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Thursday, February 29, 2024

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VOLUME 55, NO. 18 \$1.00

COA marks 50 years

By Shaun Ryan

On Feb. 4, 1974, the newly minted St. Johns County Citizens Advisory Council on Aging (COA's original name) served its first congregate meal in the cafeteria of Flagler Hospital, which was then located on Marine Street in St. Augustine.

"Little did we know then that this partnership would blossom into a rich tapestry of shared initiatives and endeavors aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of our community," said Carlton DeVooght, president and CEO of UF Health St. Johns during COA's 50th Anniversary Celebration, held Friday, Feb. 23, at River House in St. Augustine.

UF Health St. Johns is a health care enterprise extending from UF Health Flagler Hospital following a recent merger.

The well-attended celebration

COA continues on Page 4



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

Breaking ground on more health options

UF Health sees Northeast Florida potential with new Durbin Park hospital

By Anthony Richards

The University of Florida continues to show it wants to grow the health options in the state of Florida and they are doing so with one hospital at a time.

One of newest ones will include the construction of UF Health Durbin Park in St. Johns County, which was announced during a groundbreaking ceremony on Feb. 21.

The project will lead to the construction of a 395,000 square-foot and 150-bed facility that will offer acute, intensive and emergency care, while featuring operating rooms, an imaging suite and hybrid labs for interventional procedures.

"With UF Health Durbin Park, we're poised to become pioneers of innovation, compassion and excellence in health care



Photo by Anthony Richards

An official groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site of the proposed UF Health Durbin Park hospital in St. Johns.

delivery," said Carlton DeVooght, president and CEO of UF Health St. Johns. "This won't just be a hospital; it will be a cornerstone of our community. A place

where patients will find comfort, families will find solace and caregivers will find purpose."

UF HEALTH continues on Page 8

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Subscription Rates, Bulk Mail:

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BRIEFS

Author to speak on creating interesting characters

Author Terry Shepherd has 10 books in print and numerous short stories in various anthologies. He authored the Jessica Ramirez Thrillers, a trilogy featuring a policewoman whose career is patterned after a real-life Latino cop. While Shepherd spends much of his time in front of a keyboard, he also gets out of the house to conduct interviews with authors, editors, agents and publishers. After a 50-year background in broadcasting, he has expanded his talents to podcasting and currently hosts the "In Conversation with Terry Shepherd" series.

He is also the author of the award-winning "Juliette and the Mystery Bug."

Shepherd will speak at 10:15 a.m. Saturday, March 2, at the meeting of the Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime, to be held at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. His topic will be researching and writing authentic diverse characters.

The meeting is open to all. For further information, contact floridasistersincrime@gmail.com.

Guana exploration hike offered

A guided exploration hike will be offered from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 2, at Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. Learn about the Guana peninsula's natural biodiversity, expansive cultural history, vital estuarine resources and current efforts to protect these resources. Meet at the GTM Research Reserve Trailhead Pavilion (west of Guana Dam), 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. To register, go to gtmnerr.org/visit/events.

The event is free but parking is \$3 per vehicle. Wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are also recommended.

Library to present jazz trio

On Tuesday, March 5, The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library will present the Doug Matthew's Trio. Matthews chairs the piano department at LaVilla School of the Arts in Jacksonville, where he runs the piano lab and has been an instructor since the school opened in 2000. He is an active performer, composer and arranger. He studied under Gerson Yessin at UNF and was one of the first students to

graduate from the acclaimed jazz program. The trio consists of Ricky Ravelo on bass, Rick Kirkland on drums and Doug on piano. Doors open at 6 p.m. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. The library is located at 101 Library Blvd.

MyEyeDr to hold grand-reopening

MyEyeDr will hold a grand re-opening from noon to 3 p.m. Friday, March 1 at 1854 3rd St South, Unit 350, Jacksonville Beach. There will be light fare, refreshments, prizes and giveaways.

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Briefs

Continued from 2

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.

Estate planning is topic of seminar

Having an estate plan is crucial for individuals and families to ensure

their assets and wishes are protected and carried out effectively.

From 1:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 21, LippesMathias Attorneys at Law will present a Trusts & Estates Seminar at the Renaissance St. Augustine Historic Downtown Hotel, 6 W. Castillo Drive, St. Augustine.

For further information or to reserve a spot, go to eventbrite.com/e/trusts-estates-seminar-tickets-785131177487?aff=oddtcreator.

Admission is free.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Lawsuit against Clerk's Office dismissed

An unlawful termination lawsuit filed Aug. 25 by a former employee of the St. Johns County Clerk of Circuit Court against her former employer has been dismissed.

In her order for dismissal, Circuit Judge Kathryn D. Weston wrote that the plaintiff, former Inspector General Nilsa Arissa, had not responded within the required 10 days to a Jan. 4 order to show cause.

Arissa's employment with the Clerk's Office had been terminated on March 2, 2023.

In response to a request for comment,

Clerk Brandon J. Patty issued the following statement:

"The dismissal of the former Inspector General Nilsa Arissa's lawsuit due to lack of service and failure to respond to a court order was not a surprise. This lawsuit was nothing more than a calculated political hit intended to damage me, my family and the clerk's office's reputation in the community. I stand by my decision to terminate her employment and will always do what's right for the county, no matter the potential consequences. It's the least we can expect from our public servants."




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The COA's 50th Anniversary Celebration was well attended.

Photos by Shaun Ryan



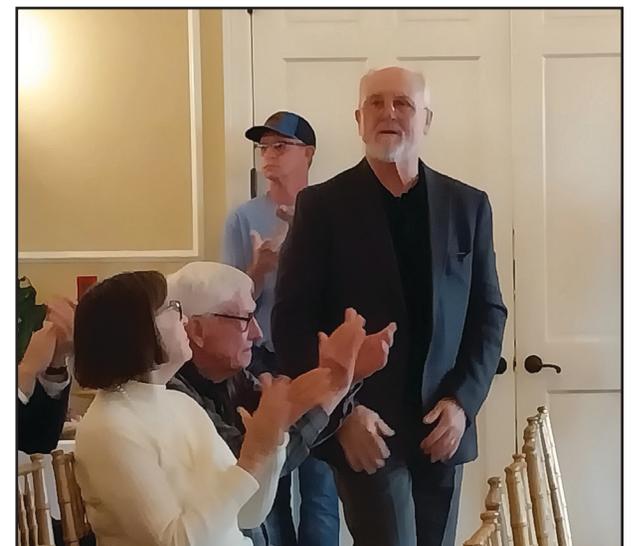
COA Board President Steve Harrison and Executive Director Becky Yanni look on as a video offers a glimpse of the agency's 50 years.



COA Executive Director Becky Yanni speaks during the agency's recent 50th Anniversary Celebration.



COA Executive Director Becky Yanni, right, speaks with special guest Lonnye DeSue, wife of the late Rev. Thomas B. DeSue, who served as board president from 1975 to 1978.



Joe Boles, who served as board president for more than 20 years, stands to be recognized.

COA

Continued from 1

featured light hors d'oeuvres, memorabilia, historic newspaper clippings from COA's first half century, a video presentation and speakers. River House is COA's lifelong learning center and one of many initiatives launched and

completed by the late Cathy Brown, who served as executive director from 1999 to 2013.

"We're excited to be celebrating 50 years, and we look forward to continuing to grow and expand to meet the needs of the seniors in the future," said Becky Yanni, who has served as executive director for the past 11 years.

COA launched its first transportation service during its first year. By

December 1974, COA had served more than 27,000 meals to 478 seniors, 10% of which were delivered via Meals on Wheels.

Today, COA operates six senior centers, three memory care locations, a dedicated memory care facility and an adult day care. It offers door-to-door transportation for medical appointments and life-sustaining activities, as well as the Sunshine Bus, the agency's public transportation service.

The meals continue to be a keystone of COA's service. Last year, it served about 69,000 meals, between those served at the senior centers and those that were home-delivered.

The home deliveries are especially important for seniors who cannot get out.

"Sometimes our volunteers who deliver those meals are the only people that shut-ins see during that day," said Yanni.

The centers provide an array of classes, programs and activities. They offer companionship, socialization, education and a good meal. At River House alone, about 500 people registered for classes in February, and it appears a similar number will sign up in March.

The transportation alone helps to ensure that seniors may not have to move into a facility should they need only a modest level of help.

"We help people stay independent in their own homes and age gracefully and age well," said Yanni.

Much of COA's success is reliant upon its various partnerships and about 500 volunteers. The county plays an important role by providing a 10% match for state and federal funding grants that help to make up the other 90%. The COA budget is about \$8 million.

In addition, COA employs about 165 people.

Looking to the future, COA Board President Steve Harrison told those assembled that "the senior population in St. Johns County is continuing to grow exponentially. With that, of course, comes the need for more services, more programming."

Among those recognized during the festivities were Joe Boles, who served as board president for more than 20 years, and Lonnye DeSue, wife of the late Rev. Thomas B. DeSue, who served as board president from 1975 to 1978.

During his comments, DeVooght praised COA for providing patrons with two very important intangibles.

"In my book," he said, "there are few things that you can give to someone that mean more in various stages of life than their dignity and respect."

Learn more about COA and what it offers at coajc.org.



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United Way Givers Gala honors community leaders

“United We Thrive” was the theme of the 7th Annual United Way of St. Johns County Givers Gala, as community leaders and partners gathered to support and celebrate the agency’s continual community service and to help address the priorities of health, education and financial stability.

With the support of The Hutson Companies as title sponsor, the black-tie gala was held January 27 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort. The evening featured signature cocktails by The St. Augustine Distillery, dinner, a lively auction by Tanner Roberts of Morrison Auctioneers and dancing to the sounds of the Bold City Classics band.

But the focus of the evening was on honoring those who provide lasting inspiration for all that United Way of St. Johns County does to serve its community.

“Every year, the Givers Gala is a momentous occasion for us to come together and celebrate the incredible generosity within our community,” said Joe Pickens, board chair of United Way of St. Johns County. “This event highlights the essence of selfless giving and showcases the power of collective action in creating positive change. We are proud to honor those who have made a significant impact on St. Johns and Putnam County through their dedication and philanthropy.”

Here’s a look at the awardees of the 7th Annual Givers Gala.

John & Peggy Bailey, Sr. Community Leadership Award: Dr. William T. Abare

William T. Abare, former president of Flagler College (2001-2017), is the recipient of the John & Peggy Bailey, Sr. Community Leadership Award. Abare's lifetime of selfless dedication to community has left an indelible mark, inspiring others to follow in his footsteps.



Photo by Jennifer Hird

Corporate Philanthropy Award: Ameris Bank

Ameris Bank is honored with the Corporate Philanthropy Award for its remarkable 52-year history of giving. With a culture deeply rooted in generosity, Ameris Bank's mission to change lives “one person at a time” reflects their commitment to positive community impact.

Nancy Burns Trail Blazer Award: Malinda Peeples and Charles Moretti

Malinda Peeples and Charles Moretti, residents of Armstrong, received the Nancy Burns Trail Blazer Award. Peeples, a dedicated leader and advocate for the SEA

Community Center, and Moretti, a retired contractor, inspire young volunteers and mobilized businesses and churches to respond to a neighbor's tragic house fire.

Chair's Award: Jennifer Harvey

Jenny Harvey, recipient of the Chair's Award, served on the staff of UWSJC for nine years, demonstrating unwavering dedication. Her commitment to volunteerism extends beyond her professional

role, embodying the spirit of the Givers Gala.

“The Givers Gala is a testament to the strength of our community,” said United Way President/CEO Mark LeMaire. “It brings together individuals and organizations who understand the importance of giving back. This year's awardees have shown exceptional leadership and dedication, and we are thrilled to shine a spotlight on their remarkable contributions.”

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Ricki Taylor has decades of experience as a mortgage banker and recently joined Renasant Bank after retiring from the industry in December. One of the things she loves most about the industry is the relationships she is able to develop with her clients over the years, which is also why she treasures working for regional banks.

Ricki Taylor

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

My name is Ricki Taylor and I am a senior mortgage banker at Renasant Bank. I was born in Fort Walton Beach and was a military brat so we moved around a lot.

I spent my high school years in Miami and then went to the University of Georgia and have been in the mortgage business since 1985 and have been lending ever sense.

For the last 20-plus years I've been working with banks as a broker. I was with Synovus for 26 years in three markets, La Grange, Tifton (both in Georgia) and moved to the area in 2008.

I retired in December from Synovus and in February started at Renasant.

I fell into the industry because I was going to go to law school but got married and got a job as a broker.

In the '80s there was no real degree that focused on mortgage lending, so you learned on the job.

Once I realized I was good with people, I realized it was my niche. I quickly learned that you can't be afraid to get out there and sell yourself.

What does your customer approach look like?

I like to be up front with them from the beginning and throughout the process, because no one likes surprises right before they go and buy a house.

I was an underwriter when I first started, so I kind of understand what underwriters want and are looking for.

When I retired, I knew I wanted to go with a bank who was willing and wanted to invest in the community and sees that potential in the area, as I do. That starts with the people you are serving.

What are the most rewarding parts about your job?

I like that Synovus was a regional bank and so is Renasant. I like the individual relationships that you develop as part of a regional bank compared to the larger ones, where people can feel like they're in an assembly line.

I like boutique banks where you have someone who gives you a hands-on approach and personalized service.

Here at Renasant, it's a team that cares about people, and you're not just a number, which is exactly how I like to treat people as well.

The building of relationships is what I like, and it's nice when the people you're working with share in that.

I'm ready for a new beginning here at Renasant.

What are some of the challenges faced?

When I first got into the business the rates were dropping, so we were pretty much baptized by fire.

The people you're working with are going through one of the most stressful times in their life to buy a house or make a big purchase like that.

You want to make sure they feel confident and trust in the person they're working with to help them get through those times.

They want to know that you will do the best for them,



Contributed photo

Ricki Taylor is a senior mortgage banker at Renasant Bank.

because they have other aspects of their businesses to focus on.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love working out and anybody can find me at some gym somewhere. I was once a member of four gyms at the same time.

My main gym right now is Training for Warriors in Ponte Vedra Beach.

It's not just good for you from a fitness standpoint but it's also a great social atmosphere and can be a fabulous stress relief.

I've also gotten involved with promoting the importance of being an organ donor. You don't realize it, but it can help you heal, knowing that your loved one helped someone to live.

What do you enjoy most about living in the North Florida area?

The area has such a great beach life, and the weather is so great all year round.

There's always some reason to get outdoors and do something to take advantage of that weather.



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HAGERTY | Events

UF Health

Continued from 1

Work began on site, just off State Road 9B near the Durbin Park area in St. Johns, in December and the very early stages of development could already be seen from the groundbreaking ceremony held on location.

The hospital will be under UF Health St. Johns, which is a division of UF Health that is dedicated to advancing the health communities in Northeast Florida.

“Together we can change the way of health care in the state of Florida, through a legacy of excellence,” De-Voight said.

It is just the latest step UF Health has made toward becoming more a part of the health care scene in the region, as it will join the UF Health Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine, which was a partnership announced last year during another highly touted ceremony, as well as having several multispecialty practices in the area at UF Health Nocatee and UF Health MuraBella.

According to Mori Hosseini, who is serving as chair on the University of Florida’s board of trustees, UF Health was “dead last” at one point on Flagler Health’s list of potential partners but won out in the end, and he expects that same tenacity to help make UF Health Durbin Park what it will become.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Mori Hosseini, chair on the University of Florida’s board of trustees, spoke during the ceremony about the importance of the hospital for the community.

“The University of Florida has such a bold vision for Northeast Florida, and make no mistake, the University of Florida does not do small things,” Hosseini said. “This is a game-changer and something we will be able to look back at with pride. We’re thinking outside the box and pushing the boundaries.”

Part of that game-changing approach is that once completed, UF Health Durbin Park is projected to bring 2,000 new jobs to the area, which will be part of a larger 12,000 jobs across the UF Health facilities throughout Jacksonville and St. Johns County over time, as part of UF Health’s \$1 billion investment in

Northeast Florida.

“I look around and I see so many friends who have helped make this day possible,” Hosseini said. “Behind every treatment is a human being, and people matter. We aren’t just here today to celebrate a building being built; we are here to celebrate what comes next.”



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St. Johns County launches new website, mobile app

At the Feb. 20 meeting of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, a new wave of digital communication and public engagement was announced with the launch of a new website and mobile app. The website at www.sjcfll.us and the SJC Connect app showcase a more open, efficient and digitally connected effort by St. Johns County.

“This marks a significant milestone in our commitment to open governance and efficiency,” said Joy Andrews, county administrator. “The new website and SJC Connect App reflect a new era of digital communication for St. Johns County with the public, providing dynamic and transparent opportunities for interaction and engagement with the community we serve. The website and the app offer a comprehensive platform designed to provide the public with enhanced accessibility to county services, streamlined paths to county information, and interactive features.”

Key features of the new website include:

- **User Accessibility:** The website has been designed to ensure a user-friendly experience, emphasizing inclusivity and ease of navigation.

- **Road Closure Feature:** This tool allows users to stay informed about ongoing road closures and detours, helping them plan their routes more efficiently.

- **Filterable News Releases:** Users can easily search relevant news releases, ensuring they find information tailored to their interests and needs.

- **Calendar of Events:** The website offers a dynamic calendar of events and meetings, providing residents with a centralized hub.

- **View Meetings Online:** Residents can conveniently view government meetings online, promoting transparency and allowing for broader civic engagement.

The SJC Connect app complements the website, empowering users to submit service requests and complaints via mobile devices. Real-time updates on request statuses ensure transparency and accountability. The special webpage

at www.sjcfll.us/SJCConnect is dedicated to the app with links to download Android or iOS versions and tutorial videos.

The app is designed to address both private and public property issues, with a dedicated Code Enforcement Ribbon for Private Property Issues and 'PRIDE' requests. PRIDE, short for Public Request Inquiry Data Exchange, will remain accessible online at www.sjcfll.us/PRIDE for users who prefer that platform.

Public Property Concerns can be reported via the request button within the app. Recognizing diverse user preferences, a desktop version of the app is also available for those who choose not to use the mobile application.

In addition, St. Johns County anticipates announcing dynamic e-newsletters soon, aligning with the new website and mobile app. These newsletters will embody the county's brand and provide an elevated, efficient delivery of news and information.

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Habitat home life-changing for local woman

By Shaun Ryan

Her name is Tracey. She's a courageous, resilient woman who has endured more than her share of adversity. Talking about it, her voice cracks, though never when describing the hardships she has faced. Instead, she becomes emotional when speaking of the kindness of those who have helped her, particularly her employer and the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

A native of Maine, Tracey earned her degree in music and worked as a jazz performer on nights and weekends in places like Boston and New York. During the week, she worked at large corporations as an administrative manager. Later, she taught jazz, pop and Broadway music lessons.

But in 2008, she learned she had advanced degenerative disc and bone disease combined with advanced osteoarthritis. The frequent surgeries and constant pain forced her to end her administrative career and curtail her music lessons.

The Road to St. Augustine

In 2013, after her daughter went off to college, Tracey moved to Naples, Florida, where she would be near family. But it was very expensive, and she needed



Contributed photos

Tracey stands on the porch of her new Habitat for Humanity home.

roommates to help pay the bills.

"It was tough," she said.

After five years, one of her friends moved to St. Augustine and invited her to come along. She agreed and rented from her friend, relying on her disability check and occasional music work. Finding regular full-time employment was hard; she was upfront about her physical limitations when interviewed, which tended to cause employers to look for someone else.

"I have seven screws in my right foot, six in my left, a replaced right shoulder, a plate and six screws in my neck, and I've had five lumbar back surgeries," she said.

About this time, she was also diagnosed with breast cancer. And, if finding work was not difficult enough, COVID-19 arrived early in 2020, and places that needed musicians were suddenly closed.

Finding a home

Not wanting to overstay her welcome at her friend's place, Tracey found a trailer in St. Augustine. But it wasn't anyone's idea of a dream home.

"It was really junky and very, very, very old," she said. "When you looked down between the walls and the floor, you could see the ground."

There were broken windows, and the air conditioner didn't work. Summer heat turned the trailer into an oven. At one point, Tracey had to sell all her music equipment and 150 music books just to pay the rent.

A friend suggested she apply for a

home through Habitat for Humanity. But Tracey didn't believe she would qualify.

"That's for people who really need it," she told her friend.

In the end, her friend prevailed. A corporation purchased the trailer park and gave residents 45 days to vacate.

So in May 2020, Tracey applied for a Habitat house. A month later, she was told she qualified, though one condition posed a dilemma: Due to her physical limitations, she couldn't perform the usual "sweat equity" work on her home, which is required of applicants.

By special arrangement, she was allowed to work for other nonprofits instead. She worked for Epic-Cure, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Hugs Across the County.

Another condition also threatened to end her hopes for a home: She had to have an income to have a Habitat house. She did get a job in October 2021, two months before closing on her new home, but it was hard labor, and she knew the days of her employment were numbered.

"By February, I was realizing: I can't keep doing this; this is killing me," she said.

Fortunately, The St. Augustine Distillery Co., one of the big supporters of Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County, had volunteers in the neighborhood. When told about Tracey's plight, the business agreed to interview her.

"They hired me on the spot," Tracey said. "It's been two years. I love my job. I love the people there. They're very help-

ful and kind and accommodating and nice people."

Today, she is living comfortably in her Habitat home.

"I'm so, so, so, so grateful to have this house and this roof over my head," she said. "You know, I feel like God put these people in my life. It's a big deal."



Tracey is employed by The St. Augustine Distillery Co.

Today, she has advice for anyone needing a home but who avoids applying to Habitat for Humanity.

"If they're not sure, I would encourage people to understand that it's not a handout; it's a hand up," she said. "If you think you might qualify, then just look into it."

Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County can be reached at 904-826-3252. Learn more at habitatstjohns.org.



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Swim lessons, underwater egg hunt highlight YMCA spring season

By Anthony Richards

It is never too early to teach children how to swim, not just so they have a fun time, but it could also help save their life one day.

With this in mind, the YMCA is always looking to offer swim lessons and children will now have the opportunity to learn while on spring break.

Swim lesson registration is currently open at the Brown Family YMCA in Ponte Vedra Beach and the Solomon Calhoun Community Center will begin offering Saturday swim lessons for children on March 2.

The Brown Family YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach, while the Solomon Calhoun Community Center is located at 1300 Duval St. in St. Augustine.

The YMCA is known as “America’s swim instructor,” having taught swim lessons for decades.

Confidence around the water is one of the main things they strive to pass along to each child or adult that comes through their program, as learning to



Contributed photo

Confidence in and around the water is what the YMCA hopes to instill with its child swim lesson programs.

swim is not just for those of a young age, and it is never too late to learn.

Separate sessions will be offered depending on the age of the child and safety around the water is at the center

of their entire approach to teaching.

Pools are a popular place for families and children to gravitate and enjoy during the spring and summer months, especially in Florida where the taste of

warm weather has people thinking of floating in the pool.

However, water can also be dangerous for those who are not properly trained with the skills needed to swim or tread water.

As a result, all children are swim tested before they can go swimming in a First Coast YMCA pool.

The Solomon Calhoun Community Center is adding to the swimming fun this spring and plans to take Easter egg hunting to a whole different level, with an underwater egg hunt on March 28.

Children ages 5 to 12 years old are invited to bring their swimming towel and Easter egg basket for a fun adventure of gathering eggs that are left under the water of the center’s pool.

The egg hunt is scheduled to take place from 6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. and children can trade the eggs they find afterward at the bunny store for various prizes.

The egg hunt has a \$2 fee to take part and to RSVP or ask questions, please email mhansson@fcymca.org or call 904-704-4644.

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Photos provided by the link



The link announces spring break camps

The link, a prominent hub for family enrichment situated in Ponte Vedra, is gearing up for an exciting array of spring break camps designed to captivate young minds and keep bodies active. This year, the link will present four unique and enriching experiences: Let's Get Creative, Creative Culinary, LEGO Robotics and STEAM Camp, and Olympic-style Fencing.

Jeff Tawney, director of operations for the link, expressed enthusiasm about the 2024 spring break camps, stating, "We're

thrilled about our lineup. Our team of talented camp instructors are eager to inspire and work with your kids."

Dedicated to making every academic break an opportunity for growth and fun, the link's camps are curated to provide campers with diverse experiences that foster creativity, enhance fine motor skills and promote physical activity.

The Let's Get Creative camp encourages young artists to unleash their potential through various media, from birdhouses to

marbling, creating a perfect space for budding creativity.

For those with a taste for culinary adventures, the Creative Culinary camp is an ideal fit. Campers will delve into the world of cooking, learning kitchen essentials and discovering the joy of creating delicious and nutritious meals.

The LEGO Robotics and STEAM Camp aims to stimulate young minds by combining the excitement of LEGO robotics with other STEM activities like drones, Carrera

slot cars and Sphero. This camp offers an excellent opportunity for children to develop problem-solving skills and enhance fine motor skills.

Thrill-seekers will find their match in the Olympic-style Fencing camp, where they can learn the art and technique of fencing from experienced coach Alan Chernomashenstev. It's not just a physical workout; it's also a mental exercise that

THE LINK continues on Page 14



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The link

Continued from 13

challenges participants to think on their feet.

Committed to enriching the lives of local Ponte Vedra families, the link has forged strategic partnerships with the Parent Teacher Organizations of Pine Island Academy and Palm Valley Academy. These partnerships contribute to the community by offering classes and camps that align with the schools' educational objectives.

Ten percent of the membership fees from Pine Island Academy and Palm Valley Academy families are donated to

the schools' PTOs, reinforcing the link between education and community support.

"We are grateful to be working with some of the best PTOs that turn schools into communities where everyone's ideas help make learning awesome," said Gurpreet Misra, co-founder of the link.

The link is extending similar partnerships to local small businesses through the Community Partnership Program, fostering a sense of community and mutual benefit. It was launched this spring. Interested businesses can contact opportunity creator Karen Patino at karen@thelink.zone for more information on becoming a part of this thriving ecosystem.

For further information, go to thelink.zone/camps-1

Photo provided by the link



County summer camp lottery registration underway

By Anthony Richards

Signups to be included in the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation's 2024 summer camp lottery are now being accepted until March 8.

Parents can enter their children ages 5 to 12 years old into the lottery by going to weblottery.sjcf.us to register.

The lottery will be used to select children to attend camps at a variety of locations throughout the county, which include Davis Park Field House (210 Davis Park Road, Ponte Vedra); Ketterlinus Gym (60 Orange St., St. Augustine); Plantation Park (3060 Racetrack Road, St. Johns); and Tout Creek (6795 Collier Road, St. Augustine).

The process is not first come, first serve, and instead it will be a true lottery where attendees will be chosen at random

from all those entered.

The computerized drawing is scheduled to take place on March 12 followed by the results being emailed in the weeks after and no later than March 26.

If the desired camp location was already full when a name is selected, that family will have the option of then being put on the waiting list for that camp.

Instructions for waiting list registration will be sent out in the email along with the lottery results.

The summer camps are very popular and due to this the registration website may be slow to come up at times because of the amount of traffic to the site.

Brian James with St. Johns County Parks and Recreation can be reached by calling 904-209-0365 or by emailing bjames@sjcf.us for anybody that has questions about the process or the camps.

Delores Barr Weaver's \$61M gift will benefit local nonprofits

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida recently announced that local philanthropist Delores Barr Weaver has recommended numerous grants to local nonprofits, made possible by a gift of \$61 million to the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at The Community Foundation.

Weaver contributed \$61 million to her donor advised fund at The Community Foundation in July of 2023, the largest gift in the foundation's 60-year history. Throughout this year, grants will be made to nonprofit organizations as part of her Legacy 2024 grantmaking plan, which was developed in partnership with staff at The Community Foundation over the last six months.

Rather than accepting applications for this funding, Weaver has chosen to focus grantmaking on selected nonprofits she has supported for many years.

The organizations that will benefit are working toward missions from A to Z, covering a waterfront of issues that affect the everyday lives of people in Northeast Florida and beyond.

Grants will support causes that include, but are not limited to: ensuring all people can thrive, no matter their age, identity or ability status; advancing the arts; revitalizing neighborhoods and expanding affordable housing; and addressing environ-



Delores Barr Weaver

mental issues, such as land conservation. The nonprofits receiving the funds will be notified as grants are awarded.

"The Community Foundation's expert staff and charitable giving solutions have enabled me to have greater impact in the region I love than I ever could alone," Weaver said. "I want to congratulate and thank the Legacy 2024 agencies and the staff of The Community Foundation for their partnership over many years."

The goal of the Legacy 2024 grantmak-

ing plan is to provide tailored, strategic support to each of the organizations receiving the funds, setting them up for success long into the future. The process began by reviewing Weaver's past grants to identify nonprofits that had exceptional track records of achieving results for the community. Then, Weaver worked with staff to determine what funding would help them grow beyond Weaver's support, as her focus expands to include national and international issues.

The plan includes a variety of grant types offered through The Community Foundation: one-time infusions of funds for specific projects or capital improvements; matching challenges intended to expand the beneficiary's donor base and bolster its financial sustainability; and multi-year grants spanning three, five, and 10 years that will position grantees to deepen their impact with a longer time horizon than one-time grants would allow.

"The Community Foundation is proud to work alongside Delores Barr Weaver, who continues to set the bar for philanthropy in Northeast Florida," said Isaiah M. Oliver, president of The Community Foundation. "I want to thank her for this extraordinary gift. I also want to thank the nonprofits and our staff, whose expertise and dedication have helped to translate her generosity into impact over many years."

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A look at the 28th annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance in 2023.

Earnhardt Jr., Gordon, Hendrick featured guests at Amelia

The Amelia returns with a celebration of motoring excellence. Attendees will enjoy activities across Amelia Island, including opportunities to get behind the wheel of enthusiast cars old and new, enjoy behind-the-scenes panels featuring racing legends like Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon and buy their dream cars at auction.

The weekend will culminate in the 29th annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, featuring 275 historically significant vehicles across 35 car classes. The Amelia takes place Thursday, Feb. 29, to Sunday, March 3.

“The Amelia is more than just the show field on Saturday and Sunday, it's now a four-day celebration of everything automotive,” said Concours Vice Chairman Matt Orendac. “Our guests will experience the cars from behind the wheel, at the auction block and on the greens. You'll also be able to meet and learn from the legends who raced them in period.”

The Amelia will host seminars featuring some of the greatest racers in history including:

- Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Terry LaBonte and Ken Schrader, who will discuss “40 Years of Hendrick Motorsports”

- Indianapolis 500 winners Paul Tracy and Danny Sullivan will join LaBonte and Ricky Craven to discuss “Close Finishes and Controversies”

- Sports racing legend David Donahue, rally pilot Jeff Zwart and Pikes Peak racer and organizer Fred Veitch will host a discussion and viewing of “Pikes Peak Short Films”

Visitors to The Amelia will be able to get behind the wheel, or ride along, in a selection of classics as part of the Mobil 1 Hagerty Ride & Drive program throughout the weekend — a complimentary offer available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Guests can also experience the performance of new Porsche models including the 911 GT3 as part of the Porsche Driving Experience. This includes high-speed and autocross runs on a closed runway with professional drivers like Hurley Haywood. Tickets for the Porsche Driving Experience are available at showclix.com/tickets/friday-porsche-driving-experience-2024.

Broad Arrow Auctions is the official auction of The Amelia and will offer 130 lots on Friday, March 1, and Saturday, March 2. Among the highlights are the 1959



Porsche 718 RSK Spyder “Lucybel III,” the 1954 Dodge Firearrow IV by Carrozzeria Ghia and the 1938 Delahaye 135 MS Fioni et Falaschi Coupe. For more information or to register to bid, go to:

broadarrowauctions.com/events/event/The%20Amelia%20Auction%202024

Additional auctions the week of The Amelia include Gooding and Company, Bonhams and a silent auction held on-site at The Amelia.

There are plenty of events to enjoy throughout the week in addition to Sunday's concours d'elegance. “Cars and Community” returns on Saturday, March 2. More than 350 vehicles from all eras will gather on the showfield, while an expanded RADwood celebrates the best of the '80s and '90s, outfits included. The Annual Porsche Winemaker's Dinner also returns to kick off the week, celebrating friends, Porsches and the best in fine wines. The Hangar returns for its second year on the



evening of March 2. Finally, Porsche Club of America (PCA) will again host the Werks Reunion at The Amelia River Club on Friday March 1. Werks Reunion is a Porsche-focused event open to PCA members featuring vintage air-cooled through modern-day models.

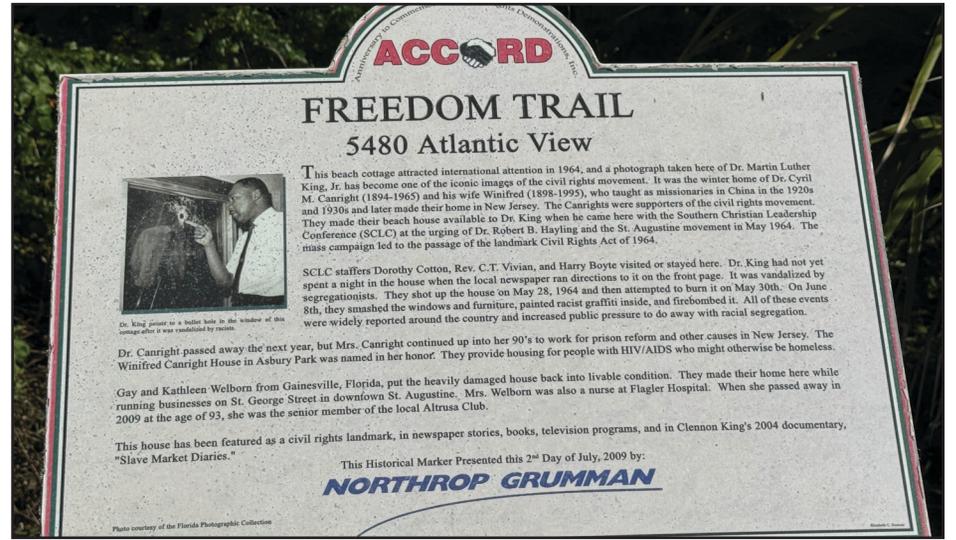
The Amelia's partners will showcase their latest products, innovations and offer exclusive experiences over the course of the weekend including Airbus Corporate Jets, BMW North America, Chopard USA, Gateway Bronco, Griot's Garage, Karma Automotive (who will be holding a global product reveal), Lucid, McLaren, Mobil 1, Porsche Cars North America, Reliable Carriers, RUF Automobile, Volkswagen of America and WeatherTech.

Tickets are available at: ameliaconcours.com/event/tickets.

For details on specific event times, go to ameliaconcours.com/event. The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island is located at 4750 Amelia Island Parkway, Fernandina Beach.



The Canright House, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was to stay until it was vandalized by segregationists.



A Freedom Trail sign outside Canright House tells about it.

Contributed photos

House where M.L. King was to stay will be moved

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to relocate the historic beach cottage known as the “Canright House” from 5480 Atlantic View to Collier-Blocker-Puryear Park (10 N. Holmes Blvd., St. Augustine) during its regular Feb. 20 meeting. The motion was made by District 3 Commissioner Roy Alaimo.

The house is where civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was scheduled to stay as part of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in May 1964 until it was vandalized by segregationists. King was famously photographed outside the home later, pointing to a bullet hole in one of the windows. The house became a symbol of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The St. Johns County Parks Foundation has secured state

funds to relocate the historic house, donated by the current property owner. After consideration of multiple locations — including Collier-Blocker-Puryear Park, Crescent Beach Park (6930 A1A South), and the originally planned location of Windswept Acres Park (5385 A1A South) — the board chose Collier-Blocker-Puryear Park as the ideal new location for the Canright House.

Due to the longer distance, the estimated cost difference for relocation to the new site is \$250,000. The additional funds could possibly come from Tourist Development Council reserve funds or General Funds reserves.

Robert Nimmons, chair of the West Augustine CRA Steering Committee, spoke during public comment in favor of the board’s decision to relocate the house to the West

Augustine area.

“Our entire community is embracing the fact that we’re opening up our arms to welcome this house over in our community,” Nimmons said. “It’s a rich part of history. We will do whatever we can do to get it over there ... I just want to say thank you to the commissioners for considering bringing that house home, because that’s where it needs to go.”

The St. Johns County Parks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to utilize charitable purposes to acquire, develop, maintain, improve, expand, erect, support, preserve, restore, fund, encourage and sustain parks and recreational facilities within St. Johns County, for benefit of the general public.

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St. Johns County to begin \$38.6M Ponte Vedra Beach Restoration Project

St. Johns County is set to begin the \$38.6 million Ponte Vedra Beach Restoration Project in March that will restore storm-damaged dunes and berms to provide storm protection to upland infrastructure with more than 2 million cubic yards of sand dredged in for the ocean.

The project will create additional environmental habitat for wildlife and enhance the recreational value of the beach. The project will stretch from the St. Johns-Duval county line to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve — about nine miles of coastline.

The public can stay updated on the project and beach parking closures at sjcfl.us/PVB and by using the county's mobile app SJC Connect, available at sjcfl.us/SJC-Connect.

At the Feb. 20 Board of County Commissioners regular meeting, the board voted 5-0 to approve a motion authorizing the county to award the beach restoration bid to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder for the construction of the project, Weeks Marine.

The Ponte Vedra Beach Restoration Project will cost about \$38.6 million, approximately \$30.6 million of which has come from state legislative funding and grants. The remaining amount is being funded through county matching requirements and funding set aside from previous board actions for this project.

The project will directly impact Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park and beach access in the area.

- Park and beach access will be temporarily closed for short periods of time for heavy equipment mobilization starting mid-late March and demobilization (mid-late August) activities. Sand placement should begin in April.
- Park and beach access will also close intermittently for contractor crew access.

Once the project starts, dredging and beach operations will be conducted 24/7 through its completion.

- The western portion of the Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park parking lot will be reserved for contractor parking and storage.
- Contractor crews and security will be present to guide pedestrian activity and ensure public safety.
- St. Johns County Parks and Recreation will remove the Mickler's Beach boardwalk and install a permanent, ADA-accessible mobi-mat.

"Public safety is our top priority during this project," county Emergency Management Director Joe Giammanco said. "We're going to move through this as fast as we can with as little impact, but safety is paramount. We will communicate the details of this project to the public as extensively and frequently as possible."

St. Johns County conducted a survey in the proposed project area to gauge resident sentiment on the project and discovered overwhelming support. Of residents who responded to the survey living along the "northern three miles," 96.6% agreed with the need for the project. Of residents who responded to the survey living along the "southern six miles," 91% agreed with the need for the project.

The project will provide substantial coastline fortifications, including dune reconstruction between 13 and 18 feet, beach berm elevation of eight feet, and beach width increase of 40 to 180 feet post-construction.

The county has 42 miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline. It manages 32 miles of the coastline. The Florida Department of Environmental Project designates 17.1 miles of the coastline as critically eroded, with an additional 7.6 miles deemed non-critically eroded. Historically, the St. Augustine and Matanzas Inlets have been the primary causes of erosion. In the present day, hurricanes, nor'easters, overwashes and seawalls have also contributed, necessitating action by government entities at the local, state and federal levels.

Stephen Hammond, Project Manager for St. Johns County Coastal Management, presented an update on upcoming and ongoing coastal projects at the 37th Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology earlier this month.

In 2023, the county commenced six Coastal Management projects: FEMA Dune Enhancement Project (Hurricanes Ian/Nicole), FEMA Cat G South Ponte Vedra Park Repairs, Vilano Beach/South Ponte Vedra Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRSM), Summer Haven Feasibility Study, Porpoise Point Drive Armoring Project and Summer Haven Dredge Disposal. Construction of the first four projects has been completed; the last two are ongoing.

In coordination with these projects, the county sustained important environmental and physical monitoring of the coastline. In 2023, St. Johns County beaches saw a record 133 green sea turtle nests as part of 1,205 total nests and an estimated 79,811 sea turtle hatchlings.

The complete list of 2023 Coastal

PROJECT continues on Page 19

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Project

Continued from 18

Management Projects includes the following:

FEMA Dune Enhancement (Ian/Nicole) – Completed

- Construction: July 14, 2023 to December 13, 2023
- Borrow Area: Upland Mines, Keuka and Goldhead (Vulcan)
- Length: 6.7 miles
- Volume Placed: 150,900 cubic yards
- Sea Oats Planted: 470,000 (Earth Balance and Terra Crafters)
- Engineer: Olsen Associates
- Contractor: Phillips & Jordan
- Cost: \$12 million
- Funding: FEMA and State

FEMA Cat G South Ponte Vedra Park Repairs – Completed

- Construction: Sept. 18-26, 2023
- Borrow Area: Upland Mines, Keuka and Goldhead (Vulcan)
- Length: 450 feet
- Volume Placed: 2,300 cubic yards
- Sea Oats Planted: 3,365 (Cross Creek Environmental)
- Engineer: INTERA-GEC
- Contractor: Southeastern Marine Group
- Cost: \$300,000
- Funding: FEMA and St. Johns County

Vilano Beach/South Ponte Vedra Beach (CSRM) – Completed

- Construction: August to December 2023
- Borrow Area: N3
- Length: 3 miles
- Volume Placed: 1.1 million cubic yards
- Sea Oats Planted: 390,000 (Earth Balance)
- Engineer: United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- Contractor: Weeks Marine
- Cost: \$20 million
- Funding: USACE FCCE

Summer Haven Feasibility Study – Completed

- County-funded study of the Summer Haven River and surrounding areas.
- The study aims to determine the effects of having the river open or closed and develop alternatives to keep the river open.
- The second phase of the study will delve into the economic value of having the river open.

Porpoise Point Drive Armoring Project – Ongoing

- Construction of a seawall with a riprap connection to a federal structure
- Construction: October 2023 to February 2024
- Length of Seawall: 125 feet
- Length of Riprap: 50 feet
- Engineer: AtkinsRéalis
- Contractor: Construct Co.
- Cost: \$1 million
- Funding: St. Johns County

Summer Haven Dredge Disposal – Ongoing

- Construction: October 2023 to April 2024
- Borrow Area: Intracoastal Waterway
- Length: 1.3 miles
- Volume Placed: 500,000 cubic yards
- Engineer: USACE
- Contractor: Southwinds Construction
- Funding: USACE and Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)

Coastal Management plans to commence the following projects over the next couple of years:

Ponte Vedra Beach Restoration Project

- Construction: April to July 2024
- Borrow Area: N1
- Length: 8.9 miles

- Volume Placed: 2 million cubic yards
- Engineer: Olsen Associates
- Contractor: Weeks Marine
- Cost: \$38.6 million
- Funding: St. Johns County and State

St. Augustine Beach Shoreline Protection Project – USACE

- Construction: February to September 2024
- Borrow Area: S1
- Length: 3 miles
- Volume Placed: 2.5 million cubic yards
- Engineer: USACE
- Contractor: Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company
- Cost: \$33.5 million
- Funding: Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE)

FEMA Cat G South Ponte Vedra Dune Project

- Construction: 2025
- Borrow Area: N1
- Length: 5 miles
- Volume to Place: 700,000 cubic yards
- Sea Oats to Plant: 600,000
- Engineer: TBD
- Contractor: TBD
- Cost: TBD

- Funding: FEMA and State

Porpoise Point Shoreline Stabilization Project

- Project to construct a structure or structures to help reduce the wave impact and trap sand on the shoreline.
- Request for qualification (RFQ) will go out to bid for design, permitting and engineering in late February.
- St. Johns County received \$2 million from the Florida Division of Emergency Management for design, permitting and engineering work.

St. Johns County Coastal Management Plan

- St. Johns County is in the final stages of the procurement process.
- The goal of the plan is to perform an intensive review of the county's coastline, analyzing the physical, environmental and economic benefits of the coastal environment.
- The plan will develop an array of coastal management practices.
- Deliverables will include a report of the findings and a proposed plan for consideration and adoption by the board.

For more information on St. Johns County Coastal Projects, go to sjcfl.us/departments/coastal-projects.

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NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR FLORIDA COUNTY, PROBATE DIVISION

The collage features several articles and ads from 'The Recorder'. The main article is titled 'Post 129 sent pair to nationals as part of memorable year' by Anthony Richards, mentioning a trip to Washington, D.C. for a 2023 program. Other articles include 'Major sculpture created in Mandarin' by Harriet Beecher Stowe and 'INSIDE CHECK IT OUT!' regarding a 2024 Lotus Eletre. Advertisements include 'Family Chiropractic Care for Nearly 20 Years' and 'Wellness Center'.



Scouting Celebration

Cub Scout Pack 277, sponsored by Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, held its annual Blue and Gold Banquet on Feb. 10. The banquet celebrates the birthday of Scouting and recognizes Scouts for their accomplishments. The pack celebrated with a pizza party for the Scouts and their families, complete with a birthday cake for Scouting. More than 60 Scouts were recognized for their achievements. Pack 277 recognized 15 fifth-grade Cub Scouts who earned their Arrow of Light, the highest award in Cub Scouts. Most of these Scouts crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 277 to continue their fun, adventure and character development. For more information about Cub Scouts, go to BeAScout.org or email join.cubpack277@gmail.com.

Contributed photos



Flagler College launches Center for Religion and Culture

Flagler College has announced the establishment of the Center for Religion and Culture to promote the interdisciplinary study of religion and foster interfaith dialogue on campus and among residents of Northeast Florida.

who engaged with middle school-, high school- and college-aged students. This gave Forbes valuable background when he stepped into the role as a faculty adviser for the College's Youth Ministry Program. Familiarity working with students from a broad spectrum of racial, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds in a youth ministry environment prepared Forbes to launch and lead Flagler's Youth Ministry Forum and Missing Voices project.

In their myriad of expressions, religious traditions and associated practices are woven into the fabric of human cultures, and Flagler College is uniquely situated to explore them. Alumnus, faculty member and ordained Presbyterian minister Justin Forbes will take the helm as director, steering the newly established center and its continued expansion.

"I look forward to building upon Flagler College's demonstrated commitment to supporting the interdisciplinary study of religion and fostering dialogue within our community," said Forbes, assistant

After graduating from Flagler College in 2002, Forbes spent 10 years working in youth ministry during which time he gained experience leading teams

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

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

Azaleas

"Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the mind." — Luther Burbank



By Kathy Esfahani

The blooming of Azaleas marks the beginning of spring in the southern United States!

These evergreen shrubs show off seasonal blossoms in pinks, purples, reds, and whites. Azaleas are widely recognized for the bountiful color lining the Augusta National golf

course during The Masters tournament in April, but, in our north Florida home, we are lucky to enjoy these bright blooms beginning in February!

Azaleas are low maintenance shrubs that look beautiful planted individually or in groups. When planning azaleas for your landscape, look for areas with loose, well drained soil and a mix of sunlight and shade. Most Azaleas prefer morning sun and afternoon shade. Too much full sun can burn the plant's leaves, but too much shade can reduce the shrub's ability to grow and bloom. Azaleas are often found planted in wooded areas where they receive filtered sunlight,



Fashion Azalea

but they are also a great choice for foundational plants around a home or borders along a garden bed. Additionally, these shrubs are useful as a backdrop in a landscape because they are evergreen plants that produce early spring color!

Related to the larger Rhododendron, Azaleas are available in many varieties and sizes. They range from dwarf types that remain under 3 feet tall to larger plants that can grow to 20 feet in height. Here in northeast Florida's planting zone 9A, the most popular types of Azaleas are Encore, Fashion, Formosa, George Tanler, Gerbing, Red Ruffle, and Southern Charm.

Although some prefer Azaleas to be allowed to grow informally, light pruning after the blooming season can



Flower of the Week

Azalea

encourage more full development as the plant grows. If you choose to prune your Azaleas, be sure to do so quickly after the spring blooming ends.

Azaleas use the warm summer months to begin developing the buds that will be next year's blooms.

Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Azalea

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.



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Center

Continued from 20

professor of religion at Flagler College and director of the Center for Religion and Culture. “The center will be a vital resource, providing opportunities for our community and students to explore, research and appreciate the diverse religious traditions that shape our world.”

Henry Flagler’s commitment to filling St. Augustine with houses of worship underscored the importance of religion and culture to his larger vision, planted seeds of civic virtue in the community and shared the beauty of classical traditions seen in the character of his buildings. Preceding him were indigenous peoples such as the Timucua, whose rich religious cultures deserve to be discovered along with those brought by Africans and Europeans to St. Augustine.

The Center for Religion and Culture is built on three pillars of focus:

1. Research, critical reflection and scholarship
2. Collaboration with and service to communities of practice
3. Courses and study abroad opportunities for Flagler students

These pillars have already been brought to life through existing programming like FlagSHIP and core classes such as A Life Well Lived, the Cecile and Gene Usdin Judeo-Christian Lecture Series, the Franciscan Spanish Borderland Conferences, the annual Youth Ministry Forum and grant-funded initiatives serving communities of practice, like the Missing Voices Project.

Palm Valley Rotary donates to SAFE



Contributed photo

Palm Valley Rotarians recently presented SAFE (Saving Animals from Euthanasia) with a generous donation made possible by their recent Caring for Kids Raffle Fundraiser. SAFE was founded in 2008 with the goal of rescuing animals from kill shelters where they are facing euthanasia. To date, SAFE, which operates entirely on donations and volunteer efforts, has rescued more than 28,000 animals. Among the other charities supported by the Palm Valley Rotary Club are Peace of Heart and Blessings in a Backpack, as well as many others.

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

GUEST COLUMN

Why rebalancing can be so important

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

Imagine sitting in a rowboat and wanting to get back to shore. If you just sit there, the wakes from passing boats and the wind could cause you to drift further toward the middle of the lake — not where you want to be. Of course, they might actually move you toward the shore. Who knows?

On the other hand, you could use your paddles. It's more work, but it'll increase the possibility of your reaching your destination.

It's similar with your portfolio. If you neglect it, market activity may cause it to drift away — possibly far away — from where you want it to be.

Take, for example, a portfolio that starts out 60% stocks/40% bonds. If stocks were to have a particularly good year and bonds a bad one, the allocation could shift to, say, 70% stocks/30% bonds without the investor even realizing it. While this portfolio likely has better growth potential than the original, it could also take a bigger hit if stocks, which tend to be more volatile than bonds, turn around and have a bad year.

To help avoid this, you should consider periodically “rebalancing” your portfolio. This involves looking at how you're diversified across different types of investments and considering selling some investments and buying others when necessary to bring your portfolio back to the asset allocation you originally intended. In the example above, you might think about selling stocks and buying bonds to get to 60% stocks/40% bonds.

All investing involves risk, including loss of principal. Asset allocation and diversification are investment methods used to help manage risk. They do not guarantee investment returns or eliminate risk of loss including in a declining market.

Investments in fixed-income securities are subject to market, interest rate, credit and other risks. Bond prices fluctuate inversely to changes in interest rates. Therefore,



Jamie L. Seim, Matthew D. Guevara, Evonne T. Heykens and Stephen T. Foody.

a general rise in interest rates can cause a bond's price to fall. Credit risk is the risk that an issuer will default on payments of interest and/or principal. This risk is heightened in lower rated bonds. If sold prior to maturity, fixed income securities are subject to market risk. All fixed income investments may be worth less than their original cost upon redemption or maturity.

Equity securities are subject to market risk, which means their value may fluctuate in response to general economic and market conditions and the perception of individual issuers. Investments in equity securities are generally more volatile than other types of securities.

This article was written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Ponte Vedra Wealth Management Group in Ponte Vedra Beach at 904-

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Pharmaceutical facility coming to St. Johns County

The St. Johns County Economic Development Department has announced a groundbreaking development that will shape the future of the community. Publix Super Markets Inc. is set to establish an innovative pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in St. Johns County, assisting with economic growth and approximately 400 new jobs.

Anticipated to be operational in 2026, this state-of-the-art central fill pharmaceutical facility will be strategically located in a 168,480-square-foot building within the industrial park of Legend Point Logistics Crossing at 200 Accolade Ave. in St. Johns.

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners has approved an economic development reinvestment

package totaling \$5,821,779 over a nine-year period for the project. The Publix central fill pharmaceutical facility will bring more than 150 new jobs initially, growing to 400 new jobs to St. Johns County.

“We are thrilled to announce the establishment of Publix’s central fill pharmaceutical facility in St. Johns County,” St. Johns County Administrator Joy Andrews said. “This endeavor has been an incredible journey, showcasing the collaborative efforts of our dedicated economic development staff, growth management team, utility services and building officials. Together, they have worked tirelessly to bring this transformative project to fruition. What makes this announcement truly special is the

resounding support and unwavering commitment from the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners. Their unanimous backing not only underscores the immense significance of this venture but also speaks volumes about their dedication to reinvesting in our community. It’s more than commendable; it’s a commitment to crafting a future filled with high-quality jobs and unparalleled wealth-building opportunities. This project stands as a shining example of the incredible outcomes that emerge when public and private sectors join forces for the greater good.”

The project was introduced to the St. Johns County Economic Development Department by JAXUSA Partnership, the county’s regional economic devel-

opment partner. The project is within St. Johns County’s target industries of advanced manufacturing and health/life sciences and will bring career opportunities to county residents. Publix provides stable employment opportunities with competitive pay and benefits, including its Employee Stock Ownership Plan that is provided at no cost to Publix associates.

At the Sept. 5, 2023, Board of County Commissioners regular meeting, the board unanimously approved a motion instructing the county attorney to draft an economic development incentive agreement for the project and place the proposed incentive agreement for consideration by the board at a later regularly scheduled meeting.

Pediatric cardiac cath lab receives accreditation

The Pediatric Catheterization Lab at the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Heart Institute at Wolfson Children’s Hospital recently became the first pediatric cath lab in the Southeast to receive accreditation in cardiovascular catheterization by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC). Only five other pediatric cardiac cath labs nationwide have been granted this accreditation by the IAC.

The IAC is a nonprofit organization that evaluates and accredits facilities that provide diagnostic imaging and interventional-based procedures. The organization’s accreditation programs are dedicated to quality improvement and patient safety in offices, clinics and hospitals where procedures are performed.

The lab must undergo a rigorous clinical peer review process and follow IAC patient care and performance standards to receive accreditation. The process includes a self-evaluation followed by a thorough review by a panel of medical experts.

“Wolfson Children’s Hospital offers care to patients of all ages with congenital heart defects, from premature babies to adults. Increasingly, this care involves procedures performed in the cath lab, which provides a less invasive treatment method,” said Rajesh Shenoy MD, a fetal and pediatric cardiologist and medical director of the Wolfson Children’s Terry Heart Institute. “The accreditation by the IAC reflects the emphasis on quality and safety, a hallmark of the care provided at

Wolfson Children’s Terry Heart Institute, the only full-service program for pediatric cardiac care in Jacksonville.”

Procedures performed in the cath lab include valve and stent placement, correction of heart arrhythmia and closure of holes in vessels or in the chambers of the heart. These minimally invasive procedures have a lower risk of infection, pain or bleeding and have a quicker recovery time than cardiac surgeries of the past.

“The pediatric cardiac cath lab staff have always worked hard to ensure we deliver high-quality patient care. This includes developing and implementing practices and protocols that maximize safety as we continue offering the latest interventional catheterization therapies

to the region’s most fragile patients,” said Robert English MD, pediatric interventional cardiologist and director of the pediatric cath lab. “This is a very high-level seal of approval and is another assurance to our patients and their families that we will continue to provide outstanding care to those requiring a procedure in the cath lab.”

Physicians providing care at Wolfson Children’s Hospital are not employees nor agents of the hospital. Services at Wolfson Children’s Hospital are provided primarily by pediatric physician specialists employed by Nemours Children’s Health, Jacksonville, University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville, Baptist Specialty Physicians Inc. and Emergency Resources Group.

20 graduate from NEFAR Leadership Academy

The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors celebrated its largest class of Leadership Academy graduates during its 2024 Awards and Installation Gala on Jan. 4 at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel.

During the graduation ceremony, 2023 President Diana Galavis presented each of the 20 Leadership Academy candidates with a diploma and a special

pin. NEFAR’s Leadership Academy is a rigorous, yearlong program that is designed to train emerging leaders in how to become more involved in NEFAR activities. Through the program, candidates learn to grow their businesses, expand their leadership skills, develop a sense of camaraderie with their peers and make a difference within the ex-

tended real estate community.

NEFAR’s Leadership Academy class of 2023 consisted of:

- Amy Trahan of Keller Williams Atlantic Partners Southside
- Angela McKee of Watson Realty Corp. Property Management
- Angela Wakefield-Manning of Century 21 Lighthouse Realty
- Brad Lloyd of Hamilton House Real Estate Group
- Brenda Thornton of CW Realty
- DeMarcus Rodriguez of eXp Realty
- Emily Lloyd of Hamilton House Real Estate Group
- Erin Torres of Slate Real Estate
- Heather Baptiste Henzie of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty
- Jan Jenkins of Select Home Realty Group
- Jessica Tisby of Occupy Real Estate Group

- Joanne Beepot of Residential Movement RE Group
- Keith Royal of Residential Movement Real Estate Group
- Laila Iarossi of Florida Homes Realty and Mortgage
- LeTrell Jessie Clark of LaRosa Realty Jacksonville
- Lilla Barrington of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty
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Benchmarks of Success

A look at major career developments in the area



Linda Sherrer

Sherrer receives Real Estate Icon Award

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has announced that Founder and Chairman Linda Sherrer has received the Real Estate Icon Award from the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors

(NEFAR).

The honor is presented to a NEFAR Realtor who has made a significant contribution within the profession, is highly respected in the community, is known for exemplary ethical behavior as well as knowledgeable and compassionate service, and provides generous support to community organizations.

Sherrer has guided her company since its inception in 1988 with a vision that distinguishes it from others by raising the level of professionalism. Today, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty is a premier luxury real estate firm and market leader in Northeast Florida with more than 500 Realtors in nine offices. The company ranks among the top 25 affiliates within the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices global network encompassing 1,600 offices in four continents.

Sherrer has received numerous accolades for her achievements and dedication to the real estate industry and the community. She is included on Florida Trend's Florida 500 list honoring the state's most influential business leaders across major industries. She received the University of North Florida Distinguished Business Leader Award and was named to the First Coast Business Hall of Fame.



David Miller

Miller named seventh Jessie Ball duPont Fund trustee

The trustees of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund voted to confirm Jacksonville-based entrepreneur and philanthropist David Miller as the duPont Fund's seventh trustee. His tenure began on Feb. 6.

Miller is the co-founder of Brightway Insurance, one of

the largest property and casualty insurance retailers in the country. His philanthropic contributions and community building center around four social action pillars: public discourse, poverty, education and social justice.

"We are thrilled to welcome David to this group of passionate, thoughtful trustees, and we are excited for his energy and expertise as we work to achieve greater impact around placemaking and equity in the communities and institutions that Jessie Ball duPont loved," said Anna Escobedo Cabral, chair for the Jessie Ball duPont Fund Trustees and partner at The Cabral Group. "David is a proven champion for equity, a trusted adviser and a longstanding leader in the Jacksonville community; his presence will benefit all of the communities the duPont Fund serves."



Chris Thompson

Thompson earns private wealth adviser status

Chris Thompson, CFP, CRPC, CMFA of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, has become an Ameriprise financial private wealth adviser. Thompson, with an office in Jacksonville, is among the 20% of approximately 10,000 Ameriprise financial

advisers to achieve this status.

Ameriprise private wealth advisers provide personalized client service and are dedicated to meeting the complex and unique financial needs of their clients. To become eligible for this status, advisers must be experienced in providing a comprehensive approach to financial planning and advice, complete specialized training and achieve exceptional business results.

As a private wealth adviser, Thompson provides financial advice that is anchored in a solid understanding of client needs and expectations and provided in one-on-one relationships with his clients.

For more information, contact Thompson at 904-944-6042, go to the Ameriprise office at 4601 Touchton Road East, Suite 3120 or go to ameripriseadvisors.com/chris.thompson.

Graves recognized with national volunteering award

NEFAR member Pamela Graves of Summer House Realty in Fernandina Beach has been named as one of



Pamela Graves

five recipients of the National Association of Realtors 15th annual Volunteering Works award.

The Volunteering Works program, which NAR and its Good Neighbor Society sponsor, matches real estate agents who work on small-scale charitable efforts with mentors who can help them

improve and expand their impact.

Each of the five Volunteering Works recipients will receive a \$1,000 seed grant and a year of one-on-one mentoring from a member of the Good Neighbor Society. This group is made up of past recipients of NAR's annual Good Neighbor Awards, the highest honor the association awards to members involved in community service.

Graves began her charitable work in Uganda when she met Mary Apio — a former child bride turned self-made chef — while on a mission trip. In 2021, Graves and Apio built Sonrisa School of Culinary Arts & Bakery, a cooking school to help other survivors of assault and forced child marriage create a new life.



Parker Hammond

Hammond joins real estate business

Parker Hammond has joined the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty team.

Hammond holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of North Florida, obtained between

the summer of 2018 and December 2022. His major in business management, coupled with a minor in entrepreneurship, reflects his dedication to a comprehensive understanding of the business world.

To contact Hammond, call 772-205-8502 or go to Parker.Hammond@floridanetworkrealty.com or PHammond.floridanetworkrealty.com.

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

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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In the Arts



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024 · PAGE 26

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Photos courtesy of Alhambra Theatre & Dining

Alhambra Theatre & Dining officially began "Oklahoma!" on Feb. 23 and the famed production will be shown until March 31.



Touted as "the liveliest musical of them all," the play was full of various songs and dances throughout.

Shouts of 'Oklahoma!' sure to be heard from Alhambra through March

By Anthony Richards

Experience a taste of the old American west locally, as Alhambra Theatre & Dining officially began "Oklahoma!," its second show of the theater's 2024 season.

The show was the first written by the famous duo Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II, and the Alhambra did an excellent job in their portrayal of the production.

It is just the latest classic and acclaimed production to make its way through Jacksonville and showcased on the Alhambra stage.

Touted as "the liveliest musical of them all," the play was full of energetic dances but also had a great mix of parts where the focus was on the acting and things slowed down and got more serious.

Set in the early 1900s, when Oklahoma was still a territory and had not yet become a state, they did an excellent job of

establishing the storyline early on so that anyone, even those not familiar with the musical could find themselves entrenched in the aspects of the tale.

Although the most well-known song in the play is "Oklahoma," sang by the entire ensemble, there are several other songs throughout that will have you humming and singing at the intermission break and during the car ride home, including "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" and "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top."

Many of the members that make up the cast have performed at Alhambra before, including seven having roles in "Fiddler on the Roof" last year.

Two of the main characters are Curly and Laurey, who are a couple in love and them discovering that love is at the root of the plot.

Curly is played by Alex Blanco, who is a graduate of The Boston Conservatory, while the role of Laurey is played by Isabella Fedele, who is a senior in the musical theatre program at the University of Central Florida as she strives for her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

The combination of talent on stage during the show is amazing, especially with the number of performers who can both sing and act on equal levels, which is so valuable to pulling off a successful musical.

Another one of these is Patti Eyler, who plays Aunt Eller and through the role was able to bring the right mix of wit and sass with her acting portrayal and vocal strength with her singing to the role.

Many in the official opening night crowd stood up and gave the performers a standing ovation at the end of the show with a loud applause that continued for a while after as the packed house acknowledged their appreciation for the performance in a big way.

"Oklahoma!" will be shown at the Alhambra through March 31. Tickets for the show can be purchased by going to alhambrajax.com.

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Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
JUNE 20 - AUGUST 11

Gypsy
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The Wedding Singer
OCT. 3 - NOV. 10

A Christmas Story
NOV. 21 - DEC. 24

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Students present 'Finding Nemo Jr.'



Students on the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus took audiences on a deep-sea adventure during three splendid performances of Disney/Pixar's "Finding Nemo JR." – a colorful, underwater musical based on the 2003 film. Directed by Bolles lower school music and drama teacher Stacey Posick, the cast members wore beautiful, creative costumes that accented colorful set pieces and brought the ocean to life on the George Hall stage Feb. 14-15.

Photos by Sean Coleman Photography



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Kenari Saxophone Quartet

SUNDAY 3/10 • 4:00 PM

Hillary Hogue, *painting*
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Applauded for their "flat-out amazing" performances and "stunning virtuosity" (Cleveland Classical), the highly acclaimed Kenari Quartet delivers inspiring performances that transform the perception of the saxophone. The quartet aims to highlight the instrument's remarkable versatility by presenting meticulously crafted repertoire from all periods of classical and contemporary music.



Llewellyn Sánchez-Werner

FRIDAY 3/22 • 7:30 PM

Mary Atwood, *photography*
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Barb Wenger

26-year-old multi-award winning pianist Llewellyn Sánchez-Werner believes that "music can make the world a better place", and his performances across the world certainly honor this belief. "A gifted virtuoso...brought out transparency and emotional intensity with tender aplomb. Finger-busting writing seemed not to daunt him in the slightest." (San Francisco Chronicle)

2023-2024 FULL SEASON SCHEDULE	Trio Virado 10/13	VIDA Guitar Quartet 2/2
	Aaron Diehl Trio 10/20	Kenari Saxophone Quartet 3/10
	Viano String Quartet 11/5	Llewellyn Sánchez-Werner 3/22
	The Queen's Six 12/15	*Vincent DuBois 4/14
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19/20 Let's Misbehave: Tony DeSare Sings Cole Porter	
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*All concerts except 4/14 are held at our home venue: St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church 465 11th Ave. N Jacksonville Beach

Beaches Fine Arts Series is a 501-c3 nonprofit organization. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

PASStA Fine Art Gallery welcomes Depy Adams

Contributed photos

The Professional Artists of St. Augustine (PASStA) Fine Art Gallery, 214 Charlotte St., St. Augustine, has announced that Depy Adams, an artist of national acclaim, has joined the longest-running artist cooperative and gallery. She brings with her abundant experience in oil, watercolor, gouache, pastel and egg tempera in realistic still life, landscape and figurative art.

Adams hails from North Carolina where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Education degree from University of North Carolina — Greensboro. She continued her studies with various masters while maintaining a 30-year career in art education in North Carolina.

She has traveled extensively and lived in a wide variety of environments, from the canals of Amsterdam to the red mesas of Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has signature status from the New Mexico Watercolor Society and also has signature status as a member of the Pastel Society of New Mexico. She holds many awards in competitions, and has had solo and group shows in North Carolina, Arizona, Utah, Mexico, New Mexico and Florida.

She is currently a juried artist member of the Island Art Association in Fernandina Beach and is also a juried artist member of the Plantation Artists Guild and Gallery on the Omni resort on Amelia Island. She presently calls Fernandina Beach her home.

Learn more about Adams at depyadams.com or on the PASStA Fine Art Gallery website, pastagalleryart.com.

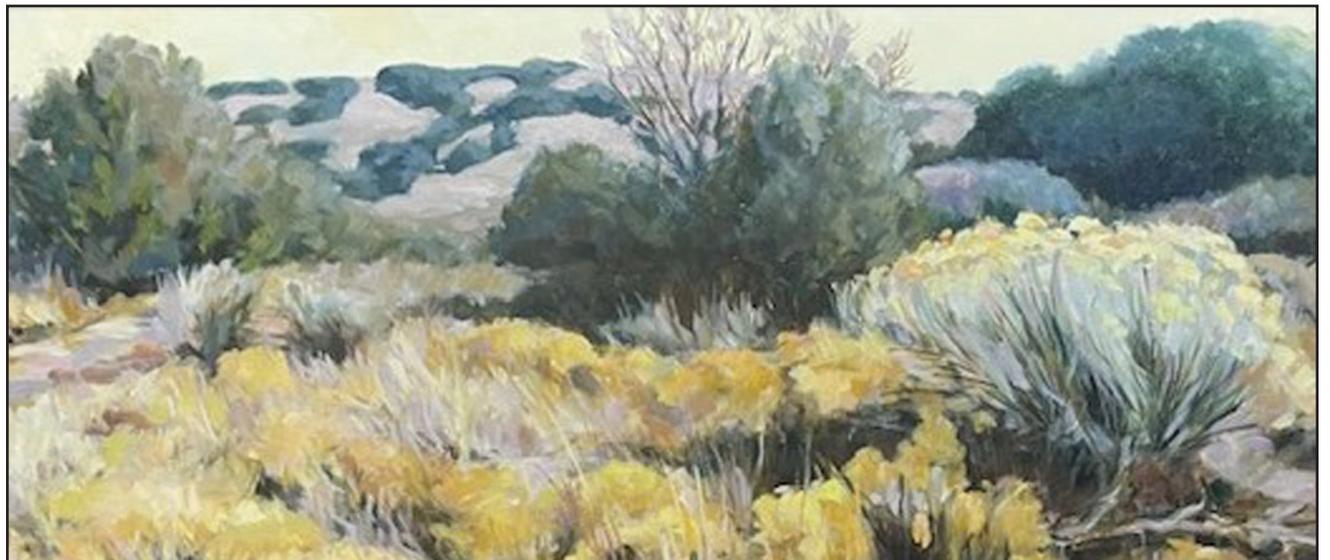
PASStA was founded in 1982 by Jean Wagner Troemel, a champion of the arts and founder of the Winter Haven Ridge Art Association who served on the Florida Arts Group Board and spearheaded St. Augustine's First Friday Art Walks.

The gallery has served an international clientele a wealth of local talent and award-winning artists. The gallery's mission is to showcase local and regional art and to educate and encourage area artists.

In 2023, PASStA won The Best of Florida Regional Art Gallery and was a finalist in the Best of St. Augustine Choice Awards.



"High Clouds," oil 14-by-17 inches



"Touch of Autumn," oil 21-by-36 inches

Destiny Guerra to present free concert in Jacksonville Beach

Vocalist and multi-instrumentalist songwriter Destiny Guerra will present "Modern Woman: An Evening with Destiny" on Saturday, March 2, in her signature style, where jazz and folk-rock meet with indie-pop. Guerra will be at Palms Presbyterian Church, 3410 3rd St. South, Jacksonville Beach, in her pink school bus, which she's spent the past year converting into a mobile recording studio and tiny home on wheels. This concert will celebrate her first original EP release. She will be joined by several musician friends.

The concert, part of the Palms Presbyterian Church Fine Arts Series, begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 904-246-6427.



Destiny Guerra

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Sports



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For LIVE Sports and updates, follow our Twitter, @PVR_sports

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Sharks send trio of teams to final four

By Anthony Richards

It has been a memorable season for the Ponte Vedra High School's winter sports programs, with girls soccer, boys basketball and girls basketball all advancing to the final four of their respective state tournaments.

For most schools, one run to the final four would be an amazing achievement and one that will go down in that school's history forever.

Which is what makes what the Sharks have accomplished even more astounding, with not one, not two, but three teams positioning themselves just two wins away from a state title.

For girls soccer, their final four appearance is something that has been appearing more and more realistic with each game that passes, as they enter the state semifinals having lost just one game all year with a record of 20-1-1.

Their prowess throughout the season has been obvious, as they have not just advanced, but they have dominated their opponents in the three playoff rounds they have had, having yet to surrender a goal and outscoring opponents 14-0, including a commanding 7-0 victory over rival Nease in the regional final.

All their success has earned them the No. 1 seed following the re-seeding process that takes place prior to the final four.

The Sharks will take on St. Thomas Aquinas on Feb. 28, who have also looked the part and defeated No. 1 seeded Lourdes Academy 3-1 to win their regional final matchup.

If the Sharks win, they will play either Viera or East Lake in the Class 6A state championship at 10 a.m. on March 2 at Spec Martin Stadium in DeLand.



The Sharks' girls basketball team celebrates their win over Niceville in the regional final, which clinched their spot in the Class 6A final four.

The Girls basketball squad proved that they are mentally tough enough to win a state championship after going on the road and defeating top-seeded Niceville 58-47 in the regional final.

Prior to that contest, Niceville had scored more than 60 points in both its postseason games, but the Sharks (22-8) defense came to play and held them way beneath their average, with only 47 points on the night.

They proved that defense travels and that will come in handy when they face off against Bloomingdale at 5 p.m. on March 7 in the state semifinals.

Because they are the second semifinal game to be played in Class 6A, they will know who they will be playing for the title on March 9 at 12:30 p.m., and



Contributed photos

Ponte Vedra High's girls soccer team not only advanced to the final four, but enters as the favorite to win a state title.

whether it's St. Thomas Aquinas or Wekiva.

The Sharks boys basketball team (23-7) have not spoiled the momentum they had built up with their strong finish to the season, by proving that they deserved a trip to the final four with no doubt, as they defeated Wiregrass Ranch thanks to an explosion of offense en route to a 69-52 win.

They have won all three of their postseason games by double digit margins and have proven they can hang with some of the best the state has to offer.

The Sharks will matchup against Pembroke Pines Charter at 7 p.m. on March 7 and if they were to advance, would play the winner of Edgewater and Charlotte for a state title on March 9 at 3 p.m.

JAGA hands out awards during eighth annual Celebration of Golf



JWGA president Vickie Galpin and JWGA top award winner Tama Caldabaugh of The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach.



Deane Beman Award Winner Tom Dudley of Timuquana Country Club.

Photos courtesy of Jacksonville Amateur Golf Association

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Announcements

Roger Wilson, OD, currently at 110 Solana Rd. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL will cease operations as of March 2, 2024. Operations will continue and patient records will remain available at our San Marco location, 1515-A Atlantic Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32207, Ph 904-396-2020.

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1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				15			
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62						63					64			

- ACROSS**
- Home of Iowa State University
 - An inspired holy person
 - Electronic counter-countermeasures
 - A place to store things
 - ___-fi (slang)
 - Mottled green and yellow fruit
 - Capable of thinking and expressing oneself clearly
 - Sports broadcaster Eagle
 - Midday
 - Kinsmen
 - Cable network
 - Simpleton
 - Brunch beverage
 - Fed
 - European capital
 - Native inhabitants
 - Mechanical device
 - Rare geese native to Hawaii
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 - Mass transit option
 - Made a mistake
 - Sacred sound symbol
 - Large N. American reindeer
 - Dull and flat
 - Partner to huffing
 - Written works
 - Monetary unit of Serbia
 - Midway between east and southeast
 - Peninsula of southwestern Asia
 - Widely used multiuser OS
 - Aggressive dog
 - Varnished
 - Hindu queen
 - Time units, abbr.
 - Farm animals
 - Capital of Latvia
 - Where golfers begin
 - Takes to civil court
 - One who graduated
 - Moroccan coastal region
 - Baseball statistic
 - Long period of time
 - Moved earth
 - Central Netherlands city
 - Take stock of
 - Central processing unit
 - Distinctive qualities one generates
 - Getting stuck
 - Loss of bodily movements
 - Veranda
 - Abrupt
 - What cats do
 - Expresses pleasure
 - Type of cheese
 - Professional STEM organization
 - Automatic data processing systems

SUDOKU

2		9						
	8				6		7	1
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		7		1	4			

Level: Intermediate

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!

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