation performance and identify innovative solutions to improve efficiency. For



example, a fundamental step toward achieving transportation efficiency is to assign students to the closest school. Regrettably, when examining the current zoning (for the 2023-2024 school year)

and projections for 2024-2025, it becomes evident that this simple, yet effective, approach has been overlooked.

For instance, in the following map, consider a sample student residing at Point A on Las Calinas Boulevard in the 32095 area. Currently, this student is assigned to Pacetti Bay Middle School, which requires a 25-minute, 13.5-mile bus ride from home to school. Surprisingly, this student resides just 5.6 miles (approximately 12 minutes) away from a closer school (Pine Island) option. By assigning this closer school to the area, the school district could conserve a significant portion of its transportation resources. Not to mention the reduction in wasted time, alleviation of traffic congestion on already-congested St. Johns County roads, and the savings in fuel and maintenance costs for the bus fleet. It is puzzling that, even in the current year, the school district has not considered implementing this straightforward method to address transportation concerns. To further compound the issue, the same community is projected to be reassigned to Sebastian Middle School in 2024-2025, necessitating a 13.1-mile, approximately 30-minute commute, while a different school (OO School) is projected to be added in 2024-2025, just eight miles away (about 15 minutes).

Additionally, apart from optimizing school assignments for proximity, another effective strategy involves the utilization of advanced fleet management applications to maximize the efficiency of the transportation system. This includes assigning optimal timing and identifying the most efficient routes for student pick-up and drop-off, reducing unnecessary stops and ensuring buses are not stuck behind one another. Regrettably, it appears that these crucial factors have not been addressed adequately within the current fleet management system of the St. Johns School District.

All inquiries were directed to the Superintendent of Schools' office, and as of now, no comments have been received.



NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF TAX ROLL

Pursuant to Sections 193.122 and 197.323, Florida Statutes, Notice is Hereby Given that the Tax Roll for St. Johns County was Certified to the St. Johns County Tax Collector on the 12th day of October, 2023, for the Collection of 2023 Taxes Pending Value Adjustment Board Changes.

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THE RECORDER



Women IN BUSINESS



National Business Women's Week (October 15-17)

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Learning from an expert

Donna Frantz teaches beginning anglers what they need to know

By Shaun Ryan

Donna K. Frantz doesn't just love to fish. She really, really loves to fish. "I'd rather fish than breathe," she says. It's a passion she's had since childhood. And over the years, she has done every type of fishing except one: flyfishing, which she is now learning. Following her retirement from a diverse and interesting career, she decided to go into business for herself, and there was never any question what the focus of that business would be. In January 2021, she launched Fishing 101, which allows her to share her expertise with the young, the old and everyone in between. She offers private lessons, summer camps, fishing fun at every type of party imaginable and classes for the public, veterans' groups,

senior citizens, students at the vo-tech and college levels and more. "I have 25 different topics I can teach," Frantz said. "I can teach one. I can teach two. I can teach 20. When I do the boat show in Jacksonville, I'll teach 100 kids each day for two days." As its name implies, Fishing 101 teaches the basics. It gives beginners the information they need to get started. And, yes, there is a lot to know, but Frantz always begins with perhaps the most critical component.

"The first class I teach in any series is about the rules and regulations of fishing," she told her class recently at River House in St. Augustine. "If you don't know the rules and regulations, you'll get into trouble."

It's important to keep up with these, because they change. Saltwater fishing regulations are published every six months, freshwater regulations annually.

In addition to her classes, Frantz announces regular open fishing dates in email blasts to anyone who has asked to be put on her list. These are opportunities to learn from her while fishing from a pier or shoreline.

After all, fishing local waters through-



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Donna Frantz travels to her classes with a trailer full of fishing equipment.

out her life, Frantz would know where and when to find the best fishing.

The cost of these two-hour outings actually varies according to the number of anglers who participate.

Frantz supplies all the bait and equipment.

For those who decide to take the next step and buy their own gear, Frantz will go along to make sure they get what they need and not come back with the most expensive — and unnecessary — pole in

FRANTZ continues on Page 19

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Frantz

Continued from 18

the shop.

A Varied Career

Frantz grew up in the vicinity of the St. Augustine Lighthouse. As a child, she spent every available summer day fishing from the lighthouse pier with a bunch of neighborhood kids.

In those days, the young anglers would stop by Jake’s Bait Shop and get shrimp from the vat out front.

“We would go in there and get our bait, and we would go, ‘Hey, Jake, we got a dozen today!’” Frantz recalled. “We had an open tab. Our parents would go on Saturday and pay our tab.”

At the end of the day, the children would take their catch home for their mothers to prepare for dinner.

Frantz’s parents ran a day care center in St. Johns County for 35 years. Frantz worked there for a while, but after graduating from St. Augustine High School — the only public high school in the county at the time — she joined the military.

She served in the Florida Army National Guard for the next 20 years,

eventually being promoted to lieutenant colonel when she retired.

She next went to work for the county. “For two-and-a-half years, I gave all the kids in the county their driving tests,” she said.

She eventually worked in the Personnel department and then Parks and Recreation. Her final post was helping to run the gift shop at the St. Johns County Ocean & Fishing Pier.

She’s a life member of the Ancient City Game Fish Association and serves as the point of contact for all county offshore reefs and their placements. She also founded an annual fishing tournament that supports Pink Up The Pace to help those facing breast cancer.

Learn more

Frantz keeps her classes lively and fun, often using games to reinforce information. As with the River House group, she generally allows the class to select the topics they want to study.

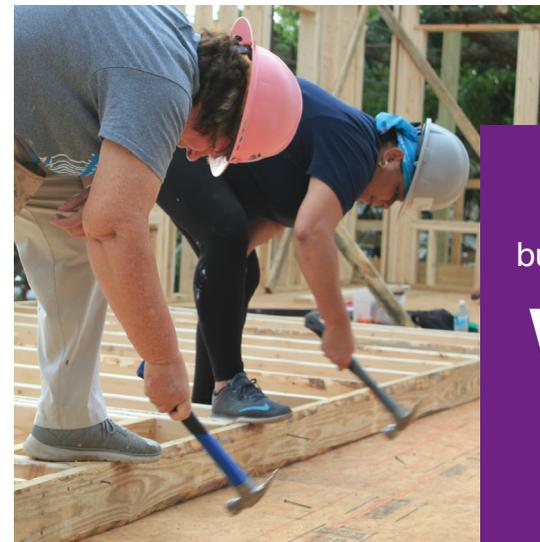
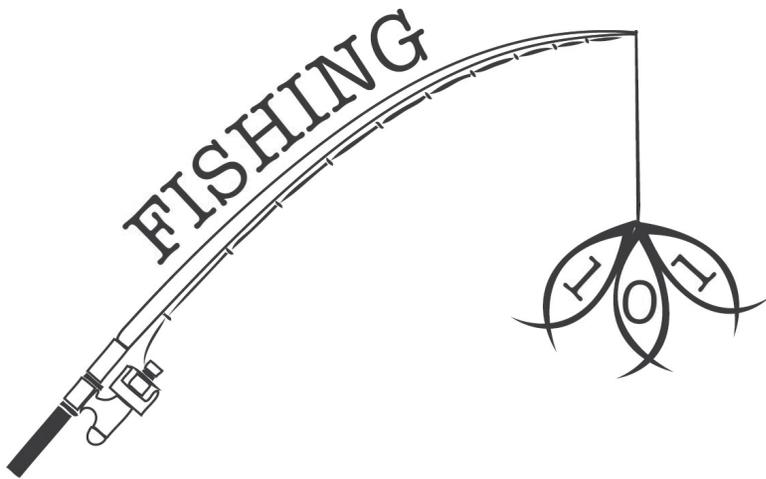
“You always pretty much remember the first fish you caught,” she told her class. “And I want to be the person to help you make that memory.”

To learn more about Fishing 101, go to fishing101staug.com or email Frantz at fishingparty101@gmail.com.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Donna Frantz speaks to a class at River House.



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Trudy Toche was named the top sales consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics in August.

Toche crowned top Mary Kay salesperson

By Shaun Ryan

About a year ago, Trudy Toche decided she wanted to set an example for her two teen sons. She wanted them to see their mom do something “really big.”

And that’s exactly what she did. In August, at the Mary Kay Cosmetics annual seminar conference in Dallas, Toche was crowned the company’s top salesperson for the year. To put that in perspective, Mary Kay has 2.5 million consultants, as it terms its salespersons.

By any measure, that qualifies as “really big.”

But this did not happen by chance. It was the result of hard work.

“Anything worthwhile, you have to work for in life,” she said. Her message: “Set a goal, don’t quit.”

In part, that meant remaining confident and adopting the right attitude.

“I stay in a positive mindset,” Toche said. “I don’t deal with negativity or drama.”

It also meant sacrifice, keeping priorities straight.

“I haven’t watched TV in two-and-a-half years,” Toche said. “Last year, anything that did not serve my goal or my family, I didn’t have time for it. ... I said no to a lot of things. A lot of Jags games. A lot of invitations. A lot of fun stuff that I like to be a part of.”

Indeed, there were days when she felt like quitting but didn’t. There were days



Trudy Toche with her sons at the awards ceremony in Dallas.

she cried, but she still didn’t quit.

“I rose above,” she said. “I say grit and grace carried me to the top.”

The grit was something she contributed. The grace was something given to her.

“My faith is important to me,” she said. “All things are possible with God, and I give Him all the credit.”

This achievement did not happen overnight. Toche has been selling Mary Kay cosmetics and building her business for

TOCHE continues on Page 23



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Trudy Toche enjoys the limelight after being named Mary Kay's top consultant for the year.

Toche

Continued from 22

19 years, though being number one wasn't what initially motivated her.

"I just love the business," she said.

And her success is no doubt the result of how well she takes care of her customers, some of which have been with her for the whole 19 years.

"We are really interested in customers for life, not just a one-time sale," she said.

And that customer service is easy to deliver, she said, because the company backs

its consultants 100%.

Mary Kay is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. The privately held, faith-based U.S. company is headquartered in Dallas. It was started in 1963 by Mary Kay Ash, in part to provide business opportunities for woman at a time when men dominated the workplace.

And its practices are based on the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Its priorities, according to Toche are: "God first, family second and career third."

"Mary Kay taught us that P&L is not 'profit and loss,'" Toche said. "It's 'people

and love.' ... This is a fun business. I have the ability to help another individual look and feel beautiful."

As she worked toward her goal, Toche said, she had a lot of people cheering for her.

"When you have a big goal, people want to be a part of it," she said. "Because it's exciting."

Her sons shared in her efforts. One would help her with deliveries while the other would make client-care calls, thanking people for supporting their business.

And when she walked across the stage to receive her award, both boys were right next to her.

She's thankful, too, for all those custom-

ers who helped her to win that crown.

"I'm very grateful to my clients, because they can buy cosmetics anywhere," she said.

In achieving this goal, Toche becomes an inspiration not just to her sons, but also to anyone who wants to excel at something.

"Anything's possible," she said, "if you just believe, no matter what it is in life. For me, it's Mary Kay, but whatever it is. That thing that you've always wanted to do. Losing weight, running a marathon, going back to school, getting that degree, getting that certificate — whatever it is. And all those you see who are at the top of their game? They all had adversity. Nothing was easy."

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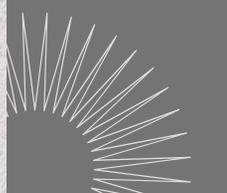
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In the intricate realm of family law, Sara stands as an impressive role model and beacon of support for women in business. Her expertise extends beyond legal matters, offering a lifeline to women navigating complex personal and professional landscapes. With compassionate guidance, she empowers women to balance their entrepreneurial ambitions with family responsibilities. Her unwavering commitment to safeguarding the interests of women in business exemplifies the vital role family law attorneys play in nurturing thriving careers and fulfilling personal lives. Aside from that, Sara has an extensive background in family law. She has built an impressive portfolio of successes ranging from divorce settlements and child custody battles to complex estate planning and domestic violence cases as they pertain to Family Law. Her dedication to tailoring solutions that prioritize the best interests of each family member has earned her the trust and respect of clients and peers alike.



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

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

Annuals and perennials in autumn

"A flower does not think of competing with the flower next to it. It just blooms." — Zen Shin



By Kathy Esfahani

Homeowners often wonder whether it is better to plant annuals or perennials to develop color in their landscape. The answer is both! Planting a combination of annuals and perennials adds color and variety in your gardens that last season after season.

An annual is a plant that lives for only one season. Although replacing annuals at the end of each season adds maintenance to your yard, the reward is a rainbow of vibrant colors while these plants are blooming. Annuals typically last three to six months, requiring replacement two to three times per year.

When using annuals, plan your landscape to include several places where you want constant color and do not mind replanting each season. These locations can be garden beds or planters. Popular spots for annuals include framing a front entry, highlighting a driveway or mailbox, or surrounding a relaxing outdoor living space. Prepare your gardens for annuals with 2-3 inches of compost, peat or topsoil. If you choose, you can add fertilizer; mix approximately the first 6 inches of soil before planting.

For fall in our area, consider annuals such as celosia, dianthus, dusty miller, marigolds, pansies, petunias,



Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

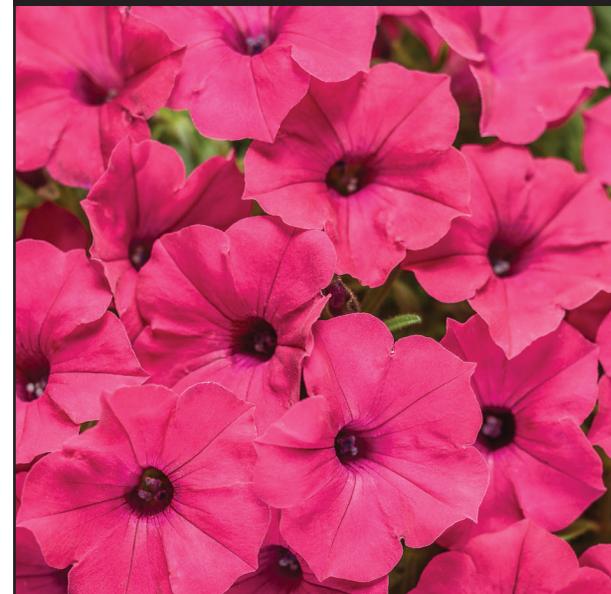
snapdragons, supertunias, and violas.

Perennials are plants, shrubs and trees that last indefinitely; flowers can survive at least three growing seasons in Northeast Florida. Many perennials turn brown and seem to die in the winter, but they will grow back from the roots. Just prune off dead stems and wait for them to reappear. Although perennials require less maintenance since they do not need replacing, they do not produce the dramatic color of annuals.

Consider planning your landscape with at least 90% perennials to balance the showy color with less replacement cost and effort.

When selecting perennials to add to your landscape now, look for firespike, geraniums, mums, pentas, and salvia.

Flower of the Week



Supertunia

Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Supertunia

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

Getting the Absolute Top Dollar on probate properties

By Shaun Ryan

When a homeowner dies, the survivors often find themselves deep into a situation they might have given little thought to previously. Especially if the death is sudden and there's been no time to consider how that will affect the various family members involved in the probate process.

That might not be very troublesome when talking about smaller items, but it could be a big issue when it comes to the home. Often, each of the inheritors becomes a real estate partner. Even if everyone agrees to sell the home, they will be faced with a number of choices.

The situation is further complicated when these inheritors live all over the country and aren't even familiar with the laws of the state where the home is. And the problem is made worse when the deceased person hasn't gotten all the proper paperwork in order, which can complicate the probate process.

Such situations attract investors who can offer these survivors a quick solution. They will happily purchase the home and save everyone the headache of putting it on the market for a price they can all agree on and working through the details of the sale.

But these inheritors will not get the full value of the property. What they need is someone to act as the



Contributed photo

Through her real estate business, Absolute Top Dollar, Realtor Carolynn Castillo helps inheritors get the best deal when selling a home after the owner has died.

Realtor for the family, someone who knows the market, knows the laws and wants to get the sellers the best possible sale price.

Someone like Carolynn Castillo and her business, Absolute Top Dollar.

Castillo has been a real estate agent since first getting her license at the age of 18, and she has been handling properties in probate since 2017. She handles sales all over the state of Florida, and Jacksonville is one of her big markets. And because so many people retire to the Sunshine State and their survivors live back in whatever state they came from, the need here is great.

Fortunately, Castillo knows how to handle these sales to her clients' benefit.

"We get our clients a dignified offer," she said. "They always walk away way better than they could have by themselves."

She finds the work enjoyable because, using her expertise, she knows she can help these families.

Castillo happily shares her knowledge, training other real estate professionals how to address this market. Her YouTube channel is a treasury of information on the topic. It's also a great place to start for those needing to contact her.

The channel can be found at [youtube.com/channel/UC07QRpp8FSC2hQU-xaBMadw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC07QRpp8FSC2hQU-xaBMadw) or simply by googling "Absolute Top Dollar."

DONNA 5K funds breast cancer research, assists patients, celebrates survivors

The DONNA Foundation kicked off Breast Cancer Awareness Month with The DONNA 5K at TPC Sawgrass on Saturday, Oct. 7. Celebrating its 16th running, The DONNA 5K at TPC Sawgrass serves as the final race in the DONNA 2023 Fearless Series.

Over the last two decades, The DONNA Foundation has helped more than 19,000 families living with breast cancer through The DONNA CareLine, contributed more than \$3.3 million toward groundbreaking breast cancer research and celebrated survivorship with more than 140,000 athletes across DONNA finish lines, including The National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer.

Funds raised through The DONNA 5K at TPC Sawgrass will support The DONNA Foundation's mission to provide financial assistance and support to those living with breast cancer and fund groundbreaking breast cancer research.

This event also exemplifies the foundation's dedication to celebrating survivorship throughout the year, and especially during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The 5K course encompassed the "back nine" of THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass, an attractive stretch of the championship golf course property, beginning near the 10th tee.

Nearly 1,000 runners gathered together for the sold-out race with an additional 50 runners signed up to race virtually.

The foundation raised more than \$30,000 with this race to help meet the immediate financial needs of breast cancer patients and their families in the community, as well as for vital, groundbreaking research.

Leading fundraising team NOC'n Out Breast Cancer, which is based in Nocatee, raised \$20,000 and presented the foundation a check at the event.



Photo provided by The DONNA Foundation

Runners line up at the start for The DONNA 5K at TPC Sawgrass.

SenioRITAs tournament raises funds to fight breast cancer



This year marks the 24th anniversary of the SenioRITAs' Women's Tennis Tournament. The three-day event will be held Friday-Sunday, Oct. 13-15, and 300 women from throughout the Jacksonville area and out of state are expected to participate. It is being hosted by Sawgrass Country Club at Sawgrass Racquet Club.

The festivities began on Tuesday, Oct. 10, with a live- and silent-auction party at The Yards, in Sawgrass Players Club. The informal dinner was catered by Carrabbas and music was provided by Tia & Bo. A "Closest to the Pin" contest was held on The Yards course.

The tournament is the largest charity tennis event in Northeast Florida. Money raised provides funding for research, education, equipment and patient programs.

SenioRITAs is an all-volunteer organization with 100% of the profits going to its beneficiaries.

In 2022, the group raised \$210,000 to fight breast cancer with donations to Mayo Clinic for research; to Baptist Medical Center for patient programs; to The Buddy Bus, a mobile mammogram unit for local patient outreach; and the DigniCap at MD Anderson, to help young women prevent hair loss during chemotherapy.

To date, the group has raised more than \$2.5 million.



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Readers will have the chance to nominate their favorite businesses in various categories online, such as auto & transportation, home & finance, food & drink and more! Online voting will begin once nominations are complete.

Give your favorite business the recognition they deserve, and nominate them as the Best of the Best in their category!

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Photo by Anthony Richards

Ali Colteryahn shares a laugh with tournament host Jim Furyk and her dad following her shot.

Furyk & Friends tee shot promotes golf cart safety

By Anthony Richards

For 14-year-old Ali Colteryahn and her family, the last eight months have been difficult times after she was involved in a car crash while driving a golf cart, but there are many more bright spots in their lives lately, including Ali given the honor of hitting the ceremonial first tee shot at the 2023 Constellation Furyk & Friends golf tournament on Oct. 6.

Ali was involved in the crash while heading to a Nocatee grocery store to pick up a snack, and although that is the last memory she has from that day, but her mother Michelle recalls the scary moments following the crash after she received a call from Ali's cell phone.

"There was screaming and crying on the other end, but it wasn't Ali. It was other people who were at the scene, and they told me I needed to get there right away," Michele Colteryahn said.

Ali was airlifted to the Porter Family Children's Trauma Center at Wolfson Children's Hospital where the level I pediatric trauma center team was awaiting her arrival and rushed her to a CT scan.

Ali remained unresponsive and was

placed on a ventilator. Her skull was fractured, and she had a subdural hematoma, or bleeding on the brain.

Brighter days are now back once again for Ali and her family and she is using her experience to help be an advocate for golf cart safety, especially for children and teens.

According to Wolfson Children's, patients admitted for injuries from golf cart crashes have increased more than 50% since 2020 and can range from traumatic brain injuries and fractures to concussions and broken bones, among others.

It was the message she shared while at Furyk & Friends and in many ways hitting the ceremonial tee shot to kick off the tournament was the culmination of all the hard times and hard work put in over the recent months.

According to Michele, seeing what her daughter went through has made her have an appreciation for everything life has to offer, whether it be big or small.

"It has forever changed my life honestly," Michele Colteryahn said. "Just from where we were eight months ago,

TEE SHOT continues on Page 27

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Tee Shot

Continued from 26

which I never in a million years thought we would be, but the value of life now is so much different for me and for Ali.”

One of the missions with the creation of the Furyk & Friends tournament was to also open up further outlets to help serve the community through its foundation and its partners and Ali’s journey was something Jim and Tabitha Furyk wanted to support.

According to Furyk, there is not much better of a way to advocate to children and teens than by having them hear stories from someone their own age, which can make all the difference in getting the message across.

“We knew it was important for her to advocate for other kids, so that made it really important to us as well,” Tabitha Furyk said. “To be careful on a golf cart is obviously really important and what better way to advocate than with us being here on a golf course today. We’re so thankful to partner with the (Wolfson Children’s) hospital and hear all the positive stories that come out of there all the time.”



Photo by Anthony Richards

Ali Colteryahn, 14, (middle) had the honor of hitting the ceremonial first tee shot to kick off the 2023 Constellation Furyk & Friends on Oct. 6.

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Photos by Anthony Richards

Foundation partners with TPC Sawgrass for special clinic

The Tesori Family Foundation held one of its all-star golf clinics at TPC Sawgrass with the famed course's clubhouse as the backdrop to the event.

Several participants with special needs and their families took part in the event, which was designed to develop a love of the game of golf by teaching the fundamentals of the game and how much fun it can be.

First Tee of North Florida partnered with the Tesori Family Foundation to

help the event be a success by offering up some of the organization's instructors to help provide instruction to the attendees as they went from station to station.

"We come out and essentially bring all the golf equipment that's here and we bring our coaches as well," said Kyle Zugelger, assistant director of programming at First Tee of North Florida. "Putting on a great golf clinic for these kids is a highlight of our year for sure.

The Tesori Foundation is one of our community partners and we really have a mission statement that aligns closely."

Playing on the grounds at TPC Sawgrass is something every golfer dreams about, and for the golf club to offer up the facility to be used by the foundation will create definite memories.

"It just shows the local support that's here in the community and within the golf network here in Northeast Florida," Zugelger said.



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Palms residents celebrate Oktoberfest



Memory care residents and staff got into the spirit of the event with a bit of dancing.

The Palms at Ponte Vedra held an Oktoberfest event Friday afternoon, Oct. 6, in both its assisted living and memory care areas. Accordionist and singer Stevie Fingers provided lively polka tunes for both groups.

The event also recognized The Palms' eighth anniversary this year, and special plaques were presented to the facility's "Legends," those who have been with The Palms the longest. Several residents in both assisted living and memory care were recognized. Also, four staff members who have been with The Palms since the beginning were recognized.

In the dining room, assisted living residents enjoyed jumbo pretzels with mustard, wiener schnitzel, German potato salad, German chocolate cake, apple cranberry strudel and, of course, beer.

The festivities included a blessing with Pastor Loy, a special message from Margaret Mosher and the honoring of The Palms Legends with Executive Director Barbara Matteson.



A memory care resident claps along with the music performed by Stevie Fingers.



Assisted living residents raise glasses of German beer during The Palms at Ponte Vedra's Oktoberfest celebration.

Photos by Shaun Ryan



Accordionist Stevie Fingers gives instructions on the chicken dance.



A member of The Palms at Ponte Vedra staff enjoys camaraderie with a resident of the memory care side.

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Domestic violence report released during monthlong observance

For the 26th consecutive year, Hubbard House and partner organizations have released a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report in an effort to detect trends in local fatalities and promote systemic change. The release coincides with October's recognition as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"Often, society thinks of law enforcement in relation to offenders," said Jacksonville Sheriff T.K. Waters. "We envision handcuffs, interview rooms and jail cells. But a law enforcement officer plays a vital role in advocating for crime survivors and preventing future victimization. Perhaps in no field of law enforcement is that truer than in the enforcement and prevention of domestic violence. For so long, domestic abuse was considered a familial issue. Today, we recognize it for what it is: inexcusable violence for which there must be accountability."

In Duval County in 2022, there were 14 domestic violence homicide cases, which resulted in 17 homicide victims. Of the 14 domestic violence fatality cases, 11 specifically involved intimate partner relationships, which accounts for 14 of the homicide victims.

The trends found and analyzed in the report include the use of firearms by abusers, co-habitation by the suspect and victim, and a history of domestic violence both within the relationship and by the

suspect against prior partners.

"Domestic violence, and the too often tragic consequences, continues to affect households and families in every corner of our city," said 4th Circuit State Attorney's Office Special Victims Unit Deputy Director ASA Khary O. Gaynor. "This office, along with our greater community, must remain committed to seeking justice for victims and do our part to help families and loved ones heal in the aftermath of these crimes."

The purpose of the report is not only to analyze trends, but to recommend how to reduce lethal domestic violence in the future.

"A common thread throughout the recommendations is that accessing help from organizations like Hubbard House can truly be lifesaving," said Hubbard House CEO Dr. Gail A. Patin. "Survivors do not have to navigate abuse alone."

Hubbard House is joined by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, 4th Circuit State Attorney's Office, City of Jacksonville and other key partners in releasing this report and marking Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

View the full the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report at hubbardhouse.org/press.

Hubbard House is the certified domestic violence center serving Duval and Baker counties in Northeast Florida.



Contributed photo

Hubbard House CEO Dr. Gail A. Patin speaks during a recent observance for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Hubbard House offers free, confidential shelter and services, including counseling, employment support, housing help and related areas for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Survivors of domestic violence can access help through the 24/7 Hubbard

House Hotline at 904-354-3114 or Textline at 904-210-3698. Survivors can also make an appointment or walk into the Hubbard House Outreach Center at 6629 Beach Blvd., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday. All Hubbard House services are free and confidential.

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— FEATURING —
Legal Eagles



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Federal sentencing guideline changes can have big impact

By John Rockwell

In April 2023, the U.S. Sentencing Commission set forth amendments to various federal sentencing guidelines which become effective on November 1, 2023. Several of these amendments significantly impact a person's potential sentencing guidelines range, which is often called an "advisory" range of punishment the court can, but is not obligated to, sentence a person convicted of a federal offense within. With the right lawyer and a properly litigated and argued sentencing hearing, courts can, and often do, sentence a person below the sentencing guidelines range.

One such amendment, #821, addresses criminal history and the "points" that are assessed to a person for their prior criminal history. A person's prior criminal history is assessed certain points depending upon various factors such as the nature and number of the prior criminal conviction(s), the amount of incarceration the person served, whether the person committed the criminal conduct that led to their current charges while under sentence for a prior conviction, and other factors. Those criminal history points are then added up, and, depending upon the total, assigned a Criminal History Category of anywhere between a I (0-1 criminal history points) and a VI (13 or more criminal history points). That Criminal History Category is then compared to the person's total offense level using the Sentencing Table, and from there one's sentencing guideline range is determined.

Of greatest benefit to individuals with no prior criminal history, or at least no prior criminal history that results in the assessments of any criminal history points, Part B of Amendment #821 creates a new guideline that provides a decrease of two offense levels for "zero-point offenders" for certain offenses. The amendment also revises an existing guideline to provide guidance as to the appropriateness of a sentence other than prison for certain first-time offenders such as home detention or probation. Consider an individual convicted of an offense that carries a total offense level of 25 with no criminal history points. Prior to November 1, 2023, this defendant's sentencing guideline range would be 57-71 months incarceration. On or after November 1, 2023, this amendment will result in a reduced total offense level of 23, and therefore a decreased sentencing guideline range of 46-57 months incarceration. Literally months and months of someone's life spared from incarceration in a federal prison.

Part A of Amendment #821 addresses "status points"



Contributed photo

Attorney John Rockwell

and eliminates status points for individuals with six or fewer criminal history points. This amendment can hugely impact a person's Criminal History Category, and therefore the potential sentencing guidelines range. For example, consider a defendant convicted of a federal offense that results in a total offense level of 20 with a Criminal History Category of III because of 5 criminal history points. Part of the criminal history points involved a 2-point increase because the defendant was assessed status points for committing the criminal offense while under sentence from a prior criminal conviction. A total offense level of 20 with a Criminal History Category of III results in a sentencing guideline range of 41 – 51 months incarceration. Come November 1, 2023, this defendant will no longer be assessed the two status points, and will therefore be dropped down from a Criminal History Category III to a II (2 or 3 criminal history points), which results in a reduced sentencing guideline range of 37-46 months incarceration.

Before you retain a lawyer to defend you against a federal indictment or investigation, make sure they know

about these and other sentencing guideline amendments that can significantly impact a potential sentencing range.

John Rockwell is an experienced jury trial lawyer and partner at the law firm Woolsey Morcom. With 19 years' experience, Rockwell focuses his practice on personal injury and criminal defense. He has successfully defended individuals accused of committing crimes in both state and federal court, ranging from misdemeanors like DUI's and drug offenses to more serious charges like murder, death penalty, RICO, white collar crimes and fraud.



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Ascension St. Vincent's recognized for excellent orthopedic program

Ascension St. Vincent's has been recognized by Becker's Hospital Review on its list of 100 hospitals and health systems with great orthopedic programs for 2023.

St. Vincent's is the only Jacksonville-area health system that earned this distinction. It is joined by several other Ascension facilities, including hospitals in Pensacola, Wisconsin and Michigan.

St. Vincent's made the list for its commitment to providing exceptional orthopedic care for patients with musculoskeletal conditions or injuries. The health system also had to show a track record of shorter hospital stays, lower complication rates and high patient satisfaction scores. These outcomes reflect the hospital system's unwavering dedication to delivering orthopedic care.

"Orthopedics is a priority service for those in Northeast Florida," said James

Machado, president of Ascension St. Vincent's Southside. "When we opened the Performance Orthopedics and Spine Specialty Hospital, the first specialty hospital in Northeast Florida dedicated solely to orthopedic and spine care, we raised the bar for excellence in clinical outcomes, quality measures and patient care experience. We're eager to continue expanding the care we can provide — not just on the orthopedic front — but across all services Northeast Florida requires."

The orthopedic program at St. Vincent's integrates advanced technologies to deliver superior patient outcomes. One example is incorporating specialized technology, which simplifies knee replacement surgery by providing valuable insights for precise implant selection and positioning, improving efficiency for surgeons with the overall goal of improving patient outcomes at each

step of the patient journey.

St. Vincent's has also earned a number of orthopedic distinctions, including Healthgrades Specialty Excellence Awards and a top-100 ranking in orthopedic surgery among American hospitals for 2022.

Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast includes Ascension Sacred Heart based in Pensacola, Ascension St. Vincent's based in Jacksonville and Ascension Providence in Mobile, Alabama.

Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast operates 10 hospitals and more than 200 other sites of care, employing more than 13,000 associates. Across the region, Ascension Providence, Ascension Sacred Heart and Ascension St. Vincent's have served North Florida and South Alabama communities for more than 165 years.

In fiscal year 2022, Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast provided more than \$265

million in community benefit and care of people living in poverty. Ascension is a faith-based health care organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As one of the leading nonprofit and Catholic health systems in the United States, Ascension aims to deliver compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to those living in poverty and those most vulnerable.

Ascension operates more than 2,600 sites of care — including 138 hospitals in 19 states — while providing a variety of services, including clinical operations, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, facilities management, risk management and contracting through Ascension's own group purchasing organization.

For further information, go to ascension.org.



Photos by Jordan Kenefick

Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams to open in Town Center Oct. 16

Shop to share new locale with DOS Coffee & Wine

A popular St. Augustine ice cream shop is getting a new home north of its original stomping grounds.

Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams featuring unique and innovative flavors is already a hit across Florida, with popular shops in Tampa, Lakeland and Jacksonville Beach. The newest spot is nestled in the bustling St. Johns Town Center,

a mecca for shopping, fine dining and entertainment.

Mayday's most recent location features something a little extra special.

"This company was born in my hometown of St. Augustine, just down the road from Jacksonville," said owner Stephen DiMare. "St. Augustine has a really great community of small business owners that thrive and work together well. I've been a fan of DOS Coffee & Wine for a while now, and with us opening this new shop in Town Center, it seemed like a perfect fit to

share the space and offer two great treats — ice cream and coffee. Not just any ice cream and coffee, but the best around!"

Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams and DOS Coffee & Wine are celebrating their new venture with a grand opening week from Monday, Oct. 16, through Friday, Oct. 20. Mayday will be scooping up a limited-edition special-release flavor: Marbled Strawberry Matcha!

"We're really excited for this new opening," said DiMare. "Town Center has a great energy about it. It's definitely a place

where people take their time and enjoy all it has to offer. Having a spot where people can relax while shopping or cap off a night out with some amazing ice cream and a great cup of coffee — it's going to be a homerun experience."

The new Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams store is located at 4853 Big Island Drive No. 3, Jacksonville. It will be open noon to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and noon to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

More details and the full menu may be viewed at maydayicecream.com.

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Local Law Firm Woolsey Morcom Hires Attorney Rick Rumrell as Of-Counsel

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Woolsey Morcom is an award-winning local law firm that specializes in car accidents, wrongful death, first party property, commercial litigation, family law and criminal defense. With their main office in Nocatee, they have served the Ponte Vedra area for the last 7 years and have 6 offices across the state as well as offices in Texas and California. For help with your legal needs you can contact Woolsey Morcom 24 hours a day by calling (904)-638-4235 or visiting www.WoolseyMorcom.com.



Rick Rumrell, Of-Counsel- Woolsey Morcom

RICK RUMRELL

Rick Rumrell is a board-certified civil trial and business litigation lawyer who has represented large and small companies around the world. Rick graduated from Florida State law school with honors and obtained an Advanced LLM degree in litigation from Nottingham-Trent University in England. Rick is the former Chairman of the Jacksonville Economic Development Council; member of the American Judicature Society; forty years with the National Board of Trial Advocacy; Board Certified Business Litigator; member of the Judicial Nominating Commission of the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida 1995-1999 and Chairman 1997-1998; Ford Foundation Fellowship; and member of the Florida Justice Association.

Rick focuses his practice on commercial and civil litigation, representing large and small businesses around the State of Florida.

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Florida Forum Speaker Series to feature former Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski

The Florida Forum Speaker Series, presented by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, will welcome Duke University's now retired Coach K — Mike Krzyzewski — on Nov. 8. The program begins at 7 p.m. at the Center for the Performing Arts in Jacksonville.

The passionate, dynamic and inspiring coach of Duke's men's basketball team, Krzyzewski is the NCAA Division I men's all-time leader for wins with 1,200 games in the W column. Coach K's success includes 35 NCAA tournament appearances, 13 Final Fours and five National Championships over 46 seasons as a head coach. He coached the U.S. men's national basketball team from 2005 to 2016, leading Team USA to three Olympic gold medals in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

The Naismith Hall of Fame coach is the author of two New York Times best-sellers, including "Beyond Basketball: Coach K's Keywords for Success." His most recent book is "The Gold Standard: Building a World-Class Team." Krzyzewski is a 12-time National Coach of the Year, and Sports Illustrated named him its Sportsman of the Year in 2011. Krzyze-



Mike Krzyzewski

wski has also been honored by USA Basketball as the recipient or co-recipient of the USA Basketball National Coach of the Year Award.

Krzyzewski is the first of three events offered by the Florida Forum Speaker Series. Future programs include entrepreneur Steve Wozniak on Jan. 17 and U.S.

Navy Adm. James Stavridis (Ret.) on Feb. 26.

Subscriptions for the Florida Forum events start at \$250 each for general seating, \$350 for preferred seating, \$450 for one reserved Bronze level ticket, \$900 for two reserved Bronze level tickets, \$2,250 for two reserved Silver level tickets and \$4,500 for four reserved Gold level tickets. The purchase of a Silver or Gold ticket package includes invitations to the private receptions honoring the speakers following the lectures.

Patrons under the age of 30 may purchase Young Subscriber tickets for \$150 each. To purchase tickets, go to thefloridaforum.com, call 904-202-2886, or email womensboard@bmcjax.com.

The Florida Forum Speaker Series is made possible by long-time partners and sponsors Wells Fargo, Landstar and Florida Blue.

Funds raised by the Florida Forum support the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital's commitment to raise \$1.5 million by 2024 for two new Kids Kare Mobile Intensive Care Units, part of Wolfson Children's Hospital's Neonatal and Pediatric Critical Care

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Contributed photos



Trio Virado will perform the first of the free concerts.



The Aaron Diehl Trio, led by pianist-composer Aaron Diehl, will perform the second concert.

Beaches Fine Arts Series opens season of free programs on Friday

Beaches Fine Arts Series will begin its 51st season with Trio Virado at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13, at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Jacksonville Beach. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and seating is first come, first served. A reception will follow the concert featuring the pottery of Tim Bullard.

Trio Virado

Trio Virado is a collaboration of three of today's most distinguished artists on flute, viola and guitar. Flutist Amy Porter, violist Jaime Amador and guitarist João Luiz are widely sought-after as individual artists for their musical performances on recordings and the concert stage.

A Juilliard School graduate, Porter pursued further studies at the Mozarteum Academy in Salzburg. She plays a 14K white gold flute with rose gold engraved keys made for her by the Wm. S. Haynes Co.

She has been praised by critics for her exceptional musical talent and passion for scholarship. She is a winner of the Kobe and Paris/Ville d'Avry international flute competitions.

Amador has appeared in prestigious venues across the United States and Europe, including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels and the Kurhaus of Baden-Baden. He has collaborated with such distinguished musicians as Chick Corea, Ida Kavafian, Fred Sherry, Emanuel Borok and Misha Dichter. His instrument is a Ryan Soltis 2010 viola.

A member of the critically acclaimed Brasil Guitar Duo, Luiz has performed extensively in the United States, Asia, Europe and Latin America, including a landmark 2014 concert in Cuba featuring the world premiere of Leo Brouwer's quartet El arco y la lira, written for the duo and cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Carlos Prieto. Luiz co-founded Trio

Virado in 2011 with flutist Amy Porter and violist Juan-Miguel Hernandez to promote contemporary Latin American chamber music.

Aaron Diehl Trio

The Aaron Diehl Trio performs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Jacksonville Beach. A visual art exhibit by Christianna Louise White Fletcher follows at the post-concert reception.

Pianist-composer Diehl earned his bachelor's degree in music in jazz studies at the Juilliard School. His most recent release on Mack Avenue, "The Vagabond," reveals his breadth and The New York Times called him "a composer worth watching."

Bassist David Wong graduated from the

Juilliard School in classical music. He has performed in many of the major concert halls and jazz clubs throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

Percussionist Aaron Kimmel holds a bachelor of music degree from The Juilliard

School, where he studied with Kenny Washington and Billy Drummond, and he is now a freelance drummer living in New York City.

For more information about the series, go to beachesfinearts.org.



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John Daly shares a laugh with his caddy.

Array of characters made for fun Furyk & Friends



John Daly had his share of fans at the event.



Chris DiMarco walks past the tournament trophy on his way to the first tee.

The 2023 Constellation Furyk & Friends PGA Tour Champions tournament was held Oct. 6-8 at Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville. It was the third time the event was held, and several former major winners were part of the field.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Many players wore pink ribbons on their hats as part of breast cancer awareness month.



Rocco Mediate shares a laugh with Fred Funk (left) while smoking a cigar between holes.



Frank Lickliter II of Ponte Vedra Beach hits a fairway shot.



Former world No. 1 David Duval eyes a tee shot at the 2023 Constellation Furyk & Friends.

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Week 8

Continued from 1

displayed various weapons both in the passing and running games in recent weeks and in their victory over Bishop Kenny it was time for junior tight end Landon Okla to shine.

Okla reeled in three touchdown catches in the game and finished with 73 receiving yards.

He presents such a matchup threat for opponents because of his combination and size and speed, which allows him to outrun linebackers and win jump balls against most defensive backs.

It shows the depth of offensive play-makers that the Sharks have this year and having a tight end like that is just another reason why the Sharks' offense continues to hit its stride.

After a tough stretch in September where Toco Creek lost three of four games, the Toros have appeared to have righted the ship with two straight wins.

However, they will have perhaps their toughest test of the season when they head into the Shark Tank this week.

Panthers begin quest for district title

The Nease Panthers will open their district slate this week at home against Flagler Palm Coast, who the Sharks defeated 31-0 a couple of weeks ago.

Although the Panthers (4-3) fell in a shootout to St. Augustine a week ago, they still showed that they can go head-to-head with some of the best teams in the area and were in position to win if things fell differently.

The confidence the Panthers have been finding in recent weeks continues

to be in full effect even after the loss and that is an important factor heading into district play.

The Panthers appear to be catching the Bulldogs (2-4) at the right time, as they have been struggling to score points and have lost their past two games by a combined score of 84-7.

That should spell good things for the Panthers as they have shown that they have been clicking on both sides of the ball, accompanied by the fact that the Bulldogs must travel from Palm Coast for the contest.

Not to mention that the Panthers will be looking to bounce back after a tough loss to a rival and will surely want to re-establish their home field advantage.

Junior wide receiver Maddox Spencer enters the game needing just 31 more receiving yards to reach 1,000 for the season.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Maddox Spencer is approaching 1,000 yards receiving on the season.

OFFENSES PUT ON A SHOW IN WEEK SEVEN

The scoreboards at the Shark Tank and Panther Den were lit up on several occasions as both Ponte Vedra and Nease scored their share of points. The Sharks defeated the Bishop Kenny Crusaders 55-20 and the Panthers fell in a shootout to the rival Yellow Jackets, 49-30.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Ben Burk (No. 3) hands off to Brian Case (No. 27).



The Ponte Vedra cheerleaders perform a Barbie-themed halftime show.



Brian Case attempts to break a tackle from a Bishop Kenny defender.



The Sharks' defense only allowed 20 points to the Crusaders.



Members of last year's Ponte Vedra boys track and field team received their state championship rings along with Bella Madaffari, who won an individual gold in the girls' javelin, during a ceremony at halftime.



Nease senior Noah Hellyer rushes from his defensive end position.



Pink was the dominant color in the Nease student section in conjunction with October being breast cancer awareness month.



Brayden Felder (No. 84) streaks down the field and hauls in a deep pass between two St. Augustine defenders.

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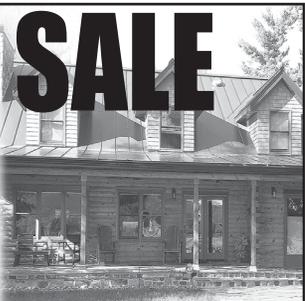
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					38	39	40		41	42		
					43			44				
			45	46								
47	48					49			50	51	52	53
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63					64	

- ACROSS**
- Information
 - Seaport (abbr.)
 - Agricultural disease (abbr.)
 - Riding horses
 - Boxing's GOAT
 - Hurt or discomfort
 - A small sharp knife to trim vegetables
 - A beaver builds one
 - Horizontal passage into a mine
 - Self-immolation by fire rituals
 - Chain bar with lots of games (abbr.)
 - Goo Goo Dolls' hit
 - Agreeable
 - In an early way
 - In a way, struck
 - It's there in the morning
 - County in the S. Pacific
 - Central Florida city
 - Numbers cruncher
 - Mexican beers
 - Lawyers say you can indict one
 - Capital of South Australia
 - Wings
 - Drug used to treat HIV/AIDS
 - Fencing sword
 - Capital of Qatar
 - Portable bed
 - Afflicted
 - Lying down
 - Midway between northeast and east
 - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - Inflamed
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Impudence
 - Assist
 - More doleful
 - Premeditated
 - Dish featuring minced food
 - San Diego ballplayer
 - Eight
 - Unwelcome picnic guests
 - Human gene
 - Bucket
 - Make full
 - Dirt
 - Person cited as ideal example
 - A part of (abbr.)
 - The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - Very long period of time
 - Gas usage measurement
 - North American native people
 - It says "moo"
 - Folk singer Di Franco
 - Resinlike substance of certain insects
 - Residue
 - San Diego homes
 - Popinjays
 - Man who behaves dishonorably
 - Figures
 - One who watches over children
 - Expressed pleasure
 - No longer living
 - Hebrew calendar month
 - Part of the ear
 - Swiss river
 - Prejudice
 - Italian Island
 - Resist authority (slang)
 - Criticize

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

- DOWN**
- A way to fish
 - Greek mythological figure
 - Scarlett's home

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