

County budget requests presented

By Shaun Ryan

The population of St. Johns County, which was 273,425 in 2020 according to the U.S. Census Bureau, has not remained static. County officials have estimated that it rose to 296,919 in 2022 and 315,317 last year.

And that increase comes at a cost for county services.

Three of the county's constitutional officers presented their tentative budgets for fiscal year 2025 during the regular County Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 4.

Sheriff Robert Hardwick began his presentation with a summary of his department's work in fiscal year 2023, not-

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From friends to Eagle Scouts

Strong bond leads to celebrating top rank together

By Anthony Richards

It has been a busy time for Ponte Vedra Beach Troop 288, which recently had four from the troop earn the rank of Eagle Scout from Scouting America.

The four Eagle Scouts are Gavin Lavallee, Ethan Lopez, Nash Kersting and Lucian Slayden. They grew up in Scouts together and it has been a part of their lives since elementary school.

They have developed a strong friendship over the years, so strong that they each insisted on waiting to hold their



Photo by Olivia Slayden

Ethan Lopez, Lucian Slayden, Gavin Lavallee and Nash Kersting are friends and were all able to earn the rank of Eagle Scout together.

SCOUTS continues on Page 11

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BRIEFS

Free dog adoptions offered through June

The St. Johns County Pet Center, 130 N. Stratton Road, St. Augustine, is facing overcrowding due to increased pet surrenders and strays. To address this urgent situation, the Pet Center is waiving the \$60 adoption fee for dogs through June 29.

Each adopted dog comes with complimentary spaying or neutering and microchipping. The Pet Center also offers free pet toys and food while supplies last.

To view available pets and begin the adoption process, go to sjcfl.us/pet-center and select the PetFinder link. The Pet Center's adoption hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

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.

Democratic Club topic is Middle East

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, June 24, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library. Optional "chat & chew" begins at 5:30 p.m. The speaker will be Jacksonville University professor Dr. Gaylord Candler, delivering a presentation on "Middle East 101." All are welcome. For additional information, email PVDemClub@gmail.com.

Explore the beach at GTM Research Reserve

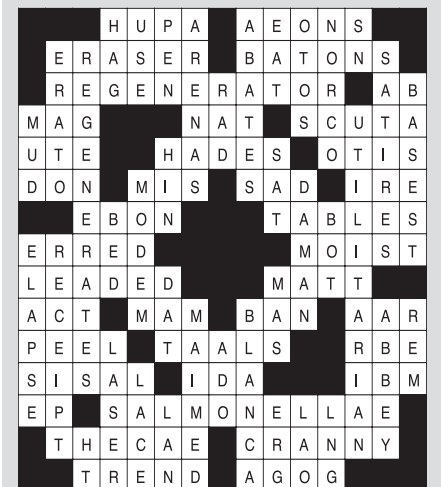
Join volunteers at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM) for a beach exploration 9-11

a.m. Saturday, June 15. Collect seashells, search for shark teeth and learn about coastal wildlife. Meet at GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

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

BRIEFS continues on Page 5

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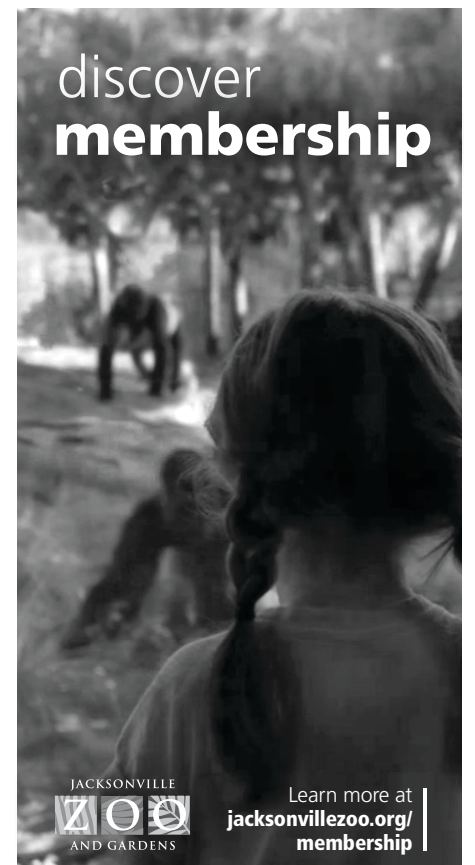
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Mickler's Landing to close temporarily for beach restoration project

St. Johns County will temporarily close Mickler's Landing parking and beach access from Thursday, June 13, through Friday, June 21, so that the county's contractor, Weeks Marine, can accelerate its work on the Ponte Vedra Beach Restoration Project.

Additionally, Mickler's Landing parking and beach access will be closed from Monday, June 24, through Friday, June 28.

The Ponte Vedra Beach Restoration Project was originally anticipated to be completed by mid-August, but the work has moved more quickly toward the completion of the project.

The public can keep updated on the

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

The Ponte Vedra Beach Restoration Project will provide substantial coastline fortifications, including dune reconstruction between 13 and 18 feet, beach berm elevation of approximately nine feet and beach width increase of 40 to 180 feet post-construction.

In coordination with this coastal restoration project, St. Johns County continues to sustain important environmental and physical monitoring of the coastline.

Sea turtle nesting season began May

1 and runs through Oct. 31. In 2023, St. Johns County beaches saw a record 133 green sea turtle nests as part of 1,205 total nests and an estimated 79,811 sea turtle hatchlings. St. Johns County recorded these historic conservation successes amid multiple full-scale beach nourishment projects, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Augustine Shore Protection Project, the South Ponte Vedra and Vilano

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

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

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OBITUARIES



Marilyn Dell Rossier

Marilyn Dell Rossier, 89, of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, peacefully departed this life on June 4th, 2024. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Rossier.

Born in Paterson, NJ, Marilyn was a graduate of Hawthorne High School. She

embarked on a successful career at Ingersoll Rand in Woodcliff Lake, NJ, where she served as the Manager of Benefits and Risk Management, leaving an indelible mark on those she worked with.

Marilyn was a devoted mother and grandmother. She is survived by her oldest son, Douglas Rossier, his wife Nancy, and their children, Matthew and Madeline. Additionally, she leaves behind her youngest son, Jeffrey Rossier, his wife Michelle, and their children, Ryan, Chris, and Ashley, along with grandson Ryder.

Marilyn cherished time spent with her family and friends. She had a passion for reading, dining, and dancing, always accompanied by a good glass of wine. Her warmth, generosity, and zest for life left a lasting impression on all who knew her.

Marilyn's absence will be deeply felt by her family and friends, yet her spirit will continue to inspire and uplift us. May we find solace in the memories we shared with her and carry her legacy of love and joy in our hearts always.

May she rest in peace, knowing she was dearly loved and will be profoundly missed.

With heartfelt condolences.

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DEATH NOTICES

Anne Abplanalp

Anne Abplanalp, 86, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died May 31, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Edward Francis Clancy, Jr.

Edward Francis Clancy, Jr., 79, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died June 6, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Francis Irenée duPont III

Francis Irenée duPont III, 79, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died June 9, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, www.quinn-shalz.com, 904-249-1100.

John Stratford Duss IV

John Stratford Duss IV, 81, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died June 4, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Marian Edwards

Marian Edwards, 83, of Ponte Vedra

Beach, Florida, died May 16, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Paul Erickson

Paul Erickson, 70, of Jacksonville, Florida, died June 2, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Wayne Charles Gerry

Wayne Charles Gerry, 84, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died June 2, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Sandra G. Hansford

Sandra G. Hansford, 84, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died June 7, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Gregory Kelly

Gregory Kelly, 65, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died June 1, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

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4H students prepare for drone certification

By Anthony Richards

Drones are becoming more popular and useful tools in the fields of agriculture and real estate and several students of the Florida 4-H program in St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler and Marion counties are taking part in a week-long drone camp.

The camp is held at the UF/IFAS Extension Putnam County office in East Palatka and is designed to prepare those attending for the Federal Aviation Administration drone license exam, which is required by law in order to operate a drone.

With the knowledge gained, the camp is designed to offer skills that will exceed far more than just flying a drone for recreational sense but for some could be the next step in their career path.

“It’s very common to use drones in agriculture,” said Wendy Mussoline, director of UF/IFAS Extension Putnam

County. “They are very effective for early detection of (agricultural) disease, and a lot of people use drone photography for advertising real estate.”

Although the University of Florida employees from across the state will deliver the bulk of camp instruction, a Putnam County high school student, who launched his own drone business was on hand during the week to provide equipment and consulting as campers got to first test their prowess of controlling a drone.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, a remote pilot certificate must be obtained before one can operate a drone.

The certificate is meant to understand the regulations in place and the operating requirements and safety procedures.

Drone pilots must be at least 16 years old and able to read, speak and understand English to be eligible to apply for a

certificate and once obtained an online training course must be taken every 24 months to maintain it.

Before one applies for a certificate, one of the first steps is passing an initial aeronautical knowledge test about general small, unmanned aircraft.

The test covers areas such as the effects of weather on small, unmanned aircraft and the weather sources out there to use and various scenarios and the decision-making process and proper judgment when flying a drone in those situations.

Maintenance and pre-flight procedures are also covered as drone care is important in assuring the safest flight possible, as well as things to look for when operating a drone at night.

Once the drone pilot certificate application is completed, a permanent certificate is sent, and that certificate must always be available to show whenever a drone is being flown.

Briefs

Continued from 2

Battle of Bloody Mose re-enactment is June 22

History comes to life on Florida’s Historic Coast as the Fort Mose Historical Society presents the Battle of Bloody Mose at Fort Mose Historic State Park on June 22. Since 2010, this annual re-enactment showcases the pivotal battle between the invading British, Scottish and Native American troops and the prevailing Spanish, Free Black and Native American militia.

The opening ceremony begins at 10 a.m. June 22, with the first battle at 11 a.m. and the second at 1 p.m. The event is free, but the Fort Mose Historical Society accepts donations. Visitors can also see the progress of the 1738 fort reconstruction, a joint effort between the Florida State Parks Foundation and the Fort Mose Historical Society, started in February, with completion expected later in the year.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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BEST LAW FIRMS USNews PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION - PLAINFIELD - 2023

Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice Specialists

Dr. David Slossberg is the new owner and treating chiropractic physician of Ponte Vedra Beach Chiropractic. The practice is currently located at 814 A1A N., Suite 102, Ponte Vedra Beach, but later this summer, it will be moved into a larger space in the courtyard at the Veranda business center.

Dr. David Slossberg

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me about your background.

I was at Florida State University from '92 to '96. Got a Bachelor of Science in biology. I grew up in Southeast Florida, so I went down there.

I knew I wanted to go into the health care field. I didn't know if it was going to be medical school, chiropractic, physical therapy ...

One day, I was randomly picking chiropractors out of the phone book and calling them, asking about their profession, that kind of thing.

I found one and, long story short, she was impressed with what I was doing. She invited me in. Then, I started working for her.

She had one of the first multidisciplinary clinics. She had chiropractic, medical — different things there.

I got exposed to different approaches. So, I decided to go to chiropractic school in Atlanta at Life University. I was there from '98 to 2002. Then, I went down to South Florida and opened a practice.

That practice evolved into a multidisciplinary clinic with chiropractors, medical doctors, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, acupuncturists. A kind of decent-sized operation.

I decided to move to Colorado in '18. Kept the practice in Lake Worth, Florida, and ran it remotely.

I sold that and lived in Colorado for three years.

Moved to St. Augustine in '21. Decided to go back into practice in late '22 and I bought this practice.

The only other thing I'd say that's interesting is that I went to India three times with a group of chiropractors and set up a clinic out there. We treated thousands of people.

I got exposure to a lot of different types of patients, conditions, lot of different approaches, techniques, a thousand seminars and different things.

Tell me about Ponte Vedra Beach Chiropractic.

Obviously, I do chiropractic. We have massage therapy and two massage therapists. We have some other therapies, electro-muscle stimulation, ultrasound, things like that.

I do a lot of work with athletes. So, I do a lot of extremities. A lot of foot and ankle, a lot of shoulders, knees and hips, a lot of extremities. I do a lot of physical rehab.

Spinal decompression, which is a nonsurgical approach for disc herniations, disc bulges, disc problems in general. A do a lot for feet, orthotics. I also have a large focus on posture. Fixing posture and handling its effects on health.

I'm in a golf training program. It's called the Titleist Performance Institute. They train you on, basically, everything related to injuries. Any injury related to golf and then the mechanics of the golf swing. So, learning how to evaluate someone to see if they're moving properly or if they're having issues. You're looking at everything from the feet up to the neck, to the shoulders, the wrists, to see if there are any issues that are affecting the golf swing.

I'm very good at injuries related to golf and looking at the mechanics, like, how much someone's shoulder needs to move, their hips, where they're having limitations, deficiencies, which would affect their swing.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Dr. David Slossberg in his office.

What other areas do you work in?

I do a lot of nutrition. I had a lot of training in functional medicine, which is basically more specific nutrition and testing to find the underlying reasons of why things are happening.

If I need to refer to a medical doctor, I'll do that.

I get really good results with digestive issues. Sleep's also a huge one. A lot of women — guys, too — come in and they can't fall asleep or they wake up in the middle of the night and they're wide awake.

What do you like best about what you do?

Just seeing people get better naturally; they're not just loading themselves on meds and things like that. That's probably the most exciting part.

I've been doing this for 22 years, and it bothers me when I see people that are sick and in pain and getting worse and they're taking more meds and they're doing less, they're not exercising and there's just a downward spiral. I can make huge changes in that.

If I can adjust people to the point where there's less pain and they're moving better and I can get them to exercise, that in itself is huge.

I like helping people. I'm fully into this. I'm con-

stantly thinking about it. I'm reading. I'm studying. I'm going to seminars. I'm constantly taking the knowledge I'm getting and figuring out better ways to deliver it to people.

What do you like best about living here?

I think I like, to some degree, that there are seasons here. Geographically, I like the location. It's, to some degree, Georgia-like in terms of the people and the feel. I like that a little better than being in South Florida all the time.

I went to Florida State. That's not too far. Orlando, Tampa are not too far. Savannah, Charleston, Atlanta, you know, the Panhandle. Geographically, this is a nice location.

Anything else?

I'm hoping to get back into some type of regular lecture series on nutrition or fitness or general chiropractic ... I look forward to doing more education.

It's cool to take what I've learned and what I've studied and what I know and what I love and be able to deliver it to people and see the light bulbs go on when people get stuff. That's exciting.

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

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

Beat-the-heat plants for your landscape!

"Some of the best memories are made in flip-flops." — Kellie Elmore



By Kathy Esfahani

The summer months in Northeast Florida can be hot and humid! When adding to your landscape, it is important to select plants that are hardy enough to withstand these sometimes harsh conditions.

For areas of full sun, look for heat-tolerant plants such as black-eyed susan, blue daze, bush daisy, coleus, dune sunflower, gaillardia, gazania, lantana, melampodium, milkweed, ornamental peppers, pentas, portulaca, purslane, Texas sage, vinca, zinnia and all types of sedums and succulents.

Carolina jessamine, otherwise known as yellow jessamine, grows as a vine, so it is a great choice for climbing up a landscape feature such as a trellis, arbor or pergola.

These yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers release a sweet fragrance and are very heat-tolerant.

For a low maintenance option, consider blue daze as it requires little care other than extra water during dry weather. It is salt tolerant and grows beautifully in eastern exposure. No deadheading required! The plants are covered with small blue flowers that close during the afternoon heat.



Heat-loving plants

Vinca is a great annual that comes in a variety of colors for hot, dry weather. Their needs are minimal — only low water and fertilizer.

Other beautiful plants for the summer heat are bulbine, bush daisy, butterfly bush, firebush, firespike, hydrangea, Mexican heather, plumbago, salvia and shrimp plant.

In areas of shade, consider heat-tolerant plants such as begonias and impatiens, both annuals. Also look for agapanthus, alternanthera, alocasia, arbutus, caladiums, foxtail fern, Hawaiian ti, ornamental sweet potato and

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

Flower of the Week



Gaillardia

stromanthe.

Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Gaillardia

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

CDC presents steps to combat mosquito season

By Anthony Richards

Florida is known for its beautiful weather throughout the year, which leads so many residents spending time outside to enjoy it.

However, that time outside also requires some precautionary measures taken to make the experience the best it can be when it comes to fending off mosquitoes.

Mosquito bites can quickly turn an experience from an exciting time to an itchy one, but although getting bit by a mosquito is seemingly a rite of passage for those who call Florida home, it is an endless battle to make sure the number of bites in the future are lessened.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have many steps that people can take around their home and, in the community, to help prevent the spread of mosquitoes in the area.

According to the CDC, it is something everyone can help with, no matter how old one is and the simplest step to take is to dump any standing water that is seen while walking around a yard or neighborhood, because standing water is where



Photo courtesy of U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Any object that is outside after a rainfall can hold water in the days following and be a perfect nesting spot for mosquitoes.

mosquitoes choose to lay eggs.

Any object that is outside after a rainfall can then hold water in the days following and be a perfect nesting spot for mosquitoes.

Some of the objects the CDC mentions to especially keep an eye on that are susceptible for retaining water include

tires, buckets, planters, children's toys, birdbaths, flowerpot saucers and trash containers.

It is recommended that water storage containers without lids be covered with wire mesh, but to make sure that the holes in the mesh are small enough so that an adult mosquito cannot get

through.

When outdoors, the best ways to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes are the use of insect repellent, which can be applied to the skin and deter mosquitoes from landing.

The CDC recommends always having insect repellent packed, especially when spending long amounts of time outdoors, and they recommend using EPA-registered repellents that have been verified as safe and effective for those pregnant and breastfeeding.

An alternative to using repellent is covering up one's skin by wearing loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and pants so that the mosquitoes do not have open skin to attack.

Window and door screens will help keep mosquitoes outside and prevent them from coming into one's home and being a nuisance inside as well as outside.

Mosquito bites are susceptible both day and night and the official mosquito season starts in the summer in most places and ends around the fall. However, Southern states will have a longer mosquito season due to the warmer climate throughout the year.

Collapsed pipe creates pit, questions about easement ownership

By Anthony Richards

Drainage issues have gotten to where they are major talking points at every Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District meeting, and it has been the case for some time now.

The latest instance brought to the board's attention was from Denis Abromavage, who brought up concern about a pit that has developed due to the

collapse of an old drainage pipe, and his backyard at 530 Morningside Drive is washing away as a result.

"His rear yard has an old drainpipe that has totally corroded and is compromised," MSD trustee Mickey White said. "Dirt is falling from his yard into this old pipe and it's just a mess."

Both Abromavage and White have spoken with St. Johns County representatives with no luck or solution to

resolve the situation.

"The county has said that it's not their pipe and it's not their easement, so they don't maintain it," White said.

White stated that Abromavage has an issue in his front yard as well where the county moved some drainage around and they are working to fix that, but the backyard remains a growing problem.

According to White, he is not the only resident within the MSD that is dealing with issues due to unmaintained drainage infrastructure, but there is no one willing to claim responsibility for the situation.

"This is the exact situation that has led to us saying that we want to file a list of all the drainage easements throughout the area that need an owner and an entity to maintain them," White said. "It leaves homeowners without a place to go to get it corrected."

Abromavage stated that the swale at the back of his property was being maintained years ago but then the maintenance just stopped one day.

It is not just his yard that is being affected, as similar results are happening to his neighbors' homes, including part of the yard that washed away having a fence on it, which is being washed

away.

According to Abromavage, he has met with engineers and has a list of emails but after looking at it they said that that pipe was not even showing up on their maps.

"But that's not the way it is, because you can see it going right through my yard," Abromavage said.

One of the consensus agreements is the safety that the collapsed pipe and pit formed causes to the residents around it.

"That pit is a hazard because it's four feet deep," Abromavage said.

He even stated that he has seen children playing around the pit and it could quickly become a real issue if someone was to fall into it.

County Commissioner Krista Joseph attended the meeting and said that she would investigate the situation further.

In other news from the meeting, budget discussion will begin to pick up as the MSD prepares for the approaching end of the current fiscal year in the coming months.

The budget process will include a tentative millage being decided in July and a tentative budget introduced in August followed by the first budget meeting in September.

Nominations have been extended!



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.**

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HURRY, last day to nominate is June 14th!



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Groups plan candidate forum for state senator, representative

The Palm Valley Community Association, in collaboration with the Ponte Vedra Community Association, will host a candidate forum for St. Johns County District 7 State Senator and District 18 State Representative candidates on June 25.

The event will be held in the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Community Room. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and the event will begin at 6 p.m.

All qualified candidates for these offices who have been certified by the Florida Division of Elections to appear on the August 2024 Primary Election ballot are expected to participate. The current office holders, Sen. Travis Hutson and Rep. Cyndi Stevenson, have termed out of their positions.

The Ponte Vedra Beach Candidate Forum is a nonpartisan event ensuring a fair discussion. An experienced moderator will lead the process, during

which candidates will answer questions and present their positions on issues of interest to St. Johns County voters.

"We're always looking for opportunities to encourage constructive discussion on issues of importance to our community," said Greg Leonard, president of the Palm Valley Community Association. "We are delighted to partner with the Ponte Vedra Community Association on this first of two candidate forums this summer."

"We are thrilled to join the Palm Valley Community Association to engage and educate our community," added Scott Pearson, president of the Ponte Vedra Community Association. "This event and others will continue to deliver on that effort."

For further information, contact Greg Leonard at yrdbd@aol.com or Dick Williams at dickwms@comcast.net.

Capital Grille offers Father's Day repast

The Capital Grille, 5197 Big Island Drive Jacksonville, is helping guests treat Dad to expertly prepared steaks that are dry-aged in-restaurant and hand-cut by the in-house butcher.

This year, Dads can enjoy a 22-ounce prime bone-in ribeye with caramelized shallot jus and truffle butter (\$80), available exclusively in-restaurant for Father's Day.

To ensure a perfect pairing for Father's Day dinner,



Caymus 50th Anniversary Cabernet Sauvignon – by the glass

Caymus 50th Anniversary Cabernet Sauvignon will be available to order by the glass (\$30).

The Capital Grille will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. with the full dinner menu available all day. To make a reservation, go to TheCapitalGrille.com.

The Capital Grille specializes in dry-aged steaks, fresh seafood and world-class wines.



Contributed photos

The Capital Grille in fashion with Woodford Reserve



22 oz. prime bone-in ribeye with caramelized shallot jus and truffle butter

Father's Day ideas from TPC Network

Give Dad the gift of good golf this Father's Day, from professional lessons to apparel, gift cards and more! The TPC Network is your one-stop shop for the perfect Father's Day.

TPC apparel, including shirts, hats, visors and more are available from the Fan Shop.

TPC golf vacation packages include everything from rounds of golf, accommodations, private or group instruction and access to world-class practice facilities. There are plenty of choices when it comes to planning a golf vacation. Choose among the packages or customize your own. The TPC vacations concierge can build the package that suits your needs. To speak with a TPC vacations coordinator, call 1-833-752-9872.

Golf schools at TPC golf courses make up the world's most extraordinary learning facilities. An unprecedented combination of state-of-the-art technology and premier instructors help golfers improve their swings and enhance their enjoyment of the sport. Book your golf instruction at tourperformancecenter.com.

TPC gift cards also make a great gift.

For more ideas, go to tpc.com/fathers-day.

Memorable ways to celebrate Dad this Father's Day

- Take Dad on a tour through his own history with a genealogy service - highlight key moments with a book or video presentation.
- Take to the great outdoors with Dad's favorite activity, such as fishing or camping.
- Book a private chef - Identify Dad's favorite dish and then look for a chef who specializes in that type of cuisine.
- A kayaking trip, a skydiving session, a round of paintball, or even tickets to a rock concert on Father's Day weekend can connect Dad with his inner adventurer.

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MEET ASHBY MURRAY

Retiree enjoying life in Northeast Florida

By Soleil Shah

Ashby Clifford Murray, known as “AC” by friends and family, has been proudly living in North Florida for seven years. He is a St. Augustine resident who enjoys the tranquility of the historic area. Murray has been to 48 of the 50 states, but he sure believes that, besides his hometown in Harrisonburg, Virginia, North Florida is the most wonderful place to retire.

Murray was drafted to the military at age 18 during the Vietnam War. He was sent to Fort San Houston in Texas for medical training. There, he was selected along with five others out of 500 men and went to Korea where he served as a medic. During his time in the military, Murray traveled to Somalia, Thailand and Korea. He remembers his first time leaving the United States to fly to Korea and how intriguing the experience had been.

Through his travels, Murray landed in the small Caribbean Island of Trinidad and Tobago. He found the warm and breezy climate delightful. Murray recalls having his “first Christmas on the beach” on the island, which was a strange thing for him since he was so used to snow! Murray loved the welcoming hearts of the Trinidadians and even met his future wife, Jacqueline, on this Caribbean Island.

Murray spent most of his life in the communications field working for companies such as



Contributed photo

Local resident Ashby Murray has traveled far and wide, but he chosen to make his home in St. Augustine.

Contel, where he set down communication cables all across the United States.

Today, AC lives a relaxed life in St. Augustine. He enjoys collecting stamps and rare coins. Murray has a collection of more than 1,000 First Day cover stamps and has been selling them as a hobby. Some of the oldest stamps in his collection are from the 1930s and can sell for up to \$20 a piece.

AC also likes creating art. He received a degree in fine arts at Community College in Virginia and has never stopped having a fascination with crafts. In fact, AC has hand-designed boat oars on which he meticulously draws nautical subjects, like whales and dolphins. His creations always have a delicate and detailed touch.

In one of his more recent projects, Murray painted a beautiful scene of sharks on an antique bathtub. The creation has such a unique look, as he used bone white and stark black paints to create a flowing contrast. He said that his inspiration for such a look came from Meerscham art, which is fine art made with white clay.

Ashby Murray enjoys spending time with his wife, family and friends here in North Florida, and he always likes telling entertaining stories about his life travels to his guests.

Soleil Shah is a student at Ponte Vedra High School.

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Scouts

Continued from 1

court of honor until they could all take part in it together as a group.

Their commitment to each other is not surprising to their families and those who know them well, as they have forged those bonds having spent time camping, cooking and hiking together countless times.

Some of the adventures they have done together include sailing at Sea Base in the Florida Keys and skiing and hiking for two weeks in Philmont, New Mexico.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank in Boy Scouts of America and requires years of self-discipline and work to achieve.

One of the final steps to earning the rank of eagle is to design and lead the execution of a service project.

Another aspect that the scouts shared was that each of their eagle projects benefited local churches, which according to Olivia Slayden, mother of Lucien Slayden, underscores scouting's commitment to duty to God as well as the community.

"The projects also demonstrated scouting's continued focus on getting our future leaders outdoors and contributing to the well-being of their surroundings," Olivia Slayden said.

Gavin Lavallee primed, painted and

refurbished an old shed at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

His efforts helped to waterproof and preserve the longevity of the shed. In addition, he also built a paver ramp to help with accessibility, allowing for wagons to be rolled up the ramp and stored more effectively.

Lavallee recently graduated from Nease High School and plans to major in electrical engineering with a minor in mechanical engineering at the University of Central Florida in the fall.

Ethan Lopez planned and led the construction of a series of three benches along a path that runs around a lake behind St. John Paul Catholic Church.

The benches offer a great opportunity for parishioners walking the path to relax, reflect and pray.

Ethan is also a recent Nease graduate and is also headed to the University of Central Florida where he will study aerospace engineering.

Nash Kersting planned, designed and managed the installation of a 20-by-30-foot irrigated, raised garden bed for St. Francis in-the-Field Episcopal Church's Little Flowers Preschool.

He worked with the director of the preschool and senior warden of the church to fulfill their wish of creating an outdoor space for the preschoolers to learn about and enjoy growing vegetables and flowers.

The project involved six scouts, 10

adults and culminated in over 192 hours of labor.

Nash attends Ponte Vedra High School and is part of the International Business Academy. He will begin his senior year in August.

Slayden undertook the planning, and led the construction of, two flagstone semicircles that now frame the path leading to St. Francis in-the-Field's memorial

garden.

He also installed benches at the center of each semicircle, creating a place for rest and contemplation to help enhance the beauty and tranquility of the garden.

Slayden, a recent graduate of Nease High School, will be attending the University of Florida as a business administration and management major this fall.

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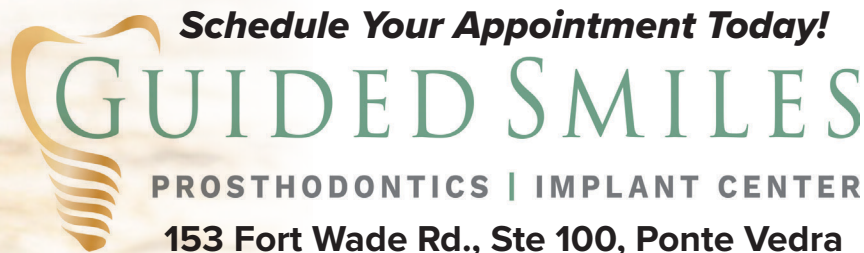
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Budget

Continued from 1

ing that it must operate across 601 square miles of land and 221 square miles of water. He noted that his office has increased enforcement of DUI and aggressive driving laws and that the number of traffic crashes has decreased about 15% to 5,300.

Illegal drugs continue to be a concern as the Sheriff's Office seized 3,777 grams of fentanyl, 2,285 grams of methamphetamine, 2,373 grams of cocaine and 94

grams of heroin last year.

The department took 414,795 calls for service, including 115,428 9-1-1 calls. Those figures marked a small increase.

The average daily inmate population at the county jail was 483, and there were 6,375 bookings. In addition to county inmates, the jail is the holding facility for the cities of St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach, the Florida Highway Patrol and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Hardwick reported that job creation and retention remains good, in part due to the

county allowing for pay increases.

"I know it comes at an expense, of course, to our citizens in St. Johns County, but I think it provides a better service if we are at full staff," Hardwick said.

When he took office in 2021, the starting pay for a deputy sheriff was \$42,000. That has been increased to \$55,000. The starting pay for 9-1-1 operators was \$39,000, which has been increased to \$50,000. Other Sheriff's Office employees started at \$31,000. Now, the lowest salary is \$40,500.

The department has 992 employees, including 735 in law enforcement and 236 in corrections.

The total budget proposal for next year is \$128,706,884, the largest portion — \$98,011,420 — going to personnel services. This is a \$10.5 million increase and includes the addition of 21 new positions.

Hardwick noted that the St. Johns County School District funds about 69.1% of the cost for the 59 deputy sheriffs who work in the public schools. This year, three new positions will open to serve the two new K-8 schools planned for the north-

central part of the county.

Hardwick said the School Board has, so far, indicated support for funding at \$5.7 million, which is about a \$500,000 increase over last year.

Dwala Anderson, chief financial officer for the St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, delivered the budget presentation for that department in place of Clerk Brandon Patty, who has been deployed with the U.S. Navy.

That budget is \$4,477,646 for fiscal year 2025, a \$675,761 increase over last year.

St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer presented his department's budget of \$8.6 million. The office being fee-based, he was not required to make the presentation but has done so since first taking office.

The St. Johns County Property Appraiser assessed 175,133 parcels last year, 126,189 of which were residential. It saw 9,000 new Homestead Exemption applications.

Creamer reported that the just market value for the county was \$82.9 billion, and the taxable value stood at \$51.9 billion.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF ORDINANCE / REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE USE OF LAND

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board on **Monday, 7/08/2024 at 3:00 p.m.** and the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners on **Tuesday, 8/06/2024 at 9:00 a.m.**, will each hold public hearings, as follows: The Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board to consider and issue a recommendation on the approval of a proposed ordinance affecting the use of land and the Board of County Commissioners will consider whether or not to approve the same proposed ordinance affecting the use of land:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF ST. JOHNS, STATE OF FLORIDA, AMENDING THE PONTE VEDRA ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS, ORDINANCE NO. 2003-05, AS AMENDED; AMENDING SECTION IX.D," OFF-STREET PARKING- GENERAL PROVISIONS" TO MODIFY SAN JUAN DRIVE PARKING REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATION DURING PUBLIC HEARING; PROVIDING FOR CORRECTION OF SCRIVENERS ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION AND CODIFICATION INTO THE PONTE VEDRA ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Said hearings will be held in the County Auditorium, County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida. All interested parties may appear at the public hearings to be heard regarding any or all of the proposed amendment. Board of County Commissioner items not heard by 6 pm shall automatically be continued until 9 am the following day, unless otherwise directed by the Board.

The proposed ordinance is on file and is available for review in the Planning and Zoning Division of the Growth Management Department, at the Permit Center, 4040 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, Florida and may be examined by interested parties prior to said public hearings.

Interested parties may appear at the public hearings to be heard regarding the proposed amendment.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

NOTICE TO PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND TO ALL HEARING-IMPAIRED PERSONS: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing special accommodations or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the County's ADA Coordinator at (904) 209-0650 or at the St. Johns County Facilities Management, 2416 Dobbs Road, St. Augustine, FL 32086. Hearing impaired persons, call Florida Relay Service (1 800 955 8770), no later than 5 days prior to the meeting.

PONTE VEDRA ZONING AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SAMUEL CROZIER, CHAIR
LDCA 2024000001 – PV: San Juan Parking Ordinance

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SARAH ARNOLD, CHAIR

Legal 90920 published June 13, 2024 in St. Johns County's Ponte Vedra Recorder newspaper.



Coastal Friends elects board

At the Coastal Friends monthly luncheon on June 5, held at Marsh Landing Country Club, the existing executive board and committee chairs were thanked for their service as they transitioned out of their positions. A new board of directors was inducted for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

As usual, there will not be any monthly luncheons during July and August, but they will start up again in September. Additionally, some activities are curtailed during the summer, but others will continue to take place, such as canasta, mah jongg and book club.

Established in 1998, Coastal Friends

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

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

New members are welcome throughout the year. For more information, email brookemeister@msn.com.

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Churchmen luncheon for May

Pictured at The Churchmen May luncheon at Marsh Landing are, from left, Paul Nevin, secretary; Rich Reilly, Vice Chair; Tim Deegan, meteorologist; John Ekdahl, chair; and Peter Karpen, treasurer.

Contributed photo



Clerk's new software stops scam

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller recently announced that the newly implemented vendor management system, PaymentWorks, has actively safeguarded county government from a scam attempt. This achievement underscores the Clerk's Office's efforts to protect taxpayer dollars through innovative and proactive measures.

"Clerk Patty's dedication to protecting taxpayer dollars was validated with the recent interception of a scam attempt," said Clerk Designee John Rundgren. "We extend a special thanks to PaymentWorks for their cutting-edge technology and to county staff for their continued vigilance."

A recent incident highlighted the effectiveness of this partnership when a county employee reported a suspiciously urgent attempt of a customer wanting to update banking information. The employee directed the customer to update their information through the PaymentWorks platform. When the customer persisted to contact the

government agency, the employee contacted the vendor by phone and it was discovered that the scam involved a fraudulent mirror copy of the real vendor's email address.

"PaymentWorks has provided the comptroller's office a level of security and reassurance that we did not have prior to its implementation," said St. Johns County Clerk's Office Chief Financial Officer Dwala Anderson. "We have to be right every time while the scammers only have to be once. This system helps us stay one step ahead of them and protect the public's dollars."

The St. Johns County Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller's Office manages approximately 13,000 vendors, processing an average of 3,824 vendor invoices per month. With the high-volume of vendor relations activities conducted daily by the county comptroller, the PaymentWorks platform has significantly enhanced the financial integrity of St. Johns County, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are shielded against fraud.



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MESH and the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra presented a \$6,000 check to Valley Ridge Academy to help homeless and financially disabled students.

\$6K donated to meet needs of disadvantaged students

On May 29, representatives of Mission to End Student Homelessness (MESH) and the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra (RCPV) presented a \$6,000 check to leaders at Valley Ridge Academy (VRA) in Nocatee. The money will help the school cover the growing needs of its financially disadvantaged students, some of whom are home-

less. Over the past two years, VRA has experienced a significant increase in the number of students in need. The majority of them have a home but lack the financial resources to cover “out-of-pocket” school-related expenses. Others meet the federal McKinney-Vento Act definition of being

homeless as they either lack a fixed, regular or adequate nighttime residence or do not live with a parent or legal guardian and are thus considered to be “unaccompanied youth.”

VRA Principal Angie Fuller said that, in the past, school staff and concerned neighbors stepped up to help, but now the need has outgrown their resources. Fuller estimates as many as 100 VRA students now need some kind of financial assistance to get through the school year. To make matters worse, available federal funding that could be used to address these problems has now expired and will not be available in the 2024-25 school year.

After learning about MESH’s role in providing money (rather than commodities) to address time-sensitive needs of homeless or otherwise impoverished students in the St. Johns County School District, the RCPV established a “Save Our Students” (SOS) initiative that collected more than \$20,000 for the cause. The club’s foundation (the Ponte Vedra Rotary Foundation) is granting that money to MESH, which is, in turn, donating 60% to VRA and retaining 40% for its legacy activities. The \$6,000 donation to VRA on May 29 — which was presented by MESH Chair and Rotary club member Dr. Tony Kazlauskas — is the first installment of what is expected to be a total gift of at least \$12,000 to the school.

“I’m thrilled to have Valley Ridge Academy partnered with the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra and MESH to help us meet the everyday needs of these students,” Fuller said. “This partnership, with its accompanying financial support, will allow us to continue to provide things like school supplies, extended day tuition, field trips, help with medical expenses and transportation to doctor appointments, school T-shirts, prescription eyeglasses and even housing for this growing population of students at our school.”

“Our club recognized that since the pandemic the financial stress for many students in Nocatee has been on the increase,” said SOS Co-Chair and Rotary club member Denny Baldwin. “Partnering with VRA (where student poverty is especially acute) and MESH allows us to help those kids who need it right in our own backyard. We couldn’t be happier to practice the Rotary motto of ‘Service Above Self’ through this effort.”

Anyone wishing to donate to the ongoing SOS effort may do so by sending a check to the Ponte Vedra Rotary Foundation, 101 Markside Ave., Ponte Vedra, FL 32081 (referencing “SOS” in the memo line), or by clicking on the donate button for the Ponte Vedra Rotary Foundation at the club’s website (www.pontevedrarotary.org).



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What coming changes mean for home buyers, sellers

To The Editor:

There has been much discussion about the recent settlement involving the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and its impact on consumers seeking to buy or sell a home. As we enter the summer “selling season,” buyers and sellers will notice two real estate practice changes:

1. Properties listed in a multiple listing service (MLS) will no longer include an offer of compensation to a buyer’s agent. It’s important to note that commissions have been and will continue to be negotiable among buyers, sellers and their brokers.

2. Buyers working with an agent will need to sign a written agreement prior to touring a home.

It’s important to note that written agreements will be required for both in-person and live virtual home tours, but buyers do not need a written agreement if you are just speaking to an agent at an open house or asking them about their services.



The changes will go into effect on August 17, 2024.

These practices will now be industry standards to the benefit of both the consumer and the agent. They will facilitate buyers meeting with agents, discussing services offered, expectations and costs, and formalized into a written agreement.

Home buyers and sellers will continue to have options when it comes to compensating brokers. Some may opt to pay a fixed fee, or a seller may offer a concession on the home price, which could be used by the buyer to pay their agent. Another alternative is that sellers’ agents may offer some of their fee to buyers’ agents, so long as the offer doesn’t appear on an MLS.

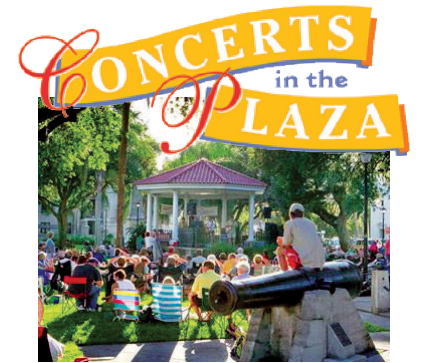
What won’t change is that buyers and sellers alike will continue to rely on the expertise and savvy of their agents to guide them through what for many is the most important financial transaction

in their lives. That’s why 90% of homebuyers historically have opted to work with a real estate agent or broker.

Agents know their local markets and neighborhoods like the back of their hands and have extensive knowledge about available homes. Realtors are versed in all the financial and legal complexities of a real estate transaction to guide their clients through the process. Realtors negotiate on a buyer’s behalf so they can rest assured they get the right home at a fair price. Realtors also take them by the hand and guide buyers through the ups and downs of home inspections. In addition, Realtors understand sellers’ motivations and offer suggestions and solutions when deals look like they might fall apart. As professionals, Realtors know what works in the marketplace and what doesn’t.

The practice changes will facilitate better communications between agents and their clients. What the settlement won’t change is what makes us most valued to our clients: our expertise, commitment to our clients and our passion for helping them fulfill their dream of owning a home.

Rory Dubin
President
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HOW TO KEEP AN AC UNIT RUNNING STRONG

Air conditioners are a lifeline come the dog days of summer, when soaring temperatures make a well-cooled home a welcome respite from the outdoors. Maintaining an AC unit ensures it will be there to keep everyone cool when the mercury rises. The following are some steps homeowners can take to keep their AC units in tip-top shape this summer.

- **Replace the air filter on the unit.** Dirt, dust, debris, and pollen can quickly fill the filter on an AC unit. Replacing these filters prior to summer can make the unit operate more efficiently and keep cool air circulating throughout the house all summer. Homeowners can first identify which type of unit they have and then find an online tutorial to see how to replace the filter. Some filters are more expensive than others, but the cost is still low and the energy savings can be substantial.

- **Schedule annual maintenance on the unit.** Routine maintenance performed by a local HVAC technician is another way to ensure an AC unit is running at peak capacity when it's most needed. Such maintenance is perhaps most effective in spring, as that ensures the unit is running strong from the first heat wave of the summer all the way through Labor Day. HVAC technicians can identify problems and recommend services that homeowners may not recognize they need until it's already hot out. Annual maintenance appointments also give HVAC professionals a chance to assess a system compared to the previous year, which can help them identify if a unit is nearing its end. That can ensure homeowners are not caught off guard when the unit needs to be replaced.

- **Help the unit make it through the summer.** Whether it's a typical summer or one marked by a handful of heat waves,



AC units can use a little help to get through the season. Closing curtains throughout the house on hot afternoons is a natural way to keep a home cool during a heat wave, and that can cut back on home cooling costs

and protect a unit from being overworked. Ceiling fans also can be installed to keep rooms cool and circulate air, which also makes a hot summer a little less taxing on an AC unit.

- **Use a programmable thermostat.** Programmable thermostats allow homeowners to set the temperatures inside their homes throughout the day. If no one is home during the afternoon, there's no reason to have the AC cranking. Program the thermostat so the house is comfortable when people are home, but raise the desired temperature when no one is around. That gives the AC unit a break during the day and can help to dramatically reduce the cost of cooling the home.

AC units will not last forever, but some simple maintenance can improve their life expectancy and keep homes comfortable throughout the summer.

SIGNS A ROOF MUST BE REPAIRED OR REPLACED

Here are some signs a roof is in need of repairs or replacement.

- **Sagging roof:** If the roof is sagging, it could be due to excess loads, such as water-damaged shingles or even weakened roof structure. A professional will need to restore the integrity of the roof.

- **Cracking and buckling:** It is likely

that shingles will have to be replaced if there is cracking or if shingles are buckling and warping.

- **Exposed nails:** Exposed nails may rust and contribute to a leaky roof, says Family Handyman. How long the nails were exposed could indicate if the roof can be repaired or if everything should be redone.

- **Lost granules:** Asphalt roofing shingles have small granules on the surface. Over time these granules will slowly degrade and fall off. If there are many granules in gutters or if one can see that portions of the shingles are bare, it is likely time for a new roof.

- **Visible light:** Homeowners who can

see light streams coming into the home need roof repair. This is indicative of holes, cracks or spaces in the roof.

- **Growth on the roof:** Mold and mildew on the roof is a sign that the roof needs to be repaired or replaced. Such growths contribute to rot that jeopardizes the integrity of the roof.



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Contributed photos

Pine Castle, which serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, has experienced up to 200 openings.

Pine Castle has openings for 200 new participants

Pine Castle, one of Northeast Florida's leading agencies that services adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DDs), recently announced that with its new capacity study complete, that there are openings for an additional 200 new participants to enroll in its Academy Pathways Day Program at their 10-acre, college-like campus on Spring Park Road.

"We are thrilled that our new capacity study will allow us to serve more adults with I/DDs through our groundbreaking curriculum that has earned the 2023 Innovation Award from the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities," said Lori Ann Whittington, chief executive officer.

Pine Castle offers its participants two pathways within their academy to pursue their individual talents and interests: the Pathway to Life Enrichment and the Pathway to Community Employment. Upon enrollment, each participant receives a customized curriculum based on their personal choices, providing a college-like experience. Each participant has an individualized daily schedule that includes time for skill-building within their Pathways curriculum, their choice of extracurricular activities like band, chorus, Special Olympics, etc., as well as options for mental health services and working time if they are in the Employment Pathway.

The academy has two semesters per year, and participants can choose different courses or extracurricular



activities each semester. Both pathways include weekly field trips into the community for up to 10 participants at a time in a small group setting.

On the Life Enrichment Pathway, participants focus on developing the life skills necessary to increase overall independence and quality of life through hands-on learning experiences. Pine Castle's direct support professionals provide education on topics that provide hands-on learning and help participants practice skills that reinforce concepts learned in their curriculum.

On the Employment Pathway, participants earn at least minimum wage while working on job training skills and

contracts. On-campus opportunities include manufacturing assembly, the wood shop and trade crew training in culinary, janitorial or maintenance. Upon completion of the Employment Pathway, participants receive guidance from a job coach to help them secure employment in the community and ultimately achieve greater independence.

"Our support is provided by highly trained support personnel, with many having earned their 'DSP Pro' certification through a year-long training program. Pine Castle is one of only three providers in the state that offer this intensive training for our staff," said Cynica Jackson, chief programs officer. "Combining that with our world-class services and newly renovated campus Pine Castle offers a unique, meaningful experience to those adults with IDD's."

The academy runs like a college program with a set monthly tuition. A variety of payment options are available to accommodate the diverse needs of the community, including paying privately. Additionally, Pine Castle helps guide families in accessing federal and state resources such as Social Security benefits, Medicaid and other disability-related programs to help cover the cost of tuition through two Cornell University-certified benefits counselors on staff.

To access the admissions packet or for more information about the admission process, go to pinecastle.org/admissions or call 904-733-2650.



Florida Man Games to return in March 2025

Just when the world thought Floridians couldn't get any wilder, they have. The Florida Man Games will return March 1, 2025. This irreverent competition, where the state's most unruly residents serve as demigods of athletic prowess, is getting even weirder with new competitions, more insane teams and a brand-new venue.

Now through September, the games are accepting applications.

"Last year's winner, Hanky Spanky, epitomized Florida greatness," said Pete Melfi, event organizer and founder of The Florida Man Games. "If you've got grit in your gut and Florida in your heart, send us a short video showing what your team can do. Remember: Have fun, don't get arrested and don't die!"

Thinking of creating a team to take on the games? Aspiring competitors must submit a video showing all team members. Get creative, have fun and be memorable. Teams must consist of three to five members, all 18 years of age or older, with at least one being 21 years of age or older. All team members will need to prove their Florida residency. Only 12 teams will be accepted, each representing a different city to compete in the 2025 Florida Man Games. To submit a team video, go to thefloridamangames.com/teams.



Photos by Melissa Marcarelli

Pete Melfi, center, is the event organizer and founder of The Florida Man Games.

"The turnout for the first games was absolutely insane," said Melfi. "Over 5,000 people worldwide came to watch this homegrown madness. We talked to people from across the U.S., England, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. We're expecting an even bigger crowd at next year's event, so it made sense to move out to the St. Johns County Fairgrounds, where we'll have more space, a covered arena, and this year, we're ex-

cited to introduce an RV tailgating area."

Events like the Florida Sumo Cage Match and Evading Arrest Obstacle Course are back by popular demand. Events are pulled straight from the headlines, and because the Florida Man can't stop "Florida-ing," a slew of new and crazy competitions are to be announced.

Last year's event generated a \$20,000 donation to the Jimmy Jam Community Outreach 501(c)3 charity organization

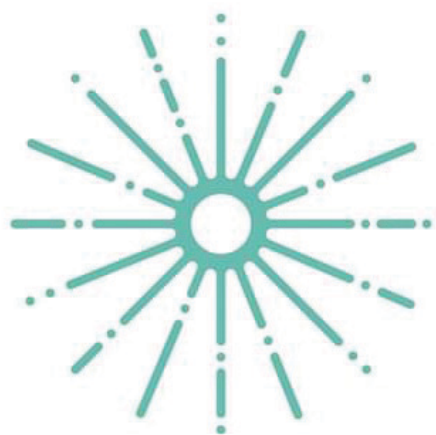


that helps Northeast Florida residents in need.

Melfi plans on building a tradition of helping Floridians in need through this event.

Early bird tickets for The Florida Man Games are on sale now. General admission tickets are \$25, VIP tickets are \$99, and RV tailgating spaces are \$550.

For more information, to purchase tickets or to be a sponsor or vendor, go to thefloridamangames.com.



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Dave Tyler believes this is a tooth from an ancient camel that made its home in Ponte Vedra long before we did!



Dave Tyler found this 2.3-inch spear point an Indian spearfisherman used many centuries ago on the beaches of Ponte Vedra.

Contributed photos

Beachcombers share their unusual discoveries

By Mike Mulhern

Dave Tyler wandered down the Solana Road public beach access ramp to water's edge to do what he did on a regular basis: gather the sharks' teeth that had washed up on the shore. This day turned

out to be different. Something out of the ordinary caught his eye. He bent over to see what it was and lo and behold! It was a spear point some Indian from ancient times had lost in the waves while spearfishing for his supper in the days long before European settlers arrived to

establish their first villages here.

"I almost missed it," he says. "I walked past it without picking it up, then something told me to double back to give it a closer look. Through the years, I have found over 12,000 sharks' teeth. I also had found a deer antler, horse teeth and even a tooth from a prehistoric camel — but until that day, never anything left behind by the Indians!"

Current Ponte Vedrans may be baffled to learn that at other periods in the Earth's geologic history — when the Ice Age had captured huge quantities of the planet's water and confined them to the latitudes stretching from the North Pole all the way down to the top quarter of the

United States — the Florida shoreline was not where it is now. It was many miles east of its current location, providing marshlands and savannas where long-extinct animals frolicked and foraged.

This period was known as the Pleistocene Epoch, with this area being a cageless zoo housing animals like bison, horses, camels, woolly mammoths, mastodons, saber-tooth tigers, giant sloths and other creatures that current residents would be shocked to know inhabited the land.

Many of these animals died where they lived, and now each receding tide

DISCOVERIES continues on Page 21

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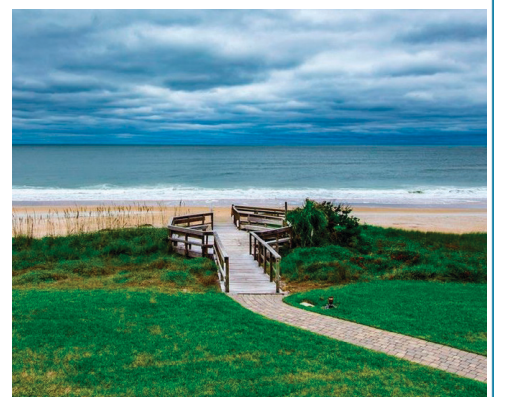
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Discoveries

Continued from 20

unlocks a treasure chest containing their mortal remains for beachcombers to gather up and display on their mantels and bookshelves.

Some places in Florida where Spanish galleons sank even have been known to litter the beaches with gold and silver coins! Sadly, no Ponte Vedrans have reported finds of that nature. But still, what has been found has been significant, and been a source of joy for the lucky person who retrieved it. The diligent and the vigilant have been rewarded countless times over for their scavenging efforts.

Patricia Winters is another avid hunter and gatherer, and was fortunate enough to discover there were illustrated pamphlets available to help her identify her unusual finds. By matching the pictures with the objects she recovered, she has been able to ascertain exactly what they were. Her bookcases are now serving as a home museum for all her found acquisitions.

"I have a jarful of bone fragments, but it's difficult to identify the creature that they came from," she points out. "Some, undoubtedly, came from prehistoric sharks. One that I was able to identify is a large leg bone (metatarsal) from a bison. When I spotted it in the waves, I thought it was the arm of a piece of fur-



Contributed photos
Top: Bison leg bone. Middle row, from left: Whale inner ear bone; two-inch shark's tooth; tooth, possibly from a horse. Bottom row, from left: Teeth from various ancient animals; round object appears to the eye to be a fossilized lizard; top of a jar which may have washed ashore from a Spanish ship.

niture. Upon closer inspection, I realized it was something unique and fortunately decided to keep it. I like to patrol the beaches, especially during the winter when it's more isolated and peaceful. Having the access to the beach that we do is really a privilege. Every beach walk is a treasure hunt. The ocean contains many secrets and has so many wonderful

things to offer us if we just keep our eyes open."

Have you found something unique or unusual during one of your beach excursions? Email a picture of it with your name and contact information to mcmulhern1@yahoo.com so we can consider featuring it in a future edition of The Recorder.

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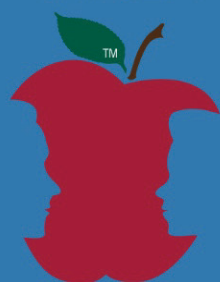


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THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024 PAGE 22

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Pictured from left are Jenny McLaughlin, Scott McLaughlin, Ice Guy, Richard McLaughlin and Shane McLaughlin.



Guests spin the prize wheel.

Photos by Shaun Ryan

Rita's Italian Ice & Frozen Custard opens in Ponte Vedra

By Shaun Ryan

Rita's Italian Ice & Frozen Custard threw a party Friday, June 7, for its grand opening at 840 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, and attracted a large crowd of revelers, all seeking a cool treat on a hot afternoon.

Franchise owners Scott and Jenny McLaughlin and their team kept busy as customers lined up at the window to order Italian ice, frozen custard, gelati or one of the other items from the Rita's menu. The first 50 in line won free Rita's Italian ice for a year.

Entertainment included performances

by local dance troupes, a prize wheel, merchandise giveaways, a cornhole game, a balloon artist and photo opportunities with the Rita's mascot, Ice Guy.

The event culminated in a ribbon cutting for the community's new frozen dessert business, which had a soft opening on May 15. Feedback has been positive.

"It's good to hear people actually make comments about how excited they are to finally have us here locally," said Scott McLaughlin.

Previously, the only way to partake of Rita's fare was to drive to one of the other franchises, the closest being in St. Augustine Beach or Jacksonville Beach.

"The best day I've had was three days ago when I saw young kids, their parents and their grandparents all sitting on the bench out front, just enjoying it together," said McLaughlin.

Rounding out the ownership team is Scott McLaughlin's father, Richard McLaughlin. Other members of the family also work at the shop, which employs a total of 14. Hiring is made easier due to the franchise's location, within a short drive to four high schools.

Scott McLaughlin grew up in the Philadelphia-New Jersey area where Rita's was founded and was an enthusiastic customer since the age of 13.

Rita's offerings are different than what might be found at an ice cream shop. The Italian ice is made fresh daily on site from real fruit flavors. Rita's has a rotating selection of more than 80 flavors.

The frozen custard is thicker and creamier than ice cream because one of the ingredients is egg yolk.

"The thick creaminess versus hard ice cream, it's really night and day," said Scott McLaughlin.

One of the most popular selections is the gelati, which incorporates layers of Italian ice and custard. McLaughlin de-

RITA'S continues on Page 25



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GUEST COLUMN

Leverage habits that help women investors succeed

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

Intuition. Patience. Discipline. A desire to learn. These are traits many women naturally possess and can lead to confident decision-making and courageous accomplishments.

They're also the foundation that can help build a sound investing strategy. Perhaps you bootstrapped your own business, broke through the glass ceiling, managed the home front, or benefited from an inheritance. However you got to this point, your collective experience provides the wisdom to help you boldly move forward. But that doesn't mean doing it alone.

Working with a financial adviser who complements your investing style and listens more than talks can help you continue making those confident decisions and keep your investment plan on track.

Holistic wealth planning that helps prepare you for the unexpected

When highly emotional life events happen, like divorce, death of a spouse, or even an inheritance, it can be



challenging to factor in the financial implications. If one (or more) of these scenarios becomes your reality, it can be a huge relief to have your team already in place. An experienced financial adviser can help you navigate difficult decisions that could have an impact on you and your family for years to come.

Just in case, it's best to be prepared and proactive:

Be aware of your family's assets, debts, retirement accounts, insurance policies and other financial information.

Gather important financial documents and safe deposit box keys and keep them

accessible.

Make sure you and your spouse or partner have up-to-date estate planning documents and that you discuss potential tax implications with your CPA and financial team.

The right fit can make all the difference

Life hums along and then ... something changes. Perhaps you initiated the change or maybe you had to react to it. Either way, having resources to help you navigate decision-making can help mean smoother sailing.

Considering all the aspects of life that have a financial implication is like a wave that keeps expanding.

From investing for a home, college costs, or retirement to exploring lending and insurance options, an experienced financial adviser can help you manage risk while keeping you on track toward your investment goals.

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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Stuckey shares iconic brand's comeback story at meeting

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently welcomed Stephanie Stuckey, chair of Stuckey's Corporation, the iconic brand known for its pecan snacks and treats, to its companywide business meeting.

Stuckey, the granddaughter of Stuckey's founder and the author of "UnStuck: Rebirth of an American Icon," spoke about business growth strategies, being resilient and revitalizing the family's brand.

"We were thrilled to welcome Stephanie Stuckey to Northeast Florida and hear how her optimistic leadership has helped revitalize the company's products, expand their distribution and reconnect with their loyal customers," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty President Ann King.

"Stephanie has brought new vitality to the Stuckey's name," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder and Chairman Linda Sherrer. "She is passionate about growth and innovation, and her



Contributed photo

Pictured from left are: Linda Sherrer, founder and chairman, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty; Stephanie Stuckey, chair, Stuckey's Corp.; Ann King, president, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty; and Joe Hatin, vice president, Commercial Division, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty.

inspirational story about the Stuckey's comeback journey really resonated with our team."

Founded in 1937 by Stuckey's grandfather, W.S. Stuckey, Sr., in Eastman, Georgia, the brand was sold in more than 350 stores nationwide at its peak in the 1970s. Under a series of corporate owners, sales languished, and the brand declined. Stephanie Stuckey purchased the company in November 2019. In the years since, the company acquired a pecan snack and candy plant in Wrens, Georgia, to produce Stuckey's branded snacks, which are now sold in nearly 5,000 retail stores nationwide.

Before taking over the company, Stuckey worked as a trial lawyer, state representative and environmental law firm manager, and served as Atlanta's director of sustainability. Stuckey has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Georgia School of Law.

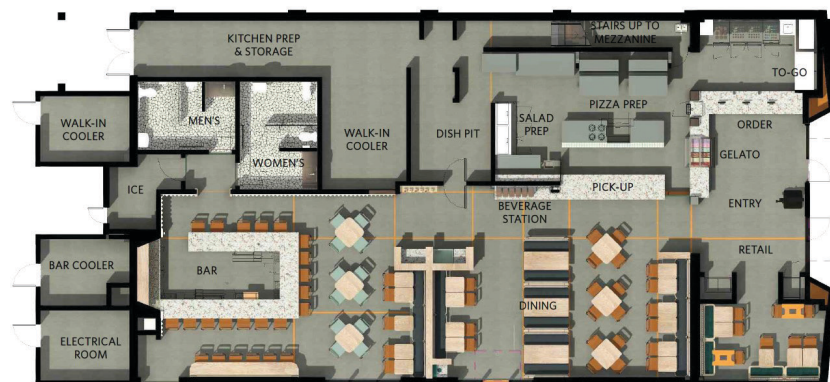
For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, go to FloridaNetworkRealty.com or FLNetworkRealty.com.

Restaurant to be located in former theater building

CuliVino Hospitality Management and Consulting has announced that Urban Partners has formally submitted the construction permits for Electric Dough Pizza Co., the new handmade pizza-centric restaurant concept by Chef Tom Gray, to the City of Jacksonville. The submission of construction documents initiates the plan process with the City of Jacksonville and begins the countdown for the start of construction of the new restaurant, which will be located in the historic San Marco Theatre building.

"Electric Dough Pizza Co. has reached an exciting milestone with the submission of the project's construction permits," said Gray, who announced the concept and location earlier this year. "We are excited to bring our newest restaurant to this iconic San Marco location, and we look forward to seeing our concept come alive when we welcome locals and visitors later this year."

The San Marco Theatre was built in 1938 and was designed by prominent Jacksonville architect Roy Benjamin. TSG Realty, the owner of the building, has made a commitment to maintain the



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
March 25th, 2024
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RENDERED FIRST FLOOR PLAN
PAGE 7

Artist rendering

The floorplan for the new Electric Dough Pizza Co.

building's historic facade. For Electric Dough Pizza Co.'s design, Gray has engaged ai3 for a fourth collaborative effort.

Founded in 2004, ai3's Atlanta studio practices architecture, interior design, graphics and branding across numerous industries including hospitality and restaurant. The ambiance of Electric Dough Pizza Co.'s 4,200-square-foot interior

will celebrate the historic theater as a work of art with stylish design details.

For the new restaurant, the stars of the show will be Gray's rectangular artisan pizzas featuring a Roman-style dough with Detroit-style crispy, cheesy edges. The name Electric Dough references the Italian-imported electric oven that the pizzas are baked in and the pizza's

handmade, long-fermented dough. The electric oven produces a pizza with a crunchy crust.

The restaurant will focus on fresh flavors and high-quality "better for you" ingredients. Along with pizza, Electric Dough Pizza Co. will offer seasonally inspired fresh salads and a rotating selection of gelato and sorbets. Beverages will offer something for everyone including a full cocktail bar, domestic and imported beer, wine, craft sodas and zero-proof offerings.

Electric Dough Pizza Co. will include a retail area offering take-and-bake frozen pizzas, fresh pastas, from-scratch sauces, house-made pimento cheese and other products to enjoy at home. Electric Dough Pizza Co. is anticipated to open in the fourth quarter of the year.

Electric Dough Pizza Co. will be the counterpart to Gray's two full-service restaurants, Prati Italia, which opened in 2020 at the St. Johns Town Center, and Town Hall, which debuted in 2017 just a few storefronts from the San Marco Theatre location.

To learn more, go to culivino.com.

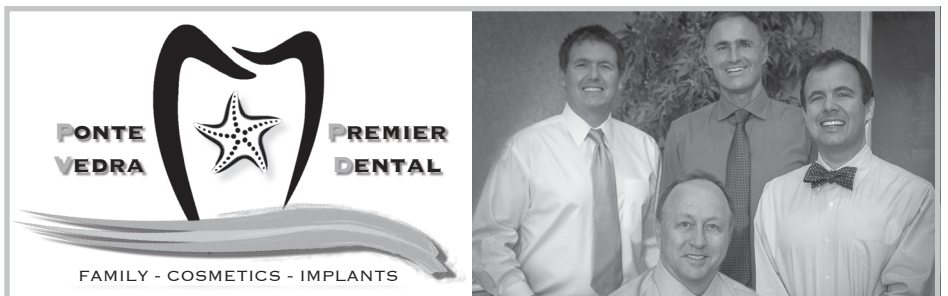
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Flamenco dancers from the Ponte Vedra Ballet & Dance Company entertain the guests during the event.

Rita's

Continued from 22

scribes it as “an explosion of flavor.”

The McLaughlins have lived in St. Johns County for more than 20 years and are involved in the community. Scott McLaughlin coaches baseball and football, and the family supports the St. Johns County Education Foundation, which does business as Investing in Kids, or INK! for short.

The McLaughlins are also involved with a tennis tournament that annually raises

between \$15,000 and \$20,000 for Camp Boggy Creek in Eustis, Florida, which offers children with serious illnesses an opportunity to enjoy a camp experience in a safe environment.

Rita's Italian Ice & Frozen Custard was founded in May 1984 by Philadelphia firefighter Bob Tumolo. The company has grown to more than 550 shops in more than 30 states since that time.

The Ponte Vedra shop is currently open noon to 9 p.m. seven days a week year-round. The phone number is 904-686-1495. The email address is ritaspontevedra@gmail.com.



Photos by Shaun Ryan

A balloon artist created fun gifts for visiting children.



Customers lined up to get a tasty treat.

Home watch business earns accreditation



Matt Lees

Watch and absentee homeowner services throughout the United States and Canada (nationalhomewatchassociation.org). Home Watch is a visual inspection of a home or property, looking for obvious issues, which means that it is a service that “keeps an eye on things” when homeowners are not in residence. All principals of NHTA Accredited Member companies are background-checked, insured and bonded.

Founder Matt Lees is a Florida native and has been a St. Johns County resident since 2017. River City Home Watch is dedicated to providing top-notch Home Watch services to families in St. Johns, Jacksonville and the surrounding areas. Lees brings a wealth of experience and a keen eye for detail to every Home Watch

River City Home Watch has earned accreditation from the National Home Watch Association.

The NHTA was formed in 2009 in order to establish and maintain the highest industry standards for Home

inspection he conducts.

Lees' career spans over two decades, starting in the late 1990s, with extensive experience in commercial air conditioning, building engineering and property management. He has managed a diverse array of commercial properties, from new constructions to existing high rises, corporate offices and strip malls.

Working in millions of square feet of properties from Fort Lauderdale to Fort Myers to Jacksonville, Lees has ensured that every property met the highest standards for his corporate clients.

Transitioning to the Home Watch industry was a natural step for Lees. His meticulous attention to detail and passion for quality inspections are now focused on residential properties, providing homeowners with peace of mind knowing their homes are well cared for.

River City Home Watch serves Northwest St. Johns, Mandarin, Fruit Cove, Switzerland, Orangedale, Nocatee, Palm Valley and San Marco, and the communities of Shearwater, Rivertown, Beachwalk and TPC Sawgrass.

You can reach them at 239-600-4901 or at matt@rivercityhomewatch.com. Learn more at rivercityhomewatch.com.



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In the Arts



Send your arts news to
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Contributed photos



MOCA offers free access for military families, first responders

MOCA Jacksonville, a cultural institute of the University of North Florida, has partnered with Blue Star Museums and CSX to offer free admission to the families of active duty and former military and first responders through Sept. 2.

The Blue Star Museum initiative is a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and more than 2,000 museums nationwide that

wish to show appreciation for military families who face multiple deployments and reintegration challenges. To support this program, CSX partnered with MOCA Jacksonville to expand this free admission opportunity to include not only active-duty military, but also former military and first responders.

“We are thrilled to extend our support to military families and first responders through our partnership with MOCA

Jacksonville,” said LaSandra Boykin, community investments director at CSX. “Through our signature philanthropic initiative, Pride in Service, CSX supports hundreds of thousands of active-duty, veteran and first responder service members across our rail network, while also representing the pride the company has in serving our hometown of Jacksonville. MOCA is a Jacksonville treasure with something for everyone to discover

and this partnership underscores our commitment to military families and first responders by providing them with free access to the enriching experiences offered at the museum. We hope this partnership serves as a token of our gratitude and a gesture of appreciation for their dedication to our community and nation.”

CSX is one of the nation’s leading transportation suppliers offering a broad range of services including rail, intermodal container and rail-to-truck transload services. The company is headquartered in downtown Jacksonville just a few blocks from MOCA Jacksonville.

Both CSX and MOCA are working to provide opportunities to area military families and support the revitalization of downtown.

Through its commitment to community building, MOCA Jacksonville provides access to arts and educational experiences for the entire community, introduces contemporary art to thousands of students in Duval County through school tours and family programming and supports local artists through the exhibition of innovative, locally created works of art.

With an ambitious program schedule, MOCA provides a platform for community discussion and debate, critical and creative thinking and cultural exploration, while acting as a vital community convener for creative conversation. The

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Apex Theatre Studio announces upcoming shows

The hills are alive this summer with plenty of entertainment as Apex Theatre Studio gears up for its 11th season of bringing top-notch theater to St. Johns County audiences.

The summer opens with the beloved family musical “The Sound of Music” at the Lewis Auditorium (June 13-15), continues with the high-spirited and fast-paced Sherlock Holmes mystery “Baskerville” (July 12-27) and closes with the goofy but warm-hearted “Shrek: The Musical, Jr.” (July 27-28).

“We wanted to offer a combination of fun shows which would appeal to families and visitors to the ancient city,” said Ian Mairs, managing director. “For us, the summer is about offering up a fun night out. This is the fourth summer in a row we have offered a family musical, and our attendance continues to rise.”

The final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein was destined to become a Broadway classic. “The Sound of

Music” (youth edition) features a treasure trove of songs, including “Do Re Mi,” “My Favorite Things,” “Climb Ev’ry Mountain,” as well as the musical’s title song. Olivia DeMaio, a recent graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, will play the lead role of Maria.

Then, get your deerstalker cap on — the play’s afoot! Comedic genius Ken Ludwig (“Lend Me a Tenor,” “Leading Ladies,” “Moon Over Buffalo”) transforms Arthur Conan Doyle’s classic “The Hound of the Baskervilles” into a murderously funny adventure. Full of humor, horror and plenty of stage magic, five actors play nearly 40 roles in this kooky and spooky caper that will have you howling with laughter.

Beauty is in the eye of the ogre in “Shrek: The Musical, Jr.,” based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film and fantastic Broadway musical. It’s a “big bright beautiful world” as everyone’s favorite ogre, Shrek, leads a cast of

fairytale misfits on an adventure to rescue a princess and find true acceptance. Part romance and part twisted fairy tale, “Shrek, Jr.” is an irreverently fun show with a powerful message for the whole family. The show features a cast of young artists with disabilities alongside their mentors in Apex Theatre Studio’s third annual Penguin Project production.

The main stage performance series is sponsored by the St. Johns Cultural Council and Tourist Development Council.

“The Sound of Music” (youth edition)

Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. June 13; 11 a.m. June 14 (special kids show: all seats \$15); 7:30 p.m. June 14; 2 and 7:30 p.m. June 15.

Where: Lewis Auditorium, 16 Granada St., St. Augustine

Tickets: \$22, available at apextheatrejax.com

Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery”

Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. July 12, 13, 14
Where: Guliford Hall, Adele Grage Cultural Center, 716 Ocean Blvd., Atlantic Beach

Tickets: \$22, available at apextheatrejax.com

Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery”

Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. July 26, 27
Where: Lewis Auditorium, 16 Granada St., St. Augustine

Tickets: \$22, available at apextheatrejax.com

“Shrek Jr.” (Penguin Project)

Showtimes: 2 p.m. July 27, 28
Where: Lewis Auditorium, 16 Granada St., St. Augustine

Tickets: \$22, available at apextheatrejax.com

Author to speak on writing novels



Richard Gartee

Ideas for novels may pop easily into a beginning writer’s head, but how to turn that idea into a complete novel is often a problem. Award-winning author Richard Gartee discusses the process of how to start and finish a novel in his workshop “How to Write Your First Novel (or 2nd or 3rd)”

at the Ponte Vedra Writers meeting, 11 a.m. Saturday, June 22, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

Gartee will discuss the process of novel writing from first draft to final proofread. First-time novelists or even those working on their second or third books will pick up helpful tips on how to keep creativity

flowing, reduce the number of revisions and save your editor time.

Gartee is an award-winning novelist, poet and nonfiction author. His 27 published books include six novels, six collections of poetry, a novella, a biography, a history of the Hippodrome Theatre and seven college textbooks. He is a member of Writers Alliance of Gainesville, the Florida Writers Association and a founding member of the Sunshine State Book Festival committee.

The Ponte Vedra Writers group is part of the Florida Writers Association, a statewide membership organization dedicated to the support of both aspiring and published writers in any genre. The June 22 meeting is free and open to members and nonmembers alike.

For information on FWA go to floridawriters.org.

Concerts in the Plaza schedule announced

Concerts in the Plaza, St. Augustine’s free summer-long music series, has returned to the Plaza de la Constitución with many returning favorite bands and several new ones.

The two-hour concerts are held every Thursday through Aug. 29 with two special concerts in September to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Concerts begin at 6 p.m. For complete information, go to CityStAug.com/Concerts.

On-street city-managed parking is available near the Plaza and in the downtown parking facility, located at the St. Augustine Visitors Information Center. The cost for parking there is \$20 per entry or \$3 for St. Johns County residents who have registered their vehicles with the City of St. Augustine program through ParkStAug website.

Free shuttle transportation from the parking garage to Cathedral Place, adjacent to the Plaza, is available on the STAR Downtown Circulator, which operates daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Concerts may be cancelled or postponed due to the weather; however, it will likely be a last-minute decision, due to the unpredictability of Florida’s summer rain showers.

If a concert is cancelled, the public will be notified on the city website at citystaug.com and on Facebook at Facebook.com/CityStAug. If no announcement is posted, the concert will continue.

The following schedule is subject to change:

June 13, Paige King Johnson; June 20, Crab Creek Band; June 27, Dewey Via Band; July 4, All Star Orchestra; July 11, Glory; July 18, I-Vibes; July 25, Groove Coalition; Aug 1, Shayla Nelson; Aug 8, Feedback; Aug 15, Str8Up; Aug 22, JC Hatfield Trio; Aug 29, Think & Thin String Band.

Two additional concerts will be held in September: Sept 19, Edwin BarBosa; and Sept 26, ZaZa Flamenca.

For more information, call 904-825-1004 during weekday office hours or email events@citystaug.com.

MOCA

Continued from 26

museum team is committed to providing opportunities to connect and experiences that are welcoming, respectful, thought-provoking and engaging.

To take advantage of this program, bring a valid military or first-responder identification. Those who qualify are welcome to bring up to five family members. Learn more at mocajacksonville.unf.edu.

Operational support for MOCA Jacksonville is provided by the City of Jacksonville, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, the Donald and Maria Cox Fund, the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, the Haskell Endowment, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, MOCA Jacksonville’s Centennial Sponsors, the National Endowment for the Arts and the University of North Florida. Additional support provided by the Jax Fine Arts Forum.



Sports



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Bailen basketball camp continues as summer tradition



By Anthony Richards

The annual tradition that is the Bailen Basketball Summer Camp at Nease High School is back and in full force with six weeks of camps scheduled throughout the summer in June and July.

The only week there will not be a camp in the coming weeks will be the first week of July due to the Fourth of July holiday taking place that week.

Nease High boys basketball coach Josh Bailen puts on the camp and has been doing so since 2014, but the legacy of the camp goes even further than that, as he remembers being a camper himself in 2000 and 2001.

“When I was 16, I got to be one of the lead counselors and I remember just what an impact it made on me as a kid and it was always a dream to be a head basketball coach and to be able to do that here,” Bailen said. “We’re just trying to keep passing that on to these kids now.”

Just as Bailen was years ago, the camp had counselors that were a mix of both current high schoolers on the basketball squad and alumni who have gone off to play in college.

“We have guys like Logan Ryan, who is playing at St. Leo, who are able to come back and now run the show,” Bailen said. “That’s so huge.”



Photos by Anthony Richards

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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 15th after nominations are complete.

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<p>Legals</p> <p>FICTITIOUS NAME</p> <p>Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Happy Rapunzel located at 344 North Sea Lake Lane, in the County of St. Johns, in the City of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, 32082. Erin E. Hoadley intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.</p> <p>Dated in St John's County Florida, this 10th day of June 2024</p> <p>Owner's name or name of corporation: Erin E. Hoadley</p> <p>Legal 90921 Published 6/13/2024 in St. Johns County's Ponte Vedra Recorder newspaper</p>	<p>Home Improvement/Service</p> <p>BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-855-315-1952</p> <p>PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for a quote or inspection today 1-877-644-9799 Have zip code of property ready when calling!</p>
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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 15th after nominations are complete. **HURRY, last day to nominate is June 14th!**



Scan the QR code to submit your nominations!

www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2024/#//

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CROSSWORD														
			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		
	10	11						12					13	
	14							15					16	17
18								19			20		21	
22					23				24		25			
26				27					28		29		30	
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38					39				40					
41				42		43		44				45	46	47
48			49		50		51					52		
53				54		55							56	
57			58		59					60	61	62		
	63	64						65						
		66							67					

ACROSS

- 1. Native American people
- 5. Very long periods of time (Brit.)
- 10. Schoolboard accessory
- 12. Rods
- 14. One who renews
- 16. Sculpted body part
- 18. Chatter incessantly
- 19. ___ King Cole, musician
- 20. Plates on a turtle's shell
- 22. University of Utah athlete
- 23. The world of the dead
- 25. Singer Redding
- 26. Former Yankee great Mattingly
- 27. Prefix indicating wrongly
- 28. Unhappy
- 30. Anger
- 31. Dark brown or black
- 33. Restaurants have a lot of them
- 35. Made a mistake
- 37. Damp
- 38. Type of gasoline
- 40. Actor LeBlanc
- 41. Perform in a play
- 42. One's mother
- 44. Prohibit
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. Part of a banana
- 50. Indian hand clash cymbals
- 52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 53. Agave
- 55. Noted journalist Tarbell
- 56. Computer firm
- 57. Type of record
- 58. Bacterium that can cause infection
- 63. Sheaths enclosing the spinal cord
- 65. A narrow opening (as in a rock wall)
- 66. Pattern
- 67. Very eager to see something

- 3. Writing utensil
- 4. Places to perform
- 5. Subsidies
- 6. Consume
- 7. Athleisure clothing brand
- 8. California town
- 9. Atomic #50
- 10. The Muse of lyric and love poetry
- 11. Creates anew
- 13. Humorous commentaries
- 15. Cool!
- 17. Most ignoble
- 18. Soggy dirt
- 21. Designed to be useful
- 23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- 24. High schoolers' test
- 27. One-time internet accessory
- 29. City in India
- 32. Furniture

- 34. You have likely chatted with one
- 35. Pass or go by
- 36. Proof of purchase
- 39. A digital tape recording of sound
- 40. More (Spanish)
- 43. Disfigured
- 44. White (Spanish)
- 46. Building occupied by monks
- 47. Georgia rock band
- 49. Device that generates intense beam of light
- 51. State of agitation
- 54. Make by braiding
- 59. Local area network
- 60. Unit of work or energy
- 61. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 62. Liquefied natural gas
- 64. Distance to top

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

DOWN

- 1. Witch
- 2. Utilize



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