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Thursday, August 1, 2024

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School board OKs tentative budget

By Shaun Ryan

The St. Johns County School Board approved the tentative budget and tax rate for the 2024-25 fiscal year Wednesday, July 24, during a special meeting. The vote was 4-0 with board member Kelly Barrera absent.

The tax rate on the \$1.5 billion budget stands at \$5.28 on \$1,000 of a home's taxable value. This marks a reduction from last year's rate of \$5.41. In fact, the rate has been reduced every year since 2011.

Last year's budget totaled \$1.3 billion.

This year's proposed tax levy is \$313,128,177, which has a collection

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Leadership St. Johns Can Trust

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Key football games will set tone for season

By Anthony Richards

Fall practice is about to start for local high school football teams and that means another season of Friday Night Lights will soon be underway.

In anticipation of the season, there are many games that fans should have an extra eye on and maybe even circle twice on the calendar to make sure they do not miss.

No. 1 Ponte Vedra at Nease

It will not take long to get the big games going as the Panthers and Sharks continue their annual rivalry right out of the gate in the season opener for both teams on Aug. 23 at 7 p.m.

The game returns to its traditional



Photo by Anthony Richards

The rivalry matchup between Ponte Vedra Sharks and Nease Panthers will return as the season opener this year.

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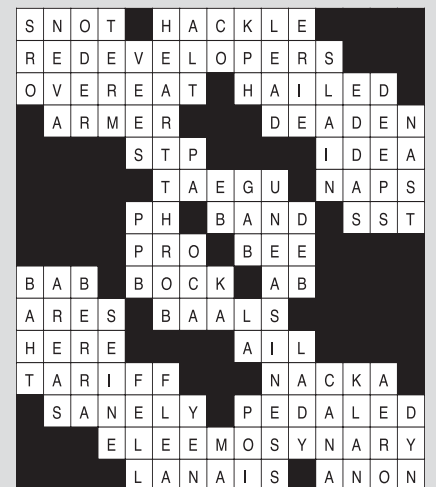
We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to news@pontevedrarecorder.com or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



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BRIEFS

GTM Research Reserve guided exploration hike

Join a guided exploration hike at Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM), 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 3. Learn about the Guana peninsula's natural biodiversity, expansive cultural history, vital estuarine resources and current efforts to protect these resources.

Meet at GTM Research Reserve Trailhead Pavilion (west of Guana Dam), 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.

Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. Learn about the animals and their roles in Guana Lake by pulling a seine net and collecting species of fish, crabs and other marine life.

The event is free, but parking is \$3 per vehicle. Register online at gtmnerr.org/visit/events.

All necessary gear (waders and boots) will be provided. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are recommended.

Resume writing is topic of workshop

The Savvy Job Hunters Ministry of Christ Episcopal Church will host a free Zoom work-

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

Habitat for Humanity seeking volunteers

Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County is urgently seeking volunteers to assist with completing assorted tasks at Volusia Woods and Canopy Oaks.

Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. No construction experience is necessary. Help build safe, stable, affordable housing in the community.

Individual volunteers are welcome, as well as those in business, faith-based organization, civic club or nonprofit groups. Sign up today at habitatstjohns.org/volunteer.

Palm Valley Market every Tuesday

The Palm Valley Market is held from 10 a.m. to 1 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.

Observance planned for Purple Heart Recognition Day

The City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department is planning a Purple Heart Recognition Day observance from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7, at the Veterans Memorial Wall, 1145 E. Adams St., Jacksonville. Attendees will meet at the wall, walk the Purple Heart Trail and end at the Arena.

Family seining event set for Aug. 10

GTM Research Reserve will offer a program on family seining from 9 to 11 a.m. Aug. 10 at GTM Research Reserve Guana Dam, 505



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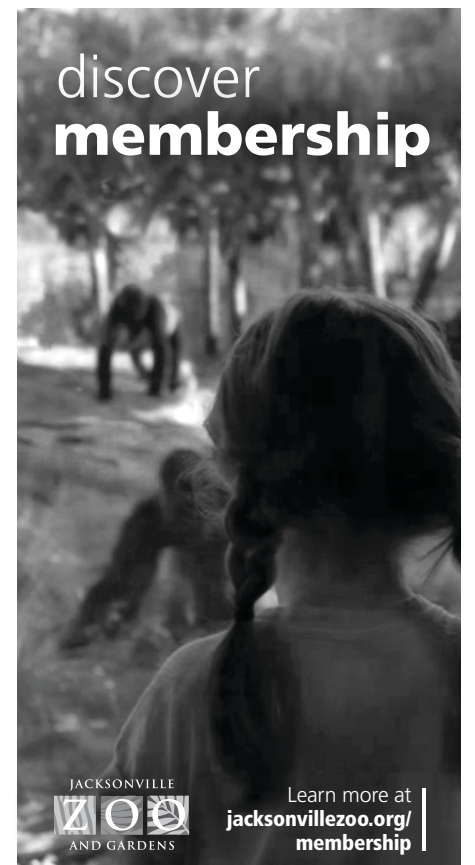
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Briefs

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shop, “Resume Writing,” presented by Audra Larsen, career counselor, University of North Florida Career Services, from 10:30 a.m. to noon Friday, Aug. 16. Email pottesen66@gmail.com to register and receive the Zoom meeting link.

Democratic Club to meet

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will meet at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, 101 Library Blvd., at 6 p.m. Aug. 26 with optional “chat & chew” at 5:30 p.m. The featured speaker will be Dr. Ray Oldakowski, JU professor, speaking on political polling, methodology and practice.

For additional information, email PVDemclub@gmail.com.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Budget

Continued from 1

rate of 96% by state statute. A portion of the levy is required in order for the school board to receive \$282,197,915 in state education grants.

Also included within the tentative rate is \$0.75 for discretionary spending; that will generate about \$42.6 million for the district. The remainder is \$1.50 for capital outlay; that will generate about \$85.4 million.

If the rate remains unchanged upon final approval, the owner of a \$500,000 home with a homestead exemption will pay \$2,508 in school taxes in fiscal year 2024-25.

The sum of all revenue from state, federal and local sources and fund transfers will generate about \$8,927 per student; the district is estimating a total of 55,612

students during the coming fiscal year, though those figures are recalculated at intervals throughout the year.

The rolled-back rate — the rate that would generate the same number of dollars as last year — is \$5.14 per \$1,000 of taxable value. This rate would not account for inflation.

An increase in taxable value as described by the county’s Property Appraiser’s Office means that, while last year’s rate was higher, the tentative rate will generate more revenue. The estimated tax roll for fiscal year 2024-25 in St. Johns County is about \$59.3 billion, a 10% increase over last year. In fact, the tax roll has increased every year since 2012.

To place it in context, the tax roll for fiscal year 1994-95 was just \$4.3 billion.

The general fund for the tentative budget is \$528,657,818. This covers a range of expenses, the largest of which is instruction, which comprised 61% of total expenditures.

In addition, adequate funding must be applied to capital projects, which includes two new schools to open this year and three more being planned. The capital projects fund is nearly \$7 billion.

The first of two public hearings on the tentative budget was held Tuesday, July 30. The second has been scheduled for Sept. 10, after which the board will vote on the final budget.

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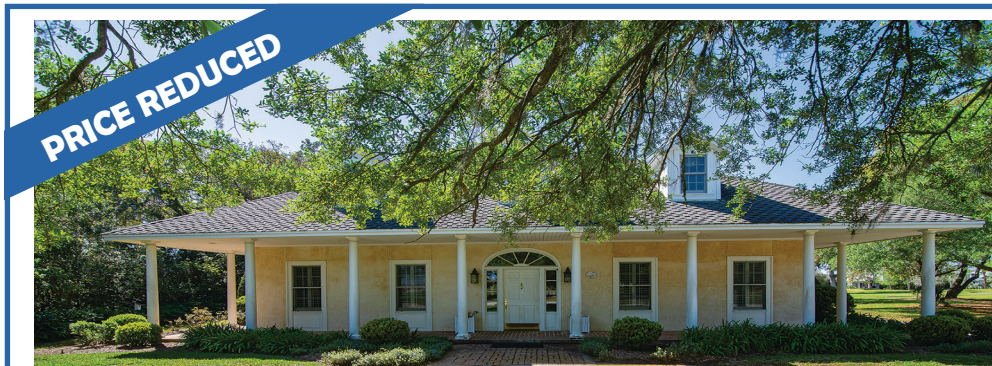
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St. Johns County early voting times, locations announced

Early voting for the Aug. 20 primary election will be available in St. Johns County between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily Aug. 10-17. The eight-day early voting period includes two Saturdays and one Sunday at the following locations:

- Ponte Vedra Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
- Julington Creek Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd., St. Johns
- Silverleaf Amenity Center, 218 Silver Forest Drive, St. Augustine
- Supervisor of Elections Office, 4455 Avenue A, Unit 101, St. Augustine



- St. Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine
- Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine

- W.E. Harris Community Center, 400 E. Harris St., Hastings

The 2024 primary election is open to all registered voters in St. Johns County. Eligible voters may vote at any St. Johns County early-voting location during the early-voting period. Voters must present a current and valid photo and signature ID when voting in person. Voter information cards are not a valid form of identification when voting.

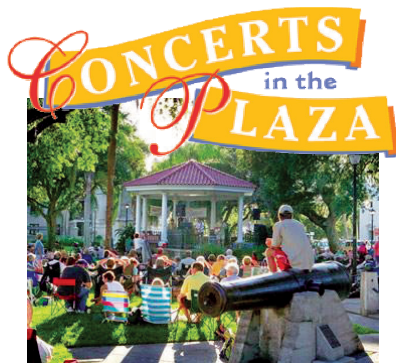
Go to votesjc.gov for a list of acceptable forms of ID.

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed for this election is 5

p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8. Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day, Aug. 20, to be counted.

Secure ballot intake stations are available inside all early voting locations between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily for voters to drop off completed vote-by-mail ballots. Vote-by-mail ballots can also be dropped off at the Elections Office, Monday through Friday during business hours.

Call the Supervisor of Elections Office at 904-823-2238 or go to votesjc.gov for additional information.



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St. Johns County School Board Candidates Forum is Aug. 8

The League of Women Voters of Jacksonville First Coast (LWVJFC) and the American Association of University Women — St. Augustine, Florida Branch (AAUW) are planning a St. Johns County School Board Candidate Forum on Aug. 8.

All candidates who have qualified to be on the ballot in the upcoming August

primary election have confirmed their participation. The forum will be held at the St. Augustine Main Library, 1960 Ponce De Leon, St. Augustine, and will be divided into two segments as follows: District 2 from 5 to 5:30 p.m., and District 5 candidates from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.

The host organizations encourage members of the public to attend, as there will be an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates. Registration is encouraged at facebook.com/events/s/st-johns-county-school-board-c/839391591374721.

School board members play a vital role in creating educational policy for school districts and hearing from the candidates directly is an important way to learn more about a candidate before voting.

This forum will provide the public with the opportunity to hear the candidates' views on issues important to voters of St. Johns County School Districts 2 and 5.

“Voters often don’t realize that local

elections get decided in the primary election,” said Lanelle Phillmon, President of the LWVJFC. “This is especially true in the St. Johns School Board race for District 2 where only two candidates are running. The candidate who wins the primary will become the District 2 representative on the School Board.”

“AAUW is proud to co-sponsor this event as we support an informed electorate so that voters can make an educated choice when they cast their ballot,” said Cathie Altman, president of the AAUW.

The forum will begin with opening remarks from the moderator. Each candidate will then make an opening statement followed by a question period, with questions from LWVJFC and AAUW as well as written questions from the audience.

The LWVJFC and the AAUW are nonpartisan organizations that promote participation of citizens in government. The LWVJFC and AAUW do not support any political parties or candidates.

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Jeanne Moeller is a board member with the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County and has been deeply involved with the nonprofit organization since 2012. She is proud of all the homes they have provided for families in need over the years and asks for the community's continued help in their initiatives moving forward.

Jeanne Moeller

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I was born and raised in Pennsylvania and came down here to Florida in the summer of 1969 to visit my favorite aunt in St. Augustine, and my husband and I have been married 50 years.

In 2004, I ran for Mosquito Control Board after I got breast cancer and thought about what kind of chemicals are being used in the pesticides and maybe I should take a closer look into that.

I lost my first attempt, but then ran again and won in 2008.

How did you get involved with the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County?

In 2012, the Lead Agency was looking for an elected official to be on their Homeless Coalition board and I raised my hand and said that I would be willing to help.

I had two younger brothers; one was a substance abuser, and he would get straight for about nine months and then would disappear for months at a time, while my youngest brother was diagnosed with schizophrenia.

They asked me and I've been on the board ever since.

What are some of the changes that you have seen on the board?

They were working on getting two houses when I got on the board and have since acquired two other houses that have liens on them.

We also purchased the old African-American school building on McLaughlin Street and that houses 25. Many of the people there are veterans and some are just too disabled to work.

However, the healthier ones have to get a job or be actively looking for one, and we have two case managers that help them with that process.

What are some of the ways the Homeless Coalition strives to help?

The houses come with everything they would need from furniture to a toothbrush and toothpaste, because a lot of them really come with nothing.

We'll help them with constructing resumes to get a job within 30 days and we require that if they have children, they be enrolled at school or in daycare, and we help with all of that.

We have seen this approach be very successful, as we have one tenant who is qualified to buy their own house and two other families that are on their way to reaching that point.

Most of our families come from the Betty Griffin Center or St. Francis House and when we have the space available, we'll open it up to Care Connect and take families directly off the street.

We have an 85% success rate to get our families into permanent housing.

What are some of the Homeless Coalition's future goals?

We are trying to raise \$350,000 because we need to build a new office space because the one we're using currently could be used as another house.

Our goal is to turn the current administration home



Contributed photo

Jeanne Moeller is a board member with the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County and has been deeply involved with the nonprofit organization since 2012.

into a children's center. At the last count we had 48 children on our campuses.

We are in the permitting stage right now.

Homeless families are growing because the rents are so high. We just had eight families at the end of June call us because they can no longer afford to pay their rent or mortgage.

It's hard even if they want to qualify for Habitat for Humanity housing because they used to do their own mortgaging, but they don't do that anymore and you must have a credit rating of 640 and also make a minimum of \$18 an hour, which our families just don't make that.

What are ways the community can get involved?

All of our houses are more than 100 years old, and they were originally built by the Florida East Coast Railroad to house the families of those who worked for them.

They are all up to code, but it really does take a lot to keep up with the maintenance, which is why we are always looking for volunteers.

We have a lot of volunteers with churches doing service days.

We are also going to be starting a fundraising campaign where we will be hoping to get 1,000 people to donate \$1,000 each and that will go toward our children's center project.

There's lots of money in St. Johns County, where we can really make a difference in a person's life.

Items that are always in need of being donated include personal hygiene items, canned and dehydrated foods, preferably canned items with pop-top lids, and paper products.

Mentors for the children in our homes are also important, as we have students from Flagler College that come on a regular basis and offer tutoring for the children.

Hastings library branch to close temporarily

Contributed photo

The Hastings Branch Library, 6195 S. Main St., Hastings, will close at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, for approximately one month to relocate to a temporary location. The library will reopen at the W.E. Harris Community Center, located at 400 E. Harris St., Hastings, on Tuesday, Sept. 3. This move is a necessary step in the planned construction of a new community center and library, which St. Johns County anticipates opening in fall 2025.

Patrons can no longer place holds on items for pick up at the current location. During the closure, no items will be due, all holds will be extended and impacted patrons will not accrue late fees. The book drop will also be inaccessible, and donations will not be accepted at either location.

In addition, Aug. 3 is the last day residents may pay utility bills at the Hastings Branch Library. This service will not return once the library reopens at the new location. Utility bills can be paid online (sjcfl.us/pay-bill-online), over the phone by calling 1-844-752-8845, or by mail. To learn more about how to pay utility bills, go to sjcfl.us/departments/utility-department or



contact the Utility Department at 904-827-2700.

Patrons who would like to use library services are encouraged to go to one of the other branches or the Bookmobile. Patrons

may also take advantage of various online resources, including e-books, databases and digital newspaper access on the St. Johns County Public Library System website at sjcpls.org. For more informa-

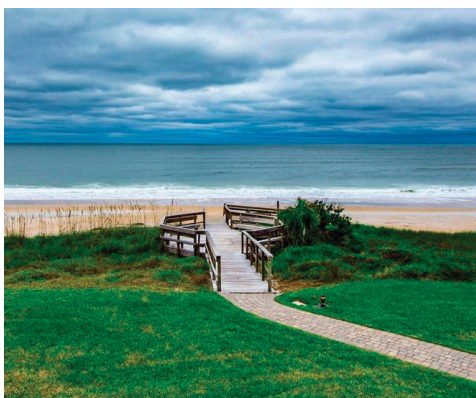
tion about this closure, library branches, the Bookmobile or other St. Johns County Public Library System services, go to the SJCPLS website or email sjcpls@tblc.libanswers.com.

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TRASH, YARD WASTE & RECYCLING UPDATE

Effective August 1st, FCC Environmental Services ("FCC") will be collecting household trash, recycling and yard waste. The county's contract with Republic expired July 31st. The MSD Board has signed a contract with FCC to pick up household trash on Mondays and Thursdays at the side door. This is the same service that the MSD has had with Republic. All yard waste and recycling will be collected on



on Fridays, this will be a change.

This schedule was received by the Board July 29th.



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OBITUARIES



Thomas (Tommy) Henry Edwards

Thomas (Tommy) Henry Edwards, 92, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, peacefully passed away at home on July 20th. Tommy was born in Tottenham, England, on December 21, 1931, to Ivy Hetta Levin and Thomas Henry Edwards. He led a full and adventurous life. He lived through the London blitz of WW2 and often reminisced about evenings in the air-raid shelter in their family's backyard and wartime rationing, before being evacuated from London. His father passed away suddenly when he was 14, causing

him to leave school and begin work as an errand boy for a stock brokerage house in London. He was an active member of the Scouts in London, attaining King Scout honors, and had a love for music and dance. In his early 20s, he was conscripted into her majesty's royal military. He was stationed in Kenya in the K9 unit for the military police. It was there that he discovered his love for dogs and animals. Upon his return to London, he joined the Gang show where he made lifelong friends and performed in shows in and around London, highlighted by a performance for HRH Queen Elizabeth II. It was in the gang show where he met the love of his life, Marian Goodenough, and soon after married. The errand boy worked his way up to become a commodities trader for J.H. Rayner, which later merged with S&W Berisford. In 1965, he was transferred to the United States, tasked with opening Rayner's New York office. They became major suppliers of coffee, cocoa, and sugar around the world. He was a longtime director of Berisford, which became the fourth largest publicly traded company in the United Kingdom at its peak. He served on many boards including Grace Cocoa and The Coffee, Cocoa and Sugar exchange. He and Marian had three sons: Bruce, Marcus and Christopher.

They spent over 30 years in Verona, New Jersey, and Greenwich, Connecticut. He loved to ski with his friends and family at Bromley Mountain in Vermont before retiring to Ponte Vedra Beach in Northeast Florida. Tommy was a self-taught piano and clarinet player and loved jazz music. He had a wonderful sense of humor and was a prolific storyteller. Tommy was devoted to his family and will be greatly missed and always loved and cherished. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 63 years. He is survived by his three sons, daughters in law, Diana (Shea) and Kristin (Kern) and beloved grandchildren, Henry, Grace, Lillian and Vivian. As per his wishes, a private family service will be held. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Rita Foundation through their website at the-rita-foundation.org., a charity to which both Tommy and Marian were committed. Please sign our electronic book at www.pontevedravalle.com.



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Amelia Island voted a favorite

Located just off the northeastern coast of Florida, Amelia Island has been voted No. 2 among the "Best Islands in the Continental United States" by readers of Travel + Leisure magazine, one of the most popular travel publications in the world.

This is the sixth consecutive year Amelia Island has made the magazine's "World's Best Awards" list, now in its 29th year. Amelia Island's No. 2 ranking puts the destination in excellent company, including the Golden Isles, Georgia (No. 1); Mackinac Island, Michigan; Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts; and the Florida Keys.

"Being voted into the No. 2 spot is a great honor and a testament to the incredible beauty, diverse offerings

AMELIA ISLAND continues on **Page 9**

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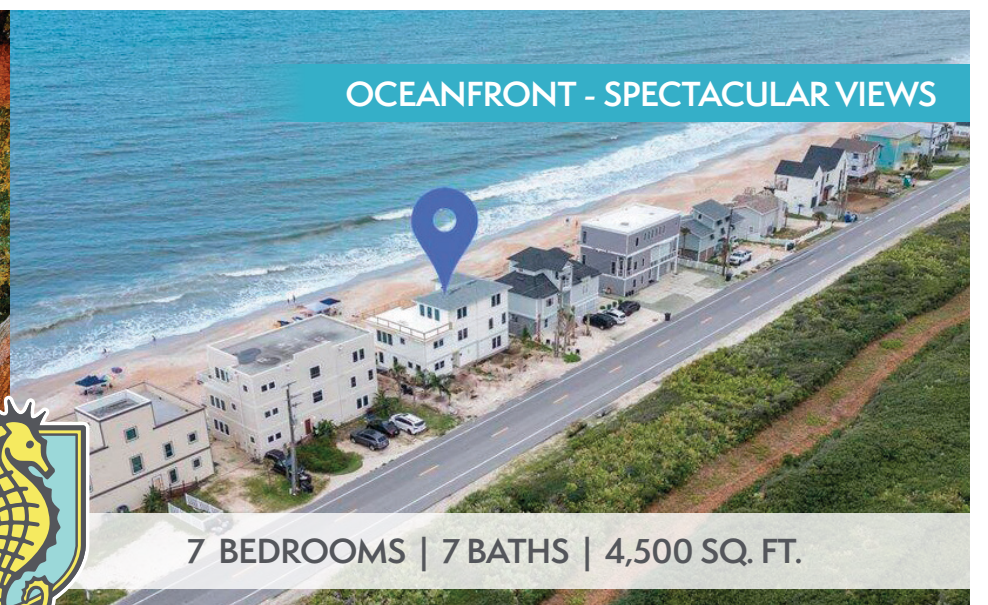
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Amelia Island

Continued from 8

and genuine hospitality that really set Amelia Island apart,” said Gil Langley, president of the Amelia Island Convention & Visitors Bureau. “The discerning readers of Travel + Leisure also recognize and appreciate the amazing, hard-working locals and industry partners who welcome our visitors and help make Amelia Island one of the world’s best vacation destinations.”

The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island, one of the island’s top-rated resorts, was also recognized by the readers of Travel + Leisure, being voted No. 6 among the “Best Resorts in Florida.”

The World’s Best Awards is a travel awards program run by Travel + Leisure and based on an annual reader survey. The prestigious annual awards honor the top travel destinations, hotels and companies worldwide.

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OBITUARIES



Sue Ellen Barber

Sue Ellen Barber, lovingly known to those around her as Suzy, peacefully passed away on Friday, July 12th, 2024, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Suzy was born on May 2nd, 1946 in Bloomington, IL. After college, she married the love of her life Bruce Barber, and their adventure began. Bruce and Suzy moved to East Lansing, Michigan where Suzy spent the next 15 years working as an Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Family Practice at Michigan State University. She became an avid

Spartan fan, especially basketball. She also took on her favorite role, becoming a mom to their children Christine and Greg.

In 1984, Bruce and Suzy decided to trade in their snowshoes for flipflops and moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, which was the perfect place for their young family. Suzy loved walking on the beach and finding sharks’ teeth, tandem bike rides, traveling to the Keys, and opening up their home to family and friends. She also landed her dream job and dedicated over 30 years to the PGA Tour, where she served as Manager of Competitions & Membership at The Champions Tour. Suzy built amazing friendships with her colleagues at the Tour, various Tournament Directors, the Senior Tour Golfers as well as their families, and traveled to many amazing golf tournaments throughout the United States. The PGA TOUR Champions Tournament Association annually presents the Bruno Award, named in Brian “Bruno” Henning’s honor, to an individual or organization who has made outstanding contributions to the Tour, and Suzy was the first female recipient of this award.

To know Suzy was to love her. Her infectious smile, outgoing personality, and amazing outlook on life touched everyone around her. She was always

up for an adventure, especially if it included family. Her 60-year relationship with Bruce was and continues to be an inspiration to others. Suzy was an exemplary role model to her children and grandchildren. Her fun-loving attitude made her the best “Mimi” her grandchildren could ask for. She never missed a chance to spend time with them and was their biggest cheerleader. Suzy’s positive outlook on life and strength exuded to the very end.

Suzy is survived by her husband of 56 years, Bruce; her daughter Chris, her husband Steve and their two daughters Kyleigh and Addison; her son Greg and his two sons Austin and Asher; her sister Judy Miller; lifelong friend Judy Winquist; multiple nieces and nephews; and many other friends and family members who will miss her dearly.

“Suzy’s life was a blessing, her memory a treasure, she is loved beyond words, and missed beyond measure.”



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'State of the Beaches' spotlights efforts to manage shoreline

St. Johns County Coastal Management recently shared how it manages more than 32 miles of eroded shoreline. Seven projects kicked off in 2023, and four launched in 2024.

The county's "State of the Beaches" presentation was featured at a joint Chamber at Noon event on July 17 in partnership with the JAX Chamber and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. The presentation provided an update on beach restoration, construction projects and the importance of the dunes and beaches in the St. Johns County ecosystem.

Most funding for St. Johns County coastal projects is provided by federal and state grants and tax dollars paid by tourists. The county recently announced it will receive \$4.75 million from the state for the South Ponte Vedra Beach Dune Restoration project.

Stephen Hammond, St. Johns County coastal environment project manager, provided the presentation to various business leaders from throughout the Northeast Florida region.

"One of the big things we push is education to the public," Hammond said.

He promoted the information on

the county's special webpage, sjcfl.us/departments/coastal-projects, which is dedicated to all coastal projects.

St. Johns County has 42 miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline and manages 32 miles of shoreline. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection designates 17.1 miles as critically eroded. There is another 7.6 miles designated as not critically eroded beach. In 2023, the county completed six coastal projects and started four new projects in 2024.

St. Johns County recently completed the Ponte Vedra Beach Restoration Project two months ahead of the originally anticipated schedule. It was a \$38.6 million dune restoration project covering nearly nine miles of coastline. The county also recently produced a public awareness video to amplify the importance of the dunes to public safety and wildlife habitats.

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 proj-

SHORELINE continues on Page 12

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

Hurricane preparation for your landscape

"Faith is the virtue of the storm, just as happiness is the virtue of sunshine." — Ruth Fulton Benedict



Kathy Esfahani

By Kathy Esfahani

The Ponte Vedra area luckily seems to have fared well during recent hurricanes. But it is important to be prepared during this time of year! Hurricane season in Florida begins June 1 and runs through Nov. 30; the hurricane "peak" is Sept. 10.

Though we hope for a quiet season each year, it is important to take steps to prepare your home and yard for a hurricane. Good preparation can help minimize damage in the event that a storm does arrive. Keep these tips in mind as you prepare for possible hurricanes:

- Prune shrubs and bushes away from the house. Branches that are too long can damage siding.
- Make sure all tree limbs and palm fronds are trimmed high and away from the house. Prune low-hanging limbs that could damage shingles or siding and remove any dead limbs that could fly off in heavy wind.
- Mow the lawn! Shorter grass will not accumulate as much debris as longer, more overgrown yards.
- Clean up debris or miscellaneous items from the yard. When winds begin to pick up, this will help minimize flying objects that could hit your home.
- Stake any plants or trees that are top heavy such as standard bottle brush or standard cassia, as well as any topiaries.
- Remove yard decor such as pottery,

trellises, yard art, swings and lawn furniture, if possible. Otherwise, secure or anchor down these items with sandbags, bungee cords, etc. in preparation for high winds.

- Wait until after storm season to replace mulch as it can wash away with heavy rains. Pine straw can be placed around the beds to help keep bark mulch in place as much as possible.

- Make sure all drainage lines are clear. Clean out gutters and storm drains so that they are able to work properly. Check gutters to ensure that they are securely attached to the house and can direct water away from the foundation.

- If there is a hurricane near, turn off all irrigation systems. Although most systems have a rain shut-off device, do not depend on this trigger during/after a hurricane. This shut-off device will dry out more quickly than the soil and allow irrigation to resume when the soil is still saturated. Heavy rains can bring significant amounts of water, causing roots to loosen and trees to fall. Too much water can also lead to disease problems for grass, plants and trees. After the storm, allow your yard to dry out for three to four days before turning on the irrigation system.

- Always know where your water main is located and how to turn it off in an emergency. If there is a special tool needed to turn off, be sure to pick up that item now.

Flower of the Week: Baby Sun Rose

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.

Flower of the Week



Photo provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

Baby Sun Rose



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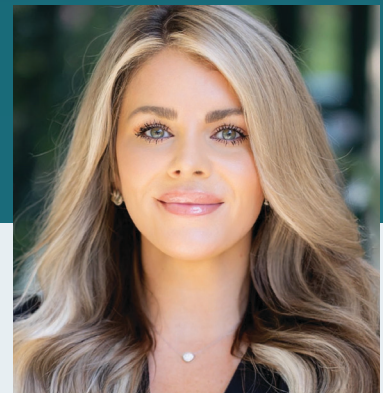
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dispelling myths in sheriff's race

To The Editor:

When I heard that Rob Harwick was running for re-election as sheriff of St. Johns County, my first thought was, "No one would be foolish enough to run against him." Actually, that was my second thought, my first being, "Thank goodness." I have worked with the sheriff extensively for our community's safety and have spent over 40 hours with the sheriff's office as a participant in the SJC Citizen Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA). I could not imagine anyone taking issue with his work or his record.

But someone has launched an opposition, and the opposition appears to be based on misinformation. Ostensibly, his opponent thinks he is spending too much money,

and the extra budget dollars have led to an increase in crime since Hardwick became sheriff. This intentional misinformation is not fair to Hardwick or to the citizens he has worked hard to protect. We need Rob Hardwick as our sheriff.

The YouTube video sponsored by his opponent cites three expenses that they represent as unnecessary — a \$36 million hike in the sheriff's budget over the past four years, remodeling of his office and the purchase of a third helicopter with \$2.9 million in customization.

Apparently, the opponent's thinking is that these additional budget items would be fine if crime were going down. But his video says violent crime is up 51%.

Let's start with crime.

A public records request yielded the following information: In 2020, there were 293 violent crimes (defined as murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault). In

2023, violent crimes were down 10.6% at 262. Up 51% — I don't think so.

What about expenses?

After 13 weeks in the CLEA program, we saw over and over how carefully deputies and other personnel work to preserve the longevity of equipment and technology. We learned that one of the two explosive ordinance robots was purchased shortly after 9-11 and has been lovingly maintained for 23 years.

The "third" helicopter specified in the YouTube video was brought in to replace the Vietnam-era chopper because the manufacturer no longer supplied parts. So rather than a third, there will still be two helicopters when the oldest is retired. Misinformation indeed.

The \$37 million increase in the SJSO budget under Hardwick's watch? Thirty million of that went to law enforcement, of which approximately 80% of the budget

is comprised of salaries and benefits for sheriff's department employees.

Hardwick has stood before the County Commissioners each year to advocate and ask for competitive wages for his staff. In 2020, deputies were making \$42,000 a year. Today, they make close to \$60,000. Other personnel such as dispatchers were making around \$30,000 a year and are now making \$50,000. Between the recognition of the intensity of their jobs through a substantial raise in pay, along with a focus on taking care of people and recruiting and retaining the best, the sheriff's office is at nearly full staff for the first time in history.

And the office re-models? Really? I'm not even going to bother with that.

It seems like misinformation is in the air these days, and that is unfortunate.

**Carol Anderson
St. Augustine**

Shoreline

Continued from 10

ects, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Augustine Shore Protection Project, the South Ponte Vedra and Vilano Army Corps Coastal Storm Risk Manage-

ment 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.

In related coastal management project news, St. Johns County hosted a community forum and a boat tour with elected

officials on June 21 to share options to address stormwater flooding in North Beach area neighborhoods due to outfalls from the Intracoastal Waterway. The activities included participation from Henry Dean, St. Johns County District 5 commissioner; state Rep. Cyndi Stevenson, Florida House of Representatives, District 17; and

U.S. Congressman John H. Rutherford, U.S. House of Representatives, District 5.

"The beaches bring in a lot of revenue and tourism, and they protect our residents," St. Johns County Emergency Management Director Joe Giammanco said. "The beaches are a vital part of our community."



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Feeding Northeast Florida unveils new campus

Feeding Northeast Florida (FNEFL), the region's largest community food bank, recently celebrated the grand opening of its new campus.

In a celebration of community spirit and commitment to fighting hunger, the organization hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new facility, located at 5245 Old Kings Road. The event featured notable guests from the State of Florida, City of Jacksonville and Jacksonville Chamber. Speakers included U.S. Rep. Aaron Bean; Kevin Guthrie from the Florida Division of Emergency Management; Kevin Carrico, Jacksonville City Council vice president; Ron Salem, Jacksonville City Council member and immediate past president; Tracey Polson, director of strategic partnerships, Office of Mayor Donna Deegan; and Susan King, president and CEO of Feeding Northeast Florida.

As FNEFL marks its 10th anniversary later this year, the unveiling of this new facility comes at a crucial time for the community. The 12-county region served by FNEFL is home to approximately 272,000 food-insecure individuals, including nearly 90,000 children. The demand for hunger relief has surged, and the organization's new campus symbolizes a powerful response to this pressing need.



Contributed photo

"We are excited to open the doors to our new campus, a project that represents a significant step forward in our mission to fight hunger in Northeast Florida," said King. "Big, complicated problems like food insecurity require big solutions, and this facility is our boldest step yet. It enables us to better serve our neighbors in need, but we can't do it alone. We urge our community to join us in this fight against food insecurity — together, we can make a

profound difference."

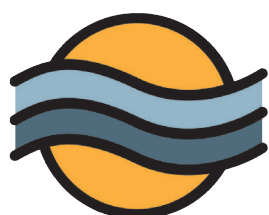
The new 110,000-square-foot warehouse, situated on a 12-acre site, more than doubles FNEFL's previous capacity. The state-of-the-art facility enhances the organization's ability to store and distribute food, featuring expanded refrigeration and freezer capabilities. The additional space will also support FNEFL's nutritional education programs, providing a space for future expansion of cooking and nutrition

classes in a modern kitchen facility. An expanded volunteer center will engage the community, while the new space for partner agency and community building activities will foster stronger collaborations.

The \$23 million renovation project was made possible through numerous grants and donations, including a significant contribution from J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver and support through a critical New Market Tax Credit. The transformation of the former window manufacturing facility into a vibrant, functional space was expertly managed by The Conlan Companies, with design input from Thomas Duke Architect and Micamy Design Studio.

While the food bank celebrates this exciting development, it also faces the reality that rising food insecurity persists. FNEFL calls on the community to get involved in its mission to solve hunger across Northeast and North Central Florida. Financial contributions, volunteerism and advocacy are essential to sustaining and expanding the organization's efforts. For every \$1 donated, FNEFL can provide six meals to those in need.

For more information, to make a donation or to sign up to volunteer, go to feedingnefl.org.



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BACK TO SCHOOL

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024 PAGE 14

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Once again, St. Johns County School District earns an A

By Shaun Ryan

Statewide school district grades have been released for the 2023-24 academic year and once again, St. Johns County Schools finished at or near the top.

Across the Sunshine State, schools continued to demonstrate improvement, with 64% of Florida's schools earning either an A or a B, up from 57% last year. Meanwhile, only 4% earned a D or F, down from 6% in 2023.

"This year's school grades reflect Florida's steadfast commitment to excellence in education," said Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz Jr. "Under Gov. Ron DeSantis' leadership, we have continued to raise the bar for providing students with a quality education that suits their individual needs, and these school grades are proof positive that our approach is working."

St. Johns County Schools finished second in the state according to a point system reported by the state Department

of Education, just behind the Lafayette County School District. St. Johns County Schools received a grade of A, as it has every year going back at least to 2010.

Within the district, the following elementary schools earned an A: Ketterlinus, R.B. Hunt, James A. Webster, Julington Creek, W. Douglas Hartley, Osceola, Ponte Vedra Palm Valley — Rawlings, Otis A. Mason, Cunningham Creek, Ocean Palms, Durbin Creek, Timberlin Creek, Wards Creek, Hickory Creek, Palencia and Picolata Crossing.

The following middle schools earned an A: Sebastian, Alice B. Landrum, Switzerland Point, Pacetti Bay and Fruit Cove.

The following K-8 schools earned an A: Mill Creek Academy, Patriot Oaks Academy, Liberty Pines Academy, Valley Ridge Academy, Freedom Crossing Academy, Palm Valley Academy and Pine Island Academy.

The following high schools earned an A: Allen D. Nease, Beachside, Bartram Trail, Ponte Vedra, Creekside and Toco

Creek.

The remainder received either a B or C. No St. Johns County schools received an F, though one did receive a D, St. Augustine Public Montessori School.

Concerning the various assessments, PV/PV — Rawlings earned the highest score for grade 3 English language arts achievement in St. Johns County public schools. Among K-8 schools, Palm Valley Academy earned the highest score.

For mathematics achievement, PV/PV — Rawlings had the highest score among elementary schools, and Landrum among middle schools. Ponte Vedra had the highest score among high schools. Among K-8 schools, Palm Valley Academy had the highest score.

For science achievement, PV/PV — Rawlings earned the highest score for elementary schools, and Fruit Cove earned the highest score among middle schools. Creekside had the highest score among high schools. Among K-8 schools, Pine Island Academy had the highest score.

For social studies achievement, Fruit Cove earned the highest score among middle schools, and Nease earned the highest score among high schools. Among K-8 schools, Patriot Oaks Academy and Freedom Crossing Academy tied for the highest score.

St. Johns County Schools finished first in English Language Arts achievement for grades 3-10; math achievement for grades 3, 4, 8 and the algebra I end-of-course; science achievement for grade 5, biology end-of-course; the civics end-of-course; and U.S. history end-of-course (tie).

Graduation rates for 2023-34 are not yet available, but the rates for 2022-23 were as follows:

- Allen D. Nease High School, 98%
- Ponte Vedra High School, 98%
- Creekside High School, 98%
- Bartram Trail High School, 98%
- Toco Creek High School, 95%
- Pedro Menendez High School, 87%
- St. Augustine High School, 85%
- St. Johns Virtual Franchise, 85%

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New schools open this year

By Shaun Ryan

St. Johns County is home to a number of public schools: 18 elementary, seven K-8, seven middle and nine high schools. It also has one technical center, three charter schools, two alternative schools and one virtual school.

This year, the school district will open two additional K-8 schools: Trout Island Academy and Lakeside Academy. Here is a brief look at each.

Trout Creek Academy will be located on about 26.5 acres at 855 Timberwolf Trail, St. Augustine. That's in the Shearwater development. It will accommodate about 1,500 students. The principal will be Katie O'Connell.

Lakeside Academy will be located on about 40 acres at 1455 Twin Creeks Drive, St. Augustine. That's in the Beacon Lake portion of the Twin Creeks development. It will also accommodate about 1,500 students. The principal will be Jesse Gates.

Both schools will have 32 primary classrooms, 22 intermediate classrooms, six

science labs, resource rooms, skills labs, exceptional education spaces, art rooms, music rooms, physical education spaces, vocational education labs, a media center and support spaces, an administrative suite, food service and dining facilities, a stage, a multipurpose room, student and public restrooms and custodial spaces.

But as the population continues to grow here, so does the need for ever more schools.

An as-yet unnamed K-8 school is scheduled to open for the 2025-26 academic year on about 32 acres at 2505 RiverTown Main St., St. Johns. That is within the RiverTown development. This school will convert to a middle school upon completion of an elementary school within RiverTown. It will accommodate about 1,100 students.

In addition, two more K-8 schools are planned to open for the 2026-27 academic year: one within the Silverleaf development and the other in Seabrook (formerly Snowden Village) in Nocatee. Each will accommodate about 1,500 students.




St. Johns County school calendar for 2024-25

By Shaun Ryan

Here's a look at the St. Johns County School District calendar for the 2024-25 school year. Note that all schools have early dismissal on Wednesdays: 1:45 p.m. for elementary schools, 12:50 p.m. for middle schools and 2:50 p.m. for high schools.

- Aug. 12: Students report to class
- Sept. 2: Labor Day. No classes. (Hurricane make-up day)
- Sept. 11: Interims issued
- Sept. 20: Teacher inservice day. No classes. (Hurricane make-up day)
- Oct. 14: Teacher planning day. No classes. (Hurricane make-up day)
- Oct. 24: Report cards
- Nov. 11: Veterans Day. No classes. (Hurricane make-up day)
- Nov. 14: Interims issued
- Nov. 25-29: Thanksgiving break. (Hurricane make-up days)
- Dec. 20: First semester ends. Dismissal 1 hour early
- Dec. 23-Jan. 2: Winter break

- Jan. 3: Teacher planning day. No classes. (Hurricane make-up day)
- Jan. 16: Report cards
- Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day. No classes. (Hurricane make-up day)
- Feb. 11: Interims issued
- Feb. 14: Teacher inservice day. No classes. (Hurricane make-up day)
- Feb. 17: Presidents' Day. No classes. (Hurricane make-up day)
- March 14: Teacher planning day. No classes
- March 17-21: Spring break
- March 27: Report cards
- March 31-April 11: B.E.S.T. Writing Assessment (grades 4-10)
- April 18: No classes
- April 23: Interims issued
- May 1-29: F.A.S.T. Testing (reading, math, science) — grades 3-10; EOCs, AP, IB and district exams
- May 26: Memorial Day. No classes
- May 30: Last day for students. Report cards (Elementary only)
- Graduations in May. Dates to be announced.




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Mayday Ice Cream Ponte Vedra plans “Back-to-School Bash”

Mayday Ice Cream is hosting its first “Back-to-School Bash” at its Ponte Vedra location. The festivities will take place from noon to 10 p.m. Aug. 5-8 at 120 Marketside Ave., Ponte Vedra Beach, and will include a limited edition, specialty

flavor and giveaways. All week long, Mayday will offer free fun-sized scoops of PB&J, an exclusive ice cream flavor available only at Mayday Ponte Vedra, while supplies last. This limited-edition flavor features

creamy peanut butter and strawberry ice cream marbled together in a sweet and salty pairing reminiscent of the lunchbox classic.

In addition, Mayday will give away an ice cream party to one customer. The first 20 customers each day can enter on behalf of their class or office. The entry period will last Aug. 5-8. The party size may not exceed 50 people.

“The Nocatee community's support fuels our passion for continuously crafting fine ice cream and memorable experiences,” said founder and CEO Stephen DiMare. “Whether you’re a parent, a student or a teacher, we hope you’ll join us before school starts to celebrate the end of summer with a sweet treat from Mayday.”

Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams offers artisan ice cream in an array of flavors, handmade sprinkles and freshly baked waffle cones. Located at 120 Marketside Ave., Unit 303, Ponte Vedra Beach, the store is open noon to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and noon to 11 p.m.

Contributed photos



Friday and Saturday. There are locations in St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Lakeland, Tampa and Jackson, Mississippi. Learn more at maydayicecream.com.



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GUEST COLUMN

Maximizing your back-to-school budget

Provided by First Florida Credit Union

Many families are feeling the financial squeeze as back-to-school expenses begin piling up this month. With rising costs and tighter budgets, the need for smart money-saving strategies is more urgent.

Families with children in elementary through high school plan to spend almost \$850 on clothing, shoes, electronics and school supplies for the new school year, according to the National Retail Federation. On top of that, a study by WalletHub found that 86% of parents think the cost of education is out of control.

“Every year, there are certain expenses families just can’t avoid,” said Keith Manze, community relations specialist at First Florida Credit Union. “But there are plenty of tips and tricks to help lower those costs wherever possible.”

Start by checking what you already have at home, Manze said. Before you rush out to buy new supplies, take a moment to sift through last year’s stash. Re-using or repurposing items you still have can make a big difference to your wallet.

Once you’ve assessed what supplies you already have and identified what you still need, the next step is to make a list and set a coordinating budget. Begin by listing the essential items that your child’s school requires for their specific grade level. Set a budget for each category, keeping in mind the total amount you’re willing to spend.

For example, a family with an elementary school student might set a budget of \$75. They can allocate \$30 for a backpack, \$10 for five notebooks, \$5 for a 24-pack of pencils, \$3 for a box of crayons and \$4 for a pack of glue sticks, totaling



Contributed photo

First Florida Credit Union’s branch at 1950 C.R. 210 West, Saint Johns

\$52. “When you set out a clear budget and plan these expenses, it stops you from putting the \$75 backpack in your cart,” Manze said. “It also leaves \$23 for any additional or unexpected expenses, that we know always arises during the first month of school.”

Manze also says check for back-to-school sales, tax-free weekends and discount codes before heading to the store. The 2024 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday, that runs through Sunday, Aug. 11, exempts qualifying school supplies from tax during this period.

Stores like Target, Walmart and Staples frequently offer storewide sales. A quick Google search can help you find the best deals in your area. Don’t forget to check retailer websites and apps for coupons or promo codes — you might find some great discounts. Websites like RetailMeNot or Honey often list current deals and codes. And remember to take advan-

tage of price-matching policies at retailers. If you find a lower price at another store, some stores will match it.

While it’s easy to focus on stocking up on educational materials and clothing, ensuring your pantry and fridge are well-stocked with nutritious food is equally important. The transition back to school brings new routines making it essential to plan meals and snacks that support your family’s needs. Effective grocery shop-

ping during this time can help manage expenses and ensure that your children have the fuel they need for a successful school year.

Just like we suggest for school supplies, it’s smart to build out a strict list and budget for groceries. This helps avoid impulse purchases and ensures you buy only what you need. But before heading to the grocery store, take stock of weekly store circulars and online coupon sites. By aligning your shopping list with these promotions, you can avoid paying full price for essentials.

Purchasing nonperishable items such as cereal, pasta, rice and canned goods in bulk can also be a savvy financial move. Then, utilize these bulk purchases to prepare and freeze meals in advance. This strategy can be a lifesaver on busy weeknights, ensuring that you have healthy, home-cooked meals ready to go.

“Navigating back-to-school expenses requires a bit of planning, but with these strategies, you can manage your budget more effectively,” Manze said.

It’s all about being proactive. With a little preparation, you’ll be able to handle the back-to-school season smoothly and keep your family’s finances on track.

Calm first-day-of-school jitters

Starting school for the first time or simply returning to campus after another summer break can lead to mixed feelings. Some students may be nervous about going to school. New faces, new experiences and new teachers can lead to a little anxiety. Here are some ways to tame the nerves:

- **Do a trial run.** Before school starts, do a test run to the drop-off location, bus stop or pick up whomever will be carpooling together. Getting into that routine can help reduce nervousness.
- **Take a school tour.** If a student is about to start in a new school or will be attending school for the first time, families will want to see if they can get tours of the school and facilities. Just one glance inside can be enough to familiarize students with the lay of the land, which might make things less scary on the first day.
- **Check the class list.** Some schools do not provide a list of all students in particular

classes, but increasingly those that rely on programs like Google Classroom or Canvas may enable students to see who will be in their class. Parents and their children can brainstorm how to deal with other students who may have been difficult in the past, while also perusing lists for friendly faces.

- **Practice conversation skills.** Many modern kids have their eyes locked on devices. They may be a little rusty with ice breakers and initiating conversation. Role playing at home can give kids some ideas of how to forge new relationships in the classroom.
- **Recognize and take concerns seriously.** Parents and other caregivers can be receptive to conversation with children regarding their concerns about starting school. Talking about feelings can help kids tame their nervousness, especially when adults take them seriously.

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Registration open for Fallen K9 Memorial Run

K9s United, a national nonprofit dedicated to advocating for and supporting law enforcement canines and their handlers, is partnering with GO RUCK to host its fifth annual virtual Fallen K9 Memorial Run on National Police K9 Day, Sunday, Sept. 1. This nationwide event honors the 26 dogs that lost their lives in 2023 while protecting and serving their communities on the front line.

“Our fifth annual run is a tribute to the unwavering bravery that led to the ultimate sacrifice of 26 heroic police dogs,” said Debbie Johnson, president and founder of K9s United. “These courageous dogs protect us in our communities — and while we travel, attend concerts or enjoy sporting events. We call on all athletes and dog lovers across the country to join us as we run together to honor their legacy of selfless service and sacrifice.”

The nationwide virtual run includes a challenging 9K, classic 5K and one-mile fun run options, as well as rucking opportunities. Athletes of all abilities and dog lovers are encouraged to register online at goruck.com/collections/2024-fallen-k9-memorial-virtual-run-ruck. Registration is \$30 for children, \$40 for adults, and each participant will receive a limited edition K9s United Fallen K9 Memorial Run t-shirt.



Photo from www.facebook.com/K9sUnited

Participants are encouraged to register by midnight Friday, Aug. 9, to receive the T-shirt before race day. The final deadline to register for the run is Saturday, Aug. 31.

The fifth annual Fallen K9 Memorial Run will honor 26 K9s who served in various states and for various law enforcement agencies.

Participants are encouraged to post their finishing time, fun videos and photos of their experience on Instagram and Facebook by tagging @K9sUnited and using the hashtag #2024FallenK9MemorialRun.

Every dollar donated to K9s United supports its mission to educate, train and provide vital equipment to K9 teams while strengthening laws to protect working K9s. The organization also memorializes dogs who made the ultimate sacrifice by providing each K9 handler with a unique, hand-painted portrait of their fallen K9 partner. To further aid K9s United's mission, participants are encouraged to join the K9 Corps, and Florida's drivers can pre-order the nonprofit's specialty license plate at k9sunitied.org/florida-license-plate.

K9s United is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

committed to working law enforcement canines who detect, protect and serve communities by giving them the best equipment and amenities during their service, and memorializing those who give the ultimate sacrifice.

To support K9s United and its mission, supporters can join K9 Corps for as little as \$9 a month. Florida residents can also support the organization by pre-ordering a K9s United specialty license plate.

For further information and ways to support the organization, go to k9sunitied.org.

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Photos by Rick Frazier



Fighting over hurricane supplies now an athletic event

Florida Man Games adds time-honored pastime to schedule

For The Recorder

The Florida Man Games has announced its newest event — Hurricane Party Prep: Grocery Aisle Brawl. And although Pete Melfi, event creator and organizer, is keeping a tight lip — for now — on what exactly this event will look like, if it’s anywhere in the vein of 2024’s events, attendees can count on plenty of laughs, gasps and epic moments.

“Yeah, this new event definitely comes straight from the headlines and personal experience,” said Melfi. “You can’t call yourself a Florida man or woman if you haven’t wrestled with someone on aisle 8 for the last case of water while Jim Cantori’s voice screams in your head that you need to start stockpiling supplies. This event is going to produce some great moments, and I think our champions will



really rise to the occasion.”

The Florida Man Games is scheduled for March 1 at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds, 5840 State Road 207 in Elkton. 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.

New and even crazier competitions are to be announced, like the new Hurricane Party: Grocery Aisle Brawl.

The Florida Man Games will again benefit the Jimmy Jam Community Outreach, a local 501(c)(3) that helps local residents

in need. Additional VIP tickets were made available, but there are not many left. General admission tickets are \$35 and VIP tickets are \$120.

For an even classier Florida Man experience, enjoy an exclusive experience and skip the hotel costs by getting an RV parking pass, which allows up to four people in the RV and includes an exclusive BBQ and unlimited amusement-style rides all day long. RV tailgating spaces are offered at \$420 for a limited time.

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

Thinking of creating a team to take on the Games? Aspiring Florida men and women must submit a video showing all team members. Teams must consist of three to five members, all 21 years of age or older. All team members will need to prove their Florida residency. Only 12 teams will be accepted to compete in the 2025 The Florida Man Games. To submit a team video, go to thefloridamangames.com/teams.



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Renuart celebrates 30 years of creating a healthier community

By Anthony Richards

Embracing the community has always been the ultimate goal for Dr. Ron Renuart with his medical practice, and after 30 years he is proud to say that he has accomplished that goal.

His journey to help the community become healthier began after finishing up his residency at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Jacksonville, where he specialized in internal medicine.

He joined Dr. William Lynch and Dr. Anthony Vetere in the summer of 1994 with their original office located in Jacksonville Beach

“I had offers at different spots around Florida, but knew that I liked Jacksonville,” Renuart said. “I remember I was going to meet with them when I heard the news that

the Jaguars would be coming to town. I knew right then that this was going to be the place for me.”

Two years later, they sold the practice to what was called Baptist St. Vincent’s at the time, and he has been partnered with Baptist Health ever since.

“We were one of the first practices absorbed during the merger and in 2002 I merged into the Ponte Vedra office,” Renuart said.

For Renuart, he knew from an early age that he wanted to be a doctor, as he was always fascinated by the profession and wanted to do his part to help people.

“I didn’t have any close relatives who were doctors, but I can’t think of a time in my life when I didn’t want to be a doctor,” Renuart said.

His sense of community spirit was not only reflective in his medical practice but also in other aspects of his life, as he served in the National Guard with stints in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2003 and 2007.

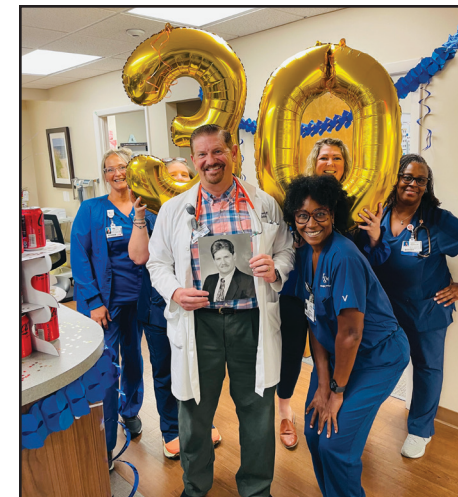
“Fortunately, a lot of my patients stayed with me when I was deployed,” Renuart said. “That has always meant a lot to me.”

He also spent four terms in the House of Representatives representing the local Beaches community, as well as serving as the president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Throughout the years he has had loyal patients, and still sees the first patient he ever saw.

According to Renuart, gaining their trust is something he is extremely proud of and

RENUART continues on **Page 24**



Contributed photo

Dr. Ron Renuart celebrates the 30th anniversary of his practice with his staff while holding the original waiting room photo he used when he first started.



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Reverie at Silverleaf celebrates model homes opening

Situated amid top golf courses designed by legendary champions and nearby Ponte Vedra Beach, the new 55+ community of Reverie at Silverleaf recently celebrated the grand opening of four decorated model homes. It's a gated, active-adult community brimming with near-endless recreational amenities and social activities inside St. Johns County's best-selling master-planned community.

The new low-maintenance residences are designed and crafted by Dream Finders Homes, a Florida-based company publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange with more than 200 communities throughout the United States.

Visitors to Reverie at Silverleaf are invited to tour residences that free them to fully enjoy an unmatched 55+ lifestyle. Each new home plan is filled with natural light and designed for comfort, featuring open interior, private owner's suite, welcoming social areas, elegant finishes and thoughtful features. Covered front porches and shaded lanais invite homeowners to enjoy sun-splashed open-air gatherings with old friends and new neighbors.

These four models are open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon to 5:30 p.m. Sunday:

- The Bourton — Two bed-flex/third bed, two bath, two-car garage, 1,709 square feet

- The Magnolia — Two bed/flex room, two bath, two-car garage, 1,793 square feet

- The Charlotte — Two bed-flex/third bed, two bath, two-car garage, 2,029 square feet

- The Cooper + Bonus — Two bed-flex/third bed, two bath, three-car garage, 3,129 square feet

Residents of Reverie can join friends for celebrations at the lakeside clubhouse, cool off in the swimming pool, serve up a brisk match on the pickleball courts or relax around the firepit in the cool of the evening.

In addition, they have access to the parks, hiking and biking trails and nature preserves of Silverleaf, and can

enjoy a quick golf cart ride to take advantage of all the restaurants, shopping, health care and conveniences offered on-site at Silverleaf Commons.

The decorated models showcased at the grand opening celebration are just a sample of the wide range of residences available at Reverie at Silverleaf. Distinctive home styles include both single-family homes and paired villas — 14 total floorplans ranging from 1,475 to 3,129 square feet of acre conditioned space.

Models are open daily at Reverie at Silverleaf at 636 Knotted Birch Ave., St. Augustine. For information, call 386-356-5800 or go to ReverieAtSilverleaf.com.

Heart association recognizes local hospitals

One hundred fifty-one hospitals in Florida are among the more than 3,000 nationwide that participate in the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines and other programs to improve outcomes for Americans who experience heart disease or stroke.

Heart disease and stroke are the No. 1 and No. 5 causes of death in the United States, respectively. These health crises require swift and proven treatment to ensure the best outcomes for patients. The American Heart Association, celebrating 100 years of work to advance health and hope for everyone, everywhere, sets the

standards for high-quality, science-based care and access that all patients deserve.

"Every 40 seconds, someone in America has a stroke or heart attack," said Caitlin Brunell, executive director for the American Heart Association First Coast. "High-quality care should be accessible to all, and sites awarded through the Get With The Guidelines program help work toward our shared vision of health and hope for everyone, everywhere."

Each year, the American Heart Association recognizes hospitals across the country for consistently following

up-to-date, research-based guidelines to ensure all patients have access to lifesaving care. In Florida, 151 hospitals were recognized this year, seven of which are in Jacksonville:

- Baptist Medical Center – Beaches (Baptist Health)
- Baptist Medical Center – Jackson-

ville (Baptist Health)

- Baptist Medical Center – South (Baptist Health)
- Mayo Clinic Florida
- Memorial Hospital Jacksonville
- St. Vincent's Medical Center Southside
- UF Health Jacksonville

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GUEST COLUMN

This is back-to-school season — talk to your student about money



Provided by Chris Thompson

The start of the school year is quickly approaching. If you have a child entering college or the workforce this fall, now is a great time to talk about money. Consider the tips below to guide the conversation:

Help your child establish a budget for the next phase of life. A new phase of life often brings a new set of expenses. Begin by exploring the new costs your child may incur and offer to sit down and help them create a budget. For high school graduates, new expenses can include tuition for college, textbooks, housing, food and discretionary spending. Online estimators can be useful tools to discern how to allocate funds by category. If you typically covered your child's expenses throughout high school, educate them on what a typical grocery bill or trip to the movies can cost. This will help them gain perspective on their expenses going forward.

Set financial expectations. As your

child grows toward financial independence, it is beneficial to have a conversation with them about what help they can expect from you, if any, and what costs they are responsible for.

- If your child is headed to college or trade school, discuss how tuition will be paid for and whether you'll cover any associated room-and-board expenses, technology fees, travel to return home, etc. Can your child rely on scholarships or help from a 529 plan? Will they need to pick up a job? To help answer these questions, encourage your child to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). All students can apply regardless of their family's financial status. The FAFSA process will let your child know what federal financial aid may be available to them. If loans need to be taken out by you, your child or both for school, review the terms, including interest rates and payback schedule.

- If your child is headed directly into the workforce, discuss how to approach paying for rent, commuting to work, and other common expenses. Determine if your child can look to you for help in their first few months of expenses as they get on their feet. Discuss what bringing home a post-tax paycheck looks like and advise on saving and spending income. Also suggest starting a ROTH IRA and/or ROTH 401k early.

Consider alternate ways to help your kids. While it's natural to want to support your child as much as you can, it's important to think about how to thoughtfully transition the financial responsibility to their shoulders over time. As a starting point, consider the difference between funding a key milestone — such as college tuition or a car that's necessary for their employment — and funding ongoing daily lifestyle expenses or wishes,

like concert tickets or meals out. Some parents desire to cover all expenses while a child is in college so they can focus on their education. If you share this viewpoint, set any boundaries and decide an end date of when they will be fully responsible for their own expenses — perhaps at graduation or when they land a full-time job. Additionally, when a large expense arises like a new car or graduate school, consider co-signing a loan instead of writing a check. This approach can help them lock in a lower-interest rate or more favorable repayment terms, while encouraging some financial independence.

Set boundaries for future milestones. Once expectations are established for the financial responsibilities in your child's next phase of life, have a conversation with your spouse or partner about how you'll handle future milestones, such as a wedding or home purchase. Giving money to adult children can be a sensitive subject, and it's an important one to be on the same page about. If you and your partner have work to do to align your viewpoints you're not alone: recent research from my firm, Ameriprise Financial, found that 72% of couples support adult family members financially — yet 14% of couples disagree on how much financial support to give. Have open dialogue about how much monetary support is important to you to provide and consider putting a financial plan in place to guide future decisions.

The back-to-school season is a great time to consider what financial preparedness looks like in the next phase of your child's life. Know that your financial adviser is there to help you establish your financial strategy and comfort level with helping your children financially while staying on track to meet your biggest goals.

Chris Thompson, CFP, CMFA, CRPC is a private wealth adviser and managing director with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 32 years. To contact him, go to ameripriseadvisors.com/Chris.thompson, email chris.thompson@ampf.com, call 904-380-2290. The address is 818 A1A N, Suite 301, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.

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About the research
The Couples, Money & Retirement research was created by Ameriprise Financial and conducted online by Artemis Strategy Group from Jan. 3 to 26, 2024, among 1,510 American couples (3,020 total respondents) with \$100,000 or more in investable assets. Primary respondents were between ages 45 and 70 and within 10 years of retirement. For further information, including verification of data that may not be published as part of this report, contact Ameriprise or go to ameriprise.com/couples.

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GUEST COLUMN

Tools available for family business transitions

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

Transitioning your family business to your heirs may sound simple enough, but in fact, doing it successfully can prove difficult. To help improve your transition's chances for success, consider family business governance.

This is a system of correlated tools and actions to support the next generation with controlling, owning and operating the business. It also puts in place a framework that contains business protocols, describes how future ownership changes occur and establishes a precedent for making business decisions.

Frequently used tools

There are several tools that can be employed as part of a family business governance system, including:

A **buy-sell agreement** is a legally binding contract that stipulates how an owner's share of a business may be reassigned if triggering events occur, the price that will be paid, and the payment structure.

A **family employment policy** document can be kept within the family for private use or incorporated into the business's human resource documentation. It sets expectations for heirs, spouses and extended family members about such issues as how they can obtain employment in the business, the requirements to attain key positions, the compensation standards to be used and incentive language for family members.

A **distribution or dividend policy** is key in setting expectations with family members regarding what dis-



tributions they should expect to receive from the business. Business owners must balance the need for cash to maintain or grow the business with the desire to receive distributions.

A **professional board of directors** is a governing body that helps oversee the business and makes major decisions. A board generally comprises three, five or seven professionals from various industries that have the subject matter expertise to assist the company strategically.

A **family board or council** is a group within the family — or may include the entire family — that comes together to make decisions about the business on the family's behalf.

A **company mission statement** can be valuable to your employees and your family as it addresses the business's purpose and vision and can help guide future company leaders.

Your **estate plan** can address ownership, control, distributions and several other factors.

The business's governing documents should be reviewed at the same time the family business governance

system and tools are put in place. Revisions to these documents or corporate resolutions stored in the corporate minutes may be needed to align these documents with the company's governance system.

Helping ensure a successful transition

Transitioning the family business to the next generation is much more than transitioning shares. A well-thought-out and documented plan that addresses ownership, control and operations helps build a strong governance system for your business. This system, combined with communication with the next generation, can be key to helping ensure your transition's success.

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Renuart

Continued from 20

has never taken for granted.

“I always wanted to have the type of practice where you get that hometown feel and you don’t mind running into people you know when you go out to eat or at the grocery store,” Renuart said. “I wanted to

make sure to spend time with my patients and really be part of their lives and letting them know how healthy they can be.”

Renuart focuses on primary care and helping patients develop preventative and treatment plans that seek to both educate and heal.

One of the major things that has been prevalent since he started is the constant evolution of the medical field due to ad-

vances in technology and research.

“So many things have changed in how we use medicine and even some of the old ways have come back,” Renuart said.

According to Renuart, one of the most influential ways he has seen technology have an impact is through the sharing of information with other doctors to best develop a plan for patients.

He also thanked all the specialists and

staff members that have worked with him and made his practice what it has been over the years.

Renuart and his wife Tamara have seven children and 10 grandchildren with many still living in the area.

“I have no regrets,” Renuart said.

Renuart’s Baptist Primary Care practice is located at 520 State Road A1A N., Suite 101 in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Dion Marketing launches onsite consulting package

Dion Marketing recently added DiON-SITE to its repertoire of full marketing services, a consulting package specifically offered to the amusement park and attractions industry.

Topics covered in-person include up-selling opportunities, turning a one-time guest into a repeat visitor, goals and tactics, SWOT analyses, POS capabilities, guest data capturing, food and beverage opportunities and more.

The consulting package incorporates a 50+ Point Marketing Checklist that follows a guest’s journey through an amusement park, waterpark, family entertainment center (FEC), or any location-based entertainment (LBE) venue from beginning to end, starting with a local Google search for directions to the venue. Further details are available online at dionmarketing.com/

consult.

Marketing and amusement industry veteran Julie Dion and her company, Dion Marketing, work with amusement brands of all sizes across the United States. Dion is also a mom with three kids, which is the primary target audience for the amusement and attractions industry. She has combined her insights as a mother and as a guest of the amusement industry with her marketing background and industry expertise to equip businesses with new ideas and strategies to improve performance and increase attendance.

“DiON-SITE is not a new concept,” explained Dion. “Before COVID, clients could opt-in to an onsite assessment as part of the overall strategic annual marketing plan package. Then, when no one was traveling, we took our consulting virtual.

Now we are seeing demand for onsite visits again, so we created a ‘2.0 version’ of our existing onsite assessment with DiON-SITE.”

Companies gain insights to help improve onsite marketing while learning new revenue-producing ideas and initiatives that can be incorporated into existing or new marketing efforts.

“In-person interactions create stronger connections with my clients and lead to enhanced business outcomes,” continued Dion. “There’s also a tremendous value in meeting with leadership teams to hear their point of view and ideas and provide them with the opportunity to contribute to creating dynamic marketing strategies.”

According to a study conducted by Forbes Insights, 85% of respondents reported building stronger, more meaningful business relationships through face-to-face meetings. A study from Harvard Business Review emphasized that 95% of participants consider in-person meetings critical for maintaining long-term partnerships.

Dion Marketing is also offering a free one-hour online consulting session. During this time, participants can discuss marketing topics with Dion, gain advice and find out more about DiON-SITE.

Dion previously served on the marketing committee for the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions and speaks on a variety of marketing topics at



Contributed photo

Allevery Entertainment owners Al and Kathy Novstrup and son David and wife Holly Novstrup meet with Julie Dion.

conventions, seminars and symposiums throughout the country.

For further information, go to dionmarketing.com/our-services.

Dion Marketing is a woman-owned and women-operated, full-service marketing firm offering a variety of marketing and advertising services, public relations and design. It has secured dozens of top marketing awards for clients including Best Social Media Campaign, Best YouTube Commercial, Best Billboard Campaign, Best Print Ad and Best Brochure by the World Waterpark Association.

The firm has been vetted by the U.S. Small Business Administration and has earned its WOSB credentials along with being recognized as the 2023 Best of Florida Winner for marketing firms in the state.

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Card Player Poker Tour returns to bestbet Jacksonville

The Card Player Poker Tour (CPPT) is returning to bestbet Jacksonville for the 11th year.

The CPPT is a national series of live poker tournaments started by Card Player Media, publishers of Card Player Magazine. The organizers work closely with the host location to create a tournament series tailored to its unique needs.

Last year's Main Event champion, Heng Zhang, walked away with more than \$125,000. The Card Player Poker Tour Series begins Aug. 15 and continues through Aug. 26 at bestbet Jacksonville, located at 201 Monument Road, Jacksonville.

The highlight of the nine-event tournament series is the \$300,000 guaranteed \$1,700 No-Limit Hold'em (NLH) Mystery Bounty Main Event. The Main Event kicks off on Aug. 22 with the \$1,700 NLH Day 1A at noon. Some events will be streamed on bestbetLIVE: Event 1 Final Day on Aug. 18; Event 7 Ladies' Event on Aug. 21; the \$1,700 Mystery Bounty Main Event Day 2 on Aug. 25; and the Final Table on Aug. 26.

Players will enjoy the comfortable atmosphere of bestbet, complete with a full menu of burgers, sandwiches, appetizers, breakfast all day, handcrafted sushi and a full bar.

- Event 1: \$400 NLH, \$100,000 guaran-



Contributed photo

A view of the bestbet card room.

teed; six flights: August 15-17 at noon and 6 p.m. Final day: Aug. 18 at noon.

- Event 2: \$400 NLH Progressive Bounty; Aug. 18 at 1 p.m.
- Event 3: \$300 NLH; Aug. 19 at noon
- Event 4: \$360 NLH Mega Stack; Aug. 20 at noon

- Event 5: \$300 Big O 8/OB; Aug. 20 at 3 p.m.
- Event 6: \$660 NLH Six Max; Aug. 21 at noon
- Event 7: \$300 NLH Ladies; Aug. 21 at 3 p.m.
- MAIN EVENT: \$1,700 NLH Mystery

Bounty \$300,000 guaranteed; day 1A-1C, Aug. 22-25 at noon; day 2, Aug. 25 at noon; final day, Aug. 26 at 2 p.m.

- Event 8: \$500 NLH "The bestbet 500"; Aug. 25 at 1 p.m.

For tournament details, go to bestbet-jax.com.

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Source: Forbes.com (Jan 2024) 2024 *Forbes* Best-In-State Wealth Management Teams ranking awarded in 2024. This ranking was determined based on an evaluation process conducted by SHOOK Research LLC (the research company) in partnership with *Forbes* (the publisher) during the period from 3/31/22–3/31/23. Neither Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC nor its Financial Advisors or Private Wealth Advisors paid a fee to SHOOK Research LLC for placement on its rankings. This ranking is based on in-person and telephone due diligence meetings to evaluate each Financial Advisor qualitatively, a major component of a ranking algorithm that includes client retention, industry experience, review of compliance records, firm nominations, and quantitative criteria, including assets under management and revenue generated for their firms. Investment performance is not a criterion. Rankings are based on the opinions of SHOOK Research LLC and may not be representative of any one client's experience; investors must carefully choose the right Financial Advisor or team for their own situation and perform their own due diligence. This ranking is not indicative of the Financial Advisor's future performance. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC is not affiliated with SHOOK Research LLC or *Forbes*. For more information, see www.SHOOKresearch.com.



In the Arts

Send your arts news to
news@pontevedrarecorder.com

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photo by Alise Sheppard

Pictured from left: Olivia Castillo, David Wholey, Tina Henle, Karen Sirnick and Christopher Casler.



Photo by Alise Sheppard

Pictured from left: Teri Tompkins, Olga Viotti, John Darovitz and Gerald Branch.

Art association announces winners of national show

For The Recorder

One of the oldest art associations in the nation, the St. Augustine Art Association is celebrating its centennial in grand fashion with events and shows throughout the year. “History Through the Lens of the Artist” challenged artists to observe their surroundings and tell a story of the development and evolution of the culture and people of a community from its inception until today. The exhibit announced the show’s award winners at a grand opening reception July 18 at the St. Augustine Art Association, 22 Marine St., St. Augustine. The exhibit continues through Aug. 25.

“Each community has its own story to tell,” said Jennifer Flynt, executive director of the association. “Because there are artists participating from all over the country, we get to see such a variety of

communities, history, cultural footprints, the events and landmarks represented in this exhibit.”

“History Through the Lens of the Artist” is a national juried show in which professionals and amateur artists entered works in two categories: photography and other mediums, including drawing and painting, printmaking, mixed media and collage, fiber, sculpture, pottery and ceramics. Artists utilized subjects ranging from architecture and landscape to people, events, landmarks, social issues and more.

The following awards winners were announced at the opening reception on July 18:

Photography

- \$2,500 Best of Show 100th Anniversary Alice & Clark Alger Award: Christopher Casler “Abolitionist Sojourner

Truth”

- \$1,000 First Place Award: Karen Sirnick “Uncivil”
- \$750 Second Place Award: Daniel Ashe “Abandoned”
- \$500 Third Place Award: Olivia Castillo “St. Peter’s Basilica”
- \$150 Honorable Mention: Tina Henle “Three Women”
- \$150 Honorable Mention: David Wholey “Evolution in Building Design as a Symbol of a City’s 21st Century Transition”

Other Mediums

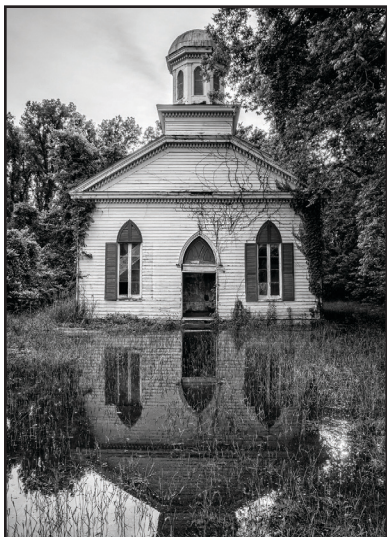
- \$2,500 Best of Show 100th Anniversary Alice & Clark Alger Award: Deborah Bird “Arms of Experience”
- \$1,000 First Place Award: Teri Tompkins “Queen of Soul”
- \$750 Second Place Award: Gerald Branch “Deeper Attributes”

- \$500 Third Place Award: Olga Viotti “Four Seasons Winter 2020”
- \$150 Honorable Mention: Alexander Ottich “Flagler College”
- \$150 Honorable Mention: John Darovitz “Bridge of Lions”

The “History Through the Lens of the Artist” exhibit is sponsored in part by iTrip, Alice & Clark Alger, The Benjamin and Jean Troemel Arts Foundation and grants from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council and the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The St. Augustine Art Association is located at 22 Marine St., St. Augustine. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Sundays from noon to 4 p.m., and admission is free. For more information, go to staaa.org.

Contributed photos:



“Abandoned” by Daniel Ashe



“Arms of Experience” by Deborah Bird



“Abolitionist Sojourner Truth” by Christopher Casler



“Flagler College” by Alexander Ottich

PASStA gallery launches 'Heartfelt' art show

For 40 years, The Professional Artists of St. Augustine (PASStA) Fine Art Gallery has opened their doors during every First Friday Artwalk with a special feature highlighting the work of an exceptional local artist, group artist or themed show. This August, the "Heartfelt" fine art show by member artists will support Art with a Heart in Healthcare (AWA-HIH), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides personalized fine art experiences that enhance the healing process for patients and their families in six hospitals in the Jacksonville area.

A special reception will be held at the gallery at 214 Charlotte St. in downtown St. Augustine during First Friday Art Walk, Aug. 2, from 5 to 9 pm. PASStA president Valarie Pothier-Forrester will present AWAHIH Executive Direc-



tor Christy Ponder with a \$500 donation to the organization. Entertainment and light fare will be provided.

Over the last two decades, AWAHIH has served more than 125,000 patients and provided services at six nationally recognized health care facilities in Duval County (Wolfson Children's Hospital, Mayo Clinic, St. Vincent's Healthcare, MD Anderson Cancer Center,

Nemours Children's Health, and Baptist Health). AWAHIH's arts programming promotes a sense of wellbeing that leads to improved patient outcomes by helping patients cope with diagnoses and treatments, promoting stress relief and reducing pain perception. AWAHIH supports patients and their families by providing bedside and group art experiences during a period in their lives that

is often highly stressful.

"Due to recent state budget cuts, we have lost a significant source of funding, and as a result, AWAHIH is now in a difficult situation," said Teresa Graham, PASStA member artist and AWAHIH board secretary. "We need financial support and art supply donations so that we can make sure that art remains part of the healing journey for patients. We are grateful to PASStA for their sponsorship, and for the donation of a portion of the sales from the Heartfelt show during the month of August."

Donations to AWAHIH can be made at awahih.org/donate, or on the Amazon Art with a Heart in Healthcare Wish List.

For further information about PASStA, go to pastagalleryart.com.



Butterfield Garage Gallery planning annual 'Garage Sale'

The 20th annual Butterfield Garage "Garage Sale" opens Friday, Aug. 4, and will continue throughout the month.

This year, the sale will be bigger and better than ever. Thirty-one local artists offer high octane art at discounted prices. Well-known member artists bring in their older work, art with slightly damaged frames, experimental work that has never been shown and even works of other artists from their own private collections ... on display at Butterfield at "garage sale" prices.

With a wide variety of art mediums, including paintings, sculpture, photography, prints, textiles, glass, jewelry and more, this is always a fun time and a great opportunity for art lovers.

Butterfield Garage Gallery, 137 King St., St. Augustine, will be open every day, Aug. 4-30, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, email info@butterfieldgarage.com or go to butterfieldgarage.com.

Crime fiction group to learn about fraud



John Tonsick

Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime will meet at 10:15 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch

Library. The topic is "The Magic of Fighting Fraud."

If it seems like fraud is popping up everywhere, that's because it is. The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners estimates organizations lose 5% of their gross revenue to employee fraud and abuse. That comes to nearly \$5 trillion per year around the globe!

John Tonsick, CPA, CFE, is a forensic accountant with more than 40 years of experience as a "Big 4" auditor, consultant and Fortune 50 executive. He's published numerous articles on fraud and corporate governance. He is an author, speaker and magician.

"The Magic of Fighting Fraud" is both entertaining and informative. The presentation is illustrated with magic and fascinating stories about actual

frauds. Topics include:

- the nature and prevalence of fraud
- how fraud happens
- why fraud happens
- tips for minimizing fraud

Participants will gain valuable insight into the nature and prevalence of fraud and become more aware of how to minimize its effects. This will be a hybrid meeting (both personal attendance and Zoom.)

Members can pre-register to Zoom this meeting at nefloridasistersincrime.org.

For further information, contact floridasistersincrime@gmail.com.

Bring your coffee and bring a friend. The group welcomes misters and sisters to learn more about writing, promoting and enjoying crime fiction.

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Sports



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Creeks Girls Softball team wins State Championship

Contributed photo

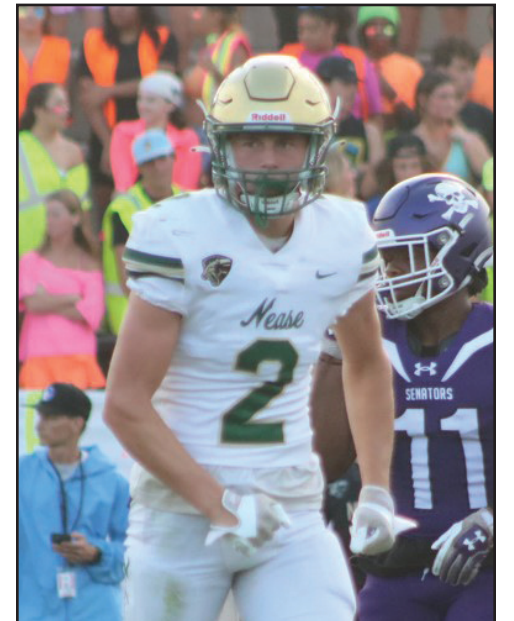
The Creeks Girls Softball 6-U team won the State Championship in the 2024 Babe Ruth Tournament that was held in Lake City from June 27 to July 1. Pictured are: players Amelia Wilson, Hayden Myers, Kendall Wood, Emeriss Lutze, Macie Williams, Kailyn Hartnagle, Olivia Harrington, Blake Phillips, Maisie Milliken, Teegan Snell, Emmie-Rose Labrador and Kelsea Piper; and coaches Charles Wood, Bobby Myers, John Hartnagle and Caitlin Labrador. Creeks Softball fall registration is still open; go to creekssoftball.leagueapps.com/leagues. Opening day will be Sept. 14.



Papineau earns roster spot with FSU football

Nease High alum Cade Papineau made a name for himself on the football field for the Panthers and now he will get the chance to do it at the next level, as the freshman earned a spot on the Florida State University football team as a defensive back for the 2024 season.

Photo by Anthony Richards



Cade Papineau

Season

Continued from 1

positioning on the schedule after being played late in the season the past two years due to the squads being in the same district.

However, now they are in separate districts and even separate classes, with the Panthers in 6A and the Sharks in 5A, but this does not mean the stakes will be any lower, as bragging rights have and will always be on the line.

That is what being separated by less than seven miles between the two campuses will do, as both the players and coaching staffs have been together for the past several years and know each other all too well.

Not to mention the fact that it kicks off the season and sets the tone for the games to come.

No. 2 Beachside at Ponte Vedra

Beachside High enters its third year as a program and will be classified in a district for the first time after being an independent its first two years.



Photo by Anthony Richards

The Beachside Barracudas will play their first district game in program history at Ponte Vedra High on Sept. 13.

It means that their first game in District 3-5A will come on the road against Ponte Vedra High on Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.

Although the Barracudas are still a relatively new program, they have been up to the test so far, finishing with winning records in their first two seasons, and there has always been a wonder of how they would do against the

other established programs in St. Johns County.

That answer will get a little clearer after facing the Sharks, as they will look to leave a mark in the early season showdown, in what could develop as a new rivalry.

No. 3 Bartram Trail at Nease

The Bartram Trail Bears have set a standard of winning in the county for some time now and the Nease Panthers and head coach Collin Drafts continue to strive to create a standard of their own.

Coming off a district championship season and wanting to build upon that, they will surely have the contest against the Bears on Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. highlighted on the calendar along with all the other district matchups.

However, although the Gainesville Buchholz game will be another highly contested battle and could play a roll in the district title at the end of the year, beating a county foe like the Bears would be a special one that the Panthers would not forget for some time.

It could also be a game looked back upon as one that helped set the tone for the rest of Drafts tenure as head coach of the Panthers.

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Miscellaneous

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WORD SEARCH SOLUTION (puzzle on page 30)

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E Q C E S N K U P L K L D U B U D R S I
B R B H D B F O L D E M B U U V Q E E N
A N O G Q R D U E N D N T S U I T C S
S A F U E N O I S N E T G T A H V T I B
L L S M U P B N Q I O O I T C C G A D F
A H D K Q N A R A N M T G T H T L P O A
G M K C I F Q G H M C B O R P T E C B F
O G C F L T I O V H U N O C A P L A D N
N A G R P D L C I P F H Q C L G L E O H
I D T D P E L N M M C F K G N S L A I O
A E A F A R G L T N Q V I I F A C I N G
R G T R M K E F A T A R S T S R H R S S
G V I T T E H M T Q R A K E I R N K E Q
C G C S A R A A B L C K N N V G N H L C
P F N K T C E O C P D D P A P N B D V T
M B F K H L B F M L T K T O H U C C E F
L L S I P B O A N M L P I G V L U E D O
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Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of _____

the same, subject to ALL prior liens, if any, to the highest and best bidder for CASH IN HAND, the proceeds to be applied as follows: _____ and satisfactorily _____

INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOHN JOSEPH TORICS A/K/A JOHN JOSEPH TORICS III, DECEASED, CHRIS UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TORICS, U.S. BANK TRUST ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF CAPITAL TRUST 1, STATE CLERK OF COURT, CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, LISA ANN GRIFVIN SPOUSE OF LISA ANN UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN COMMON WITH N/K/A LISA GRIFFIN, are the Clerk of the Court will sell the highest and best bidder for cash at _____ at 10:00 A.M. on August 2, 2024, the following description as set forth in said Final _____

NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

THE RECORDER
Celebrating 35 Years
Senior Living Page 15
VOLUME 55, NO. 15 \$1.00
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Thursday, February 8, 2024

Post 129 sent pair to nationals as part of memorable year
By Anthony Richards
Boys and Girls National from the same area of a state is very unusual, but it is even more rare to have them both come from the same American Legion post. That was the case when Haley Poole and Ben Black were chosen to represent Post 129 in Jacksonville Beach during the 2023 program, which included a trip to Washington, D.C.

Major sculpture created in Mandarin
Harriet Beecher Stowe subject of work
By Shaun Ryan
A landmark work of art is taking shape in Mandarin — and the public will have an opportunity this weekend to witness the artist in action.

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Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous
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P V N M Q B A S T E R E S Q M D E N O P
E Q C E S N K U P L K L D U B U D R S I
B R B H D B F O L D E M B U U V Q E E N
A N O G Q R D U E N D N T T S U I T C S
S A F U E N O I S N E T G T A H V T I B
L L S M U P B N Q I O O I T C C G A D F
A H D K Q N A R A N M T G T H T L P O A
G M K C I F Q G H M C B O R P T E C B F
O G C F L T I O V H U N O C A P L A D N
N A G R P D L C I P F H Q C L G L E O H
I A D T D P E L N M M C V F K G N S L A I O
A E A F A R G L T N Q V I I F A C I N G
R G T R M K E F A T A R S T S R H R S S
G V I T T E H M T Q R A K E I R N K E Q
C B C S A R A A B L C D K N N V G N H L C
P G N K T C E O C P D P A P N B D V T
M F F K H L B F M L T K T O H U C C E F
L L S I P B O A N M L P I G V L U E D O
K D N A I N E D F R E I T U T N L E G K
N E T N G S Q K N S R H B I A S I C E V

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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- Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971
- DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-866-859-0405
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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10									
11					12									13					
14									15						16	17			
	18									19									20
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36	37	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				

ACROSS

1. Nasal mucus
5. Hairs on the back of a dog
11. Ones who build anew
14. Consume too much food
15. Praised
18. Provides weapons
19. Become less lively
21. Engine additive
23. Thought or suggestion
24. South Korean city
28. Midday rests
29. Expression of acidity or alkalinity
30. Group of rockers
32. Very fast airplane
33. One who is paid to do something
35. Buzzing insect
36. Monotheistic religion founder
39. Strong dark beer
41. Blood type
42. Square measures
44. Honorific titles in NW Semitic languages
46. Present
47. Afflict in mind or body
49. Duty
52. Municipality in Stockholm
56. In a normal way
58. Rode a bicycle
60. Charitable
62. Verandas
63. Uncredited

6. Keyboard key
7. Prefix indicating mutual
8. Kilometers per hour
9. Set an example
10. It's among the "Great" ones
12. VVV
13. Murdered
16. Icelandic poems
17. Seas
20. Famed cartoonist
22. Partner to "Ma"
25. Equal to one quintillion bytes
26. Speak incessantly
27. Disquiet
29. Parts per billion (abbr.)
31. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
34. S. American plant

36. Monetary unit of Thailand
37. Regions
38. Baseball legend Yogi
40. Ancient Egyptian notion of spiritual part of humans
43. Fishing net
45. Tinseltown
48. MacBeth's wife was one
50. Took a spill
51. Adversary to pets
53. Town in Galilee
54. Secret racist society (slang)
55. About aviation
57. Longing or yearning
58. Hawaiian dish
59. Field force unit
61. Partner to "Pa"

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

DOWN

1. No seats available
2. Russian river
3. A European river
4. Phrase
5. Idol

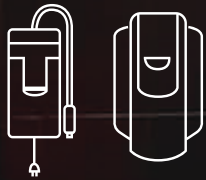
Here's How It Works:

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

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