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PREVIEW

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024

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about the cover



The photo on the cover is of the Jacksonville Symphony.
PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES GILBERT

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Patty Wagstaff stands next to one of her planes.



Patty Wagstaff performs during an airshow.

ONE OF US

Patty Wagstaff

as told to **SHAUN RYAN**
Contributed photos

Patty Wagstaff, of St. Augustine, is a three-time U.S. National Aerobatic Champion, a six-time member of the U.S. Aerobatic Team, a gold, silver and bronze medal winner in international aerobatic competition and an inductee of the National Aviation Hall of Fame. She offers instruction and consulting and performs at airshows throughout the United States and Canada.

First, tell me a little about yourself, where you grew up, how you came to be a pilot — especially an aerobatic pilot!

I grew up in an aviation family. My dad was a pilot for Japan Air Lines, and we moved to Japan when I was 9 years old. He used to let me sit with him in the cockpit and I loved it. My sister is also an airline pilot. I took it in another direction.

My family moved to Alaska when I was just out of high school, and it was there that I started flying. A lot of people fly in Alaska, so it was a great place to learn. Once I got more into flying, I decided to try aerobatics and realized it was what I wanted to focus on.



Patty Wagstaff and a friend in the hangar.

How can a pilot build up the kind of confidence needed to perform aerobatic maneuvers?

I tell people that, with anything, you have to start in kindergarten and work your way up to high school. Another way to put it is to get to the point of mastery, you have to start with learning a skill, perfecting the technique, put in a lot of practice and then, if you're lucky, you can attain mastery. It all starts with the basics. I took lessons from a good instructor and went from there. Pilots get ongoing training

throughout their careers, even if flying is just a hobby. Training and recurrency training are very important. I still get coached and still get training.

Tell me about your shows. What can spectators expect?

My style is smooth and aggressive, and I like to tell people I do everything but fly right side up! Most airshow performances are between 10 and 15 minutes and every airshow pilot has a different style, even if they fly the same type of airplane. Our routines are choreographed, sometimes to music. I start with aerobatics right after takeoff and keep it moving the whole time, so I keep the attention of the spectators. One of the fun maneuvers I do is an "Inverted ribbon cut" where I cut a ribbon held between two poles, with my propeller, upside down at 20 feet above the ground. Fun!

Do you have a show coming up?

The NAS Jacksonville Airshow in October. Please see www.nasjaxairshow.com for information about the show. This is one of the premier airshows in the country!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 ■

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POPULAR FRIENDS & FICTION GROUP TO HEADLINE BOOK FESTIVAL'S FALL LUNCHEON

story by **ANTHONY RICHARDS**
Photo courtesy of Amelia Island Book Festival

The Amelia Island Book Festival will host a Fall Luncheon with Friends & Fiction at the Ritz Carlton Amelia Island on Nov. 7 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Friends & Fiction is a community of more than 240,000 readers, hosted by New York Times bestselling authors Mary Kay Andrews, Kristin Harmel, Kristy Woodson Harvey and Patti Callahan Henry.

In March of 2020, all four authors had their upcoming book tours abruptly canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.

However, they would not be denied and instead thought of ways they could reach out to fellow passionate readers during that time.

So, the group met on a Zoom “happy hour” with glasses of rosé in hand as they talked about how they could best reach readers and support independent bookstores while stuck at home, and the idea for Friends & Fiction was born.

What started as a casual “happy hour” soon took off beyond what they had ever imagined, with weekly Wednesday night live shows regularly reaching more than 10,000 viewers.

Mary Kay Andrews is a New York Times bestselling author of more than 30 novels.

She is a native of St. Petersburg, and after earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in journalism from The University of Georgia, she enjoyed a 14-year career working as a reporter at newspapers, including The Savannah Morning News, The Marietta Journal and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.



Friends & Fiction is a community of more than 240,000 readers, hosted by New York Times bestselling authors Mary Kay Andrews, Kristin Harmel, Kristy Woodson Harvey and Patti Callahan Henry.

However, she left journalism in 1991 and gravitated to another form of writing as an author of fiction.

Her first novel, “Every Crooked Nanny,” was published in 1992 by HarperCollins. She went on to write 10 critically acclaimed mysteries under her real name, Kathy Hogan Trocheck, before she assumed the pen name Mary Kay Andrews with the publication of “Savannah Blues.”

Kristin Harmel is an international bestselling author with books “The Paris Daughter,” “The Forest of Vanishing Stars,” “The Book of Lost Names,” “The Winemaker’s Wife,” and a dozen other novels that have been translated into more than 30 languages and sold all over the world.

She has been writing professionally since she was 16 years old, when she began her career as a sportswriter, covering Major League Baseball and NHL hockey for a local magazine in Tampa Bay in the late 1990s. In addition to a long magazine writing career, Kristin was also a frequent contributor to the

national television morning show “The Daily Buzz.”

Kristy Woodson Harvey has authored 11 bestselling novels such as “A Happier Life” and “Under the Southern Sky” and her “Peachtree Bluff” series is currently in development with NBC with Kristy as co-writer and co-executive producer.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s school of journalism, Kristy also blogs with her mom Beth Woodson on Design Chic about how creating a beautiful home can be the catalyst for creating a beautiful life.

Patti Callahan Henry has 19 bestselling novels to her name, including her newest, “The Secret Book of Flora Lea.”

She’s published in numerous anthologies, articles, and short story collections, including an Audible Original about Florence Nightingale, titled “Wild Swan,” narrated by Tony Award winner Cynthia Erivo.

A Book Club pre-sale of tickets began Aug. 15 and reserved tickets for the luncheon will go on sale to the public on Sept. 1.

They will be \$100 per person, with a select number of author table tickets available for \$200 per person.

Tickets can be purchased at www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org.

The Amelia Island Book Festival’s mission is to improve literacy skills in children and adults throughout Northeast Florida by offering events featuring local and New York Times best selling authors, essay contests and scholarship opportunities.

The 2025 Amelia Island Book Festival is scheduled for March 1 and will be held at Fernandina Beach Middle School from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WAGSTAFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Tell me about the instruction you offer. Where do you conduct it? What do you teach?

We have an aerobatic and upset training school at the St. Augustine Airport. We teach people how to be more skilled pilots in order to gain confidence and be able to anticipate problems and to be able to recover from them. We also teach pure aerobatics and people usually love it! This training is generally not required by the FAA, so everyone that comes to the school really

wants to be there.

Tell me about your planes.

For airshows, I fly an Extra 330SC. It’s a state-of-the-art, super high-performance monoplane. The Extra is built in Germany specifically for aerobatic competition and airshows. Our school also has a two-seat Extra 300L, and we have two Super Decathlons.

What do you like best about what you do?

I feel very fortunate to be able to

blend everything I love to do into my life — aerobatics, flying airshows, travel, freedom and teaching. It’s all of the best things!

What do you like best about living in this area?

I moved to this area in 1997, and it was mainly because the St. Augustine Airport has been a center for aerobatics and airshow pilots for many years. So, I had friends here, but also this area is so exquisitely beautiful in so many ways — weather, beaches, Intracoastal and more. I’m very fortunate to make my home here.



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Saturday, October 19 | 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Oceanfront Lawn | The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

Other Amelia Island Cookout Events

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Launch Dinners

David's and *Burlingame* on Amelia Island, launch the celebration with Cookout guest chefs for collaborative dinners paired with wines. Joining *David's* are chefs Brandon Carter of *Farm Hospitality* and Gilles Schreiber of *The Ritz-Carlton, Las Colinas*. *Burlingame* welcomes Sean Blanchette of *The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas* and Dylan Benoit of *Prime Kitchen, Grand Cayman*.
6 p.m. | David's Restaurant and Burlingame Restaurant

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

Perfect Pairings: Salt Chef Okan Kizilbayir & Fraiche Wine Founder, Michael Kennedy

The art of pairing food and wines is demonstrated to a small group by two colleagues who perfected the art of pairing while at *Blue* by Eric Ripert. Generous wine pours and delicious bites abound.

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | The Ritz-Carlton Ballroom Foyer

Latin-Inspired al Fresco Dinner

Acclaimed chefs collaborate to lead an exploration of New World flavors from Brazil, Argentina, and Puerto Rico. They are joined by master mixologists presenting curated tequila tastings. Reception at 6 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 – 9 p.m.
Coquina Restaurant | The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Chefs Theater

Salt restaurant Chef Okan Kizilbayir refreshes the traditional Chefs Theater format with an intimate gathering around the demonstration table to learn how to prepare two themed entrées and a dessert, all paired with wines. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Salt Restaurant | The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Mystery Destination Lunch

Award-winning chefs Dylan Benoit, Dean Max and Kenny Gilbert, a legendary winemaker and talented mixologists present a lavish culinary luncheon adventure like no other at an undisclosed island location announced just 24 hours before the event. A portion of the proceeds are to be contributed to *K9s for Warriors*. 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Location announced 24 hours before the event.

Master Chefs Dinner

Salt restaurant provides the perfect setting for the finale event of the weekend, The Master Chefs Dinner. The five-course collaboration dinner is prepared by six Master Chefs paired with exquisite wine. 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Salt Restaurant | The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island



www.ameliainlandcookout.com

Scan to learn more and reserve individual event tickets and packages.



AMELIA ISLAND BASKS IN FOOD HERITAGE WITH COOKOUT, CELEBRATION

story and photo by
ANTHONY RICHARDS

The Amelia Island Cookout is back for another year after the inaugural event proved to be a big hit last year.

This year's Cookout will be held on Oct. 19 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the oceanfront lawn at the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island and it will be one of many food-centric events taking place during a four-day celebration highlighting the Eight Flags culinary style using local ingredients in dishes from both national and local award-winning chef, winemakers and mixologists.

The celebration is designed to be an island-wide moveable feast of exclusive dinners, tastings, interactive classes, pairings and delicious surprises and it starts on Oct. 17 as Amelia Island Cookout master chefs' partner with Fernandina Beach fine-dining legendary culinary spots David's and Burlingame to create two unforgettable wine dinners.

Featured events are scheduled each day, including a perfect pairings demonstration headlined by the Salt Restaurant's chef Okan Kizilbayir and Fraiche Wine founder



This year's Amelia Island Cookout will be held on Oct. 19 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the oceanfront lawn at the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island.

Michael Kennedy from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Ritz-Carlton Ballroom Foyer.

There will also be a Latin-inspired al Fresco Dinner scheduled at the Coquina Restaurant with an island reception overlooking the Atlantic Ocean starting at 6 p.m. and dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

On Oct. 19, Chef's Theater will immerse attendees in the action of the kitchen and later, mix and mingle with chefs at the Amelia Cookout which will have relaxing oceanfront vibes Cookout to enjoy

sizzling seafood, grilled and slow-roasted meats, abundant wine, craft beer, artisan cocktails, desserts and live music.

The final day on Oct. 20 will invite guests to be treated to a mystery destination somewhere on Amelia Island for a luxury lunch to support K9s For Warriors.

The centerpiece of the weekend is Sunday's Master Chefs' Dinner featuring "Top Chef's" Jennifer Carroll of Carroll Couture Cuisine, Wine Spectator Award of Excellence Executive Chef Jerrod Zifchak of Café Boulud at Blantyre, renowned pastry chef Aurélien Revil Signorat of Montage Los Cabos, Mediterranean seafood savant Travis Swikard of San Diego's Callie with Kennedy as the sommelier.

"The origins of Amelia Island cuisine go back centuries," Chef Okan said. "But the wealth of local ingredients, fresh seafood and culinary talent make this island special. It's a weekend to bring together people who appreciate great food, great wine in a magical place."

To make reservations and for more details about all the events go to www.AmeliaIslandCookout.com.

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The Florida State Seminoles football team practiced the first day in Jacksonville at the Flex Field at EverBank Stadium.



Head coach Mike Norvell celebrates a player's tackling technique.

JACKSONVILLE TRIP KEY TO SEMINOLES SEASON PREP

Photos by ANTHONY RICHARDS



A member of the coaching staff shoots a water gun during a special teams drill.

The Florida State Seminoles practiced in Jacksonville on Aug. 7 and 8, as they prepared for the 2024 season, including one day at the Flex Field at EverBank Stadium. The Seminoles trip along I-10 to Jacksonville has become a staple of head coach Mike Norvell's tenure, as it simulates road trips the team will make during the season.



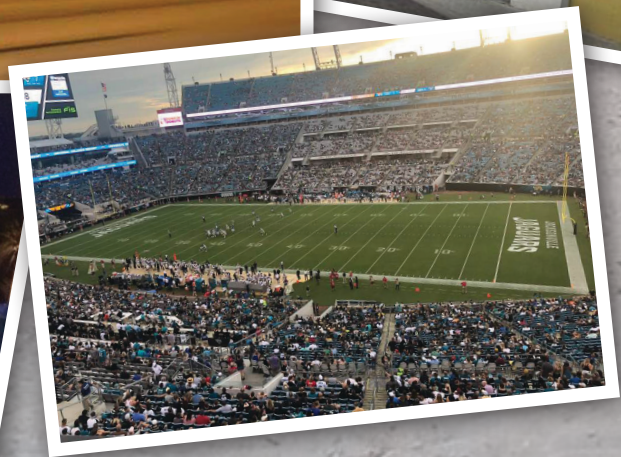
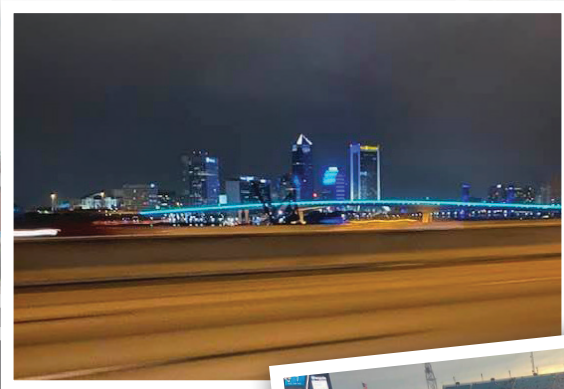
Kentron Poitier enters his redshirt senior season with the Seminoles.

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Lucky me! I have been a Realtor in my home, Northeast Florida, for nearly 40 years. I grew up in Jacksonville and moved to the beach in my 20s. I studied architecture and interior design in college, feeding my love of homes and style. After graduation, I worked in media, where I learned the art of listening and asking questions, marketing and advertising.

In 1985, I transitioned from media to real estate, joining Watson Realty's Ponte Vedra office. It was meant to be! Serving customers by customizing promotions for their homes and researching housing options for buyers is exciting. The reward of finding a seller or a buyer the perfect match is what keeps me charged up about real estate. In 1990, I moved to the original Marsh Landing Realty, where I learned about lots and builders and the development process.

In 1993, I opened my own brokerage, Berry & Co. Real Estate. Our first listing was The Ponte Vedra Carlyle, 48 new condominiums on Ponte Vedra Boulevard: new homes, premier location, and Lodge membership for every purchaser! It was great foundation for building a robust general brokerage. We have helped hundreds of buyers and sellers with their residential real estate needs. We take pride in our market knowledge – it is the foundation for the extra level of service we provide our customers.

My customers describe me as “one of our most trusted advisors”... “responsive, kind and honest”... “always felt we were in good hands”...”stands out from the rest regarding professionalism, true customer satisfaction and a real passion to do things the right way.” I help make buying and selling real estate efficient, enjoyable and rewarding by offering my knowledge and insights, so my customers can use my experience to help them make decisions.

While homebase for our office is Ponte Vedra Beach, we also are active in neighboring Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach and Nocatee as well as greater Jacksonville. Our real estate market is ever-changing and always intriguing. I'm grateful for the challenges and opportunities each new day brings.



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HOLISTIC TREATMENT TACKLES SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL ISSUES AND MORE

Family finds breakthrough success at local center

story by **SHAUN RYAN**
Contributed photos

After their daughter began to exhibit signs of developmental barriers, Lauren and Charlie Baylis tried everything to help her, including six years of different types of therapy. Success was elusive.

But a chance meeting between Lauren Baylis and Jessica Wick, co-owner of the Brain Balance Center in Jacksonville, changed all of that.

When Amelia Baylis was three months old, the military sent her father to the West Coast and she and her mother had to leave Northeast Florida. They moved to Connecticut for eight months before traveling west to join Charlie Baylis.

While there, something changed for 11-month-old Amelia.

"She stopped doing everything," said Lauren Baylis. "She stopped walking. She stopped talking. It just stopped."

When Amelia was 20 months old, doctors sent her to a developmental pediatrician.

"She'd never met her — she'd never met me — and she said, 'Your daughter, we're just going to diagnose her as autistic,'" Lauren Baylis recalled.

When she objected, the doctor convinced her the only way forward was through this diagnosis. That's when Amelia started on a variety of therapies that ultimately did little to help her.

The one bright spot



Amelia Baylis walks a balance beam during her treatment.

occurred when a therapist suggested removing gluten from Amelia's diet.

"We did that, and her speech skyrocketed!" Lauren Baylis said.

When the family moved back to Florida, young Amelia continued to struggle with attention and social issues.

That's when Lauren Baylis sold a weighted blanket to another mom whose child had processing issues. That mom was Wick, who coincidentally had grown up in Fort Myers not far from where Lauren Baylis had grown up.

It was a meeting that changed Amelia's life.

ANOTHER MOM

Wick had experience working with children who struggled with autism, so when her son exhibited processing issues she knew she had to act.

"I tried everything," she said. "Went to every kind of doctor. Did every kind of test. Did everything insurance would cover."

In 2016, she discovered Brain Balance, a program that addresses the root cause of the trouble, rather than the symptoms, and is supported by medical research. It takes a non-pharmacological,

holistic approach that can impact multiple interrelated developmental areas at the same time.

The result was transformative.

"It changed my child's life and my family's life," Wick said.

Jessica and husband Kris Wick were so impressed that they spent the next several years saving money and winning approval to open their own Brain Balance Center.

Jessica Wick thought about her friend Lauren Baylis and called her to suggest she look into the program for Amelia.

With so many years of therapy that had yielded little success, Baylis wasn't immediately convinced, but agreed to give it a try.

SUCCESS STORY

Because her classes were being administered online due to the pandemic, Amelia had the time to go to the center three days a week for a couple of hours a day. Over the next seven months, the center was able to find the causes of the trouble, including that she had a decoding issue — something that even her school had not detected.

"It made such a difference for her!" said Lauren Baylis.

"I wish I would have tried it first."

Among the things the Brain Balance staff addressed were nine developmental stages that most infants transition through, but that Amelia had not — such as crawling. So, they had her do army-crawls and other exercises.

"Basically, it's connecting those brainwaves so that your brain is functioning the way it was supposed to," said Amelia's mom.

Today, at 11, Amelia has advanced considerably.

Cognitively, she's actually two years ahead. She also demonstrates a level of diligence rarely seen in young children: six days a week, she trains at a local Brazilian jujitsu gym. In fact, she recently won her first international competition in the sport.

According to her mother, she has become quite independent — participating in a recent classroom schedule event at her school without parents in tow and helping to teach younger children at the jujitsu gym.

"I'm forever grateful to Jessica for showing us this program," said Lauren Baylis. "Brain Balance — I've

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19 ■



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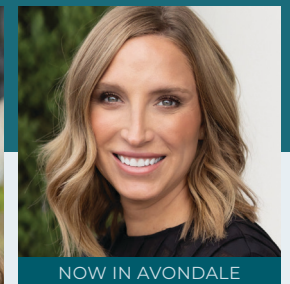
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BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS SEARCHING FOR THE BEST CARPOOL OPTIONS

story by ANTHONY RICHARDS

photos courtesy of O'STEEN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP OF JACKSONVILLE

There are many ways kids can get to school whether that is parents driving them to school, taking the bus or being part of a carpool.

School start times do not always coordinate with parents' work schedules, including the school day often ending before some parents can get off from work.

Carpools have become a creative way for parents to confront the challenge posed by juggling both work and family.

With a new school year underway, parents can take the following factors into consideration as they work to establish carpools:

- Determine your insurance needs. Before planning carpools, parents who plan to participate should contact their auto insurance providers to make sure their policies cover driving others. The organizer of the carpool should make sure every parent does this prior to the



Seat belt technology has come a long way since Volvo engineer Nils Bohlin first created the invention in 1959.

school year.

- Reach out to parents in your neighborhood. A carpool that is neighborhood-based as opposed to one that is based more on students' social circles will likely prove more convenient

for parents. A carpool with neighbors means parents will not have to drive as far to pick up and/or drop off, saving everyone valuable time each day.

- Do not go overboard. Even if your minivan or SUV can seat half a dozen children, you may want to limit the carpool to a more manageable number of children. By limiting a carpool to between two and four children, parents will not have to worry about too many hiccups during their morning routines.

- Discuss early closures and other unique days in advance. School schedules tend to be the same throughout the year, but there are various times when early closures can affect carpools. This is especially true for parents with children who attend different schools.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19 ■

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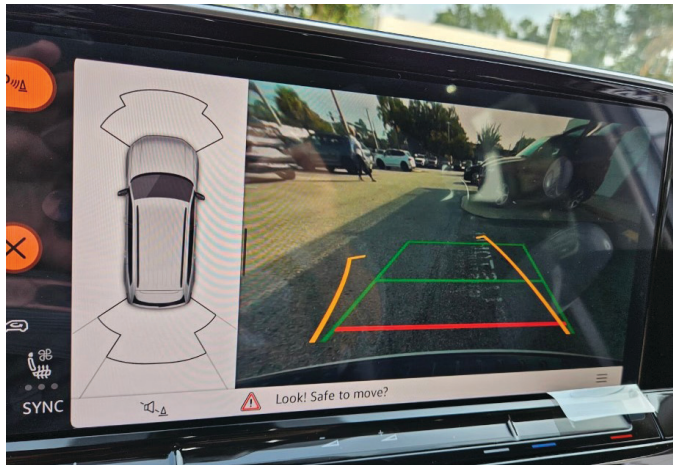
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Rearview cameras and assist technology offer plenty of aid for drivers.

CARPOOL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

School carpools are convenient for working parents. Planning prior to the school year is a great way to ensure carpools are successful.

There are many safety features that car manufacturers have worked on over the years to make sure parents and children can always have the safest ride, and that includes while carpooling.

According to O'Steen Volvo of Jacksonville General Manager Jay Popp, the modern three-point seat belt was perfected by Volvo engineer Nils Bohlin in 1959, and its patent was given for free to the world.

The invention has been credited with saving at least a million lives worldwide and striving for safety continues to be at the forefront for Volvo

and the O'Steen Automotive Group locally.

SUVs are popular when it comes to carpooling and Chuck Wrye, general manager at O'Steen Volkswagen of Jacksonville, said that the 2024 Atlas and Atlas Cross-sport both had major overhauls in their design to help improve their safety aspects and the result was being awarded a five-star safety rating.

A driver's peace of mind can have some ease as driver assistance technology helps enhance safety, as well as many other features such as travel and lane assist, active blind-spot monitoring, slippery road information and a whiplash protection system.

Each of the features not only helps increase the chance of a safe drive with preventative measures, but it also aids in keeping passengers safe in the event of a crash.



Amelia Baylis at the computer as part of the Brain Balance program.

TREATMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

told every parent I've talked to — if it's the only thing you do, do it. It's worth it."

Brain Balance Center is located at 155 Fountains Way, Building 1 Suite 13, St. Johns. For further information, go to brainbalancecenters.com/Jacksonville.



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Nov 8 & 9	Rodrigo & Ravel's Boléro
Nov 22 & 23	Alexei Plays Dvořák
Jan 10 & 11	Gershwin & Tchaikovsky
Jan 31 & Feb 1	Beethoven & Rachmaninoff
Mar 7 & 8	Beethoven's "Emperor"
Apr 4 & 5	Conrad Tao & Rite of Spring
Apr 25 & 26	Dvořák's "New World"
May 16 & 17	Mozart's Requiem & Double Concerto
Jun 6 & 7	Gershwin & Copland

Pops Series

Sep 13 & 14	Parrots + Palms: The Songs of Buffett & Fins
Oct 4 & 5	Dancing Queens: Cher, Donna Summer, Whitney Houston & More
Dec 5, 6, 7 & 8	Holiday Pops
Jan 3 & 4	The Best of Phantom, West Side Story & More
Jan 24 & 25	7 Bridges: The Ultimate EAGLES Experience
Feb 21 & 22	Soul Kings: Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, The Righteous Brothers & More
Mar 21 & 22	Gershwin & Berlin
Apr 11 & 12	John Williams: His Oscars, Grammys & More
May 9 & 10	Cirque of Ice and Fire
May 30 & 31	Hopelessly Devoted: The Music of Olivia Newton-John



Holiday Specials

Nov 24	Big Band Holiday
Dec 5, 6, 7 & 8	Holiday Pops
Dec 13, 14 & 15	First Coast Nutcracker Presented by VyStar
Dec 14 & 15	Handel's Messiah
Dec 19	Holiday Brass, Organ & Percussion

Symphonic Night at the Movies Series

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Jan 17 & 18	Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert
May 2 & 3	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ – Part 2 in Concert

75th Anniversary Specials

Sep 21	Opening Night: Mahler's Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection"
Feb 15	Violins of Hope: Building Bridges Through the Power of Music
Mar 29	Take 6 x

Explore the entire season at

JaxSymphony.org

Here's a look at the Jacksonville Symphony's 2024/25 Season:

75TH SEASON SPECIALS

- Mahler's Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection," Sept. 21
- Violins of Hope: Building Bridges Through the Power of Music, Feb. 15
- 75th Anniversary Gala, March 1
- Take 6, March 29

FLORIDA BLUE CLASSICAL SERIES

- Rachmaninoff's Second Concerto, Sept. 27, 28
- Sibelius' Violin & Elgar's Enigma, Oct. 18, 19
- Rodrigo & Ravel's Boléro, Nov. 8, 9
- Alexei Plays Dvořák, Nov. 22, 23
- Gershwin & Tchaikovsky, Jan. 10, 11
- Beethoven & Rachmaninoff, Jan. 31, Feb. 1
- Beethoven's "Emperor," March 7, 8
- Conrad Tao & Rite of Spring, April 4, 5
- Dvořák's "New World," April 25, 26
- Mozart's Requiem & Double Concerto, May 16, 17
- Gershwin & Copland, June 6, 7

POP SERIES

- Parrots + Palms: The Songs of Buffett & Fins, Sept. 13, 14
- Dancing Queens: Cher, Donna Summer, Whitney Houston & More, Oct. 4, 5
- Holiday Pops, Dec. 5, 6, 7, 8
- The Best of Phantom, West Side Story & More, Jan. 3, 4
- 7 Bridges: The Ultimate EAGLES Experience, Jan. 24, 25
- Soul Kings: Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, The Righteous Brothers & More, Feb. 21, 22
- Gershwin & Berlin, March 21, 22
- John Williams: His Oscars, Grammys & More, April 11, 12
- Cirque of Ice and Fire, May 9, 10
- Hopelessly Devoted: The Music of Olivia Newton-John, May 30, 31

SYMPHONIC NIGHT AT THE MOVIES SERIES

- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows — Part 1 in Concert, Nov. 15, 16
- Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert, Jan. 17, 18
- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows — Part 2 in Concert, May 2, 3

HOLIDAY SPECIALS

- Big Band Holiday, Nov. 24
- Holiday Pops, Dec. 5, 6, 7, 8
- First Coast Nutcracker, Dec. 13, 14, 15
- Handel's Messiah, Dec. 14, 15
- Holiday Brass, Organ & Percussion, Dec. 19

COFFEE SERIES

- Dancing Queens: Cher, Donna Summer, Whitney Houston & More, Oct. 4
- Conrad Tao: Piano Phenom, Oct. 25
- Holiday Pops, Dec. 6
- The Best of Phantom, West Side Story & More, Jan. 3
- A Journey Through Symphonic Americana, Feb. 7
- Gershwin & Berlin, March 21
- John Williams: His Oscars, Grammys & More, April 11
- At the Ballet, May 23

SYMPHONY IN 60 SERIES

- Conrad Tao: Piano Phenom, Oct. 24
- A Journey Through Symphonic Americana, Feb. 6
- Adelya & Aurica Play Bach, March 13
- At the Ballet, May 22

J.P. MORGAN CHASE JAZZ SERIES

- Big Band Holiday, Nov. 24
- Local Vocals, Jan. 26
- Latin Jazz Ensemble, April 27

CONCERT ORGAN SERIES

- Organ Chamber Concert, Nov. 3
- Holiday Brass, Organ & Percussion, Dec. 19
- Solo Organ Recital, Feb. 8

[first coast arts]



Music Director Courtney Lewis conducts the Jacksonville Symphony.

A MUSICAL MILESTONE

story by **SHAUN RYAN** photos courtesy of the **JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY**

Jacksonville Symphony has big plans for its 75th season

The Jacksonville Symphony is holding nothing back as it prepares to launch its 75th season, opening Sept. 21 with Gustav Mahler's triumphant masterpiece, his Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection."

As the voices of the singers and the music of the orchestra rise together at the powerful conclusion of that work, the curtain will open on nine months of musical wonders validating the vision of those citizens who established the orchestra in 1949.

The season will include a dozen classical concerts, four world premieres, 40 guest artists, 10 pops concerts, three symphonic movie nights, five special events — and more.

"It's really, really exciting," said Jacksonville Symphony President and CEO Steven Libman. "I could not be happier."

The symphony's 75th actually begins with its preseason community concerts, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 6 and 7, which are free to attend, though tickets are required. They are available through the symphony website at jaxsymphony.org.

These sneak peek performances will whet appetites for the upcoming season, with selections from "West Side Story" and "Star Wars," pieces by Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky and more.

Mahler's Symphony No. 2 on opening night will take audiences on a journey of life, death and rebirth.

The orchestra will be joined by the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, the University of North Florida Chorale and the Jacksonville University Singers. Vocal soloists will be soprano Ailyn Pérez and mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard.

"It's going to be just a powerhouse of music," said Libman. "We are thrilled that this is happening here."

This is the first of four special events marking the milestone season.

On Feb. 15, the symphony will present a unique performance sure to inspire all who attend. "Violins of Hope: Building Bridges Through the Power of Music" will feature violins, violas and cellos once owned by Holocaust victims before and during World War II.

"The purpose of this is to illustrate the power of music in addressing anti-Semitism," explained Libman. "So, we will have a weeklong seminar with scholars to address issues related to anti-Semitism, which culminates in a beautiful performance, with members of our orchestra playing these instruments."

The instruments were restored by Israeli violin makers Amnon and Avshalom Weinstein and serve, according to the season brochure, as "symbols of hope in the face of unimaginable adversity."

Then, on March 29, the symphony will host Take 6, a multiplatinum gospel sextet that will fill Jacoby Symphony Hall with crystal clear harmonies that cross genre barriers.

Another of the special celebrations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 ■

FEEDING A PASSION THROUGH ART COLLECTION

story by ANTHONY RICHARDS photos courtesy of LIMITED EDITION GALLERY

Limited Edition Gallery showcases unique pop art

Graig Johnigean started collecting artwork in 2003 and has not stopped since, to the point where he has hundreds of pieces as part of his collection, many of which are on display at Limited Edition Gallery in Neptune Beach.

“I was the kid growing that would always get in trouble for drawing during class,” Johnigean chuckled.

However, although it was a passion of his since he was young, he tended to gravitate to focus his attention on sports and wound up playing college football at Jacksonville University.

But as he tried other ventures such as owning a restaurant and getting



involved in the world of jewelry, his love of art was always prevalent in his soul.

“It was always something tugging at me in the back of my mind, and it got to the point where I just couldn’t go a day

without thinking about it,” Johnigean said.

He collected his first piece of art in 2003, which featured a sunrise at the beach, and is a piece that he still has and will always have special meaning to him.

“I saw it and knew I had to have it,” Johnigean said. “I used up all my money from that month on it.”

One decade later, he opened Limited Edition Gallery in 2013 along with his partners Tucker Blanton and Kramer Leitman, all of which grew up in Jacksonville and went to Providence High School.

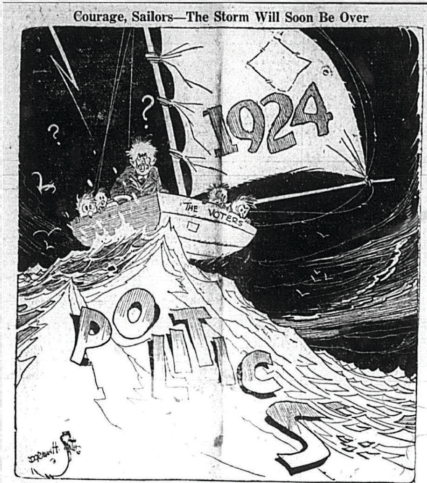
Since then, the gallery has had a location in San Marco initially before moving to Neptune Beach last March.

However, the gallery continues to grow, and they are already in the works

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 ■

Weathering the Storm:

Courage, Sailors—The Storm Will Soon Be Over



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MOCA ANNOUNCES NEW JAZZ SERIES, FALL CALENDAR

FOR THE REGISTER

MOCA Jacksonville, a cultural institute of the University of North Florida, has announced a new jazz program to take place on select Sunday afternoons throughout the year, highlighting musicians from the JL Institute (JLI), accompanied by students from Jacksonville Arts and Music School. The first performance will take place 2-4 p.m. Sept. 8, led by Langston Oliver, followed by Ayanna Nelson on Dec. 8.

JL INSTITUTE

Since encouraging his friends in their early 20s to pursue degrees in music, JLI founder John Lumpkin II has always carried out his passion for teaching. After achieving degrees, awards and private program recognition, he has continued the tradition of passing on the great wealth of music.

While teaching at his local music programs, such as the Cathedral Arts Project and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, he has led by example. Thus, his private-study students have been accepted to institutions such as Florida State College at Jacksonville and The Juilliard

School.

As a non-profit 501(c)3, the JL Institute is able to give more to the young musicians in Jacksonville through donation-based lessons, concerts and master classes. The goal is for each student to develop an understanding of their role in music today and how to be effective communicators through the musical story they wish to tell on and off the stage.

ABOUT LANGSTON OLIVER

Langston Oliver began playing trumpet at the age of 9. At age 10, he began studying under the late Al Waters, a former saxophone player in the Ray Charles Orchestra. This musical relationship lasted for the next 10 years.

Under Waters' mentorship, Oliver learned jazz history and the fundamentals of music. At age 12, he was admitted into the Juilliard Jazz Camp; at 15, he won The Sound of Jazz To Come award at the Stanford Summer Jazz Academy; and at 18, he was one of 42 musicians worldwide to be accepted into the Jazz At Lincoln Center Academy, where he studied with world-renowned musician Wynton Marsalis.

In recent years, Oliver was invited to play at the prestigious jazz club The Jazz Corner, acclaimed as one of the top 100 great jazz rooms in the world by Downbeat Magazine. And in 2022, he was accepted into the Tribeca Jazz Institute, a three-month intensive program where only one musician per instrument is admitted from around the world.

Currently, Oliver is furthering his knowledge of jazz under the mentorship of Lumpkin and Ulysses Owens Jr. He has also worked on various albums in different genres and continues to expand his knowledge and expertise in the music world. He hopes to bring inspiration and the love of music to his audiences one song at a time.

SEASONAL PROGRAMS

Here are some highlights of the fall season:

Jazz in the Afternoon: Langston Oliver

2 p.m. Sept. 8
Admission: \$10
Langston Oliver, musician from of the John Lumpkin Institute, will perform this concert, accompanied by students from Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS).

MOCA Jacksonville Family Day Birthday Block Party

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 16
Admission: Free
Celebrate with MOCA Jacksonville and its community partners for a day of free family fun. Enjoy access to all of the exhibitions, a line-up of kid-friendly activities, art making and live performances. This event is free and open to all. PNC Foundation supports this event.

MOCA Mini Market

Noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 7 and 8
Admission: Free
Tabling artists and creators will have the opportunity to sell their work, presenting items that

could make great holiday gifts for shoppers during this event in MOCA's lobby.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Art of the Figure with William McMahan

First and third Saturdays of the month
Members: \$20, nonmembers: \$30
Must be at least 18 years old.

Kids Art Lab

Second Saturdays of each month: Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9 and Dec. 14
Members: \$5, nonmembers: \$10
For ages 6-12

Studio Practice

Second Saturdays of each month
Members: \$10, nonmembers: \$20
• Sept. 14 — "AI Art for Absolute Beginners" with Jenny Lee Corvo (*additional supply fee)
• Oct. 12 — "Watercolor Painting" with Teresa Cook
• Nov. 9 — "Oil Pastels for Beginners" with Kasha Fahy
• Dec. 14 — "Mixed Media Still-life" with Keith Doles

Ceramics Open Studio at MOCA

Second and fourth Saturdays of the month: Sept. 14, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, Nov. 23, Dec. 14, Dec. 28
Fee: \$20
Self-guided

Here Comes Tomorrow: Cinema of the Last Century

Third Wednesdays of the month
Admission: Free
• Sept. 18 — "Strange Days" (1995)
• Oct. 16 — "Children of Men" (2006)
• Nov. 20 — "Interstellar" (2014)
• Dec. 18 — "Last and First Men" (2020)

Coffee with a Curator Emil Alzamora: Starship Abundance

11 a.m. Sept. 7
Members: free, nonmembers: \$15
View MOCA's full schedule of programs and details online at eventbrite.com/o/moca-jacksonville-2715586970.

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Established 2013

ART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

to find a new location that provides even more space, as despite having more than 120 pieces on display in its current space located at 112 Third St., Suites 5 and 6 in Neptune Beach, there is still roughly 300 pieces still in storage.

Johnigean's goal is to eventually have as little in storage as possible because he wants to show as much of his collection to the world as possible so they can share in the same emotions that he gets from the artwork.

According to Johnigean, his approach when picking out artwork is simple at its core.

"My eye just gets stuck on something, and I can't get it out of my mind," he said. "100% of what I have here is what I have had to have."

But over the years he has noticed his styles and the types of pieces he gravitates to has changed.

"At first I was buying drawings and other smaller pieces, then I focused on oil paintings but now it seems like pretty much everything in the gallery right now is pop art and avant-garde."

Another aspect that Johnigean and



his partners enjoy is making sure the gallery is constantly finding new ways to get involved in the community, included in the past year hosting an art and car show event with the Jax Sports Car Museum and a holding a pickleball tournament.

The next event in the works is a possible cars-and-coffee event once again partnering with the Jax Sports Car Museum.

"Art is just one of those things that provokes emotion and connects people like nothing else," he said.



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Taught by Liz Canali



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Taught by Rosamond Parrish



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SYMPHONY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

will be the symphony's 75th Anniversary Gala on March 1. Details on that will be released later.

Also, this season, the symphony will launch a children's music festival. That will be held March 30.

"It's going to be an all-day family-friendly activity along with the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra," said Libman.

Learn more about that at my.jaxsymphony.org/overview/childrens-music-festival.

WORLD PREMIERES

While classical music remains the main course with any orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony has diversified its offerings to bring audiences a wider range of music.

Nothing says that better than the first performance following opening night.

"Parrots + Palms: The Songs of Buffett & Fins," the first in the symphony's Pops Series for the 2024/25 season, is a world premiere that celebrates the "life, vibe and legendary songs" of Jimmy Buffett — as well as his musical "fins" Zac Brown, Van Morrison, Bob Marley and more.

Commissioned by the symphony and co-produced with Spot-On Entertainment, there will be two performances: Sept. 13 and 14, both at 7:30 p.m.

Another world premiere — this one in the classical music realm — follows on Sept. 27 and 28, Brittany J. Green's innovative "Testify!" The concert that evening will feature Sergei Rachmaninoff's Second Concerto, as well as "A Hero's Life," by Richard Strauss.

Artist-in-residence Conrad Tao will premiere his new piano concerto, commissioned by the Jacksonville Symphony, on April 4 and 5. The same show will feature Igor Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring" and Claude Debussy's "Nocturnes."

The final world premiere will be presented June 6 and 7 as part of the lineup in the George Gershwin and Aaron Copland performance. Carlos Simon's "Zodiak," commissioned by the Jacksonville Symphony, has been described as a "fusion of jazzy charm, Americana and new musical voices."

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

World premieres are not the only standout events on the symphony schedule.

Among the 40 guest artists are



Kevin Fitzgerald conducts a work by Rachmaninoff.

pianist Joyce Yang, who will perform in Rachmaninoff's Second Concerto on Sept. 27 and 28; classical guitarist Miloš Karadaglić, who will perform Joaquin Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez" during the Rodrigo & Ravel's Bolero performance on Nov. 8 and 9; and The Marcus Trio, who will join the symphony in presenting George Gershwin's Concerto in F.

On Nov. 22 and 23, the symphony will be among the first to perform Angel Lam's "Please let there be a paradise ..." Cellist Alexei Romanenko will also be featured performing Dvořák's Cello Concerto.

Classical performances will include works by Jean Sibelius, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Antonin Dvořák, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Ludwig van Beethoven and more.

A pops concert on Oct. 4 and 5 will be devoted to the music of Cher, Donna Summer, Whitney Houston and more. Other pops concerts will feature the music of Leonard Bernstein, the Eagles, Stevie Wonder and The Righteous Brothers, Irving Berlin, John Williams and Olivia Newton-John.

Strongmen, aerial flyers, acrobats, contortionists, jugglers and more will be featured when the symphony presents "Cirque of Ice and Fire" on May 9 and 10.

Movie fans will enjoy three Symphonic Nights at the Movies: "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows — Part 1 in Concert" on Nov. 15 and 16, "Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert" on Jan. 17 and 18 and "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows — Part 2 in Concert" on May 2 and 3.

Of course, the holidays are always a big time for the symphony. The annual Holiday Pops extravaganza, featuring the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus and dancers from the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, will be offered Dec. 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The First Coast Nutcracker, featuring more than 130 ballet dancers, will be presented Dec. 13, 14 and 15. The Jacksonville Symphony is the only symphony in America that produces its own Nutcracker, so this is a performance

not to be missed.

Handel's Messiah will be performed on Dec. 14 and 15, featuring soprano Estelí Gomez, countertenor Jay Carter, tenor Aaron Sheehan, baritone Sidney Outlaw and the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus.

Other holiday highlights include the Big Band Holiday on Nov. 24 and Holiday Brass, Organ & Percussion on Dec. 19.

Symphony in 60 performances, which begin at 6:30 p.m. preceded by a 5:30 p.m. cocktail hour, offer some further highlights to the schedule.

On March 13, concertmaster Adelya Nartadjieva and violinist Aurica Duca will perform Johann Sebastian Bach's Double Violin Concerto and other melodies.

Thomas Wilkins, principal conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, will lead the symphony in "A Journey Through Symphonic Americana" on Feb. 6.

On May 22, dancers from the Florida Ballet and the Jacksonville Dance Theatre will collaborate with the symphony on a unique performance, "At the Ballet."

The Jacksonville Jazz Collective will present three performances featuring the big band sound, female jazz vocalists and Latin jazz.

The JF Bryan Concert Organ will once again fill the Jacoby Symphony Hall with its unique sound during three performances, featuring organist Greg Zelek. The Jacksonville Symphony is one of the few symphonies in the United States that has a true pipe organ.

Finally, there's the popular Coffee Series, which offers versions of some of the evening performances, but at 11 a.m.

75 YEARS

"For 75 years, this symphony has been presenting high-quality music for this community, and right now, we serve about 110,000 people downtown, and we reach 70,000 students each year through our music education program," Libman said.

Its reach extends to about 3,000 more people through its ensembles that go out and perform at smaller settings.

In fact, the Jacksonville Symphony is the largest arts organization in Northeast Florida and the largest symphony in the state.

It employs 100 people fulltime, 60 musicians and 40 administrative and production staff. The musicians present more than 80 concerts a year.

Libman praised them for their dedication.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 ■

SYMPHONY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

“They work together extremely well,” he said. “I find them to be an absolute joy to work with and to partner with.”

He also had high praise for some of those in key leadership roles.

“Courtney (Lewis), our music director, continues to provide the artistic guidance and the inspiration for the organization,” Libman said. “He is the primary architect of our classical programming and our Symphony in 60 programming. Courtney is extremely highly regarded nationally for his conducting skills and his ability to shape our orchestra into a really world-class symphony.”

He said Lewis is also deeply committed to the creation of original music.

“We think creating original works is just extremely, extremely important,” he said.

Concertmaster Adelya Nartadjieva, who joined the symphony for the 2022/23 season, has made her mark, as well.

“She’s a really great find,” Libman said, “and we are looking forward to her continuing to grow with the organization.”



Concertmaster Adelya Nartadjieva performs a violin solo.

Associate conductor Kevin Fitzgerald joined the symphony about the same time and has established his importance to the orchestra’s success. He conducts several concerts, including the movies and pops concerts, and can take over when Lewis is unavailable for a performance.

“We are thrilled that Kevin is here,” Libman said. “He sort of rounds out our artistic team.”

Libman said the symphony’s board of directors is “incredibly supportive of our work,” and that the organization is successful in part because everyone is working together to create “incredibly

inspirational moments for our audience.”

A way to gauge the public’s excitement about the symphony — especially with this anniversary season — might be to look at the number of subscriptions. Every year, the symphony sets a goal, and it usually takes until January or February to achieve that goal.

This year, they’ve already met that goal. And the season has yet to start.

“The very fact that we hit that subscription goal now is just amazing, absolutely amazing,” Libman said.

It’s been three quarters of a century since that initial group launched the Jacksonville Symphony, and this may be a time to reflect on that. But it may also be a good time to look forward.

“We’ve been here 75 years; we’re going to be here another 75,” said Libman. “I mean that. We are here. We are part of this community. And we win every game every weekend.”

To learn more about the Jacksonville Symphony, download the season brochure or purchase tickets, go to jaxsymphony.org.

Tickets on sale now! Visit thefloridaforum.com.

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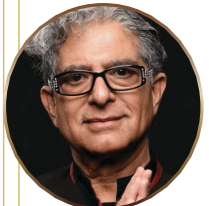
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The Three Stories Inn front porch



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“I have dreamt in my life, dreams that have stayed with me ever after, And changed my ideas. They have gone through and through me, Like wine through water. And altered the color of my mind.”

— Emily Jane Bronte, “Wuthering Heights”

story and photos by
LEIGH CORT

There's a hidden hideaway in one of the oldest neighborhoods of St. Augustine where you can leave the hustle/bustle of life behind, yet still be steps away from the magic of the “old city.”

At Three Stories Inn you can create a chapter of your own that exudes the spirit of hospitality as soon as you open the door. There isn't an innkeeper to greet you. However, everything is easy to access with today's digital technology, so you can be comfortably vacationing in your own luxe suite in your own time!

Step up onto the rocking-chair porch and enter the tiny lobby. You'll be staying in either the Foreword, Prologue or Epilogue — already an enticing welcome into the Victorian-Era Jefferson House.

Once the home of Maria Jefferson Eppes Shine, the great-granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson, her home on Bridge



Three Stories Inn in St. Augustine

Street was recognized as a “quaint, pretty Cottage...” by the St. Augustine Tatler in 1891!

With only three apartments, your overnight or more lengthy stay is a divine setting for a “novel” experience. Owner and visionary Marie Milton has curated the most beautiful, sophisticated furnishings, décor and amenities to define the modernized home with immeasurable creativity.

Dotted with surprises in each room, you can't miss the vintage typewriter that sets the tone for discovering books everywhere by popular authors that guests love to read. Exploring on your



Inside the Three Stories Inn

own begins with the welcome book, which isn't your usual hotel variety of white pages. Instead, it's a colorful bound book that leads you through “How to Enjoy Your Stay” — selecting restaurants, things to do, history and getting settled into your new surroundings!

Every traveler plans a getaway with their own plot and outline. In St. Augustine, you might have an appointment to take a horse-and-carriage ride, board a trolley to see the sights, wander the architecturally beautiful brick-paved

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 ■

TABLE TALK

BREADS ARE BAKING AT LE PAIN DE PAUL — FROM MONTE CARLO TO NOCATEE

“Good bread is the most fundamentally satisfying of all foods; and good bread with fresh butter, the greatest of feasts.”

— James Beard

story and photos by LEIGH CORT

Who wouldn't love waking up to an early morning sunrise, the sound of birds chirping their song and aromatic breads waiting at my door ... a secret dream came true! A true foodie myself since the days of reading about Julia and James (Child and Beard of course) ... word is out in St. Johns County about a new culinary entrepreneur whose breads aren't just ordinary breads — but bread and an online “bakery store” that are crafted by an acclaimed chef at the click of a button!



Chef Paulo Sebens

When Chef Paulo Sebens opened his petite French bakery in Nocatee, February 2023, after building a distinguished

career in the culinary world for 25 years, I couldn't wait to meet him and welcome Paulo to the neighborhood! After diving into his background and reading about Michelin-starred restaurants, studying with Paul Bocuse, working in iconic restaurants and serving clients like Prince Rainier of Monaco, it seemed appropriate to dress up, place my order and order a semolina bread (Pane Siciliano), basket of scones, croissants, French baguette, pastas and baking hints!

Savoring the thought of living nearby to a chef and educator who has won international gastronomy awards throughout the world, including two bronze medals for competing in the Culinary World Cup in Luxembourg, I was “hooked.” Paulo's professional journey became my summer study!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 ■

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ENCHANTED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

streets — even enjoy a food tour with a group of friends.

But there is something about Three Stories that just won't let you arrive, unpack and just run out. Marie learned how to slow down in her own life while she was creating this enchanting inn inspired by travels with her mother. You'll instantly feel that within the walls — they hold the spirit of storytelling. The city will wait! This is a place that will capture your own imagination to enjoy the time that you have chosen to live in the moment.

Three Stories is in the center of Lincolnville. It's a lively residential neighborhood without the enormous crowds that gaily fill the streets on the waterfront or in the shopping areas. It's become a gentrified neighborhood in St. Augustine that tells a narrative of more than 450 years of the African-American story in Northeast Florida. Its rich cultural heritage is filled with archaeological findings, stories of early Florida settlers and even music played by jazz greats like Ray Charles. How appropriate that the inn's name is also about telling stories and perhaps even creating your own chapter while visiting.

Ease into your pied-a-terre surrounded by contemporary tapestries, velvet drapes, stylish wallpapers, luxurious linens, designer chandeliers, splendid dinnerware and culinary equipment ... especially the distinctive bird feeders — every corner is a cozy spot for celebrating life.

At the end of a hectic St. Augustine day, guests cherish the late nighttime to unwind on the quiet balcony where you can soak up the city's grand history.

Outfitted with a full kitchen of gourmet cookware, dinnerware and appliances, Three Stories invites you to sleep late and prepare breakfast or explore St. Augustine, which has a wealth of breakfast eateries, from Georgie's Diner to Blue Hen. You'll enjoy the welcome book's current dining suggestions from menu favorites to walking and driving hints.

INTRODUCING LA NOUVELLE

There is something rare that also sets this inn apart from the rest: newly introduced La Nouvelle, only a few steps from your living room down the staircase! Chef Michael Lugo's outstanding French restaurant (translated it means "First Story") is a classic French bistro for modern tastes and modern guests. Even with a long list of St. Augustine



Chef Michael Lugo

and Island eateries to choose from, people are discovering that they are tempted to visit twice in a day with two distinctive experiences — lunch in the garden or on the porch — and then a romantic return to dinner.

If you're staying at Three Stories, La Nouvelle is the most comforting dining room without leaving "home." Lugo has elevated his restaurant to an art form, where you feel the beauty and pleasure of cooking, with a focus on preparing many simple dishes well. He's honoring one of the world's great cuisines, a French journey that improves with every step.

At La Nouvelle, there is a parade of creativity. Feel that spark again to toast life and love in one of the most sensual rooms in St. Augustine. It casts a spell for you to celebrate with a meal that will leave you as smitten as your true love's first kiss.

Lugo's philosophy from years past when he opened his first restaurant, Michael's (his flagship that showcases Spanish cuisine and wine), at the age of 29 is "One Team / One Dream." Followed by Pesca Vilano (reflecting his homeland of Puerto Rico) to finally have a French restaurant to tie into St. Augustine's global culture.

He loves "... creating a passionate team, training upcoming generations, and enhancing the dining scene of America's oldest city. La Nouvelle has a purpose and place where I can tell my story, try new things, sketch the vision and bring in talented chefs like Chef Matthieu Landillon from Marseilles to put in the color."

La Nouvelle is a restaurant where you can slow down, make the most of the present moment. It's a perfect match to Three Stories Inn where you feel you're in a land far, far away that might change the course of everything. It's a very "novel" restaurant that carries Lugo's

brand — being awarded Wine Spectator three times at Michael's. "As a chef, if you love food, you love wine and you're a great wine curator."

He weaves a tapestry each day where the nightly "blackboard" of outstanding specials prepared by Executive Chef Matthieu includes foie gras, caviar and classic dishes ala Bouillabaisse. Descriptions tease your senses to be lured with surprises that might have been inspired by Lugo's early career of cooking at Chamberlain's in Dallas or with well-known legend Emeril LaGasse!

TRIO OF PATE — BOEUF BOURGUIGNON

La Nouvelle's French bistro fare is sumptuous but very approachable. Simple ingredients transform into elegant dishes while you sip a glass of wine that defines true chemistry of France's legacy in the world of gastronomy.

Luxurious lobster bisque, French Onion Soup, Burgundy Escargots, a Trio of Pâté, Lyonnaise Salad with poached egg and brioche croutons couldn't be more like a trip to Paris. Croque Monsieur with Parisian ham and gruyere cheese, Sole Meniere beurre blanc, Boeuf Bourguignon, Steak Frites and bearnaise butter or a Royale with Cheese (burger with caramelized onion and gruyere cheese) all take centerstage for luncheon or dinner.

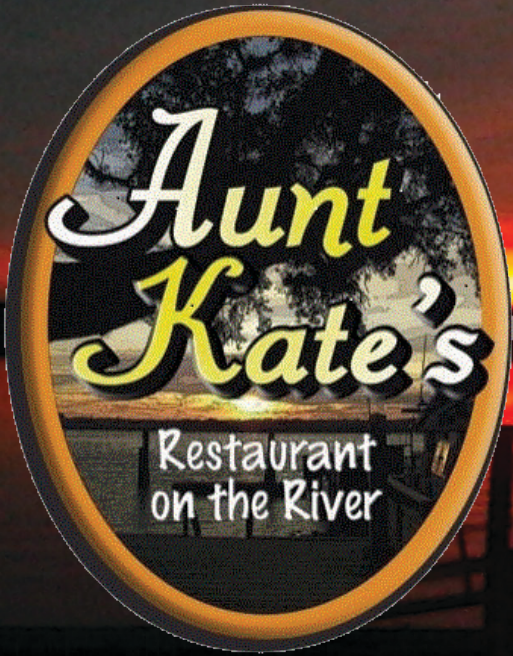
This flawless duet is awaiting your visit. On any given day, treat yourself to a classic getaway and pack your best ink pen and book of empty pages. The atmosphere, flavors, setting and characters are all here to create your first chapter.

Getting started is the hardest part. However, Three Stories Inn and La Nouvelle will make it easy to dream about your opening sentence, which might begin, "Once Upon a Time in St. Augustine ..."



A Trio of Pâté at La Nouvelle

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WHISKEY, WINE AND WILDLIFE TO RETURN IN NOVEMBER

Tickets are now available for the popular culinary destination weekend festival, Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife – W3, which takes place Nov. 7-10 in Vilano Beach.

NEW OFFICIAL HOST HOTEL/FESTIVAL LOCATION

The festival will have a new home this year at the official host hotel, Hyatt Place St. Augustine/Vilano Beach, at 117 Vilano Road, with all signature events taking place throughout the hotel, indoors and outdoors, and along Loja Street, adjacent to the hotel.

According to festival organizers, “The Hyatt Place in Vilano Beach is a beautiful venue and will provide guests with the convenience of having



one location for the weekend’s events – and enjoy an elevator ride to and from everything.”

The weekend’s events will raise funds and awareness for programs for the festival’s official charity partner, Vilano Beach Main Street, with 100% of the proceeds from the silent auction on Saturday, Nov. 9, designated for that. Both Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife and its sister festival, St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival have donated more than \$75,000 to Vilano Beach Main Street for

community improvements.

The GTM Research Reserve is also a charity partner, with 100% of the proceeds from the GTM Guided Tours/Wine & Cheese Reception event donated to the Friends of the GTM Research Reserve.

The festival schedule is as follows:

THURSDAY, NOV. 7

Pesca by Michael’s W3 Wine Dinner

Cocktail Reception, 6 to 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7 p.m. Location: Pesca by Michael’s inside the Hyatt Place, 117 Vilano Road, St. Augustine.

Tickets: \$225 per person, limited seating available.

The perfect way to kick-off Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife with an elegant four-course, wine-

paired dinner by Executive Chef Michael Lugo and the VIVA Hospitality team. The cocktail reception, open bar will include official festival wine, beer and spirits.

FRIDAY, NOV. 8

W3 Master Classes

Hyatt Place St. Augustine/Vilano Beach

Four classes, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Class schedule and location to be announced soon.

Tickets: \$79 per person, per class

Master Class Pass discount package pricing for \$199 per person for all four classes!

These interactive and intimate learning experiences showcase local and celebrity

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 ■

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WHISKEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

guest chefs, cookbook authors and beverage experts. Each class includes tasting bites with a paired wine, beer, or signature cocktail. Master Class schedule announced soon; limited tickets available to only 60 people per class.

Class 1: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Class 2: Noon to 1 p.m.; Class 3: 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Class 4: 3-4 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 8

Vilano A1A Soirée

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$109 per person

A Hyatt Place hotel takeover tasting event, with gourmet bites, indoors and outdoors! Guests receive a souvenir glass for unlimited beer, wine and spirits tastings. Sample some of Northeast Florida's best restaurants, live music and more — all with a laid-back oceanfront Vilano Beach vibe.

SATURDAY, NOV. 9

Guided Tour through the GTM Research Reserve/ Wine & Cheese Paired Reception

10:30 a.m. to noon
Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) Research Reserve, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach

Tickets: \$59 per person. Limited tickets available

Enjoy exploring the great coastal outdoors and the natural beauty of the GTM Research Reserve with a private guided tour. The tour concludes with tasting some fantastic wines, paired with specialty cheeses. Teeming with life, the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM Research Reserve) is a dynamic, ever-changing place with many interconnected habitats from the ocean to the forests. One of 29 National Estuarine Research Reserves in the country, this landscape protects and provides for a great diversity of plants and animals. Guests will get to

experience wildlife (and wine) up close!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

W3 Grand Tasting — Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife

2-5 p.m.
Hyatt Place St. Augustine/ Vilano Beach, 117 Vilano Road, St. Augustine

Tickets: \$129 per person
The main event combines all three of the W's and much more for the perfect Vilano Beach afternoon. Enjoy culinary delights from up and down the A1A corridor — some of Northeast Florida's best! Guests will enjoy hundreds of unlimited varieties of beverage tastings (spirits, wines and beers) with a souvenir glass and live music. It's a full afternoon of live music, celebrity guest chefs on the Cooking Demonstration Stage and the GTM Reserve Stage with wildlife demonstrations and more. Tickets are all-inclusive with food and drink tastings included.

BEST TASTE AWARDS & PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

Presented by Jacksonville Magazine

W3 attendees will vote for their favorite bites and sips during the event on Saturday. One People's Choice Medal Award Winner in seven categories, including beverage tastings will be announced on the music at 4:15 p.m.

The **Vilano Beach Main Street Silent Auction** will feature steals on some great items, including art, travel and food and drink packages, with 100% of the proceeds benefiting Vilano Beach Main Street.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

W3 Sunday Jazz Brunch

Location: Pesca by Michael's
Hyatt Place St. Augustine/ Vilano Beach, 117 Vilano Road, St. Augustine

Tickets: \$119 per person. Family friendly event, 3- 12

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 ■

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LE PAIN DE PAUL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

Born in Brazil with Hungarian roots and raised in Argentina, Chef Paulo's diverse cultural background has influenced his cooking style, bringing together a unique blend of flavors and techniques from various traditions. His dedication to the culinary arts is evident in the new gorgeous state-of-the-art bakery that he designed in Nocatee with great passion for innovation and perfection of baking.

Chef's expansive education and career wasn't just about baking. His rigorous training includes some of the most renowned culinary institutions:

- Diploma in Cuisine and Management from Ecole Paul Bocuse in Lyon
- Grand Diploma from the Tang School of Culinary Arts in Beijing
- Diploma from the Culinary Institute of America in New York

Why Nocatee? Somehow to Paulo and his wife Carina it was a miracle that they chose Northeast Florida — perhaps it was their destiny to land where their first impression was “It feels like home”! A perfect family setting, a supportive elementary school only a bicycle or golf cart ride away and a picture-perfect location to share their artistry beyond the kitchen.

Paulo is also a prolific author, having written numerous publications on baking, cooking and pastry. His book “Técnicas de Cervecería Artesanal” (“Craft Beer Techniques”) is a testament to his diverse culinary interests and expertise. In 2010, he was recognized by the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards for his book “Técnicas de Padaria Profissional” awarded the best in the world bakery techniques in Portuguese, Spanish and English. By 2019, his book “Entre 2 Panes” (“Between Two Breads”) won the award for the best hamburger-and-



Chefs Paul Bocuse and Paulo Sebess

sandwich book in the world!

The menu is occasionally custom designed for Le Pain de Paul's clients. You can order anything from the online menu, prepared fresh upon request. Whether choosing delivery to your door or scheduling a pick-up, Paulo delivers to Nocatee and nearby surrounding neighborhoods. And it's free for orders over \$20. (otherwise, \$3 fee). For busy clients, delivery is contactless. Each morning, they leave the order at clients' doorstep. Although if you're up early, you can wave hello and go to your door to see the chef! Each client's demand is customized for your preference. And if you choose to pick up, you might get lucky with an invitation to view Chef's kitchen!

My first order included so many of our favorite classical breads and pastries: almond and chocolate croissant (flaky and buttery), cranberry and lemon scones, cheese scones, blueberry and lemon muffins, baguette, pain au chocolat (pure indulgence), chausson aux pommes (apples in puff pastry), wellness bread — a staple of grains and seeds, walnut and cranberry loaf! Each one is a labor of love, a joy to make, a savory combination of flavors, and of course the quintessential baguette where Chef's love for baking began.

When I chose to have my first early



Chef Paulo Sebess' breads charcuterie

morning delivery, the big brown Pain de Paul bag was such a thrill, including Petit Brioche, Sweet Soft Buns (Pebete — an Argentine favorite — soft, mildly sweet), Pao de Queijo — Brazilian cheese puffs ... and a jumbo Semolina bread.

Le Pain de Paul is such a spectacular new bakery concept — bread on demand! This innovative approach ensures that everyone has access to choose among freshly baked breads, patisserie and Italian pastas — having it delivered to your home. And it's not just any bread that many of us may recall from the bread delivery trucks of the 1950s. Paulo is our personal chef with today's technology to treat our palates with deliciousness! Winning the 2023 and 2024 Ponte Vedra Recorder's “Best of the Best” Bakery award is miraculous considering that Paulo's the newest baker on our block! www.PaindePaul.com

I cherish M. F. K. Fisher's words: “The smell of good bread baking, like the sound of lightly flowing water, is indescribable. Breadmaking is one of those almost hypnotic businesses, like a dance from some ancient ceremony. It leaves you filled with one of the world's sweetest smells.”

WHISKEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

years old, \$39.

The grand finale brunch at Pesca by Michael's will be a great way to end the weekend — an all-inclusive culinary and drink ticket for a fantastic brunch buffet with gourmet stations for breakfast- and lunch-lovers alike. The festival's only family-friendly event provides families a delicious way to end the weekend! Beverage tasting stations will include

sparkling wine, mimosas, bloody mary's, spirits, wine and beers. Guests can continue to enjoy beverage tasting stations after their brunch!

NOTE: Brunch seating will be on a first come, first served basis. Groups of six or more should make advance reservations to ensure same table seating.

SATELLITE PARKING LOTS & OLD TOWN TROLLEY STOPS

Parking is very limited

on Vilano Beach. Old Town Trolleys will run every 30 minutes and will provide the best and most hassle-free way to attend Saturday's Main Event. The satellite parking shuttle service is free of charge for festival guests, with the schedule available on the festival website in the coming weeks.

There are great volunteer opportunities available with the festival. Volunteers have an opportunity to earn free festival tickets with only eight

or more volunteer hours. See “Volunteer” on the festival website for more information.

The festival is made possible in part by support from St. Johns Cultural Council, Florida's Historic Coast: St. Augustine/Ponte Vedra and a 2024 St. Johns County Tourist Development Grant and Vilano Beach Main Street.

Tickets are available at 904tix.com/events/2024-whiskey-wine-wildlife-11-7-2024.

For more information, go to whiskeywineandwildlife.com.

ANGELWOOD CELEBRATES ANOTHER YEAR OF 'SOARING POSSIBILITIES'

story by **ANTHONY RICHARDS**
photos by **SUSAN GRIFFIN**

Angelwood held its annual Celebration: Soaring Possibilities on Aug. 17 at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach.

As always, the event was a fun and vibrant time with people there from across Northeast Florida who came together to help support Angelwood's continued mission to ensure that children, adults and families living with intellectual and developmental differences have access to the care they need.

"It was a banner year for fundraising, with over \$470,000 raised to benefit the programs and services of Angelwood and the special children, adults, and families they serve," said Damara Farwell, Angelwood chief development officer.

However, although the event is Angelwood's marquee fundraiser each year, it holds a dual purpose, as it also serves as another opportunity for the community to come together bringing both aware-



Angelwood held its annual Celebration: Soaring Possibilities, which is the nonprofit's marquee fundraiser each year.



Underwood Jewelers was recognized for their continued support of Angelwood over the years.

ness to the cause and celebrating those who have made a lasting impact.

Two of the ways this recognition is shared is with the announcement of a pair of awards each year during the event.

This year included Underwood Jewelers being named 2024 Angelwood Corporate Partner of the Year for their continued support of Angelwood over the years, as many members of the staff at the Ponte Vedra Beach location were present.

There was also an auction that took

place with items for everyone, relating to everything from sports to entertainment and other local businesses.

Some booths were set up for attendees to stop by and visit, including one representing Angelwood's Thrift Shop, which opened in the past year and was initially announced at last year's Celebration.

Isreal "Izzy" Martinez was named as the Soaring Possibilities Award recipient. He is part of Angelwood's supplemental employment program and spends time working at the thrift store.

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HARD WORK LEADS TO UNIQUE SHOPPING SPREE

MaliVai Washington Foundation, Academy Sports partner to give back

story and photos by
ANTHONY RICHARDS

Children in the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation's tennis program was given the opportunity to go on a shopping spree like never before thanks to the foundation and Academy Sports + Outdoors.

On Aug. 8, a group of 10 children of various ages were given a \$250 gift card and one hour to go around the Academy Sports + Outdoors location on Southside Boulevard.

By the end of the hour carts were filled with everything from tennis shoes and insulated tumblers to shirts and shorts.



A group of 10 children from the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation were given a \$250 gift card and one hour to go around the Academy Sports + Outdoors location on Southside Boulevard.

“This for tennis kids is a really big experience because they don't have a lot of tennis clothes, so to be able to buy for back to school and their tennis team is a really big deal for them,” said Terri Florio, MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation executive director. “

There are other events that children from the foundation take part in, including the annual Jacksonville Jaguars Holiday Shopping Spree.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37 ■

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SPREE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

However, this event was much more intimate with only 10 children involved compared to hundreds of children from nonprofits across the area.

“Plus, when they go shopping at Christmas, we tell them that they need to think about gifts for other people as well as themselves, where this is 100% about them and what they want,” Florio said.

The 10 children that took part in the event are members of the foundation’s competitive tennis team and were selected because of their dedication and the hard work they have put in.

“This group of kids is very appreciative because they realize they work very hard both academically and on the tennis court, so what they’re learning is that hard work pays off,” Florio said.

Rewarding and instilling the virtue of hard work is something that the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation strives to pass along to the next generation, and according to Florio, the children are a perfect example of that.

“They may not realize the impact it is having right now but one day they will,” Florio said.



They shopped for everything from tennis shoes and insulated tumblers to shirts and shorts.

Stocking up on school and tennis gear came at the perfect time with a new school year now underway and the tennis season set to start in September.

Jahniyh has been involved with the foundation since first grade and is looking forward to her eighth grade and her last year in middle school. She has been part of the tennis program since fifth grade.

“Tennis is like a get-a-way space, where you can just go there and hit,” Jahniyh said. “I’ve known my teammates since we were young, so they’re like a family to me. They, just like the foundation, are there for you through the hard times no matter what.”



Tennis shoes were a popular item.

Some of the things she was searching for during the shopping spree was a black jacket and some shorts for tennis practice, both of which she found.

The foundation has about 250 children in its tennis program with 32 as part of the competitive program.

“Tennis really gives them a way to express themselves and more of a positive outlet when their looking for something to do,” said Sam Kennedy, head tennis pro at the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation. “It also gives them the social aspects of just having fun with friends. There are so many opportunities that can come about from it.”



40TH ANNUAL Caring Chefs

Celebrating its 40th year, Caring Chefs remains a beloved annual tradition in Jacksonville, bringing together the area's finest chefs, sommeliers, and brewers to offer their favorite bites and sips to guests and volunteers alike.

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MORE THAN JUST A DREAM

Gator Bowl Dream Team has loaded football season planned

story and photos by
ANTHONY RICHARDS

Dreams Come True was founded in Northeast Florida and its roots have continued to strengthen and grow to help even more children and families in the community throughout the past 40 years.

One of the ways it strives to make a difference is with its partnership with the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl and its “dream team” initiative.

Twelve children were named to the 2024 Dream Team during a press conference on Aug. 2, which took place in the shadows of EverBank Stadium.

This year’s team includes Te’Von Berry Jr. (16), Jared Cook (15), Kennedy Harris (8), Jase Holden (11), Kasey Ladd (8),



Leonard “Trey” Love (17), Luke Masiak (9), Kylee Mathis (15), Brynley Richardson (3), Seth Rowe (13), Marshawn Wilson (10) and Leonard “Leo” Wortham (11).

At three years old, Richardson is the youngest member to ever be named to the Dream Team.

Some of the members of the team are from Southeast Georgia, showcasing the

growing reach that Dreams Come True has.

Kennedy Harris and her family was one who made the trip down to Jacksonville for the announcement. She dreams of being a majorette at the University of Georgia and even brought her baton with

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DREAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

her to show those in attendance.

Another team member from Georgia is Jared Cook, who was born with a genetic condition known as Williams Syndrome, but he does not let that slow him down and is a mascot at Charlton County High School in Georgia.

“He can’t play baseball because of his heart, so we were looking for a way he could get involved, because he’s outgo-

ing and just loves people,” said Melissa, Jared’s mom.

As part of the Dream Team, they will have the opportunity to scout a game at the University of Florida, participate with local corporate executives at monthly Gator Bowl Sports membership events, and distribute their rookie year player cards throughout Jacksonville.

“I’m mostly looking forward to seeing what teams come here (to play in Gator Bowl),” Cook said. “I’ve got friends who are Seminole fans, and it would be nice to include the Seminoles in it.”

Seth Rowe found it hard to choose just one thing he was look forward to the most. Favorite sports are soccer and football.

“I’m just excited about the whole thing and all the adventures,” Rowe said. “I’m super pumped up for all of it.”

Seth Rowe has battled a brain tumor twice, and he knows there is so much more fight left in him.

“Always have a positive attitude, and if you think you have no one to lookup to, just look up to God,” Rowe said.

JAX FUSE: IT’S ALL ABOUT FOOD, FILM, FASHION

story by **SHAUN RYAN**

An event like no other is coming to Nocatee on Sept. 13-14: the Jax Fuse Festival, featuring food, film and fashion with a Northeast Florida flair.

Fashion lovers will get a look at the latest trends, film fans will enjoy a behind-the-scenes glimpse of local cinema and foodies will sample some culinary delights at this celebratory event. In the process, creatives and professionals will have networking opportunities, connecting with local chefs, filmmakers and fashion visionaries.

The event will be held at the link, a unique, multipurpose facility located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra.

It all kicks off with a “Taste Of” cocktail reception from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 13. This will be followed by a

series of fashion presentations.

Strike Magazine St. Augustine, the largest student-run publication in the nation, which focuses on culture, fashion and art will conduct its fashion show at 7:40 p.m.

Fashions by Ramsey Salter will follow at 7:55 p.m., to be followed at 8:10 p.m. by fashions from Fleur De Lis Boutique, Lisa Keller’s one-of-a-kind studio, which features carefully sourced clothing and accessories in modern, coastal, ultra-feminine designs.

Shawna Grant’s Lady Strut Gowns claims the spotlight at 8:25 p.m. Grant partners with premium brands to create beautiful evening attire for all women.

Nena Cavalieri, with her focus on bold elegance, is next at 8:40 p.m. Then, it’s Bollywood Dance Mania, an Indian dance school founded in 2006 by Anushree Shah.

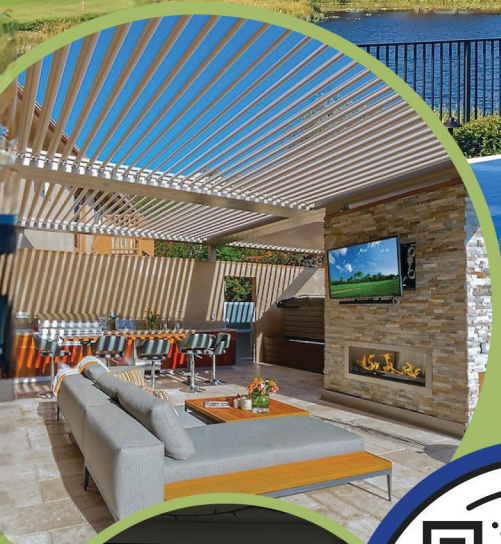
At 9:10 p.m., Shway-Highlight, a collaboration between Shway Partners and Highlight LA, will take center stage. Shway Partners founder Jodi Lee Thomas has extensive experience in the apparel industry.

Final remarks and networking follow. Among the professionals expected to attend is former model Kate Tunnell, who has 25 years of experience scouting and developing new talent. She runs a modeling agency in Jacksonville.

Saturday, Sept. 14, will be devoted to the cinema. There will be short local films and question-and-answer sessions with directors. Attendees will participate in hands-on workshops led by industry professionals and connect with film and production pros from the Jacksonville film community.

To learn more about Jax Fuse or purchase tickets, go to jaxfuse.com.

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