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THE RECORDER



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Thursday, May 30, 2024

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VOLUME 55, NO. 31 \$1.00

Panel backs Black history museum in St. Johns County

By Shaun Ryan

St. Johns County's bid to host the new Florida Museum of Black History received a significant victory Tuesday, May 21, when a state panel voted to recommend it over the two other leading contenders.

The recommendation by the Florida Museum of Black History Task Force, while advancing the county's cause, is not the last word. By July 1, the task force will submit a report to the governor, Senate president, speaker of the House and minority leaders of the Senate and House. A feasibility study will also be undertaken.

Following that, the Legislature will consider legislation to commission, construct, operate and administer the museum.

MUSEUM continues on Page 7

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Local Heroes recognized

Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary presents annual awards

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and The Ponte Vedra Recorder recognized seven local residents for their contributions to the community last week at the 32nd Annual Local Heroes Awards.

Held Thursday, May 23, at Marsh Landing Country Club, this year's event honored residents whose service to the community includes restoring local beaches, picking up trash, providing health care to the working uninsured, supporting school literacy programs and even saving a life.



Photo by Susan Griffin

The 2024 Local Heroes are: Max Gurowski, Carol Grysko, Charlotte Peverley, Elizabeth Joshi, Elaine Ashourian and Lori Moffett.

ROTARY continues on Page 11

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



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THE RECORDER
Covering Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, and Greater St. Johns County

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BRIEFS

Ponte Vedra library to reopen Tuesday
The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will resume its regular services and hours effective at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, after completing a roof replacement project ahead of schedule. Materials checked out from the branch before the closure on May 6 will not be due until June 10. For more information about the St. Johns County Public Library System, go to sjcpls.org.

Easter Egg Hunt raised \$3,400
Adventure Landing recently hosted its 28th annual Easter Egg Hunt, raising \$3,400 for the Jacksonville Florida Volunteer Lifesaving Corp. The event suggested a \$5 donation per child, and additional funds were garnered through a raffle featuring items donated by local businesses.

Fashion for Action set for June 13
The fourth annual Betty Griffin Center Thrift Shoppes Fashion for Action is set for June 13. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for this fashion show fundraiser and silent auction, which will run from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hardage-Giddens St. Johns, 1285 St. Johns Parkway in St. Johns. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. All fashions will be from the thrift shoppes. All proceeds will help survivors of domestic and sexual abuse in St. Johns County. For tickets, go to <https://bit.ly/BGCFashionForAction2024>.

'Dine for a Cause' starts June 19
The "Beaches Area Dine for a Cause" is a summer fundraiser organized by The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club. It will kick off 5-10 p.m.

BRIEFS continues on Page 10

For VIP options and sponsorships, contact Carole Sullivan at caroles@bettygriffincenter.org.

Help with new filing offered to local businesses
The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of Florida is conducting workshops at St. Johns County public libraries aimed at aiding small business owners in meeting the newly imposed requirement for the Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) report. SBDC will offer informative presentations and assistance for filing the report, with access to computers and laptops provided if necessary. The filing process is straightforward, safeguarded and comes at no cost to business owners.

The program will be presented at 2 p.m. Monday, June 3, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. Register online at sjcpls.org/event/small-business-boi-report-workshop-at-pvb or RSVP to 904-827-6950.

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.



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Exhibit recalls rabbis' support of MLK

Commemorating the 60th anniversary of St. Augustine's historic segregation protest, The LJD Jewish Family & Community Services (JFCS) is hosting an open gallery day Sunday, June 2, at the Frisch Family Holocaust Memorial Gallery in Jacksonville. Admission is free.

The gallery's "We Could Not Be Silent" exhibit tells the story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as he aided the local Black community and allies in desegregating properties in St. Augustine in June of 1964 — and how the groups faced intense hostility and violence in response.

Recognizing how the silence surrounding the Holocaust allowed it to happen, former Freedom Rider Rabbi Israel Dresner joined 15 other rabbis to support King in the movement. They were all eventually imprisoned and wrote a moving letter to the Jewish

community from their jail cell about their experiences, a copy of which is included in the exhibit.

JFCS Holocaust educator Melissa Williams said that, while they've displayed the exhibit for a while now, their usual 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours make it more challenging for the general public to visit.

"We want to make it accessible to all," Williams said. "It only made sense to do so during the month it all took place 60 years ago."

Individuals and families can visit the gallery between noon and 3 p.m. Sunday. Visitors will be able to:

- Tour the "We Could Not Be Silent" exhibit
- View the Holocaust Memorial and a portion of the previous exhibit, "Art in the Holocaust"

• Speak with guides, who will be on hand to answer questions

• Interact with Morris Bendit, designer of the memorial and a Holocaust survivor

The gallery is located in the Alan J. Taffet Building, 8540 Baycenter Road, Jacksonville.

For more information, go to ResistHate-Jax.com.

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OBITUARIES



Marian Edwards

Marian Edwards, 83, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, passed away suddenly on May 16th, 2024 due to heart complications. Marian was born August 3rd, 1940 in Gillingham, Kent, United Kingdom to Doris Alice and Herbert George Goode-nough. She was raised by her mother and stepfather, Charles Burnet, in Newquay,

Cornwall and is predeceased by her brother, Max. She met her love and partner for life, Thomas Henry Edwards (Tommy), while he was performing at the Golders Green Hippodrome, in the Gang show in London, through a mutual friend who was also in the show. They had three sons: Bruce, Marcus, and Christopher. In the mid 1960's, they moved to the United States and spent over 30 years in Verona, New Jersey and Greenwich, Connecticut before retiring to Ponte Vedra Beach in Northeast Florida.

Marian was a generous and kind spirit. She loved tennis and her friends. She was active in the Rita Foundation and was a past chairperson of the Senioritas at Sawgrass, raising money and awareness on behalf of research and patient services for local hospitals. She started a Senioritas endowment in honor of Marian and Tommy Edwards which benefits the Baptist Foundation. She was also past president of the Sawgrass Women's club. Marian had a terrific sense of humor and quick wit. She enjoyed a long lunch and good conversation. Her generosity and kindness will be greatly missed and she will be always loved and admired. She

is survived by her loving husband of 63 years; sons; daughters in law, Diana and Kristin; and beloved grandchildren: Henry, Grace, Lillian, and Vivian.

A private family service will be held in the coming days. However, all who held Marian dear are invited to join the family for a celebration of her life, at the Sawgrass Beach Club, on June 7th at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Rita Foundation

through their website at the-rita-founda-tion.org. Please sign the online guestbook at pontevedravalle.com.



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DEATH NOTICES

Nina Maria Campbell

Nina Maria Campbell, 76, of Jacksonville, Florida, died May 13, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre 904-249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com.

Joseph Martin Fiorito

Joseph Martin Fiorito, 95, of Jacksonville, Florida, died May 20, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Mildred Daly

Mildred Daly, 81, of St. Johns, Florida, died May 1, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

Joanne Jean Fuller

Joanne Jean Fuller, 92, of Melrose, FL, passed away May 8, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

Terry Lee Elder

Terry Lee Elder, 77, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died May 16, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Venkatasubban Kunisi

Venkatasubban Kunisi, 83, of Jacksonville, Florida, died May 16, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

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Price Reduction

91 San Juan Drive, G2

2BD | 2 BA | 1500sf | \$1,150,000

Don't miss this opportunity to scoop up this 1st floor condominium in the most coveted condo community in Old Ponte Vedra. Just a short walk to the beach and it's private footbridge to the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club, it is a perfect home or investment property that will not disappoint. This unit offers eastern exposure with water to golf views, an open floorplan and spacious Florida sunroom. Convenient oversized one car garage is just steps from the front door and offers additional storage.



82 San Juan Drive

4BD | 4.5 BA | 3312sf | \$3,150,000

Welcome to this charming custom-built home nestled in the highly desired area of Old Ponte Vedra, offering unparalleled privacy with lush landscape and gorgeous golf course views. The property boasts just under a half an acre, with a large circular drive, side-entry garage and no immediate neighbor to the north. The first floor has 2 bedrooms with ADA compliant doorways and barrier free showers in both full baths and the second floor has 2 more ensuite bedrooms. The mature trees and landscaping provide shade and privacy, creating a tranquil oasis right outside your door.



330 Ponte Vedra Blvd.

6BD | 5 BA | 3330sf | \$6,750,000

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Sarah DePasquale combined her love of horses growing up and her career as a bartender to begin Unbridled Bar, which is a horse trailer turned mobile bar business. It has been quite the ride, but she has enjoyed developing a client base and a reputation within the local event world since opening in 2019. She can modify the mobile bar for any occasion and offers a unique addition to events throughout the Northeast Florida area.

Sarah DePasquale

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

My name is Sarah DePasquale, and I grew up in New Hampshire, so I'm from up north, but went to high school in Sarasota and college at UF, which is also where I met my husband.

We've moved to Jacksonville and have been here for about 13 years now.

Where did the idea to start Unbridled Bar come from?

Once we moved to Jacksonville, after a while I had just reached the point where I knew I wanted to work for myself and be my own boss.

I had always been a bartender but started branching out and doing wedding photography on the side.

I started to really get into that world and began making connections and getting to know people in the wedding business.

I had seen the horse trailer idea in another market and thought about trying it here in Jacksonville.

So, we bought a horse trailer, and then a second one, and the business got its start.

We got our first trailer in 2019 and were able to serve cocktail drink mixes during COVID, which kept us in business during that time when big events were not taking place.

What goes into turning a horse trailer into a mobile bar?

There's a lot that goes in to make it happen and convert it.

Luckily, I had a really good bar regular that was able to really help in the construction and creation process for the trailer.

I was the first trailer on the market in Jacksonville, which was great but it also meant that it took some time to convince people and venues that the horse trailer mobile bar concept was just what they were looking for.

However, although it took a little bit of convincing, once they realized what we had to offer it really took off from there.

How has the reception been to the idea within the community?

It has been very rewarding, and I've enjoyed the opportunity to partner up with the local community and with organizations for their events.

We have really done a lot with K9s For Warriors and the fundraising events they have. It's always nice to get your name out there some more while also helping out a great cause like that.

We've definitely developed a client base, especially when it comes to the holidays, such as Christmas parties and other events that take place often or annually.

The more events we do also help us spread the word about our business and all that we do.



Photo courtesy of Laura Perez Photography

Sarah DePasquale transformed a vintage 1970 horse trailer into a mobile bar as part of her business, Unbridled Bar.

It does tend to get easier over time and the longer we're around, we've begun to develop a reputation we can lean on.

Word of mouth has helped us a lot. That and Instagram is where potential clients can best find us by searching The Unbridled Bar.

Where did the name "Unbridled Bar" come from for the business?

I was a horse girl and grew up riding horses with my grandfather, so they have always been special to me.

Our trailer is a vintage 1970 trailer, and we knew

we wanted to keep true to its tradition of being a horse trailer.

So, one day, "unbridled" came to me and it just seemed to fit perfectly with our horse theme and the fact that weddings are still a major part of our business.

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

My husband and I don't have kids, so we foster kittens. We also enjoy surfing, gardening and just being outside in the beautiful weather this area has to offer.

Museum

Continued from 1

Tuesday's vote ranking St. Augustine as the top site was 5-4. The two other sites were Eatonville in Orange County and Opa-Locka in Miami-Dade County.

If St. Johns County receives final approval, the museum will be built at the site of the former Florida Memorial College, which was moved to the Nation's Oldest City from Jacksonville in 1918. The college later relocated to Miami in 1965 out of concern for student safety amid racial tensions following passage of the Civil Rights Act.

As set forth in legislation signed May 11, 2023, by Gov. Ron DeSantis, the museum will be a multipurpose facility capable of generating self-sustaining revenues with research and storage facilities, meeting rooms, banquet facilities and a performing arts theater.

In anticipation that the museum may be awarded to St. Johns County, the Board of County Commissioners has approved a motion to approve the draft and negotiation of a purchase-and-sale agreement with Florida Memorial University, which still



Artist rendering

An artist rendering of the proposed Florida Black History Museum.

owns the property located at the intersection of North Holmes Boulevard and West King Street.

St. Johns County has a rich Black history. Fort Mose was the first free Black settlement in what is now the United States. In fact, the 1738 fort is currently

being reconstructed.

St. Augustine is the only place in Florida where The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested. That happened June 12, 1964, at the Monson Motor Lodge where King asked to be served at the Whites-only restaurant. That incident and demonstrations

by local African-American activists and others have been credited with helping to win passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

St. Johns County, which experienced West African influences by the Gullah Geechee people, was the site of the first Black Catholic school in Florida and was home to prominent Black leaders, including author Zora Neale Hurston; musician and singer Ray Charles, who attended Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; Dr. Otis A. Mason, the first African-American to be elected school superintendent in Florida; Capt. Francisco Menendez, former slave and founder of Fort Mose; and Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, the first African-American to command the 1st Marine Division.

Baseball great Jackie Robinson spoke here on June 16, 1964, at King's urging. James Weldon Johnson, author of the Black National Anthem, was a frequent visitor from Jacksonville; author Langston Hughes spoke here in 1954; and abolitionist Frederick Douglass spoke in St. Augustine in 1889.

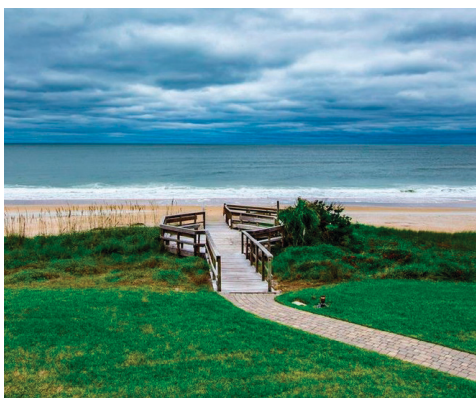
Other local sites affiliated with Black history include Butler Beach, the ACCORD Civil Rights Museum and the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center.

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Events to mark 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act

Sixty years ago, St. Augustine played a pivotal role in passage of the Civil Rights Act. This year, more than a dozen St. Johns County-area cultural organizations have collaborated to present a full month of events and exhibitions to commemorate the Civil Rights Era and celebrate the people who brought positive change to the nation.

Numerous free and ticketed events will be held for the public to learn more about the 1960s demonstrations organized by Dr. Martin Luther King and local activists including Dr. Robert Hayling, along with activities that explore five centuries of Black history in America's oldest city with tours, speakers, film, concerts and new permanent and temporary exhibitions.

• June 1 through Sept. 15 — The St. Augustine Historical Society presents “**A Pictorial History of the Black Community in St. Augustine and St. Johns County,**” featuring the photography of John L. Jackson and Lenny Foster at the Tovar House, 22 St. Francis St., St. Augustine. Free and open to the public.

• June 1 through Sept. 15 — St. Augustine Historical Society presents “**Lincolville through the Lens of Richard Twine: St. Augustine's First Professional Black Photographer,**” to be held at the Dunham House, 271 Charlotte

St., St. Augustine. Free and open to the public.



Contributed photos

Billy Buchanan and his Rock 'n Soul Review will perform June 5.

• June 5 at 5 p.m. — Opening of “**Waves of Change,**” a permanent exhibition at the Cultural Arts Center at the St. Augustine Beach Hotel that tells the history of St. Augustine Beach, including the wade-ins of 1964. The St. Augustine Beach Hotel is the only Florida property listed on the National Register of Historic Places with a national level of signifi-

cance for the Civil Rights Movement. The opening event will be followed by a concert with Billy Buchanan and his Rock 'n Soul Review to be held at 350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach. Free and open to the public.

• June 11 at 1:30 p.m. — Visit the Lincolville Museum and Cultural Center for the opening ceremony of their new and improved **Civil Rights Exhibit**. The event will be held at 102 M.L. King Ave., St. Augustine. Free with registration and sign up at eventbrite.com/e/civil-rights-exhibit-opening-ceremony-at-the-lmcc-tickets-88497072024?aff=oddtcreator.

• June 11, June 18 and June 25 at 5 p.m. — Learn about St. Augustine's Civil Rights history with the Lincolville Museum and Cultural Center Guided **Civil Rights Tour**. The events will be held at 102 M.L. King Ave., St. Augustine. Free and open to the public.

• June 12, 7-8 p.m. — Join St. Johns County Parks and Recreation for a **History Beach Walk** and stroll back in time to learn more about the rich Black history of Butler Beach at Frank Butler Park East, 680 AIA South, St. Augustine. Register at <https://secure.rec1.com/FL/stjohns-county-fl/catalog?filter=c2VhemNoPTMwNzU5NDY>.

• June 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. — The Lincolville Museum and Cultural Center's **Juneteenth Heritage Luncheon** includes a celebration of music, historical dialogue and an anniversary kickoff presentation. Cost is \$75 per person. The event will be held at the Renaissance St. Augustine Historic Downtown Hotel, 6 W. Castillo Drive, St. Augustine. Tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-annual-juneteenth-heritage-luncheon-tickets-885000599617?aff=oddtcreator>.

• June 15, noon to 8 p.m. — Celebrate 50 years of civil rights at the **Lincolville Juneteenth Festival** on M.L. King Avenue, St. Augustine, with music, food and a variety of family-friendly activities. General admission is free. For more information, go to facebook.com/blackstineconnect?mibextid=LQQJ4d.

• June 16 at 10:45 a.m. — The Lincolville Museum and Cultural Center and St. Paul AME present civil rights activist, author and **former journalist Charles Cobb**, who will speak during the morning worship at St. Paul AME, 85 Martin Luther King Ave., St. Augustine. Free and open to the public.

• June 18 at noon — The St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society commemorates the 60th anniversary of the **arrest of 17 rabbis** who came to St. Augustine to join the civil rights demonstrations at the Hilton Historic Bayfront Inn, 32 Avenida Menendez, St. Augustine. Free and open to the public.

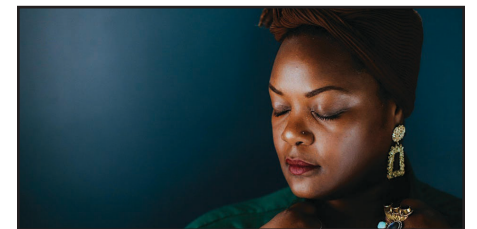
• June 19 at 7:30 p.m. — The St. Augustine Music Festival presents **Marcus Roberts and the Modern Jazz Generation**, performing “From New Orleans to Harlem,” featuring a 100th anniversary



Marcus Roberts and the Modern Jazz Generation will perform June 19.

arrangement of “Rhapsody in Blue.” The ticketed event will be held at Flagler College, Lewis Auditorium, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine. <https://staugustinemusicfestival.org> and <https://staugustinemusicfestival.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/SAMF2024.pdf>.

• June 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — The Fort Mose Historical Society presents “**The Battle of Bloody Mose**” at Fort Mose Historic State Park, 15 Fort Mose Trail, St. Augustine. Free and open to the public.



Kyshona with The Little Mercies will perform June 22.

• June 22 at 6:30 p.m. — The Gamble Rogers Folk Festival presents **Kyshona with The Little Mercies** with live performances. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; performances begin at 7 pm at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine. Tickets at eventbrite.com/e/kyshona-trio-live-from-the-waterworks-in-st-augustine-tickets-848550546527.

• June 25 at 3 p.m. — Nationally acclaimed **sculptor Dana King** will present a collage of her works at the Lincolville Museum and Cultural Center, 102 M.L. King Ave., St. Augustine. Free with registration at eventbrite.com/e/dana-king-at-the-lmcc-tickets-885039947307?aff=oddtcreator%20or.

• July 1, noon to 10 p.m. — **ACCORD Film Festival and Book Signing** at the historic St. Paul AME Church, 85 Martin Luther King Ave., St. Augustine. Free and open to the public.

• July 2 at 9 a.m. — **ACCORD Freedom Trail Trolley Tour** with historian David Nolan. Free with tickets to ACCORD luncheon at 75 King St., St. Augustine. Luncheon tickets at <https://accordfreedomtrail.org>.

• July 2, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. — The ACCORD Museum and Freedom Trail presents its ninth **luncheon** at the Casa Monica Resort and Spa, with speakers including St. Augustine civil rights activist Dr. Cynthia Mitchell Clark and Crystal Hayling, daughter of Dr. Robert Hayling. Luncheon tickets at <https://accordfreedomtrail.org>.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students take stand against tobacco

To the Editor:

The need for youth to speak up and make their voices heard about the issues they care about is as important as ever, which is why one student-led organization in Florida is leading the way in the fight against the tobacco industry and the addictive products that target youth.

Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) is a statewide youth organization focused on educating, empowering and mobilizing Florida youth to revolt against and de-glamorize Big Tobacco. As a member of the St. Johns SWAT chapter, I believe SWAT is an important cause more youth should get involved in. SWAT allows my fellow SWAT club members and I the opportunity to share the harmful effects of tobacco products such as cigarettes, vapes and dip through tabling events and tobacco-related observances such as Not A Lab Rat Day and Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action. Despite significant progress over the years, tobacco and e-cigarette use is still prevalent, and the tobacco industry's antics must be stopped. SWAT is working to change the social norms associated with tobacco, including e-cigarettes.

SWAT has been educating and empowering youth and communities since

1998. SWAT has had several successful initiatives throughout the years. "Not a Replacement" was a statewide campaign where thousands of youth reminded tobacco companies that they are unique individuals with the potential to make a positive impact on their community. "Not a Lab Rat" is the current statewide campaign that focuses on the truth behind e-cigarettes and how youth can stop the spread of misinformation. Through such initiatives, SWAT continues to work toward changing the way people think about tobacco, making it less desirable, less acceptable and less accessible.

My reason for joining SWAT was clear. The first time I saw SWAT, Students Working Against Tobacco, a few upperclassmen sat at the table asking people to sign it. Since I already had strong feelings against nicotine, signing the table was a no-brainer. Some time went by, and I saw the table again. At this moment, I realized that I could make a difference as a leader within the club. So, I contacted the club's sponsor, Dr. Bundshuh. She told me I could help become part of the club's leadership the following year. Joining SWAT helped me by being taught how to campaign against the harmful effects of nicotine. We inform our peers that are walking by when we are tabling about the adverse impacts that nicotine has. Fast forward to this year, the club has expanded, and the number of people involved is at an all-time high. Because of this, the club

leaders were fortunate enough to sit down with the St. Johns County School Board chair, Mrs. Beverly Slough. We explained to her how we make a difference as the leaders of SWAT. While there are over 300 active SWAT clubs in Florida and over 4,300 active youth members in Florida, it was remarkable to know that our school drew enough attention to attract the school board chair. Being in SWAT has made me feel like I have made a difference within the school, and the ideologies we represent in our program have made their way across the county.

In our community, the St. Johns SWAT chapter helped make a difference by recruiting youth to join SWAT during eighth grade ramp-up at Creekside High School, attending local events to promote the dangers of youth e-cigarette use, organizing community and beach cleanups and meeting with our St. Johns County School District chair, Mrs. Beverly Slough, to voice support for anti-tobacco and anti-e-cigarette in school policies, and partnering with our local organization such as Hanley Foundation, EPIC Behavior Health, Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County, St. Johns County Health Department, Tobacco Free St. Johns and National Guard DDRO to bring Red Ribbon Week and Prevention Week to our school. We

were honored to attend regional SWAT club meetings to discuss different ways SWAT students in other counties are promoting SWAT and educating their peers and local community.

There is still work to be done to protect our generation and future generations from the tobacco industry. By working with peers, students can create change that will keep tobacco products out of St. Johns County and improve the health of our family, friends and community. SWAT is open to all Florida youth in sixth-12th grades. There is a SWAT chapter in every county in Florida, and some counties also have clubs in schools and community organizations. In St. Johns, we have two SWAT clubs. One is at St. Augustine High School, and one is at Creekside High School. Next year we are hoping to have five active SWAT clubs during the '24-25 school year.

If you are interested in learning more about SWAT and how youth can get involved, contact Jacqueline Rush at jacqueline@civcom.com or visit www.SWATFlorida.com. I hope that in writing this, more youth are inspired to stand up and speak out against the tobacco industry by joining SWAT.

**Sincerely,
Adam Harvery
Creekside High School SWAT member**



PASTA partners with Visitors Convention Bureau

The Professional Artists of St. Augustine (PASTA) has announced a partnership with the St. Augustine & Ponte Vedra & the Beaches Visitors Convention Bureau. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in promoting the arts scene in St. Augustine and enhancing the cultural experiences available to residents and visitors alike.

As a leading organization representing local artists, PASTA is dedicated to fostering creativity, supporting artistic endeavors and enriching the cultural landscape of our community. Through this partnership with the Visitors Convention Bureau, PASTA aims to amplify its reach and impact, showcasing the diverse talents of St. Augustine's artists to a broader audience.

The St. Augustine & Ponte Vedra & the Beaches Visitors Convention Bureau plays a pivotal role in promot-

ing tourism and highlighting the unique attractions of our region. PASTA's partnership with the Visitors Convention Bureau will provide the longest-running artists cooperative to achieve various initiatives, including:

- Promoting local art events and exhibitions to residents and tourists
- Showcasing the work of St. Augustine artists through digital and physical platforms
- Facilitating artist-led workshops and demonstrations to engage the community
- Creating immersive cultural experiences that highlight the intersection of art, history and heritage in St. Augustine

For information about PASTA, go to pastagalleryart.com. To learn more about visiting St. Augustine, go to floridashistoriccoast.com.

Nominations are now open!



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!**



Scan the QR code to submit your nominations!

www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2024/#!/

County hears about alternative housing options

By Shaun Ryan

As St. Johns County seeks solutions to its shortage of attainable and affordable housing, the Board of County Commissioners heard from a member of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee on Tuesday, May 21, regarding “missing middle housing.”

Architect Greg Burke spoke on this type of housing, which bridges the gap between single-family homes and large apartment complexes. This includes smaller-scale structures such as du-

plexes, triplexes, fourplexes, courtyard apartments and townhouses — these representing a common type of housing in America prior to 1940, according to Burke.

Euclidean zoning, which separates land use by type — residential, commercial, retail, industrial — has become the standard in America today. It has been blamed for a variety of undesirable consequences. Small businesses have been excluded from residential neighborhoods. People have become more dependent on automobiles, contributing to a rise in

emissions and congestion on the roads. And there have been instances of housing discrimination.

The idea of restoring the “missing middle” supports housing for people within walking distance of work or shopping or, at least, offering access to transit.

Burke gave a slide presentation to show how diverse housing options can fit into existing neighborhoods. He pointed out how these options can make for good starter homes.

To encourage this type of housing, the county might need to look at modifica-

tions to its zoning, though there is some concern that the state’s 2023 Live Local Act, which aims to increase the availability of affordable housing, can override efforts by local officials.

There is little question that St. Johns County has an affordable housing crisis. In April, the median price of a home here hit \$600,000, an 11.4% increase over the previous month and far beyond the ability of working-class families to afford. There is a growing concern that those working in “essential jobs” will no longer be able to live here.

Clerk Patty to be deployed to Middle East

St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller Brandon J. Patty has been ordered by the U.S. Navy to support overseas contingency operations in the Middle East commencing on Friday, May 24.

“As I finalize preparations for this deployment, I appreciate the warm words of support from Gov. DeSantis in granting my leave of absence,” said Patty. “Being called to serve overseas in uniform is an absolute honor and privilege. While I will be serving you in a different capacity for the time being, we will continue meeting our impor-

tant mission, protecting taxpayer dollars, and seeking opportunities to make your interactions with us easier than before.”

Patty received official notification of his selection for an involuntary mobilization in December. In accordance with Florida Statutes, he submitted a leave of absence request to DeSantis, who responded with support and approval.

“Thank you for your service, both as a county officer and as a member of the Armed Services of the United States of America,” said DeSantis. “I join your friends and family in looking forward to

your safe return.”

Deployment orders are scheduled to run until the end of the year.

In his absence, Patty has appointed a designee to fulfill his responsibilities. The Clerk of Courts senior leadership team will continue to manage their portfolios and divisions while deputy clerks maintain customer service across all court and county functions.

The Clerk’s Office remains available to assist residents and stakeholders and can be contacted at 904-819-3600 with any questions or concerns.

Briefs

Continued from 2

June 19 at Two Dudes Seafood. Restaurants will donate 20% of the evening’s proceeds to the club, which awards more than \$50,000 each year to local charities. Restaurants that would like to participate should contact Parker Alter at 804-814-8259.

To see an updated list of participating restaurants, go to pontevedrawomanclub.com.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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Rotary

Continued from 1

Local Heroes Committee Chair Steve Crosby noted that the awards were started in 1993 by Rotarians Vic DiGenti and Chuck Day in partnership with The Ponte Vedra Recorder in order

to recognize the “unsung heroes” who give back to the community and reflect the spirit of the Rotary Club’s motto, “Service Above Self.”

The “Local Heroes” Honorees of 2024 include:

Lori Moffett, Beth Angelo and Elaine Ashourian: The trio was honored for leading the charge to restore the

community’s beaches after back-to-back hurricanes led to significant erosion and reduction of the beach. In addition to creating a nonprofit to raise funds for critical studies and evaluations, they created a separate advocacy organization that led to millions in federal funding being allocated to restore the beach.

Elizabeth Joshi: Shortly after moving to Ponte Vedra Beach, Joshi became concerned with the amount of litter along A1A. Frustrated by the response she received from government agencies, she began personally picking up trash each week and expanded her efforts by forming the Ponte Vedra Litter Crew. The group now has more than 40 members who volunteer their time to keep Ponte Vedra Beach beautiful.

Carol Grysko: After working as a nurse at the same hospital for 40 years, one would think Carol Grysko would be enjoying a well-earned retirement. She chooses, however, to share her skills and talents at Volunteers in Medicine, a Jacksonville nonprofit that provides medical care to working individuals who lack health insurance.

Max Gurowski: A local hero in the

most literal sense of the word, Nease High School Lacrosse Coach Max Gurowski was accompanying the team to a game in West Palm Beach when they witnessed a truck drive into a retention pond. After instructing the bus driver to pull over, Gurowski jumped into the pond and rescued the driver.

Charlotte Peverley: Ponte Vedra High School senior Charlotte Peverley is busy preparing to attend Duke University in the fall — but not too busy to volunteer in the community. In addition to starting the Bakery Book Exchange — which collected 3,000 books for local literacy programs — she organized a clothing drive for an orphanage in Bolivia and created Stop the Summer Slide, a program that supplies summer enrichment workbooks to local school children served by Blessings in a Backpack.

“Each of this year’s honorees is amply deserving of the term ‘Local Hero,’” Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club President Jennifer Logue said. “We are so blessed to have such caring, committed people in our community and it is our honor to recognize them for all they do.”



Elaine Ashourian, Lori Moffett and Steve Crosby.



Dr. Nirmal Joshi, Elizabeth Joshi and Shelley Morgan.



Jennifer Ryan and Carol Grysko.



Vincent Grassia and Max Gurowski.



Charlotte Peverley and Sherry Mahoney.



Contributed photo

The Ponte Vedra Women's Walking Club was created a couple months ago and has already gained quite the following.

Women's walking club fosters supportive atmosphere

By Anthony Richards

Walking is seen as a way to get exercise, but it can also be a great social tool and a unique way to get to make friends and get to know your community.

That is exactly the approach that Anne-Marie Mitchell had in mind when she started the Ponte Vedra Women's Walking

Club about a month ago.

However, she did not know what to expect and although she believed in the idea she is blown away by the following it is creating in just a short period of time.

After just one month, the club's Facebook group page has 400 members, and Mitchell is anxious to see the amount of people it impacts in the future.

"It has grown up very quickly, and I didn't even realize the response it would have," Mitchell said. "It has been really touching. What I thought would be just a nice fitness group has already turned into so much more."

One of the major benefits of the Facebook group is that it allows members to share stories and support for each other between planned walks, the conversations and interactions continue even days and weeks after the walk has ended.

As the name implies, women are the focus of the group, and it includes all age groups, from children to senior citizens.

"I had been thinking about starting this group for several months because I feel like a lot of women want a community they can be a part of," Mitchell said. "I saw a lot of running clubs in Jacksonville when I researched, but I know I'm not as ambitious to run and I know a lot of women who don't necessarily want to run but would rather power walk."

The club not only promotes stronger physical health but can also be helpful in improving the mental health of its members.

Mitchell has already met so many women with varying reasons why they chose to come out on the walks and she has found that it does not matter if they are someone who is new to town and just

looking to meet people or someone who has lived in the area for a long time but is just looking for new friends or just a different way to network from a business standpoint.

"This has been a cure for a lot of women's loneliness," Mitchell said. "When women come together they are very nurturing, and that's what this club is all about. I believe that is so needed especially in the years since COVID."

Even though Ponte Vedra is in the name, Mitchell wants the club to reach out to any women in the area looking to grow their community of relationships, and that includes fellow beach communities, such as Jacksonville Beach, Atlantic Beach and Neptune Beach.

The walks are held at various locations throughout the area on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, which gives the members plenty of options to choose from depending on what their schedule looks like that week.

Each walk starts at 9:30 a.m. at that week's designated site. The club's monthly calendar of walk destinations can be found by going to pvwwc.com.

"I even want to do some beach walks in the future," Mitchell said.

Local women can become a member by joining the club's Facebook group.

Nominations are now open!



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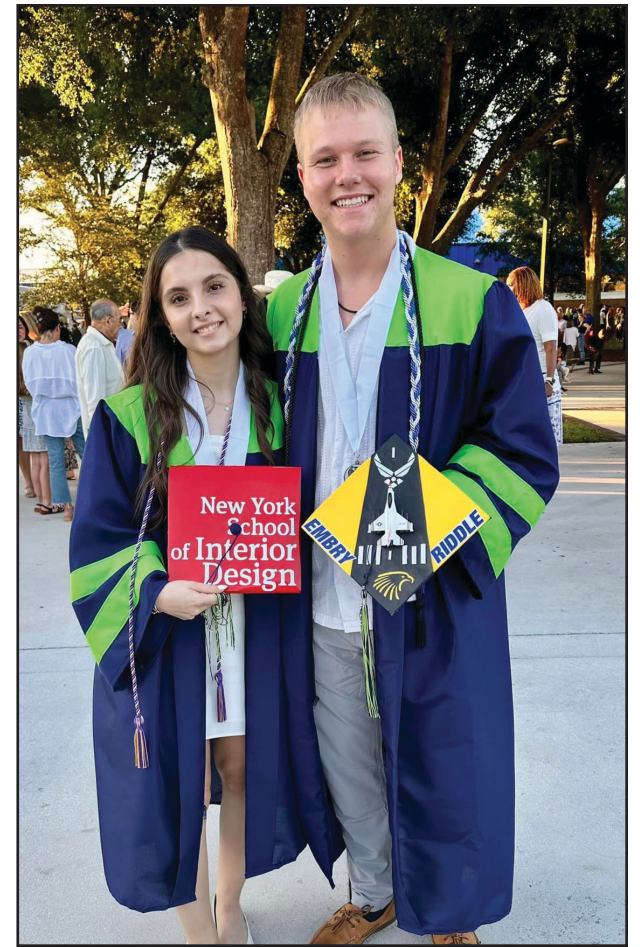
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The following are photos of graduates from the class of 2024 from Ponte Vedra High, Nease High and Beachside High. The Ponte Vedra Recorder's staff congratulates and wishes the best of luck to the class of 2024.

Contributed photos



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| Arizona State University (Tempe) | Georgetown University | Southern Methodist University | University of North Carolina at Pembroke |
| Auburn University | Georgia Institute of Technology | St. Andrews University | University of North Florida |
| Babson College | Georgia Southern University | St. Thomas University | University of Oklahoma |
| Bard College | Gettysburg College | Stetson University | University of Rhode Island |
| Barry University | Hampden-Sydney College | Stony Brook University | University of Richmond |
| Baylor University | Hawai'i Pacific University | Syracuse University | University of San Diego |
| Belmont University | High Point University | Tallahassee Community College | University of South Carolina |
| Bethune-Cookman University | Hillsborough Community College | Temple University | University of South Florida (Main Campus) |
| Bluffton University | Hillsdale College | Texas Christian University | University of South Florida (St. Petersburg) |
| Boston College | Indiana University (Bloomington) | The American University of Paris | University of Southern Maine |
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| Butler University | James Madison University | The Ohio State University | University of Washington (Seattle Campus) |
| California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo) | Kansas State University | The University of Alabama | University of West Georgia |
| Carleton College | Kennesaw State University | The University of Tampa | University of Wyoming |
| Carlow University | Kenyon College | The University of Tennessee (Knoxville) | Valdosta State University |
| Catholic University of America | Louisiana State University | The University of Texas at Austin | Villanova University |
| Citadel Military College of South Carolina | Loyola Marymount University | The University of West Florida | Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University |
| Clemson University | Loyola University Chicago | Thiel College | Voorhees University |
| College of Charleston | Marymount University | Thomas Jefferson University | Wake Forest University |
| College of the Holy Cross | Massachusetts Maritime Academy | Trinity University | Washington and Lee University |
| Colorado State University (Fort Collins) | Mercer University | Tulane University of Louisiana | Washington State University |
| Davidson College | Methodist University | United States Merchant Marine Academy | Washington University in St. Louis |
| Dickinson College | Michigan State University | United States Military Academy at West Point | Wayne State University |
| Drexel University | Middle Tennessee State University | University of Akron Main Campus | West Virginia University |
| Duke Kunshan University | Montana State University | University of Alabama in Huntsville | Western Carolina University |
| Duke University | Mount Holyoke College | University of Arizona | Wilkes University |
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Primrose pre-K grads recognized



Graduation announcement signs line the pathway to the ceremony.

Primrose School on Crosswater Parkway conducted its pre-kindergarten graduation recently. The children sang “ABC You Later” and “Zoom Zoom Zoom,” and a poem was read, “I’m a Graduate.”

Photos by Susan Griffin



The 4K1, 4K2, 4K3 and 4K4 graduating classes.



Eleanor Oehler receives her 4K1 diploma.



The Class of 2024 cake was made from individual cupcakes.



Primrose School's graduation ceremony was held at Hope Pavillion.

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Photos by Anthony Richards



The Project SEARCH class of 2024 included Zach Bower, Caleb Clayton and Dylan Nicholas.



The graduates meet with their families following the ceremony.

Opportunities, jobs await Project SEARCH graduates

By Anthony Richards

Project SEARCH graduated its latest class of graduates during a ceremony at Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge on May 23.

The class consisted of three graduates, who were Zach Bower, Caleb Clayton and Dylan Nicholas.

It was fittingly held at Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge because that had been the place where the three had gained experience as student interns with the facility over the past two years in conjunction with the Project SEARCH program in St. Johns County.

As interns, the three performed a variety of skill training and learned how to work within a team environment.

There were many mentors within Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge, both staff and residents alike that played a helping hand in making sure the three were as prepared as they could be for a career in the workforce.

One of these mentors was Lou Lindeman, who not only spoke about the positive impact being a mentor had on the graduates but also the impact it has on the mentors themselves.

"I'm proud to be called a resident of Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge, because



Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge hosted the Project SEARCH graduation ceremony on its campus on May 23.

they have a management team here that was willing to donate their time and resources to a program like this," Lindeman said.

Some of the many ways in which mentors assisted the graduates in the program included partnering with them on team building exercise, working at food pantrys, planting flowers in the gardens at BEAM, as well as just sharing insight into what the real world and the working

environment is like.

"We sat down with them one-on-one and talked about what it's going to be like to interview and to work in an environment where you have to compete with others," Lindeman said. "These are outstanding young men, and they are all driven to succeed, and with that drive and desire to learn they will succeed going forward. I'm proud to call each one of them my friend."

A testament to the program doing its part to present them with the skills needed to succeed, is that Zach and Caleb are graduating with jobs lined up at Publix and Home Depot, respectively, while Dylan still pursues his dream job of working at Dunkin' Donuts.

"It's obvious when you see the joy in this group and everyone that's getting to celebrate with you, that you have been great role models for students who are going to follow you, and I thank you for that," St. Johns County superintendent Tim Forson said.

Forson also thanked Vicar's Landing for being willing to partner and help give back to the community by making sure the program and its students the needed guidance.

Partnerships between businesses and the school system can go a long way in offering certain real-world scenarios that would otherwise not be attainable and the students are the ones that benefit from that.

"This does not happen everywhere, and a huge thank you to the members (of Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge) who were willing to embrace this idea and embrace these three young men," Forson said.

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INK! recognizes Take Stock in Children graduating seniors

The St. Johns County Education Foundation, which operates as Investing in Kids (INK!), recently hosted its Bright Beginnings Celebration to honor the Class of 2024 Take Stock in Children graduating seniors in St. Johns County. Fourteen students were recognized May 13 at St. Augustine High School. The students are graduating from St. Johns County public high schools, and each will attend college supported by a Take Stock in Children scholarship funded by individual donors, corporate sponsors and community partners.

Since 1998, INK! has been the exclusive umbrella agency in St. Johns County for Take Stock in Children, a statewide nonprofit organization that offers deserving students coming from a lower income background the opportunity to earn college scholarships through educational support, mentorship and college success coaching.

Students apply to participate in Take Stock when they are in the eighth grade in St. Johns County public schools. Upon acceptance into the program, they sign a contract to maintain a 2.5 grade point average, uphold good behavior and attendance and stay drug and crime free. Take Stock in Children is a public-private partnership in the State of Florida.

All monetary donations received by INK! for the Take Stock in Children



Photo courtesy of Investing in Kids (INK!)

The students and their laptop computer gifts at Take Stock graduation 2024.

program are directed to the purchase of the scholarships and are fully matched by Florida Prepaid Foundation with funding by the state Legislature. Community partners and business owners also provide significant support to help with academic and educational assistance.

Each graduating senior earned a scholarship with a value of about \$6,500 and received new laptop computers. Students were honored for their academic accomplishments, and donors were recognized through named scholarships for the students.

The 2024 Take Stock in Children St. Johns graduates and donor scholarships are as follows:

- From Florida Virtual School: Skylar Moseley, Investing in Kids (INK!) Scholarship
- From Bartram Trail High School: Alice Olivera, iVenture Solutions/Davidson Cares Scholarship; Jun Pan, Snyder Family Scholarship, Take Stock in Children Florida/Asofsky Foundation Leaders 4 Life Fellow; Cassie Wolfe, Brooke Ladue Memorial Scholarship
- From St. Augustine High School: Kelly Priest, All American Air Charitable Foundation Scholarship; Maryn Walker, Snyder Family Scholarship; Kaleb Zolla, St. Augustine Lions Club Scholarship
- From Ponte Vedra High School: Cooper Austreng, Ponte Vedra Women's Civic Alliance Scholarship
- From Pedro Menendez High School: Mara Gonzalez, MasterCraft Builders/Davidson Cares Scholarship; Makai Smith, The Hutson Companies/Davidson Cares Scholarship; Dylan Young, St. Augustine Lions Club Scholarship
- From St. Johns Technical High School: Timothy Gooch, Goode Family Scholarship; Jacques Johnson, Cavacini Family Scholarship
- From Tocoi Creek High School: Jordan Graham, Margie Davidson Memorial Scholarship; Jim Davidson Memorial Super Senior Scholarship

The event also honored Take Stock mentors who are longtime, dedicated volunteers for students. Volunteer mentors for the class of 2024 included Jeff Adams, Butch Burkett, Larry Dillahay, Kelly Harris, Sheila Lentz, Bob McKeefrey and Beverly Slough. Burkett was named the 2023-24 Take Stock in Children St. Johns County Volunteer of the Year.

The donors that supported Take Stock scholarships for this year's graduating class include All American Air Charitable Foundation, Dr. Timothy and Lisa Cavacini, Davidson Cares Foundation, Margie Davidson Family, Ted and Carolyn LaDue, Ponte Vedra Women's Alliance, Bill and Cathy Snyder, St. Augustine Lions Club and multiple volunteer mentors.

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World Golf Village survey results presented

By Shaun Ryan

At its regular meeting Tuesday, May 21, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners heard the results of a public survey regarding uses for the 36.07 acres of property at the core of World Golf Village.

The survey showed strong support for continuance of the IMAX Theater, as well as dining options and high-end retail establishments.

In April, the board approved the purchase of the 17,865-square-foot theater, the 32,329-square-foot structure currently housing PGA Tour Productions and the inventory of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The property also includes the lake, common area and parking spaces. The county already owns the 64,113-square-foot Hall of Fame building.

The purchase price is \$5.5 million.

In July 2022, the World Golf Foundation made known its intention to move the Hall of Fame to Pinehurst, North Carolina, its original home. It had been located in St. Johns County since 1998.

As of Dec. 31, 2023, operations had ceased at the Hall of Fame and the building was conveyed to the county. The PGA Tour and World Golf Foundation have requested to lease back the production facility, located at 21 World Golf Place and South Legacy Trail, until March 2025 in order to move those operations to the PGA Tour Global Headquarters in Ponte Vedra.

In anticipation of a purchase and sale agreement, two citizen meetings and the online survey were conducted to solicit public input on how best to use the assets. The survey ran from July through September of last year. The public meetings were held Sept. 27 and 28.

At the May 21 meeting, Brett Wiler, senior director, economic development and strategic planning, for TPMA Inc., a consulting firm, presented the findings.

In all, 4,900 people responded to the survey, 54% living within five miles of the property.

More than half the respondents reported visiting World Golf Village up to 10 times last year, with 14% visiting more than 50 times. Top reasons for these visits were: IMAX Theater, 52%; dining, 50%; and other, 31%.

Asked what they enjoyed about their experience, 71% of respondents checked scenery and ambiance, 41% mentioned convenience and accessibility and 34% selected services, such as retail and restaurant establishments.

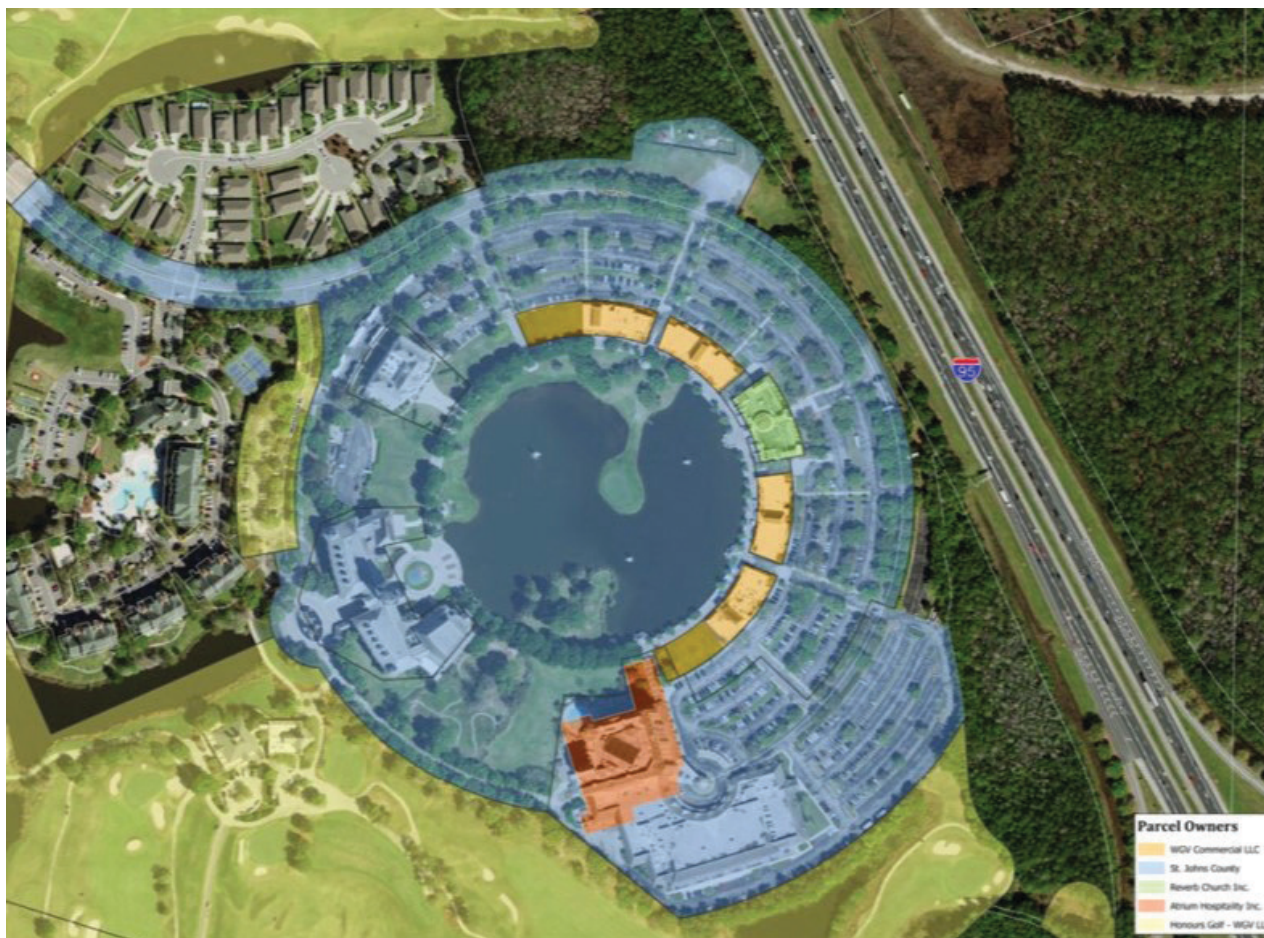


Image courtesy of St. Johns County

When asked for suggestions to improve the World Golf Village experience, 77% of respondents supported an increase in retail and dining options. More than half supported more or better activities.

Asked about the IMAX building, 63% preferred it remain a theater. Regarding the Hall of Fame building, 65% of respondents said they would like to see it used as an entertainment facility. Other high scores went to dining, leisure or recreation and cultural uses, such as a museum. Respondents did not want to see an automobile dealership, industrial facility or luxury apartments there.

The top vote-getter for uses of 21 World Golf Place was professional or corporate offices.

Respondents strongly preferred that the county continue to hold and maintain the 36 acres of parking, drainage, right of ways and submerged lands on South

Legacy Trail.

The survey was not without its critics. One World Golf Village resident said the questions were posed as though to visitors only, rather than including the perspectives of those who live there.

Based upon these findings, TPMA recommended the county retain the IMAX Theater; focus on restaurants and dining; add high-end retail; consider entertainment, leisure, athletics and/or cultural facilities; consider incubation or headquarters for targeted industries identified through the economic development strategic plan; and consider parking access and traffic needs.

The commission agreed to direct staff to bring back an RFQ (request for quotation) seeking proposals and bids from private developers to form a public-private partnership to redevelop and manage the properties.



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PROTACTX Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu hosted a self-defense clinic organized by JaxTHRIVE and Generation WOW.

Groups offer 'Fight Like A Girl' self-defense clinic

By Maya Jones and Ivey Dionne

On April 20, the JaxTHRIVE club at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville and the Generation WOW club at Ponte Vedra High School came together to host the sixth annual "Fight Like A Girl" self-defense clinic.

With the help of PROTACTX Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in Nocatee, the class was led by Danny Yakel, the owner and lead instructor, along with Professor Mark Czarnecki and one of their students. The two-hour class taught life-saving techniques including the benefits of using body angles and basic stances to protect yourself from a larger, stronger opponent.

JaxTHRIVE is a student-led nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of refugee students who are making their new home in Northeast Florida. JaxTHRIVE's mission is to create a nurturing environment for refugee students by offering tutoring, life skills, mentoring and friendship to advance in the classroom and grow in the community.

Generation WOW is a girl-focused program that emphasizes leadership, education and mentorship to uplift girls with the power of the positive and the possible. Generation WOW's programs build future leaders and empower the achievements of young girls.

Recognizing the mission common to both programs, Maya Jones from JaxTHRIVE and Ivey Dionne from Generation WOW combined their efforts to offer this workshop. Refugee girls from Afghanistan paired with high school girls from Ponte Vedra High School and Episcopal School of Jacksonville and spent the Saturday afternoon together.

This event sparked a higher confidence and greater self-esteem of safety in all the Afghan girls in attendance, integrating the two clubs' main ideals. Both Jones and Dionne wish to continue to fuse their clubs to make a lasting impact on the local female, refugee community.



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Business Weekly

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

The Plantation nears completion of \$15M renovation

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach has successfully completed a major renovation of its clubhouse and pickleball courts and is near completion of its oceanfront beach club. It is the largest renovation project in the 37-year history of the community.

Key highlights of the renovation include:

Clubhouse

- Complete remodel of the 40,000-square-foot clubhouse.
- Interior redesign of formal and pub-style dining venues.
- Introduction of a new outdoor 100-seat dining terrace, offering picturesque lake views.
- Expanded fitness center with all new state-of-the-art equipment and spaces tailored for contemporary exercise routines.
- Creation of a children's activity center.
- Addition of new amenities including member wine lockers, firepits, meeting rooms, office space, massage room and library.

Ocean Front Beach Club

- Expansion of the kitchen facilities

PLANTATION continues on **Page 24**



TPC Sawgrass welcomes executive chef

TPC Sawgrass, home of THE PLAYERS Championship, has announced its new executive chef, Johnattan Hernandez. With more than 20 years of experience, Hernandez will be responsible for managing the culinary operations for the entire property.

“We are excited to welcome Chef Johnattan back to TPC Sawgrass, where his diverse industry experience will pay immediate dividends for our members and guests,” said Kent James, vice president of food and beverage, PGA TOUR Golf Course Properties. “His dedication and passion for an elevated dining experience will be a tremendous asset to our club, and we look forward to watching he and his team build upon the rich culinary experience here at TPC Sawgrass.”

A native of Puerto Rico, Hernandez most recently served as the chef director at TPC Las Vegas, where his elevated

food and beverage program earned high praise from guests. Prior to his role in Nevada, Hernandez distinguished himself as the executive sous chef at TPC Sawgrass for four years from 2018 to 2023, contributing his talents to several editions of THE PLAYERS Championship. In his recent return to TPC Sawgrass, Hernandez has already demonstrated exceptional skill and leadership, including a victory at First Tee – North Florida’s recent Taste of Golf competition, which included some of the area’s top private club and resort chefs.

“I’m thrilled to return to TPC Sawgrass and lead its incredible culinary team — it feels like coming home,” Hernandez said. “I greatly admire the culture cultivated here and within the TPC Network and will work to build upon that night in and night out as we continue to deliver unforgettable experiences to our members

and guests. I look forward to bringing back some of TPC Sawgrass’ favorite dishes that we all know and love, while introducing new dishes as we build upon the tremendous dining legacy at TPC Sawgrass.”

Hernandez’s culinary arch began in 2002 at the prestigious Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia. He honed his craft working on the culinary teams at Al Sur restaurant in the Art Museum of Puerto Rico and at the Ritz-Carlton, San Juan, where his talent was recognized with numerous awards, including Taste of the Caribbean’s Chef of the Year. His diverse experience also spans across the United States, from opening a Marriott Autograph Collection in Key Largo, Florida, to serving as executive chef at BLT Market in the Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikiki Beach and leading the culinary team at Penn State’s Corporate HQ.



Contributed photo

Johnattan Hernandez has joined TPC Sawgrass as its executive chef.

Plantation

Continued from 23

in the existing restaurant and bar to accommodate a wider range of menu options featuring Floribbean cuisine.

- Construction of the new Surfside building with a snack bar featuring casual fare, tables, restrooms and changing areas with showers.
- Addition of new pool and deck furniture.
- The Junior Olympic-size pool has been renovated.
- Target date for reopening is summer 2024.

Pickleball Courts

- Introduction of five new courts and a pavilion featuring restrooms and a summer kitchen.
- Integration of new lighting and landscaping around the court facility.

The Plantation is a private gated community encompassing 650 acres of pristine land with 133 acres of golf course, 56 acres of lakes and four acres of oceanfront.

The Plantation is a Distinguished Club, and offers a complete member experience with a clubhouse, oceanfront beach facilities, an award-winning 18-hole golf course, two croquet courts, seven tennis courts, five pickleball courts, fitness center, swimming pool, first-class dining and 24-hour security.

All of these amenities are immediately available upon purchase of one of the 577 homes within the gated community. Home prices range from \$1.5 million to \$6.5 million.

For further information about The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach, contact Barbara Williams, Director of Marketing, at 904-543-7534 or via email at bwilliams@theplantationpv.com.

GUEST COLUMN

When things seem out of control, control things you can

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

During times of heightened stress, such as when there's extreme market volatility, a person can quickly become overwhelmed and struggle to do things that might be considered simple or obvious. It can be helpful to focus on the things you can control, identify actions that you can take, and complete those action steps.

Here are four action items for you to consider:

1. Review your investment plan

Before you start making changes to your investment portfolio, consider your goals. Are you saving for retirement? Do you need to build a college fund for your children? Did a recent event create a need to adjust your plan?

If your goals have changed or if you haven't updated your plan in a while, review and, if necessary, update your investment strategy to support reaching your goals.

2. Understand your risk tolerance

Risk is a key principle in investing. Some investments are riskier than others, but every financial decision involves risk. Since risk is inescapable, the key is to understand your risk tolerance and manage how much you are taking, which should be based on your long-term financial goals. If your tolerance for risk has changed, review your strategy and make sure you are still comfortable with the amount of risk you're taking.

3. Stick to your plan

When the market gets volatile, investors often react emotionally and may want to pull out of the market to try to avoid loss. However, remember that moving or selling



investments during a market decline will likely lock in losses; staying invested may allow you to benefit if the market comes back. Before reacting, take time to step back and try to respond using logic rather than emotion.

4. Organize and update important documents

Are your important documents up-to-date and accessible to those who may need them?

Create a reference list of your documents and consider making a digital version for easy storage and accessibility. Also ensure that your beneficiary designations for investment accounts, life insurance, and other accounts are up-to-date to reflect any new circumstances such as marriage, birth, death, or divorce. Beneficiary designations typically supersede your will or trust, so you'll want to confirm that they are current and accurate.

Our firm does not provide legal or tax advice. Be sure to consult with your tax and legal advisors before taking any

action that could have tax consequences. Any estate plan should be reviewed by an attorney who specializes in estate planning and is licensed to practice law in your state.

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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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024 · PAGE 25

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Textile artist Jessica Pinsky speaks during the opening reception for her exhibit at the First Coast Cultural Center.



"Blurred VI," cotton and rayon, handwoven on Jacquard loom

Fiber artist exhibits unique works at First Coast Cultural Center

By Shaun Ryan

The First Coast Cultural Center's newest exhibit features the work of textile artist Jessica Pinsky, who is making a name for herself in a medium that deserves greater attention in the art world.

"It's a really, really niche thing," she said during an opening reception Tuesday, May 21. "I like being a big fish in a small pond."

Pinsky makes weavings on a floor loom, but her art goes far beyond producing patterns or even images.

Her work is abstract in a way that invites the viewer to ponder the meaning behind each of the pieces, the details of which are unquestionably intentional. One is immediately struck by bold decisions to allow specific portions to "droop" in contrast to areas of tighter weave. The artist's choices regarding color, material, size and shape add to the overall effect.

Pinsky said the works are very personal.

"They're actually about issues that tend to be really hard to talk about, like difficulty getting pregnant, the crazy time that women have navigating early motherhood and stuff like that," she said. "I think just traditionally women are told that lots of those topics are very taboo, so it's nice to be able to talk about them through art."

Some of her pieces exhibit a greater level of accessibility, such as those in her "Birth Experience" series. The overall effect transcends whatever specifics are personal to the artist and connects with a more universal experience, especially among women.

In the First Coast Cultural Center exhibit, Pinsky is showing large black-and-white works, a series of unique pieces measuring 10-by-10 inches and weavings based upon art originally produced by her children.

For the latter, she selected two of her daughter's paintings to reproduce on the loom.



Photos by Shaun Ryan

At the top: "Dissection I," assorted fibers and resin. At bottom: "Dissection II," assorted fibers.

"I'm fascinated by her because, like kids in general, they just can make so many decisions; they don't second-guess themselves," Pinsky said. "Grownups do that. ...

It's awesome to watch her. I'm really inspired by her."

Through a painstaking process, Pinsky was able to make the loom do with yarn what her daughter did in paint. But she laughs when comparing the two processes.

"This painting that took her less than 10 minutes to do took me about four months!" she said.

The black-and-white works were created under a tight schedule. With one week to produce them, she eschewed color to reduce the number of choices and used the same material throughout.

But Pinsky thrives when working within a set of parameters, which she said often leads to big discoveries.

The smaller pieces were created for a show in Cleveland, Ohio, where Pinsky lives and runs a nonprofit, Praxis Fiber Workshop.

Each of the pieces, originally numbering 100, keeps within the same color palette while remaining varied in as many ways as possible.

At the opening on May 21, Pinsky gave a presentation and answered questions from members of the public. At the end, First Coast Cultural Center Executive Director and CEO Donna Guzzo announced that Pinsky's work would soon be exhibited in Aviles, Spain, as part of an art exchange. Aviles and St. Augustine have a sister-city arrangement.

Pinsky's work will be displayed through July 5 at the First Coast Cultural Center, 6000B Sawgrass Village Circle, Ponte Vedra Beach. Admission is free. The center is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

For further information, go to firstcoastculturalcenter.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Read more about Jessica Pinsky's art in the next issue of The Register, to be published in late June.

Photos courtesy of Alhambra Theatre & Dining



The comedic timing in "Boeing, Boeing" at Alhambra Theatre & Dining is spot on.



The cast of "Boeing, Boeing," which will be shown at Alhambra Theatre & Dining until June 16.

Buckle up for endless comedy with 'Boeing, Boeing'

By Anthony Richards

Alhambra Theatre & Dining's latest show "Boeing, Boeing" is designed to garner the laughs of the audience and it does an excellent job of delivering on this promise.

The show held its opening night on May 23 and will run until June 16 providing non-stop comedy along the way.

The show is unique in many ways, including the fact that it offers a change of pace from the traditional musicals that are traditionally taking stage at the Alhambra.

It continues to show the versatility that the theatre offers in its show calendar, which can be a real treat for both the audience members and present the performers with an option to showcase their range of talents as well.

Another interesting aspect of "Boeing, Boeing" is that the entire play has just three scenes spread across the two acts, which is different from most shows which have several scenes making up just one act.

The continuous scenes allow for the play's dialogue and storyline to really capture the audience and bring them into the events occurring on stage, which in turn adds to the overall experience.

While shows often have a character or two that really offers the comic relief needed during a play, "Boeing, Boeing" has multiple characters that provide a seemingly endless supply of funny moments and one-liners.

This comedic relief and timing were on cue from the start, and it will likely only get even better as the actors and actresses develop even more rapport with each

other as the play remains in the theatre and they do more shows together.

More shows can mean even more timing in the theatre world, which means the comedic flow can become even more precise and funny before the show reaches its end date on June 16.

Thad Walker plays Bernard and is one of the main characters in the show. It is his seventh show at the Alhambra, as he has become a regular performer at the facility and his list of productions continues to grow.

Walker teamed up with Rodney Holmes, who plays his best friend Robert in the show, and the two combine to get themselves in some peculiar spots and the laughter comes from them trying to then come up with solutions with how to best get out of the predicaments they find themselves in.

Lisa Valdini Booth plays Bertha, who is Bernard's maid, and her appearances on stage bring about laughs every time with either her lines or at times just the facial expressions and actions she makes to what is going on.

Booth is known for her work with voice overs and narrations over the years, including being the voice of Winn-Dixie for 12 years and hosting "All in Good Taste" on HGTV and DIY Network as part of her career.

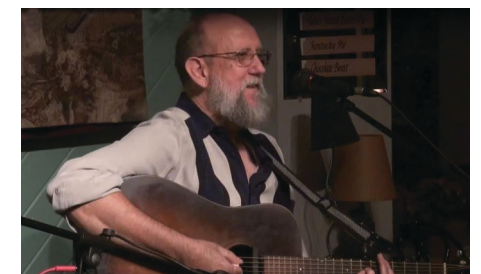
The other major female roles in the production are played by Natalie Drake (Gloria), Allyson Rosenblum (Gabriella), and Jessie Clontz (Gretchen), all of whom had performed previously at Alhambra.

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Contributed photo

Charlie Robertson will perform at the next Sundays At Stetson's concert.

Robertson to perform at Stetson's

The next Sundays At Stetson's concert, at 2 p.m. June 9, will feature Charlie Robertson, who is revered in the Florida folk community. To many of those who make up his audience, it's a pilgrimage to attend one of his shows. He was part



Hyunsoon Whang

Musicians plan June 2 concert

Pianist Hyunsoon Whang will join the Florida Chamber Music Project (FCMP) for the final concert of the 2023-24 season on June 2. The performance includes the Johannes Brahms' Piano Quintet in F minor, Opus 34 and Robert Schumann's "Kinderszenen," Opus 15. The concert begins at 3 p.m. at the Beaches Museum Chapel at the Beaches Museum at 505 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach. It is sponsored by Toni Porterfield.

Whang has known FCMP Artistic Director Susan Pardue since both studied at the North Carolina School of the Arts. She has made several appearances with FCMP over the years.

"We are pleased to be joined by pianist Hyunsoon Whang for this concert," said Pardue. "Hyunsoon has played with us many times, and concerts with her are always enthusiastically received. She will open the concert with Schumann's 'Kinderszenen,' one of piano literature's greatest hits. We will finish the concert and our season together with Brahms' epic Quintet in f minor."

Tickets are \$30 and are available for purchase through Eventbrite. Single tickets are also available for purchase at the door, as are student tickets at a cost of \$10.

Beaches Museum Chapel is wheelchair-accessible and has free parking along Pablo Avenue near 4th Street North of Beach Boulevard. Attendees are invited to attend a post-concert reception.

The Florida Chamber Music Project was founded 11 years ago by Pardue. Members include violinists Patrice Evans and Ann Hertler and cellist Laurie Casseday. All are members of the Jacksonville Symphony.

For advance tickets online: <http://flchambermusic.org>.

Jacksonville Symphony to close season with 'Symphonie Fantastique'

For a grand season finale, the Jacksonville Symphony presents "Symphonie Fantastique" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8, at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts, Jacoby Symphony Hall.

Music Director Courtney Lewis and the symphony take the stage to perform Hector Berlioz's wildly imaginative "Symphonie Fantastique." A bedrock of the Romantic Era, this saga uses music to paint a love-stricken artist's journey from a serene countryside to a whirling dervish conclusion. Famous for its melodies that forever revolutionized classical music, this work would come to influence Sergei Rachmaninoff and other composers.

"As we approach our 75th season next year, there is so much to look forward to, but first, we end this season with one of my favorite symphonies," said Courtney

Lewis, music director of the Jacksonville Symphony. "The artistic leap that Berlioz took in imagining the 'Symphonie Fantastique' is enormous. The sheer originality of the concept is staggering, as is the power, terror and beauty of the music. Throughout the symphony, Berlioz's passion and vigor make the music fizz with life and excitement, resulting in a thrilling, orchestral journey."

The program opens with another storytelling work — gripping orchestral music from Thomas Adès' masterpiece opera, "The Exterminating Angel," based on the 1962 film of the same name by Luis Buñuel. The surrealist masterpiece depicts guests at an upper-class dinner party who find themselves inexplicably unable to leave and in the throes of survival. Lewis refers to it as "one of the most exciting pieces to be written within

the last decade."

In early May, the Jacksonville Symphony announced its 75th Anniversary Season, filled with exceptional programming and special events. In conjunction with its upcoming season, the symphony unveiled new, vibrant branding that depicts Jacksonville's sunrises and rivers, reflecting the symphony's deep connection to the city and its surroundings. Season subscriptions are on sale now to current subscribers looking to renew. Single tickets and new subscriptions are available beginning July 8.

To view the 75th season and learn more about the new brand, go to JaxSymphony.org or call the Box Office at 904-354-5547. For more information on "Symphonie Fantastique" and to reserve seats, tickets are on sale only at JaxSymphony.org.

Contributed photos



"Fiery Sun," 20-by-20 inches, mixed media on wood panel



"Widening Circles," 20-by-20 inches, mixed media on wood panel

Shaw is Butterfield artist for June

Mary K. Shaw will be the Butterfield Garage featured artist in June. Her whimsical, energetic works reflect her personal interpretation of the natural world. An artist talk at 6 p.m. on First Friday, June 7, will give patrons the opportunity to meet her and see her joy-filled work.

Combining her love of collage with poetry and wordsmithing, Shaw creates

vibrant, layered works in mixed media. In addition to direct painting and hand-lettering, she employs monoprinting on a gelatin plate to produce a range of textured papers that are incorporated into her collages. A gifted wordsmith, Shaw often includes the written word as part of her composition or as the genesis of specific works.

She has exhibited her artwork in solo

and group shows since 1995. She teaches workshops on gel plate printing and has a passion for handmade books and altered books.

Butterfield Garage Gallery is located at 137 King St., St. Augustine. For further information, phone 904-825-4577, email info@butterfieldgarage.com or go to butterfieldgarage.com.

Robertson

Continued from 26

of Gamble Rogers hand-picked traveling Florida Folk Revue named "Cassadaga

Stories."

The audience will be indoors for this concert. No reservations are required, though admission is limited to the first 50, so arrive early to claim your seat. Note that a \$10 donation is recommend-

ed.

For more information, go to stetsonkennedy.com/second-sundays.html. The venue, Beluthahatchee, is located at 1523 State Road 13 in Fruit Cove, just south of the intersection at Roberts Road.

Sports



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Sixteen students named to JAGA scholarships

By Anthony Richards

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association announced its 16 new college scholarship recipients for 2024 at a banquet on May 21 at Deerwood Country Club.

The recipients represented a array of high schools throughout the Northeast Florida area, including Nancy Cox and Tre Peterson from Ponte Vedra High and Madeline Splane from St. Augustine High.

Each student was also affiliated and nominated by a local golf club, with Cox representing TPC Sawgrass, Peterson affiliated with NAS Jax and Splane with Hyde Park Golf Club.

Emma Wells calls Neptune Beach her hometown and represented Jax Beach Golf Club, while Atlantic Beach Country Club's scholarship recipient was Keanu Evans who went to Fletcher High.

The students will be using the scholarships to continue their education in college, with Florida Atlantic University being the most popular choice with three recipients choosing to go there in the fall.

The scholarships are worth \$1,250 for each semester during the 2024-2025 academic year.

However, the scholarships are renewable for up to eight semesters depending on the student meeting the criteria of minimum grade-point average and credit hours required.

Peterson was also two recipients to earn the inaugural Gator Bowl Award, which was one of three new awards handed out this year.



Contributed photo

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association awarded its latest college scholarship recipients at a banquet on May 21 at Deerwood Country Club.

The scholarships are awarded thanks to money raised as part of the JAGA Scholarship Trust, which since being formed in 1974, has granted about \$2 million in grants to roughly 400 students during that time.

“The JAGA scholarship program continues to get stronger every year and branch out in new ways,” scholarship trust chairman Wayne St. Clair said. “In recent years, this stability has allowed us to expand the number of college-bound students we are able to support, which is very gratifying. Currently, JAGA is providing grants to 51 students who we are confi-

dent will become key contributors to the Jacksonville area community or wherever life may take them.”

Applicants for scholarships must be sons, daughters or grandchildren of a member of a JAGA member club or an employee of a member club who resides in JAGA's Northeast Florida region. Applicants are screened and sponsored by JAGA directors.

The featured speaker at the banquet was Russ Libby, a PGA of America leader on the local, regional and national levels who had just returned from the PGA Champi-

onship in Kentucky. He is the owner and general manager of Hidden Hills Golf Club in Jacksonville.

Libby is a strong supporter and advocate of JAGA and has four children, three of whom are former or current JAGA scholarship recipients.

Businesses and individuals interested in making contributions to the scholarship trust can do so by contacting Wayne St. Clair by emailing him at gwstclair@bellsouth.net or by reaching out to any JAGA director from a member club or by going to the JAGA website at www.jaxareagolf.org.

Sporting JAX to host soccer watch party series

Sporting JAX, the group bringing professional men's and women's USL soccer to Northeast Florida, will host six “Summer of Soccer” watch parties across the First Coast community. Fans are invited to cheer on their favorite teams during the UEFA Women's and Men's Champions League Finals and the U.S. Men's National Team during the Copa America games. Each event will feature food and drink specials, merchandise raffles and opportunities to win additional prizes.

The watch parties will be held at various Northeast Florida venues.

“We had a tremendous response from Northeast Florida soccer fans and players of all ages during our spring watch

parties, and we want to continue that excitement into the summer months,” said Steve Livingstone, president and CEO of Sporting JAX. “Our ‘Summer of Soccer’ events are a part of our commitment to bring the soccer community together to cheer their favorite teams to victory and celebrate and elevate the beautiful game.”

Here's the Sporting JAX “Summer of Soccer” watch party schedule:

UEFA Men's Champions League Final

Saturday, June 1, 3 p.m.

Island Wing Company

- 4409 Southside Blvd., Jacksonville
- 360 Bartram Market Drive, Jacksonville

Copa America: USA vs. Bolivia

Sunday, June 23, 6 p.m.

Grace Note Brewing

4591 Lakeside Drive, Ste. 108, Jacksonville

Copa America: USA vs. Panama

Thursday, June 27, 6 p.m.

Grace Note Brewing

4591 Lakeside Drive, Ste. 108, Jacksonville

Copa America: USA vs. Uruguay

Monday, July 1, 9 p.m.

Grace Note Brewing

4591 Lakeside Drive, Ste. 108, Jacksonville

Supporters can also learn more about Sporting JAX, receive updates on stadium plans and meet club officials. Entry is free for all watch party events, but fans are encouraged to RSVP at sportingjax.com/upcoming-events.

For the latest Sporting JAX news and club updates, fans are encouraged to follow @Sporting_JAX across all social media channels. Additionally, fans can sign up for free club memberships or secure their season ticket deposits for the inaugural season for \$25 for the pro men's or women's team, or a \$40 deposit for both teams at sportingjax.com.

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1	2	3					4	5	6					
7							8			9				
10			11				12							
13							14	15		16				
17				18			19			20				
21					22	23				24				
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			32				33			34	35	36	37	38
39	40				41					42				
43				44						45				
46			47							48				
49												50		
	51											52		

ACROSS

- 1. Fashion accessory
- 4. Engine additive
- 7. Small, faint constellation
- 8. Gives a job
- 10. Self-righteous person
- 12. Caucasian language
- 13. Surinam toad
- 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 16. Former French coin
- 17. Levels the score
- 19. What stage performers do
- 20. Egyptian Sun god
- 21. Localities
- 25. Spherical body
- 26. Licensed for Wall Street
- 27. Perfect
- 29. It's on many people's heads
- 30. Boxing's GOAT
- 31. Photo
- 32. Popular HBO show
- 39. Popular music awards show
- 41. Pouch
- 42. Lake in Botswana
- 43. Unruly group
- 44. One-fourth
- 45. Very eager
- 46. Edward __, author and writer
- 48. Flying insect
- 49. Dragged forcibly
- 50. Thus far
- 51. Not just "play"
- 52. Commercials

- 3. Capital of Taiwan
- 4. Brother or sister
- 5. Secret get-togethers
- 6. Type of tea
- 8. Where the action is
- 9. Cast out
- 11. Crime group
- 14. Type of vessel (abbr.)
- 15. Accept and handle
- 18. Sacrifice hit
- 19. One who buys and sells securities simultaneously
- 20. Month
- 22. Most thin
- 23. Naturally occurring material
- 24. Luke's mentor __-Wan

- 27. Postmodernist Austrian "House"
- 28. Aquatic salamander
- 29. Baseball stat
- 31. Beginning military rank
- 32. Talk rapidly and unintelligibly
- 33. Paddle
- 34. Caregiver (abbr.)
- 35. Old Irish alphabet
- 36. Japanese city
- 37. In a way, acted
- 38. Things to see
- 39. Nursemaid
- 40. Type of tooth
- 44. To be demonstrated
- 47. Defunct European group

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

DOWN

- 1. Occur
- 2. Show up



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