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On A Mission:
First Coast Nonprofits
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Thursday, September 19, 2024

PonteVedraRecorder.com

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Serenata Beach Club sold at auction

By Shaun Ryan

Serenata Beach Club was sold in a foreclosure auction at noon Thursday, Sept. 12, for \$1.5 million. That's considerably less than the property's assessed value of \$4,464,097, as listed by the St. Johns County Property Appraiser's Office.

The buyer is North American Trading Group Inc., a Delaware corporation, to which the plaintiff, DLP Lending Fund, had previously assigned the judgment.

The 17,956-square-foot property and parking lot, located at 3175 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd., South Ponte Vedra Beach, had been the subject of several reports in the media concerning the previous owners' struggles to pay back loans.

The auction was the result of a failure to accomplish that.

DLP Lending Fund of Delaware with a branch at 405 Golfway West Drive, Suite 300, St. Augustine, filed suit against the previous owners, Molly Ann Butler and Jeffrey Byron Butler, as well as Bernoulli Growth Capital, on July 6, 2023, claiming that Serenata Beach Club executed a promissory note on April 20, 2022, in the amount of \$8,586,000 and failed to pay all amounts that were due by May 1, 2023.

On July 18, 2024, Judge Howard Maltz of the Circuit Court of the

SERENATA continues on Page 3

NOW IT'S A PARTY

New business strives to bring any party idea to life

By Anthony Richards

The Social Society opened its doors in Nocatee with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, Sept. 13, and the party supply business lived up to its name by bringing a party-like atmosphere to the community.

Unlike most ribbon-cutting ceremonies, which are typically one-day events, The Social Society took that to the next level and made it a three-day celebration with a VIP party the night before on Thursday, Sept. 12, and a community block party on Saturday, Sept. 14.

"We sell everything you would need for any kind of party; we can help put it together for you," Chief Party Officer Seri Kertzner said.

One of the unique things that they have in stock currently is supplies for pickleball parties, which are popular in this area, according to Kertzner.

In addition to the traditional party supplies, such as cups, napkins, banners and other various decorations, they also have many gift ideas.

"I'm a gifting person," Kertzner said. "If I'm invited to someone's house for a dinner party I will not show up empty handed, and although it's always nice to bring a bottle of wine, it's also nice to think out-



Photo by Anthony Richards

The Social Society held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, Sept. 13, at its location in Nocatee.

side the box."

Sharing that creativity is one of the reasons she got into the event planning world 15 years ago, and it is what continues to drive her passion for it moving forward.

According to Kertzner, even after a decade-plus involved with parties, there are always new ideas and themes that people have for a party, and she treasures those opportunities because it offers her

that creative challenge to help make that idea a reality.

"It happens all the time, and it's what makes our job even more fun to come up with new ways to make that dream or vision come to life," Kertzner said. "The whole premise of why I do what I do and why I started in it was because I love to be

PARTY continues on Page 26

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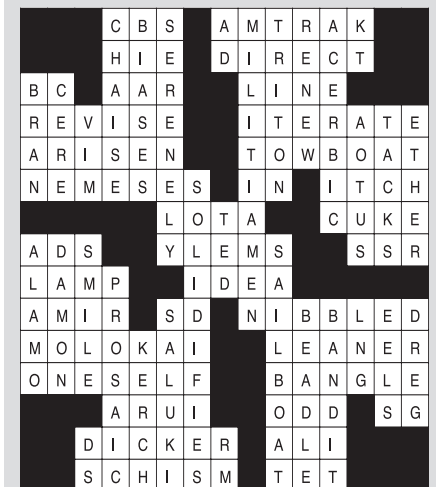
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BRIEFS

Pier pass memberships extended

The St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department will offer extensions to anyone with an annual fishing pass for the St. Johns County Ocean and Fishing Pier for every month the pier remains landlocked.

The pier became landlocked due to crucial beach renourishment efforts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on St. Augustine Beach. As such, Parks and Recreation will extend passes each month until the dredged sand has eroded enough for pass-holders to fish on the pier again.

For more information, contact St. Johns County Beach Services at 904-209-0331 or beaches@sjcfl.us.

Tax collector offers new service for homebound citizens

Dennis W. Hollingsworth, St. Johns County tax collector, has announced the arrival of ID GO, a portable suitcase that enables staff to go into the field and issue Florida identification cards. The service is intended to serve residents who are physically unable to come into an office but are in need of a Florida identification card.

The suitcase contains a driver license camera and signature pad for issuance. With this service, tax collector staff arrange an onsite visit, capture a photo, a signature, applicant information and any documents required for issuance without the applicant having to visit a Tax Collector office.

There is a need in our community to serve residents who may be homebound or severely disabled.

Essential tremor group to meet

First Coast Essential Tremor will meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, at Baptist Health Place at Nocatee, 400 Colonnade Drive, Ponte Vedra. Anyone affected by essential tremor (those with ET, caregivers, loved ones and friends) is welcome to attend.

The featured speaker will be Sanjai Murali, founder and CEO of JOGO Health (jogohealth.com), who will present a new wearable sensor, driven by AI, to treat ET. For information and to RSVP, contact Jan Kary at jkary@verizon.net or 202-438-6750.

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.

Ponte Vedra Womans Club photo event planned

Ponte Vedra Womans Club will hold its annual headshot happy hour on Oct. 1 with Gabriel Giannelli, owner of First Coast Headshots. For \$35, each participant will get a professional headshot taken, edited and sent to them to use as they wish — think business, social media profile pics, etc. The club will use it for its members-only online directory.

Refreshments and make-up touch will be available. Shoot starts at 5:30 p.m. and wraps when all headshots are complete at or before 7:30 p.m.

This is a member-only opportunity; guests may attend if accompanied by the member who invited them. Members who can't participate can still submit their own digital photos to the club directory by updating their profiles.

This will be held at 820 A1A N., Suite E15, Ponte Vedra Beach. Register at pontevedrawomansclub.com.

Democratic Club to meet

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will meet at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, 101 Library Blvd., at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7. An optional chat-and-chew will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The featured speaker is Josh Hirsh, A.I. consultant, speaking on "Artificial Intelligence, Friend or Foe?" For additional information, email PVDemclub@gmail.com.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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St. Johns County approves 2025 budget

By Shaun Ryan

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners approved the \$1.75 billion budget for fiscal year 2025 during a special meeting Tuesday, Sept. 17. It also approved a tax rate of \$6.83 per \$1,000 of taxable value, of which \$4.65 is for the general fund.

The county's total certified taxable value is \$53.9 billion, a 13.2% increase. Homeowners will not experience the full increase; homesteaded properties are capped at 3% and non-homesteaded properties are capped at 10%.

The aggregate rolled-back rate was \$6.38 per \$1,000 of taxable value, of which \$4.32 would have been for the general fund had the board chosen to use that rate. The rolled-back rate is the rate that would have generated the same dollar figure as last year.

The addition of \$535 million in carry-forwards to the budget is the reason it increased from the \$1.2 billion figure given during the first budget hearing in July.

The budget accounts for 62 new county positions, including 21 new firefighter positions.

To see the budget in detail, go to sjcfl.us/2025budget.

The owner of a homesteaded property valued at \$300,000 would see a county tax bill of about \$1,708 in 2025.

The St. Johns County School Board approved the district's \$1.5 billion budget for fiscal year 2025 on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

The tax rate is \$5.28 on \$1,000 of a home's taxable value. This marks a reduction from last year's \$5.41. The rate has been reduced every year since 2011.

The rolled-back rate was \$5.14 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

The total tax levy is \$313,128,177.

The owner of a homesteaded property valued at \$300,000 would see a school tax bill of about \$1,452 in 2025.

Serenata

Continued from 1

7th Judicial District ruled that the Serenata Beach Club owed DLP a total of \$11,631,516, which included the principal, interest and various legal fees.

The foreclosure comes in the wake of reports of temporary shut-downs in 2023 and January 2024. In February 2024, the club announced its reopening after a period of renovation.

The property was sold online to the highest and best bidder for cash at saintjohns.realforeclose.com.

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OBITUARIES



Carole Ann Martin

Carole Ann Martin, “Muggie” to family and friends, departed this world on August 24, 2024. Carole Ann was born in Sutton, WV on December 1, 1942. She was the youngest of five children born of Vergie Emma Fox Greene and Jesse Raymond Greene. Her sister, Jessie Greene Greathouse (William) and brothers Charles (Sam) Greene (Margaret), Harold (Bob) Greene (Elsie) and John Greene (Twila) along with her parents all preceded her in death. A niece Susan Davis (Merritt) and two nephews Charles Greene and William

Greene also preceded her in death. She is survived by nephews W. Gary Greathouse (Mary), Jeffrey Greene (Susan), James Greene and nieces Nancy Vanderwende (Glenn), Janet Greene, Kathy Greathouse, Christina Greathouse (Kevin Kelly) and Clara Ann Robare (Harry). She is also survived by grandnieces and nephews Margaret Greathouse, Amanda Byrd, William Greathouse II, Jeanne Marie Greathouse, Glenda Vanderwende, Jeffrey Davis, Gregory Davis, Megan Noletto, Rachel Greene, Patrick Greene, Phillip Greene, Gina Haubenstern, Candace Sharpe, Carrie Greene, Liam Kelly, Luka Kelly, John Paul Robare and Aleah Robare, as well as many great, great nephews and nieces and one great, great, great grandniece.

She is also survived by stepdaughters Susan Martin, Lisa Badz (Stanley) and Megan Martin and step grandchildren, Julian Martin, Devon Martin, Keegan Martin, Logan Badz and Lola Badz.

Carole Ann strode an amazing path through life from her beginnings in Sutton, WV to Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. In between, she made career stops in Pittsburgh; New York City; Greenwich, CT; Tulsa; and

Madisonville, KY. Wherever she went this dynamic woman made friends and influenced many people with her kind heart, generous spirit, and her thoroughly engaging persona.

She excelled in her administrative profession and was a dean's list student in economics at the University of Tulsa. Carole created Exec-U-Sec, a very successful secretarial and administrative services business in Greenwich, CT. On the societal side, Carole volunteered actively with organizations such as Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Neighbor for Neighbor and Project Get Together bringing food, clothing and a variety of healthcare services to low-income people, and Citizens For Fair Utility Rates, dedicated to achieving its name.

Throughout her career, besides owning and operating her own business, Carole provided secretarial, administrative, accounting and marketing services in a wide variety of industries such as banking, coatings and resins distribution, cosmetics distribution, financial services, oil and gas exploration, construction and property development, property management, and transportation services. Her brightness

and charm made her a valued member of numerous teams.

In her retirement Carole continued to enjoy time with her friends including the Steel Magnolias. She became a devotee of water aerobics, a painter in watercolors, an avid reader and the caretaker of several felines including Dottie, who brightened her final years.

Her fun-loving spirit endeared Aunt Muggie to her many nieces and nephews. She loved her family dearly and they returned that love.

The family would like to thank the members of the care teams at Baptist Hospital Beaches, Shands Hospital and especially those at The McGraw Center who eased her final days.

Her remains will be interred with her mother at West Moreland County Memorial Cemetery in Mount Pleasant, PA. Please visit her online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com.

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Southeastern Grocers takes part in Hunger Action Month

By Anthony Richards

Southeastern Grocers Inc. is doing its part during September, which is Hunger Action Month by encouraging neighbors to join the mission to end hunger this Hunger Action Month by helping the neighborhood grocer to provide one million meals to neighbors experiencing hunger.

The parent company of Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie grocery stores, together with the SEG Gives Foundation, is pledging to donate \$1 to Feeding America for every download of the Harveys Supermarket or Winn-Dixie Rewards apps during the month of September, up to \$100,000.

Every dollar will help provide 10 meals to families facing hunger in local communities.

“We know that no one can thrive on an empty stomach, and at Southeastern Grocers, we are dedicated to working

toward a future where families do not go hungry,” said Raymond Rhee, Chief People Officer for Southeastern Grocers. “As a local grocer, we believe it is our responsibility to nourish our communities and empower neighbors to live their happiest, healthiest lives. Through our long-standing partnership with Feeding America and our award-winning rewards program, we are proudly taking action to ensure that access to wholesome food is within reach for neighbors across the Southeast.”

Southeastern Grocers and the SEG Gives Foundation is also donating an additional \$70,000 to the following seven Feeding America partner food banks within its footprint:

- Community Food Bank of Central Alabama
- Feeding Northeast Florida
- Feeding South Florida
- Feeding Tampa Bay

- Feeding the Gulf Coast
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana

This will include the grocer hosting seven mobile food pantry events throughout September in partnership with the local organizations.

The events will distribute more than 105,000 pounds of fresh produce and shelf-stable products to thousands of individuals who are working hard to put enough food on the table.

Feeding America’s Hunger Action Month is held annually each September to raise awareness of the hunger crisis nationwide. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, one in seven people across the nation struggle with food insecurity.

The SEG Gives Foundation remains steadfast in their commitment to ensuring

greater access to wholesome food to foster the health and happiness of communities throughout the Southeast.

As a result of its commitment, the grocer recently donated \$70,000 and 7,000 gallons of milk, 7,000 boxes of cereal and 7,000 bunches of bananas to seven Southeast food banks to help combat food insecurity among families during the summer months.

In 2023, SEG proudly donated more than \$560,000 and 13 million pounds of food throughout the year to help support neighbors across its five-state footprint.

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Jeffrey Spear, of Jacksonville Beach, is a food writer and president and creative director for Studio Spear, a global branding company for food, beverage and lifestyle. His most recent book is "My Life in Gluttony: A Culinary Adventure."

Jeff Spear

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me about Studio Spear

Studio Spear started out as a graphic design studio specializing in logos and trademarks and what have you. Over time, we earned a national and somewhat international reputation for the work that we were doing, and we started attracting clients who needed packaging design.

Then, over time, I decided that the work that we were doing with food and beverage products — the trademarks and the logos and the packaging, whatever — was more fun than anything else, so we specialized in food and beverage.

We've been in business 40-plus years. In that time, kind of organically, we've become experts in brand development, strategic planning, global marketing and, as a result, we've attracted engagements. We now have clients on every continent except for Antarctica.

Now, mind you, the company is basically me and a handful of consultants or contractors that I work with. We've always been a small firm. The people I work with, we've been working together for anywhere from 12 to 20 years.

All your clients appear to be involved in the food industry.

They are now. When we started out — we were based in L.A. when we started — I would say that our clients were broadly consumer lifestyle products and services. We were representing or working with real estate developers, toys and game manufacturers, healthy living products and then food and beverage. We did some other stuff in finance and technology and what have you, but mostly it was just the consumer lifestyle arena. Because it was a preference and more fun, I narrowed it down to food and beverage.

Now, the one caveat is: all of this happened before the Food Network ever existed. When the Food Network came into play, all of a sudden food became the cool and groovy thing. So, from having very few competitors, all of a sudden, we had lots of competitors. Everybody wanted to play in that same space.

The thing that keeps Studio Spear alive and competitive and important is the fact that we are global so that we bring international perspectives to everything we do. That helps our clients, whether they're domestic or international. It helps them compete.

The competitive advantage we bring is significant.

Tell me about your books.

I write primarily for food-oriented publications, or I write a food column. ...

That's sort of my writing side, but from the marketing side, from the Studio Spear side, I do copywriting for clients. And they're all food and beverage, so I'm doing food-and-beverage writing.

Microplane was one of our clients for a while. (Microplane is a culinary grater or zester, and it is an iconic culinary tool that every chef has.) One of the things that they had us do was develop a cookbook for them.

So, that brought in our food marketing capabilities but also our writing capabilities. The book was actually co-authored by me and a woman named Dara Bunjon [Editor's note: The book's title is "Yum! Tasty Recipes from Culinary Greats."]

With Dara and myself and a few chefs we brought in to help us out, we developed this book, which is our first



Contributed photos

Jeff Spear holds scallops up in front of his eyes.

cookbook.

I was not really culinary at the time. I have culinary training now, but I didn't have it then. Anyway, over time, I acquired culinary training. I'm not a chef, but I have a fair amount of experience and training.

Then, when I moved to Jacksonville, some friends and I decided we wanted to go into publishing, and so we created our first book, "The First Coast Heritage Cookbook."

It's now out of print. You can find it on Amazon.

"The First Coast Heritage Cookbook" dealt with the culinary traditions along the First Coast from 14,000 B.C., which is the first evidence of human habitation, to 1821, which is basically the cutoff date, because there are a lot of books that happen from the Civil War onward.

That was the second book.

This latest book is because of the work I'm doing all over the world. [Editor's note: The title is "My Life in Gluttony: A Culinary Adventure."]

The work I do internationally tends to be in countries that are considered emerging economies. They don't have very sophisticated export programs yet, so I come in and help them develop their brand, communicate the value proposition and compete in markets that they're very unfamiliar with.

So, I'm working in Malawi or working in Georgia

or working in Ghana or working in Guyana. These are places where the companies don't necessarily know how to enter these higher-value markets, such as the EU or the Middle East or Northern African countries.

So, I'm coming home and telling people about all these wonderful experiences and some of the food that I've had, and my friends were saying, "Hey Jeff, you ought to write a cookbook."

So, rather than just write a book that starts with my international work, I decided I would take it back to the very beginning and have a book that focuses on all of the remarkable culinary encounters I've had since I was a child.

When was the book published?

It was published during the pandemic, 2020. I was writing the book while I was overseas on various assignments. I wasn't in any hurry to finish the book, but when the pandemic happened, all of a sudden I had time on my hands. So, I just sat down and finished the book.

The book's done reasonably well. It's available on Amazon, so whenever I promote it, people go online and buy it.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an abridged version. For the complete interview, go to pontevedrarecorder.com.



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MSD unanimously approves new fiscal year's budget

By Anthony Richards



The Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District unanimously approved its budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year with a total appropriated expenditures and reserves consisting of \$1,845,606.

The board came to the decision during a special final budget meeting on Sept. 16, which also served as a public hearing.

Total revenue for the MSD in the budget is \$836,800, which consists of an ad valorem of \$788,800 at a millage rate of .2464 and an interest income

of \$48,000, while the board has a cash balance of \$1,008,806.

Total expenses in the new fiscal year budget comes out to \$1,535,356.

When broken down into the various categories that make up the MSD's budget allotment, includes \$182,678 for general government services, includ-

ing \$50,000 set aside for a plan review position.

Public safety has been designated for an expense of \$811,500 with many projected capital projects continuing to be on the books as the MSD is hopeful to get accomplished in the next fiscal year.

This includes \$350,000 being designated for proposed sidewalk projects, with \$250,000 of that amount going to phase one of a sidewalk project from Solana Road to Miranda Road and \$75,000 for a proposed sidewalk project that will stretch from San Juan Drive to Ponte Vedra Circle.

Just like sidewalks, the drainage issues encountered throughout the Ponte Vedra Beach area is something that both the MSD and residents are attempting to solve, and as a result, the trustees have set aside \$150,000 to help with potential drainage projects.

Rounding out the public safety portion of the budget is \$250,000 assigned for law enforcement and a combined \$61,500 for traffic speed signs, street

lighting and street lighting maintenance.

The physical environment category of the budget has an allotment of \$541,178, the majority of which will go toward sanitation with \$481,678 designated for those services.

The sanitation service cost has increased from last year's fiscal budget due to the recent newly created contract St. Johns County made with FCC Environmental Services.

Despite the contract recently being terminated by the county and being in the process of finding a replacement service, the cost associated with the contract is still in effect as FCC continues as the county's service provider for the time being until a solution is met.

Current year contingency reserves in the new fiscal year budget are \$48,251, while there are also \$100,000 for an emergency cleanup fund and \$162,000 in reserves for October to November, which was factored into the total appropriated expenditures and reserves amount.

The entire final budget was approved unanimously with a vote of 4-0, as they had enough trustees for a quorum with Kitty Switkes, John Cellucci, Brad Wester and Mickey White in attendance for the special meeting.

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Library Card Sign-Up Month worth checking out

For The Recorder

The St. Johns County Public Library System celebrates Library Card Sign-Up Month this month with the launch of a newly redesigned library card and a special discount campaign featuring local businesses. These new initiatives reaffirm the library's commitment to building stronger, more connected communities by offering valuable resources to all county residents.

Libraries build communities — not only by lending books but also by acting as centers for learning, connection and support. The library plays an integral role in the community, helping residents access information, education and essential services. The library is a hub for personal and community growth, from lifelong learning programs to digital resources and beyond.

“Libraries and their librarians have taken on other roles far beyond just lending books,” said Debra Rhodes Gibson, St. Johns County Public Library System director. “In many com-

munities, librarians act as social workers and guides, helping people navigate life's complexities. This ‘go-to’ role has shaped our programming and events, offering advice and connections to resources like health, housing, literacy, employment and education.”

The St. Johns County Public Library System is launching the “Community Connections” discount program to further demonstrate this role. This new initiative connects more than 30 local businesses with the community, offering exclusive discounts to library cardholders throughout September. To participate, simply show your new or existing library card at participating businesses across St. Johns County to unlock special deals. A complete list of partners and deals offered can be viewed at sjcpls.org/library-card-sign-up-month-2024.

Getting a library card is quick, easy and free for all St. Johns County residents. With a library card, patrons can access bestsellers, DVDs, audiobooks,

CDs and more. Additionally, they also receive 24/7 access to the eLibrary to check out e-books, read The New York Times digital edition, stream movies and music, or conduct research for work or school projects.

For more information about sign-

ing up for a library card, the library's resources and programs, or the Library Card Sign-Up Month celebration, go to sjcpls.org, email sjcpls@tblc.libanswers.com, or stop by any SJCPLS branch or bookmobile.

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Perfectly positioned along the banks of the Atlantic Ocean, in the first block of South Ponte Vedra Boulevard, this stunning 4BR/3.5BA home offers a beautiful contemporary oceanfront setting with Intracoastal views that could grace the cover of Coastal Living magazine. This completely renovated private residence with well-appointed living spaces, features two sweeping oceanfront porches, a private beach walkover and a 21' x 21' rooftop deck with panoramic water and preserve view perfect for outdoor entertaining. This elevated and dominant position allows for extraordinary ocean views, in a spectacular setting, with lush grounds that include a putting green, in an historic seaside resort, epitomizing the Florida lifestyle! Listed for \$3,999,994.00



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County to repair pier pillars

By Shaun Ryan

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved action to repair the county's ocean pier during a meeting Tuesday, Sept. 17.

The easternmost 100 feet of the pier has been closed to the public since Aug. 27 after the discovery six days earlier of decay to support pillars during an inspection. An initial inspection both above and below the water line in April had not revealed the damage.

But on Aug. 21, a piece of metal was found to have detached from a piling. The recent beach renourishment facilitated that discovery, as the new sand kept the affected area above water.

Facilities Management Director Daniel Whitcraft told the board that a structural engineering firm was consulted to review solutions. The result was a proposal to address piling sections nine through 16, roughly half the pier.

County staff received an "opinion of cost" for long-term repairs of about \$3 million. The funds would come from Tourist Development Tax reserves.

The county will now explore options to expedite contracting services to effect the repairs. There is some concern that permitting requirements could slow up the process, though that remains an unknown.

Once complete, the repairs are expected to extend the pier's life by an estimated 20 years.

Vicky Oakes to speak at Coastal Friends luncheon

Coastal Friends will host Vicky Oakes, supervisor of elections for St. Johns County, as their guest speaker at the Wednesday, Oct. 2 luncheon. Oakes has served as the supervisor of elections for the past 12 years, and prior to that served as the assistant supervisor of elections for 23 years. The luncheon runs from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will be held at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach.

The luncheon is open to members and guests, as well as the community. The menu will consist of field green salad, chicken marsala with mushroom marsala sauce, roasted red skin potatoes and raisin caramel bread pudding. The cost to attend is \$25. Space is limited for this highly sought-after event so reservations must be made in advance by contacting the luncheon chairman at bartshar@comcast.net as soon as possible. The deadline for checks to be received is Friday, Sept. 27.

Established in 1998, Coastal Friends is a social club comprised of women who live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach, St. Augustine and the surrounding area. Some of the activities offered are adventures and outings,



Photo courtesy of Vicky Oakes

book club, bunco, canasta, happy hour, lunch in, lunch out, mah jongg, samba and wine socials.

Luncheons are held on the first Wednesday of every month, except for July and August. New members are welcome throughout the year. Contact brookemeister@msn.com for more information on how to join.

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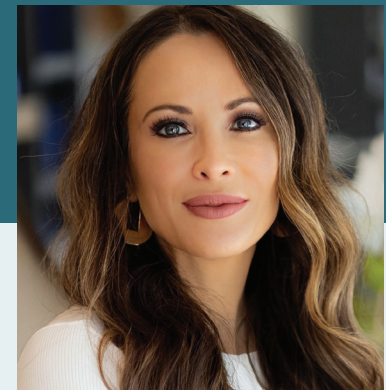
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Photos by Susan Griffin

JaxFuse spotlights creative economy

By Shaun Ryan

The link continues to surprise. In fact, this 22,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra Beach, has been surprising people since it opened in July 2021. It's a space where entrepreneurs and business professionals collaborate. It's a business incubator and community center that hosts an array of events, classes and camps. It's the address for the annual entrepreneur-based EnterCircle Summit and Circle of Creation for women to realize their professional

goals. And now, it's the home for JaxFuse, an annual festival celebrating three alliterative elements of the creative economy: fashion, food and film. "The link has always been very proud of providing a platform to different kinds of entrepreneurs," explained Gurpreet Misra who, with husband Raghu, founded the facility. "This time, we really focused on the creative economy because that is something that we are very proud of. There's so much talent in the city and the surrounding area. They need a platform."

Misra credited link storyteller Keeli Scarlett with the idea to "fuse" the three categories from creatives across the greater Jacksonville area. The inaugural event was held Friday and Saturday, Sept. 13 and 14. It featured the work of seven professionals in the field of fashion, eight cuisine experts and nine filmmakers. Anytime something is tried for the first time, it is unknown whether it will succeed. But JaxFuse organizers had nothing to fear. "It was extremely well attended," said Misra.

In fact, judging by social media posts, attendees were pleased with the results. The food included:

- Locally caught seafood from Timoti's Seafood Shak
- Homestyle fare from Orange Blossom Catering
- Eclectic Southern food from Treylor Park
- Indian café fare from Tea of Jax
- Japanese cuisine from Tank's Sushi Bistro

JAXFUSE continues on Page 13



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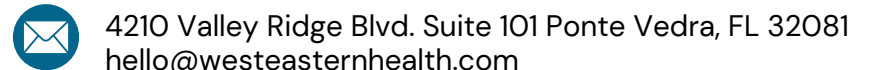
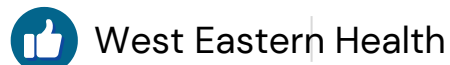
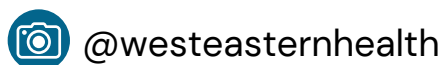
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Photos by Susan Griffin

JaxFuse

Continued from 12

- Cakes and desserts from Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Health-conscious cuisine from Healthy Hands Cooking
- Creations by Miss Kara Anderson

A sustainable fashion show, Straight from 2008, was presented by Strike. Young models received training by Jacksonville-

based modeling agent Kate Tunnell.

A very diverse selection of fashions was presented. Participants included:

- Bollywood Dance Mania: Indian wedding outfits
- Ramsey Salter: a 13-year-old prodigy debuting her collection
- Fleur de Lis Boutique: coastal elegance and ultra-feminine designs
- Lady Strut Gowns: statement gowns
- Nena Cavaleri: Timeless pieces celebrating individuality

• Airstream: innovative and standout fashion

Film day featured keynote speaker Carlina Williams, who has worked with Nickelodeon, Universal Pictures, Netflix, the Walt Disney Co. and more. She was involved in “Moana,” “Transformers” and other projects.

Several short films of varying genres were shown. There were dramas from Aidan Fridman, Gilles Bovon and Craig Pedroza; comedies from Marshall Malone

and Ramana Murthy; thrillers from Jeremy Bracken and Murthy; a musical from Khaled Edris; and a science fiction film by Terry Spataro.

Creatives participating in JaxFuse represented a diversity of experiences.

“This was not only for seasoned professionals, but a mix of ages, as well as experience,” Misra said. That made it really fun, because you were seeing young people and very seasoned, experienced people all coming together.”

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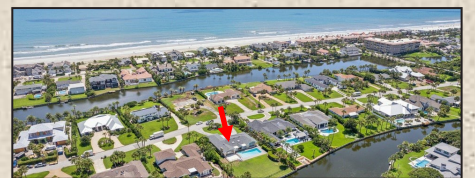
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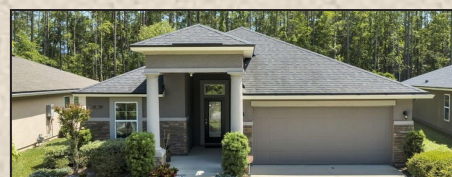
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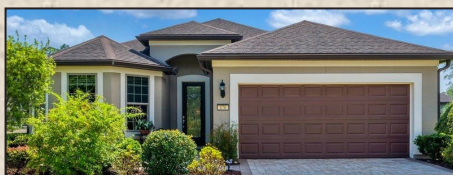
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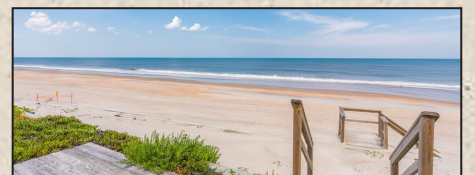
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Teens tell stories of refugee children in new book

By Shaun Ryan

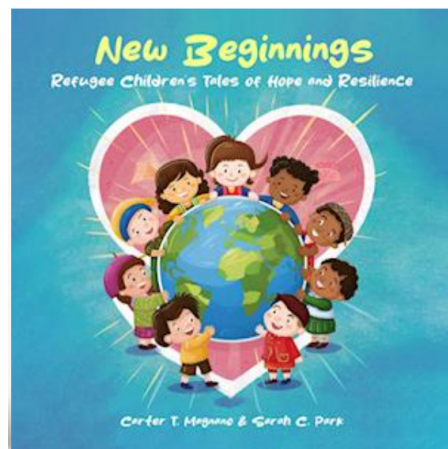
Two local teens have co-authored a children's book that will bridge the gap between cultures and help young readers appreciate the courage, hope and resilience of refugee children as well as their dreams of making a new start in the United States.

"New Beginnings: Refugee Children's Tales of Hope and Resilience" by Carter Magnano and Sarah Park tells the stories of six students, ages 8-12, and one young adult whose families came here from countries like Afghanistan, South Sudan, Eritrea and Ukraine to escape war, persecution and hardship.

Carter, who attends Ponte Vedra High School, and Sarah, who attends The Bolles School, are co-presidents of Jax-THRIVE, a student-led nonprofit that offers tutoring and other resources to refugee children. This experience inspired Carter and Sarah to write the book.

Interviewing the children and their families, the young authors were moved by what they heard.

"When I was speaking to them, I was imagining myself in their shoes, especially the parents," said Carter. "As they were telling me the stories, it really hit me hard."



Contributed photos

The book written by two teens

Because the students were still learning English, the authors asked some of them to draw pictures to communicate their experiences. The writing process took about two months. In the end, "New Beginnings" ran 46 pages and was published by Global Publishing.

Sarah said she hoped young readers will learn the importance of empathy, kindness and embracing others.

"They'll realize how much the young children have been through, but also how resilient they are," she said. "Their dreams are very relatable and somewhat universal. And they are so motivated and hard-working to try to achieve their



Carter Magnano and Sarah Park, co-authors of "New Beginnings: Refugee Children's Tales of Hope and Resilience," with one of the children featured in the book holding a picture he drew of a memory from his home country.

dreams. Hopefully, (the book) highlights the power of their resilience, and by sharing their experiences, we can create a more compassionate world."

The book is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. All proceeds will go to support the refugee children at Jax-THRIVE.

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Thursday, September 19, 2024 | Page 17

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Photos courtesy of Feeding Northeast Florida



A decade of fighting hunger to be celebrated at gala

By Anthony Richards

Feeding Northeast Florida will celebrate 10 years of serving the local community with an anniversary gala on Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. at the nonprofit organization's headquarters located at 5245 Old Kings Road in Jacksonville.

A decade is a long time for any business or organization to be a part of the community, but especially for one as deeply involved as a nonprofit such as Feeding Northeast Florida.

"This milestone not only marks a decade of our tireless efforts to fight hunger but also signifies a new chapter as we move into our forever home facility," said Susan King, president and



CEO of Feeding Northeast Florida.

King understands the vital role the community plays with its donations and how that support allows them to accomplish their goal of feeding families and individuals in need in the area.

"Your presence and support will make a difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and families in Northeast Florida," King said. "Thank you for

your unwavering support."

The event will feature live music, stations from various restaurants locally, signature cocktails to choose from and self-guided tours of the Feeding Northeast Florida facility.

Tickets for the 10th anniversary gala are \$225 and registration can be completed by going to feedingnefl.org and clicking on the purchase tickets tab on the homepage.

It is fitting to have the event take place near the end of September due to the month also being Hunger Action Month, which is an important national awareness campaign.

The Feeding America initiative

focuses on bringing to light the hunger that takes place in our communities every day.

Feeding Northeast Florida is the region's largest nonprofit food bank and spearheads the local effort to bring awareness to the one in eight individuals and one in five children affected by hunger across Northeast and North Central Florida.

Within the nonprofit's coverage area of St. Johns, Duval, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Flagler, Nassau and Putnam Counties, the annual impact includes an average of 264,432 individuals served, 85,092 meals per day, and nearly 32 million pounds of food distributed.



Photos by Anthony Richards

Numbers, impact continue to grow at Jaguars' annual Community Day

By Anthony Richards

The Jaguars Foundation held its Second Annual Community Day on Sept. 6 at the Flex Field next to Daily's Place in downtown Jacksonville, as several local businesses and season ticket members joined forces to pack bags and items for a variety of nonprofit organizations in Northeast Florida.

"We used to always do a 'back to football' luncheon, but we were rethinking and wanted to do something community-facing," said Whitney Meyer, chief community impact officer with the Jaguars. "So, we talked to our sponsors, and we do these type of community events throughout the year, but we all said, 'How about we do one big one where we all come together to help kick off the season?'"

That idea just continues to grow as the numbers of involvement and those in need in the community that were served both increased from the inaugural event to the second year.



"Last year, we had about 200 volunteers and this year we had 450, and we've got space for a lot more," Meyer said. "We are thinking about next year maybe doing a part two in the evening, so that other members in the community can take part after they get off work."

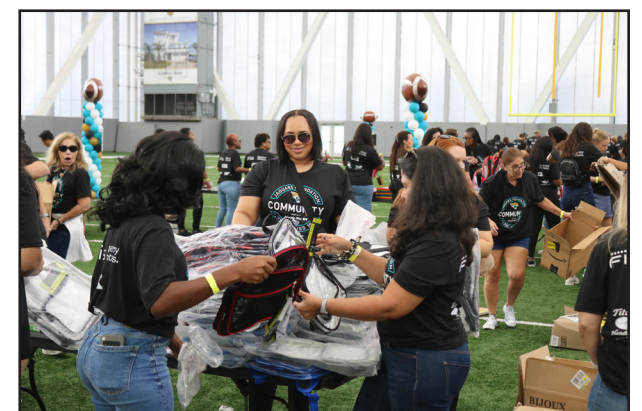
According to Meyer, the event also gives a chance for smaller nonprofits to get their name out there to local businesses in hopes of presenting opportunities for future partnerships.

One of this year's smaller nonprofits was Operation New Hope, which strives to provide support along with life and job skills training for people with a history in the criminal justice system.

On the day, nonperishable food items for 1,000 meals were packed for Feeding Northeast Florida, as well as 600 homeless package care kits, 200 military care packages and bookbags filled with school supplies for every student at Andrew Robinson Elementary School in Jacksonville.

A unique aspect of the initiative is that it does not just focus on one area of people in need to help, but instead spreads out the support across multiple platforms, showing that whether one is a veteran, child or homeless, there are many ways where someone can need help and in turn many ways to give back.

"We want people to know it's not just about football," Meyer said. "We're an organization here in Jacksonville and we want to do our part to kick off some good deeds as well."



Local foundation assists in American troops in need of food

By Anthony Richards

The We Can Be Heroes Foundation is doing its part to help U.S. Army Troops serving in South Korea struggling with food insecurities.

The help is able to come thanks to the contributions of donors who are collecting commissary gift cards to send to the Warriors Pantry, which is an organization in place for military families in-need.

The gift cards will be sent to Camp Humphreys in South Korea, which is the largest military base overseas.

“We recognize food insecurity is a growing need among our community,” said Lindsey Geraci, Camp Humphrey Ready and Resilient Program specialist. “Families in need are encouraged to visit the Warrior Food Pantry to access non-perishable food items to support their families.”

The Northeast Florida Korean War Veterans Chapter 200 and the We Can Be Heroes Foundation in coordination with the Camp Humphreys Ready and Resilient Council needs the help from the local community to purchase the gift cards.

Those interested can donate online at WeCanBeHeroesFoundation.org and earmark their donation for the Warriors Pantry.

Checks can also be mailed to the We Can Be Heroes Foundation at 14286-19 Beach Blvd., No. 120 in Jacksonville.

“As a Marine in Korea during the Korean War, let me assure you that our overseas military personnel need to know they have the support of Americans at home,” said Henry Moreland, commander of the local Korean War Veterans Chapter 200. “A donation of any amount will mean a great deal to those struggling to feed their families.”

Often military personnel are expected to protect and defend the country and its citizens, but there also comes a time when the citizens can say thank you for their protection and offer up assistance of their own to those military men and women in need.

The We Can Be Heroes Foundation is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)3 public foundation located in Jacksonville with the mission to inspire the unsung hero in all residents to achieve more for those who lay their life on the line to protect the nation’s freedoms.

The foundation provides community outreach to veterans and believes the highest act to honor our veterans is paying it forward by serving the communities less fortunate.

40th annual Caring Chefs set for Oct. 13

The Children’s Home Society of Florida (CHS) will host its 40th annual Caring Chefs from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Glass Factory. This event will feature more than 25 restaurants sampling their favorite bites and a live musical performance by The Band Be Easy.

“I’ve seen firsthand the incredible impact we can make when we come together,” said Bob Geis, Caring Chefs committee chair and CHS board member. “Caring Chefs is more than just a night of great food and friendships — it’s an opportunity for our community to support vulnerable children and families, helping them overcome challenges and build brighter futures. Together, we’re ensuring every child has the chance to succeed.”

Proceeds from Caring Chefs will benefit the Children’s Home Society of Florida, which helps children in our community through services and solutions, including mental health counseling, Community Partnership Schools and Healthy Families Florida — an in-home service that stabilize and strengthen families.

Tickets for the 40th annual Caring Chefs are available for purchase online at <https://chsfl.org/events/caring-chefs>, with sponsorship packages still available.

On the front lines since 1902, Children’s Home Society of Florida is the oldest and largest statewide organization devoted to helping children and families. Children’s Home Society of Florida serves more than 50,000 children and family members throughout the state each year. For more information, go to chsfl.org.

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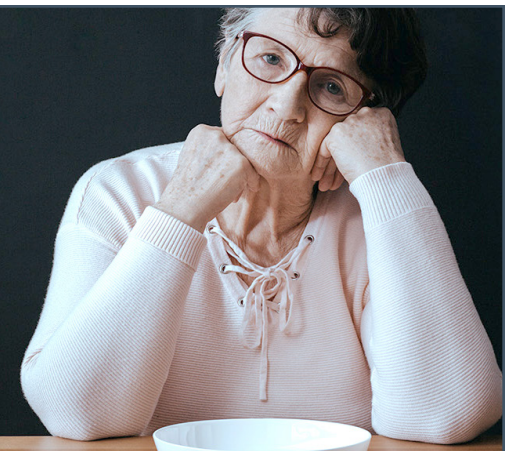
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You can help us solve this urgent and growing crisis – with double the impact.

Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds will match every donation made to Suppers for Seniors up to \$50,000.

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THE PLAYERS announces Red Coats' Community Grants recipients

THE PLAYERS Championship has announced the recipients of the 2024 Red Coats' Community Grants, a key initiative of THE PLAYERS' ongoing commitment to supporting local nonprofits that enhance the quality of life in Northeast Florida. This year, more than 50 organizations have been awarded grants to further their impactful work across the region.

Kevin Robbins, who oversees the Red Coats' Community Grant Committee, expressed his enthusiasm for this year's recipients.

"The 2024 Red Coats' Community Grants embody the spirit of giving back to our community, and we are honored to support such a diverse group of organizations," he said. "These nonprofits are making a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and families across Northeast Florida, and we're excited to see the positive impact these grants will bring."

The 2024 Red Coats' Community Grants recipients are:

- ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida
- Arize Together
- Barnabas Center
- BASCA
- Beaches Council on Aging
- Bishop Kenny High School
- Blessings in a Backpack



Hearts 4 Minds was a recipient last year and will once again receive grant funds.

- Cathedral Arts Project
- Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial
- Children's Christmas Party of Jacksonville
- Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech
- Coaches Honor
- Coalition for the Homeless of Nassau County
- Communities In Schools of Jacksonville
- Cornerstone Classical Academy
- DePaul School of Northeast Florida
- Downtown Ecumenical Services Council
- Dreams Come True of Jacksonville
- Elevate Jacksonville
- Empowerment Media
- Field of Dreams
- First Coast Honor Flight
- Fitness and Character Education



Photos provided by The PGA Tour

Elevate Jacksonville is one of the grant recipients this year.

- Five STAR Veterans Center
- Fostering Connections
- Greenwood School
- Guardian Catholic School
- Habitat for Humanity Jacksonville
- Hearts 4 Minds
- HEAL Foundation
- Henry Brown Athletic Association
- Here Tomorrow
- Hope4Veterans
- Horse Sense and Sensitivity
- Icon Preparatory School Jacksonville
- JT Townsend Foundation
- K9s For Warriors
- L'Arche Jacksonville
- Len Mattiace Foundation
- Mission House
- North Florida School of Special Education
- Operation New Hope

- Operation New Uniform
- Palm Valley American Legion Post 233
- PossAbilities Plus
- Rethreaded
- River Garden Senior Services
- Seamark Ranch
- The Fire Watch
- The Kitchen of Clay County
- The Patric Young Foundation
- The Sanctuary of Northeast Florida
- UF Health Jacksonville
- V for Victory of Florida
- Vision Is Priceless
- Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville
- Will of Iron
- Young Life in Northeast Florida

The Red Coats' Community Grants are just one of three main grant programs offered by the tournament.

Looking ahead, THE PLAYERS annual grant program will open next month, providing significant funding to local nonprofits with grants starting at \$12,500. Additionally, the equipment grant program, which provides new golf equipment from the PGA Tour Superstore to nonprofits, remains open for applications year-round. Nonprofits are encouraged to apply and learn more by going to the community section of THE PLAYERS website, theplayers.com/community, and subscribing to the community newsletter.

MEANING, PURPOSE, MENTAL HEALTH

San Marco

Avondale

Springfield

You may have seen these murals, but you may not know what they're about.

Each Mural with Meaning provides a symbolic visual nod to mental health awareness in the community and shares valuable resources that will save lives.

The mission of **Hearts 4 Minds Inc.** ("H4M") is to help build healthy futures by breaking down the stigma of mental illness and ensuring that people impacted by mental illness get the help they need. We never want a family to lose a loved one simply because they didn't know where to turn. We strive to save lives by creating innovative solutions to solve the most critical needs in our communities struggling with mental illness. By donating, you help us create solutions and meet needs through stigma reduction, education, early identification, and facilitation of accessible treatment.



Hearts4Minds.org/Donate

@Hearts4Minds

Delicious Destinations raises record donations



Andrea Laliberte, chair of the Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation Board, speaks at the Delicious Destinations event. She offered to match all donations made to outreach programs through Sept. 30 (up to \$50,000).

This year's Delicious Destinations event, held on Sept. 6 and 7, was record-breaking in terms of donations. Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation raised more than \$374,000 for its Community Outreach Programs that help the community's most vulnerable people access health care they otherwise could not afford.

Andrea Laliberte, chair of the Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation Board, offered to match all donations made to outreach programs through Sept. 30 (up to \$50,000). Donations can be made by going to <https://givestvincents.org> and clicking the Donate button.



Contributed photos

Dr. Abdi and Kristina Abbassi, from Ponte Vedra Beach, served as event chairs for the 22nd annual Delicious Destinations event.



The 22nd Delicious Destinations Celebrity Chef by the Sea Luncheon



The 22nd Delicious Destinations Main Evening Event

From caregiver burnout to balance

For The Recorder

The loss of a parent is devastating, but for Chrysandra Reynolds, it marked the start of her challenges. When her father died, the Jacksonville resident not only had to deal with grief but was suddenly thrust into the role of her mother's caregiver — with no idea where to start. After some serious struggles, she connected with ElderSource, a resource that offered her the guidance and support she desperately needed.

"I had absolutely no experience as a caregiver when I started taking care of my mom," Reynolds said. "It was a very, very difficult learning process for me."

After taking on the role of caregiver, things quickly became even more challenging for Reynolds. Her mother was diagnosed with dementia, a devastating turn that required far more intensive care than Reynolds had initially expected. Each day brought new difficulties, and the physical and emotional toll began to mount. Despite her best efforts, Reynolds realized she was in over her head, and she simply couldn't manage this all on her own.

That's when she discovered ElderSource's Helpline.

"My advice to anyone who is a caregiver, first and foremost, call Elder-



Contributed photo

Chrysandra Reynolds received burnout prevention support through ElderSource.

Source," Reynolds said. "That's the first thing you need to do."

In one phone call, Reynolds was connected to various community resources that could support her with her caregiver duties. In addition, the Helpline pointed her toward a partner agency that had trained caregiving professionals who could supply respite care when needed.

Reynolds also signed up for ElderSource's Tailored Caregiver Assessment Referral Program (TCARE). This invaluable, free program allowed her to work closely with a specialist to create a care plan tailored to her specific sources of stress and individual strengths. By iden-

tifying the root causes of her burnout, the TCARE specialist developed strategies to improve her overall caregiving effectiveness. After the first two meetings, the specialist followed up with Reynolds every three months to monitor her progress and offer ongoing support.

Reynolds was one of 80 local caregivers who received burnout prevention support through ElderSource in 2023. This program proved to be a lifeline, providing Reynolds with essential tools to continue her caregiving journey with renewed strength and resilience.

"We are currently accepting new participants into the TCARE program," said

ElderSource CEO Linda Levin. "We are eager to offer this free resource to more caregivers who, like Reynolds, could benefit from tools and support that help them better manage their responsibilities and avoid burnout."

Today, Reynolds proudly considers herself a seasoned caregiver, having cared for her mother for the past eight years. But she vividly remembers the time when it all felt too overwhelming, when the weight of responsibility nearly broke her — and the relief she found in ElderSource.

"It took me a long time to get the message: take care of yourself," she said. "You got to do something to take care of yourself. If there was no ElderSource, none of that would have happened."

Looking back, Reynolds hopes her story can inspire others who find themselves in similar situations. She knows all too well how isolating caregiving can be, but she also knows that help is out there.

ElderSource offers free TCARE services to caregivers that are assisting someone who is age 60 and older and is residing in Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Volusia, Nassau or St. Johns counties. For more information call 904-391-6699 or email caregiversupport@myeldersource.org.

Contributed photos



Pine Castle announces \$500K challenge match

For The Recorder

Pine Castle, one of Northeast Florida’s leading agencies that serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DDs), has announced a unique opportunity to help build sustainability and provide the best programming to support those they serve.

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Thom and Pat Borowy, every dollar Pine Castle raises up to \$500,000 will be matched for participant programs. This means that any contribution made to Pine Castle will effectively be doubled, allowing donor support to have twice the impact. Pine Castle’s ultimate goal for the match cam-

paign is to raise \$1 million for their mission. Additionally, if a donor’s company matches their contribution, the gift will effectively be tripled.

“We are so grateful for the ongoing support of Dr. Thom and Pat Borowy, who have been faithful donors for more than 20 years,” said Lori Ann Whittington, chief executive officer. “This gift is truly transformational for the agency and will allow us to provide the very best training, education and support for our participants well into the future.”

The following are some of the areas where donor investments will make a significant impact:

- **Pine Castle Academy:** Educational pathways to life enrichment or community employment, featuring award-winning curriculum and creating opportunities for participants to foster increased independence and enhanced quality of life.

- **Employment Training and Job Placement:** On-campus work training and vocational apprenticeships, providing the tools necessary to thrive in the community workforce. This includes the woodshop, culinary crew, custodial crew, maintenance crew and manufacturing assembly training.

- **Community Living:** Five group

homes caring for individuals in a holistic approach to support and personal growth.

- **Health and Wellness:** Comprehensive care through nursing and mental health programs.

Every gift matters in this Challenge Campaign, whether big or small. All contributions will help provide essential programming for the individuals to achieve their highest potential for independence.

To donate, go to pinecastle.org/donate. Gifts can also be sent via mail to Pine Castle’s address at 4911 Spring Park Road, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

Spavia Day Spa of Ponte Veda Partners supports St. Johns CARES

For The Recorder

Spavia Day Spa Ponte Veda has announced its month-long Spavia Cares campaign in collaboration with St. Johns CARES, aiming to support

its mission to assist local charities and those in need through donations and time.

At Spavia, community engagement and philanthropy are integral to its core values and mission as a company. The

Spavia Cares initiative is designed to address the diverse needs of its communities through various avenues such as fundraisers, volunteer efforts, event hosting and more.

As part of the resort-inspired day spa’s system-wide campaign, Spavia in Ponte Veda is hosting a month-long in-spa food drive until Sept. 30 to stock the food pantry which supports many families within the community. This commitment is being spearheaded by local Spavia owner, Chris Stoll.

“We are thrilled to partner with St. Johns CARES for Spavia Cares this September,” said Stoll. “This initiative allows us to give back to our community and support a cause that is close to our hearts. At Spavia, we believe in the power of community and the importance of wellness. By partnering with St. Johns CARES, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. We invite everyone to join us in this rewarding effort, enjoy our treatments and help us make a positive impact.”

By focusing on partnerships with local charities, Spavia reinforces its

commitment to promoting wellness and supporting meaningful causes that align with its mission.

“Spavia Cares embodies our commitment to the communities we serve,” said Allison Langenderfer, co-founder and president of Spavia. “We are proud to support our franchisees and their local charity partners as they work together to promote wellness and make a difference. Our mission has always been to make a positive difference in the world, one guest at a time, and through Spavia Cares, we extend that mission beyond our spa doors and into the communities that support us. We encourage everyone to participate in these efforts and join us in our commitment to giving back.”

A self-care oasis in Ponte Veda, Spavia welcomes its guests to indulge in a variety of result-driven massage and skin care treatments, body wraps, waxing, lash extensions and more.

Spavia is open seven days a week.

For more information on Spavia Ponte Veda, go to pontevedrafl.spaviadayspa.com. For more information on St. Johns CARES, go to stjohnscares.org.

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Help Daniel kids with double the impact

Children's early experiences can significantly impact their development, and for some, these experiences are marked by significant challenges such as abuse and abandonment. This is the reality for many children at Daniel, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support for those facing severe mental and behavioral issues.

One such case is 14-year-old Christopher (name and photo changed for privacy), who grew up in an abusive household and was diagnosed with ADHD and Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD). Even after being adopted by a loving family, Christopher continued to struggle with depression and anxiety, resulting in serious behavioral problems.

Fortunately, Christopher's parents connected him with Daniel's Residential Treatment Center, an in-patient behavioral treatment center for children ages 5-17, where he learned new techniques and skills to handle his emotions in healthier ways. With the right support, children like Christopher can turn their lives around. But as a nonprofit, Daniel needs the community's help in ensuring these children's futures are bright.

Next month, Daniel will be working hard to raise \$140,000 to celebrate 140 years of improving the odds for kids and families in crisis. Thanks to the generosity of the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds, the first \$50,000 of donations made during October will be matched.

Daniel also connects children with foster and adoptive homes, helps homeless teens secure housing and develop indepen-



Contributed photo

Daniel supports an average of 5,000 children and families each year.

dent living skills, and plays a vital role in preventing child abuse by strengthening at-risk families.

"These children have the potential to turn their lives around and lead fulfilling lives despite their rough beginnings," said Lesley Wells, CEO and president of Daniel. "With the generosity of donors, we can make a lasting difference for many years to come."

Daniel supports an average of 5,000 children and families each year. To donate toward Daniel's goal — with double the

impact during October — go to danielkids.org or call Dave Coggnetta at 904-296-1055 ext. 1033.

Diners can donate to Betty Griffin Center

People can let their appetites provide support for the Betty Griffin Center by dining at any of the seven Columbia Restaurants in Florida in September during the 27th Annual Columbia Restaurant Community Harvest program.

For the entire month, Columbia donates 5% of all guests' lunch and dinner checks to the charitable organizations chosen by customers. Guests simply choose a charity from a ballot that's provided with the check and the restaurant calculates the 5%. There's no additional cost to the guest.

"Every dollar we receive through this annual fundraiser makes a tremendous impact on our ability to operate our shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence and helps with funding the prevention programs we provide throughout the county," said Betty Griffin Center Development Director Kenlie Kubart. "It's a fun way to give and support a very serious

cause."

The Columbia Community Harvest takes place at seven Columbia Restaurants throughout the state, including the St. Augustine location at 98 St. George St. All Columbia locations are open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. For more information, go to ColumbiaRestaurant.com.

Over the past 26 years, the Columbia Restaurant Community Harvest has donated more than \$4 million to nonprofit organizations throughout Florida.

The original Columbia Restaurant was founded in Tampa's Historic Ybor City in 1905 by Cuban immigrant Casimiro Hernandez Sr., and is now Florida's oldest restaurant. All Columbia locations are owned and operated by fourth and fifth generation members of the founding family except for Columbia Restaurant Cafe at Tampa International Airport, which is operated in partnership with HMSHost.

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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.

This is a night to eat, drink, and dance to live music by Band Be Easy.

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

GUEST COLUMN

Celebrate Rolex with Underwood Jewelers and Standfast Asset Management



By Scott A. Grant

It surprises many people to learn that Rolex, the iconic watch maker, is actually a charity. Well, it is not really a charity, the Rolex corporation is owned by a charity, The Hans Wilsdorf Foundation and has been since 1960.

Hans Wilsdorf founded the company that would become Rolex in 1905. Wilsdorf became convinced that wrist watches would soon replace pocket watches. In 1914, just weeks before World War I broke out, Wilsdorf wrote that he believed “pocket watches will almost completely disappear and that wrist watches will replace them definitely!”

Wilsdorf’s prediction came true almost immediately. World War I increased the

demand for wrist watches exponentially. Men in the trenches needed a watch that was handy and reliable. They often needed to coordinate with other units, sometime miles away. If they were going to attack the enemy on the other side of no man’s land, it was essential that they all do so at the same time.

Hans Wilsdorf came up with the name of his iconic brand in 1908. He had been playing with various combinations of letters without finding a satisfying combination. Then, one day, he was riding on the upper level of a double-decker, horse-drawn bus along Cheapside in London when a “good genie” whispered the word “Rolex” into his ear. Cheapside is a financial district. Charles Dickens once called it “the busiest thoroughfare in the world.” During the Middle Ages, they held jousting tournaments there, and it is mentioned in the film “A Knight’s Tale.”

I am often asked what makes Rolex watches so special? Is it the quality, the craftsmanship, the history? You might as well ask why we value gold. Rolexes are just cool! Speaking of cool, Steve McQueen had one. He never wore it in a movie, just in real life. McQueen’s Rolex Submariner sold at auction for \$234,000. Now, that may seem like a lot for a watch, but it is not the record. In 2017, Paul Newman’s 1968 Rolex Daytona sold for an astonishing \$17.8 million. A price that made that iconic watch

decidedly more precious than gold.

If you have a Rolex or want a Rolex or just love the watch, consider coming to The Rolex Party at Underwood’s Jewelers in Ponte Vedra on Oct. 3 from 6 to 8 pm. This is the second Rolex party co-sponsored by Standfast Asset Management. The first was a huge success. And be sure to bring your watches for “show and tell.”

And now, back to the charities. Hans Wilsdorf had no children. In 1945, he founded the Hans Wilsdorf Foundation and donated his shares of Rolex to the foundation upon his death in 1960. Each year the foundation donates hundreds of millions of Swiss francs to various

causes. It is one of the largest nonprofits in Switzerland.

Like most things Swiss, the foundation is very secret. Each year, about a third of the money goes to humanitarian aid, a second third to animals and the ecosystem and a final third for local projects in Geneva, where it is known simply as “the Foundation.”

Annually, Rolex Awards are given to innovators who make the world a better place. Beth Koigi of Kenya won one of the 160 Rolex Awards given over the decades. Her company, Majik Water, uses atmospheric water generators to pull water out of the air in a part of the world where water is more precious than gold.

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St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Isabelle Renault with The Social Society owner Seri Kertzner.

Party

Continued from 1

creative. We train our staff to think outside the box.”

The Social Society also offers balloon arrangements, both helium-filled bundles and garlands, which were on display both inside and outside the store during the ribbon-cutting celebration.

Much of the supplies offered in the store comes from relationships and friends that Kertzner has developed in the party business over the years, but they also have created certain items in-house, including cocktail napkins, cups, trucker hats and pickleball paddles.

She also has an event company in New York City, where she helps style events for her clients.

“I love spreading joy and just seeing people being happy, laughing and making memories with friends and family,” Kertzner said. “That’s how I grew up, so to me it’s all about celebrating life’s special moments and those special occasions. There are so many holidays that we don’t really need to celebrate, but why not celebrate them? We’re here to just help spread joy.”

Seeing the support and number of people from the community come out to take part in each of the three days of celebration means a lot to Kertzner and she could not have planned a better way to kick off the business’ opening.

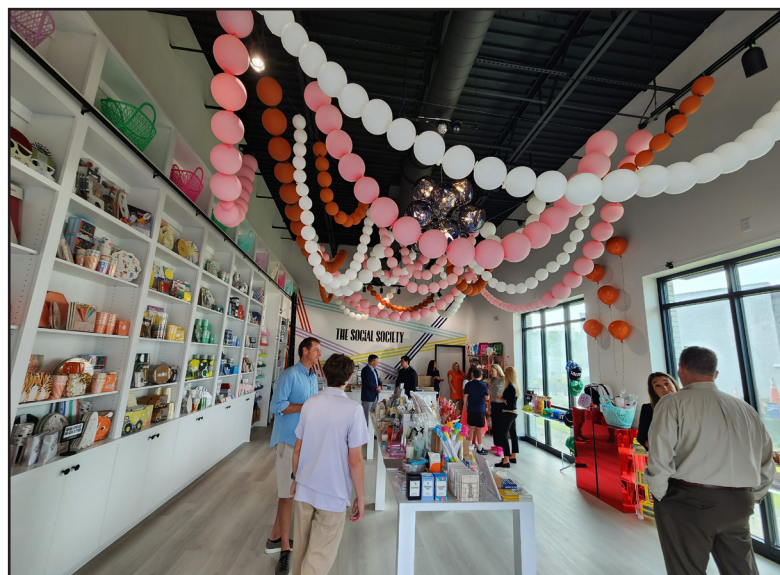
“It’s very overwhelming, and just super nice to see the support it’s gotten,” she said. “They just keep saying how much this community needs it and how excited they are to have us here.”



Any party theme a customer has in mind, they can help make happen.



Trucker hats are one of the customized items The Social Society creates.



Photos by Anthony Richards

Members from the community attended the ceremony.



The Social Society joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Veda Beach Division with the ribbon cutting.



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

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

Landscaping with Deer

"Live bold, without fear. This is life amongst the deer." — Katelyn S. Bolds

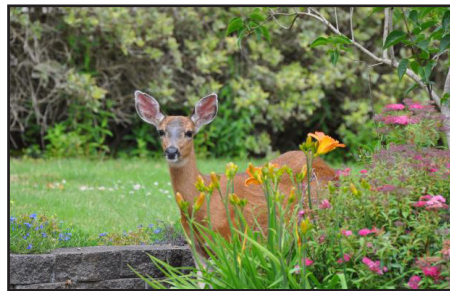
By Kathy Esfahani



Kathy Esfahani

Observing nature in action is part of the wonder of gardening! Although deer can be as beautiful as butterflies, hummingbirds and other visitors, they can also cause significant damage to the plants in a landscape. Leaves and stems with jagged edges are a sign that a deer has been feasting on your plants, particularly if the damage is high off the ground.

So, how can you protect your landscape? The most effective strategy is a combination of multiple methods. Physical barriers — such as fences and motion activated lights — can be a good starting point. Some believe that



Deer pose significant challenges for landscapes.

sprinkling flakes of Irish Spring soap or handfuls of human hair around your yard will make it less attractive to deer. Chemical repellents are also available in lawn and garden stores. The key for any deterrent is to mask the smell of the plants that the deer want. They will avoid areas that smell like humans or less desirable scents (in their opinion!). Try to be patient as you experiment with various deterrents to determine an effective strategy for your deer.

While many commercial formulas may be effective, the cost of these chemical repellents can become significant.

Homemade deer repellent sprays can help deter these visitors from your yard.

One recipe includes 1 cup milk, 1 egg, 1 tablespoon cooking oil, 1 tablespoon liquid dish soap and 4 cups water in a 1 gallon jug. Mix the ingredients and allow the solution to ferment in the sun before spraying.

Another recipe is a mixture of 1 gallon water, 3 tablespoons red pepper flakes and 2 teaspoons liquid Castile soap. Boil the water and red pepper flakes before adding the soap. Then, allow the solution to sit for 24 hours before straining into a spray bottle.

Ultimately, it is most helpful to fill your landscape with plants and flowers that deer do not enjoy.

Consider planting spiny or smelly shrubs and ornamental grasses around the perimeter of your yard. When planning your landscape, look for deer-resistant trees, shrubs and flowers. Tree options include bottlebrush, crape myrtle, live oak, magnolia, queen palm and royal palm. Select deer-resistant shrubs such

Flower of the Week



Mona Lavender

as bird of paradise, camellia, carissa, Chinese holly, croton, gardenia, juniper, lantana, plumbago and viburnum.

Finally, there are also annuals and perennials that deer will avoid. Deer do not enjoy the flowers of African Iris, black-eyed Susan, blue daze, canna lily, coneflower, gaura, marigolds, mona lavender, penta, snap dragons and verbena.

Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Mona Lavender

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.



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Benchmarks of Success

A look at major career developments in the area



Jade Brown

GreenPointe Developers names division manager

GreenPointe Developers has named Jade Brown division manager in the North Florida Region. In his

role, Brown will work collaboratively with the North Florida development team to continue the growth and expansion of the division.

Brown brings more than 25 years of experience in residential and mixed-use community development, construction management and engineering and strategic investment management to GreenPointe Developers, the master-plan community and urban development division of GreenPointe Holdings. He will be instrumental in leading development projects from concept to completion throughout North Florida.

Brown is a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where he earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He is a Florida Certified General Contractor and Registered Professional Engineer.



Tiffany Wein

Tiffany Wein Joins NAI Hallmark as senior associate

NAI Hallmark, a full-service commercial real estate brokerage and property management firm in Jacksonville,

has appointed Tiffany Wein as senior associate.

In her new role, she will work on both tenant and landlord representation assignments with industrial, medical office and retail clients. Prior to NAI Hallmark, Wein worked as a development associate at Scannell Properties, a national industrial real estate developer. She led prospecting efforts for new development sites in the greater Atlanta area.

Wein brings more than seven years of diverse commercial real estate

experience. During her career, she has worked in leasing, capital markets and development. She spent most of her career at Voya on the commercial mortgage loan team where she closed more than \$1.4 billion of commercial real estate loans.

Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery welcomes Dr. Matthew Mitchell

Matthew Mitchell, M.D., has joined the team of plastic surgeons at Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery (PVPS). He brings experience and expertise in both reconstructive and cosmetic surgery to PVPS.

A native of Houston, Texas, Mitchell earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Texas in 2017. He completed his residency in plastic surgery at Indiana University in Indianapolis and the University of Tennessee in Memphis. Most recently, he culminated his training with a fellowship at Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery.

Mitchell is a member of prestigious professional organizations, including the American Society of Hand Surgery, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

For more information or to

schedule a consultation with Dr. Matthew Mitchell, go to pvps.com or call 904-664-1552.

7th Judicial Circuit court administrator receives award

Mark Weinberg has been selected by the Justice Management Institute (JMI) Board of Directors as the recipient of its 2024 Ernest C. Friesen Award of Excellence to recognize his leadership and achievements in enhancing and improving the administration of justice.

Weinberg was selected for this prestigious award for his contributions to the field of court administration over the past three decades at the local level and his roles in statewide court committees and national associations. Among his many accomplishments are spearheading the implementation of digital court reporting, problem-solving courts, pretrial diversion and the use of risk-based assessments during his tenure at the 7th Circuit.

At the state level, Weinberg's work has focused on transparency, accountability, ensuring adequacy of judicial resources and expanding alternatives to traditional adjudication in trial courts through his

BENCHMARKS continues on **Page 29**

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Benchmarks

Continued from 28

work as a member of the Trial Court Budget Commission, the Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability, the Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court and the Steering Committee on Problem-Solving Courts.

Prior to becoming the court administrator for the 7th Judicial Circuit of Florida, he was an administrator with the Maricopa County Superior Court in Phoenix, Arizona.

Weinberg graduated from James Madison University with a bachelor's degree in public administration and later graduated with a master's degree in judicial administration from the University of Denver.

position, Maldonado manages and oversees all HOA and CDD matters in the North Florida region.

Prior to joining GreenPointe, Maldonado spent 17 years with a national community association management company in regional director and operations manager roles. In addition to managing HOA and CDD operations, her responsibilities include procedure development, financial review, operations support, HOA/CDD formation and turnover procedures.

A licensed community association manager, Maldonado earned her bachelor's degree in business administration, management from the University of North Florida.

GreenPointe is developing communities throughout Florida. For more information, go to GreenPointeLLC.com.

overseeing an expanded program of family engagement workshops at six early learning centers and three Head Start sites throughout the academic year. She also manages long-standing initiatives such as the annual children's writers contest, the Jax PBS KIDS Club, WJCT's Parenting Minutes and more.

Murray will also manage WJCT Public Media's relationships with local and national partners and stakeholders, develop new programs and services, and serve as an early childhood education resource for the Northeast Florida community.

Murray has an extensive background in the field and has worked with WJCT Public Media as a consultant over the past two years while also consulting for The WNET Group in New York, the Fred Rogers Company and public media stations throughout Florida.

Flagler College honored

Flagler College has secured a spot in the top 500 colleges in the country, according to The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse Best Colleges in the U.S. ranking for 2025. This prestigious recognition highlights Flagler's commitment to delivering exceptional value and a superior educational experience to its students.

In the recently released list, Flagler College is ranked 485 overall. The college also earned notable distinctions in specific categories, ranking 351 for student experience and 372 for social mobility. These rankings reflect Flagler's dedication to providing an enriching learning environment and fostering opportunities for students to achieve their academic and career goals.

The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse Best Colleges ranking evaluates institutions based on multiple criteria, including the learning environment, time to pay off net price, degree completion rates, potential for higher salaries post-graduation and diversity.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



GreenPointe welcomes Megan Maldonado

GreenPointe Developers has announced that Megan Maldonado has joined the North Florida

Megan Maldonado

development team as developed real estate manager. In this newly created



WJCT appoints Murray director of education

WJCT Public Media has appointed Stephanie Murray the organization's director of education.

Stephanie Murray

In her new role, Murray leads WJCT's early childhood education team,

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THE RECORDER



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On closing day, customers lined up at the door to get their last fish & chips and other traditional English fare.



End of an Era

King's Head Pub closes after 32 years

After 32 years, the King's Head Pub off U.S. Route 1 in St. Augustine has closed with its last day being on Sept. 15. The closing was filled with mixed emotions as many regular patrons gathered on the final day to get their last order of fish and chips while reminiscing of all the good times and countless memories had over the years.

Photos by Susan Griffin



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In the Arts



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 · PAGE 31 www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Ponte Vedra students to stage "Puffs" on Sept. 26-29

For The Recorder

The story of "Puffs" is a tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world. It will take the stage Sept. 26-29 at Ponte Vedra High School. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at www.PVHSDAB.com.

"Puffs" is a clever and inventive play that offers a fresh perspective on a familiar adventure. It follows the journey of three potential heroes navigating a perilous magic school, accompanied by the Puffs, a group of well-meaning, loyal outsiders with a fondness for loveable badgers. This results in a hilarious, heartfelt and epic journey that redefines the concept of a wizard hero.

Under the leadership of Jason Nettle, the Ponte Vedra High School theater series has seen a significant increase in community attendance over the past several years. This growth is a testament to the enriching and fun experiences the series delivers, including past productions such as "White Christ-



Contributed photo

Ponte Vedra High School students will present a clever and inventive play, "Puffs," on Sept. 26-29.

mas," "Romeo & Juliet," "Les Misérables" and "Grease."

Amongst the many casted for the show are:

- Wayne Hopkins played by Ryan Kelley
- Oliver Rivers played by Andrew Szslowski
- Megan Jones played by Ava Decker

- Narrator played by Oliver Carson
 - Ernie Mac played by Alex MacArthur
 - Cedric/Snape played by Charlie Pen-nella
 - Hannah played by Leslie Ray
 - Dumbledore played by Jocelyn Smith
- The overall cast of more than 120 working on an off stage work to bring together a memorable experience. They include:
- Erica Moya, stage manager
 - Bailey Vander Wall, assistance stage manager
 - Clair Popp & Megan Yuskis, assistant directors
 - Shadhvi Gowrisankar, technical direc-tor

"We are so excited to bring the commu-nity together to display the amazing talent of our students and offer a fun experience," said Kasey Roache, president of the Dra-matic Arts Booster (DAB).

Tickets are available at www.PVHS-DAB.com.

'Messiah Ballet' tickets available

Tickets are available now for the "Messiah Ballet," to be presented Nov. 16 at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts.

Experience the magic of George Frideric Handel's "Messiah" through ballet. This is a joint effort of Grace Conservatory of Dance and the St. Augustine Community Chorus. There will be a full orchestra, chorus and ballet troupe.

The performance raises funds for four area charities: Emmanuel Project, Alpha-Omega Miracle Home, Peace of Heart Community and JAMS, the Jacksonville Arts & Music School.

Sponsorships are also available. Ticket prices start at \$35 and go

MESSIAH continues on **Page 32**

Romanza's COLLAGE CONCERT SERIES RETURNS TO THE WATERWORKS

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>SEP. 28, 2024</p>  <p>Linda Cole Presents Nat King Cole and the Great American Songbook</p> | <p>OCT. 26, 2024</p>  <p>The Jazzy Blue Band A Taste of the Tropics</p> | <p>NOV. 23, 2024</p>  <p>On Dasher On Dancer On Point!</p> | <p>JAN. 25, 2025</p>  <p>Akia Uwanda Intimate Jazz and Soul</p> | <p>FEB. 15, 2025</p>  <p>A Special Celebration of Love Songs</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Romanza is pleased to present a new season of Romanza's Collage Concert Series which highlight the extraordinary variety of talent and musical genres in our area and offer something for everyone of every age. Don't miss these outstanding performances!



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Jacksonville Symphony to present Rachmaninoff concerto

For The Recorder

The Jacksonville Symphony launches its Florida Blue Classical Series with a thrilling program featuring Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 on Sept. 27 and 28 at Jacoby Symphony Hall. The concert will highlight internationally acclaimed pianist Joyce Yang, the world premiere of Brittany J. Green's "TESTIFY!" and Richard Strauss' "A Hero's Life," featuring Concertmaster Adelya Nartadjieva in several violin solos.

Grammy-nominated pianist Joyce Yang returns to Jacoby Symphony Hall for her third performance, bringing her artistry to one of Rachmaninoff's most beloved works. Renowned for her technical mastery and emotional depth, Yang

will showcase the famous concerto's intricate passages and lush harmonies. This performance marks a major highlight as the symphony celebrates its 75th anniversary season, with Yang as one of its first featured guest artists.

In addition to Rachmaninoff's masterpiece, the program will feature the world premiere of "TESTIFY!" composed by North Carolina-based artist Brittany J. Green. Presented in partnership with the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions Program, "TESTIFY!" draws inspiration from Green's childhood memories of her mother playing the tambourine, weaving together a vibrant soundscape that promises to engage and captivate the audience.

The evening will conclude with Richard Strauss' "A Hero's Life" ("Ein Heldenleben"), a dynamic tone poem that follows the journey of a hero, complete with powerful brass sections, sweeping romantic themes and beautiful violin solos by Nartadjieva. This powerful and evocative work offers a fitting conclusion to an evening brimming with musical excitement and variety, perfectly aligning with the spirit of the symphony's milestone season.

Tickets are available at JaxSymphony.org or by calling the box office at 904-354-5547. This concert is sponsored by Florida Blue and is part of the David M. Hicks Piano Series and the Greta Challen Berg Artist Series.

Writers' topic: Source of creativity



Contributed photo

Patricia Daly-Lipe will be the guest speaker for the next meeting of the Ponte Veda Writers.

We're not born with the seeds of creativity growing inside us — or are we? Questions about the sources of creativity have been around for millennia, and on Saturday, Sept. 28, Patricia Daly-Lipe will introduce the Ponte Veda Writers to "The Source of Creativity." The meeting takes place at the Ponte Veda Beach Branch Library at 11 a.m.

Daly-Lipe explains that the journey to creativity has many roads and involves both the heart and mind. She'll not only explain the journey but instruct writers how to fertilize and grow those creativity seeds.

Daly-Lipe, known as the "Literary Lady," is both an accomplished award-winning author and an artist. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy in humanities and taught English and writing at the university level. As a freelancer, she published in magazines and newspapers, and is the author of a dozen books.

The Ponte Veda Writers group is part of the Florida Writers Association, a statewide, membership organization dedicated to the support of both aspiring and published writers in any genre. The Sept. 28 meeting is free and open to members and nonmembers alike.

For information on FWA go to floridawriters.org.

Symphony announces scholarship recipients

The Jacksonville Symphony has announced that five students have been selected as the 2024/25 Season Usher Scholarship recipients. The students, Melissa Molano, Cara Standard, Jasmine Walker, Luis Sosa and Gloria Choi, will usher at 10 concerts during the symphony's 75th anniversary season. They will receive their cash awards at the end of their final shift, which can be used toward their educational endeavors.

The program, established last year, aims to foster student engagement and further the symphony's mission of enriching lives through symphonic music.

"This program offers students a unique opportunity to build strong leadership skills while experiencing the beauty of the symphony," said President and CEO Steven Libman. "We recognize the importance of introducing our youth to



Contributed photo

Luis Sosa ushers at a recent concert.

music, and we believe this initiative plays a vital role in nurturing essential skills and cultivating a new generation of arts enthusiasts."

Last year's participants enjoyed the program and most reapplied for this season.

"Working at the Jacksonville Sympho-

ny as a scholarship usher has been such a memorable experience!" said Richard Wilson, a 2023/24 scholarship recipient from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. "I made a few friends with other ushers and had opportunities to meet performers, which wouldn't have been possible otherwise. Being a scholarship recipient has helped me invest in my musical career by providing funds for school and reed-making tools. Thank you so much for this experience!"

Students can choose concerts from the season lineup, including ushering at a sold-out movie music concert or welcoming long-time subscribers to Florida Blue Classical concerts. At the end of the 2024/25 season, recipients will receive \$500 and submit a brief overview of their experience and how it contributed to their overall education and development.

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up to \$125. Go to messiahballet.org and click the Buy Tickets Now button.

Tickets are also available at ticketmaster.com/event/2200611BA56D208C.

New this year, the troupe will bring in a principal ballerina from the Savannah Ballet.

The Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts is located at 300 Water St., Jacksonville.

Romanza's Collage Concert Series returns

For The Recorder

Following the success of last season's inaugural Romanza's Collage Concert Series, organizers are pleased to present a new lineup of exciting performances.

Romanza's mission is to bring a wide variety of outstanding entertainment to Northeast Florida, and to celebrate the high quality of talent in this area. This year they will present five concerts, all at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine.

Tickets are \$25. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to romanza-collage.com



Linda Cole

Linda Cole presents Nat King Cole and the Great American Songbook

7:30 p.m. Sept. 28
Linda Cole, one of the headliners of the last Romanza

Festivale who brought down a packed house with her jazz and swing program, will return.

For the Collage series, she will be digging into her family history with "Nat King Cole and the Great American Songbook," an evening of American favorites.

Cole has performed in many night clubs and jazz spots and opened for David Benoit, Spyro Gyra, Chuck Mangione, Acoustic Alchemy, Maynard Ferguson, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Temptations and Mark Murphy in addition to guesting with the Count Basie Orchestra.



Jazzy Blue

The Jazzy Blue Band — A Taste of the Tropics

7:30 p.m. Oct. 26
Heading into cooler temperatures, Romanza delivers one last blast of

the tropic heat with local favorite Jazzy Blue. Described best as a one-of-a-kind one-man-band, vivacious songwriter and trained vocalist, Jazzy Blue's concert will feature timeless favorites, original compositions, interwoven with Caribbean treasures from his time living and performing in St. Croix, USVI.

On Dasher, On Prancer, ON POINT!

7:30 p.m. Nov. 23

Last year, the a cappella group On Point brought their harmonies to a packed house and brought everyone to their feet with a great program of classic and modern arrangements. On Point has



On Point

delighted audiences all over the country. They return this year with new selections and some holiday tunes to usher in the season.



Akia Uwanda

Jazz/Soul Vocalist Akia Uwanda, featuring Taylor Roberts on Guitar

7:30 p.m. Jan. 25

What better way to start a new year than with an intimate concert featuring Jacksonville's own Akia Uwanda. Akia has performed all over the world from Carnegie Hall to Parma, Italy.

A favorite of Romanza Festivale, Akia's smooth vocals and engaging performances make for an evening of music you won't soon forget.

Contributed photos



Valentine's Concert with Jason Whitfield and Haley Kirk

A Special Valentine's Concert

Feb. 15

Celebrate love with a special Valentine's concert filled with many of the world's great love songs. The team behind the hugely popular Broadway concerts featured in Romanza Festivale return with an evening filled with music to bring out the romantic in everyone. Directed by Cliff Parrish, this concert will feature songs of love from some of the world's greatest songwriters with local favorites Jason Whitfield, Haley Kirk, Trudye Lutton and Timothy Keatley.

Florida Blue Your Health Solutions Partner
Classical Series

September 27 & 28

Rachmaninoff's Second Concerto

Courtney Lewis Conductor

The Florida Blue Classical Series opens with Rachmaninoff's iconic Second Piano Concerto, welcoming pianist Joyce Yang alongside the Jacksonville Symphony. Brittany J. Green's *TESTIFY!* sets the tone for several world premieres, while Strauss' *A Hero's Life* brings the program to a thrilling close, featuring violin solos by Concertmaster Adelya Nartadjieva!

Part of the David M. Hicks Piano Series
Part of the Greta Challen Berg Artist Series

Don't miss this striking season opener!
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75th Jacksonville symphony

Courtney Lewis
Music Director



Sports

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 · PAGE 34

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WEEK 5 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Photos by Anthony Richards



Senior quarterback Nate Harry and the Nease Panthers look to snap a six-game losing streak against St. Augustine High on Friday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m.



Beachside High faces Bishop Kenny on the road, while Ponte Vedra High hosts Menendez in week five action.

By Anthony Richards

This week's slate of games has some massive contests to look forward to and none bigger than the classic rivalry of the Nease Panthers making the trip south to face the St. Augustine Yellow Jackets.

It is a matchup with much intrigue surrounding it, as not only are there the traditional bragging rights on the line but both teams enter the game undefeated with records of 3-0.

Both also have high expectations this season of deep playoff runs and the shot to be true state contenders.

The Panthers have been clicking on all cylinders to start the season, and they look to keep that momentum going against a Yellow Jackets squad that has had their number in recent years, having won the past six games in the series.

The last Panthers' win came in 2018, and the matchup has also proved to be a high scoring affair most of those years since, with the Yellow Jackets scoring 40-plus points on four occasions during the six-game stretch.

This means the key to the game will be which defense can slow the opposing explosive offense down the best, but so far this year's Panthers' defense seems to be playing at another level, which should make for an epic contest.

Another major matchup is the Beachside Barracudas (2-1) going on the road to face the Bishop Kenny Crusaders (3-1) in Jacksonville along the banks of the St. Johns River.

This matchup is all about pitting two explosive offenses against each other and seeing which one will come out on top.

However, the Barracudas did struggle

to find rhythm in their previous game against Ponte Vedra High, and only time will tell if the Crusaders or other defenses can replicate the success the Sharks were able to have.

One thing helping the Barracudas' offense literally find their rhythm earlier this week is that the daily rain has subsided some so the field conditions should not be as sloppy as they were last Friday night, which means better footing for Eddie Jordan in the pocket and a dry ball for receivers to catch.

The Crusaders are coming off a tough loss to the Bolles Bulldogs, where they saw a lead melt away late to fall 35-28.

The team that handed the Barracudas their first loss was the Ponte Vedra Sharks, and they look to extend their winning streak to three games when they welcome in the Menendez Falcons on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m.

With it being on Thursday night, the Sharks and Falcons will be kicking off the week's slate of game in another St. Johns County showdown.

The Falcons (2-1) will come into the Shark Tank with momentum of their own as they appear to have been revitalized as a program and have their eyes set on a district title after a 31-12 victory over Parker last week.

The Falcons have scored more than 30 points in both of their wins so far this season, but they have played each of their three games at home, which means their visit to face the Sharks will be their first road game experience.

How they respond to being away from the friendly confines of their home crowd will be a major factor in which way the contest goes, and the Sharks' faithful will surely be loud and look to make it as difficult as possible.

Sporting JAX, Jaguars, JU present Youth Soccer Day

For The Recorder

Sporting JAX, the United Soccer League (USL) franchise group bringing men's and women's professional soccer to Northeast Florida, has teamed up with the Jacksonville Jaguars and Jacksonville University to host a soccer camp for boys and girls ages 4 to 13 ahead of the Colts vs. Jaguars regular season game Sunday, Oct. 6, at EverBank Stadium.

The sixth annual youth soccer camp,

presented by Sporting JAX, will be directed by the club's Mauricio Ruiz and run by JU soccer players and coaching staff from 10:30 a.m. to noon on the Flex Field at Daily's Place. The cost of the camp starts at \$59 and includes a ticket to the Colts vs. Jaguars game, which kicks off at 1 p.m. Family and friends of clinic participants can also purchase game tickets and watch the youth soccer camp from the Flex Field sidelines. All attendees entering the stadium must have a game ticket.

"It's a privilege to reunite with former colleagues and collaborate with the Jaguars and JU, whose essential support makes this camp possible," said Ruiz, technical director for Sporting Jax. "Together, we're committed to nurturing youth soccer talent across Northeast Florida and fostering opportunities for the next generation of players and fans."

For more information on the youth soccer camp and to register, go to fevo-enterprise.com/event/jagsyouthsoccerday6. For questions or to purchase game tickets

separate from the camp, contact Michael Benko at 904-633-5263.

The upcoming camp reflects the organization's ongoing commitment to building a world-class pro soccer franchise focused on achieving excellence on and off the field. Supporters can reserve their Sporting JAX season tickets for the club's inaugural season with a deposit of \$25 for the pro men's or women's team, or a \$40 deposit for both teams at www.sportingjax.com/ticket-deposits.

Stealth hits a home run with mindset

Batting, fielding, pitching, catching ... and mindset? Yes, mindset is part of this year's practice schedule at Florida Stealth, home to a 10u, a 14u and two 12u softball teams.

At this year's season kickoff, they welcomed author Allistair McCaw who discussed his book, "Mindset is

Your Super Power: 77 Ways to Achieve Excellence in Your Habits, Routine & Life." McCaw is an author of more than six bestselling books and is a leading speaker and expert on team culture, leadership and mindset.

McCaw shared ideas from his book and led the girls in

discussions at the kickoff. The teams will continue their mindset journey throughout the season by reading a chapter from the book each week and discussing as a team.

The day ended with a friendly game of dodgeball, but look out, this team has a new superpower!



Author of "Mindset is Your Super Power: 77 Ways to Achieve Excellence in Your Habits, Routine & Life" joins the Florida Stealth 12u and 14u softball teams.



The 10u and 12u teams pose with author Allistair McCaw at the Florida Stealth softball kickoff. Contributed photos



Jack Marciani showing his Lion Spirit during the race. Contributed photos

Landrum Lions cross country team shines at Clay County Invitational

The Landrum Lions cross country team from Landrum Middle School had a great start to their season at the Clay County Cross Country Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 7.

Both the boys' and girls' 3K teams delivered stellar performances, securing second place overall out of nine competitive teams — a remarkable achievement for the Lions!

Special recognition goes to Coach Speed, Coach Ross and every runner for their hard work, dedication and outstanding teamwork.

The girls were led by the sixth-place finish of Vespa Latino, Lucy Lommel and Mary Chase Fender. The boys were led by the second-place finish of Liam Heffernan, Colin Bovee and Rafe Lommel.



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IN WITH THE NEW



Drew Price breaks through a banner leading the Sharks onto the field.



The Sharks and Barracudas battled in the district opener for both teams on Friday, Sept. 13.

WEEK 4 FOOTBALL RECAP



Eddie Jordan drops back to throw a pass for the Barracudas.

The following are photos from week four of the high school football season that saw the rain stay away, but sloppy field conditions were still a factor to deal with as the Ponte Veda Sharks defeated the Beachside Barracudas 17-14 and the Nease Panthers shutout the Fletcher Senators 39-0.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Senior defensive back Mason Houseman breaks up a deep pass, as the Sharks defense stifled the Barracudas passing attack in the first half.



Drew Price tight-ropes the sideline for extra yards.



The Sharks' cheer squad celebrated U.S.A. night at the Shark Tank.



Brian Case fights for yards against a defender.



Maddox Spencer leaves a Fletcher defender in the dust on his way to a touchdown.



The Nease student section showed their patriotic spirit during the game.



Nease Head Coach Collin Drafts congratulates his team as they come off the field.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **Jaclyn Tisa Design**, located at 6080 St. Andrews Ct, in the County of St. Johns, in the City of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, 32082 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.
Dated at Ponte Vedra, Florida, this 14th day of September 2024.
Jaclyn A. Tisa
Legal 101078 Published 9/19/2024 in St. Johns County Ponte Vedra Recorder newspaper

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **Tisa Consulting**, located at 6080 St. Andrews Ct, in the County of St. Johns, in the City of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, 32082 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.
Dated at Ponte Vedra, Florida, this 12th day of September 2024.
Thomas J. Tisa
Legal 100771 Published 9/19/2024 in St. Johns County Ponte Vedra Recorder newspaper

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Readers will have the chance to nominate their favorite businesses in various categories online, such as auto & transportation, home & finance, food & drink and more! Online voting will begin once nominations are complete.

Give your favorite business the recognition they deserve, and nominate them as the Best of the Best in their category!

NOMINATIONS: Oct. 4 - Nov. 10
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 I Y O L G R C B T B X H L U P Q X I E N
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 M O N E L A A C P L Q O F H S M T B X S
 C R A S C Q U H E Y E E A X S E C U H A

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

- ACCOUNTING
- ACCOUNTS
- ACCRUALS
- AFFILIATE
- BALANCE
- BUSINESS
- CAPITAL
- CATEGORY
- COSTS
- EARNINGS
- EMPLOYEE
- EQUITY
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| 43 | | | | | 44 | | | | 45 | | 46 | | | 47 |
| 48 | | | 49 | 50 | | | | | | 51 | | | 52 | |
| 53 | | | | | | | | | 54 | | | 55 | | |
| 56 | | | | | | | | | | 57 | | | | |
| | 58 | | | | | | | | | | 59 | | | |

ACROSS

- Tall, upright post on a boat
- Basics
- Used to refer to cited works
- Folds
- Former UK PM May
- Cold region of Russia
- Standard operating procedure
- Separating
- Particles
- A way to map out
- Referee declares
- Beginner
- Water (Spanish)
- Gov't lawyers
- Non-reproductive parts of an organism
- Spanish friends
- A type of tree
- Walk heavily
- About a wood
- Free-swimming marine invertebrate
- Political action committee
- SB19 hit song
- Scorch the surface of
- Moved quickly on foot
- Sacred state for a Muslim
- Growl
- Pearl Jam frontman
- Irritating person
- Something requiring a solution
- Firing
- Hazards
- Taiwan capital
- Impudence
- Rock frontman Durst

- Men's fashion accessories
- "Honey" actress Jessica
- Round red root vegetable
- Latin term for "charity"
- Doesn't smell good
- Mental health issue
- Millisecond
- Hairstyle
- Edible starch
- Middle Eastern military title
- Protein-rich liquids
- Indian musical pattern
- Cancer and Capricorn
- Country along the Arabian peninsula
- A bend
- Fishes of the herring family
- Antelopes

- Chaos
- Popular music app
- Cooking material
- Musical instrument
- San Diego ballplayers
- Small amounts
- Poured
- Fabric
- Food option
- Finger millet
- The U. of Miami mascot is one
- Alberta, Canada river
- Canadian flyers
- Dry white wine drink

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

DOWN

- One who rides an elephant
- Absence of bacteria
- Soviet Socialist Republic



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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>2024 CADILLAC CT5-V</p>  | <p>2023 CADILLAC ESCALADE</p>  | <p>2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE</p>  | <p>2020 CADILLAC ESCALADE</p>  | <p>2014 LEXUS IS 350</p>  |
| <p>SALE PRICE \$55,988 853 MILES STOCK# 0131305</p> | <p>CALL FOR PRICE 10,567 MILES STOCK# R533861A</p> | <p>SALE PRICE \$23,998 63,519 MILES STOCK# JC392494</p> | <p>SALE PRICE \$39,988 91,532 MILES STOCK# LR171055</p> | <p>SALE PRICE \$16,428 134,943 MILES STOCK# E5004576</p> |
| <p>2021 CADILLAC XT5</p>  | <p>2017 SUBARU FORESTER</p>  | <p>2020 BMW 8 SERIES</p>  | <p>2023 CADILLAC XT4</p>  | <p>2019 CADILLAC XT5</p>  |
| <p>SALE PRICE \$33,818 39,740 MILES STOCK# MZ179464</p> | <p>SALE PRICE \$17,148 77,262 MILES STOCK# HH803813</p> | <p>SALE PRICE \$55,888 31,649 MILES STOCK# LCE00737</p> | <p>SALE PRICE \$29,488 41,060 MILES STOCK# PF196783</p> | <p>SALE PRICE \$25,888 40,168 MILES STOCK# KZ126825</p> |



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