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Circle of Creation
Page 9

Thursday, May 16, 2024

PonteVedraRecorder.com

VOLUME 55, NO. 29 \$1.00

Volunteers to wrap 10K diapers

By Shaun Ryan

The latest event at the link in Nocatee is bound to turn a few heads. Starting at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 21, more than 40 volunteers from PenFed Credit Union and the Diaper Bank for Northeast Florida will gather to bundle and wrap 10,000 diapers to prepare them for distribution to families in need living in Northeast Florida.

It's one of the many service projects that credit union volunteers perform each year.

"PenFed is proud to give back to the

DIAPERS continues on **Page 16**

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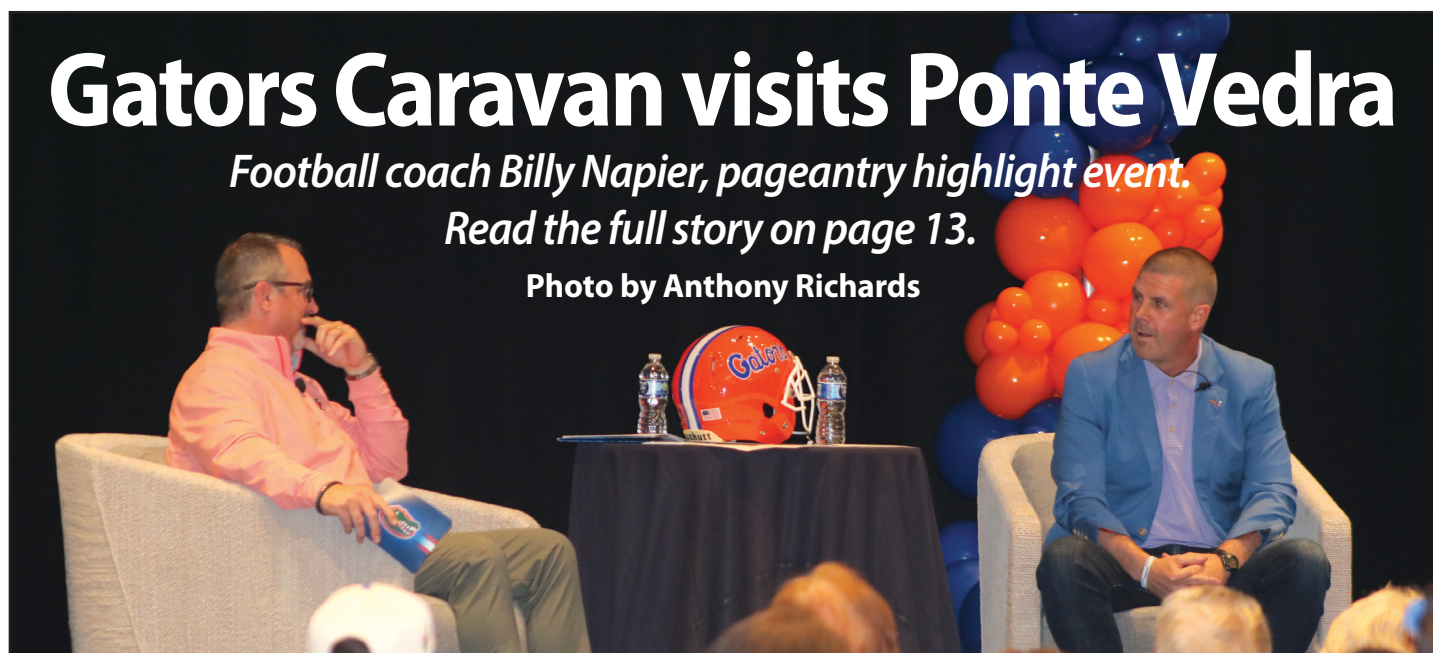
Paid by Jim Priester, Republican, for St. Johns County Sheriff.



Gators Caravan visits Ponte Vedra

Football coach Billy Napier, pageantry highlight event.
Read the full story on page 13.

Photo by Anthony Richards



Florida football head coach Billy Napier (right) speaks on stage during the Gators Caravan stop at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach on May 13.

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Subscription Rates, Bulk Mail:
One year, \$40; six months, \$20. Rates
not applicable in Canada or overseas.
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Visit our new website at
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Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

BRIEFS

Blood donations sought for new moms

LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is celebrating those who give the gift of life — including blood donors who play a vital role in maternal health. According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, approximately 11% of maternal deaths in the United States can be attributed to postpartum hemorrhage. Between 54% and 93% of these deaths may be preventable with proper identification and treatment, including blood transfusions.

LifeSouth is aiming to raise awareness toward maternal blood loss in an effort to ensure blood is available to support a safe delivery experience. Below are three ways blood donors can honor those who give the gift of life:

- Donate blood. From now until May 31, all donors who give at a LifeSouth donor center or blood drive will receive a \$20 e-gift card. All donors who visit a donor center will be given a postcard to send to a loved one in honor of their donation.
- Host a blood drive. LifeSouth regularly partners with organizations and businesses to hold blood drives.
- Consider cord blood donation. Mothers who deliver a healthy, single baby at a participating LifeSouth Cord Blood hospital may be eligible to donate cord blood to the LifeSouth Cord Blood Bank.

A donor center at 7840 Baymeadows Way is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Another center at 292 S.R. 312, St. Augustine, is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Information on mobile blood drives can be found at lifesouth.org.

For more information, call LifeSouth at 888-795-2707, go to lifesouth.org or download the LifeSouth app. Appointments can also be made online.

Pedestrian bridge over A1A to close for repairs

The pedestrian bridge over State Road A1A from North Beach Park (3721 Coastal Highway, St. Augustine) to Vilano Beach will close for repairs from May 20 to 23.

Gateway Contracting, St. Johns County’s chosen contractor for this project, will proceed with these repairs in order for the pedestrian bridge to meet its safety requirements to remain open.

Repticon Jacksonville here this weekend

Repticon is coming to Jacksonville with a mixture of vendors and breeders. This family-oriented event offers guests the opportunity to learn about reptiles and exotic animals not

BRIEFS continues on Page 5

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Send us your nominations for Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra

The Recorder has launched its sixth annual Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra contest, covering ZIP codes 32082 and 32081.

Starting Friday, May 17, readers have the chance to nominate their favorite businesses, professional services, organizations and more in multiple categories online. From best new business to best charity event, best real estate agent to best personal trainer and best seafood to best boutique, the categories run the gamut and are sure to include your favorite things.

Nominations can be made through June 10 on the website at pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2024.

Anyone can nominate a business or person, and there is no limit to the number of nominations each person can submit.

Online voting will begin once nominations are complete and will run June 11 to July 26. The nominees who receive the most votes will be named 2024 Best



of the Best of Ponte Vedra. Nominations and voting are completely free and open to the public.

The Best Of platform on The Recorder's website will feature lists of nominees in an easy-to-use format. Nominees can participate in advertising packages that promote their entry by expanding their listing to feature additional details on the business.

Winners will receive a free certificate

and a Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra window cling. Each winner will also be listed in our Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra special section and on the winner's website.

Winners will be notified by Ponte Vedra Recorder staff at the end of July.

For more information or to find out how to get your nominated business or product involved in promotions that will be going on throughout the contest cycle, contact publisher Susan Griffin, email susan@pontevedrarecorder.com or call 904-686-3938.



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

KATHY’S GARDENING GUIDE

Landscape Styles: Tropical, Coastal, Mediterranean

“A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.” — Gertrude Jekyll



By Kathy Esfahani

Warm temperatures are officially here! Flowers are in bloom, and landscape work is in full swing. Are you considering a full landscape redesign or just a refresh for your yard?

Here in Northeast Florida, many homes feature landscaping in the tropical, coastal and Mediterranean styles.

A tropical landscape design is reminiscent of an island paradise — full of lush plants and lots of color! Most plants in a tropical landscape love the

heat. For this reason, our Northeast Florida home is one of the most northern climates in which the tropical landscape style can be successful.

Tropical landscapes display plants and flowers overlapping and free-flowing. They include abundant varieties of green plants featuring various sizes and types of leaves as well as pops of vibrant color. Many designers add a water feature in a tropical landscape to further enhance the serene, oasis-like environment.

When creating a tropical landscape, look for queen palms, roebellini palms and Sylvester palms. Consider surrounding the trunks with coquina shell or lava rocks. Add both variety and color with agapanthus, allamanda, apostle iris, arboricola, bamboo, birds of paradise, caladiums, crotons, flax lily, foxtail fern, Hawaiian ti, hibiscus, and variegated ginger.

Landscaping in the coastal style creates a relaxed, beachy atmosphere. Coastal landscaping takes an organic approach to landscaping with plants “blowing in

Photo provided by Kathy’s Creative Gardens & Nursery



Agapanthus

the breeze.” Clusters of grasses such as fountain grass or muhly grass give a whimsical look and add movement in the landscape.

A coastal design often includes plants and flowers in whites, greens, blues and splashes of pink. This landscape may also feature climbing vines such

as confederate jasmine on a trellis or pergola. In place of mulch, use coquina shell and plant blue agave — complement the combination with blue daze and foxtail fern. To develop a coastal landscape, use a mixture of the following: bismarck palms, blue agave, blue daze, confederate jasmine, dune sunflower, dwarf fakahatchee, fountain grass, foxtail fern, gaillardia, gaura, muhly grass, queen palms, ribbon palms, Sylvester palms.

Mediterranean-style landscaping involves a lavish mix of palm trees and clean-cut plants. The style displays a sculpted, maintained look and frequently features roses. A Mediterranean landscape design often incorporates “gardens within gardens.”

Pathways within the landscaping can lead to arbors, secluded areas of the garden or water features. The Mediterranean style also includes climbing plants such as creeping fig on

LANDSCAPE continues on Page 5

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Briefs

Continued from 2

normally seen in local pet stores.

Guests can also shop for a new family pet among the hundreds of animals available. Repticon Jacksonville is also the perfect place to get merchandise, cages, supplies and both live and frozen feeders, as well as expert advice.

This event will be held at the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair & Expo Center, 510 Fairgrounds Place.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 18, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 19.

Tickets are sold online only. Prices are: \$15 Super Ticket (entry for both days), \$12 Saturday (all day), \$10 Saturday

after 1 p.m., \$12 Sunday (all day), \$6 for children ages 5-12. Children 4 and younger are admitted free.

To purchase tickets or for more information go to repticon.com/florida/jacksonville.

C.R. 208 to be closed May 31 to June 11

St. Johns County will close County Road 208 from 5 p.m. Friday, May 31, to 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 11, to install new water and reclaimed transmission lines. Construction will require a complete closure of C.R. 208 at the location of the pipelines, about 50 feet east of the intersection with Toms Road. Detours will be established with necessary signage to provide advanced warning and directions for roadway users.

This pipeline crossing is part of two

projects, the C.R. 208 water booster ground storage tank and booster pump station, which provides additional water flow to the south and will provide service and fire flow protection to the east of I-95 and the State Road 207 water reclamation facility, and pipeline project, which will provide reclaimed water to all service areas including the State Road 16 and Northwest regions.

Petticoat Schmitt is the contractor, and the full improvement project is anticipated for completion in the fall.

Explore the beach at GTM Research Reserve

Join volunteers at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM) for a beach exploration 9-11 a.m. Saturday, May 18. Collect

seashells, search for shark teeth and learn about coastal wildlife. Meet at GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Wear comfortable closed-toe shoes. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are recommended. The event is free but online registration is required. To register, go to gtmnerr.org/visit/events.

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.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Landscape

Continued from 4

a trellis or on the side of the house. Use canary date palms, medjool date palms, and Sylvester palms as well as Asiatic

jasmine, boxwood, creeping fig, crotons, podacarpus and roses to accentuate your Mediterranean look!

With all landscape designs, be sure to identify the sun-versus-shade ratios in your yard. Note the amount of sunlight needed for your selected plants and trees

in order to place them in appropriate areas of the landscape. Finally, add annuals to any landscape for seasonal color within your design.

Happy Planting!

Flower of the Week: Agapanthus

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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PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION - PLANTATION - MIAMI - JACKSONVILLE

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Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice Specialists

Dr. Melissa Johnson has decades of experience as a veterinarian in the local community, but the Ponte Vedra Beach resident is about to embark on a new adventure as she is preparing to open Sunrise Vet at Sawgrass thanks to a partnership with Sawgrass Pet Resort. The new location is set to open on May 20, and it will serve as the home base while she will still provide her mobile vet service as an option for clients as well.

Dr. Melissa Johnson

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I've spent 20 years in the vet world after graduating from the University of Georgia in 2010, and I've been practicing in this area ever since.

It is an area that I love and have called home for some time having been born in Jacksonville and then my family moved down to the beach when I was in high school, and now we live in Ponte Vedra Beach, so this area is definitely my home.

My wedding announcement was even in the Recorder.

Prior to starting my mobile vet I was a partner at a clinic in Jacksonville Beach.

What led you to wanting to start Sunrise Mobile Vet?

It was just time for a change and I was looking to go out on my own and start my own business.

Right now I have a 22-foot sprinter van and I've been doing mobile service for three years now.

I like it because it offers a change of pace and I can do things around my own schedule, which has been nice especially with three kids and making time for their busy schedules.

We've really grown over the past three years and there are just certain procedures that you can't do in the van, such as some major surgeries.

It just made sense to set up a home base to go along with the mobile vet, which is still so important and a real need in our area because some dogs or their owners can be elderly and the mobile vet allows for us to come to them.

Now when clients call they will have the option for Sunrise Vet at Sawgrass or for our mobile vet.

How did the partnership with Sawgrass Pet Resort come about?

Kate called and I didn't know her before our conversations except that we had some mutual friends in the vet world.

But once we started talking over the phone and in person we realized we have very similar mindsets and approach our businesses and our animals the same.

When you share a mindset like that there is a working trust that is developed.

You have to love animals to work in this world and if you don't it will show. Kate and I both share that passion and want to spread it to our local community.

When do you plan on opening the Sunrise Vet at Sawgrass?

On Monday, we should have everything in place and should have everything ready to open.

It's been fun to watch everything come together, and we got our new blood work machines last Friday, so it's really coming along.

We will be keeping the mobile service open as well, and we're looking for staff to help be a part of this new adventure.

What are the most rewarding parts about your job?

It's not just about your related skill, and you realize you're not just taking care of your furry patients, but you've also always got to consider the owners of those



Contributed photo

Dr. Melissa Johnson is a native of the area and is expanding her Sunrise Mobile Vet practice with a new permanent location next to Sawgrass Pet Resort in the Sawgrass Village shopping center on May 20.

animals and how they are doing as well.

It can be a balance at times handling the stress that everyone is faced with but you know that you can play a part in making sure everything goes smoothly and effectively for all those involved.

Did you always know you wanted to be a veterinarian?

Yes, ever since I was a little girl growing up.

My aunt and uncle were both vets outside of Atlanta and when I was 8 years old I remember hanging out with my aunt while she did surgery, and I was just fascinated by it all.

I loved it then and I still love it now years later. I enjoy

going to work and making a difference every day.

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

This is just a great place to live, and my husband and I knew we wanted to raise our family here. There was no doubt in our hearts.

We love just hanging out at the beach and actually spent pretty much the whole day there over the weekend for Mother's Day.

I mean we live in a place where people come to vacation, but we live here all year long so you just can't beat it.

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Mickler’s Landing closed May 18-22 for beach restoration

St. Johns County will close Mickler’s Landing parking and beach access from Saturday, May 18, through Wednesday, May 22, so the county’s chosen contractor, Weeks Marine, can accelerate its work on the Ponte Vedra Beach Restoration Project. The project was originally anticipated to be completed by mid-August. Under the accelerated timeline, the project is now anticipated to be completed by the end of June.

The public can keep up to date on the project and beach parking closures at www.sjcfl.us/PVB and by using the county’s mobile app SJC Connect, available at www.sjcfl.us/SJC-Connect.

Weeks Marine is currently working with two dredges for a limited time, which has greatly expedited the overall project schedule. To maximize the temporary presence of both dredges, Weeks Marine will be working in front of Mickler’s in mid-May, which will bring the total closure time to complete work in the area from eight days down to five days while also completing the project two months ahead of schedule. The May closure dates are subject to change as the project progresses.

The Ponte Vedra Beach Restoration 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.

In coordination with this valuable coastal restoration project, St. Johns County continues to sustain important



Contributed photo

The Ponte Vedra Beach Restoration Project is well underway.

environmental and physical monitoring of the coastline. Sea turtle nesting season began May 1 and runs through Oct. 31.

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. St. Johns County recorded these historic conservation successes amid multiple full-scale beach nourishment projects, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Augustine Shore

Protection Project, the South Ponte Vedra and Vilano Army Corps Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, the South Ponte Vedra Dune Project and the FEMA Dune Enhancement Project that has been renourishing St. Johns County beaches in the wake of erosion from hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

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





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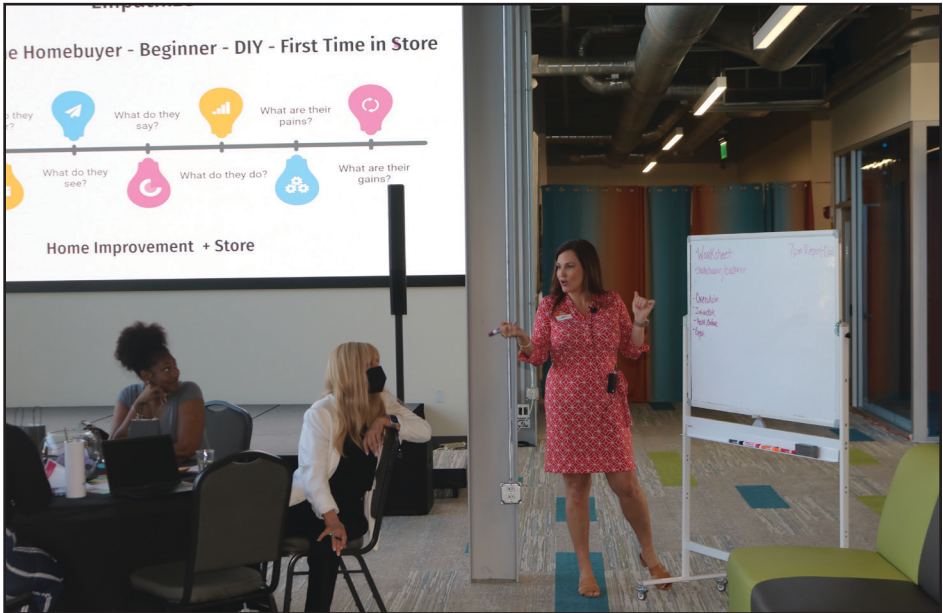
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St. Johns County Administrator Joy Andrews talks with an attendee prior to the event. Andrews was a guest speaker on the night.



Attendees participate in the group scenario session of the event.

Photos by Anthony Richards

Innovative strategies took center stage at Circle of Creation event

By Anthony Richards

The link in Nocatee hosted the second event of its Circle of Creation The Expansion Project initiative on May 8.



Gurpreet Misra of the link and Joy Andrews. The event was presented and hosted by the link.

The initiative is designed to create a networking and educational opportunity for women entrepreneurs or those looking to improve their business standing within the community.

The theme for the gathering on May 14 was “Innovative Strategies: The Power of Design Thinking,” and the night included St. Johns County Administrator Joy Andrews and Emily Connor, a design thinking lead with Unlockedt, as the guest speakers.

Andrews shared what it was like to be the county administrator and also a female and talked about how women have done a great job of “disrupting” the norms that were accepted for some time and the opportunities to do whatever one wants is now endless.

However, there is also a balance that is needed in order to accomplish and enjoy one’s dreams and Andrews stressed that as well.

“We all have so much going on and we all want to do the very best that we can, and that will always be the case,”

Andrews said. “We want to be the best in everything that we do, but sometimes that’s just not possible, which means understanding your limit is so important. Having empathy for yourself and for those you work with can be such a foundation for all that we achieve.”

A major aspect of finding this balance in the workplace can come down to problem solving, because the one thing about owning a business is that there are always going to be problems that come up that need to be handled in an efficient

and effective manner.

Andrews addressed her daily problem with her role as county administrator which usually pertains to finding ways to maintain the quality-of-life people in the county have come to expect while also balancing the influx of people moving into the county.

“The constant question you have to ask is how do you take action that is a risk, but a calculated risk?” Andrews

EVENT continues on Page 10

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The event also served as a networking event for local business women.



A variety of food and drink was served during the event.

Photos by Anthony Richards

Event

Continued from 9

said.

However, there are many ways to go about solving a problem, but Connor spoke about using a method known as design thinking, which is an approach that differs from the traditional way of business thinking but can be a pivotal tool in all variations of problem solving.

What makes design thinking different is that it requires stepping back from the problem and gathering more information before coming up with solutions.

“It’s known as adaptive thinking,

which is basically admitting that you don’t know everything about the problem by taking a step back and really open up your own understanding of the problem at hand before moving forward,” Connor said.

Although this approach may seem less direct and a little more time-consuming, taking the extra steps prior to the problem-solving process can make the final solution more effective and longer lasting.

One of the main goals is also to find human-centered solutions and help define a service or product’s desirability, feasibility and sustainability within a certain marketplace.

“You may even discover new or more problems than you expected,” Connor said. “At the end of the day, it’s all about creating a lot of options and then choosing one of those options. It is a very fluid process.”

The night also included attendees being put into groups and faced with a made-up scenario where they had to come up with ideas for how to enhance the retail experience for female customers at a home improvement store.

Some of the ideas thrown around included improving technology, customer service, and adapting store layout and flow.

THE PLAYERS accepting applications for grant program

In honor of National Golf Day, THE PLAYERS Championship is now accepting applications for its annual Red Coats’ community grant program, which provides funding to eligible nonprofits in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties.

The program awards local nonprofits with grants up to \$15,000 to support initiatives and projects that benefit the Northeast Florida community. Grants are awarded to organizations supporting youth services, education, character development, health, wellness, sports and military support.

Rusty Pritchett, captain of the Red Coats, expressed excitement about supporting the work of grantees across Northeast Florida, stating, “What better day to launch our grant program than National Golf Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the positive impact of golf on our community. It is our honor to be able to fund so many deserving organizations in Northeast Florida.”

The Red Coats are a group of local civic and corporate leaders who oversee the tournament’s volunteer efforts and serve as ambassadors of positive change in the community.

The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. June 14. For complete guidelines and to apply, go to theplayers.com/community/grants.

More information about THE PLAYERS community initiatives can be found at THEPLAYERS.com/community.

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Beaches Museum names Beach Legends honorees

Recognizing that tomorrow's history is being made today, the Beaches Museum has announced the extraordinary individuals selected to be recognized at its Beach Legends Gala, to be held Sept. 13 at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse.

"An annual gala has been part of our organization since its inception, but this year marks the 11th year of honoring Beach Legends," said Gala Chair Heather McConville. "Honoring these history-

makers is right in line with our mission, and we are proud of its success!"

The 2024 honorees are:

The Adeeb Family

For generations, the name Adeeb has been synonymous with great food and hospitality. The Adeeb family has left its imprint on the region's restaurant business, and now they've brought this family tradition to states as far away as Colorado.

Growing from a single Green Turtle restaurant started by Joe Adeeb in 1947, and later opening the iconic Joe Adeeb's Sea Turtle restaurant in Atlantic Beach, the family today operates 20 Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q restaurant franchises, 17 Willie Jewell's Old School Bar-B-Q restaurants, four locations of Beach Diners and a Strings Brewery (with another on the way). Plus, new concept restaurants in North Carolina, Colorado and Georgia.

Generations of diners have enjoyed what one man started and his family built upon with hard work, commitment to quality and deep ties to the local community.

Mitch Kaufmann

By turns a historian, documentarian and leader of the Beaches surfing scene, Mitch Kaufmann has turned his passion into a mission. With his camera, he's documented surfing heroes, and with his passion, he's promoted, taught and shared the sport of surfing.

Kaufmann has contributed to the local and national surf and skate culture as a surf contest director, filmmaker and promoter of life in the water. From his Radical Side TV series to running the Eastern Surfing Association and even curating an exhibit on female surfers at the Beaches Museum, he has lived the life of a Beach

Legend.

Lori Moffett

Some issues affecting the Beaches community seem so overwhelming that people can only shake their heads. Then there are people like Lori Moffett, who not only recognize the need but work tirelessly to correct it.

As the founder of the nonprofit Save Ponte Vedra Beach, Moffett has lobbied state and local officials, addressed community groups and written countless letters, all in an effort to save Ponte Vedra Beach from the devastating effects of tropical hurricanes. Under her leadership, the Save Ponte Vedra Beach organization helped secure the necessary funding for dune rebuilding and beach renourishment to preserve the future of the Ponte Vedra Beach coastline.

"We are thrilled with the support of the community for this event and these honorees and expect our 11th year to be the best year yet," said McConville.

For additional information on the Beach Legends Gala go to beachesmuseum.org. For information on sponsorship and auction donations, contact Chris Hoffman at director@beachesmuseum.org or by calling 904-241-5657 ext. 113.

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Photos by Anthony Richards



Members of the Gator Club of Historic St. Augustine get a photo with Alberta.



Gator cheerleaders welcome attendees to the event.



The event was held at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa.

Gator fans, alumni converge for event in Ponte Vedra

By Anthony Richards

Florida Gators fans from across the First Coast converged at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, which was the most recent stop on the Gators Caravan tour, which featured the university’s head football coach Billy Napier being the guest speaker on the night.

It was a great opportunity for fans to ask questions and engage with Napier about the program and how next season is looking.

Jacksonville was the fifth of six stops

scheduled during the caravan, which Napier met with the media prior to the event and expressed how important the initiative is for the program and its fans.

“It’s motivating and there’s a little bit of accountability to it,” Napier said. “We’re hopeful that we’ll have a lot to celebrate in the future and right now we’re in the process of trying to put Florida in the position to be a contender consistently, and there’s still a lot of work to do and right now we’re in the middle of that.”

According to Napier he believes the work that continues to be put forth is really

starting to reflect itself in the makeup of the roster and the vibes within the program heading into his third year as head coach.

“We were down in Ponte Vedra today for lunch and there was a guy out there in the ocean and the waves just kept smashing him and knocking him down,” Napier said. “I kind of felt like that guy for two years, but I think we’ve built really good processes and systems when it comes to the (transfer) portal and NIL (name, image and likeness) in particular with Florida Victorious. So, you kind of finally feel like you’re standing in the boat now and have a

different perspective.”

The steady nature of the program starts and ends with the roster and the evaluation that has been done to help devise it.

“Our roster is in a lot more stable place, and we’ve got relationships with the parents and the circles of influence,” Napier said. “I think that just leads to more trust and chemistry.”

There was plenty of Gators’ pageantry on the night and it allowed for an opportunity for fans to talk football and get the excitement of the upcoming season building with the summer months underway.

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Friends of Ponte Vedra Concert Hall present first-ever music scholarship

On April 26, the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and Friends of Ponte Vedra Concert Hall hosted a “Load Out” in celebration of the Concert Hall’s upcoming renovation with St. Johns County leadership and government officials in attendance, including St. Johns Board of County Commissioners Chair Sarah Arnold,

Vice Chair Roy Alaimo, Commissioner Henry Dean (via video), Commissioner Krista Joseph, Commissioner Christian Whitehurst, County Administrator Joy Andrews, County Clerk of Courts Brandon Patty, and Mayor of the City of St. Augustine Beach as well as Board Chairman of SJC Cultural Events Inc. Dylan

Rumrell.

During the “Load Out” the Friends of Ponte Vedra Concert Hall punctuated this special event with the announcement that they are establishing the first-ever music scholarship at the North Florida School of Special Education.

The Friends donated in the amount of \$4,000 to the school in honor of Tib Miller, founder of Flying Saucer Presents. Miller was one of North Florida’s most beloved and respected concert promoters and friend to the music industry. Honoring a very special connection to the school, Miller’s son, Gram, has attended the school since age 6, and continues to thrive there today as a 20-year-old, multi-talented drummer and guitarist.

The music scholarship created by the Friends goes to a cause very near and dear to their mission of cultivating and inspiring the arts in the community. Music is often lauded as an incredibly beneficial therapeutic approach to address the social, physical, cognitive and emotional needs of people with intellectual and developmental differences. This donation will help to further the safe haven provided by music classes at the school, promoting the positive expression of feelings, sensory development and release, the benefits of movement, a closer connection with peers and teachers, and

the learning of musical instruments.

Jerry Wilson, board president of the Friends of Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, and board member of SJC Cultural Events Inc. stated, “As the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall celebrates our history with an eye toward the new era, we are honored to remember our dear friend, Tib Miller. Tib’s company, Flying Saucer Presents, has been instrumental in putting our Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on the map with top quality talent and authentic performances. Sharing this moment with his daughter, Pepper, makes this even more special. Given the family’s long-term relationship this special school is a natural place to support.

On behalf of the Friends of Ponte Vedra Concert Hall board of directors, I am proud that we are able to support the power of live music with this scholarship for students of North Florida School of Special Education.”

“I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Friends of Ponte Vedra Concert Hall for providing our students with the transformative gift of music,” said Sally Hazelp, head of school, North Florida School of Special Education. “Their gift of our first-ever music scholarship will open doors to new realms of creativity and expression, enriching the lives of our students in ways beyond measure. Thank you for your support in helping us nurture the talents and dreams of our students in memory of NFSSE Parent, Tib Miller.”

Pepper Miller, daughter of Tib Miller and sister of Gram Miller explained, “Tib shared his love for music with my brother Gram, and it has become an integral part of who Gram is. He cherishes his time during music lessons, and it has helped him connect with people and develop into a confident and engaged adult. I hope that music will have the same positive impact with the students who receive this scholarship.”

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2.02ct	Round	GIA	2-Very Good	I	VS ₂	\$ 25,500	\$ 18,300
2.11ct	Oval	GIA	–	I	SI ₂	\$ 18,500	\$ 14,900
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Diapers

Continued from 1

communities we serve,” said Spencer Kenyon, senior manager of corporate communications. “PenFed donated over \$423,000 to 10 charitable organizations during the first quarter of 2024 and will continue to support the communities where its employees live and work throughout the year.”

Diaper Bank for Northeast Florida was founded in 2019 by Crystal Parks, a Jacksonville mother of two, in response to a lack of public assistance for struggling families to purchase diapers. According to the National Diaper Bank Network, 47% of families struggle to afford diapers. That’s up from one in three families short of diapers prior to the pandemic.

To date, Diaper Bank for Northeast Florida has distributed more than 850,000 diapers, helping to cover 17,000

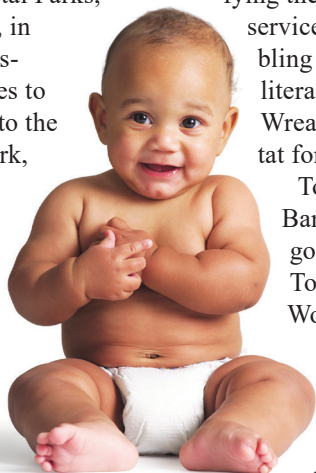
babies.

This month, diaper banks nationwide are holding “The World’s Largest Diaper Drive.” Parks hopes to collect 25,000 diapers to help 500 babies in Northeast Florida.

“The Diaper Bank for Northeast Florida is a wonderful organization,” said Krysta Case, manager of mortgage loan operations for PenFed. She will be among those volunteers on Tuesday.

Case credited Tina Fox-Harris, PenFed senior learning partner, with identifying the Diaper Bank’s need. Past service events included assembling United Way financial literacy kits and support for Wreaths Across America, Habitat for Humanity and others.

To learn more about Diaper Bank of Northeast Florida, go to jaxdiaperbank.org. To learn more about “The World’s Largest Diaper Drive” go to jaxdiaperbank.org/events. To learn more about PenFed Credit Union, go to penfed.org.



MaliVai Washington foundation awards scholarships

The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation announced at its annual scholarship ceremony May 9 that they awarded scholarships to 76 students in their afterschool youth development programs. This community-funded initiative aimed at its youth in grades five to 12 has inspired students to attend higher education for the past 28 years. These awards recognize the youth based on academic excellence, community service, leadership, kindness and extra effort on and off the tennis court.

With a record \$117,000 in scholarships awarded this year, the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation is providing the opportunity for its youth to attend post-secondary education after high school.

The majority of youth involved with the foundation come from low-income backgrounds with a median household income of less than \$30,000. By engaging in the foundation, students are more likely to graduate on time and be promoted to the next grade.

“I believe the power of education can break many hardships,” said MaliVai Washington, founder. “Our main goal is not only to get our students walking across the stage for high school graduation, but to be able to give them a way to further their education for a career.”

The foundation’s most prestigious scholarship, the George M. Soper Student Athlete of the Year for \$5,000, is awarded to a student athlete who puts in extra effort on and off the court.

“It feels great to see my hard work on the court all year is getting recognized,” said Kameron Neal, Student Athlete of the Year winner. “I look up to the older kids who have gotten it before me and seeing where they are now makes me want to continue to grow.”

The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation extended its heartfelt congratulations to all the winners of the 2024 Scholarship Award Ceremony. These awards serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for future generations, reminding everyone of the power of youth to drive meaningful change.

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Pursuant to Sections 193.122 and 197.323, Florida Statutes,
Notice is Hereby Given that the Tax Roll for
St. Johns County was Re-Certified to the St. Johns County Tax
Collector on the 23rd day of May, 2024, for the Collection of
2023 Taxes, to reflect all changes made by the Value
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OBITUARIES



Irene Pearson 1940 – 2024

With heavy hearts, we bid farewell to Irene Pearson, a compassionate soul and dedicated registered nurse who touched countless lives with her kindness and expertise.

Born in Toronto on January 22, 1940, to Marga-

ret and Rudy Fritz, Irene obtained her education and her RN there and rose to become the head nurse of the recovery room in the East General Hospital in Toronto.

In 1966, she married Dr. Bruce Pearson of Toronto and they were soon blessed with two loving children, David and Susan.

Following a study year in London, England, Irene and Bruce accepted a cherished invitation to come and live in Rochester, Minnesota, to work at the Mayo Clinic, and to become naturalized American citizens.

The family moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1986, again with Mayo, and have lived here since, to see David become a busy Facial plastic surgeon in Fleming Island and Susan become a wonderful mother and homemaker in Nashville, Tennessee.

Irene’s adventurous spirit led her to explore the world, enriching her life and the lives of many other individuals. She enjoyed numerous diverse experiences in her lifetime and maintained meaningful friendships in over forty countries and five continents.

At 84, Irene peacefully departed due to complications of valvular heart disease. She is leaving behind cherished memories and a legacy of love.

She is survived by her devoted husband Bruce, loving son David, caring daughter Susan and three adoring grandchildren, Emma, William, and Molly.

Irene will be deeply missed, but her spirit will forever live on in the hearts of those she loved and touched.

DEATH NOTICES

Phillip Mercer Adams
Phillip Mercer Adams, 70, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died May 6, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Thomas E. Cole
Thomas E. Cole, 84, of St. Augustine, Florida, died May 3, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Scott William Imray
Scott William Imray, 68, of Jacksonville, Florida, died May 8, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Conrad Chester Jankowski
Conrad Chester Jankowski, 90, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died May 12, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Gregory Todd Jones
Gregory Todd Jones, 55 of Neptune Beach, Florida, died May 2, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-

Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre 904-249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com.


Joe B. Rhodes
Joe B. Rhodes, 82, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died May 4, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Deborah Swanson
Deborah Swanson, 75, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died April 30, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

William Theodore Tomson, Jr.
William Theodore Tomson, Jr., 55, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died May 12, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Leona Ann Wirth
Leona Ann Wirth, 89, of Jacksonville, Florida, died May 8, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

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Contributed photos

Pet rescue fundraiser also a women’s networking event



Florida Women’s Law Group and Monahan Jewelers joined forces on April 16 in a collaboration to benefit S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue. The networking event was a fun opportunity for local women-owned business to get together, shop and benefit the community.

Florida Women’s Law Group has been a longtime supporter of S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue, as Heather Quick, founder and CEO, has adopted several furry friends from their St. Augustine location. As suggested by the name, Florida Women’s Law Group is compassionate about helping women through their family law issues, uplifting women business owners and supporting the local community.

Monahan Jewelers, a family run business based in Atlantic Beach, put on a glittering display of their impressive jewelry pieces. To benefit S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue, Monahan’s offered a discount to event attendees to, in turn, donate a portion of proceeds to the shelter.

By combining resources and leveraging their respective networks, the two businesses were able to amplify their impact and raised \$1,600 in donations. On April 26, Florida Women’s Law Group, along with Heather’s adopted pets, hand-deliv-



ered the donation to S.A.F.E Pet Rescue. S.A.F.E Pet has adoption centers in St. Augustine Beach, Treasure Beach, Hollister and Palatka. They’re operated solely by volunteers and certainly appreciated the donation.

To learn more about volunteering and donations, go to S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue’s website: safe-pet-rescue-fl.com.

To learn more about Florida Women’s Law Group, go to floridawomenslaw-group.com.

To shop, sell or repair your jewelry contact Monahan Jewelers, at monahan-jewelry.com.



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Tick season and the ways to combat it

By Anthony Richards

It is really starting to feel like summer and that means animals and their owners will be spending plenty of time outside enjoying plenty of activities and fresh air.

However, the hot temperatures also means that it is tick season, and there are several things a pet owner should know and be aware of when it comes to ticks.

One of the first steps is to check one’s pet for ticks daily but this is even more necessary after they have spent hours of time outside.

According to the CDC, routine checks are crucial and if a tick is found the best thing to do is to remove it quickly.

The CDC recommends using a clean and fine-tipped pair of tweezers to help grasp the tick as close to the skin’s surface as possible.

Once the tick is grabbed, pull it upward with steady and even pressure. It is important to remember not to twist or jerk the tick because if done too violently it can cause its mouth parts to break off and remain in the skin even if the body was removed.

If that does occur, the best approach is to not panic, because the mouth part can still be removed just as effectively with the tweezers.

After it is removed, the CDC suggests cleaning the bite area and one’s hands with rubbing alcohol

or soap and water and then giving the bitten skin a break to give it the proper time to heal.

The CDC advises never to crush the tick with one’s fingers once removed but instead dispose of the tick by

putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag or container, wrapping it tightly in tape or flushing it down the toilet.

There are many folklore remedies that have been created over the years that supposedly work for detaching ticks from the skin, such as painting it with nail polish or petroleum jelly or using various forms of heat.

However, the CDC advises against using these alternative methods because they may take longer for it to detach, and the goal should always be to remove the tick from the skin as quickly as possible.

For those who choose to try and avoid the situation all together, there are ways to try to prevent ticks from populating a yard, including using certain pesticides that can reduce the number in a treated area.

Yard maintenance can also go a long way in reducing the number of ticks in a yard, such as reducing the number of leaves on a property and by clearing tall grasses and brush around homes and at the edge of lawns.

This can be achieved by mowing the yard frequently and placing a three-foot wide barrier of wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas to help restrict tick migration into recreational areas.

Putting up fences is another preventative measure by helping keep out animals such as deer, raccoons and stray dogs from one’s property which are more likely to carry ticks on them.



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Grocer supports animal welfare programs

Southeastern Grocers Inc. (SEG), parent company and home of Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie grocery stores, is celebrating Pet Month this May by donating more than \$22,000 in pet supplies to seven animal welfare organizations throughout Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

SEG's contribution aims to support the work of seven organizations, each committed to rescuing, nurturing and finding forever homes for animals in need. The local organization is the Jacksonville Humane Society.

"Southeastern Grocers is deeply passionate about the well-being of our four-legged friends," said Raymond Rhee, chief people officer for Southeastern Grocers.

"As we celebrate Pet Month, we're not only supporting organizations; we're championing the love, companionship and joy pets bring into our lives.

It's an honor to partner with these incredible animal welfare organiza-

tions, and we invite our customers to join us in making a heartfelt difference for animals in need.

During the month of May, SEG encourages Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie customers to support local animals in need by purchasing a reusable community bag with a giving tag for \$2.99 and selecting their local animal welfare organization as the donation recipient. With each purchase of a community bag with a giving tag, \$1 will directly benefit the selected nonprofit organization, while also promoting environmental sustainability by reducing the use of paper and plastic bags.

In 2023, SEG's community bag with a giving tag program provided more than \$65,000 to local organizations and prevented the use of nearly 2 million single-use plastic bags. The reusable bags are made from durable, recycled materials and can be found at the register or near the entrance of every Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie store.



Program helps hospice patients, pets

The Metabolic Research Center's Ponte Vedra Beach location is holding its MRC Spring Fest and open house this week, through Saturday, May 18.

Part of the festivities included a day celebrating Pet Peace of Mind, which is a Community Hospice program. That event was held Wednesday, May 15.

The program's focus is to find new homes to adopt pets that have suffered the loss of an owner and are now without a loving home.

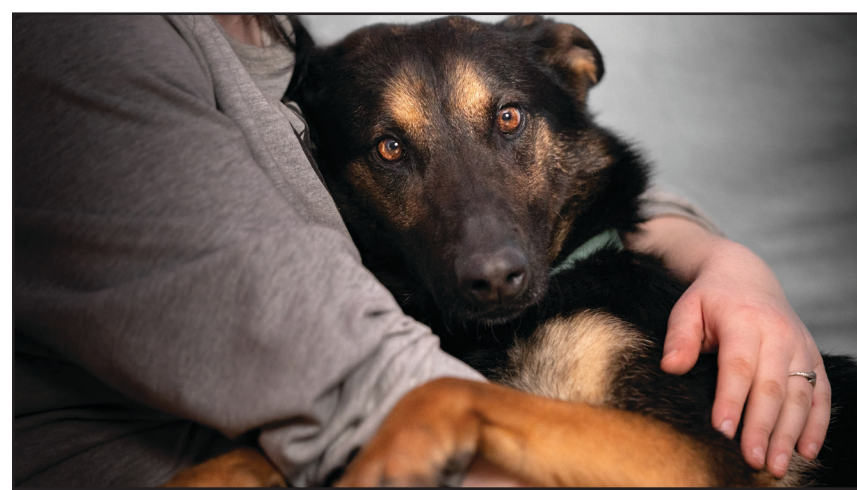
Not only does Pet Peace of Mind

help pets, but it also does its part to help pet owners, as well. This is done by offering assistance to Hospice patients who are still at home and need to care for their pets.

Part of the way MRC gave back on Wednesday was by collecting dog and cat food and other pet supplies for the Pet Peace of Mind initiative.

Residents were invited to donate food and pet supplies while also enjoying the daily games and door prizes.

Speckles the certified therapy dog was on site for visitors to meet.



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Nominations begin May 17th



The Ponte Vedra Recorder, celebrating 55 years of community news excellence, has launched our sixth annual **BEST OF THE BEST of Ponte Vedra, 32081 & 32082.**

YOU, our valued readers, now have the chance to nominate your favorite businesses in various categories online. Online voting begins June 11th after nominations are complete. **HURRY, last day to nominate is June 10th!**

www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2024/#//

Free public speaking, finance programs offered

By Shaun Ryan

This summer, area teens will have an opportunity to master transformative skills that are so often associated with success in life. Thanks to the support of the Ponte Vedra Beach Toastmasters Club and the link, two free programs will be held: the Summer Youth Leadership Program and Teen Money Matters.

In the Youth Leadership Program, students ages 12-19 will hone their public speaking skills. Along the way, they will build their self-confidence, learn to think on their feet, conquer their fear of speaking before an audience and discover what it takes to become a leader.

The adult adviser is Chris Engl, president of the Ponte Vedra Beach Toastmasters Club. Working with him will be Aaron Raju, Beata Engl and Connie Quinlan.

Students will complete four prepared speeches, practice impromptu speeches and take roles in the proceedings. They will also learn how to evaluate others' presentations and how to receive others' evaluations.

They will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. on eight consecutive Wednesdays, June 5 through July 31.

In Teen Money Matters, students will learn how to earn money, manage



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Chris Engl and a small group of supporters will offer free programs in public speaking and finance for area teens this summer.

it like a pro and master the basics of investment. They will be instructed and supported by a team of knowledgeable volunteers including Kent and Laura

Irwin, former CFO Kevin Carney and Daryle Barnard.

The students will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. on eight consecutive Tuesdays, June 4 through July 30.

All sessions will be held at the link, 425 Town Plaza Ave. in Nocatee. To learn more about these programs and how to sign up, email IPP-5199@toastmastersclubs.org.

After these summer programs run their course, teens may want to join the Ponte Vedra Gavel Club as it reconvenes for the year. The club builds on the skills learned in the Youth Leadership Program and is much like the Toastmasters, except it's for anyone under the age of 18.

Before it was paused for the summer, the club met from 7 to 8 p.m. each Monday. Going forward, the actual meeting times may depend on student schedules.

In the future, organizers are looking at possibly launching a practical life skills program.


These programs grew out of a pilot that Chris Engl and other local Toastmasters initiated last year with the support of his church. It was an instant success, with 23 students completing the program.

"We saw such incredible growth in these young men and women!" Engl said.

When he wanted to expand upon the program, Engl met Raghu Misra, co-founder of the link, who offered use of his facility.

Engl worked for more than 20 years on Wall Street before he felt a calling to make a change. He left his career and became involved in the creation of a classical academy in St. Johns County. He became active in the Ponte Vedra Toastmasters Club in 2019, which led to the creation of these new programs.

According to Engl, the goal is to create the leaders of tomorrow by "offering the skills and abilities needed for them to become the best versions of themselves."



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Musical Theatre Ponte Vedra announces camp sign-ups

By Shaun Ryan

Musical Theatre Ponte Vedra, now in its second year, will present “Mean Girls” in June. The show, directed by Jason Nettle and based on the 2004 movie, will feature local students attending the three-week camp, to be held in the Ponte Vedra High School auditorium.

“It’s about a girl who’s a typical high-schooler trying to find her place, who she’s going to hang out with, and sometimes we just get involved with the wrong people,” said Nettle. “The music’s great. The dancing’s going to be really great!”

The choreographer is Mel Ryczko, who last choreographed Ponte Vedra High School’s production of “Descendants.”

Rehearsals will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 10-13, 17-20 and 24. Shows are 7 p.m. June 25-27.

Students in eighth grade and older may sign-up for the camp up until the first day, but those who sign up before auditions are held at the end of May can try for one of the

main roles. Everyone who signs up for the camp will be in the show.

A separate “Mean Girls” tech crew will be available for those who prefer to develop technical skills.

Tickets will be sold at the door.

Also, a Summer Theatre Camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 8-11 for kids in pre-K through seventh grade, also in the Ponte Vedra High School auditorium. A final showcase will be presented at 1 p.m. July 11.

Camp fees are \$550 for “Mean Girls,” \$250 for the younger Kids’ Camp and \$150 for the tech crew. There is a discount for multiple siblings to sign up.

Sign up at mtpv.org.

Husband and wife team, Jason and Katie Nettle, launched Musical Theatre Ponte Vedra in 2023 with the first show, “Something Rotten!” It turned out to be very successful.

“The whole purpose of why we started Musical Theatre Ponte Vedra was to keep fulfilling the need of musical theatre around this area,” Jason Nettle said.

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'Peter Pan' to be presented at Lewis Auditorium

"Peter Pan" will be presented in June by students at Zoika's Dance.

It tells the classic J.M. Barrie story through the language of dance, featuring ballet, tap, hip hop, contemporary, jazz and acro dance.

Professional dancers will join young, local dancers on stage for performances at 7 p.m. June 1 and 1 p.m. June 2 at Lewis Auditorium, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine. The cast of 85 dancers will recreate the magic of Neverland to an eclectic musical score ranging from classical to rock to world music.

Tickets may be purchased online at zoikasdance.com.

"Peter Pan truly resonates with children and adults alike," said director Zoika Garcia. "Between the lost boys, fairies, mermaids and pirates, there is so much adventure, excitement and otherworldly beauty to experience."

St. Augustine's Jake Karger will dance the role of Peter Pan, joined by dancers Mileena Bicknell as Tinkerbell, Claudia Mueckay as Wendy, Victoria Torbush as Tiger Lily and Jose Fuentes as both Peter Pan's Shadow and Captain Hook's First Mate. The swashbuckling cast of pirates will also feature professional tap dancers Jenne Vermes, Shelby Howell, Christie Woodson, Devin Mantei, Alex Rubio as Smee and



Jake Karger will dance the part of Peter Pan.

Photo illustration

Sean Mansfield as the infamous Captain Hook.

Garcia and the show's sponsors are making sure that local children who might not otherwise be able to attend will get to experience the magic of "Peter Pan." They are providing free tickets to the show for local children through nonprofit partners St. Augustine Youth Services, the Betty Griffin House, Fostering Connections and The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. Deaf interpreter Amanda Villalobos will sign at each of the performances.

To become a sponsor and share this experience with local children, go to zoikasdance.com/sponsors or call 904-342-5920. Sponsorships of \$250 and up will provide free tickets to local children through the production's nonprofit partners.

Zoika's Dance is a comprehensive dance school, offering beginning to advanced classes in all major dance genres for ages 3 and up, as well as performance opportunities in downtown St. Augustine. To learn more, go to zoikasdance.com.

Tickets for "Peter Pan" may be purchased online at zoikasdance.com. Tickets are available at prices ranging from \$20 to \$37.90.

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Coastal Friends to install officers

Coastal Friends will hold an installation ceremony to induct a new slate of officers for the fiscal year starting July 1 at their monthly luncheon on June 5 at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The luncheon is open to the community, members and guests of Coastal Friends. The menu will consist of house salad with chef's dressing, chicken florentine, baked red skin potato wedges, steamed vegetable medley and fruit-topped cheesecake. The cost to attend is \$25 per person. Seating will be limited, so reservations must be made in advance by contacting bartshar@comcast.net. Luncheons are held on the first Wednesday of every month, except for July and August.

Established in 1998, Coastal Friends is a social group of women who live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach, St. Augustine and the surrounding area. Some of the activities offered are adventures and outings, book club, bunco, canasta, happy hour, lunch in, lunch out, mah jongg, samba and wine socials.

Additionally, Coastal Friends collects food and pet items, toys, gently used items and donates them to various local organizations and animal shelters.

June's highlighted Organization of the Month is Gabriel House. Gabriel House's mission is to promote a "community of healing" environment by providing affordable, temporary lodging for adult organ transplant and cancer patients as well as their caregivers who come to Jacksonville for medical treatment.

New members are welcome throughout the year.

Emergency food, shelter funds awarded

United Way of St. Johns County has announced that \$37,503 in federal funds has been awarded to St. Johns County through Phase 41 of the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

A local board made up of county, city and human services agencies along with United Way of St. Johns County will determine how funds are to be distributed among emergency food and shelter programs in the local service area. The board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive funds in this cycle as well as future cycles.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local organizations, whether nonprofit or government, may apply. To receive funds, the organization must conduct an annual audit, practice non-discrimination and have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and shelter programs. Examples of how program funds can be used include the following: food (served meals or groceries), lodging in a mass shelter or hotel, one month's rent or mortgage payment, one month's utility bill and/or equipment necessary to feed or shelter people.

Qualifying programs are urged to apply or obtain additional information by contacting Patty Isola at United Way of St. Johns County. Email her at patty.isola@unitedway-sjc.org or call 904-829-9721. To learn more about United Way of St. Johns County, go to unitedway-sjc.org.



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Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of

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INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOHN JOSEPH III, DECEASED, CHRIS UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ORICS, U.S. BANK TRUST ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF CAPITAL TRUST 1, STATE CLERK OF COURT, CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, LISA ANN GRIFIN SPOUSE OF LISA ANN UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN COMMON WITH N/K/A LISA GRIFFIN, are the Clerk of the Court will sell and best bidder for cash at 10:00 a.m. on May 22, 2024, the following described as set forth in said Final

LOCK 1 SECTION 19, DIVISION OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN DEED BOOK Q, PUBLIC RECORDS OF FLORIDA, VENUE, Orange Park,

ing an interest in the property, if any, other than the date of the claim before the court as unclaimed. The court may enlarge the time of the changed published as provided.

of the seal of the County, 2024.

with a disability proceeding in or out of state, to you, to assistance. Coordinator trp@coj.net scheduled immediately if the appearance hearing

2024 and County's Clay Today

PUBLIC AUCTION

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below be-



Contributed photo:

Gov. Ron DeSantis, left, and David Stevens at the Florida Heroes reception

Fire Union President David Stevens named a Florida Hero

St. Johns County Professional Firefighters & Paramedics Association – IAFF Affiliate 3865 President David Stevens was recently honored by Gov. Ron DeSantis for being a Florida Hero. Stevens was among first responders, doctors, veterans, law enforcement, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, parents and innovators who have all exhibited bravery and self-sacrifice.

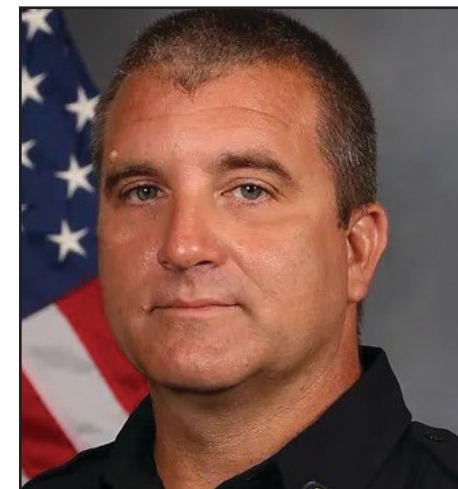
Stevens said, “I am honored for the recognition of the work we have done for firefighters and our department. This award represents the collaborative efforts of our commissioners, county administrator, fire chief and firefighters. Our team is working hard to assure St. Johns County is a model for the state of Florida. From our mental health initiatives to protecting our residents and visitors, St. Johns County is leading the way.”

Stevens was one of 75 heroes from across the state of Florida invited to the Governor’s Residence on April 26 to be recognized for their contributions to others and for exhibiting exceptional courage, compassion and resilience in the face of adversity.

Sarah Arnold, St. Johns County commissioner and chair, said, “David Stevens is the ultimate hometown hero. Under his tenure, he has relentlessly fought for the safety and well-being of the men and women in his department. Spearheading PFAS research to acquire safer uniforms, mending relationships to encourage collaboration with surrounding fire departments and working with the county commission to expand mental health resources for his team and their families are just a few of his accomplishments to date.”

Each hero had their story highlighted during a recognition ceremony and displayed throughout the Governor’s Residence.

Joy Andrews, county administrator, said, “I feel what really sets David apart is his unwavering commitment and perseverance to protect not just his people,



David Stevens

but all fire rescue personnel in the state of Florida. In 2011, a catastrophic gas station explosion occurred in St. Johns County, prompting a joint response from St. Johns County Fire, City of St. Augustine Fire, as well as Jacksonville. While we were unbelievably lucky to have not lost any souls that day, as a result of the exposure to that fire, sadly that is no longer the case. While there is state statute covering presumptive disability coverage for cancer, there isn’t anything in place in state of Florida for presumptive disability coverage for the neurological disorders, such as Parkinson’s, caused by exposure in the line of duty. Three other states have already passed legislation towards this goal, recognizing the gravity of this issue. David has championed this initiative, advocating and educating the community, working with our county commission, as well as the state Legislature to make them aware of the issues and work towards more studies that will undoubtedly lead to further protection for fire rescue personnel statewide.”

Commissioner Arnold added, “We are incredibly blessed in St. Johns County to have such a leader as David Stevens. He is not just my personal hero, but a hero for St. Johns County, and for all of Florida Fire Rescue as well.”



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Summer housing market expected to be fruitful

More single-family homes are being listed in Northeast Florida, which may be a solid indication that this summer’s housing market will be fruitful for both buyers and sellers.

Specifically, the six-county region registered 3,750 new single-family listings, a 54.3% increase from a year ago and a 4.8% hike from last month. Add to this inventory in Northeast Florida, which steadily rose to 6,490 homes, a 63.7% increase from April 2023 and a 9.9% hike from March 2024. Also, closed sales fell 5.8% to 1,843, and pending sales decreased 26.7% to 1,465. All together this is evidence that buyers may now have a better selection to choose from than they have seen in a long time.

On the sellers’ side, prices are also continuing to rise, but the rate of increase is slowing. Single family homes on the First Coast inched up 2.7% to a median sales price of \$399,990. Northeast Florida’s Home Affordability Index continued to dip down to 64 in April.

The Home Affordability Index measures housing affordability for the region. In other words, it measures whether a typical family earns enough to qualify for a mortgage on a typical home, based on current interest rates, median income and median home prices. A higher number means greater affordability.

This index measures affordability factors for all homebuyers making a 20% downpayment. An index of 100 is defined as the point where a median-income family has the exact amount of income needed to purchase a median-priced existing home. An index value over 100 means that the family has more than enough income, while a value below 100 means that a family doesn’t have enough income to qualify for a mortgage loan.

“The Northeast Florida market continued to strengthen in April versus March, with listing inventory up almost 10%,



and about 5% of those as new listings. This indicates more sellers are returning to the market,” said NEFAR 2024 President Rory Dubin. “This is concurrent with modest increases in the median sales process and the average price per foot of homes sold. With 3.5 months of inventory, the region is returning to a more balanced market between buyers and sellers.”

The median price per square foot for single-family homes in Northeast Florida was \$215, a 2.9% increase over March 2024, when the median price was \$209.

Mandatory changes in the selling process are on the horizon, and in a few short months prospective buyers will be asked to sign buyers’ sales agreements with their agents.

“It is critical with many changes occurring in the real estate transaction that sellers and buyers rely on members of the Northeast Florida Realtors Association to help them navigate a changing and complex sales process,” Dubin said, noting he recently returned from a five-day National Association of Realtors legislative conference in Washington, D.C.

“Many of the attorneys and legislators I spoke with during my time in D.C. stated that buying a home is an important and complex transaction, one where they rely on Realtors to assist them in their home, property, or land acquisition transactions,” he said.

In St. Johns County, April’s median prices climbed 11.4% to \$600,000 for single-family homes. The median days on the market rose 25.7% to 44. Month-to-month, closed sales dropped 4.9% to 485,

pending sales dropped 20.9% to 409, and new listings increased .2% to 990. Active inventory climbed 5.3% to 2,010 homes, a 4.1-month supply. The Home Affordability Index fell, 14.3% to 42, indicating that it is still very expensive to live in St. Johns County.

In Duval County, the April’s median price of single-family housing was \$345,500, a negligible drop from \$346,00 the month before. The median number of days on the market in April rose to 31, a 24% increase from March 2024. Month-to-month closed sales fell 2.5% to 964, pending sales fell 31.6% to 704, and new listings increased 1.5% to 1,840 homes. Active inventory for the county climbed 10.6% to 2,904 homes, a 3-month supply. In April, the Home Affordability Index remained the same at 75.

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Staff enjoyed breakfast '50s style.



A '70s-themed lunch made the staff's day at OPE.

Ocean Palms celebrates rockin' staff

Ocean Palms Elementary School celebrated its staff the week of May 6-10 in a week of record-turning, note-worthy fun with a music-through-the-decades celebration.

On Monday, staff were invited to “sock hop” in for a breakfast of coffee, doughnuts, chicken biscuits and fruit. Tuesday brought peace, love and cupcakes with gift cards. By Wednesday, staff were “doing the hustle” to a taco lunch. Thursday was chill with a gourmet Popsicle food truck fit for popstars. And, finally, Friday was met with a “great mix” of live music by Pete Masitti and lunch by Trasca.

In addition to the many other families at the school who contributed, sponsors that helped make the week possible included: Ponte Vedra Beach Starbucks, Island Donuts, Pastry Chef Steph, Edie Williams at State Farm, Trasca, musician Pete Masitti, BrewSmart Beverage, Frio’s and Sierra Grille.

Contributed photos



OPE staff were living like pop stars with gourmet Popsicles on Thursday.



Friday's finale brought live music and lunch to the staff at Ocean Palms.

Business Weekly

For MORE business news, go to facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Hospital achieves 1K robot-assisted lung cancer procedures

Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside has announced that its pulmonology care team has now conducted 1,000 robotic-assisted bronchoscopy procedures to help patients survive lung cancer. This advanced approach allows doctors to diagnose lung cancer at earlier stages and access hard-to-reach nodules.

This approach has been offered at St. Vincent's Riverside since 2020, and it was the first hospital in the area to begin using the advanced bronchoscopy technology, known as the Ion System. St. Vincent's leads Northeast Florida hospitals in conducting these procedures.

"When it comes to defeating lung cancer, early detection is essential," said Dr. Akram Shibani, pulmonologist with St. Vincent's Riverside. "While this milestone is significant, our team is focused on our mission to use this technology to save even more lives and protect the health of our community."



The pulmonology care team at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside has conducted 1,000 robot-assisted bronchoscopy procedures.

Contributed photo

The robot-assisted bronchoscopy is a minimally invasive technology that improves the accuracy and precision of the biopsy of a potentially cancerous nodule. Lung nodules are common and appear as white shadows on a chest X-ray or lung

CT scan. With the robot-assisted bronchoscope, doctors can extract a tissue sample from nodules as small as 1 centimeter. Previously, when a patient required a nodule biopsy on the lung, doctors could not approach it if it was smaller than 2 centimeters.

The Ion Bronchoscopy System is faster and less invasive than the traditional CT-guided lung biopsy. Patients also report fewer side effects.

Robot-assisted bronchoscopy is one of many tools lung specialists use at St. Vincent's. The pulmonary medicine doctors, thoracic surgeons, radiation oncologists, radiologists, nurse navigators and rehabilitation therapists at St. Vincent's Riverside routinely participate in the Lung Cancer Tumor Conference to confer and update each patient's care plan. They follow nationally established guidelines for lung cancer staging and deliver innovative treatments with advanced care options.

St. Johns County hospital earns Primary Stroke Center certification

St. Vincent's St. Johns County is now certified as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission in collaboration with the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. This certification recognizes the hospital's efforts to meet the unique and specialized needs of patients who have suffered a stroke.

Primary Stroke Centers have stroke-specific infrastructure, including acute stroke teams, care protocols and other patient support systems. This improves overall care by reducing complications and increasing survival and recovery

rates with stronger long-term outcomes and patient satisfaction.

"When someone has a stroke, time is of the essence to ensure they have the opportunity to recover," said Cory Darling, St. Vincent's St. Johns County president and CEO. "As the only hospital in Northern St. Johns County, our team has taken important steps to ensure everyone in our community and surrounding region has access to life-saving care."

Every 40 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke, according to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention. Every three minutes and 14 seconds, someone dies due to a stroke. It is also a leading cause of serious long-term disability.

When someone suffers a stroke, there is a lack of blood flow to the brain, which deprives brain cells of oxygen. For every minute that passes while someone is having a stroke, 1.9 million brain cells are lost.

That is why it's important to seek immediate medical attention if you or someone you know begins to experience stroke symptoms.

Patients who can benefit from a Primary Stroke Center include those suffering from:

- Ischemic strokes
- Large vessel occlusions
- Hemorrhagic strokes
- Strokes from unusual causes requiring specialized testing or interventional therapies

St. Vincent's Riverside, Southside and Clay County are also certified Primary Stroke Centers, providing access to emergent care for stroke patients throughout Northeast Florida.

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Forrester named associate head of school at Bolles

After a national search and reviewing numerous qualified applicants, Bolles leadership announced Andrew Forrester as its new associate head of school on May 5. Forrester has had more than 24 years of experience in education, working in various positions in schools in France and throughout the U.K., as well as in St. Petersburg and Bradenton, Florida.

He comes to Bolles from the St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Bradenton, where he has held the position of associate head of school since 2019. Forrester began there in 2014 as the school's director of upper and middle school before being selected as its associate head. Forrester will replace outgoing Bolles Associate Head Mike Drew, who served the Bolles community for the last seven



Andrew Forrester

years.

"I'm looking forward to working with the excellent leaders at The Bolles School to continue to provide innovative educational experiences for the students across all four campuses," Forrester said.

Forrester is currently completing a Doctor of Education in program, development and innovation from USF Tampa and holds a Master of Education in educational leadership from USF St. Petersburg and a Bachelor of Arts with honors in literature and French from Liverpool John Moores University in the U.K. He has taught English, drama, TV production and ESL, and has been the director of college placement and art and technology departments. He also has experience running boarding programs and assisting

with fundraising and donor cultivation.

Bolles President and Head of School Tyler Hodges said Forrester's breadth of expertise, along with his sense of humor, was one of the many reasons he was a stand-out candidate among a competitive applicant pool.

"We are thrilled to welcome Andrew to Bolles. He is a caring and compassionate leader who approaches education from a holistic perspective," Hodges said. "I look forward to collaborating with him as we continue to move Bolles toward an exciting future while upholding our long-standing commitment to fostering an environment where students thrive."

Forrester and his family will move to Jacksonville this summer, and he will take on his new role in July.

GUEST COLUMN

When did you last check your beneficiary designations?

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

One of the easiest, yet often overlooked, components of an estate planning strategy is designating beneficiaries. Those whose estate plan includes a will or trust may wonder why this step is important. Transfer of some assets — such as life insurance policies, annuities, IRAs, retirement plans and other employee benefit plans — can be based on beneficiary designations in place at your death. As your objectives for transfer may change over time, it is important to review those designations in context of your overall plan for asset transfer.

Confirm your designations align with your estate plan

Inventory your assets and determine which can have designated beneficiaries.

Review the designations in place to make sure your preferred beneficiaries are listed for each asset. Consider choosing a successor in case your designated beneficiary does not survive you.

If changes are needed, be sure to complete each form as indicated. Requirements may vary from one financial institution to another. For example, the custodian of a retirement plan may require a spouse's signature but a life insurance carrier may not. Similarly, some institutions may require a notarized original while others may allow you to complete the designation online.

As you acquire new assets, make sure



Contributed photo

to consider establishing beneficiary designations in alignment with your estate plan.

Identify any unintended implications to your overall estate plans

While creating designations may be a clear-cut process, identifying potential tax implications for your beneficiaries may not be so easy. Your tax and legal advisers can help you review your beneficiary designations to identify any unintended impacts to your beneficiaries.

Remember that your beneficiary designation forms are one piece in the larger estate-plan puzzle you have put together. It is important to consider how those designations — which operate outside your will or trust — may impact

your overall strategy. For example, if your objective is to evenly divide all of your assets among your decedents, a designation could change that balance.

Your tax adviser also can help you weigh options for transferring taxable assets. If charitably inclined, you may consider naming a tax-exempt organization as a beneficiary of a taxable asset, such as a qualified retirement plan or nonqualified stock options.

Revisit your designations

As with all documents in your estate plan, it's a good idea to review your beneficiary designations regularly. Not updating your forms to reflect life events such as a birth, death, marriage or divorce may mean that your wishes would not be reflected when your assets

ultimately transfer.

Changes in the law may also create a need to revisit your beneficiary designations. Your tax adviser can help you understand how the latest changes may impact your objectives for transfer.

Key takeaways

Make sure you take the time to thoughtfully fill out beneficiary designations for eligible assets. Also, consider regularly discussing your plans with your tax and legal advisers and wealth planning specialists. Your advisers can help you avoid expensive mistakes and suggest opportunities to better reflect your ultimate wishes for your estate.

This article was written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Ponte Vedra Wealth Management Group in Ponte Vedra Beach at 904-273-7918.

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Jax Chamber holds annual business expo

The 2024 Jax Chamber Business Expo presented by Florida Blue took place on April 30 and the following photos are from the annual networking event for the Jacksonville business community. See more photos from the event on pontevedrarecorder.com.

Photos by Susan Griffin



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Benchmarks of Success

A look at major career developments in the area

Chapman named vice president of medical affairs

David “Brandon” Chapman, MD, has joined Baptist Health as the first vice president of medical affairs for Baptist Medical Center Clay and Baptist Medical Center South.

In this role, Chapman will focus on the implementation of patient-centric, effective and streamlined clinical care, liaising between the administration and medical staff at the two hospitals. The role is an integral part of the health system’s commitment to a seamless approach to care across the entire network.

Chapman most recently served as the associate chief medical officer and executive medical director of perioperative medicine at Atrium Wake Forest Lexington Medical Center in Lexington, North Carolina, and the associate chief medical officer at Atrium Wake Forest High Point Medical Center in High Point, North Carolina.

Chapman is a board-certified otolaryngologist, a Certified Physician Executive from the American Association for Physician Leadership, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a diplomat on the American Board of Otolaryngology.



Robert Straub

904 Home Watch again earns accreditation

904 Home Watch has earned accreditation from the National Home Watch Association for the second year. The NHTWA was formed in 2009 in

order to establish and maintain the highest industry standards for Home Watch and absentee homeowner services throughout the United States and Canada. Home Watch is a visual inspection of a home or property, looking for obvious issues, which means that it is a service that “keeps an eye on things” at vacation or primary homes while no one is in residence. All principals of

NHTWA accredited member companies are background-checked, insured and bonded.

904 Home Watch owner Bob Straub earned a BA in economics from Dickinson College and has worked in the real estate industry in a variety of roles, primarily in the general brokerage and new home construction arenas.

In 2012, he moved to Northeast Florida. Here, he launched 904 Home Watch, which serves St. Johns and Duval counties, Nocatee, Sawgrass and Marsh Landing country clubs, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra.

His website is 904homewatchllc.com.



Phil Shook

Shook named senior vice president

Crowley has named Phil Shook senior vice president and general manager of Land Transportation Services to lead the company’s newly created business unit.

The formal creation of the business unit reflects Crowley’s growth strategy and opportunity in the sectors. Serving as a member of the senior leadership team, Shook will be responsible for commercial business in North America, including all land-based transportation, such as brokerage solutions, intermodal services, trucking and managed transportation.

Shook most recently served as executive vice president at Milestone Equipment Holdings, where he oversaw the domestic intermodal growth strategy for its chassis and container business. He also led marketing and customer support functions for the enterprise. Prior to Milestone, Shook worked as vice president of surface transportation and served in various other leadership roles at C.H. Robinson.

Taylor named CEO at CareerSource NEFL

The CareerSource Northeast Florida (CareerSource NEFL) Board of Directors has selected Cheryl A. Taylor as CEO of the region’s workforce development organization. She will assume her new position on July 1.



Cheryl A. Taylor

Ferguson, who announced his retirement in January after 20 years in the position and 30 years with the organization.

Taylor becomes the first woman and the first African-American to lead the organization since its inception.

Since 2014, Taylor has managed operations for CareerSource NEFL, one of Florida’s largest workforce systems consisting of eight career centers, more than 120 employees and a \$18 million budget within a six-county region of Northeast Florida.



Tiffany Fisher

Fisher joins Davidson Realty

Davidson Realty has announced the newest addition to their team, Tiffany Fisher, a dedicated real estate professional with a passion for providing clients

with exceptional experiences.

Holding a bachelor’s in business administration from Salem University in West Virginia, Fisher has more than two decades of experience in local government as a financial analyst. There, she honed her abilities in quantitative analysis, financial modeling and strategic planning — all assets she brings to her career in real estate. Her deep understanding of business principles brings an advantage to every transaction, along with her strong sense of integrity and strategic mindset.

Contact Fisher at tfisher@davidsonrealtyinc.com or 850-591-3801. Meet Davidson’s full roster of real estate professionals, and find your dream home, by going to davidsonrealtyinc.com/team/davidson-realty.



Mateo Rogers

Rogers joins Timucuan Parks Foundation in new role

Timucuan Parks Foundation (TPF) has announced Mateo Rogers as its inaugural development director. With a wealth of

broad fundraising and donor-engagement experience, Rogers assumes a pivotal role, poised to collaborate closely with the executive team and board of directors to align fundraising endeavors with overarching organizational objectives. His hiring marks a significant step forward for TPF as its team expands to continue fortifying its mission as the nonprofit supporting Jacksonville’s expansive natural areas and landscapes.

Rogers has more than 10 years of experi-

ence in creating and driving strategies for operations, development, data management and community building. He is a U.S. Navy veteran and is deeply committed to community and conservation. Rogers previously served as development manager at Teach for America and founded Stonewall Sports Jax, where he brought together diverse communities, fostered inclusivity and raised significant funds for local charities.



Christine Bradshaw

Bradshaw joins real estate business

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has announced the addition of Christine Bradshaw to its team of real estate professionals.

Having resided in Northeast Florida for 12 years, Bradshaw brings a deep understanding of the local market and its unique nuances.

Her areas of expertise include luxury properties, relocation services and waterfront homes. Her commitment to providing exceptional service and her extensive knowledge make her an asset to the company.

To contact Bradshaw, call 561-373-2829 or email Christine.Bradshaw@floridanetworkrealty.com or CBradshaw.floridanetworkrealty.com.

The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office, located at 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach, is managed by Daryl Atkins, who can be reached at 904-285-1800, Daryl.Atkins@FloridaNetworkRealty.com and floridanetworkrealtycareers.com.



Alexandra Marozzi

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa promotes Marozzi

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa has promoted Alexandra Marozzi to senior sales executive. She will manage the golf/sports segment for the

resort, which is located near the TPC Sawgrass golf club and has 514 rooms and more than 90,000 square feet of venue space.

Marozzi has been with the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa since January 2022, formerly serving as director of memberships at Cabana Beach Club. There, she played a key role in driving revenue increases through initiation fees and enhancing the overall membership experience by creating membership programs that generated additional revenue for the club.

Marozzi brings several years of sales and marketing experience in the hospitality industry to the role, including extensive experience with private club organizations, such as Invited (formerly ClubCorp) and Florida Yacht Club.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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In the Arts

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Players by the Sea presents 'Trouble in Mind'

Players by the Sea, a community theater in Jacksonville Beach, has announced its second show in the 59th season: "Trouble in Mind," a dramatic comedy directed by Zach Rivera. The production opened on May 10.

"Trouble in Mind" first hit the stage off-Broadway on Nov. 4, 1955, at the Greenwich Mews Theatre in New York City. Playwright Alice Childress examines the true meaning of being a Black female who is navigating her way through the entertainment industry with a cast of multigenerational Black actors who are also under purview of a white director and stage manager that undergo theater conventions and racial politics along the way.

General admission tickets are \$35 and \$32 for seniors, students and active or retired members of the military. The production will run on the weekends through May 26.

"Directing 'Trouble in Mind' has been an absolute pleasure," said Rivera. "Alice Childress has made an absolute force with this play, and my excitement is only compounded by the fact that we have a cast filled with many Jacksonville powerhouse actors. Being able to collaborate with them on making a piece that is so important has been such a gift. Getting to watch this work, laugh, cry and get red-hot angry every night with them is a privilege."

For more information about "Trouble in Mind," go to playersbythesea.org/trouble-in-mind.



Photo courtesy of FSCJ Artist Series

The classic Broadway production of Peter Pan will be one of the shows during next year's Broadway in Jacksonville season.

Classic, wide range of shows highlight new Broadway in Jacksonville season

By Anthony Richards

The FSCJ Artist Series has released its 2024-2025 shows for the upcoming Broadway in Jacksonville season sponsored by VyStar Credit Union.

It marks the 58th season of the FSCJ Artist Series and it is sure to be a memorable one as several marquee and fan-favorite Broadway plays are included on the calendar.

Five shows make up the 2024-2025 season with all but one taking place during 2025, as that one will be "Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations" which will kick things off for the season December 5-8, 2024, at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts.

However, the remaining shows will all be in 2025 and the New Year will start with a bang with "Mama Mia!" Jan. 7-12, 2025.

"Mama Mia!" is a hit musical and it

will come to Jacksonville celebrating its 25th anniversary tour, and during that time it has created quite the following and become a fan favorite no matter what city it comes to by playing the hits of the musical group ABBA.

Next up, the Jacksonville Center of the Performing Arts will be transformed into Neverland and the audience will take a trip exploring the fairytale world with the showing of the classic tale of "Peter Pan."

The play has been on Broadway for nearly 70 years and Jacksonville will get a front-and-center look at the latest adaptation of the classic by playwright Larissa FastHorse and directed by Emmy Award winner Lonny Price.

After a month away, the Broadway in Jacksonville season will return with a pair of shows during the spring with "Les Miserables," considered to be the world's most popular musical and a Tony Award-winning performance taking place

April 1-6.

It will be followed by the season finale "MJ The Musical" on April 22-27, which is another musical but the other end of the spectrum from "Les Miserables," showcasing the variety of musical types that fans of the series will be able to enjoy during the season.

"MJ The Musical" features the works and artistry of Michael Jackson and is also a multi-Tony Award-winning musical for fans of the "King of Pop" or those who just love musicals.

Those interested in becoming a subscriber to the season can purchase season passes by going to fscjartistseries.org.

New subscriptions start at \$249 for a five-show package and will vary depending on the location of the seats chosen.

The deadline for current subscribers to renew is before May 29 in order to preserve their seats for the upcoming season while also saving \$10 on the overall price.

Singers By The Sea to present spring concert

On Sunday, June 2, the Singers by the Sea will present their yearly spring concert, "Coming Home To Music." This event will be held at 2:30 p.m. at Palms Presbyterian Church, 3410 3rd St. South in Jacksonville Beach. This is a volunteer community choir co-di-

rected by Becky Schumann and Teresa Mowbray.

The group of 40 singers performs throughout the year at senior centers, retirement communities and churches in Jacksonville and the Beaches area. They perform spring, fall and Christmas

programs, which include show tunes, spirituals and popular music.

The concert is free and all are welcome. There is a reception immediately following the program.

The website for Singers by the Sea is singersbythesea.org.

Ferguson chosen for cultural exchange with St. Augustine sister city, Aviles

In connection with the 100th anniversary celebration of the relationship between St. Augustine and its sister city, Aviles, Spain, local artist Martha Ferguson has been selected to travel to Aviles in August and participate in activities with a Spanish artist in St. Augustine during September.

Ferguson was selected following a call to artists with experience painting “en plein air,” and who have dedicated themselves to elevating the arts in St. Johns County. A painting by Ferguson, who will receive a stipend for travel and purchase of the painting, will be presented to the City of Aviles as a gift from the mayor of St. Augustine.

Ferguson graduated from Flagler College with a B.A. in fine art. Ferguson stated, “While in college, I spent many days strolling the quaint streets in awe of the beauty of St. Augustine. I would often run into Emmett Fritz, a local plein air artist. I was enthralled with his paintings and how he captured the local scenes. It was those experiences that contributed to my love of painting.”

Ferguson’s first experience in plein air was at an event in New Jersey where she took home the award for Best in Show, an award she has since received many times at events across the country.

She joined the St. Augustine Art Association in 2014 and has participated in that organization’s annual Plein Air Paint Out since its inception. She has also been involved in events related to the Spanish heritage of St. Augustine, volunteering for the city’s 450th anniversary celebration. Ferguson credits that event as the impetus for her future volunteer efforts.

“I learned so much about the history of St. Augustine and met many other volunteers who helped make the event success-

ful,” she said. “It helped me realize the value of a strong community, the importance of volunteering and the joy of being involved. One of my greatest pleasures is working on the Visual and Performing Arts Board at Flagler College. I get to work with enthusiastic, emerging art students. Occasionally, I invite a senior art student to exhibit their work in my space at Butterfield Art Gallery. This allows the student a great experience and an opportunity to be mentored by some of the great artists from Butterfield.”

“Arts and cultural programs are one of the most important facets of the international sister cities organization,” said Christina Parrish Stone, executive director of the St. Johns Cultural Council. “The Cultural Council is honored to be included by the City of St. Augustine in developing arts programming for both the August visit to Aviles and the September celebration in St. Augustine.”

Sept. 5-9, the Cultural Council will feature free public performances by Aviles folk artist Tejedor, dance performances, art exhibitions and a return of the Aviles Festival on America’s oldest platted street, Aviles Street.

“Aviles artist Samuel Armas will travel with that city’s mayoral delegation to St. Augustine,” said Parrish Stone. “We are delighted that Martha Ferguson, a truly outstanding local artist, will accompany our mayoral delegation to Aviles in August, where she will work with Armas and create new art to share with the residents of St. Augustine.”

For more information about events celebrating the 100th anniversary of the St. Augustine and Aviles relationship, go to historicoastculture.com.

Register for the Cultural Council’s newsletter at stjohnsculture.com.



Contributed photos

Martha Ferguson at work on a painting.



“Shadows on Spanish Street” by Martha Ferguson

More free access offered at MOCA

MOCA Jacksonville has announced two more free access days each month, sponsored by Florida Blue, one of the museum’s new Centennial Sponsors.

Florida Blue Free Museum Nights at MOCA offer extended hours and free admission on the first and third Wednesday of every month from 5 to 9 p.m. Visitors can explore the galleries, interact with visiting artists, enjoy drink specials at the MOCA Bar and participate in special programming that is also free to access, like movies, lectures and performances.

“Community members experience a number of real and perceived barriers to access that prevent them from visiting museums and other cultural institutions, including the cost of attendance, hours of accessibility, transportation and parking, feeling welcome in spaces that have historically been exclusionary and so many other barriers,” said Caitlín Doherty, executive director of MOCA Jacksonville. “While we do not have the power to solve every barrier to access, we are proud of the work we have done in recent years to expand accessibility to our community and those visiting Jacksonville. From staying open later to free admission opportunities to virtual programming to proactively providing ASL interpretation at our lectures and exhibition openings, MOCA’s team is committed to making the art, artists and ideas of our time accessible to as many in our community as we can. Support from partners like Florida Blue who are committed to making our community one where people want to live, work, play and stay make these initiatives possible.”

“Florida Blue is proud to support MOCA Jacksonville and its goal of making arts and culture more accessible to the Jacksonville community,” said Courtney Harris, chief of staff to the Office of the CEO and Jacksonville Market Leader. “We recognize the importance of the arts to our community’s well-being. Research has shown the arts can benefit both our mental and physical health and this partnership reflects our company’s mission to help people and communities achieve better health.”

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Sports

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Photos by Anthony Richards



Rattlers tame TPC Sawgrass to win PGA WORKS title

By Anthony Richards

TPC Sawgrass has been the site of some incredible golf over the years, but one thing it is also known for is creating iconic moments that are cherished for decades later.

That is exactly what the stadium course and Dye's Valley course did as both courses combined to host the 2024 PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship.

The event was put on by PGA REACH, which is the nonprofit foundation of the PGA of America and has become known over the years as the college championship that has one of the most culturally significant impacts, as it features golfers from historically black colleges, as well as Hispanic-serving institutions and any other minority-serving educational

institutions and has done so since it began in 1986.

This year's competition included an array of players from various backgrounds that took part in men's, women's and team and individual tournaments.

Florida A&M University represented its state well by dominating the competition en route to a victory in the division I team tournament with a score of 27-over.

It did not matter which course the Rattlers competed on, as they made it look easy on both, including shooting 13-over par on the stadium course and defeated second place Alabama State by 29 strokes.

The Rattlers had been regulars at the event over the years but what makes this year's event even more special is that it was in their home state, and it broke a

long winless drought at the championship.

"It's been 24 years since we've won this event," said Rattlers head coach Mike Rice. "I remember that because I was on the team that won the event in 2000. To bring this to these guys and for them to be able to enjoy this is amazing."

Florida A&M senior Marcus Taylor played a major role in the success of the team and as a result clinched the men's division I medalist honors thanks to a three-day score of two-over, including posting a 1-under-par 71 in the final round for a five-stroke victory.

"I'm really stoked with the win, as an individual and as a team," said Taylor. "I didn't have much preparation coming into this, I was packed with academics, taking 19 credits this semester. Graduation was

my main focus, so I had no expectations coming into this event, so yeah I'm excited."

Taylor can now get back to focusing on his studies, but he does so as a champion in more ways than one.

Some of his memories from the event include making birdies in the final round at the famed "island green" on No. 17 at the stadium course and then following it up with one on No. 18.

"My birdie on 17, I stood over that ball on the tee and didn't feel nervous to be honest with you, but when I got to the putt I thought, 'Send me out the right way and make this putt,'" Taylor said. "I was really stoked about that. On 18, driver is the best club in my bag, and I absolutely laced it about 350 yards. I had 55 yards in."





PELOT EARNS LACROSSE TOP HONOR

Ponte Vedra senior goalie Jack Pelot was named the recipient of the 2024 Jamie Chapin Award, which is given to the boys lacrosse player of the year in the area by Lax904. Pelot became the seventh Ponte Vedra High player to win the award, which is named in honor of the late Nease High and University of Florida lacrosse player Jamie Chapin.

Contributed photos



Jacksonville Sports Foundation officially launched

The Jacksonville Sports Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to harnessing the power of sports to unite people and elevate the city's profile as Florida's Championship City, launched May 8.

The new foundation will work to attract sporting events of all types and sizes to Jacksonville, including collegiate athletic tournaments, surfing competitions, outdoor endurance races and large-scale international games. The foundation will also work to increase sports-related efforts in Jacksonville, like the headquarters of one of the fastest growing conferences in college athletics, the Atlantic Sun Conference (ASUN) moving to Jacksonville from Atlanta.

Previous efforts to bring in big-time sporting events have been made, but the Jacksonville Sports Foundation will be focused on consistently working together as a community to bring events to Jacksonville year-round.

The foundation will work to bring everything from archery to Zumba to Jacksonville, working in partnership with Visit Jacksonville and entities across the city. So far this year, bids have been made to host the AAU Track & Field Primary Nationals & Club Championships, 14 NCAA Division I and Division II tournaments, USA

Gymnastics competitions and various collegiate conference championships.

"The vision for the Jacksonville Sports Foundation is to not only leverage sports tourism to enhance the economic prosperity of Jacksonville, but to expand the appeal of the area," said Michael Corrigan, president and CEO of Visit Jacksonville. "By doing that we not only attract competitive sports events, but also sports-related entities like the Atlantic Sun Conference, to further the \$178 million estimated economic impact that sports had in Jacksonville in 2023 alone."

The Atlantic Sun Conference, established in 1978 as the Trans America Athletic Conference, currently has a membership of 12 institutions that provide a diverse range of collegiate experiences. Operating in the country's fastest-growing region, ASUN Conference broadcasts to more than 16 million homes. The league's footprint extends into nine of the nation's top 80 media markets, including six within the top 50.

In the classroom, 36 ASUN programs have recorded perfect graduation success rates in the last two years while on the field of competition, they have produced 13 national postseason wins.

"I am more than thrilled to be announcing our relocation to Jacksonville,

a market that is growing exponentially in a location that will allow us to access and engage with our student-athletes, coaches and administrators at an unprecedented level," said ASUN Conference Commissioner Jeff Bacon. "As the only NCAA Division I conference headquartered in Florida, we have a unique opportunity to capitalize on the value that our membership brings to one of the fastest-growing states in the country. Thank you to the City of Jacksonville and to Visit Jacksonville for their support, and thank you to our Atlantic Sun Conference presidents for their vision and support of this move. We look forward to the continued growth of the Atlantic Sun and our phenomenal institutions."

"As the Atlantic Sun continues to rise, this move is important for the continued growth and expansion of the Conference," said ASUN Conference President Susan Donovan. "With four members in Florida and a strong presence throughout the south, our new headquarters in Jacksonville will give our members new opportunities for collaboration in service of our student-athletes."

The ASUN headquarters announcement is the second major sports-related move to Jacksonville this year. In January, the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) announced

Jacksonville as the new home of the AAU Track and Field Primary Nationals and Club Championships previously held in Orlando. This year the event will take place at Hodges Stadium at the University of North Florida, July 7-13.

"I've seen first-hand the impact of sports tourism in Jacksonville," said Mayor of the City of Jacksonville Donna Deegan, who is also the founder of The DONNA Foundation whose signature event is the annual 26.2 DONNA Marathon to End Breast Cancer. "Having an organization dedicated to attracting sport events to Jacksonville is a game-changer, and I'm excited to see what the Jacksonville Sports Foundation brings here."

The Jacksonville Sports Foundation is actively seeking founding partners to help launch the work and volunteers to help carry out its mission. Those interested can visit jacksonvillesportsfoundation.com and complete the online form.

As the foundation continues to evolve, it will have its own staff who will work in partnership with Visit Jacksonville, the destination marketing organization that promotes leisure and business tourism to Jacksonville. Until staff is hired, Visit Jacksonville will continue to lead efforts on behalf of the Jacksonville Sports Foundation.

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Legals

Notice of Public Meeting Via Zoom | Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council

Notice is hereby given that the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council will meet via Zoom teleconference on **Monday, May 20, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.** The purpose of this meeting is for the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council to consider and take action on items on its agenda. The meeting agenda and materials can be obtained electronically by emailing ikeane@thefirewatch.org.

Interested persons desiring to attend this meeting can do so via Zoom (including by computer or telephone) using the following meeting access information:

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Meeting ID: 895 5161 1171
Passcode: 336209

By Phone

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Pursuant to Section 163.01(18), Florida Statutes, this meeting is being conducted through the use of communications media technology. Additionally, those who unable to access the call can attend the meeting in a communications media technology facility located in the offices of **Office Evolution, 5011 Gate Parkway, Building 100, Suite 100, Jacksonville, FL 32256.**

Meetings are open to the public. All constituent questions or inquiries will be made a part of the permanent file and all efforts will be made to address the questions during noticed meetings of the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council.

Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council meetings are open to the public. All constituent questions or inquiries will be made a part of the permanent file and all efforts will be made to address the questions during noticed meetings of the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council. Interested persons who cannot attend this Zoom teleconference but who wish to submit public comments to be read during the public comment portion of the meeting regarding any matter on the agenda for consideration at the meeting may do so by emailing ikeane@thefirewatch.org up to the start time of the meeting.

Public comments submitted by email must be received no later than 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to be read during the public comment portion of the meeting. The meeting agenda and materials can be obtained electronically by emailing ikeane@thefirewatch.org. Please contact Ian Keane by email at ikeane@thefirewatch.org if you have any questions regarding this notice or if you experience technical difficulties during the meeting. A recording of this meeting will be available upon request by emailing ikeane@thefirewatch.org after its conclusion.

St. Johns County serves as the fiscal agent for the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council. Inquiries/questions regarding items on the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council agenda should be emailed to Ian Keane at ikeane@thefirewatch.org or by phone at 904 834 9420.

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please submit ADA accommodations requests to ikeane@thefirewatch.org.

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ACROSS

1. Geological time
4. Ooze
9. A set of eight
14. Obstruction
15. Swiss mathematician
16. Philosophy
17. The night before
18. A timid person
20. Unifies
22. Gangs
23. Alternative name
24. Acumen
28. Cathode-ray tube
29. Tantalum
30. Soluble ribonucleic acid
31. Humiliate
33. Earthy pigment
37. Air Force
38. Adult males
39. Stiff untanned leather
41. Before
42. Atomic #18
43. Beer mug
44. Nostrils
46. Type of chef
49. Midway between north and east
50. They __
51. Splits
55. Walk in a timid manner
58. Preserved animal skin with hair
59. Popular donut shop item
60. You smear it on bagels
64. Don't know when yet
65. Equal to 10 amperes
66. Synthetic acrylic fiber
67. One point south of due east
68. Of mixed ancestry
69. Home of the Pyramids
70. A way to change color

DOWN

1. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
2. Untangle
3. One from the U.S.
4. Academic terms
5. San __ Obispo, in

- California
6. Not healthy
7. Self-assessment questionnaire (abbr.)
8. Arugula genus
9. VIII
10. Makes a monarch
11. Tormentor
12. Commercials
13. Sprinkle
19. Make a mistake
21. Freshwater fishes
24. Vermont town
25. Man-made device
26. Entrap
27. Places to store important things
31. Accumulate
32. Greek mythological nymph
34. Gregory __, American dancer


35. Denotes past
36. Becoming popular again
40. Indicates position
41. Came before
45. An extra seed-covering
47. Cheerful
48. Deli sandwich staple
52. Skateboarders love them
53. Mandela's party
54. Sierra lake
56. Nickname for Elizabeth
57. Remove from record
59. Employee stock ownership plan
60. Former NFLer Newton
61. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
62. Work unit
63. Town in Cambridgeshire

SUDOKU								
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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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