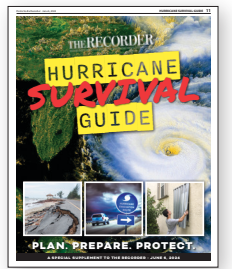


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**Hurricane Survival Guide**  
Page 11

Thursday, June 6, 2024

PonteVedraRecorder.com

VOLUME 55, NO. 32 \$1.00

## School Board restricts 4 books

By Shaun Ryan

The St. Johns County School Board voted to restrict access to four books in school libraries following objections by a parent.

At a special meeting on Tuesday, May 28, the board heard objections by Jean Moore concerning four books that, up until that meeting, had been available to all students at the high school level.

The books were: "Slaughterhouse Five" by Kurt Vonnegut, "Freedom Writers Diary" by various writers, "L8R, G8R" by Lauren Myracle and "A Stolen Life: A Memoir" by Jaycee Lee Dugard.

BOOKS continues on Page 10

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Paid for by Roy Alaimo, Republican, for St. Johns County Commission.

## New-look beach taking shape

*Jacksonville Beach restoration project ready to move up the coast*

By Anthony Richards

Progress is continuing to be made along Jacksonville Beach as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Duval County shore protection project.

The project, which got underway with a kickoff event on April 29 gave a recent update stating that beach access points as far south as 37th Avenue South will be temporarily closed as needed depending on the project's advancement during the project.

According to the latest project update, the team planned to complete sand



Contributed photo

BEACH continues on Page 10

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the midst of a 17-week restoration project along the Jacksonville Beach coastline.

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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](mailto:news@pontevedrarecorder.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePVRRecorder](http://www.facebook.com/ThePVRRecorder)

## BRIEFS

### Open house event set for Saturday

A community open house of homes for sale in the 55+ Cascades at World Golf Village will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 8. Follow the signs to the open homes in the neighborhood, starting at 621 N Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

The community is described as having great amenities and being convenient to highways, shopping, health care facilities and historic St. Augustine.

HOA dues cover the amenities, electronic gate and lawn maintenance. The event will be hosted by the various real estate listing agents with homes for sale in the community.

### Registration open for DONNA 5K at TPC Sawgrass

The DONNA Foundation has announced the opening of registration for its annual DONNA 5K at TPC Sawgrass. Celebrating its 17th running, The DONNA 5K at TPC Sawgrass serves as the final race in the DONNA 2024 Fearless Series and will take place on the "back nine" of THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass on Oct. 12.

The family-friendly event serves as the highlight of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and celebrates survivorship while raising funds to finish breast cancer.

For more information and to register, go to [tpc.thedonnafoundation.org](http://tpc.thedonnafoundation.org).

### 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.

### Public may offer feedback on budget sessions

St. Johns County invites the public to offer feedback on the Fiscal Year 2025 budget workshop sessions recently hosted by County Administrator Joy Andrews. The public can email their questions to [budget2025@sjcfl.us](mailto:budget2025@sjcfl.us), and the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) will respond.

The county held the sessions May 10-24. They were broadcast live on the county's website through its Office of Public Affairs and GovTV operations. They were also recorded and are available at [sjcfl.us/watch-govtv-live](http://sjcfl.us/watch-govtv-live) in the Archived Videos section in the Other Videos Archive listing.

OMB has details about the Fiscal Year 2025 budget on its webpage at [sjcfl.us/2025budget](http://sjcfl.us/2025budget). It includes the workshop workbook, which offers budget summaries,

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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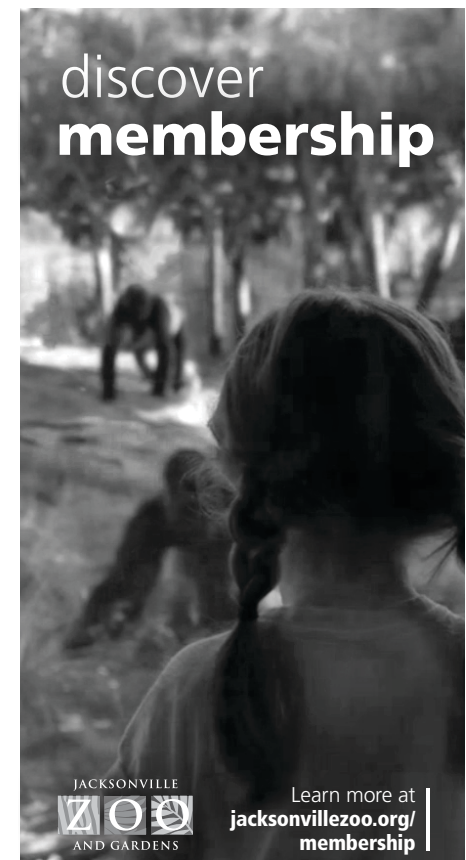


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# Briefs

Continued from 2

the budget by fund accounting, department presentations and other details. The web page also allows the public to customize their budget book by selecting various choices to produce a personalized PDF to download to their computer and print.

The county administration will provide budget recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners in July; at this time, the board will set the tentative millage rates (property tax). In September, the board will host two public hearings to adopt the budget. The new budget year begins Oct. 1.

## Tillman Ridge Transfer Station temporarily closed

The Tillman Ridge Transfer Station, 3005 Allen Nease Road, Elkton, has been closed for repairs. Normal operations there are expected to resume July 1. Only residential household hazardous waste will be accepted from residents during the temporary closure, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

The Stratton Road Transfer Station, 250 N. Stratton Road, St. Augustine, will remain open to serve all residential and commercial customers. Delays may be experienced during peak hours. The Stratton Road Transfer Station is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, go to RecycleCoach.com or call 904-827-6980.

As a reminder, by downloading the Recycle Coach app or using the website widget, residents can obtain their curbside collection schedule, sign up for alerts and quickly learn how to properly dispose of different waste materials. Learn more at recyclestjohns.com.

## Job fair set for June 12

Job News USA will host a job fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, at The DoubleTree Riverfront Hotel, 1201 Riverplace Blvd., Jacksonville.

More than 25 companies will be looking to fill more than 1,000 jobs in a variety of industries including entry level and professional opportunities, blue- and white-collar positions, full- and part-time opportunities, multiple shifts, seasonal work as well as various leadership positions.

Many companies will conduct on-the-spot interviews and make immediate job offers.

To learn more about this event, apply to jobs now and pre-register to attend, go to jobnewsusa.com/job\_fairs.

Future job fairs will be held July 31, Aug. 29, Oct. 24 and Dec. 12.

## Grief support group to meet

A grief support group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Room 107 of the Family Life Center, 578 First Avenue N., Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. June 19. For information, call Kathy at 904-553-8933.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Community raises \$30K to fight MS

**To the Editor:**

Let's hear it once again for Beaches area businesses and residents, who for 12 consecutive years have loyally supported the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, North Florida Chapter and its mission to create a world free of MS.

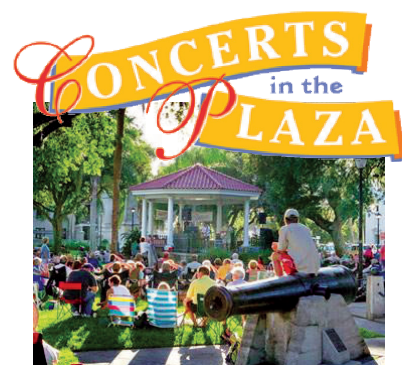
While World MS Day was May 30,

earlier in the month nearly 300 local businesses, restaurants and service providers generously donated so that organizers and volunteers could raise a record \$30,000-plus. A hundred percent of the proceeds from the 12th annual MS Awareness silent auction will go toward research, along with providing programs and services for the 18,000 or more North Floridians impacted by the disease.

This year, area residents packed into longtime host Mr. Chubby's Wings in Ponte Vedra Beach to bid on hundreds of items, including vacations, fine wine, merchandise, jewelry, art and more than 80 restaurants. Since 2013, the event — sponsored by the local fundraising Big Banana bicycle team — has raised nearly \$300,000 for the organization.

We'd be hard-pressed to find a more supportive community.

**Bruce Reid, Linda Bushong-Reid and Elaine Wright**  
MS Silent Auction chairs



### Summer Music Series

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June 6: The Committee



June 12: Paige King Johnson

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# DeSantis endorses Leek for state Senate

Gov. Ron DeSantis has endorsed Republican state Rep. Tom Leek's bid for Florida's open Senate District 7 seat, which is currently held by Sen. Travis Hutson. Hutson is term-limited.

The Leek campaign made the announcement Monday.

"I'm happy to endorse Tom Leek, a proven conservative, for the Florida Senate," said DeSantis. "In the Florida House, he has fought alongside us on the countless initiatives that have made Florida the freest state in the union. I look forward to continuing to work with him as District 7's next senator."

"To have the endorsement of Governor DeSantis in my campaign for the State Senate is truly an honor and is a great lift for our supporters as we qualify for the ballot next week," said



Leek. "Thank you, Governor, for your conservative leadership, and I eagerly look forward to continuing our important work in the Florida Legislature."



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## NOMINATIONS END JUNE 10TH!



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/#11](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2024/#11)

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**91 San Juan Drive, G2**

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

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**82 San Juan Drive**

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

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**330 Ponte Vedra Blvd.**

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

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*Johnattan Hernandez is the new executive chef at TPC Sawgrass. With more than 20 years of experience, he will be responsible for managing the culinary operations for the entire property.*

## Johnattan Hernandez

### As told to Shaun Ryan

#### Do you have some plans as you start your new position?

Absolutely. First, I would like to keep up the integrity of TPC Sawgrass. We always have a high standard.

My main focus will be the menu, which I've already changed with bold flavors. But I'm also keeping guest favorites on it.

#### What kind of things can people expect?

I'm from Puerto Rico, so they'll find a lot of influence from the Caribbean. And during my travels, I've gotten ideas from each place. And then, you will see a lot of fusion flavors on the menu.

I lived in Hawaii for a year, so I've gotten some of my influence from the Polynesian culture. It's so amazing. We have one dish on the menu that has become famous right now, ahi tuna poke. It's like: Wow! I'm back in Hawaii!

#### What will be your responsibilities in this position?

My responsibilities will be making sure to keep up the standards, the quality and presentations of every experience that we have, from breakfast all the way to dinner. Pretty much, I oversee the whole banquet operation, and then we're changing some of the stuff with the buffet presentation to be able to attract more local people. TPC Sawgrass, they will say, has the best dining experience here in Northeast Florida.

#### How about the tournament?

We start getting ready for the tournament by the end of December. All the planning and logistics to have smooth sailing.

Some of the items we brought from very far — from Spain, from different countries — to always have something new every year for our guests.

"This year," I said, "let's go all out. Let's do something all the way from the salad station to the dessert station so everyone who comes here for the tournament will say, 'Wow! We've never seen this before!'"

#### How did you first get interested in this line of work?

It's funny, because everybody says: Oh, it's always my grandma, and all that. Yes, Grandma was an influence in all this, but I think it was mostly that I didn't want to work in computers!

I went to college for programming. I did three years in Puerto Rico. But I was also working as a server in the Ponce Hilton, and I realized this industry's very fun. So, I decided to change careers. I went to Philadelphia for college. I worked at the Ritz-Carlton in Philadelphia.

#### Tell me about your career.

After the Ritz-Carlton in Philadelphia — I will say that was probably the beginning of my career — I worked in the Ritz-Carlton in Puerto Rico (San Juan). Then, I had the opportunity to do some competitions locally. I did manage to win a few of them up to becoming a Hall-of-Famer for the whole Caribbean at a competition called Taste of the Caribbean.

I had one chef that told me once, "If you really want to be a great chef, step away from hotels at some point and run a small business. See the budget. See the financials that go into a small business. And then, once you know both, it will be a feather in your career."

And I did. That brought me to the Keys to open the Marriott Autograph Collection and to lead the team at



Photo by Shaun Ryan

**TPC Sawgrass Executive Chef Johnattan Hernandez with three of his favorite dishes: the TPC Pretzel with roasted poblano cheese dip, pan-seared swordfish with chickpea puree and chistorra succotash and ahi tuna poke tacos.**

Penn State Corporate HQ.

I was able to travel to Hawaii and be back at the Ritz-Carlton Residences at Waikiki Beach.

Then, I flew back to Florida and spent five years here working with Chef Azhar (Mohammad) as a sous chef.

Moving forward, I had the opportunity to go to Vegas and be a chef director. That opportunity gave me another view of my career, because I was also doing F&B (food and beverage) operations at the front of the house. ... I continued learning, even at this point in my life; you learn something new every day.

When this opportunity was presented to come back home, I would not say no! It's always good, the feeling of coming back home.

#### Do you have some favorite dishes that you like to prepare?

The whole menu is my favorite! It's so good. It has so much of me. But if I had to choose three dishes, one would be the pretzel (the famous TPC Pretzel). When I came over in 2018 to join the company, we decided we've got to do something so that when the guests sit at the bar they say, "Wow, what's this?"

We gave it a trial, and we haven't managed to take it out. It's still on the menu — same recipe. At one point, I think we sold over 5,000 a year, maybe more. Very popular.

And then, a dish that pretty much represents me is pan-seared swordfish. I take chickpeas and make a silky-smooth puree with the nice pan-seared swordfish, and then we add a succotash. It has some roasted corn, some fava beans, and then I add my flair using chistorra. Chistorra's a baby chorizo from the Basque region in Spain. It gives you that bold flavor that when you try each bite, it's like: Wow, what's this? It's awesome!

The other dish I will say that represents my travels somewhat is the ahi tuna poke tacos. We use a wonton instead of a taco shell with a bit of cilantro. It's to die for.

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

When the guests leave super-happy.

When I see them, sometimes I walk around and go to the tables. And they are like, "Chef, this is amazing. How do you prepare this?"

To be able to have that conversation with the guests, when they say, "Can you send me the recipe?" I think that satisfies me more than actually working, to be honest.

#### What do you like most about living in Northeast Florida?

The weather. [Laughs] The beautiful weather. All the surroundings are beautiful. I live in Jax Beach right now, close to work. My daughter's at Penn State, so she travels every time that she has a break from college and says, "Daddy, I want to come visit you." I say, "Of course. The beach is there. Come on over."

I love Florida. When I joined the company, I think my heart was here ... Even when I went to Vegas, it felt so good to come back home.

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

Beach time. [Laughs] I like to go to the gym. I run at least two times every week during the morning. I'm either running at the beach or along the road.

But I like to spend my time at the beach, and when my daughter comes over, she's my time.

#### Anything else?

It's a great family here at TPC Sawgrass. We create a very nice environment to work, and I feel like everyone feels so happy to come into work. That pretty much is my goal: To have my kitchen crew, front of the house, pretty much the whole department completely happy.

I'm very hands-on. I don't spend much time inside the office. If you walk inside the kitchen unannounced, you will see me either cooking something or helping someone or in the back doing some bread.



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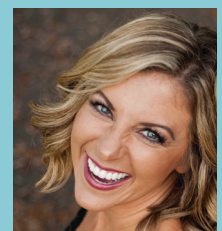
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**OBITUARIES**



**Mary Lee (Messinese) Weeks**

Mary Lee (Messinese) Weeks passed away peacefully on May 14, 2024, surrounded by family and friends in the Palm Valley home her husband built with love. She was born on August 8, 1961, to James and Sylvia (Oesterreicher) Messinese and grew up in Jacksonville Beach. She graduated from Beaches Chapel School in 1979. Mary Lee married her high school sweetheart and true love, John Weeks, in November of 1984, and they welcomed their only daughter, Mackenzie, in 1988. Together, Mary Lee and John opened the Seafood Shoppe in St. Augustine, Florida, in 1989, and enjoyed the challenges and successes of growing their business for 30 years. Mary Lee was a cherished wife, adoring mother and grandmother, and a beloved friend. She was known for her faith, strength, and resilience, shown through her passion for running mara-

thons and her brave battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. She treated all her friends as family, including the Mayo Nurses on 3 North who called her “the definition of a fighter.” Mary Lee is survived by her husband, John; her daughter, Mackenzie Terry, and her husband, Miles; her granddaughters, Makena and Madison; her brothers, Dr. Mark Messinese (Deborah), Jim Messinese (Kathy), and Christopher Messinese (Sharleen); and her dear sister, Jeanmarie Jackson (Eric). A celebration of life will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 15, at Beaches Museum, 381 Beach Blvd., Jax Beach. In the spirit of Mary Lee, the Weeks family invites you to dress casually and colorfully for this outdoor celebration. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating blood in Mary Lee’s honor or joining the blood stem cell donor registry at bethematch.org.



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**DEATH NOTICES**

**Nancy Peek Palmer**

Nancy Peek Palmer, 63, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died May 16, 2023. Arrangements by Eternity Funeral Home 904-348-5579

**Sato K. Phillips**

Sato K. Phillips, 83, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died May 24, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

**Joseph Frank Vella**

Joseph Frank Vella, 84, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died May 24, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

**Henry Gary Walker**

Henry Gary Walker, 68, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died May 24, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

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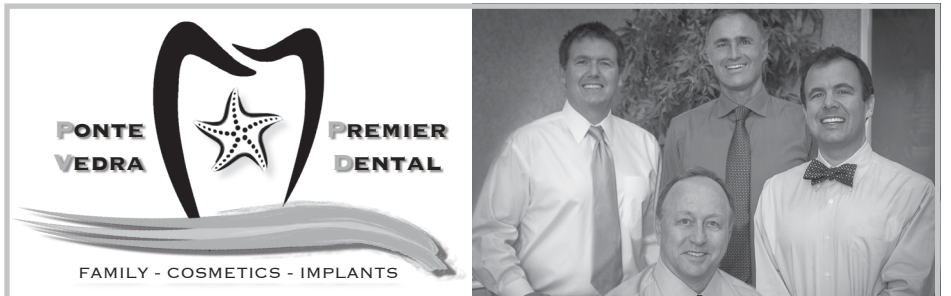
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**OBITUARIES**



**Michael "Mike" Anthony Brewer**

Michael "Mike" Anthony Brewer passed away on Friday, May 24, 2024, at the age of 69. On April 16th, 1955, Mike was born to loving parents, William "Bill" Brewer and Anne Hayes Brewer of Greensboro, North Carolina. His childhood was idyllic, a time which he fondly remembered.

Mike graduated college in 1977, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina. The following year, he continued with his studies at North Carolina State where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. During the summers, he attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to be near the ocean.

While in college Mike worked for IBM. After graduating, he was employed by Burlington Industries and Ciba-Giegy, now Novartis, in Greensboro, North Carolina before being promoted to its headquarters in Basel, Switzerland. He spent over four years working around the world as an IT Professional with the group's companies and corporate headquarters, which he loved. Returning to the USA, he relocated to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, where he changed career paths and founded First Coast Polysteel, setting division records early in the company's history. Later, Mike returned to the IT profession, working for Winn-Dixie (Southeastern Grocers) in Jacksonville.

In retirement, Mike began to exhaustively research holistic health solutions and work on a humanitarian mission of health and Christianity. So as a believer in Christ himself, Mike's passion for helping others led him to give his undivided time and attention to those

efforts. He had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, rising early in the morning to read and research topics of interest, then compiling emails to share with family and friends. Mike's deep desire for his work to benefit the ones he cared about surely resulted in making the world a better place.

Mike was known for his quick wit, infectious laugh, gifted intellect and genuine nature. He never met a stranger. Ever the adventurer, he loved traveling and experiencing other cultures, routinely opting to see how the locals lived before doing anything "touristy." The beach was his playground, and he enjoyed early morning walks with his dogs and friends. His four-legged companions were with him throughout his days. Whether it was to work, to lunch, on errands or simply visiting with friends, Mike was never without their cherished company.

At Page High School, he was a star basketball athlete, often making the local newspaper as he was awarded Most Valuable Player and All City his senior year. In his younger years, Mike loved running, snow skiing, volleyball, tennis and baseball. As he got older, Mike enjoyed playing golf. He also loved watching college football and basketball. He even took up gardening with hydroponics and

enjoyed bringing in his harvest. Although he never served in the armed forces, Mike was an American Patriot and a Tea Party member. Later in life, he became a gun enthusiast and enjoyed target practice as often as he could on his wife's family property with the guys.

He is survived by his devoted wife and love of his life, Julie Little Brewer, brother W. Paul Brewer, Jr., sister-in-law Ava Brewer, sister-in-law Kathy Brewer, many nieces and nephews, whom he adored, cousins, and countless friends, plus his faithful Labrador, Duchess. He was predeceased in death by his parents and elder brother, David Brewer.

As Mike often commented, "I've lived a great life!" And so he has. Until we meet again...

A funeral was held in Greensboro, NC on Monday, June 3rd and a celebration of life will be held in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to [K9sforWarriors.org](http://K9sforWarriors.org) in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Thank you to everyone that helped Mike during his time of need and showed him with abundant love and support. Your thoughts, prayers, outpouring of love and concern for Mike and the Brewer family has been overwhelming and heartfelt.

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## Books

Continued from 1

At issue was whether these books violated state statute regarding content considered to be pornographic or in some other way objectionable for students and whether they should be available for checkout at school libraries.

Moore read passages from each of the books that contained strong sexual language.

Public comment ran the gamut, with some speakers saying the books should not be available in the schools, others having no problem with their presence on the shelf and still others praising one or more of the books and even labeling some therapeutic.

At the conclusion of the two-hour meeting, the board voted 4-1 to restrict access to “Slaughterhouse Five” and “A Stolen Life” to students in grades 11 and 12. It voted 4-1 to restrict access to “Freedom Writers Diary” and “L8R, G8R” to students in 12th grade with parental permission.

The dissenting vote on each of the motions was cast by Patrick Canan.

St. Johns County parents have the option to restrict their own children’s access to specific books, but as more than one person pointed out, they can’t know the content of all the books on school library shelves.

## Beach

Continued from 1

placement to the southern terminus and reopen the beach access point at 34th Avenue South this week.

As a result of 16th Avenue South being used as a staging area for the project, the beach access points between 16th and 18th Avenues will remain closed to ensure public safety while cranes operate in the area.

“The bottom line is that beach renourishment protects lives, property and our economy,” said City of Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan during the project’s kickoff event on April 29. “And it’s more than that. Building up the resiliency of our coastline...builds the resiliency of our communities.”

Throughout the project, the beach access point closures will continue to shift up the coastline as the project moves along with residents advised to travel north or south to find the nearest access points out of the immediate project zone.

The latest of these shifts will include the project changing direction following the sand placement to the southern terminus and begin moving north to Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park, which will mark the end of the restoration project.

It is week six of the 17-week proj-

ect, has continued to move along as initially scheduled to this point.

With much of the first five weeks of the project taking place along the coast south of Beach Boulevard, now the plan is projected to begin to show clear signs of moving north along the coastline over the next dozen weeks and is estimated to be completed by Aug. 25.

The \$32.4 million project is taking place due to the severe erosion the beach suffered during the 2022 storm season, which saw Hurricanes Ian and Nicole come through the area.

Duval County was one of several similar federal shore protection projects around the state to qualify for financial assistance from the federal government.

By the completion of the project 1.3 million cubic yards of sand will be dredged from federally managed offshore borrows along the 10-mile stretch of coastline from Naval Station Mayport to the Duval County and St. Johns County line.

“The City of Jacksonville values our partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in ensuring the safety of our citizens,” Deegan said. “And while we are hoping we will not need them this hurricane season, they are fantastic at doing emergency management before, during and after a storm.”

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# HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE



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# HURRICANE SURVIVAL GUIDE

## HURRICANE CHECKLISTS

### Make checklists, get items together before the storm

One way to be prepared for a major storm is by assembling a disaster supply kit. Once disaster strikes, it will be too late to shop or search for supplies. If you have gathered supplies in advance, you and your family can endure an evacuation or home confinement.

#### ON THE ROAD

##### Prepare Ahead for the Trip. Things to assemble:

- Cash, Credit Cards
- Important Documents
- Road Maps
- Jumper Cables
- Tire Repair Kit
- Flashlight, Batteries
- Battery Operated Radio
- Fire Extinguisher
- Blankets, Sleeping Bags
- Pillows
- Toiletries
- Medications
- First Aid Kit
- Extra Baby Supplies
- Nonperishable Foods
- Drinking Water
- Games, Books

#### AT HOME

##### What to get together in advance of a hurricane:

- Nonperishable Foods
- Drinking Water
- First Aid Kit
- Medications
- Cash, Credit Cards
- Flashlight, Batteries
- Battery Operated Radio
- Manual Can Opener
- Extra Baby Supplies
- Games, Books
- Fire Extinguisher
- Phone, Non-Portable
- Fill Tub with Water for Sanitation
- Porta-Pot for Well Water Users

#### AT THE SHELTER

##### If you are going to a shelter, consider bringing these, as needed:

- 3-Day Supply of Water
- 3-Day Supply of Nonperishable Foods
- Medications, Specialized Supplies
- Diabetic's Insulin, Small Cooler for Insulin
- Toiletries
- Flashlight, Batteries
- Pillows, Blankets
- Sleeping Bag, Egg Crate Mattress
- Cot, Lawn Chair
- Important Papers, Identification
- Extra Clothing
- Books, Magazines, Cards, etc.

— Adapted from [sjcemergencymanagement.com](https://www.sjcemergencymanagement.com)

With the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season officially beginning on June 1, local families need to know what to do and where to go should the threat of a hurricane (or any disaster) become real.

The Ponte Vedra Recorder has pulled together a collection of resources to help readers prepare.

## HURRICANE CATEGORIES

### Understanding the hurricane categories

How severe is that hurricane you're watching? The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale helps to describe that intensity at a glance.

This rating of between 1 and 5 is based on a hurricane's maximum sustained wind speed. That means it does not take into account other potentially deadly hazards such as storm surge, rainfall flooding and tornadoes.

The scale can help with estimates to potential property damage. While all hurricanes produce life-threatening winds, hurricanes rated Category 3 and higher are designated major hurricanes. These can cause devastating to catastrophic wind damage and a significant loss of life due to the strength of the winds.

Here's a look at the categories:

**Category 1:** Sustained winds of 74-95 mph. This means well-constructed frame homes could have damage to the roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles could result in power outages that could last a few to several days.

**Category 2:** Sustained winds of 96-110 mph. This means well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees

will be snapped or uprooted and block roads. A near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.

**Category 3:** Sustained winds of 111-129 mph. This means well-built frame homes may take major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.

**Category 4:** Sustained winds of 130-156 mph. This means well-built frame homes can sustain severe damage with a loss of most of the roof structure and some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

**Category 5:** Sustained winds of 157 mph or greater. This means a high percentage of frame homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHELTER LOCATIONS

The following shelters are designated as official hurricane shelter locations by the Department of Emergency Management. If possible, evacuate to the home of a friend or family member outside of the evacuation area. A shelter should be your refuge of last resort if you have absolutely nowhere else to go.

Monitor the county's emergency management website, local radio and television stations, or contact the Department of Emergency Management at 904-824-5550 to find out which shelters are open when an evacuation order is given.

Public schools in St. Johns County serve as evacuation shelters. Remember, the school closest to your home may not necessarily be an evacuation shelter.

Learn more at: <https://www.sjcemergencymanagement.com/pdf/SJC-Hurricane-Preparedness-Guide.pdf>.

#### General Evacuation Shelters

- **Bartram Trail High School**  
7399 Longleaf Pine Pkwy., St. Johns
- **Creekside High School**  
100 Knights Lane, St. Johns
- **Cunningham Creek Elementary**  
1205 Roberts Road, St. Johns
- **Durbin Creek Elementary School**  
4100 Race Track Road, St. Johns
- **Fruit Cove Middle School**  
3180 Race Track Road, St. Johns
- **Hickory Creek Elementary School**  
235 Hickory Creek Trail, St. Johns
- **Mill Creek Elementary School,**  
3750 International Golf Pkwy., St. Augustine
- **Osceola Elementary School**  
1605 Osceola Elementary Road, St. Augustine
- **Otis Mason Elementary School**  
207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine
- **Patriot Oaks Academy**  
475 Longleaf Pine Parkway, St. Johns

#### • Pedro Menendez High School

600 S.R. 206 West, St. Augustine

#### • Toci Creek High School

11200 St. Johns Parkway, St. Augustine

#### Pet-Friendly Shelters

#### • South Woods Elementary School

4750 S.R. 206 West, Elkton

#### • Timberlin Creek Elementary School

555 Pine Tree Lane, St. Augustine

#### Special Needs Evacuation Shelters

#### • Freedom Crossing Academy

1365 Shetland Drive, St. Johns

#### • Pacetti Bay Middle School

245 Meadowlark Lane, St. Augustine

The special medical needs shelter is for persons with medical needs that cannot be met in a general shelter. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged for assignment to a special medical needs shelter, prior to a disaster.

— Adapted from [sjcemergencymanagement.com](https://www.sjcemergencymanagement.com)



GUEST COLUMN

# What homeowners need to know concerning hurricanes



Contributed photo

Wayne Terry is the owner of PuroClean Emergency Services in Jacksonville.

**By Wayne Terry**

Hurricane season started June 1 and ends on Nov. 30. The NOAA outlook predicts a likelihood of 17-25 named

storms. Eight to 13 of those are likely to become hurricanes, and four to seven of those expected to be major hurricanes.

By this time, we are all know to get prepared by getting plenty of water, food, gas, etc. However, what if your home or business is damaged?

If you own a home, you most likely have a regular homeowner’s insurance policy. If a pipe breaks in your home, you are most likely covered for all but your deductible. However, if you have rising water due to a storm, your insurance policy, most likely, will not cover this.

When I think of Jacksonville I don’t think “if” it’s going to happen, I think “when” is it going to happen. I highly recommend purchasing a flood policy for your home whether or not the city says you are in a “flood zone.”

As the owner of PuroClean Emergency Services most of the storm floods I come across the building owner says, “This has never happened

to me before” or “This has never happened in this neighborhood before.” It is important to know that if you have a flood policy it still might not cover all the costs associated with a flood, however it will cover a good portion. This is something you should talk to your insurance agent about. Flood insurance is very inexpensive, and I would call this a great safety measure.

If your home or business is flooded from a storm, I would not recommend trying to take care of the damage yourself. Call a professional restoration company such as PuroClean Emergency Services. Restoration companies deal with insurance companies all the time and know the proper ways to make sure your insurance company is taking good care of you. Do not take a fast payout offer as they are usually lower than what it would cost to restore a property properly.

Although water losses are assigned a category of 1, 2, 3 and sometimes 4 (not to be mixed up with the category

of a hurricane), water coming in from the outside is always at least a 3 if not 4. This is because the water coming in from outside could have pesticides, animal urine, automobile oils and gases and other unknown ingredients. Anything this water touches should be discarded, with the exception of structural items that should be disinfected and dried out as soon as possible.

The last thing to know is that if FEMA is involved and your flood has been sitting there long enough to cause mold, FEMA will not cover mold-related activities. It is important to discuss this with your restoration company at the time of inspection so if there are any additional charges you know what they are.

**Wayne Terry is the owner of PuroClean Emergency Services in Jacksonville. For more information about his restoration company, go to [www.PuroCleanES.com](http://www.PuroCleanES.com) or call 904-573-3566.**

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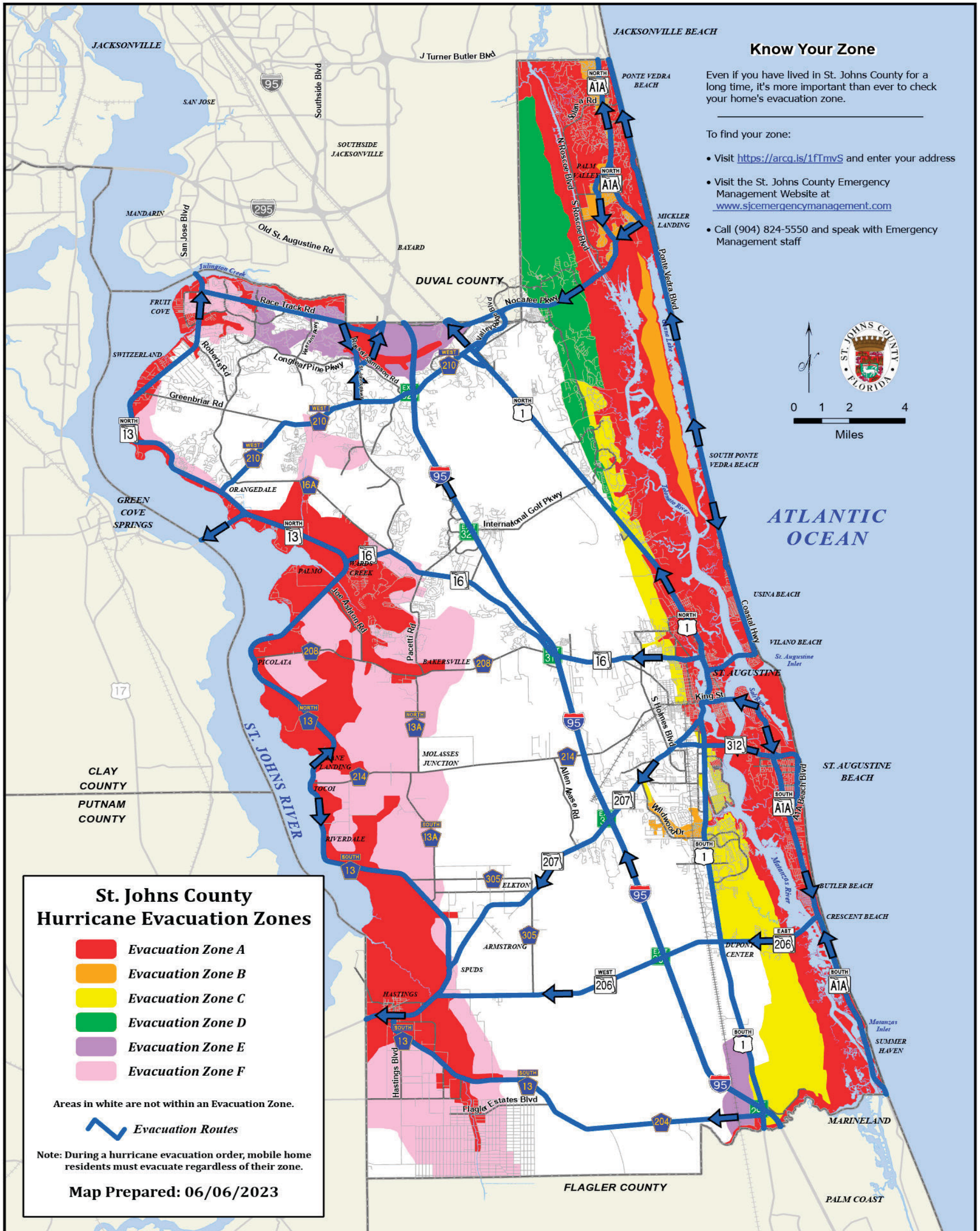
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# More named storms forecast for this season

By Shaun Ryan

Forecasters with the National Weather Service are predicting above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic this year, but what that will mean for residents of the First Coast is anyone's guess. Regardless of the number of named storms appearing in any given season, it only takes one to make a mess of things if it lands here.

The forecasters, associated with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, predict an 85% chance of an above-normal season and a 10% chance of a near-normal season.

With 70% confidence, NOAA is predicting between 17 and 25 named storms with winds of at least 39 mph, between eight and 13 hurricanes with winds of at least 74 mph and between four and seven major hurricanes with winds of 111 mph or higher. Of course, with only 21 names reserved for this season, that means they may run out. That's what happened in 2020, when there were 27 named storms, and officials began designating them by Greek numerals, the last being Hurricane Zeta.

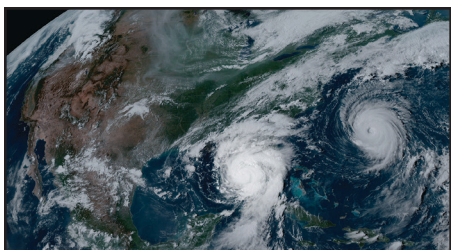
NOAA's 2024 forecast differs slightly from that of researchers at Colorado State University, which predicts 23 named storms, 11 of which are hurricanes and five major hurricanes. That's higher than the averages for 1991 through 2020, which are 14.4 named storms, 7.2 hurricanes and 3.2 major hurricanes.

NOAA researchers base their forecasts on a confluence of several factors. La Nina conditions developing in the Pacific tend to reduce wind shear in the tropics, and a reduction in Atlantic trade winds also means less wind shear. Near-record high ocean temperatures generate more energy to fuel the development of storms. Also, a potential for above-normal monsoon activity in West Africa may produce more waves to seed strong Atlantic storms.

Meanwhile, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) has been making system upgrades and is planning improvements to forecast communications, decision support and storm recovery efforts.

On Aug. 15, it will launch an experimental version of its forecast cone graphic. It will depict inland tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings. This is expected to help communicate inland hazards. The public can track storms and see maps of anticipated effects by going to [nhc.noaa.gov](http://nhc.noaa.gov).

Also, in past years, the NHC has issued



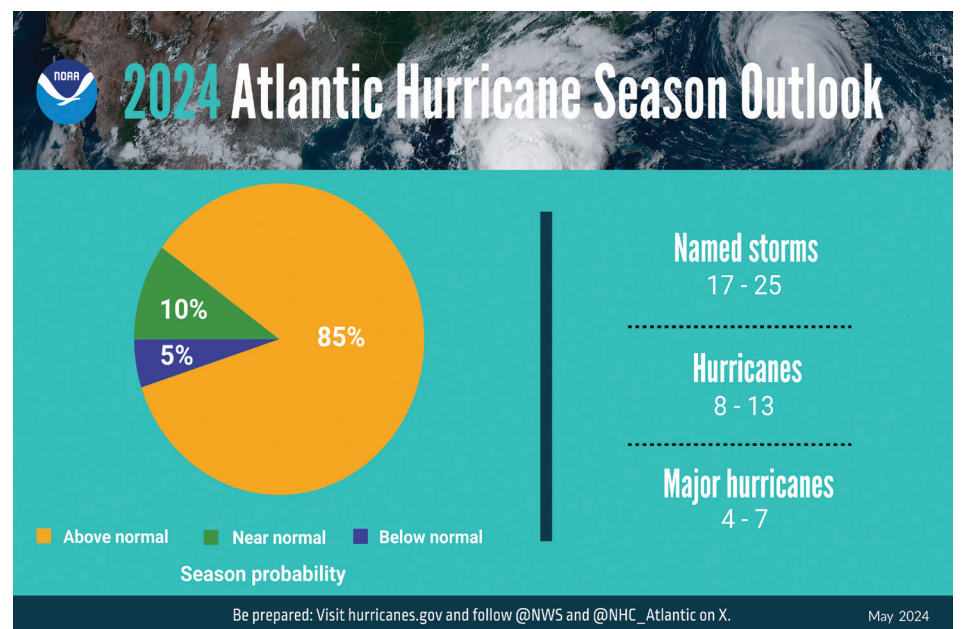
NOAA's GOES-16 satellite captured Hurricane Idalia approaching the western coast of Florida while Hurricane Franklin churned in the Atlantic Ocean at 5:01 p.m. Aug. 29, 2023.

updated advisories every six hours, with changes to the map at those intervals. Starting this year, it will be able to issue intermediate public advisories as condition changes demand.

The new Modular Ocean Model will better represent the role the ocean plays in driving storm intensity. Another model will focus on the chances of tropical cyclone rapid intensification.

A new generation of Flood Inundation Mapping will provide information to emergency and water managers to better allow them to respond to possible flooding and help local officials make preparations.

NOAA's National Data Buoy Center has upgraded coastal weather buoys and NOAA will deploy uncrewed surface vehicles to provide better data. This month, dozens of observational underwater gliders will be deployed as well to collect data.



Images courtesy of NOAA

A look at the 2024 forecast.



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FPL command center employees drill for a simulated hurricane.



Key FPL staff meet during the drill.

# FPL tests readiness for hurricane season with storm drill

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) challenged its employees with a simulated Category 4 hurricane during the company's annual storm drill in May. As part of FPL's extensive year-round focus on storm preparation, the drill helps employees prepare to respond when customers need them most.

FPL has invested in a stronger, smarter and more storm-resilient energy grid that benefits customers by improving the speed of restoration and reducing outage times following severe weather.

These grid enhancements include:

- **Smart Grid** — Installing more than 215,000 intelligent devices along the energy grid to detect and prevent outages and minimize restoration times when outages occur. In recent years, smart-grid technology helped avoid more than 600,000 outages combined during significant hurricane events.
- **Undergrounding** — Replacing more overhead neighborhood power lines with more reliable underground lines through

the Storm Secure Underground Program. These lines perform significantly better during severe weather, up to 12 times better during previous hurricanes.

• **Hardening** — Strengthening nearly all main power lines serving critical community facilities and services. More than 76% of these lines are now hardened or underground. FPL has also replaced nearly all of its transmission structures with steel or concrete.

“At FPL, we operate under the premise that it is a matter of when — not if — a major storm will strike,” said FPL Vice President of Power Delivery Ed De Varona. “That’s why we prepare year-round and why we are relentlessly focused on building a resilient grid and drilling on preparation and restoration. Our customers should know that we are prepared for the upcoming hurricane season. But, they should also know that no system is stormproof and that they should share our commitment and prepare their own emergency plans.”



An FPL employee operates a drone during the drill.

Now is the time for residents to begin thinking about their hurricane preparedness plans while there is not a storm on Florida's doorstep. Customers can go to [FPL.com/Storm](https://www.fpl.com/storm) for helpful tips for their home or business.

Residents are urged to consider some of the following plans:

- Create a storm plan for you and your



Contributed photos

Smart grid technology helps to keep the power on.

loved ones, especially for those who have medically essential power needs.

- Hire a qualified professional to trim trees growing near power lines to minimize the impact it may have on your home or neighborhood during severe weather.
- Stock up on batteries and flashlights in case you experience a power outage.
- If you have a generator, study the manufacturer's instructions to ensure safe operations.
- Download the FPL mobile app as the most effective resource to stay in touch with FPL following a storm.



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A bucket truck stands ready for use in the simulated hurricane.



# Boater advocacy group offers free boat prep help

Colorado State University's (CSU) tropical weather and climate researchers, long known for their annual hurricane forecasts, are calling for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season to be "extremely active." Above-average warm waters in the eastern and central Atlantic — "fuel" for a hurricane — as well as expected La Niña conditions later this summer and fall, which decrease vertical wind shear, contribute to the potential for increased storm formation this season.

While past storm forecasts averaged just 14.4 named storms and 7.2 hurricanes per season (1991-2020), CSU researchers predict 23 named storms this season, which begins Saturday, June 1, with 11 expected to reach hurricane strength (winds of 74 mph or greater). That could mean more boaters on the coast may find themselves unexpectedly in the "cone," or predicted path of a hurricane, and needing to make preparations to protect their boat to lessen the chance for damage or loss.

They can start planning now with help from the national advocacy, services and safety group for boaters, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), which offers free boat, yacht club and marina preparation information at BoatUS.com/Hurricanes. BoatUS makes this information available to all boaters in hurricane regions. Membership is not required.

An extensive library of hurricane-preparation videos and BoatUS Magazine articles containing proven tips and techniques amassed from the nearly four decades of post-storm recreational vessel recovery, salvage and wreck-removal experience are offered online.



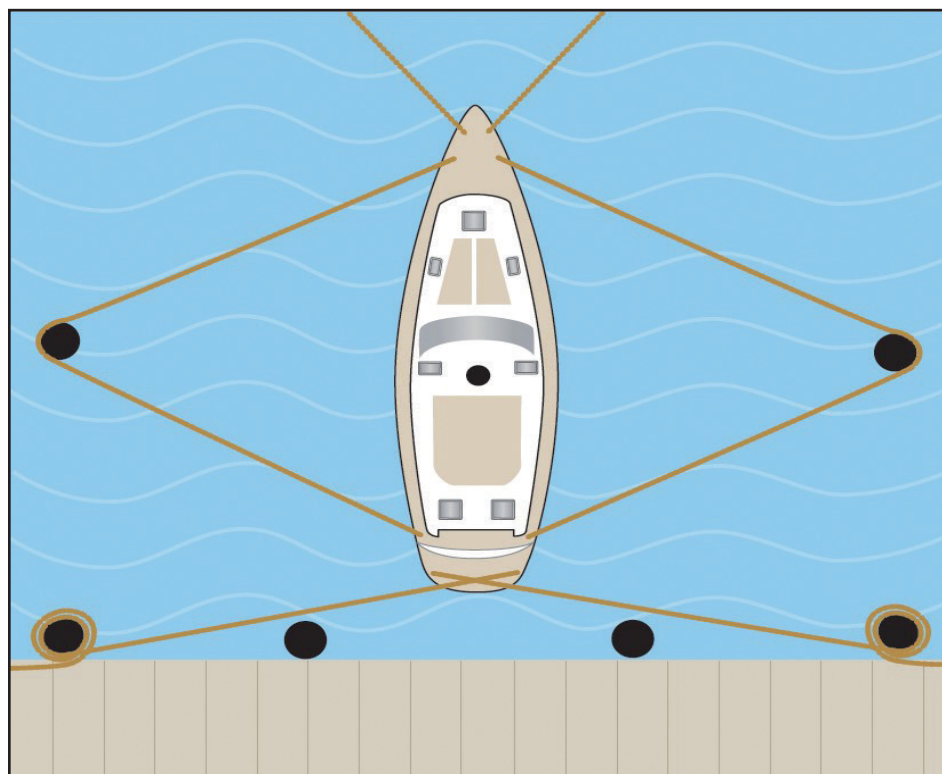
Courtesy of BoatUS

**Boaters should start preparing now for hurricane season. Waiting until the last minute can mean the difference between surviving or a total loss.**

Downloadable guides include "BoatUS Magazine Hurricane Preparations," "Preparing Boats and Marinas for Hurricanes" and an easy-to-download "BoatUS Hurricane Preparation Worksheet" to take with you to the boat.

To help know when to prepare, an Active Storm Tracker helps keep boaters up to date on the direction and intensity of incoming storms, and the BoatUS App (available at boatus.com/products-and-services) offers text alerts.

The Atlantic Hurricane Season ends Nov. 30, but in recent years, hurricanes have occurred outside the typical start and end dates.

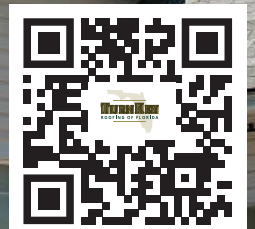


BoatUS hurricane preparation information for boaters includes helpful diagrams on how to best protect a boat stored in water, such as here when a slip is not available.

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## Sign up to receive alerts

St. Johns County Emergency Management encourages residents to sign up for the Alert St. Johns emergency notification system at [sjcemergencymanagement.com](http://sjcemergencymanagement.com). This system enables the county to quickly provide the public with critical information in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, water advisories, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods, and incidents that may threaten public safety.

Residents will receive time-sensitive messages by the method of their choice, such as home, mobile, or business phones, email addresses, text messages and more.



In conjunction with Alert St. Johns, St. Johns County Emergency Management is using Nixle Alerts to provide another way for the public to stay updated with relevant information from the Emergency Operations Center. Residents can text StJohnsEOC to 888777 to opt-in to receive notifications through SMS text messages. Nixle does not charge for this service, but carrier message and data rates may apply.

St. Johns County Emergency Management will use this service to alert residents of public safety advisories, natural and human-caused disasters and other significant events that may impact the community.

## What to know about storm surge

Storm surge is water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the mean water level 15 feet or more. Additionally, wind-driven waves are superimposed on the storm tide. This rise in water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, particularly when the storm tide coincides with the normal high tides.

Because much of the densely populated Atlantic coastline lies less than 10 feet above mean sea level, the danger from storm tides is tremendous.

Wave and current action associated with the tide also causes extensive damage. Water weighs about 1,700 pounds per cubic yard; extended pounding by frequent waves can demolish any structure not specifically designed to withstand these forces. The currents created by the tide combine with the action of the waves to severely erode beaches and coastal highways. Many buildings withstand hurricane force winds until their foundations, undermined by erosion, fail.

The level of surge in a particular area is also determined by the slope of the continental shelf. A shallow slope off the coast will allow a greater surge to inundate coastal communities. Communities with a steeper continental shelf will not see as much surge inundation, although large



breaking waves can still present major problems. Storm tides, waves and currents in confined harbors severely damage ships, marinas and pleasure boats.

Storm surge also affects rivers and inland lakes, potentially increasing the area that must be evacuated.

The more intense the storm, and the closer a community is to the storm's right-front quadrant, the larger the area that must be evacuated. The problem is always the uncertainty about how intense the storm will be when it finally makes landfall. Emergency managers and local officials balance that uncertainty with the human and economic risks to their communities. This is why a rule of thumb for emergency managers is to plan for a storm one category higher than what is forecast.

— Adapted from [sjcemergencymanagement.com](http://sjcemergencymanagement.com)

## 2024 ATLANTIC TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMES

Here are the names for storms in the 2024 season:

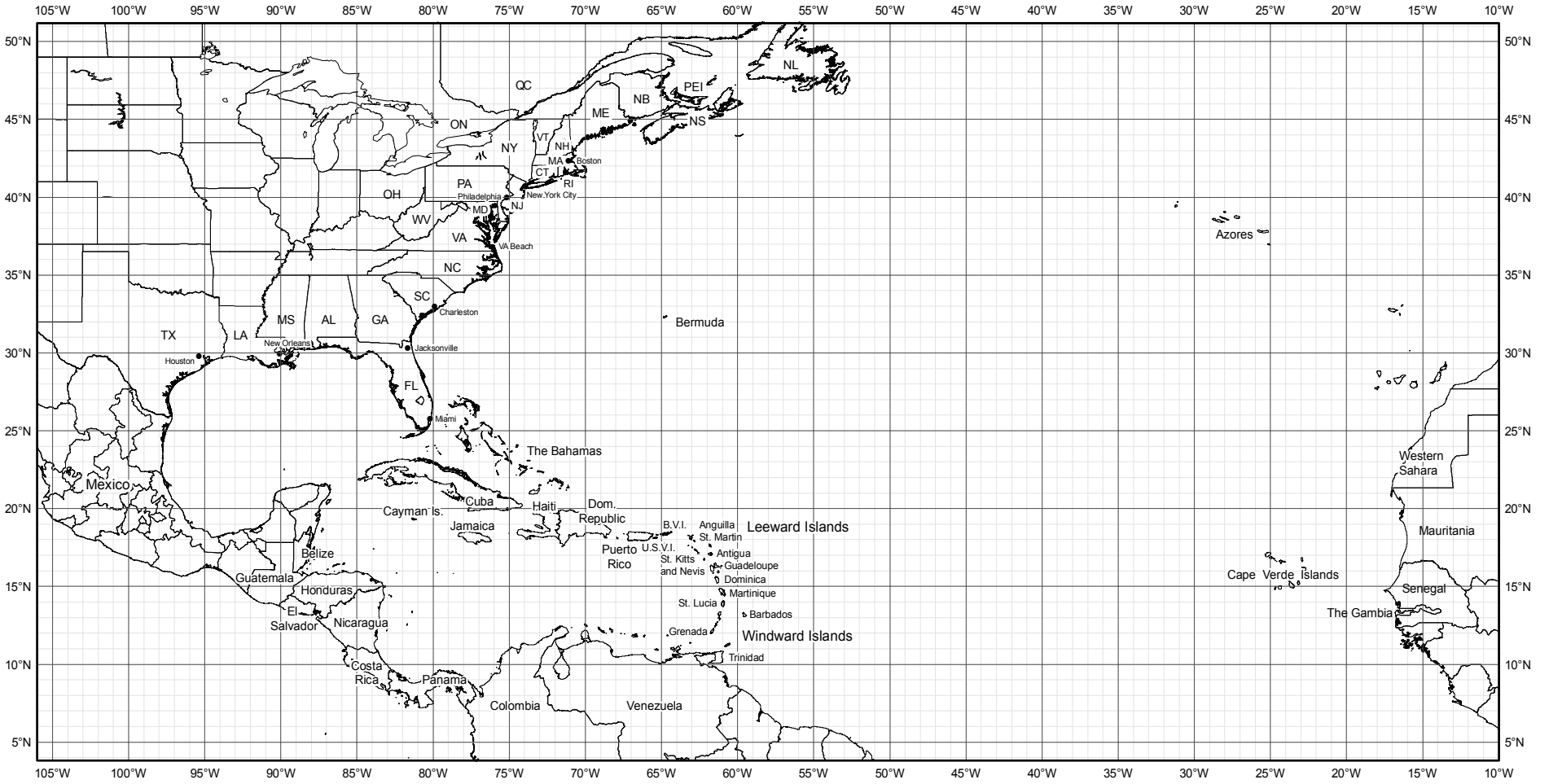
- |           |            |           |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| • Alberto | • Francine | • Nadine  |
| • Beryl   | • Gordon   | • Oscar   |
| • Chris   | • Helene   | • Patty   |
| • Debby   | • Isaac    | • Rafael  |
| • Ernesto | • Joyce    | • Sara    |
|           | • Kirk     | • Tony    |
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|           | • Milton   | • William |





# Atlantic Basin Hurricane Tracking Chart

National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida



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<sup>†</sup> Review aggregator survey of the most 5 star reviews among leading national full service window and door replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com.

<sup>1</sup> AAMA/WDMA/CSA 101 I.S.2/A440-08. Performance values vary by product line. Contact us for Product Performance Data. See your local code official for building code requirements in your area.

<sup>2</sup> See Renewal by Andersen Products and Installation Transferable Limited Warranty for details.

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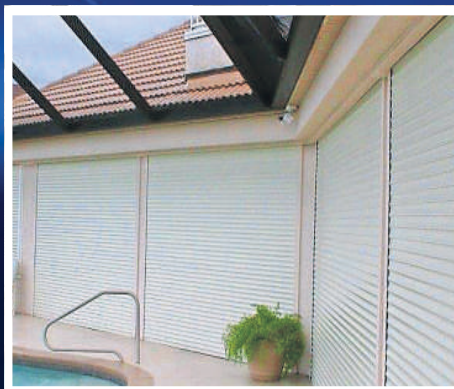
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## Women's Food Alliance celebrates 12th anniversary

The Women's Food Alliance is celebrating its 12th anniversary with the newly appointed First Coast Leadership Council 2024-25.

One of the leading networking organizations for hospitality women in the southeastern United States, it's comprised of nine professional hospitality women who share their time, talent, creative ideas and positive spirit. Recently expanded into Coastal Georgia, that includes members in Savannah, St. Simons Island, Jekyll Island and St. Marys. Participating members there have been called incredibly supportive of partnerships that build new creative businesses.

The members are proud to share their diverse careers in restaurants, events, entertainment, specialty foods, catering, distinctive venues, wedding planners, party rental provisions, bakeries, food tours, food trucks, hospitality media and more.

The Women's Food Alliance cultivates



The Women's Food Alliance First Coast Leadership Council.

Contributed photo

and advances networking, education and collaboration for women in the culinary and hospitality industry. It is a safe haven of trusted advice, genuine support and a place to grow.

Membership in the Women's Food Alliance opens the doors to exploring new cuisines, receiving personalized invitations to monthly gatherings in new and exciting venues, meeting noted culinary leaders,

participating in food competitions, receiving media exposure through the broad outreach of each member's marketing talents and enjoying the industry's ever-expanding creative personalities who share their successes!

"We cherish 'Friendship First,'" said founder and President Leigh Cort.

In addition to Cort, the First Coast Leadership Council consists of Ellie Schultze, executive chef at Chez L'Amour; Kelly Mabry, owner/operator of two Tropical Smoothie Cafes; Sue Lomba, social media/tech adviser for the Women's Food Alliance; Erin Kelly, business development for Kelly Farm; Nancy Slatsky, culinary sales and consulting for Mr. Greens Produce; Cindy Campbell-Taylor, president and CEO for Taylor Made Solutions USA; Cindy Stavely, executive director for the St. Augustine Pirate/Treasure Museum & Colonial Quarter; and Chelsy Johnson, general manager for Pesca by Michaels.

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# Florida Forum co-chairs named for 2024-25 series

The Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital has announced Randy DeFoor and Maxine McBride as co-chairs of the 2024-25 Florida Forum Speaker Series. The Florida Forum is responsible for bringing a world-class speaker series to the First Coast.

DeFoor is an attorney and businesswoman and served as a Jacksonville City Council member from 2019 to 2023. A longtime member of The Women’s Board, DeFoor is the daughter of founding member Marian Poitevent.

McBride is president of Clockwork Marketing. She has been involved with The Women’s Board, the Florida Forum and the First Coast Design Show for many years.

“I am honored to be working with these women on the Florida Forum series, and our speaker schedule will be announced soon,” said Kendra McCrary, president of The Women’s Board. “As in past years, we anticipate welcoming tremendous speakers to our events who are inspiring and memorable. We are proud that the Florida

Forum raises awareness and funds for Wolfson Children’s Hospital, supporting its mission to provide the highest quality of advanced pediatric health-

care and helping to make a positive impact in our community and beyond.”

Funds raised by the Florida Forum support The Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital’s commitment to raise \$1.5 million for two new Kids Kare Mobile Intensive Care Units (ICUs) by the end of 2024. The Mobile ICUs are part of Wolfson Children’s Hospital’s Neonatal and Pediatric Critical Care Transport fleet, which includes necessary life-support equipment for the transportation of critically ill and injured infants and children.

Since 1992, the Florida Forum has been honored to host renowned speakers from around the world, offering profound insights and discussions on a broad range of issues. In addition to enriching Jacksonville’s intellectual and cultural life, the Florida Forum has contributed more than \$10 million to Wolfson Children’s Hospital of Jacksonville.

The Florida Forum Speaker Series is made possible by longtime partners and generous sponsors Wells Fargo, Landstar and Florida Blue.

The Women’s Board is the largest volunteer-driven, community-supported source of philanthropy for Wolfson Children’s Hospital. For more information, go to [womensboardwch.com](http://womensboardwch.com).



Contributed photo  
Maxine McBride, left, and Randy DeFoor are the co-chairs of the 2024-25 Florida Forum Speaker Series.

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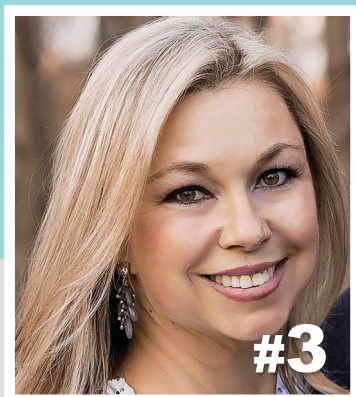
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# In the Arts



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THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024 · PAGE 25 www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## Local author explores individuality in children's book

By Anthony Richards

A children's book can be more than just an avenue for children to let their imagination run wild, but it can also have a message in the words that the entire family can take away.

That is exactly what Jennifer Nestor had in mind when she decided to write her first children's book called "Jane Escapes to the Jungle of Individuality."

According to Nestor, not only does she hope the book gets families reading together but she also believes it has the potential to get them talking even after the book is closed.

"I hope that children and families gather the notion that it is ok to have transparent conversations with your kids when something appears to be off or makes them sad," Nestor said. "I love how Jane is honest with her mom about not wanting to go to school because she



Contributed photo

**Individuality childrens book.jpg: Jennifer Nestor of St. Augustine recently wrote her first children's book Jane Escapes to the Jungle of Individuality.**

was being bullied. Her mom listened and reassured her, instead of dismissing her feelings."

As the book's name implies, readers will follow Jane as she explores the "jungle of individuality," which every child can relate with because everyone has their own personality that makes them who they are, and childhood is the first opportunity to discover that.

"There's also the anxiety component where she goes into this dream state on the bus because she's experienced this trauma and she learns how to love the things that make her unique by visiting the 'Jungle of Individuality,'" Nestor said. "This concept is to reassure children that no matter what unique quirks you may have, those attributes are what make you who you are, so they should be embraced."

Nestor lives in St. Augustine but grew up as an only child in Philadelphia before

moving to Florida with her mom when she was 10 years old.

She went through a lot of transitions during those years and her childhood experience comes across in Jane's adventure in the book.

"The more I think about this, the more I realize that Jane is highly relatable, even in my own childhood situations," Nestor said. "I experienced a lot of bullying myself, and especially after moving to Florida. It was tough to cope with what was happening, and I think that those memories, coupled with new experiences of being a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida for some time, and hearing other parent's stories about their kids getting bullied truly inspired me to write a book that allows this main character to learn the value of her own individuality and take a negative

**INDIVIDUALITY** continues on **Page 27**

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The Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine will hold classical concerts during each of the First Friday Art Walks moving forward.



Photo by Lee Kappel

The monthly organ recitals will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in church and will be open and free to the public.

# Cathedral concerts to be held during First Friday Art Walks

By Anthony Richards

The First Friday Art Walks have become a tradition of celebrating local art throughout galleries in historic St. Augustine and the tradition only continues to grow.

Many forms of art are showcased as part of the art walk, including of the musical variety.

The Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine do its part to add to the celebration with classical concerts during each of the art walks moving forward.

The monthly organ recitals will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in church and will be open and free to the public, as those attending the art walk are invited to enjoy the classical performances in a majestic setting.

Although the concerts will be free, a \$10 donation is suggested, and any amount is accepted.

June 7 will be the next First Friday Art Walk and concert at the Cathedral Basilica, and they are scheduled to have concerts every first Friday until May of 2025.

However, only the acts to the end of 2024 have been officially scheduled with all of the concerts taking place in 2025 on the books to be held but the performances are still to be determined.

Organist Gavan McVey will be the featured performer at the concert on June 7, and he is a senior organ performance major at the University of Florida.

Other summer performances upcoming

include Villancicos: Christmas in July on July 5, which is a production that specializes in popular Spanish Christmas carols that is a cultural tradition.

The Cathedral's own music director will perform on August 2 and cathedral organist Chad Levitt will perform on Sept. 6.

Any local artists interested in performing as part of the concert series can contact the cathedral's music director David McIntyre by calling the church office at 904-824-2806 or emailing cathparish@gmail.com

The Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine is known as home to America's first parish and is known for its place in history at the beginnings of the Catholic Church in the United States.

## Summer theater program to kick off June 10

The FSCJ Artist Series will present Next Stop Broadway, a weeklong musical theater program, June 10-14 at the Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts, 11901 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. Registration is open at fscjartistseries.org.

Next Stop Broadway is a five-day intensive for ages 10-17 that focuses on performing in the ensemble of a classic Broadway show.

Next Stop Broadway introduces kids to the world of life on stage and behind the scenes. The teaching staff of theater professionals offers each cast member the opportunity to expand his or her creative talents, build self-esteem, learn the art of collaboration and gain a fuller respect for and understanding of musical theater.

The program consists of classes, workshops and rehearsals. This summer, cast members will explore the work of Lerner and Loewe and will perform selections from "Brigadoon" and "My Fair Lady." Instructors will teach songs and choreography from classic Broadway productions and replicate the process of putting on an authentic Broadway show at the same break-neck speed as a real Broadway show.

This program is designed for the success of cast members with or without musical theater experience. The life lessons include respect, responsibility and working together toward a common goal. Through the rehearsal process of selections from classic musicals, the ensemble sings, dances and acts. In addition to the big musicals, the cast is divided into smaller groups where they get to engage their creativity in writing, directing, choreographing and starring in their own mini-musicals.

Lunch, snacks and a bottle of water are provided each day.

The week culminates with an "opening night" performance for family and friends on June 14.

Tuition includes two official Next Stop Broadway T-shirts and professional headshots. Half scholarships are available.

Go to fscjartistseries.org to pay tuition and fill out the Next Stop Broadway application. Space is limited. For more information, email nextstopbroadway@fscjartistseries.org.

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# First Coast Cultural Center plans Artists' Salon

First Coast Cultural Center artist members are invited to submit artwork and participate in the upcoming Artists' Salon exhibit. The salon became a popular event for artists to gather and share their work, starting in the 1600s.

This event is designed to cultivate relationships within the local artist community and is a benefit for individuals with an Artist Level Membership or greater.

The exhibition will be open to the public July 11-26 during business hours at First Coast Cultural Center, 6000B Sawgrass Village Circle, Ponte Vedra Beach. An opening reception will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. July 11.

Artist members can provide up to two pieces at no cost. Please include: artist name, title of work, dimensions, category (2D, 3D, sculpture), price (or NFS) and medium. Paperwork can be turned in at the time when pieces are brought in.

A commitment of participation is due



June 30. Email that to [programs@firstcoastculturalcenter.org](mailto:programs@firstcoastculturalcenter.org).

Pick-up dates are between July 29 and Aug. 2, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

## Individuality

Continued from 25

situation and turn it into a positive one.”

Nestor developed a love for writing when she was a child as she started writing poems and song lyrics to help her jot down the feelings that were in her head.

However, despite doing other writing, such as short stories and blogs, this was her first children’s book, and she was fascinated with the process of it all.

“This has been a process of learning how to take that writing skill and evolve

it to where the words could be understood by children, while still making an impactful story,” Nestor said. “The process has been a lot of fun, and my favorite part so far was getting to map out the scenes in my head through illustrator notes and working with Victoria Milkki to see those images come to life. The first time I saw Jane the main character, I was amazed by how much she looked like what I had imagined.”

Anyone interested in learning more about Nestor or wanting to purchase the book can go to [jennestorauthor.com](http://jennestorauthor.com) for more details.

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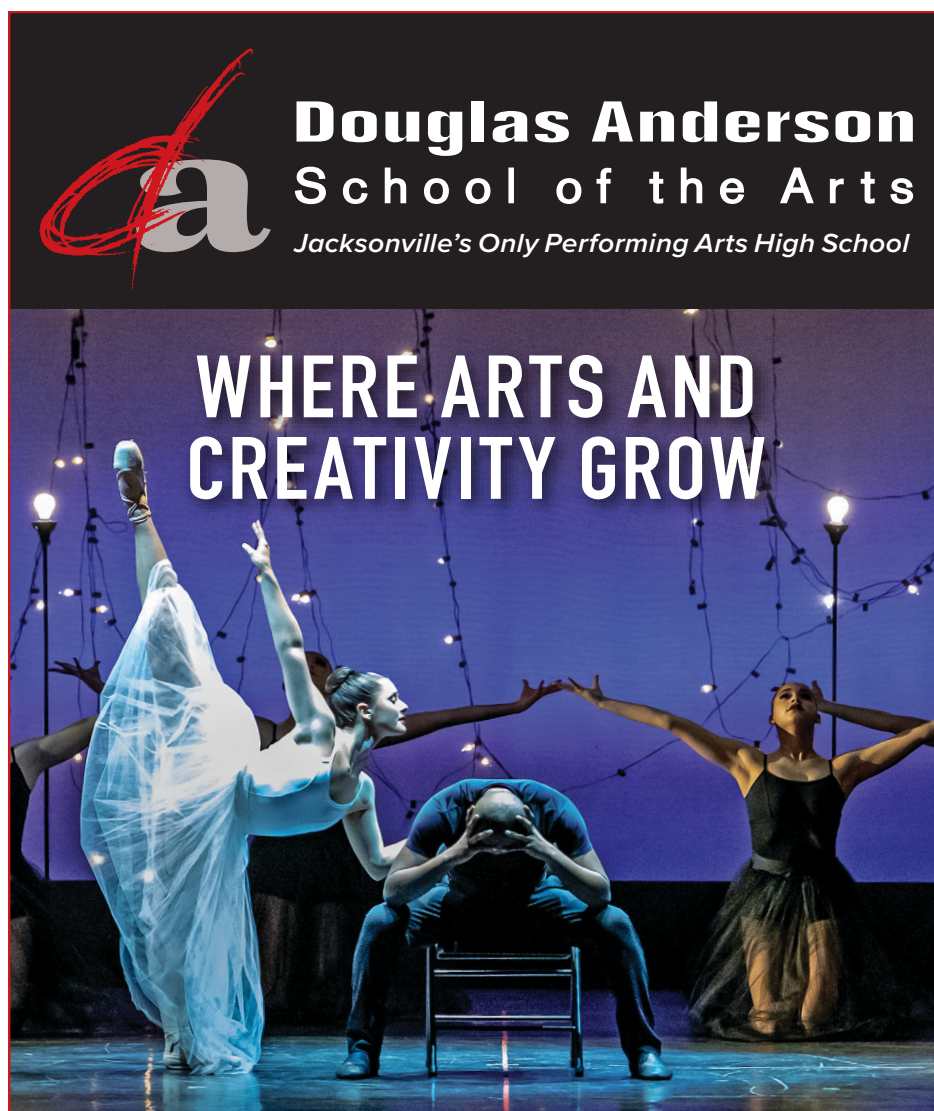
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# Sports



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For LIVE Sports and updates, follow our Twitter, @PVR\_sports

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

## Landrum hits it out of the park with 2 championships

The Landrum softball and baseball teams both took home the 2023 SJMSAA championship titles in May after competing against 11 other softball teams and nine other baseball teams in the district.

The Lions softball team, with a season record of 11-2 and a team batting average of .373, faced off against Pacetti Bay at Beachside High School on May 18. The Lions took a formable lead, scoring five runs in the second inning, never relenting behind a strong defense that committed zero errors and a lineup that delivered six hits and 10 runs.

Landrum won with a final score of 10-2. Led by coaches Heather Wiggins and Bob Straub, who has coached the team for three years, it was truly a team effort. It was the first trip to the championship game for the Lions since 2018.

The Landrum baseball team also took home the championship title on May 16 at Flagler College against Pacetti Bay. This team, with a season record of 11-2 and team batting average of .323, is no stranger to the championship game. In fact, they have played in the championship game for the past four years, finishing as runners-up in previous appearances.

The Lions changed their destiny, however, by scoring



Contributed photo

**The Landrum Baseball Team, back row, from left: Coach Angel Ortiz, Grady Harris, Matthew Gasperich-Morris, Jack Sproull, Evan Long, Max Hydell, Jackson Miller, JT Campbell and Assistant Coach Erik Oertli. Front row, from left: Logan Hunt, Carlos Willis, Michael Perez, Patrick Oertli, Will Arndt.**

five runs in the third inning. Landrum had nine hits in the game and didn't commit any errors in the field to hold strong and bring home a win of 10-4 for the championship title.



Photo by Erin Stehl

**The Landrum softball team, back row, from left: Coach Heather Wiggins, Charlotte Rogers, Brenna Webb, Abby Shin, Camryn Straub, Taylor Fillmore, Peyton Garrett and Coach Bob Straub. Front row, from left: Amelia Fitzpatrick, Addison Siebenaler, Natasha Deutch, Karly Farese and Reese Griffin.**

Coach Angel Ortiz led the team for the past nine years. Additionally, Will Arndt, Grady Harris, Patrick Oertli, Michael Perez, Jack Sproull and Carlos Willis were selected from the team to play on the all-star team.

## Local 8U lacrosse team wins tournament

The Ponte Vedra Lacrosse 8U Jaws Black Tip team emerged victorious in the 8U division at the Sunshine State Summer Kick-Off Lacrosse Tournament held on May 18-19 in Wellington, Florida. Competing against teams from across the state, the Jaws Black Tip secured their championship title by winning all five of their games.

In a thrilling championship match, the team clinched a 4-2 victory against the Manatee

Wildcats. The championship roster includes No. 2 Ted Beagin, No. 6 AJ Marrapese, No. 12 Joey Fugger, No. 14 Ashton Rose, No. 17 Hudson Carlson, No. 18 Akamu Laughlin, No. 21 Leo Dellavecchia, No. 22 Gray Roberts, No. 27 Bradley Johnson, No. 31 Colin Dunn, No. 33 Harris Hensley, No. 45 Jake Werba, No. 51 Cam "Bones" Eidson and No. 55 Pat McKenney.



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**The 8U Jaws Black Tip team with the Championship Banner.**

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