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THE RECORDER

SERVING PONTE VEDRA, ST. AUGUSTINE, THE BEACHES AND GREATER ST. JOHNS COUNTY



General Election Guide
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Thursday, October 17, 2024

PonteVedraRecorder.com

VOLUME 55, NO. 51 \$1.00

EnterCircle Entrepreneurship Week returns to connect, ignite, inspire

Join industry leaders in sparking unexpected opportunities and embracing the extraordinary

For The Recorder

Inspiration meets innovation at the region's most dynamic incubator for entrepreneurship. The 4th Annual EnterCircle Entrepreneurship Week, presented by the Sapna Foundation, features sessions with North Florida's top industry professionals and motivators, challenges, women-led and -focused programs, youth mentorship, career-building and more. It takes place Nov. 12-16 at the link, 425 Town Plaza Ave. in Nocatee, Ponte Vedra Beach.

"EnterCircle consistently engages entrepreneurial minds, from young innovators to seasoned pros, fostering an idea exchange that helps businesses grow," said Gurpreet Misra,

ENTERCIRCLE continues on Page 38

October Is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Powerfully Pink
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ENTERCIRCLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

Nov. 12-16 at the link in Nocatee

- Nov. 12 - Ponte Vedra Best of the Best Celebration
- Nov. 13 - Enterprise Day and Business Expo
- Nov. 13 - Cocktails for a Cause Charity Networking
- Nov. 15 - Women's Day and Business Expo
- Nov. 16 - Kidpreneurs Day

www.entercircle.zone

Sharks crush formerly unbeaten Broncos in district showdown

By Anthony Richards

We are in the thick of the district slate of games and the Ponte Vedra Sharks defeated the Middleburg Broncos 52-21, in a game that could help define the season for both teams.

The Sharks improved to a record of 5-2 and 2-1 in District 3-5A, while the Broncos dropped their first game of the season to fall to 6-1 and 1-1 in district play.

It was a high scoring night with the Sharks jumping out to a quick 24-0 at the end of the first quarter, as Sharks' running back Brian Case broke into the secondary and stiff-armed a defender before streaking down the right sideline for a 72-yard rushing touchdown to give the Sharks a 10-0 lead.



Photo by Anthony Richards

SHOWDOWN continues on Page 44

Brian Case stiff-arms a Middleburg defender before breaking free for a 72-yard touchdown run.

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Hugh Osteen

COO/VP
hugh@osteenmediagroup.com
(904) 285-8831

Susan Griffin

Publisher
susan@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 686-3938

Shaun Ryan

Editor
shaun@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1202

Anthony Richards

Reporter
anthony@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1207

Don Coble

Contributor
don@claytodayonline.com

Amber Anderson

Page/Graphic Designer
amber@pontevedrarecorder.com

April Snyder

Sales Assistant
april@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1204

Kristin Flanagan

Account Executive
kristin@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1206

Melissa Domingues

Account Executive
melissa@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 933-0397

Joe Wilhelm

Circulation Manager
joe@osteenmediagroup.com
(904) 300-5374

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BRIEFS

Eerie adventures await at GTM EstuSCARY

Join Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) National Estuarine Research Reserve from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 25 and 26 for an eerie adventure through the EstuSCARY Haunted Trail, filled with scares, surprises and spooky fun!

Presale tickets are \$15. At the event, tickets are \$20, cash only. Get date-specific tickets at gtmnerr.org/visit/events.

Or, go to:

- For Oct. 25: eventbrite.com/e/estuscary-haunted-trail-1-tickets-1002438329027?aff=oddtcreator

- For Oct. 26: eventbrite.com/e/estuscary-haunted-trail-2-tickets-1002440174547?aff=oddtcreator

Meet at South Beach Hammock Trail at South Beach access parking lot, 1798 Ponte Vedra Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

This event is hosted by Friends of GTM Research Reserve.

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.

Reserve times for Haunted Jail Alien Invasion

Sheriff Hardwick's Haunted Jail Alien Invasion will be held at St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Jail Annex, 4025 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. Though the Haunted Jail portion is not recommended for children younger than 10, the outdoor area will feature an outdoor movie screen, a trunk-or-treat area, games, photo booths, face painting, a merch tent, food and drinks.

Cost is \$20 for the Haunted Jail. Times

must be reserved. Dates are Oct. 18, 19, 25 and 26.

For information and tickets, go to eventbrite.com/e/sheriff-hardwicks-haunted-jail-presents-alien-invasion-tickets-1010799999007?aff=oddtcreator.

Creatures of the Night is this weekend

The St. Augustine Alligator Farm, 999 Anastasia Blvd., St. Augustine will hold its popular Halloween event, Creatures of the Night, this weekend. Meet eerie bugs and beasts, explore the park and fill your bag with treats. Dates and times are 5:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 18-20. Advance ticket purchase is required. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$16 for children ages 2 to 11. Tickets sold online at alligatorfarm.com/events-programs/community-events/creatures-of-the-night. Bring your own treat bag.

Tale Tellers to present spooky stories

Limelight Theatre, 11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine, will present "Dark and Stormy Night" from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 23. Tale Tellers of St. Augustine presents Natalie Beltrami, Chris Kastle, Lou Novak, Rita Saker and Drew Sappington spinning haunting tales. Not suitable for young ears. Tickets are \$10 (plus fees) and can be purchased at eventbrite.com/e/dark-and-stormy-night-tickets-986693385477?aff=oddtcreator.

Explore the beach at GTM Research Reserve

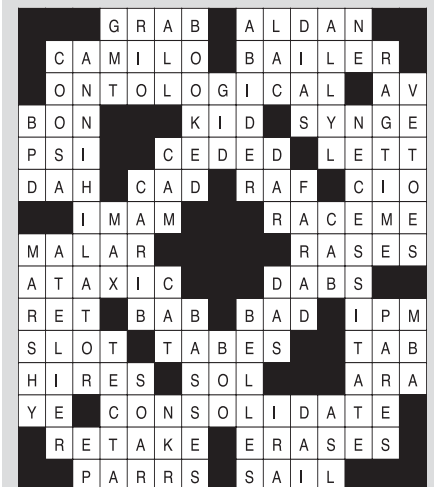
Join volunteers at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM) for a beach exploration 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19. Collect seashells, search for shark teeth and learn about coastal wildlife. Meet at GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

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

Zoo to present Spooktacular

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, 370 Zoo

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Briefs

Continued from 2

Parkway, Jacksonville, will present its annual Spooktacular on two weekends this month. Explore the zoo and gardens, visit treat stations scattered throughout and see the Forest of Frights. The latter is recommended for those age 13 and older.

Friendly ghosts will guide guests through a neon maze. The hip-hop skeletons deliver a bone-chilling performance. And take a journey to the river where a storyteller will share tales of dragons.

This event is from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 17-20 and 24-31. Ticket prices vary. For further information, go to jacksonvillezoo.org/spooktacular.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Attorney Doug Milne to speak at Coastal Friends luncheon

Coastal Friends will host Doug Milne, Florida attorney and local historian, as their guest speaker at the Nov. 6 luncheon. Milne is also a Florida Supreme Court certified circuit civil mediator and will talk about the history of Thanksgiving.

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 special Thanksgiving luncheon is open to members and guests, as well as the community. The menu will consist of a house salad, turkey with mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans and pumpkin pie. The cost to attend is \$25. Space is

limited for this 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 morning, Nov. 1.

Established in 1998, Coastal Friends is a social club comprised of women who live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville and the surrounding area, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach

and St. Augustine. Some of the activities offered are adventures and outings, book club, bunco, canasta, happy hour, lunch in, lunch out, mah jongg, samba and wine socials.

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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Golf cart parade in Nocatee supports Harris-Walz 2024

Hosted by Ponte Vedra United for Progress (PVUP) and Ben & Jerry's in Nocatee, a Harris-Walz 2024 golf cart parade was held Oct. 5 with an aim to unite the community with vibrant golf carts, campaign signs and enthusiastic supporters.

The parade traveled through Town Center and ended at Nocatee Village Drive, where Ben & Jerry's served as the post-parade hub. Parade-goers enjoyed a 20% discount on all ice cream from noon to 1 p.m.

PVUP is a grassroots organization focused on social justice, equality and progressive values in Ponte Vedra. The Nocatee location of Ben & Jerry's, owned by Jessica Shaw, emphasizes community engagement and partnerships while supporting social justice, equity and environmental sustainability.

More than 100 parade-goers and golf carts donned in campaign-themed decor and attire gather at Nocatee Town Plaza Business Park at Nocatee Town Center.

Contributed photos



Parade-goers enjoy ice cream at the Ben & Jerry's post-parade hub.



Robyn Smith Kaiser, local resident and representative of Ponte Vedra United for Progress, and Jessica Shaw, owner of Ben & Jerry's in Nocatee.



Golf carts decorated in campaign-themed décor.



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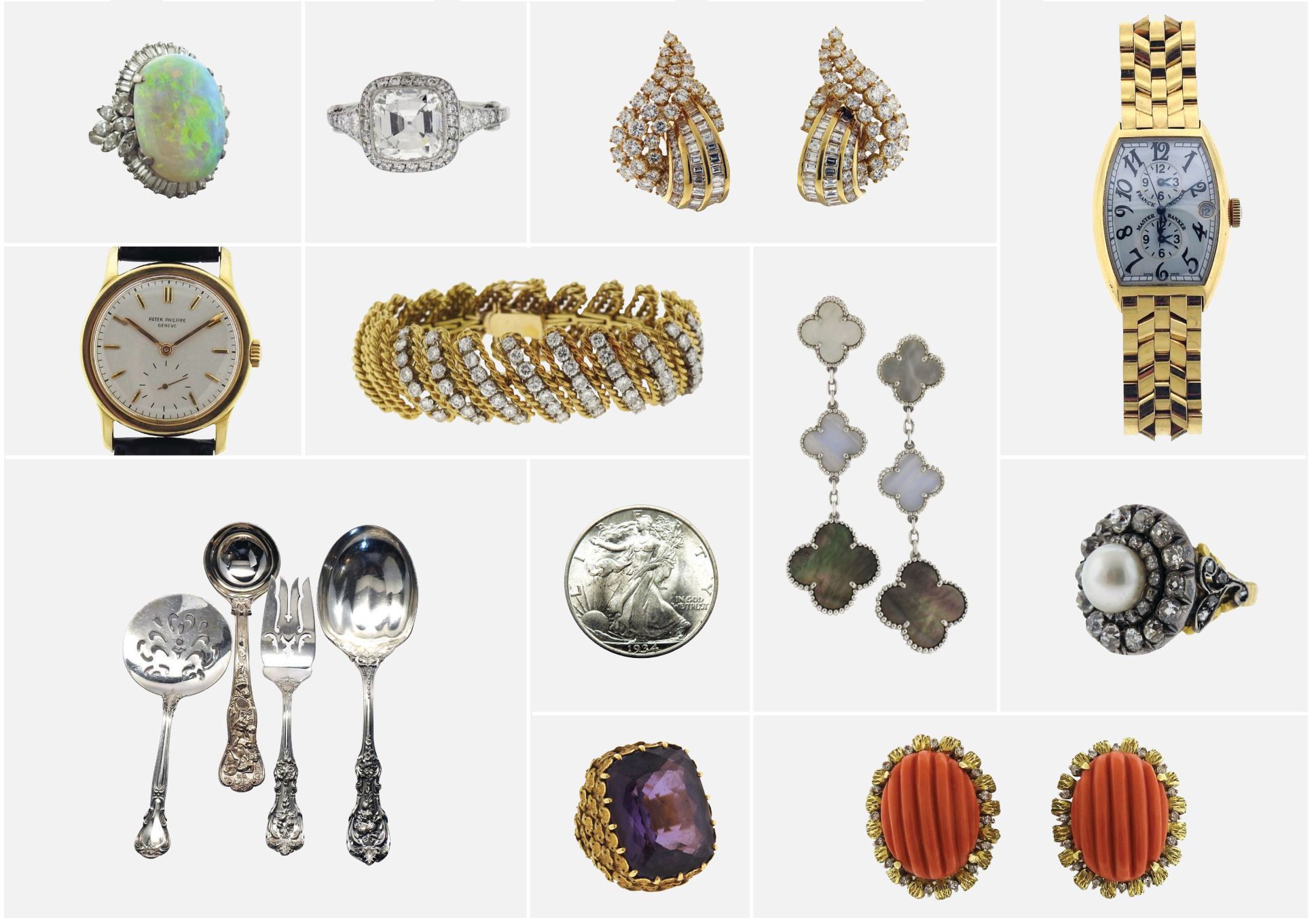
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH 10-5

CALL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Dr. Graciela Diez-Hoeck is an internal medicine specialist with Baptist Health and has called Jacksonville home for 28 years. The Colombia native was diagnosed with breast cancer a decade ago and stresses how her faith in God helped give her the strength to get through it, and the difference selfcare and early diagnosis came make.

Dr. Graciela Diez-Hoeck

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I was born in Bogota, Colombia, and became a physician at the early age of 23, and I'll actually be celebrating 40 years from my graduation of medical school this year.

During my residency in Colombia, I met my husband Kenneth and spent three years there before moving to work at a hospital in Miami.

I then graduated from UF where I obtained my internal medicine training and moved to Jacksonville in 1994 to be an internal medicine specialist at Baptist (Health) where I've been practicing for 28 years now.

I have two kids with my oldest Michael living in Washington, D.C., and my youngest William is in college studying wildlife conservation.

I am a devout Catholic, and I go to Mass every day before work. I am a Eucharistic minister at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Ponte Vedra.

Tell us about your breast cancer diagnosis and your journey to recovery?

Ten years ago, I was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 2014.

From age 40, I had had my mammogram every year, and I actually had one eight months before I was diagnosed, and it came back normal.

However, I also do monthly self-breast exams and I found a lump that I questioned and went to go get checked out even though I had another fourth months before my annual mammogram.

I found out that I had "dense breasts," which can make it more difficult to test.

Nowadays they are aware of this, and they do 3-D mammograms and can do more in-depth tests if a person is found to have "dense breasts."

The fact that I was able to find it even after having a mammogram say everything was normal stresses the importance of early detection and self-breast exams.

They also use a TC score to calculate a woman's risk of breast cancer. If a TC score is high, accommodations will be made to schedule an MRI on top of the mammogram.

Early diagnosis can save a life and increase the chances of finding a cure.

What advice would you give to women faced with breast cancer?

I had no family history of breast cancer, but once you're diagnosed you just have to take it one day at a time, which is why I have what I call my "three F's," faith, family and friends. Together, all



Contributed photo

Dr. Graciela Diez-Hoeck with her husband Kenneth and sons Michael and William.

three gave me the strength I needed following my diagnosis.

My friends and family were there for me through the surgery and even planned a trip to Barcelona with me 20 days after my mastectomy. I could feel their prayers during surgery, and it definitely helped to heal.

Faith has always been a major part of my life, and I found that praying the Rosary and taking part in adoration helped me to get through the process.

Focus on the small things you have in your life, because God blesses you

in so many ways. I'm grateful for every birthday I have for the 63 years God has allowed me to live.

I feel that one of the things not often talked about is the added stress of the decisions a woman has to make following her breast cancer diagnosis.

They ask, 'Do you want to lose the breast or keep it,' and it can be a tough decision. I chose a mastectomy, and they had to remove one breast.

To me, this is what makes love and prayer the best thing a person can rely on during this time. My prayer allowed me

to know that I was making a clear and right choice.

It has been 10 years since I was diagnosed, and although the technology and medical developments continue to advance, we still have to be attentive to our bodies. The journey of selfcare never stops.

When they get through it, don't forget to pay it forward and help others who are in that position. That is what I am hoping to do by telling my story and sharing it with those who it could make a difference.

OBITUARIES

Douglas Allen Werner

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Douglas Allen Werner on October 6th, 2024 (age 71), beloved husband of Diana Lynn Werner, impactful stepfather to Justin and Brittany Bliffen and Rebeka and Carlo Piccioni, doting Grandfather (“OGD”) to Violet Piccioni, Jamie and Emmie Bliffen, brother to Dr. Glenn and Shea Werner and good friend and exceptional teammate to countless others.

Doug was born on April 9, 1953, in Phoenixville, PA where his father owned a bus company of the same last name. His family home was on a golf course, and he developed an interest in, respect for, and proficiency at golf at a young age. He attended the University of Maryland and graduated with a two-year degree in turf grass and golf course management. He worked as a manager for a turf management company as well as a handful of golf courses for several years. Returning to Phoenixville, he involved himself in local politics, serving as an elected councilman and president in the 1980’s and

90’s. He later founded and managed a successful business in promotional sales. He and his wife, Diana Lynn, retired to Ponte Vedra, Florida in 2023 where Doug was able to return to his favorite pastime on the links.

He was tragically diagnosed with stage 4 esophageal cancer seven months prior and despite treatment, it progressed rapidly. After two weeks in the hospital at Baptist South, he was transferred to hospice where he passed four days later with his wife and stepson at his side. Reflecting on the stream of pictures that have been submitted, it is clear that he loved life, golf, the beach, his friends, and his family. Family and friends celebrated Doug’s life at a gathering and memorial service at Beaches Chapel, 1701 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach, 32250, on Sunday, October 13th, 2024, at 10 a.m. EST.

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DEATH NOTICES

Anthony Moreau DeLude

Anthony Moreau DeLude, 88, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died Oct. 7, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Helen J Gardner

Helen J Gardner, 95, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Oct. 9, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Janie Lorene Gibson

Janie Lorene Gibson, 86, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died Oct. 8, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, 904-249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com

Thomas Riley O’Neal

Thomas Riley O’Neal, 78, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Oct. 8, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz

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Dennis B Robertson

Dennis B Robertson, 87, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Oct. 11, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Beverly Suggs

Beverly Suggs, 82, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died Oct. 11, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Kathleen Whitaker

Kathleen Whitaker, 53, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died Oct. 5, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, 904-249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com

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Street named for major Habitat supporter

Inez McDonald helped establish newest neighborhood

For The Recorder

Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County (Habitat St. Johns) is honoring one of its most supportive donors, Inez McDonald, by naming the main street in the newest community, Volusia Woods after her.

The street is McDonald Avenue.

McDonald, who this year will become a centenarian, is an incredibly vibrant, active 99-year-old. In addition to years of support, she was kind enough to give Habitat St. Johns the lead gift, enabling them to get Volusia Woods started.

“We are excited and proud to honor Inez McDonald by naming the main street in Volusia Woods after her,” said Malinda Everson, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County. “Inez has been a generous supporter of Habitat St. Johns for many years and her donation helped make Volusia Woods a reality.”

Habitat St. Johns’ Volusia Woods neighborhood is also the beginning of a new strategic plan that will help accelerate the speed and building capacity of Habitat St. Johns from an average of six homes per year to 30 homes per year by 2028.

Habitat St. Johns is replicating the model other Habitat Florida affiliates have successfully implemented to enable them to build more than 30 homes each year to better meet the needs of the county’s workers and residents.

Volusia Woods is Habitat St. Johns’ fourth neighborhood in just over 30 years of operation and will consist of 36 homes when it is finished. Volusia Woods is located on North Volusia Street near the



Inez McDonald holds up the street sign bearing her name.



Inez McDonald visits McDonald Avenue.

roundabout on Aiken Street that connects to Four Mile Road. It is just a few blocks north of Canopy Oaks, the third Habitat St. Johns neighborhood, completed in 2023.

During a presentation to the St. Johns County Commissioners in May 2024, the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee informed the commissioners that currently almost 60% of millennials are searching for housing, but unfortunately, it is in short supply here in St. Johns County.

One of the reasons for this is that the median sale price of a single-family home in this county was \$600,000 as of April 2024. This is out of reach for most of the workforce, including teachers, CNAs, first

responders, law enforcement, hospital staff, small business owners, hospitality and nonprofit workers, as well as retired senior citizens.

In addition, employers and business owners are struggling to find employees to work in their establishments, because most, if not all of them need to commute 40 minutes to an hour to get to work from where they currently live outside of the county. These long commutes also cause much of the traffic that impacts the county. If people live closer to where they work, they won’t have to travel as far and cross county lines.

Habitat St. Johns is working hard to help these hardworking, local, deserving families and individuals find a place to live in the county where they work, want to raise their families, and live their lives.

One of our Canopy Oaks homeowners, Tracey, recently closed on her Habitat St. Johns home. She reflected: “This is the

most peace I have had in years and years. This new Habitat St. Johns home has been a Godsend. Now I don’t have to worry about my rent going up, having a stranger as a roommate in my 60s, or having my ‘home’ sold out from underneath me when the landlord decides to cash in. And I’m not ashamed of where I live when my daughter comes to visit me.”

Thanks to the very affordable mortgage, Tracey is now living comfortably. This newfound stability and security will help Tracey focus on her health and wellbeing.

Since 1992, Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County has built approximately 170 houses for families and individuals in need. To qualify for homeownership, applicants must demonstrate need, ability to pay, willingness to partner through 200 sweat equity hours and have worked or lived in St. Johns County for at least one year.

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Contributed photos

‘Mission: Astronaut’ offers a stellar hands-on experience

For The Recorder

The Museum of Science & History has announced the premiere of “Mission: Astronaut,” a dynamic exhibition that takes visitors on an out-of-this-world adventure through astronaut training and space exploration.

Produced by Flying Fish, a leading creator of traveling exhibitions and supported by the science expertise of The DoSeum and the Intrepid Museum, “Mission: Astronaut” opened on Sept. 21, and will run through Jan. 5.

“Any exhibits surrounding astronomy and aeronautics are fan favorites for our visitors, so we’re excited to host ‘Mission: Astronaut,’” said Ryan Enger, cura-

tor at MOSH. “Although students may be able to acquire information on space exploration through textbooks and the classroom setting, the hands-on activities provided by ‘Mission: Astronaut’ more deeply engage them and inspire sharper memories to better retain information.”

“Mission: Astronaut” is an interactive experience that gives visitors a taste of life as a space explorer. Each section presents tasks that require an astronaut’s mindset to solve, using skills like engineering, physics, teamwork and, most importantly, fun.

“We are thrilled to bring ‘Mission: Astronaut’ to life in partnership with The DoSeum and the Intrepid Museum,” said Jay Brown, principal and managing

director of Flying Fish. “This exhibition embodies our commitment to fostering a love of science, technology and discovery. By offering an engaging hands-on experience that sparks curiosity, we hope to inspire a new generation of space enthusiasts and innovators.”

As visitors enter the exhibition, they’ll meet the Astronaut Guides — fictional astronauts with skills ranging from engineering to health science. As guests travel through the “Science in Space” section they will glimpse into the world of space research, learning the impacts of space on plant growth, human health and Earth science.

The adventure continues for visitors as they will experience the technological

wonders of space operations firsthand in the “Space Operations” section. From piloting a robotic arm to exploring the intricate process of designing a space-suit, visitors will gain insights into the essential technologies that make space exploration possible.

The “Future of Space Exploration” section offers a glimpse into potential space habitats and future missions. Visitors will have the chance to reflect on the future of space exploration and select a mission. It’s a thought-provoking and interactive experience that encourages contemplation on the next frontier in space exploration.

For more information or to purchase advance tickets, go to themosh.org.



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Lord of Life kicks off 25th Annual pumpkin patch



Many colors and sizes of pumpkins are sold at the pumpkin patch, including mini pumpkins and gourds.



The "Great Pumpkin Patch" is open daily Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to dusk; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to dusk and Sundays from 11 a.m. to dusk.



This time of year, the front lawn of Lord of Life Lutheran Church is covered with hundreds of pumpkins.

Contributed photos

By Anthony Richards

Pumpkin patches are a tradition during the fall and locally one of the places that has been holding one for a long time is Lord of Life Lutheran Church, which kicked off its 25th "Great Pumpkin Patch" on October 13 and it will be open through Halloween.

This time of year, the front lawn of the church, which is located at 276 Roscoe Blvd. N., is covered with hundreds of pumpkins in many colors and sizes along with mini pumpkins and gourds. The

church also offers jams, pickles and baked goods inside, including its famous pumpkin pies that are baked onsite with pureed pumpkin fresh from the patch itself.

The "Great Pumpkin Patch" is open daily Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to dusk; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to dusk and Sundays from 11 a.m. to dusk.

Lord of Life will also hold a Family Fun Days weekend October 26 and 27 with tented areas for face painting, games, a bounce house, snow cone and popcorn machines, tractor rides and much more

activities. Several areas will also be set up for taking selfies with the pumpkins.

"We love holding this event and have families who regularly come back year after year," said Deb Nye, manager of the pumpkin patch. "We are lucky with our property that we can create a farm-like environment for the patch and our church was formerly a stable, adding to the rustic feel of this."

This year the church will be donating a minimum of 10% of its net pumpkin sales to support Hurricane Helene and Milton

needs through the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region.

The church sources the pumpkins from a Navajo Indian organization in New Mexico.



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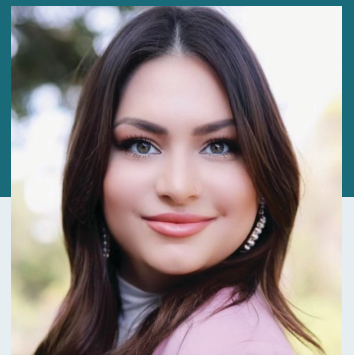
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Baby born just prior to hurricane



Contributed photos
Christopher Washington, Nova Reign Washington and Katelyn Hicks gather for a photo.

One St. Augustine family will remember the day Hurricane Milton arrived much differently than many others — it was the day their daughter,

Nova, was born at UF Health Flagler Hospital.

Born at 1:10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, to Katelyn Hicks and Christopher Washington, Nova Reign Washington made her arrival only a few hours before Milton arrived in Florida. She weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce.

“Delivering our baby and then riding out a hurricane was not part of the plan and certainly unexpected,” said Hicks. “We watched the palm trees blowing from our hospital room window and felt safe the entire time. Nova let us sleep throughout most of the storm, thankfully.”

“Our team is dedicated to providing high-quality care, no matter the weather, and we are thrilled to be able to celebrate a positive outcome at a time that is devastating for so many,” said Michelle Paulo, interim vice president of nursing.

Coincidentally, Nova’s 3-year-old sister is named Storm.

The family looks forward to telling Nova about her unique arrival in the future.

Halloween Doors & More is Oct. 26

Get ready for a major Halloween extravaganza as The Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care celebrates 20 years of magic at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall from 2 to 7 p.m. Oct. 26. Presented by THE PLAYERS, this will be the final and most spectacular edition of Halloween Doors & More, a popular event that has enchanted Northeast Florida since its inception in 2005.

Step into a world transformed into a whimsical candy land where families can indulge in a day of unforgettable entertainment and activities. Meet the Jacksonville Jaguars cheerleaders, embark on a trick-or-treat adventure at the towering 14-foot Fantasy Doors, mingle with beloved characters on the Magical Meet and Greet Streets and groove at the Fiesta Family Disco. Transform into a creature of the night at the Booutiful Salon and savor gourmet delights at the Grown-Up Grotto and Food Court.

Fantasy smiles are a must, and costumes are strongly encouraged!

Participation in this milestone event will significantly impact Community PedsCare, the pediatric program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. All proceeds from this event will provide essential services to children and families facing serious and life-limiting illnesses.

Thanks to the unwavering support of the community and the dedication of The Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care, these vital services are offered at no cost to families, ensuring compassionate care and support when it's needed most.

Secure your Halloween Doors & More admissions by calling 904-886-3883 or going to hdm.thefoundation-cares.org.

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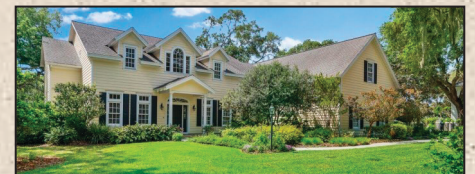
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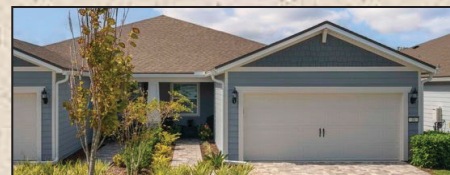
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Wolfson joins Halloween fun with latest fundraiser

By Anthony Richards

Now through the end of October, Wolfson Children's Hospital is helping spread some spooky cheer as part of its Wolfie BOO! Fundraiser.

The fundraiser encourages participants to spread Halloween joy by "BOO-ing" their friends and neighbors.

Residents can get involved with the fundraiser, which runs through October 30, by purchasing special "Wolfie BOO!" yard signs and putting them in their friends' or neighbors' yards with their Halloween decorations so that they will not only receive a festive surprise, but they will also let their fellow neighbors know how much they support Wolfson's mission.

This year's proceeds from the Wolfie BOO! campaign will support Wolfson Children's Rehabilitation, which offers comprehensive therapy for kids with

sensory, movement, feeding and communication difficulties.

"Now in its second year, the Wolfie BOO! campaign supports essential physical, occupational and speech-language therapy services provided by Wolfson Children's Rehabilitation that empower children to overcome developmental challenges and live more fulfilling lives," said Allegra C. Jaros, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital. "I'll be BOO-ing my colleagues, friends and family this month, and I encourage everyone in the community to join me."

Wolfie BOO! yard signs can be purchased for \$25, or a 5-pack is available for \$100 if there are a lot of friends and neighbors to surprise this year.

Yard signs can be purchased now through October 30 or while supplies last. To purchase a Wolfie BOO! yard sign, go to wolfsonchildrenshalloween.com.



Contributed photo

This fundraiser encourages participants to spread Halloween joy by "BOO-ing" their friends and neighbors with this yard sign.

First Coast YMCA unveils first Urban Court



On Tuesday, Sept. 24, the First Coast YMCA held the ribbon cutting ceremony for the brand-new Urban Court at the Brooks Family YMCA. The goal of the Urban Court is to break down barriers for all people to play together, keeping young minds and bodies active with adult and corporate leagues available.

The YMCA will offer a variety of programs on the Urban Court for adults of all ages, including basketball, pickleball, soccer, flag football and volleyball, as well as youth sports, homeschool phys ed, sports camps and other out-of-school programs.

This is the First Coast YMCA's first outdoor multipurpose playing surface aimed at uniting the community encouraging all people to play together.

Brooks Family YMCA is located at 10423 Centurion Parkway North, Jacksonville.

For more than 115 years, the YMCA of Florida's First Coast has been providing men, women and children of all ages, and from all walks of life, opportunities to build stronger bonds, live healthy and become more engaged with their communities. Learn more at fcymca.org.



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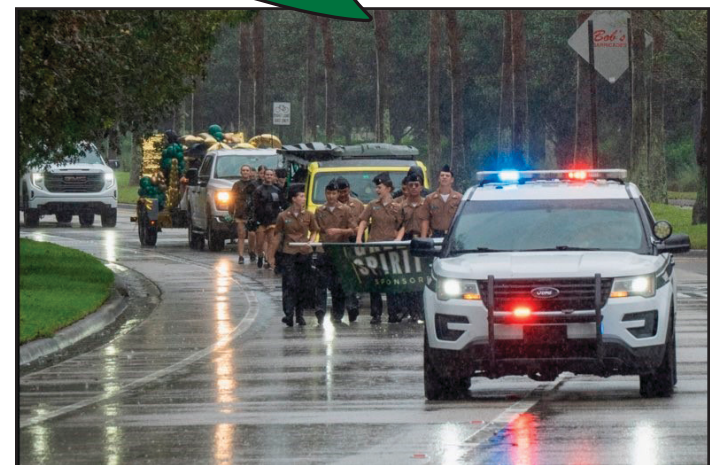
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Panthers celebrate homecoming with parade

Nease High held a homecoming parade on Oct. 6. Despite rainy weather, the Panthers' football team, cheer and dance squads, band, middle school teams and Miss Nease took to the streets to celebrate the undefeated season so far.

Photos by James Vernacotola



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"Bronia and Fela" by Lauren Bergman



"Eva Nemova" by Lauren Bergman

MOSH exhibit focus: Female Holocaust victims

For The Recorder

The Museum of Science & History (MOSH) has opened its next traveling exhibition, "Lives Eliminated, Dreams Illuminated" (LEDI). This touring exhibition is an artistic collaboration between American painter Lauren Bergman and Israeli composer Ella Milch-Sheriff, and opened to the public on Aug. 30. Visitors will immerse themselves in a world where art, music and narrative converge to create a deeply moving, powerful and thought-provoking experience.

LEDI features archival photographs of female Holocaust victims paired with paintings that reimagine the lives lost and dreams shattered. A unique musical vignette, composed for each victim and extending from their known history and inspired portraits, enhances the emotional connection and deepens the experience.

LEDI is a visionary exhibition dedicated to promoting insight into, and dialog about, antisemitism, intolerance and hate through the transformative and elevating power of art and artistry.

Bergman began the series of paintings in 2017. Through her unique musical compositions for each portrait, Milch-Sheriff extends the compelling emotional impact of Bergman's paintings.

LEDI is presented in partnership with the Dr. David M. Milch Foundation, The Together Strong Community Fund, The LJD Jewish Family and Community Services and the Jewish Community Alliance of Jacksonville. Robust educational programming is scheduled for local students and MOSH guests throughout the exhibition's run.

"Our communities here in North-east Florida, like many others across



"Eva Shulsova" by Lauren Bergman

the nation, have experienced increasing division for a variety of reasons, including expressions and attitudes of antisemitism," said Anthony Mortimer, vice president of exhibitions and education at MOSH. "Education and art are important tools to bring our community together to stand against hate. LEDI is an excellent framework for us to provide a factual and gracious space to encourage productive and unifying reflection and discussion. The Holocaust stories are personal to many, but the LEDI experience enables us to see how they translate to challenges in other communities throughout history and in our present society. The broader goal — and why we are proud to have LEDI as part of our Passport Series this year — is to bring diverse communities together around common objectives for the benefit of all of us, together."

"We view Jacksonville as an inclusive place of hope where individuals can reach their personal potential by focusing on our shared values rather than our differences," said David Miller, community trustee and lead funder of the



Contributed photos

"Emmy Stein" by Lauren Bergman

Together Strong Community Fund in Jacksonville. "Promoting education is essential so people have the opportunity to be informed and connected. Only then can we truly come together as a community. Through this fund and supporting exhibitions like LEDI at MOSH, we will add to our collective understanding and promote bridge building. By recognizing our commonalities, we can begin to appreciate that we are all on a shared journey together. Together, we are stronger."

Lusia Rosenzweig Milch, 93, the compelling subject of one of the powerful LEDI portraits, shares vivid memories of her ordeal and liberation.

After losing more than 100 family members in the Holocaust, Milch escaped Europe, crossing the German Alps in the winter to reach safety in Italy before arriving in New York City, where she raised a family and still resides. As living memory for the millions of adults

and children who were lost, Milch continues to speak out against antisemitism, discrimination and hate.

Her son, David Milch, is the founder of the Dr. David M. Milch Foundation, whose mission is to support arts for social impact via its "Ars Veritas" initiative ("Truth in Art"), conceived of and presented in the LEDI experience. This artistic journey debuts new storytelling techniques, personalizing and emotionally connecting participants to young women and girls who were murdered during the Holocaust.

"LEDI is founded on three core principles," said David Milch. "First and foremost, the Holocaust is an undeniable historical fact, and any attempts to deny or trivialize it must be challenged. Second, many communities have faced genocide and tragedy throughout history, and this suffering continues today. No group or individual is exempt from the consequences of hate. Art and creativity offer a way to help grasp the enormity of these challenges, promoting empathy, compassion and the wisdom needed to foster a better future."

"The team at LEDI is looking forward to sharing the stories of these girls and young women with the greater Northeast Florida community," said Bergman. "In creating paintings based on historic snapshots, my goal is to honor these lost lives. I hope to give back to these girls and young women something that was stolen, and to remind the world that these young people once lived and loved; that they, like us, harbored dreams and hopes and secrets; that they had stories to tell."

The exhibition will run through Feb. 2. For more information or to purchase advance tickets, go to themosh.org.

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Blues, Brews, Bourbon & BBQ raises \$47K for Florida Theatre

For The Recorder

The historic, nonprofit Florida Theatre raised more than \$47,000 during its 11th annual Blues, Brews, Bourbon & BBQ event on Sept. 12 at Bowling Oaks.

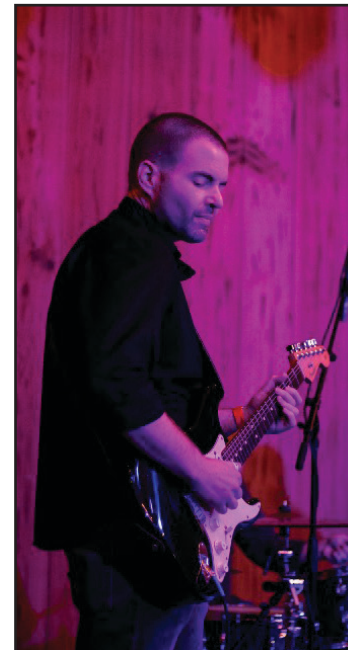
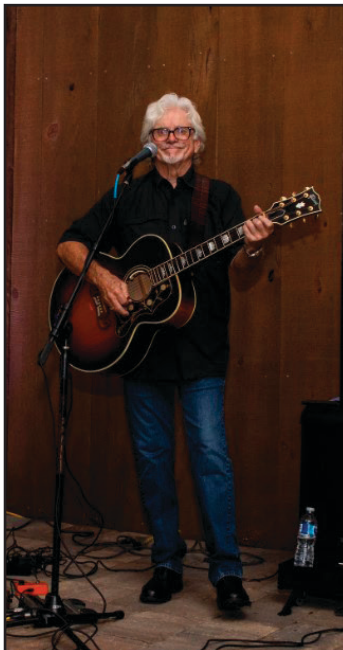
Publix Charities was the presenting sponsor of the event that benefits Florida Theatre.

This is the second year Blues, Brews, Bourbon & BBQ has been at Bowling Oaks as it was very well received last year. Bowling Oaks has been a corporate partner of the Florida Theatre since 2019.

“Despite the rain, Blues, Brews, Bourbon & BBQ was a tremendous success,” said Numa Saisselin, president of the Florida Theatre. “The spirit of fun shone through, proving that nothing can dampen our collective passion for supporting the Florida Theatre. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who braved the weather and made this event unforgettable.”

Attendees of this annual event enjoyed an electrifying evening of live blues music from the Snacks Blues Band, Mark Dennison Blues Duo and Neil Dixon; unlimited local barbecue; the best craft beer; and a curated bourbon selection.

BLUES continues on Page 21



Contributed photos

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Blues

Continued from 20

The Florida Theatre thanked the vendors and sponsors below:

- Blues: Snacks Blues Band, Mark Denison Blues Duo and Neil Dixon
- Brews: AIBC (Amelia Island Brewing Co.), Ancient City Brewing, Bold City

Brewery, Legacy Ale Works, Mocama Beer Company, Ruby Beach Brewing Co., Seven Bridges Grille, Veterans United Craft Brewery and Wicked Barley Brewery

- Bourbon/Spirits: Manifest and V Pizza & Bourbon Bar
- Barbecue: Bono's Pit BBQ Since 1949, Mojo BBQ, Seven Bridges Grille, The Bearded Pig, The Grub Brothers Creative Catering, V Pizza and Wicked Barley Brew-

ery

- Desserts: Nothing Bundt Cakes and Small Cakes
- Venue: Bowling Oaks
- Miscellaneous: Jacksonville Jaguars
- Sponsors: Auld & White Constructors (blues sponsor), AVL (in-kind sponsor), Brown & Brown (barbecue sponsor), Community First Credit Union (VIP sponsor), Florida Financial Advisor (sampling spon-

sor), Publix (presenting sponsor), The Sonic Planet (media sponsor) and UNATION (media sponsor).

- All proceeds from the annual Blues, Brews, Bourbon & BBQ fundraiser go to the Florida Theatre.

Since its inception in 2013, Blues, Brews, Bourbon & BBQ, (formerly Blues, Brews & BBQ), has raised \$399,446.98 for the Florida Theatre.



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12 NOV. Innovation Challenge & Ponte Vedra Best of the Best Celebration Night

13 NOV. Social Enterprise Day and Business Expo + Cocktails for a Cause

14 NOV. Youth Symposium

15 NOV. Women's Day + Women-owned Business Expo

16 NOV. Kidspreneurs Day



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Ancient City Brewing Boos and Brews returns Oct. 26

For The Recorder

Lace up your fastest running shoes and put on your most ghoulish costume for Ancient City Brewing's annual Boos and Brews 5K Race and 1-mile Fun Run. Presented in partnership with Run4Beer and Florida Race Day, the annual Halloween race and

BOOS continues on Page 23



Boos

Continued from 22

after-party start at 5 p.m. Oct. 26 at Ancient City Brewing’s flagship brew-house, 3420 Agricultural Center Drive, St. Augustine.

“This is such a fun Halloween tradition,” said Britta Messler, general manager at Ancient City Brewing (ACB). “It’s great to see everyone at the brew-house, in costume and jazzed up to get moving. We’ve got a wide range of age groups for the awards, from 19 and under to 70 and older, so it really is a great bonding activity for families and friend groups. And if they form a team, they can create a super creative name and win the fastest or slowest team award, depending upon your goals!”

The Boos and Brews 5K is a chip-timed race, with timing services by Florida Race Day. The course map may be viewed at mapmyrun.com/routes/view/1543544323. Everyone receives a glow-in-the-dark finisher medal, with additional awards for the top men and women finishers in age groups 19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70 and older.

Racers can also create a four-person team, with awards going to the fastest and slowest teams. The 1-mile Fun Run will not be timed. But don’t leave after the race — there’s going to be one heck of a Halloween afterparty, complete with a costume contest, food truck, music and a free ACB draft beer for finishers 21 years and older.

Registration is open for runners of all abilities. The 5K is \$40. Race day registration is \$45 per person, cash or check only. The 1-mile Fun Run is \$25 per person. Packet pick-up is from 3:45 until 4:30 p.m. on race day, Oct. 26. The race begins at 5 p.m. Runners and walkers can register at runsignup.com/Race/FL/SaintAugustine/AncientCityBrewing. ACB still brews and cans its beers at

the Flagship Brewhouse, located in an industrial warehouse complex just off State Road 16 and Interstate 95. Locals and visitors alike can enjoy a freshly poured beer at the flagship brewhouse or the downtown taproom on Cathedral Place.

ACB creates seasonal varieties and its core brews: Augustine’s Orange Amber Ale, Galleon’s Golden Ale, Anastasia Island India Pale Ale, Castillo Coconut Porter, Matanzas River Red Ale and Ponce’s Pale Ale.



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The Nov. 5 General Election: Who's running?

By Shaun Ryan

Several key races will be decided in the Nov. 5 general election this year. Here's a look at who's running.

President/Vice President

In all likelihood either Republicans Donald J. Trump and running mate J.D. Vance or Democrats Kamala D. Harris and running mate Tim Walz will claim the top two offices in the land, though others are in the running, as well.

They are: Chase Oliver and Mike ter Maat of the Libertarian Party, Claudia De la Cruz and Karina Garcia of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, Randall Terry and Stephen Broden of the Constitution Party, Peter Sonski and Lauren Onak of the American Solidarity Party, Jill Stein and Rudolph Ware of the Green Party and two write-ins: Shiva Ayyadurai and Crystal Ellis, and Cherunda Fox and Harlan McVay Jr.

U.S. Senator

Running for U.S. senator is Republican incumbent Rick Scott and challenger Democrat Debbie Mucarsel-Powell.

Others seeking the office are: Libertarian Feena Bonoan; two unaffiliated candidates, Tuan TQ Nguyen and Ben Everidge; and one write-in, Howard

Knepper.

U.S. Representative, District 5

Congressional District 5 is all of St. Johns County north of County Road 214 and Wildwood Drive, including St. Augustine Beach on Anastasia Island. The district extends north to the state line and west to the St. Johns River in Jacksonville.

Candidates are Republican incumbent John H. Rutherford, Democrat Jay McGovern and write-in Gary L. Koniz.

U.S. Representative, District 6

Congressional District 6 is all of St. Johns County south of County Road 214, Wildwood Drive and St. Augustine Beach. The district extends into five other counties: Flagler, Lake, Marion, Putnam and Volusia.

Candidates are Republican incumbent Michael Waltz, Democrat James David Stockton III and write-in Richard Paul Dembinsky.

State Senator, District 7

State Senate District 7 consists of all of St. Johns, Putnam and Flagler counties and the northern parts of Volusia County. It is currently represented by Travis Hutson, who has reached his term limit.

Candidates are Republican Tom Leek and Democrat George Anthony "T" Hill II.

State Representative, District 18

Florida House District 18 is all of St. Johns County north of State Road 16. It is currently represented by Cyndi Stevenson, who has reached her term limit.

Candidates are Republican Kim Kendall and Democrat Keith Matthews.

State Representative, District 19

Florida House District 19 consists of that portion of St. Johns County east of

U.S. 1 and the city of St. Augustine south of District 18. It extends south to include all of Flagler County. It is currently represented by Paul Renner, who has reached his term limit.

Candidates are Republican Sam Greco and Democrat Adam Morley.

State Representative, District 20

Florida House District 20 consists of all of St. Johns County south of S.R. 16 and west of U.S. 1. It extends to include all of Putnam County and parts of Clay and Marion counties. It is currently being represented by Bobby Payne, who has reached his term limit.

Candidates are Republican Judson Sapp and Democrat Tony Connolly.

Sheriff

Republican incumbent Sheriff Robert Hardwick will face a challenge from write-in candidate Terri Schurman.

County Commissioner, District 1

Republican incumbent Christian Whitehurst narrowly prevailed over challenger Ann-Marie Evans, as well as one other candidate, in the Aug. 20 primary election. In the general election, he will face a challenge from write-in candidate Taylor Ohntrup.

County Commissioner, District 3

Republican Clay Murphy will face a challenge from write-in candidate Fitch McGraw. Murphy prevailed over incumbent Roy Alaimo and two other candidates in the Aug. 20 primary election.

County Commissioner, District 5

Republican Ann Taylor will face a challenge by Merrill Paul Roland, listed as having no party affiliation. Taylor narrowly prevailed over incumbent Henry Dean, as well as one other candidate, in the Aug. 20 primary election.

School Board Member, District 5

Candidates Linda Thomson and Bethany Hilbert will compete in a runoff election because neither they nor the other two candidates received 50% of the vote plus one. In that race, Thomson was the top vote-getter with 41% of the vote. Hilbert followed with 24%.

The winner replaces Patrick Canan, who currently serves District 5.

City of St. Augustine Commission, Seat 1

Jonathan DePreter and Billy Triay will compete for the seat currently being held by Roxanne Horvath.

Anastasia Mosquito Control District

Vying for Seat 1 will be T.J. Mazzotta and Ed Slavin. Seat 3 will go to either Gayle Gardner or Tom Reynolds. The competition for Seat 5 is between Gary Howell, Gina LeBlanc and Martin B. Miller. LeBlanc and Gardner currently serve on the board.

St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach Commission

Vying for Group 2 will be Nicholas G. Binder and Doreen Duffy. Sandy Flowers and Christopher K. Way are competing for Group 4. Binder and Way are the incumbents.

Several seats on various community development district boards will be decided in the general election. They are: Durbin Crossing (Seat 4), Heritage Landing (Seats 1 and 5), Julington Creek Plantation (Seat 5), Marshall Creek (Seats 4 and 5), Meadow View at Twin Creeks (Seat 1), Parkland Preserve (Seats 3 and 4), Six Mile Creek (Seats 1 and 5), Sweetwater Creek (Seat 5), Trout Creek (Seats 3, 4 and 5), and Turnbull Creek (Seats 2 and 4).

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St. Johns County Sheriff

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PRECINCT LOCATIONS

St. Johns County has 53 voting precincts for Election Day, Nov. 5 only. For early voting, please see separate list.

- **101:** Julington Creek Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd., St. Johns.
- **102:** Julington Creek Plantation Rec Ctr, 350 Plantation Club Parkway, St. Johns
- **103:** Switzerland Community Church, 2179 S.R. 13 N, St. Johns
- **104:** Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd., St. Johns
- **105:** Creekside Christian Church, 150 Lifespring Way, St. Johns
- **106:** Switzerland Community Church, 2179 S.R. 13 N, St. Johns
- **107:** Aberdeen Amenities Ctr, 110 Flower of Scotland Ave., St. Johns
- **108:** Shearwater Amenities Ctr, 100 Kayak Way, St. Augustine
- **109:** RiverHouse at RiverTown, 140 Landing St., St. Johns
- **201:** Creekside Christian Student Ctr, 92 Lifespring Way, St. Johns
- **202:** St. Johns Golf and Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive, St. Augustine
- **203:** Shearwater Amenities Ctr, 100 Kayak Way, St. Augustine
- **204:** Silverleaf Amenities Ctr, 218 Silver Forest Drive, St. Augustine.
- **205:** St. Johns Convention Ctr, 500 S Legacy Trail, St. Augustine
- **206:** Trout Creek Community Ctr, 6795 Collier Road, St. Augustine
- **207:** Trout Creek Community Ctr, 6795 Collier Road, St. Augustine
- **208:** Heritage Landing Amenity Ctr, 370 Heritage Landing Pkwy., St. Augustine
- **209:** Village Church, 4229 Pacetti Road, St. Augustine
- **210:** Agricultural Ctr, 3125 Agricultural Center Drive, St. Augustine
- **211:** Anastasia Baptist S.R. 16 Campus, 110 Circle Drive E, St. Augustine
- **212:** Heritage Baptist Church, 1480 Wildwood Drive, St. Augustine
- **213:** W.E. Harris Community Ctr, 400 E Harris St., Hastings.
- **301:** Anastasia Baptist S.R. 16 Campus, 110 Circle Drive E, St. Augustine
- **302:** Solomon Calhoun Community Ctr, 1300 Duval St., St. Augustine
- **303:** Solomon Calhoun Community Ctr, 1300 Duval St., St. Augustine
- **304:** Heritage Baptist Church, 1480 Wildwood Drive, St. Augustine
- **305:** Good News Church, 1357 Wildwood Drive, St. Augustine
- **306:** Community Bible Church, 3150 U.S. 1 S, St. Augustine
- **307:** Community Bible Church, 3150 U.S. 1 S, St. Augustine

- **308:** Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S, St. Augustine
- **309:** Riverview Club, 790 Christina Drive, St. Augustine
- **310:** Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 S, St. Augustine.
- **311:** St. Anastasia Catholic Church, 5205 A1A S, St. Augustine
- **401:** Ponte Vedra Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.
- **402:** Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, 545 A1A N, Ponte Vedra Beach
- **403:** Ponte Vedra Church, 76 S. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
- **404:** Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach
- **405:** Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A N, Ponte Vedra Beach. **NOTE: Voting will take place in a building behind the concert hall, which is currently under construction.**
- **406:** St. Francis in the Field, 895 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra
- **407:** Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A N, Ponte Vedra Beach. **NOTE: Voting will take place in a building behind the concert hall, which is currently under construction.**
- **408:** Crosswater Hall at Nocatee, 245 Nocatee Center Way, Ponte Vedra
- **409:** The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive, St. Augustine
- **501:** Creekside Christian Student Ctr, 92 Lifespring Way, St. Johns
- **502:** The Clubhouse at Beacon Lake, 850 Beacon Lake Parkway, St. Augustine
- **503:** WGV-Good News Church, 573 W Twincourt Trail, St. Augustine
- **504:** San Sebastian Catholic Church, 1112 S.R. 16, St. Augustine
- **505:** The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive, St. Augustine
- **506:** Fullerwood Training Ctr, 10 Hildreth Drive, St. Augustine
- **507:** North Shores Community Ctr, 120 Meadow Ave., St. Augustine
- **508:** National Guard Armory, 190 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine
- **509:** River House, 179 Marine St., St. Augustine
- **510:** Elks Lodge, 1420 A1A S, St. Augustine
- **511:** St. Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 A1A S, St. Augustine.

On election day, voters are required to vote at their assigned polling place based on their address. To find your polling place, go to votesjc.gov and click the "Find My Polling Place" link.



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These are your DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES in St Johns County

<p>President/VP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kamala Harris/Tim Walz <hr/> <p>US Senate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Debbie Mucarsel-Powell <hr/> <p>US House - D5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jay McGovern <hr/> <p>US House - D6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● James David Stockton III <hr/> <p>FL Senate - D7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● George Anthony "T" Hill II <hr/> <p>FL House - D18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keith Matthews <hr/> <p>FL House - D19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adam Morley <hr/> <p>FL House - D20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tony Connolly 	<p>Anastasia Mosquito Control District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seat 1: Ed Slavin ● Seat 2: Gayle Gardner <hr/> <p>City of St Augustine - Seat 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Billy Triay <hr/> <p>Parkland Preserve CDD - Seat 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clare Olson <hr/> <p>Sweetwater Creek CDD - Seat 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stephen Handler <hr/> <p>Trout Creek CDD - Seat 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ronnie Murphy <hr/> <p>Turnbull Creek CDD - Seat 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jennifer Martin
--	--

FL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Amendment #1: Vote "NO"

Amendment #2: Vote "NO"

Amendment #3: Vote "YES"

Amendment #4: Vote "YES"

Amendment #5: Vote "NO"

Amendment #6: Vote "NO"

ST JOHNS COUNTY REFERENDUMS

Referendum #1: Vote "YES"

Referendum #2: Vote "YES"

No recommendation on other races

For more information visit www.StJohnsDemocrats.org

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IT'S JUST YOU AND YOUR BALLOT YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO

VOTE BLUE!



EARLY VOTING

Early voting will be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, Oct. 21 through Nov. 2, at all early voting locations:

- Ponte Vedra Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd, Ponte Vedra Beach
- Julington Creek Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd., St. Johns
- RiverHouse at RiverTown, 140 Landing St., St. Johns
- The Cafe at World Golf Hall of Fame, 1 World Golf Place, St. Augustine
- Supervisor of Elections Office, 4455 Avenue A, No. 101, St. Augustine
- Solomon Calhoun Comm Center, 1300 Duval St., St. Augustine
- St. Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 AIA South, St. Augustine
- Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine
- W.E. Harris Comm Center, 400 E. Harris St., Hastings

VOTING BY MAIL

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed for this election is 5 p.m. Oct. 24. To request a vote-by-mail ballot, go to <https://www.votesjc.gov/mail-ballot-request-service>.

Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 5, to be counted.

Postage reminder: When returning your vote-by-mail ballot by mail, you must affix the required postage of two first-class stamps or two Forever Stamps.

Vote-by-mail ballots can be returned:

- By mail
- At Secure Ballot Intake Stations, available at all early voting locations during the hours of voting

- In-person at the Elections Office

Note: Vote-by-mail ballots cannot be returned to Election Day precincts.



Proposed amendments and referenda

Here's a look at the proposed constitutional amendments and local referenda that will appear on the General Election ballot:

Amendment 1

Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to require members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election rather than a nonpartisan election and to specify that the amendment only applies to elections held on or after the November 2026 general election. However, partisan primary elections may occur before the 2026 general election for purposes of nominating political party candidates to that office for placement on the 2026 general election ballot.

Amendment 2

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to preserve forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. Specifies that the amendment does not limit the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under Section 9 of Article IV of the State Constitution.

Amendment 3

Allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise; allows Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other state licensed entities, to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell, and distribute such products and accessories. Applies to Florida law; does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law. Establishes possession limits for personal use. Allows consistent legislation. Defines terms. Provides effective date. The amendment's financial impact primarily comes from expected sales tax collections. If legal today, sales of non-medical marijuana would be subject to sales tax and would remain so if voters approve this amendment. Based on other states' experiences, expected retail sales of non-medical marijuana would generate at least \$195.6 million annually in state and local sales tax revenues once the retail market is fully operational, although the timing of this occurring is unclear. Under current law, the existing statutory framework for medical marijuana is repealed six months after the effective date of this amendment which affects how this amendment will be implemented. A new regulatory structure for both medical and nonmedical use of marijuana will be needed. Its design cannot be fully known until the legislature acts; however, regulatory costs will probably be offset by regulatory fees. Other potential



costs and savings cannot be predicted. THIS PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE A NET POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE STATE BUDGET. THIS IMPACT MAY RESULT IN GENERATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE OR AN INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

Amendment 4

No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion. The proposed amendment would result in significantly more abortions and fewer live births per year in Florida. The increase in abortions could be even greater if the amendment invalidates laws requiring parental consent before minors undergo abortions and those ensuring only licensed physicians perform abortions. There is also uncertainty about whether the amendment will require the state to subsidize abortions with public funds. Litigation to resolve those and other uncertainties will result in additional costs to the state government and state courts that will negatively impact the state budget. An increase in abortions may negatively affect the growth of state and local revenues over time. Because the fiscal impact of increased abortions on state and local revenues and costs cannot be estimated with precision, the total impact of the proposed amendment is indeterminate. THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THIS AMENDMENT CANNOT BE DETERMINED DUE TO AMBIGUITIES AND UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING THE AMENDMENT'S IMPACT.

Amendment 5

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require an annual adjustment for inflation to the value of current

or future homestead exemptions that apply solely to levies other than school district levies and for which every person who has legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner is eligible. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2025.

Amendment 6

Proposing the repeal of the provision in the State Constitution which requires public financing for campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.

St. Johns County only:

One-half cent sales surtax for construction, reconstruction and improvement of school facilities

Shall the School Board of St. Johns County, Florida continue the one-half cent sales surtax to fund the construction, reconstruction and improvement of school facilities, including safety and security improvements and technology upgrades, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2035, with revenue shared with charter schools based on their proportionate share of total enrollment, and continued monitoring by a citizen advisory committee?

One mill operating millage to increase teacher pay and for other purposes

Shall the School Board of St. Johns County levy additional operating millage of one mill annually for four years beginning July 1, 2025, to provide funding to: (a) recruit and retain high-quality teachers and staff by paying competitive compensation as compared to surrounding school districts, (b) continue to invest in school safety and student welfare, including school nurses and special education, and (c) preserve and enhance educational programs, including science, technology, art, music and athletics?

2024 General Election · November 5, 2024

OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY



Avoid Lines at the Polls!

The 2024 General Election ballot is two-pages, and high voter turnout is expected. Request a vote-by-mail ballot to vote from home, or if voting in person, study your sample ballot before heading to the polls!

Sample ballots are available online using the **Find My Polling Place** and **My Voter Status** tools and have been mailed to all St. Johns County registered voters who have not requested a vote-by-mail ballot.

**Be a prepared voter –
Be ELECTION READY!**



Voting by Mail?

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed for the 2024 General Election is October 24 by 5 PM. Visit www.votesjc.gov or call the Elections Office to request your ballot.

Vote-by-mail ballots must be returned to the Elections Office by 7 PM on Election Day, November 5, to be counted.

Vote-by-mail ballots can also be returned to Secure Ballot Intake Stations available at all early voting locations during the hours of voting.

Vote-by-mail ballots **CANNOT** be returned to Election Day polling places.

Election Day

To vote on Election Day, you must go to your assigned polling place between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Some precincts have changed since the last election. Verify your Election Day polling place at www.votesjc.gov before heading out to vote!

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

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

Fall Colors!

"Nature always wears the colors of the spirit."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson



By Kathy Esfahani

As the temperatures drop to the low 80s (or maybe even 70s!), we start to feel hints of fall in our Northeast Florida home. It is cooling off enough to return to the garden, but what is best to plant now for seasonal color?

Many flowers that wilt in the summer heat enjoy the cooler temperatures of Florida's fall and winter. Although annuals need replanting every season, they show off vibrant colors throughout a landscape. Consider adding celosia, dianthus, dusty miller, marigolds, pansies, petunias, snapdragons and violas to your garden and/or containers for color in the coming months. There are also perennials that will bloom now and return again next fall. In our area, look for firespike, geraniums, mums, pentas and salvia.

Shrubs and other plants can also be added to your landscape alongside these flowers. Plants that feature colorful foliage include crotons and loropetalum. Shrubbery can provide color and fill in throughout your yard. Holly and other shrubs that produce berries attract



Fall colors in landscaping

birds looking for food as they migrate through our area. These berries also remind us that the holidays are right around the corner!

Although Florida may not see the changing fall leaves of trees in cooler climates, there are trees that provide seasonal color in our area. Now is a good time to plant the trees that you have been considering for your landscape. Ideas for trees that feature fall color include bottlebrush, cypress and maple.

When you prepare your garden for new fall planting, be sure to enrich the soil with organic matter. This step allows plants to find and retain nutrients that help them grow and produce beautiful blooms. If desired, add a slow-release fertilizer or organic compost to support

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

Flower of the Week



Marigolds

your new plants. And, as always, don't forget to water regularly!

The coming months are the dryer season in our area, so you will need to maintain moisture throughout your gardens.

Visit the nursery in the coming weeks to select plants for fall color around your home. Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Marigolds

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.

Don't miss our next issue!

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Publication Date: November 28th
Advertising Deadline: November 7th

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Registration open for DONNA Marathon Weekend 2025

For The Recorder

The DONNA Foundation celebrated its milestone 20th anniversary in 2024, surpassing 20,000 patients living with breast cancer served through The DONNA CareLine with hope, support and financial relief, and celebrating survivorship with more than 150,000 athletes across DONNA finish lines.

Over the last year, the organization took home several prestigious national and regional awards in addition to celebrating its anniversary of serving those impacted by a breast cancer diagnosis across the country. The organization's half marathon, a signature event in the DONNA Marathon Weekend series, was ranked number four in the country for "Best Half Marathons" by USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Travel Awards. Additionally, The DONNA National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer placed 20th in the "25 Flattest Marathons" by OutdoorsWIRE, and DONNA Marathon Weekend was awarded a "Best in Jax" award from Jacksonville Magazine for Best Community Run & Walk.



These awards reinforce the organization's commitment to excellence in delivering its programs and road race events.

The foundation has launched registration for the 2025 DONNA Marathon Weekend. The 18th annual running of the event series is set for Jan. 31 through Feb. 2.

This year's theme, "Destination: Fearless," is a celebration of love over fear and a reminder that people are stronger and braver than they ever thought. The theme represents the idea that every step people take together, every mile they complete, is a step toward embracing a life of hope — a life that is fearless.

"Even after 20 years of progress, our passion for our mission grows stronger every year," said Amanda Napolitano, executive director of The DONNA Foun-

ation. "We are honored to celebrate with breast cancer patients and survivors, their families and friends and our neighbors each year. We look forward to making DONNA Marathon Weekend 2025 the best yet. Our theme of 'Destination: Fearless' reinforces our goal to face every day, choosing to be fearless in the face of hardship and always choosing love."

In its last fiscal year (2023-24), The DONNA Foundation saw nearly 6,100 racers, with approximately 47% traveling from outside the Northeast Florida region to participate. These numbers reflect the powerful effect the foundation and its signature race series, DONNA Marathon Weekend, has on Jacksonville's economy. Nearly 7,000 visitors are attributed to the 2024 races, making a total economic impact of \$3.8 million in revenue to the city.

"DONNA Marathon Weekend continues to be my favorite weekend of the year, and I'm sure 2025 will be no different," said Donna Deegan, Jacksonville mayor and founder of The DONNA Foundation. "This year's theme, 'Destination: Fearless' is a testament to how

far we can go when we let go of fear and believe in what's possible. As athletes, that belief helps us to meet the demands of the distance, and more importantly, it empowers breast cancer patients and their families to fearlessly navigate a challenging diagnosis. We look forward to celebrating every runner, patient and survivor as we race to finish breast cancer this February."

The DONNA Foundation works daily to fulfill its mission to provide hope, support and financial relief to those living with breast cancer. The foundation encourages everyone to get involved — whether by signing up to run a race, raising funds individually or with a team, advocating for better access to care or by simply cheering on runners and survivors during the 18th Annual National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer.

Registration for 2025 DONNA Marathon Weekend events and the third annual DONNA 110 Mile-A-Day Challenge can be found at BreastCancerMarathon.com.

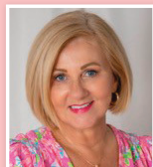
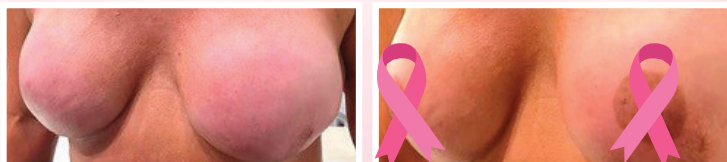
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GUEST COLUMN

Recognizing the signs of ADHD: Supporting your child's journey to success

By Jessica Wick

Every child experiences moments of distraction, bursts of energy and difficulty sitting still. But when does this behavior indicate something more? Recognizing the signs of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) is key to unlocking the support and strategies your child may need.

A Rise in ADHD Diagnoses

According to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ADHD is on the rise. More than 7 million children and adolescents in the United States were diagnosed in 2022 — an increase of one million from 2016. This means that one in nine kids now face challenges with attention and focus, making learning and daily activities more difficult.

ADHD is marked by inattention, impulsivity or hyperactivity that goes beyond what's typical for a child's developmental

stage. For children with ADHD, everyday tasks at home and school can feel like trying to complete a puzzle with missing pieces; no matter how much effort they put in, something always seems to be out of place.

The Signs of ADHD

ADHD comes in three forms: 1) inattentive, 2) hyperactive-impulsive, and 3) combined, where both inattentive and hyperactive-impulsive behaviors are present. Knowing the signs of each type is crucial to recognizing when a child might need help.

ADHD presents in different ways, much like changing weather patterns. Here's what to watch for.

Inattentive symptoms:

- Difficulty paying attention to details, often making careless mistakes.
- Struggling to maintain focus on tasks or play.
- Appearing not to listen when spoken

to directly.

- Failing to complete tasks, such as schoolwork or chores.
- Avoiding activities requiring sustained mental effort, like homework.
- Frequently losing items needed for tasks, like school supplies.
- Seeming distracted or forgetful in daily activities.

Hyperactive-impulsive symptoms:

- Fidgeting or squirming when seated.
- Frequently leaving their seat when it's inappropriate, like in class.
- Running or climbing in situations where it's unsafe or inappropriate.
- Difficulty engaging in quiet activities.
- Seeming constantly restless or "on the go."
- Talking excessively, often interrupting others.
- Blurting out answers before questions are fully asked.
- Struggling to wait their turn, interrupting conversations or activities.

A child showing symptoms from both categories may have the combined type of ADHD.

When It's Something More

While behaviors like fidgeting or forgetfulness are common in children, they don't always indicate ADHD. Fatigue, learning disabilities like dyslexia, mental health conditions such as anxiety or depression or simply age-appropriate developmental behaviors can cause inattention. However, if these behaviors persist and significantly disrupt your child's daily life, it may be time to consider ADHD as a possibility.

Strengthening the Brain's Connections

If you suspect your child has ADHD, there are steps you can take — even without an official diagnosis. Think of the brain as a network of train tracks. When the tracks are in good condition, trains run

ADHD continues on Page 31



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ADHD

Continued from 30

smoothly from station to station. But when tracks are broken or incomplete, trains struggle to stay on course.

Programs like Brain Balance focus on strengthening those brain “tracks.” By enhancing cognitive function through sensory and physical exercises, cognitive training and nutritional support, these programs help children manage ADHD without medication.

A study conducted by Harvard University and McLean Hospital found that

children who participated in the Brain Balance Program experienced significant reductions in ADHD symptoms. These improvements, including better focus and decreased hyperactivity, were comparable to those seen with low-dose stimulant medications but were achieved without drugs.

Moving Forward

Whether your child has already been diagnosed with ADHD or you’re beginning to notice the early signs, recognizing the symptoms is the first step in helping them thrive. By taking proactive measures, you can give your child the tools they need

to overcome obstacles and navigate life confidently.

ADHD may be part of your child's story, but it doesn't have to define their future. Every child deserves the opportunity to focus on what matters most and reach their full potential.

Executive Director of Brain Balance Center Jacksonville Jessica Wick was inspired to help families after witnessing

the program's transformative impact on her son, Dylan, in 2017. A University of Florida graduate with degrees in anthropology and criminal justice, Wick is also a board-certified cognitive specialist. She's passionate about advocating for Lyme disease and enjoys Florida Gator football. Wick lives in Nocatee with her husband, Kris, their two children, Dylan and Maddie Rose, and their dogs, Onyx and Storm.



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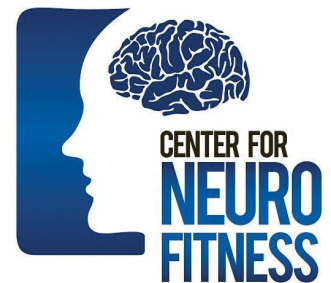
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Academic performance can be affected by eyesight

Many variables affect students' academic performance. These include a willingness to learn, students' attentiveness, having a great teacher, and kids' commitment to studying and doing homework. One component of academic performance can be easily overlooked: eyesight.

The M.M. Joshi Eye Institute in India says vision problems in children can affect studies and restrict students' academic development. Academic performance is directly linked to the ability to see clearly, as vision affects reading, writing, comprehension, and classroom participation.

Clarendon Vision Development Center of Illinois advises that a substantial part of a child's education is acquired through visual processing. When that vision is impaired, it can hinder the ability to learn and absorb information effectively.

Impaired eyesight may cause students to struggle and fall behind. This ultimately can lead to a lack of engagement in classwork and ultimately make them consider giving up, particularly when a student is unaware that it is eyesight and not another factor affecting their ability to learn. Furthermore, poor grades may cause

parents to mistakenly conclude a child has a learning disability or is slacking off.

The relationship between eyesight and education underscores the significance of routine eye exams. Intervention can help prevent poor academic performance. Infants often get their first comprehensive eye exams around zero to six months of age. By age three, children should have a second eye exam, says Medical Optometry

America. Around age five or six, children should receive a third comprehensive eye exam, just before entering school. Eye exams should then be scheduled at least every two years. These guidelines can be adjusted if any vision problems are detected and more frequent exams are needed.

Eyesight plays a key role in a child's ability to learn and excel in school.

5 COMMON LEARNING DISABILITIES

1. Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 11 percent of school-aged children have ADHD. Symptoms include difficulty paying attention to activities or conversation, poor sleeping quality, difficulty completing tasks, difficulty holding onto a job, frequent fidgeting, excessive talking, and interrupting.

2. Dyslexia: Dyslexia affects a person's reading and language processing skills. Dyslexia can cause a person to reverse positioning of letters; experience difficulty with phonological awareness; struggle with reading comprehension; and delay speech. Spelling, copying text and reading comprehension also are more difficult for people with dyslexia.

3. Auditory processing disorder: With auditory processing disorder, the brain and ears do not connect the same way as a

neurotypical individual's auditory system does. Those with APD may have trouble recognizing different sounds in speech, and background noise can make differentiation particularly difficult, according to Integrity, Inc.

4. Dyscalculia: Dyscalculia often gets diagnosed with another learning disorder like dyslexia. Those with dyscalculia experience difficulty with memorizing arithmetic facts, following math reasoning, and performing calculations.

5. Dysgraphia: Dysgraphia adversely affects a person's ability to write. Dysgraphia can initially present as difficulty with spelling, poor handwriting or trouble putting down thoughts on paper or digitally. Struggling to express thoughts clearly, messy handwriting, taking a long time to write, and problems organizing thoughts are potential symptoms of dysgraphia.



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Schools partner to build connections

For The Recorder

Sept. 16 marked the beginning of an extraordinary partnership between Jacksonville Country Day School (JCDS) and the North Florida School of Special Education (NFSSE). Through reverse inclusion, JCDS's fifth and sixth graders will spend time with NFSSE students multiple times throughout the school year, building relationships, learning together and fostering connections that

transcend differences.

Reverse inclusion is the process of placing neurotypical students in a self-contained classroom or school, allowing them to interact with students who may have autism, Down syndrome, intellectual disabilities or specific learning disabilities. The goal is to foster understanding, empathy and friendships among students by spending time together and engaging in activities.

During the first visit, JCDS students

were paired with buddies from NFSSE and participated in various fun and meaningful activities, from playing games like "Sharks & Minnows" to enjoying playground time and visiting barn animals.

Through this collaboration, students at both schools benefit by developing social skills, increasing understanding and forging friendships that grow with each visit.

JCDS Director of Education Tonya Elstein emphasized the importance of these connections.

"Seeing children engage, learn and play together is always inspiring," Elstein said. "No matter who the other person is, we can find a way to connect, smile and make a friend. It's moments like these that remind us of the power of inclusion and the bonds that can form when we create opportunities for collaboration. What an impactful opportunity for everyone!"

JCDS students like Emily Parry and

CONNECTIONS continues on Page 34



Ocean Palms 'flips into fall'

On Sept. 19, Ocean Palms Elementary opened its doors to students and their families for what started as a traditional open house event; however, there was an exciting twist!

An acrobatic show from Orlando's WeFlip Entertainment, Acrobatic Science, awaited the students and their families — speed equals motion, equals flips! From human levers to high-climbing feats, this adrenaline-filled show awed OPE's otter audience.

Brought to the school by the PTO and event sponsor Ponte Vedra Pediatric Dentistry, the families visited classrooms, took in the show, shopped the book fair and enjoyed the concession stand and Tikiz. It was a memorable night of twists, turns and community.

Contributed photos





NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

The Recorder presents the second annual **Best of the Beaches**, featuring your favorite businesses in Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach and Ponte Vedra Beach! This includes businesses in zip codes 32250, 32266, 32233, and 32082.

Readers now 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 BEGIN:
October 4 - November 10**

**VOTING BEGINS:
November 11 - December 2**

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www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestofbeaches2024



Contributed photos

Students from Jacksonville Country Day School and the North Florida School of Special Education are learning from one another in a special program.

Connections

Continued from 33

Xavier Regis found the experience to be not only fun but also enlightening.

“Everybody was super nice there,” said Xavier. “I connected with my buddy a lot. He plays ‘Fortnite,’ so we were talking about ‘Fortnite’ together, and we liked all the same holidays. I’m looking forward to doing it again.”

Emily shared similar feelings, highlighting how the experience changed her perspective.

“It was fun to visit their school, and I really liked the barn,” she said. “My buddy was really nice, and even though it was hard to communicate sometimes, I learned we shouldn’t judge people, it’s important to be kind and to treat others the way you want to be treated.”

This initiative is about more than just participating in activities together. The pairing of students is designed to build

lasting relationships over the course of the school year, with four to five more visits planned.

JCDS School Counselor Liz McNairy captured the spirit of the day.

“All people have the need to feel loved and to have a sense of belonging,” she said. “These emotions were fully present at our trip to NFSSE. From the moment we walked into the classroom, the excitement of the NFSSE students eagerly awaiting our students was palpable! Seeing the children playing and working together was a rewarding experience for all involved.”

The Reverse Inclusion Program represents a unique opportunity for students to learn from one another, celebrate each other’s strengths and foster a sense of belonging that extends beyond their schools. As this partnership continues to grow, both JCDS and NFSSE students will benefit from the bonds they form, learning that connection, kindness and friendship can break down any barriers.



Business Weekly

For MORE business news, go to facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 PAGE 35

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Contributed photo

Unleash the Flavors of Fall

Vicious Biscuit unveils seasonal pumpkin treasures

For The Recorder

There's a hint of fall in the air — and the smell of pumpkin — as Vicious Biscuit welcomes autumn with a seasonal pumpkin menu. The award-winning Southern-made originator of bold biscuit creations has brought back its pumpkin indulgences that will ignite the comfort flavors of fall through Nov. 24.

The fall seasonal menu invites guests to indulge in a selection of dishes that highlight the versatility of pumpkin, including starters — or desserts — such as Pumpkin Bites (\$8). These pumpkin fritters are deep-fried to a golden-brown crust with a tender, flavorful pumpkin center. Served warm and sinfully glazed with vanilla icing for additional sweetness.

Add a comforting blend of softness and richness with Pumpkin Cream Pancakes (\$9). These pumpkin-flavored sweet cream pancakes include walnuts and are drizzled with vanilla icing. Each bite is an

indulgent choice for breakfast or brunch.

Then compliment the meal with the perfect fall coffee treat, a Pumpkin Spiced Latte (\$5.50). It's the Vicious Biscuit take on this classic autumn favorite, available hot or iced, topped with whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon. The robust coffee flavor combined with the smooth, sweet notes of pumpkin and spices will have guests returning for this beloved seasonal favorite.

"Pumpkin is the quintessential fall flavor, and we're excited to bring back the Vicious Biscuit twist on these classic offerings," said Michael Ball, vice president of operations. "This seasonal menu draws in the warmth and comfort of autumn, and we invite patrons to join us in savoring the season."

Additionally, guests can order these fall offerings as part of Vicious Biscuit's newly re-launched catering options. From shareables such as The Sweet Puppies and Jalapeno Cheddar Pups to Biscuits by the Dozen (\$30-35) and from Grab & Go (ranging

FLAVORS continues on Page 35



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GUEST COLUMN

Key questions to answer to help plan to pay for retirement

Contributed photo

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

Your retirement could last 20 years or more. Now could be the time to ask yourself, “What do I want to do when I retire?”

It’s an important question to ask sooner rather than later, as the answer could impact your retirement savings plans, so that you can align the retirement you want with the retirement you can afford. The first two steps in that process are: (1) decide what you want to do, and then (2) determine the potential costs.

What will I be doing during my retirement days?

- Do I plan to continue working past age 65 or after I reach my full retirement age? Full time or part time?
- Are there hobbies I want to pursue that will either cost money or make money?
- Do I plan to travel?
- What are the activities that make up my ideal retirement day?

Where will I be living in my retirement years?

- Will I stay in my current home or downsize to a smaller home or a rental property?
- Will I move to a retirement commu-

nity or assisted living facility?

What situations might occur that could impact my retirement expenditures?

- What health care coverage do I need for my specific health conditions?
- Do I have an emergency fund for unexpected situations such as a health care crisis or loss of property due to a natural disaster?
- What if I stop working sooner than expected?

What are the barriers that are keeping me from investing?

- I have nothing extra to invest.
- I don’t know how to start an investment plan.
- I have time to start saving later.

Next steps:

Prepare rather than panic. Review the questions above and create an outline from your answers. That outline will give you the framework to calculate the income you may need to support your retirement lifestyle.

Make the decision to adjust your spending patterns today. Choose something that you really don’t need and redirect that amount to a savings or investment account. Take advantage of the growth potential over time. Pay



yourself first instead of spending money on something that will not support your future retirement needs. Creating that nest egg now could lessen your stress about money.

Start or add to an emergency fund. Even if the amount seems very small, it is important to take the first step. As that amount grows and the saving behavior becomes a habit, you will likely gain confidence and momentum in your investment activities.

Meet with your financial adviser to review your answers and turn your outline into a plan that will help you work toward your goals. Your adviser has planning tools and other resources to help you identify your retirement income needs.

Revisit your plan on a regular basis. Over time, your goals may change be-

cause of new opportunities or unexpected events. Periodic reviews can help you assess your progress and fine-tune your strategy.

This article was written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Ponte Vedra Wealth Management Group in Ponte Vedra Beach at 904-273-7918.

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Flavors

Continued from 35

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Vicious Biscuit is a trailblazing fast-casual breakfast brand born in 2017 from the visionary mind of veteran restaurateur George McLaughlin.

Rooted in the heart of the South where biscuits are king, the brand serves irresistibly delicious, creatively handcrafted comfort meals with the fiercest commitment to fresh, quality ingredients and unparalleled

Southern hospitality. Vicious Biscuit’s over-the-top, fork-and-knife favorites have garnered numerous accolades, such as Nation’s Restaurant News Breakout Brand 2024, and an appearance on The Cooking Channel’s “Food Paradise” aired in July 2021.

From its flagship in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, Vicious Biscuit now owns

and operates seven corporate locations across South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida. The rapidly expanding brand will also count 40 franchise locations in Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Utah.

Locally, Vicious Biscuit can be found at 211 3rd St., Neptune Beach.



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Area home builder receives EPA award

For The Recorder

Providence Homes has won the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor AirPlus Leader Award for the third year in a row. This annual award recognizes market leading organizations who promote safer, healthier and more comfortable indoor environments by participating with Indoor AirPlus, and offering enhanced indoor air quality protections for their new homebuyers.

Indoor AirPlus is a voluntary partnership and labeling program that helps new home builders improve indoor air quality by requiring construction practices and product specifications that minimize exposure to airborne pollutants and contaminants.

Clean air is good for everyone's health, but it can be especially important to those who have chronic respiratory conditions.

"We're honored to be recognized as leaders in the housing industry building healthier, more resilient homes," said Sean Junker, president and COO of Providence Homes. "Our company is committed to advancing indoor air quality and providing safe and comfortable living environments for all our customers."



Contributed photo

Providence Homes seals off the air flow systems in the home during construction so none of the construction debris gets in the ducts.

Providence Homes was the only

regional/divisional builder winner from Florida.

"We are proud to recognize the Indoor AirPlus partners who go above and

beyond to build and certify healthier homes," said David Rowson, director of the EPA's Indoor Environments Division. "Indoor AirPlus homes achieve their high-performance indoor air quality certification by ensuring a safe and comfortable living environment. Congratulations to all 2024 Indoor AirPlus Leader Award winners and thank you for helping Americans breathe easier. This award serves to celebrate the exceptional commitment and inspiring leadership of our Indoor AirPlus partners in creating healthy homes. A heartfelt thank you to the 2024 Indoor AirPlus Leader Award winners for their dedication to advancing indoor air quality and creating more resilient homes."

Headquartered in Jacksonville, Providence Homes has been committed to providing the highest standards of residential construction in Northeast Florida since 1992. Providence Homes has built more than 3,500 Energy Star Certified homes helping Jacksonville families save more than \$7.5 million in energy bills.

New wellness lounge opens in Nocatee area

For The Recorder

HydroLight Lounge, a modern sanctuary for holistic health, has opened its doors in the heart of Ponte Vedra's Nocatee community. Founded by Shannon Engel, a mother of two and former advertising executive specializing in spirits and nightlife, the wellness lounge aims to revolutionize wellness by blending relaxation, rejuvenation and a spirited twist on traditional self-care experiences.

HydroLight Lounge offers innovative services designed to detoxify, heal and refresh both body and mind. The menu, cleverly named after classic cocktails, includes unique offerings like cold plunge therapy, colon hydrotherapy, infrared sauna sessions, red light therapy and contrast therapy. But HydroLight Lounge isn't just

about wellness — it's about having a good time, too.

"Our goal is to create a space where people can truly relax and recharge, but in a way that's fun and approachable," said Engel. "HydroLight Lounge is where holistic health meets happy hour. We've infused every detail — from the services menu to the design elements — with a sense of playfulness. My hope is that, just like meeting friends for drinks or brunch, we can encourage people to add self-care into their weekly routines."

Reflecting Engel's creative background, the lounge features music lyrics etched on mirrors throughout the space. Where wellness spaces are typically quiet, HydroLight Lounge offers personal entertainment devices in each room, allowing visitors to enjoy their favorite shows or albums.

The HydroLight Lounge "menu" includes:

- On The Rocks: Cold plunge therapy, designed to boost circulation, reduce inflammation and invigorate the body.
- The Spritz: Colon hydrotherapy, a gentle, effective way to detoxify and cleanse the digestive system.
- The Negroni: Red light therapy, for enhancing skin health, reducing inflammation and accelerating healing.
- The Cosmopolitan: Light therapy, to reduce the circumference of hips, waist and thighs along with improving skin texture and helping with pain relief
- The Hot Toddy: Infrared sauna, using infrared light to promote detoxification, relaxation and muscle recovery.
- The Dry Martini: Contrast therapy, alternating hot and cold treatments to

enhance recovery, reduce pain and boost overall wellness.

To celebrate the opening, HydroLight Lounge is running an "open bar" introductory offer to try all services for only \$99.

"Ponte Vedra values health and well-being, and we're excited to bring something fresh to the area," Engel said. "Growing up with a nutritionist mom, I learned the importance of being thoughtful about what we put into our bodies and am trying to pass that on to my two boys. After nearly 20 years of nonstop work, I wanted to create a space that celebrates self-care with a touch of nightlife fun. HydroLight Lounge isn't a spa — it's a lounge that just happens to offer wellness instead of spirits."

For more information on HydroLight Lounge and to book services, go to hydro-lightlounge.com.




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EnterCircle

Continued from 1

co-founder of Sapna Foundation and the link. “This year, we’re spotlighting social enterprises that strengthen communities and benefit the business landscape. Celebrating the enterprising spirit is the essence of EnterCircle!”

This year’s theme, “Unlocking Serendipity: Connecting the Dots,” highlights how key life moments can drive growth through proactive decisions and new connections. Building on past themes — “Innovation” (2021), “Resilient Leadership” (2022) and “Thrive with Purpose” (2023) — it reflects the link’s mission and the Sapna Foundation’s goal of sparking serendipitous events to boost the local economy.

Featured speakers include Mari Kurai-shi, president of The Jessie Ball DuPont Fund; Sriram Bharatam, founder of Kuza Biashara (a world-renowned social enterprise); Krista Joseph, commissioner for St. Johns County; Karen Bowling, chief administrative officer for the City



of Jacksonville; Dawn Lockart, CEO of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida; and Marcia Connor, executive advisor and best-selling author, among others.

• Nov. 12: The week kicks off with the

Youth Innovation Challenge, where local high school students work to develop solutions for real-world challenges, and the Inaugural Best of Best Awards Night, celebrating winners of the Best of Best Awards of The Ponte Veda Recorder.

• Nov. 13: Social Enterprise Day empowers small businesses and nonprofit organizations with the tools, insights and connections to thrive. Featuring a business EXPO where local businesses can showcase their products and services.

• Nov. 14: The Youth Symposium is all about the next generation. Top leaders share their experiences and help high school students explore their entrepreneurial potential.

• Nov. 15: Women’s Day is a transformative event designed to create a supportive and inspiring dialogue for all women. In direct conjunction with International Women Entrepreneurship Day, the tone is set to be celebratory in addition to a learning environment.

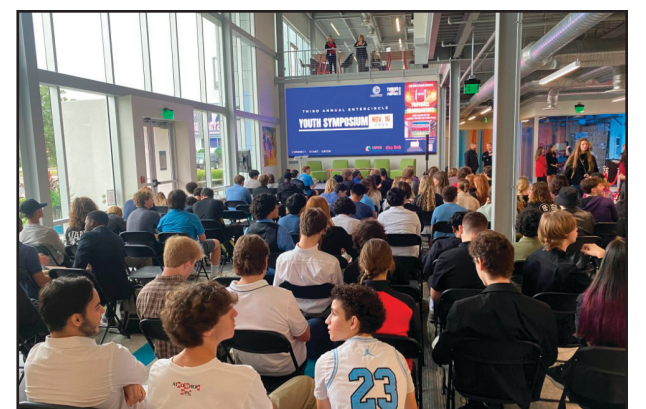
• Nov. 16: Kidpreneurs Day features an expo and a show-and-tell where young creatives can showcase their creations and gain real-world experience

in the business world.

Registration is currently open. Because each day is uniquely different, a ticket or RSVP for each day is required. To register, go to entercircle.zone. Businesses looking to connect can inquire about partnerships by emailing sales@thelink.zone.

“Diversification of capital is a critical strategy for all nonprofit organizations to ensure they are resilient and able to sustain their impact,” said Dawn Lockhart, CEO of The Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida. “With so many experts in the room, attendees will learn about new forms of capital available to be leveraged in today’s challenging environment. The Nonprofit Center is thrilled to partner with the Sapna Foundation and the link and to accelerate sector impact through entrepreneurial forms of capital.”

The week is supported by St. Johns County, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Hyundai of St. Augustine, St. Johns County School District, Unlockt, Hirelocal.org and other organizations.



Chamber hosts annual golf tournament



The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its annual golf tournament at Marsh Landing Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach. Members competed and the holes were sponsored by the various business that make up the Chamber.

Photos by Susan Griffin



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In the Arts



Send your arts news to
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Falconaires to perform free concert Oct. 22

For The Recorder

The Beaches Fine Arts Series will present The Falconaires, the U.S. Air Force Academy big band at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 465 11th Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach. The UNF Jazz Ensemble 1 will open the concert.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and seating is first come, first served. Admission is free.

A reception follows, hosted by Signature Concert sponsor Oceanside Rotary Club. An accompanying art exhibit will feature work by LuAnn Donaldson.

The only musical ensemble that can genuinely trace its heritage back to the American military band is the big band, made popular by its mainstream appeal during WWII. A unique and historic component to the heritage of the U.S. Air Force Academy, the Falconaires have brought the sounds of big band to international audiences for more than 50 years.

The professional Airmen-musicians in the Falconaires follow a long blue line of talented Air Force Academy bandmen, dedicated to serving our nation.

They represent the young men and



Contributed photo

The Falconaires will give a free concert Oct. 22 in Jacksonville Beach.

women at the U.S. Air Force Academy training to be officers of character who will lead the Air Force and Space Force. It is also their distinct privilege to support our veterans and all men and women currently serving around the globe.

These selfless Americans allow us to share the music and remarkable talents of the Falconaires. The versatility and

professionalism of this unique ensemble reflect the great diversity and ingenuity that makes the U.S. Air Force the greatest air force the world has ever known.

The Air Force Academy Band's Falconaires play a major role in cultivating our national heritage through America's foremost indigenous musical genre: jazz!

Jacksonville Symphony to present 'Sibelius' Violin & Elgar's Enigma'

For The Recorder

The Jacksonville Symphony will present its second Florida Blue Classical concert of the 2024/25 season with "Sibelius' Violin & Elgar's Enigma" on Oct. 18 and 19, led by Music Director Courtney Lewis. The program features internationally acclaimed violinist Stefan Jackiw in Jean Sibelius' Violin Concerto, Edward Elgar's "Enigma Variations" and Benjamin Britten's "Variations for Orchestra."

Jackiw, celebrated worldwide for his virtuosity and expressive performances, takes center stage with Sibelius' Violin Concerto, one of the most challenging and rewarding works in the violin repertoire. Known for its technical demands and emotional depth, this concerto promises to captivate the audience, making Jackiw's performance a key highlight of the symphony's 75th anniversary season.

The program also features Elgar's "Enigma Variations," a beloved orchestral work that provides vivid character portraits of the composer's friends and loved ones, including the famous "Nimrod" variation. This emotional tribute to friendship and support is well recognized, often played in remembrance services and featured in film such as Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk."

"The music is full of passion, brilliant orchestration, with even a pipe organ thrown in at the end to increase the excitement," said Lewis. "[This is] one of the most important pieces in English music, and one of my favorites."

The symphony will also perform Britten's "Variations for Orchestra," an engaging work for audiences of all ages. Also known as the "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra," it is structured to show off the various sections of the orchestra and their capabilities, an intriguing piece for new and returning patrons.

Tickets are available at JaxSymphony.org or by calling the box office at 904-354-5547. This concert is sponsored by Florida Blue.

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ALHAMBRA
THEATRE & DINING

Alhambra Theatre announces 2025 season

For The Recorder

The Alhambra Theatre and Dining has unveiled its highly anticipated 2025 season, promising audiences a year packed with unforgettable performances and adventure.

After initiating its renewal process with current season partners in late September, the Alhambra is now opening both single show and season partnership sales to the public. Notably, the theater is maintaining its commitment to affordability by announcing that there will be no price increase for 2025 season partnerships. Single show tickets are available for purchase online at www.Alhambrajax.com, while season partnerships can be secured by calling the box office at 904-641-1212 or visiting in person.

Exclusive benefits for 2025 season partners:

- **Best pricing:** Season partners save up to 20% off single-ticket prices.
- **Preferred seating:** Partners choose seats before they are made available to the general public.
- **Early show notices:** Be the first to hear about special performances, including Alhambra After Dark music shows and exclusive events.

The 2025 Season Lineup:

- **January:** The season kicks off with laughter and Southern charm in the hilarious “Southern Fried Funeral.”



- **Spring:** The stage comes alive with two classic musicals: the iconic “West Side Story” and the beloved “Beautiful: The Carole King Musical,” a show guaranteed to have audiences singing along to King’s timeless hits.
- **April:** The Broadway favorite “My Fair Lady” brings its unforgettable music and classic love story to the Alhambra stage.
- **Summer:** Step into the whimsical world of Roald Dahl’s “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” a delightful family favorite.
- **Fall:** Although the title cannot be officially revealed until February, the Alhambra can say that it will present a heartwarming musical inspired by the remarkable true story of a small town that welcomed planes diverted to Newfoundland on Sept. 11, 2001.

• **Fall/winter:** Guests will help solve the mystery in “The Mystery of Edwin Drood,” a Tony Award-winning musical where the audience decides the ending.

• **December:** The season concludes with the festive favorite “Elf, the Musical,” perfect for warming hearts and spreading holiday cheer.

Craig Smith, managing partner of the Alhambra Theatre, shared his enthusiasm for the upcoming season.

“The 2025 season promises to be one of our best yet, filled with captivating stories, timeless music and unforgettable memories,” he said. “Join us for another incredible year at the Alhambra Theatre!”

Upcoming Experiences

- **Sibelius’ Violin & Elgar’s Enigma**
October 18 & 19
- **Conrad Tao: Piano Phenom**
October 24 & 25
- **Organ Chamber Concert**
November 3
- **Rodrigo & Ravel’s Boléro**
November 8 & 9
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ – Part 1 in Concert**
November 15 & 16

Explore the entire 75th anniversary season
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Pre-eminent organist to give free concert

The Beaches Fine Arts Series will present organist Cameron Carpenter at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, at St. John's Cathedral, 256 E. Church Street, Jacksonville. Doors open at 3:15 p.m. Seating is first come, first served. Admission is free. The Signature Concert sponsor is Lory Doolittle.

Carpenter is the world's most visible organist, the first-ever to be nominated for a Grammy Award for a solo album. He holds the 2012 Leonard Bernstein Award, and in 2014, launched his International Touring Organ, a first-of-its-kind digital organ built to his own design.

Carpenter will perform Bach's "Goldberg Variations" (BWV 988), named after Johann Gottlieb Goldberg, who may have been its first performer. He will also perform Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," based on works by artist Viktor Hartmann.

Contributed photo



Apex to stage 'Year with Frog and Toad'

Apex Theatre Studio will present the family-friendly "A Year with Frog and Toad" on Oct. 18, 19 and 20 at the black box theater at Apex Theatre Studio, 425 West Town Place, unit 112 in St. Augustine.

Based on Arnold Lobel's well-loved books, this whimsical show follows two great friends — the cheerful, popular Frog and the rather grumpy Toad — through four fun-filled seasons. Waking from hibernation in the spring, Frog and Toad plant gardens, swim, rake leaves, go sledding and learn life lessons along the way. The two best friends celebrate and rejoice in the differences that make them unique and special. The production is under

the direction of Joshua Sewell and Isabel Dondero. "We are really excited to share this sweet tale with families in our studio space," said Dondero. "It will allow younger audience members to connect with the performers in a friendly and fun way."

Performances are 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20.

Tickets are \$15. For reservations and information go to www.apextheatrejax.com/events.

A special outdoor performance will be held at St. Francis In The Field (Hope Pavilion) at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17. For tickets, go to www.apextheatrejax.com/events.

'Cadillac Crew' to be staged Oct. 18 through Nov. 2

For The Recorder

Lumen Repertory Theatre will present the final production of its 2024 season, themed "BOLD," the regional premiere of "Cadillac Crew" by Tori Sampson. This powerful play, running from Friday, Oct. 18, to Saturday, Nov. 2, at the historic San Marco Church, brings to the stage a story of civil rights, sisterhood and the complexities of the fight for equality.

In this groundbreaking production, which debuted at Yale Repertory Theatre in 2019, Lumen Repertory Theatre continues to push the boundaries of bold, professional theater in Northeast Florida. "Cadillac Crew" follows the lives of four women on the day of a civil rights protest in 1960s Virginia, offering a vivid portrayal of the often-overlooked contributions of Black women to the movement.

Through sharp dialogue, dynamic storytelling and surprising glimpses of our present time, Sampson's work illuminates the intersection of race, gender and activism, resonating deeply with contemporary audiences. During the final days of a national election, this live performance material drips with relevance and something important to say. And it says it in both creative and bold ways.

The powerhouse cast of "Cadillac Crew" includes Cetera Bunche, Felecia Ewing, Zonnetta Marie and Kate McManus. The production is co-directed by Brian Niece and Katie Johnston, with Victoria Mayapi as dramaturg and Faith Rautter as stage manager.

This regional premiere promises to be an unforgettable theatrical experience, challenging perceptions, sparking critical conversations and celebrating the

bold voices that have shaped history.

"With 'Cadillac Crew,' we are closing out our BOLD 2024 Season with a story that exemplifies the courage and resilience of the unsung who have fought tirelessly for justice," said Lumen Repertory Theatre Artistic Director and Co-Founder Brian Niece. "We are delighted to tell this story loudly in Florida, because it not only honors the past but also invites our audiences to reflect on the very real ongoing struggle for equity and the role we all play in it."

All performances will be held at the historic San Marco Church, 1620 Naldo Ave., Jacksonville. The dates and times are as follows:

- Friday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 p.m. (opening night)
- Saturday, Oct. 19, at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 24, at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 1, at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$45 or \$20 for students with valid student ID and can be purchased at lumenrep.org/shows/cadillac-crew. Season Partners are StageFund, Preston and Joan Haskell, the Actors' Equity Association and San Marco Church.

The production team for these plays includes Production Manager Katie Swider, Scenic and Props Designer Claire Cimino, Costumer Katie Swider, Sound and Video Designer Brian Niece and Lighting Designer and Technical Director Mike Livingston.

Additionally, Lumen Rep's challenging 2025 season will be announced this fall. For more information regarding schedules and venues, go to lumenrep.org.

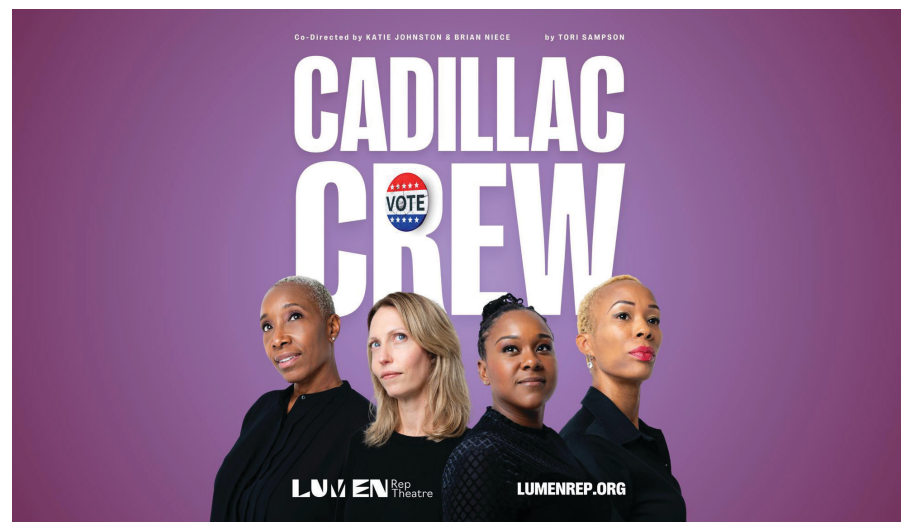


Photo credit: <https://www.facebook.com/lumenrep/>



Eight honored at 47th annual Arts Awards gala

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville hosted its 47th annual Arts Awards gala Oct. 4 at the Florida Blue Conference Center.

The sold-out event brought together more than 300 guests, along with Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville staff, City of Jacksonville representatives, including Mayor Donna Deegan, Council Vice President Kevin Carrico, top business leaders and the cultural community to celebrate eight award winners making a difference in the arts and culture space and their communities.



Honorees were:

- Helen Lane Founders Award: Jason Peoples, executive director of Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS)
- Corporate Business of the Year: PNC Bank
- Robert Arleigh White Award For Advocacy: Taryn “LoveReigns” Wharwood, program director, The Performers Academy
- Small Business of the Year: The Walrus
- Art Innovator: David Luckin, music director and radio host, WJCT

- Art Educator: Amanda Holloway, art educator at Global Leadership Academy High School
- Art of Giving: Carol Grimes, arts advocate and philanthropist
- Community Impact Award: John Silveira, manager and director of Riverside Arts Market (RAM)

In addition, two Cultural Catalysts recognitions were presented to Kerri Stewart and Nat Ford for their exceptional contributions to Jacksonville through their innovative leadership and commitment to our community.

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Sports



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FHSAA ADJUSTS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE DUE TO RECENT SEVERE WEATHER

By Anthony Richards

Usually, major decisions by the Florida High School Athletic Association are made during the offseason, but on Oct. 14 the organization, which is the primary governing body of high school sports in the state, announced that the football regular season will extend a week.

“This year has been a very unique year for us, as most of the state has been impacted directly or indirectly by inclement weather,” Damon said. “Our member schools have been responsive and cooperating with each other during this time, even though they may be rivals, which is a beautiful sight to see.”

Due to the recent hurricanes that has caused many games to be rescheduled or cancelled across the state, the FHSAA decided to push the regular season back



one week, so the last day of the regular season will now be Nov. 7.

“That week can be used in several different ways, either as a bye week or to make up a game before

starting the playoffs,” FHSAA Executive Director Craig Damon said. “It is up to the teams.”

Nease High took had rescheduled to play Bartram Trail High on Oct. 14, but once the announcement was made, both schools were quick to take advantage and reschedule the district contest once again, this time to Nov. 7.

As a result, the change also adjusts the playoffs, which will now begin on Nov. 15.

According to Damon, the change was made possible thanks to a common bye week that was scheduled prior to the football state championship games, which will be used to extend the season.

The state title games will remain as previously scheduled.

The decision will not affect the start of the winter sports season.



Reece Beck sacks Broncos' quarterback Carson Stewart from behind.



Rocco Garcia and Caleb Stanton clear a path for Brian Case to run through.



Talan Babin leaps to block a Broncos' punt.

Photos by Anthony Richards

Showdown

Continued from 1

“That whole play was great, the left side down-blocked perfectly, and I had my tackle behind me wrap up perfectly,” senior offensive lineman Rocco Garcia said. “As an offensive line, I believe we have one of the most together groups on the team, and its something we’re always working on. I’m obviously the oldest one, but we’ve got a very experienced group and combined we’ve played about 100 games between us.”

However, a couple of quick three and outs by the Broncos and in the blink of an eye the Sharks increased their lead to 24 points following blocked punts on consecutive drives.

The first blocked punt for the Sharks was by senior defensive lineman Robbie Grieco

who recovered the ball in the end zone for a score, while the second was blocked by a leaping Talan Babin that set up the offense at the Broncos three-yard line and senior quarterback Drew Price ran it in on a keeper the very next play.

“I just saw the left guard staring down our three-tech on the left side, so I just shot the gap and wound up blocking it,” Babin said.

Big plays turned out to be the way to score for the Broncos on the night. However, each time the Broncos looked to close the gap, the Sharks had an answer and reasserted themselves as the more physical team.

The Sharks defense picked off a pair of passes on the night, as Cooper Sobieck stepped in front of a pass and helped set up Cases' second touchdown on the day, and Jack Berquist tallied one in the second half.

Senior running back Jake Hilley also

got in on the action for the Sharks and punched in a rushing touchdown as well as the Sharks led 38-21 at the half after the Broncos scored their third touchdown on the ground Travis Pinkard on the ground late in the second quarter.

All of the Broncos' points were scored in the second quarter, as the Sharks' defense tightened up and shut down the big plays and kept the Broncos scoreless in the second half.

“We just know that the ‘(Shark) Tank’s’ ours and we just wanted to make sure we went out there and kept playing with pride,” Babin said. “When we’re at our best, we’re really good. We just got to keep the energy up and just always bring the mojo and play with that swagger that we know is PV football.”

Meanwhile, the Sharks continued to control things, especially along the line of scrimmage and they marched down the

field for the opening third quarter drive that Price capped by drilling a pass to Cam Tietze to put the Sharks up 45-21 and seal the deal early in the second half.

Whether it was on the ground or through the air, Price had time to sit in a clean pocket and make the necessary plays.

“I think we have the best defensive line in Florida, so doing pass protection against them every day in practice definitely helps us a lot,” Garcia said. “You don’t ever get a break against them, and I love that.”

Cole Rosendahl got in the game at quarterback as the Sharks' reserves got some valuable playing time and ran for the final touchdown in the contest.

Next up, the Sharks travel to take on the Orange Park Raiders (2-5, 0-2) at 7 p.m. and the Broncos also go on the road to take on the Beachside Barracudas (5-2, 0-2) at 7 p.m. Both games will be played Friday, Oct. 18.

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W R O F I P I B C P I N H R F A C L R
Z E T B O O C Y D C P N E S O Y B F F I
U A E R R R H J K U O H H I L B Y I J M W
C M Z A B C B F J J H T D R B W K N B C
G A C S I M I R P Y E H D O B G S J G Y
S I F T Y Y T C A Q A K Z F W E K O A E
Z D E G L A Z E D I A O U I H Z Y F N K
B O D T H C S M D L S C B A K E G N F B
F G B B D A U W I R H E H N O G E K N T
B B F N T R H I B A E A L O Y I T K S C
L N C M E A R M R L W D H J L O H A R A
A N O T K M N N O U L N G U F T O B F S
N M S A F E L B W I K I J E Y R K J B S
C Y S O G L O K N W Y D R O L U D B P G
H I E D P I B U G C J H I G R W M Y L
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 W R O F I P I B C P I N H H R F A C L R
 Z E T B O O C Y D C P N E S O Y B F F I
 U A E R R H J K U O H H I L B Y I J M W
 C M Z A B C B F J J H T D R B W K N B C
 G A C S I M I R P Y E H D O B G S J G Y
 S I F T Y Y T C A O A K Z F W E K O A E
 Z D E G L A Z E D I A O U I H Z Y F N K
 B O D T H C S M D L S C B A K E G N F B
 F G B B D A U W I R H E H N O G E K N T
 B B F N T R H I B A E A L O Y I T K S C
 L N C M E A R M R L W D H J L O H A R A
 A N O T K M N N O U L N G U F T O B F S
 N M S A F E L B W I K I J E Y R K J B S
 C Y S O G L O K N W Y D R O L U D B P G
 H I E D P I B U G C J H I G R W W M Y L
 G D J P L Z N Z D K I U D C U G Y J H B
 W L E L S E A O U T E T K G E A C D N J

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

- | | | | |
|--------|------------|----------|----------|
| BAKE | BRAISE | COOKWARE | FRYING |
| BASTE | BRINING | CREAM | GRILL |
| BEAT | BROIL | DEGLAZE | JULIENNE |
| BLANCH | BROWN | DICE | POACH |
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CROSSWORD

			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		
	10	11							12				13	
	14							15					16	17
18								19			20		21	
22					23				24		25			
26					27				28		29		30	
		31	32							33		34		
35	36										37			
38					39				40					
41				42		43		44				45	46	47
48			49		50		51					52		
53				54		55						56		
57			58		59					60	61	62		
	63	64							65					
		66							67					

ACROSS

- Wrest
- Russian river
- Grupo Montparnasse founder
- One who quits prematurely
- Related to the nature of being
- Early multimedia
- Indigenous Tibetan religion
- Tease
- J.M. __, Irish dramatist
- Pounds per square inch
- Surrendered
- Notable Dallas Cowboy Leon
- Dash
- Man who behaves dishonorably
- British Air Aces
- Data executive
- Spiritual leader
- Flower cluster
- Of the cheek
- Tears down
- Uncoordinated
- Touches lightly
- Soak
- Founder of Babism
- Not good
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Type of casino game
- Skills assessments for adults
- Check
- Gives a job
- Fifth note of a major scale
- Small, faint constellation
- Thou
- Reduce
- Another recording
- Removes for good
- Jill and Catherine are two
- Cruise

- One who obeys
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
- Days (Spanish)
- Unsaturated hydrocarbon radical
- Region of the U.S. (abbr.)
- Tributary of the Alabama River
- One who eliminates
- Ballroom music
- Officer in the Book of Mormon
- Denies
- Barrels per day (abbr.)
- Make vital
- Former NFLer Newton
- Kashmiri tribe
- Indigenous S. American person

- Capacitance unit
- MLB great Scherzer
- Taxi
- Boggy
- Artist's workroom
- Feline
- Prosecutors
- Freshwater perches
- Young ladies
- Whittles
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Type of gene
- Express displeasure
- Fly high
- Norwegian krone
- Investment account
- Chinese surname
- Language
- By the way (abbr.)

SUDOKU

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

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

- Greenwich Time
- Metropolis
- Complete
- Scheduled



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