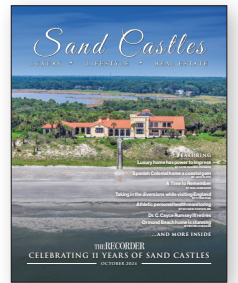


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Sand Castles
INSIDE

Thursday, October 31, 2024

PonteVedraRecorder.com

VOLUME 55, NO. 53 \$1.00

Sharks, Panthers rack up district swim titles

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra and Nease swim teams battled each other in the pool as bragging rights and district titles were on the line during the District 3-3A Championship which took place at Planet Swim on Oct. 22.

The programs wound up splitting the team district titles and dominated much of the action during the day, as the Sharks' girls team won with 539 points over the 24 events, while the Panthers' boys team took home the top spot after compiling 509 points.

The schools proved to be each other's main competition throughout as the Panthers' girls finished runner-up and so did the Sharks' boys.

On the boys' side, the Panthers showcased why they are the reigning state champions with a strong performance led by district championships by sophomore Luke Zardavets, who racked up four first-place medals at the competition, including a pair of individual wins in the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard breaststroke.

As if that did not showcase his versatility, he also took home first place medals in the 200-yard freestyle relay and 400-yard freestyle relay.

Just a sophomore, Zardavets has a bright future ahead of him, and he has learned from a talented group of

SWIM continues on Page 10



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

Offensive clinic propels Panthers to district title

By Anthony Richards

The Nease Panthers secured a district championship for the second consecutive year, as they put on a clinic in all three phases of the game in their latest win of the 2024 season, a 48-15 road victory over the Toco Creek Toros on Oct. 25.

The title was clinched following the Panthers' win and Gainesville Buchholz defeating Bartram Trail 38-37 in overtime.

The night started in a hurry for Pan-



Photo by Anthony Richards

DISTRICT continues on Page 28

Tyler Ghazanfari hauls in a deep pass to set up the Panthers in the red zone.

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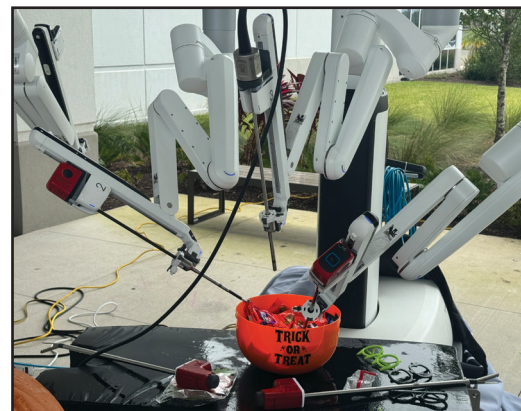
Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at

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Trunk-or-treat fun

Hundreds of families attended the trunk-or-treat event Sunday, Oct. 27, at Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County. There were food trucks, prizes, candy and a health fair. Kids even had the opportunity to use the da Vinci Xi surgical robot to grab candy from a treat basket!

Photos courtesy of Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County



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St. Johns County Clerk offers veterans complimentary services

For The Recorder

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller's office will provide complimentary passport and wedding photos, notary services and recording services for DD-214s to veterans, active-duty military, reservists and their dependents Nov. 1 through Nov. 29.

"These are important services," said Clerk Designee John Rundgren. "Waiving the standard fees is one small way we can thank and honor our veterans who have served and sacrificed for our freedom and American way of life."

Veterans who record their DD-214 with

the Clerk's Office are ensuring a permanent digital copy is readily available in case the original is lost or destroyed. DD-214s recorded year-round by the Clerk's Office remain confidential for 62 years after separation.

Veterans can access these free services 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday during the month of November at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine.

With the exception of wedding photos, free services are also available at the Julington Creek Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd., St. Johns, and the Ponte Vedra

Beach Annex, 151 Sawgrass Corners Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach.

To demonstrate eligibility, individuals must provide a military discharge record (DD-214), military ID, military dependent ID or present a driver license with the veteran designation.

Clerk staff will also be available to provide free DD-214 recording services

onsite at the annual Veterans Council of St. Johns County's Veterans Day Celebration from 9:30 a.m. to noon Nov. 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A South, St. Augustine.

For more details on how to benefit from these complimentary services, call the office at 904-819-3600 or email recording@stjohnsclerk.com.

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EnterCircle: It's about 'Unlocking Serendipity'

This year's entrepreneurship event celebrates unforeseen opportunities

By Keeli Scarlett
for the link

In the ever-evolving world of entrepreneurship, serendipity — defined as the occurrence of events by chance in a beneficial way — often catalyzes innovation and unexpected connections. EnterCircle

Entrepreneurship Week embraces this with its theme, "Unlocking Serendipity: Connecting the Dots." This year, the event continues its tradition of fostering serendipitous moments, inviting attendees to explore the magic of unforeseen opportunities.

EnterCircle 2024 is set to ignite innovation with key events like Social Enterprise Day, featuring influential speakers on corporate responsibility and community impact. Women's Day will inspire stories of resilience and growth, creating a supportive environment for women to connect and thrive.

Running alongside these days are busi-

ness expos, offering exhibitors a chance to engage with passionate attendees and position their brands as champions of innovation. Additional highlights include the Youth Symposium for local high school students and Kidpreneurs Day.

One speaker who understands serendipity's power is Amy Dix, founder of Choose-Happy. After experiencing EnterCircle firsthand, she aims to build on last year's momentum with her keynote and painting experience, "The Magic of Serendipity: Unlocking Happiness Through Chance."

"By embracing serendipity through proactive choices and meaningful connections, we create a richer life filled with extraordinary moments," said Dix. "I believe happy people create better businesses, and better businesses create happier people. It's a full circle."

EnterCircle impacts the careers of seasoned entrepreneurs and professionals and offers robust programs for local St. Johns County high school students.

A constant partner has been the St. Johns County School District. Katie Maltby, program specialist for Career and Technical Education (CTE), reflects on EnterCircle's impact on students, providing them with tangible career possibilities and real-world business insights.

"I think the biggest impact on students

has been the chance to gain a deeper understanding of career pathways in their own communities," said Maltby. "They're applying the lessons they learn in their academy classrooms and seeing them at work."

Sponsor Andrew DiFeo, managing partner of Hyundai of St. Augustine, emphasizes EnterCircle's community impact and collaborative spirit.

"We've been proud supporters of EnterCircle because I believe in its mission to bring local businesses together," DiFeo said. "I'm a strong believer in the power of collective ideas over those of a single voice, and that's what EnterCircle embodies."

EnterCircle invites businesses and entrepreneurs to participate in the expo, offering a platform to gain visibility and network. Those interested in expo tables can register at www.entercircle.zone/entercircleexpo.

This year's event is sponsored by Hyundai of St. Augustine, St. Johns County, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, St. Johns County School District, the Ponte Vedra Recorder, Hire-Local and Unlocked. Their support ensures EnterCircle remains a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

For schedule, tickets and expo tables, go to www.entercircle.zone.

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OBITUARIES



Elaine Perry Atkins

Elaine Perry Atkins died on October 17, 2024, in Ponte Vedra, Florida. She was 95 years old. Distinguished by her bright and curious mind, generosity and wry sense of humor, Elaine lived a remarkable life.

Born in Manhattan on July 16, 1929, Elaine was the only child of Terese Carneval and Gray Perry. She grew up in New York and attended Spence and the Gardner School. She earned her

bachelor's degree in history from Vassar College in 1950. Vassar infused Elaine with an insatiable appetite for learning.

Elaine married Edwin F. "Ted" Atkins in 1951. Shortly thereafter, Ted began a career in the foreign service that spanned 30 years and included posts in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. Elaine's natural charm and conviviality proved invaluable on the diplomatic circuit where she helped Ted develop important professional relationships that advanced American interests. Elaine embraced the diverse cultures they encountered, cultivating her interests in history, politics, art, and architecture.

Elaine and Ted shared a deep connection to Nantucket Island. They both summered on the island as children and eventually built a home there. Elaine loved returning each summer and reconnecting with lifelong friends. In her later years, she spent summers in 'Sconset with her children and grandchildren, accompanied by her devoted terrier, Fritz. Elaine was a member of the Nantucket Yacht Club and Sankaty Head Golf Club.

In 1987, Ted and Elaine moved for the final time to Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra, Florida. They were founding members of Sawgrass Country Club. Elaine embraced the last chapter of her life. Elaine volunteered in Florida's Guardian Ad Litem program and received a commendation in 1992 for her fierce and determined child advocacy. She supported the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and Christ Episcopal Church. She traveled, returning to old haunts like Cairo and Rome, and discovering new places like Prague and London. She was an avid bridge player and occasional golfer. Her every day began with the New York Times and ended with a glass of Dewars.

Elaine was preceded in death by her spouse, Edwin Franklin Atkins. She is survived by her children, Edwin Franklin Atkins, Jr. (Virginia) of Wethersfield, Connecticut; Robert Gray Atkins (Ellen) of Concord, Massachusetts; Katherine Atkins Barrand (Stephen) of Beverly, Massachusetts; William James Stephen Atkins (Kathleen) of Marietta, Georgia; along with 13 grandchildren and 10

great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, charitable gifts in Elaine's memory can be directed to the Sconset Trust or Community Hospice of Ponte Vedra, Florida. Please visit her online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com.

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DEATH NOTICES

John Calvin Heard III

John Calvin Heard III, 75, of Daytona Beach, Florida, died Oct. 20, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, 904-249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com

Marzio Alfonso Trotta

Marzio Alfonso Trotta, 83, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Oct. 23, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

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Shannon Engel recently opened HydroLight Lounge, a unique wellness lounge in Nocatee that blends relaxation, rejuvenation and a spirited twist on traditional self-care experiences.

Shannon Engel

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me about HydroLight Lounge, where it is located and what it offers.

HydroLight Lounge is a water- and light-therapy wellness lounge offering a range of services: cold plunge, colon hydrotherapy (coming soon!), infrared saunas, light therapy, red light therapy and contrast therapy. We are located in the heart of the Nocatee community.

Your “menu” is really interesting. Tell me a little about that and how you decided to describe your services using drink names as the reference.

After working in advertising for over 20 years, I was ready for a change. While the advertising world has its perks and can be fun, it can also be draining. I had invested so much time and energy into my career and wanted to channel that same drive into something of my own.

Growing up, my mom was a nutritionist, so health has always been a part of my life. In the last five years, my perspective on health and wellness evolved — not just for myself, but for my family and kids. I started to really re-evaluate everything — what we put into our bodies and what’s important for maintaining a balanced mind and body. I had already been incorporating different wellness routines into my life for years, but I began to dive deeper into the research, learning what other beneficial practices were out there.

My background in the spirits and marketing space inspired the type of wellness space I wanted to create — something unique that no one else was doing.

What sets your services apart from others? Are there some unique things you offer?

During my career, I worked with a lot of spirits brands, like Jameson Irish Whiskey, and also with musicians, like Kings of Leon. I was surrounded by spirits and music every day, and that’s what sparked the idea of giving the wellness space a twist. I didn’t want it to feel medical, nor did I want it to be a traditional spa. I wanted to create something unexpected — HydroLight Lounge is where holistic health meets happy hour.

I infused that concept into every detail — from the menu to the design. You’ll find song lyrics etched on mirrors, cocktail and music-themed photography throughout the space, and nods to a bar/lounge atmosphere with cocktail names on the menu. Occasionally, we even serve mocktails during our happy hours.

What led to your decision to open this business? Do you have a background that inspired it?

I wanted my wellness business to have a focus, or in advertising terms, “a concept” that everything ties back to. After researching various equipment and modalities in the wellness space, I landed on a focus of water- and light-based therapies.

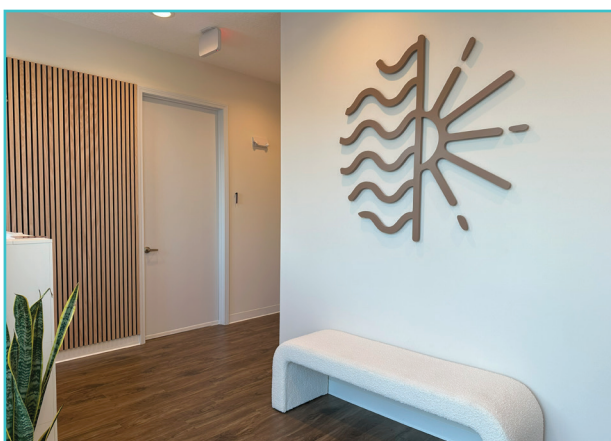
When I moved here, I realized that colon hydrotherapy (or colonics) was very hard to find in Northeast Florida compared to back north. Gut health is so important, and I knew this was something I had to bring to the area. There are so many people who could benefit from it, and it’s rare to find right now.

While some of our services may overlap with other businesses, it’s all about the way we offer them and



Contributed photos

Shannon Engel is seen at her new business, HydroLight Lounge.



The interior of HydroLight Lounge.

the experience we provide. The name HydroLight emphasizes the services we offer, and the “Lounge” part speaks to the relaxed, unique environment we’ve created. That’s what makes us stand out.

What do you like best about what you do?

I really enjoy being able to create a space where people

can truly relax, recharge, heal and even have a little fun. I’ve always been a creative person, and I just like being able to put that creative side to work in everything I do. I also like being able to say I’m here to help people even if it’s just giving them a place for some self-care time. I like meeting with people and talking through what we have to offer and figuring out what service may be right for them to try or do.

Are you from this area? If not, where did you come from?

No, I moved here from NYC with my husband and two boys (7 and 10) almost 2 1/2 years ago.

What do you like best about living in this community?

Coming from living in NYC, I really have enjoyed moving to this community and being in the sunshine and fresh air. I love that the Ponte Vedra community values health and wellbeing — whether it’s people going for family walks, exercising outdoors or spending time at the beach. I love that my boys are also thriving in what this community offers to kids and families.

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WEEKDAYS AT 11AM | NBC12

GUEST COLUMN

School Board taxes provide strongest future for St. Johns County

For the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce: Board Chair Orville Dothage and President and CEO Isabelle Renault

The Board of Directors of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce last week voted to support school board proposals that will continue the half-cent sales tax for 10 years and add a 1-mill increase to property taxes in the county for four years. An earlier Chamber poll indicated that a majority of respondents support the taxes. Voters will decide the outcome with two referendums on the November General Election ballot.

The half-cent sales tax continuation, valued at \$37 million annually, supports capital improvements in the school district, including construction of new schools, maintaining and upgrading technology and implementing critical security systems. The 1-mill increase in property taxes is expected to bring an annual \$58 million in revenue and will enhance salaries and benefits for educators and other staff, allow more investment in student safety and preserve important educational programs, like STEM, art and the successful career academies.

While any new or additional tax increases the potential burden on businesses in St. Johns County, and while raising taxes is not the first choice, we see this as a strategic investment, rather than an expense — an investment in



Isabelle Renault



Orville Dothage

schools, students and the future of St. Johns County.

State regulations limit school districts' options for raising revenue, whether for capital outlays like construction and security improvements, which are funded by sales tax, or operational expenses like teacher salaries and instructional materials, which are funded by property taxes. A millage increase to fund those critical operational expenses is the "last lever the school district has to pull," Superintendent Tim Forson said at the Chamber's Economic Development Council Breakfast on Sept. 20, noting that property tax is a vital component of school funding in Florida.

During his presentation, Forson spoke passionately about the importance of strong schools as a function of a

community's high quality of life. Despite St. Johns County's consistently top-ranked status, the school district is currently facing substantial job vacancies and difficulty retaining employees, from teachers to bus drivers, Forson said. Average teacher salary in the county is just \$53,484, making it among the lowest in Northeast Florida, despite the county's higher-than-average cost of living.

St. Johns County is fortunate to have such a strong public school system, and our schools are an economic engine for the county, attracting businesses looking to establish or expand in Northeast Florida. We know that a community with strong schools helps businesses attract employees, creating more opportunities for commercial growth to meet the demands of a larger population.

Our county is fortunate also to be property-rich, with a residential development boom in the last two decades. From 2005 to 2023, the county's population doubled from 160,266 to 320,110 — but with that growth, the number of students grew more significantly, from 23,273 to 51,826. More than doubling the school-age population has put tremendous stress on our schools, but as more people move to the area, revenue raised through property taxes helps alleviate some of that burden.

We understand the concerns about higher property taxes, especially if you're also a commercial property owner

TAXES continues on Page 20

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Taxes

Continued from 8

and paying this increased tax on both your home and your business. But the county continues to grow, and the school district expects to add 13,600 students by 2033. Residents and businesses must be prepared to make the investment necessary to maintain the top-ranked schools that drew many of us here and that we've come to expect.

We know that a high-quality education leads to a well-prepared workforce. By investing in education, we will help ensure that students develop the skills they need to succeed in the modern economy, providing a pipeline of capable, qualified future employees. Investing in education also fosters innovation and entrepreneurship. Programs like the career academies in the county's high schools contribute to creating future business leaders and innovators who will drive economic growth and create opportunities in the region, benefiting the broader business community.

To maintain our growth and our excellent schools, St. Johns County must remain competitive with neighboring counties, most of which have lower cost of living but higher average teacher salaries. Duval, Clay and Nassau counties have all passed millage increases that will help fund teacher salaries; if St. Johns County does not pass the millage in-

crease, the teacher pay gap will continue to widen year over year, increasing the risk of losing excellent teachers to these other school districts.

The school district also invests heavily in student safety and wellness, with St. Johns County sheriff's officers at each school, as well as nurses on staff, which is not typically found in neighboring school districts. Tax revenue supports these critical measures, which contribute to a safer, healthier community — and yet another reason businesses will continue to look to grow in our area.

Ultimately, these tax measures will support our economy and the future success of the business community. Thriving schools contribute to the overall vitality of our county and quality of life. The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce encourages you to vote in favor of these proposed taxes in November.

About the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is the premier business advocacy organization in St. Johns County. With more than 1,100 member businesses across a variety of industries, the Chamber is committed to delivering continuous service to members and the community through public policy, economic development and business education to cultivate an environment where businesses can grow and thrive. Learn more about the chamber at sjchamber.com.

Public invited to honor veterans at ceremony

Members of the public are invited to celebrate and honor veterans during Veterans Day in St. Augustine, Monday, Nov. 11, at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A South.

The event will be hosted by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County along with the Military Officers Association of America, Ancient City Chapter.

The atrium doors open at 9 a.m. On display in the atrium will be the Traveling Vietnam and War on Terror walls and more than 40 display tables from local not-for-

profits, with military displays.

The Veterans Day Ceremony will start promptly at 11 a.m. The keynote speaker is St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick, an Operation Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom veteran.

Nationally acclaimed Vann Morris will perform "Old Glory." Patriotic entertainment will be provided by the St. Augustine High School Chorale, with participation by local JROTCs and Sea Cadets.

This is a free event with plenty of onsite free parking.

For further information, email rothfeldm@gmail.com.



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Photos by Anthony Richards



Swim

Continued from 1

seniors with Walker Lanoue and Jack Mainville each earning three top honors with Lanoue taking care of business in the 100-yard freestyle and 400-yard freestyle relay, while Mainville held his own with a victory in the 50-yard freestyle and 200-yard medley relay.

All three teamed up with senior Brandon Gear to bring home a title in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

For the Sharks' girls' squad, it was business from start to finish and the result was sweeping all three of the relays, while senior Penny Zarczynski earned the gold in both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly.

Her big day did not stop there, as she also won titles in the 200-yard medley relay along with Kate Pelot, Sydney Player and Makenna Biernacki, and the 200-yard freestyle relay with Pelot, Sophie Fox and Ainsley MacAdams.



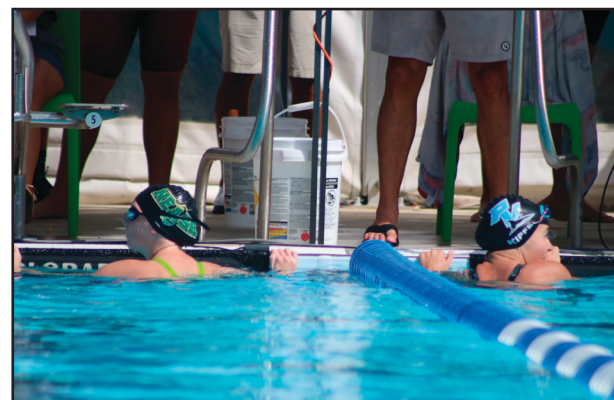
The Sharks had several swimmers earn multiple golds, including Fox, MacAdams and Player, who joined fellow junior Lily Doyle to win the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Doyle showed her long-distance prowess by also winning gold in the 500-yard freestyle.

Other district champions:

Nease: Lincoln Driesse (boys 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard freestyle relay); Brandon Gear (boys 200-yard freestyle relay and 200-yard medley relay); Nate Caswell (boys 200-yard medley relay); Anatoli Monsalve (boys 200-yard medley relay); Charlotte Driesse (girls 200-yard individual medley); Savanna Petrosevich (girls 1-meter diving); Olivia Moore (girls 100-yard freestyle); Alexis Petrosevich (100-yard breaststroke)

Ponte Vedra: Eli Ahlers (boys 1-meter diving)



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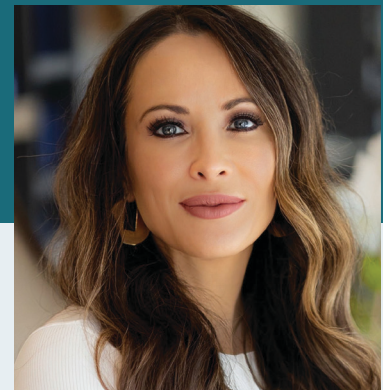
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Two votes, one decision: Investing in the future of St. Johns County Schools

To The Editor:

St. Johns County has been a top-performing school district for the last two decades.

As the business of public education grows more complex and funding challenges intensify, we must ensure our schools have the tools necessary to meet these challenges. In St. Johns County, two upcoming ballot measures will determine the future of our schools: the extension of the half-cent sales tax and the introduction of an ad valorem property tax option. These two votes represent one critical decision — the decision to invest in the infrastructure and people needed to ensure our children are prepared for the future.

The half-cent sales tax, which is set to expire, has played a vital role in this success. The money generated by this tax has stayed right here in St. Johns County, allowing us — not the state — to decide how best to invest in our schools. As a member of the Sales Tax Citizens Advisory Committee tasked with overseeing how these funds were spent, I can confidently say that taxpayer dollars were used wisely. The promises made to our community were kept: the district built eight new

schools, expanded 11 others, upgraded the roofs on 13 schools, provided new computers for teachers and students at all schools, and made critical security upgrades to schools and buses across the county.

The extension of the half-cent sales tax will provide the time needed to finish the important building and infrastructure improvements requested by parents and school leaders. The sales tax is a tool to address these critical building needs, but it cannot be used to support the great faculty and staff who are key to our children's success. For that, the district needs an additional tool — the ad valorem property tax — to ensure it can recruit and retain the high-quality staff our students deserve.

That's why both are equally important. The sales tax builds safe schools and the property tax fills them with great people — from bus drivers and custodians to teachers and instructional support staff.

Many surrounding districts already have the ad valorem property tax option, and

they use it to increase teacher salaries. Without this option, St. Johns County risks losing talented teachers to those districts. If we want the district to continue attracting and retaining the best educators for our kids, they need the tools to stay competitive.

As a taxpayer and a parent, I understand the importance of accountability for our tax dollars and the life-changing impact our schools have on children. That's why I support both measures. The district has proven it can spend wisely and for the benefit of all students in all parts of the district.

This November, two votes will determine the future of our schools, but the decision is clear. Let's vote yes on both measures to continue investing in the success and future of St. Johns County schools.

Damian Cook
Sales Tax Citizens Advisory Committee Member

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Attention Precinct 405/407 Voters

Voters assigned to Precinct 405/407 will still be voting at 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, on Election Day, November 5.

On Election Day, note the alternate driveway and signage directing voters to the back of the property, to the **Council on Aging** building, to avoid the ongoing construction.



Vote-by-Mail

- 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 be returned to Secure Ballot Intake Stations located at all nine early voting locations during voting hours through November 2
- Vote-by-mail ballots **CANNOT** be returned to Election Day polling places

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Clerk's Office Call Center handles 48K Calls

For The Recorder

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller's office is celebrating six months of successful operations for the Customer Care Call Center. Since its April launch, the call center staff has handled more than 48,000 calls by providing easier access to critical government information and services.

"The Customer Care Call Center plays a key role in improving our office's operational efficiency," said John Rundgren, clerk designee. "By handling a high volume of calls and minimizing wait times, the call center has enhanced our ability to serve residents more quickly and effectively, ensuring they receive timely assistance."

The Customer Care Call Center was designed to streamline communication, improve response times and enhance overall customer satisfaction. By routing calls through live customer clerks assigned to the call center, residents avoid

automated phone recordings and receive immediate assistance. This allows deputy clerks to focus on critical functions with direct impacts on life, liberty and property. The uninterrupted focus is vital to maintaining the accuracy of records.

Staffed by five full-time clerks, the Customer Care Call Center offers immediate and knowledgeable support to residents. Since its launch on April 22, the call center has handled 48,778 calls, averaging 7,800 calls per month. The team assists with a range of court-related inquiries as well as recording services like passports and marriage licenses.

Residents are encouraged to share feedback with the Customer Care Division by emailing CustomerCare@stjohnsclerk.com. For more information about our services and hours of operations, go to stjohnsclerk.com.

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Photos by Shaun Ryan



With guidance from Ben & Jerry's Assistant Manager Alyssa Salomon, student Maddie serves ice cream to a customer.



Aidan Chubbuck, left, assisted by Jessica Shaw, rings up an order for Ben & Jerry's customer Nikki Martin.

Ben & Jerry's shop provides job skills to students with learning differences

By Shaun Ryan

Even as Ben & Jerry's ice cream shop opened in Nocatee in September 2020, franchise owners Jessica Shaw and husband Steven Chubbuck were already seeking ways to support their neighbors. Since then, the popular outlet for tasty treats has maintained a commitment to the community.

For the past three years, the shop has partnered with Ponte Vedra High

School in a community initiative to provide valuable, real-world job skills to students with learning differences, helping to prepare them for future employment opportunities.

Shaw said the initiative, aptly named Scoop of Inclusion, was inspired by a program her son Aidan had previously taken part in. That program offered him opportunities to work at different places in the area. Shaw watched Aidan grow as a person, with improved confidence

and a realization that he could have a life on his own.

The franchise owners soon realized that they could use their local store in a similar way.

"We're just trying to give these kids the same experience that my son got to have," said Shaw.

Up until this year, student participants mostly cleaned, put the chairs out and got the store ready to open for the day. But this year, the program has expanded so that the students can welcome guests and, with some guidance from experienced staff members, take orders and check customers out on the cash register.

The store in Nocatee has a soft opening each Thursday so that members of the public can serve as the students' customers.

"We give them 20% off because we're asking for their patience," said Shaw.

The experience promotes inclusion and boosts the potential of each individual student, something that is particularly relevant as October is National Learning Differences Awareness Month.

Local residents, parents and anyone who loves great ice cream are invited to



Contributed photo

A group of students from Ponte Vedra High School show off the work aprons they made at school to wear when they work at Ben & Jerry's.

visit the Ben & Jerry's shop in Nocatee to support the students between 11:30 a.m. and noon on most Thursdays during the school year.

The Ponte Vedra shop is located at 295 Pine Lake Drive, Suite C101, in Nocatee. For information about the shop, go to benjerry.com/nocatee.

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BONELESS OR BONE IN

THE DESIRE CUP BRINGS TOGETHER RIVALS FOR A GOOD CAUSE

By Anthony Richards

There are many events leading up to the annual Florida-Georgia football game throughout the week each year, and one of those traditions is The Desire Cup, which is a charity golf tournament that allows fans the opportunity to play golf alongside celebrities and former players and coaches from both schools.

This year's event will be the 14th annual tournament and will be held at TPC Sawgrass with the gala on Oct. 31 at the clubhouse ballroom and the tournament starting at 9 a.m. on Nov. 1 with a shotgun start at TPC Sawgrass Dye's Valley Course.

Desire Street Ministries executive director and former Florida Gators Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Danny Wuerffel helped create the event more than a decade ago to further support the impact had on under-resourced neighborhoods across the Southeast United States.

"We had a friend who encouraged us to make a nice tournament and leverage the excitement and competitive spirit that was already here for Florida-Georgia, but use it for a fundraising effort," Wuerffel said.

As a result, the event's slogan is "rivalry for a cause," which also sums up the event's uniqueness, as it brings together people who are going to be rooting against each other on Saturday, but they can take



time to come together for a common cause and some rounds of golf the day before.

Wuerffel remembers 25 years ago collecting input on how to grow Desire Street and impact neighborhoods outside of the New Orleans area, where it had

gotten its start, and imagining having a graph with dots all over it showing how many towns the ministry had spread to.

"It has always just been a part of my upbringing and faith that has led me to want to use whatever I've been blessed with to help others," Wuerffel said. "And, even if you don't have much, you can always find a way to help."

Well, that graph is now a reality as Desire Street Ministries is headquartered in Atlanta and is reaching neighborhoods throughout the region.

"Our model is that we partner with existing organizations and help them to achieve their plans, and there are so many things we are involved with," Wuerffel said. "A lot have after-school programs and some are even small schools themselves, but we also help organizations that offer affordable housing options and job placement."

He knows the importance of the Florida-Georgia rivalry very well, having won all four times he played in the game, and he enjoys getting to reconnect with so many former players at the event every year.

Fans can go to desirecup.com to reserve a space in this year's event and donate to the 19th Hole Challenge initiative by choosing which team they are a fan of and donating on that team's behalf.

"I joke that it might be the only win we get this weekend," Wuerffel said.

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October Student of the Month named



Contributed photo
Emery with Youth Resource Deputy Bryan Wright and Principal Kasting

Emery Halvorsen has been honored as the first recipient of the Sheriff's Office Student of the Month award for October at Landrum Middle School. The award was presented by Youth Resource Deputy Bryan Wright and Principal Kasting in recognition of Emery's leadership, positive attitude and commitment to helping others.

Originally from Philadelphia, Emery has lived in New Jersey, Maryland and Arizona before relocating to Ponte Vedra this past July. As the daughter of an Air Force pilot, Emery has experienced multiple moves but quickly makes new friends wherever she goes. Her enthusiasm, determination and love for her community stand out in every environment.

Emery is passionate about animals, with a special love for horses and horseback riding, and has been playing lacrosse since she was 5. Currently, she plays for Jaws and is actively involved in both FCA and robotics at school.

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Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife kicks off Nov. 7

For The Recorder

Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife – W3 has just announced its final schedule of events, taking place Nov. 7-10 in Vilano Beach.

The festival’s new location at the Hyatt Place St. Augustine/Vilano Beach, 117 Vilano Road, provides guests with the convenience of having one location for the weekend’s events, all within just a few blocks of Vilano Beach.

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

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

New this year, guests can walk on the wild side in “The Wildlife Lounge,” which will be part of Friday night and Saturday’s events, offering a fun interactive area with animals from the GTM Re-

search Reserve, wildlife themed music, signature cocktails and more.

Festival Schedule:

THURSDAY, NOV. 7

Pesca by Michael’s W3 Wine Dinner

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

Tickets: \$225 per person

The perfect way to kick off Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife with an incredible four-course dinner by Executive Chef Michael Lugo and the VIVA Hospitality team.

St. Francis Winery & Vineyards from Sonoma, California, has carefully paired each course with an exceptional wine from their vast portfolio. The cocktail reception open bar will include signature cocktails and official festival beverages.

FRIDAY, NOV. 8

W3 Master Classes — Three classes:

noon to 4 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Place St. Augustine/Vilano Beach

Tickets: \$79 per person, per class

“Unveiling the Secrets of Making Delicious Shrimp Ceviche”

Noon to 1 p.m. — Chef Sebastian

Sikora, chef de cuisine at La Cocina, the Cellar Upstairs at San Sebastian Winery, will guide guests on how to make foolproof, delicious ceviche. Ceviche is a versatile dish, great for appetizers and tapas for any occasion. Sikora will share a few tricks of the trade in preparing ceviche for small dinner parties or large holiday gatherings. Rivi Gin will handcraft two signature cocktails to pair with the shrimp ceviche.

“An East Coast Tasting of St. Francis Winery & Vineyards from Sonoma, California”

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. — For more than 50 years, St. Francis Winery & Vineyards has produced elegant, fruit-driven wines that best represent the distinct characteristics of Sonoma’s uniquely diverse terroir. As a 100% certified sustainable producer, the wine’s exceptional quality is only matched by their commitment to preserving the grandeur of Sonoma County for future generations to enjoy.

“The Finishing Touch”

3-4 p.m. — Enjoy tasting a variety of Red Line Whiskeys with Master Distiller Taylor Morley! Born out of enthusiasm and the instinctual love for bourbon, Red Line Whiskey Co. came from the hands

and heart of Morley. During the lull of COVID, he pulled from his years of experience learning from distillers around the world to procure the best hand-selected, single-barrel offerings. What began as a passion project transformed into a booming business. Now, he spends his time taking detailed care of each barrel individually — some finished, some blended, others left in their purest state.

FRIDAY, NOV. 8

Vilano A1A Soirée, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$109 per person, limited tickets available

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 9

Guided tour through the GTM Research Reserve/Wine & Cheese Paired Reception, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Location: Guana Tolomato Matanzas Research Reserve, 505 Guana River

WHISKEY continues on Page 21



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Whiskey

Continued from 20

Road, Ponte Vedra Beach

Tickets: \$45 per person, limited tickets available

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 9

W3 Grand Tasting – Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife, 2-5 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Place St. Augustine/Vilano Beach, 117 Vilano Road, St. Augustine

Tickets: \$129 per person

The main event combines all three of the W's and much more for the perfect Vilano Beach afternoon. Enjoy culinary delights from up and down the A1A Corridor — some of Northeast Florida's

best! Guests will enjoy hundreds of unlimited varieties of beverage tastings (spirits, wines and beers) with a souvenir glass and live music. It's a full afternoon of live music, the new Wildlife Lounge with the GTM Research Reserve wildlife demonstrations and more. Tickets are all-inclusive with food and drink tastings included.

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

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

SUNDAY, NOV. 10

W3 Sunday Jazz Brunch

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

Tickets: \$119 per person; family-friendly event, 3- 12 years old, \$39.

The grand finale brunch at Pesca by Michael's will be a great way to end the weekend — an all-inclusive culinary and drink ticket for a fantastic brunch buffet

with gourmet stations for breakfast- and lunch-lovers alike. The festival's only family-friendly event provides families a delicious way to end the weekend! Beverage tasting stations will include sparkling wine, mimosas, bloody marys, spirits, wine and beers. Guests can continue to enjoy beverage tasting stations after their brunch.

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

Satellite parking lots and Old Town Trolley stops

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

There are great volunteer opportunities available with the festival. Volunteers have an opportunity to earn free festival tickets with only eight or more volunteer hours; go to whiskeywineandwildlife.com/volunteer for more information.

Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife is supported by St. Johns County Tourism Development Council, St. Johns Cultural Council, St. Augustine/Ponte Vedra, Florida's Historic Coast and Vilano Beach Main Street.



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GUEST COLUMN

How a trust helps to transfer wealth to heirs



By Chris Thompson

Talking with clients about the legacy they wish to leave behind is an essential part of my job as a financial adviser. How do they want to share their wealth with loved ones and charities that matter to them? What values do they want to pass down and what financial goals do they want to support for

their children and grandchildren? How can they transfer their assets in a tax-efficient and planful manner? These are some of the many questions we cover in the course of these conversations.

If you find yourself asking similar questions about your own legacy, it may be time to think about whether a trust would make sense for your situation. Read on for a primer on how trusts work and their key benefits.

What is a trust?

In the simplest terms, trusts are legal entities that hold assets for the benefit of another. Trusts have three core components. A grantor is someone who creates and typically funds the trust. A beneficiary is someone who receives benefits from the trust assets, such as income, principal, or the right to use property (like a home). A trustee is someone who holds the legal title and manages the trust assets according to its terms. The trustee can be

the grantor, another person considered qualified to handle trust administration, or an institution, such as a bank.

When the grantor sets up a trust, they specify:

- the intended purpose,
- named beneficiaries and trustees,
- provisions about when and what benefits/distributions each beneficiary will receive,
- the trustee's duties, and
- when the trust will end.

Key trust attributes

Trusts might take effect while you're living or upon your death. Here is a brief overview of the most common types of trusts:

Living trusts vs. testamentary trusts

Living trusts, as the name implies, are established and funded during the grantor's lifetime. The assets in a living trust can remain available for the grantor's use and benefit during their lifetime, and usually pass to beneficiaries only after the grantor's passing. Similar to a will, a living trust provides the grantor broad discretion to specify how assets are distributed to the named beneficiaries. For example, a beneficiary may need to reach a specified age before receiving assets from the trust. Because assets held within a living trust typically avoid probate upon the grantor's passing, they may be transferred with less delay and expense. The trust's assets and terms typically remain confidential among beneficiaries, as compared to the public disclosure usually involved with probate.

A testamentary trust is established at your death based on instructions laid out in your will. A trustee is identified who will manage assets on behalf of the trust's beneficiaries. After the will goes through probate, designated

assets are shifted into the trust. The grantor can specify in advance how trust assets should be managed and how they are to be distributed to beneficiaries.

Revocable trusts vs. Irrevocable trusts

Trusts can be revocable or irrevocable. Only trusts that are established during the grantor's lifetime might remain fully revocable. This allows the grantor to alter the trust or even cancel it altogether if desired. While that flexibility can be beneficial, there are no immediate tax advantages and no creditor protection for assets held in the trust.

An irrevocable trust typically limits the grantor from making any meaningful changes to the trust. When established, the grantor often gives up ownership and control of the assets contributed to the trust. While this might involve making a taxable gift, this type of trust can be potentially advantageous from a tax perspective and for protecting assets from creditors. Note that testamentary trusts are generally irrevocable and cannot be changed except in very limited circumstances, such as a court amendment.

Consider trusts in your planning process

Keep in mind that trusts are not just for those with significant wealth. Anybody seeking to preserve assets for children or grandchildren, avoid the expense and delay of probate, maintain greater privacy about their estate or protect assets from creditors may want to explore the advantages trusts can offer. Trusts are complex and there are fees associated with setting them up. Consult an experienced financial adviser and an estate attorney to review your situation and consider whether a trust makes sense

HEIRS continues on Page 23



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GUEST COLUMN

Financial issues to consider before marriage

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

Married couples face some financial considerations that single individuals simply don't. For example, married couples can file their taxes as married, either jointly or separately, at both the federal and state level. But does simply checking a different box on your tax forms guarantee a better outcome? Not necessarily.

If you both earn roughly the same amount, being married and filing jointly could bump you into a higher tax bracket. On the contrary, if one spouse earns little or no income and the other is the primary wage earner, filing jointly may result in paying less taxes. In other words, by tying the knot, you may wind up owing the IRS more or less than if you remained single. Your tax adviser can help determine the potential outcome for your situation.

Domestic partnerships and civil unions

Although a handful of states recognize domestic partnerships and civil unions, the IRS does not. So, while these designations may offer some of the same rights and responsibilities available to married couples, it's only at a state level and on a state-by-state basis.

Benefits for married couples

Here are a few benefits married couples can enjoy, assuming both spouses are U.S. citizens:

- The ability to transfer an unlimited amount of assets to your spouse, free from federal gift or estate taxes, either during life or at death.
- More tax-planning options upon inheriting your spouse's retirement account.
- The right to open an IRA on your spouse's earnings record, if you are unemployed.

Timing your marriage

If you're thinking about marriage,

choosing a wedding date that accommodates family, friends and employers — not to mention the venue and reception hall — can be a wedding planner's greatest challenge. To complicate matters even more, should you also consider the IRS when selecting a date? Your tax adviser can help you decide, but here are some things to think about:

Your tax filing status is determined on Dec. 31 of each year. For tax purposes, that means even if you wait until the last day of the year to walk down the aisle, the IRS will consider you married for that entire year. If there is a notable disparity between your two incomes, getting married by Dec. 31 could benefit your tax situation. However, if your combined income pushes you into a higher tax bracket, you may want to wait to the following year to marry to avoid a negative impact on your current-year tax bill.

Income isn't the only factor that influences whether marriage could impact your tax situation. Answering questions such as who incurs deductible expenses, who can claim children as dependents and what tax preferences you might qualify for can also help you gauge the potential effects of marriage on your tax situation — and help you determine the best time to exchange vows.

Our firm does not provide legal or tax advice.

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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Heirs

Continued from 22

for your estate plan.

Chris Thompson, CFP®, CMFA®, CRPC® is a Private Wealth Advisor and managing director with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC in Ponte Vedra, FL. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 31 years. To contact him, www.ameripriseadvisors.com/chris.thompson, 904-944-6042 at 818 A1A N, Suite 301, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.



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R.S.V.P is Required by Friday, November 15, 2024 to Thomas Rohloff at 904-273-7918 or by e-mail at Thomas.Rohloff@WFA.com

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In the Arts

Send your arts news to
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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Event to feature a cappella quartet and art exhibition

For The Recorder

Beaches Fine Arts Series will present Kings Return, a quartet of a cappella singers of gospel and pop music, at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3, at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 465 11th Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach. Doors open at 3:15 p.m. and seating is first-come, first-served.

Admission is free.

An art exhibit by Denise Sawyer-Johnson will also be featured.

A reception follows, hosted by Uptown Civitan.

The Signature Concert Sponsor is the City of Atlantic Beach.

Kings Return

Dynamic and soothing four-piece vocal group Kings Return takes pride in crafting a diverse yet supremely cohesive a cappella sound: The blend of their unique vocal timbres is so rich and so smooth that, at times, it sounds more like a full choir than a mere four men.

Discovered after posting a series of bare-bones stairwell performances that went viral, their music is a balm to the soul, laced with expansive harmonies that flex the agility and effortless range of their vocal talent.

Their sound has earned comparisons to acts like Take 6 and Boyz II Men. But



Kings Return is comprised of Vaughn Faison, Gabe Kunda, JE McKissic and Jamall Williams.

what sets Kings Return apart is their seamless integration of a wide range of genres and styles. Drawn to the flexibility of a cappella music, they take full advantage of the genre-mixing aspects of the tradition. Their brand of R&B is entwined with free moments of jazz, soulful bursts of gospel and bright touches of pop — all built on a solid, classical foundation.

Composed of tenor Vaughn Faison, bass Gabe Kunda, tenor JE McKissic and baritone Jamall Williams, the Dallas-based quartet has captured the hearts of millions of fans in-person and online.

Diane Sawyer-Johnson

Diane Sawyer-Johnson's works have been selected for four juried shows. Art



Contributed photos

A work by artist Diane Sawyer-Johnson.

enthusiasts from Atlanta, Maryland, D.C., Savannah, Orlando, Miami and Boston have added her creations to their collections.

She has received a best in class (mixed media) first place award in 2018, two honorable mentions in 2018-2019. She was the featured artist at the Players by the Sea Theater twice in the past two years and at Reddi Arts galleries.

Additionally, she was the featured artist at the Jacksonville Ballet in September-December 2021, and is currently exhibiting with other stellar local artists at the Arts Cooperative of Jacksonville on East Adams Street downtown.

Local author to sign books



Ron Whittington

Jacksonville Beach author Ron Whittington will be signing copies of his new thriller, "In Disguise of the Storm," from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov.

2, at The Book Mark, 220 First St., Neptune Beach.

In the fourth book of the series, businessman-turned-spy Parker Glynn is assigned to investigate the disappearance of a father searching for his runaway daughter who may be involved with a prostitution ring in South Texas operated by Pakistani "Risky" Bhakta — who is suspected of having ties with al-Qaeda.

Glynn soon uncovers Bhakta has total control over women he employs — and is confronted with a twisted terrorist plot involving human trafficking and genocide aimed at Western Civilization.

Whittington draws on his personal experience as a first responder after Hurricane Ike hit the Texas Gulf Coast in September 2008 — where most of the book's action takes place.

"In Disguise of the Storm" can be ordered at any bookstore through publisher Ingram Books.

Other thrillers in the series include "Second Strike," "Doppelgänger" and "Free Surface Effect," along with short stories "The Devil You Don't" and "Seized Desires." For more information about upcoming book signings or to purchase any books in the series, go to ronwhittington.com.

A print and broadcast reporter, freelance writer and public relations professional, Whittington was a ghostwriter on two national best-selling books prior to releasing his first thriller in 2010.



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Classical guitarist to join symphony for concert

The Jacksonville Symphony presents its third Florida Blue Classical concert of the season with “Rodrigo & Ravel’s Boléro” on Nov. 8 and 9, led by Conductor Kevin Fitzgerald and featuring one of the world’s most celebrated classical guitarists, Miloš Karadaglić. The program is full of flair, passion and the spirit of Spain with Maurice Ravel’s “Boléro,” Manuel de Falla’s “The Three-Cornered Hat” Suite No. 1, Joaquín Rodrigo’s “Concierto de Aranjuez” and more.

The iconic “Boléro,” is one of the most frequently performed pieces, receiving massive attention after it was featured in the 1979 film “10” starring Dudley Moore and Bo Derek. Musicians will perform two additional pieces by Ravel, “Rapsodie espagnole” and “Alborada del gracioso.”

“Ravel has been the center of my musical universe for as long as I can remember, and so when I was given a chance to program these three pieces, all inspired by his love for the music of Spain, I didn’t hesitate,” said Fitzgerald.

Karadaglić, known as MILOŠ, has appeared as a soloist with other great orchestras including the London and



Photo by Christoph Kostlin

Miloš Karadaglić

L.A. Philharmonics, Atlanta Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Orquesta Nacional de España, Santa Cecilia Rome and NHK Tokyo. The Symphony is enthusiastic about this performance, where he’ll shine during Rodrigo’s “Concierto de Aranjuez” — a piece full of drama and electricity.

Tickets are available at JaxSymphony.org or by calling the Box Office at 904.354.5547. This concert is sponsored by Florida Blue.

‘13: The Musical’ on stage Nov. 1-3

Apex Theatre Studio will conclude its fall season with the coming-of-age Broadway musical, “13,” with performances running Nov. 1-3 at the Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave, St. Augustine.

Geek. Poser. Jock. Beauty Queen. Wannabe. These are the labels that can last a lifetime. With an unforgettable rock score from Tony Award-winning composer Jason Robert Brown, “13” is a musical about fitting in — and standing out!

“This is a show our young artists have been wanting to bring to the stage,” said director Isabel Dondero. “It is funny but also speaks to issues of acceptance, which our company of young artists can relate to during the middle school years.”

Evan Goldman is plucked from his fast-paced, preteen New York City life and plopped into a sleepy Indiana town following his parents’ divorce. Surrounded by an array of simpleminded middle school students, he needs to establish his place in the popularity pecking order. Can he situate himself on a comfortable link of the food chain



... or will he dangle at the end with the outcasts?

Performances are scheduled for Friday, Nov. 1, through Sunday, Nov. 3. The show is not recommended for audiences younger than 12.

The creative team includes Isabel Dondero (director), Joshua Sewell (musical director) and Tess Sturgeon (choreographer). The show contains some mild adult language and themes. Running time is two hours, which includes a 15-minute intermission.

Tickets are \$22. For reservations and information, go to apextheatrejax.com/ events.

Upcoming Experiences

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

Dinner for 6 on January 24, 2025, at Epping Forest Yacht Club with Executive Chef, Tim Turner.



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- Youthful Medical Spa - Cool Sculpting Gift Certificates - 2 winners \$\$\$\$
- Jacksonville Symphony - Tickets for 2 (with restrictions) - 2 winners \$\$
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- Boat House Restaurant - \$100 Gift Certificate \$
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- J. McLaughlin - Light Pink Cashmere Throw \$\$
- Ace Hardware Ponte Vedra Beach - \$100 Gift Certificate \$
- Argyle Restaurant - \$100 Gift Certificate + Bottle of Champagne & 2 glasses \$\$
- Beach Bowl Gift Certificates - 4 one-hour bowling and 4 - \$45 arcade \$\$
- Palm Valley Outdoors - \$50 Lunch GC and \$150 Dinner GC \$\$
- St. Augustine Amphitheatre - 2 Tickets to the Warren Zeiders Concert \$\$
- Restaurant Variety Gift Certificate Pack - Pusser's & 1810 Tacos y Tequila \$\$
- Ruth's Chris Steak House - \$200 Gift Certificate \$\$
- Underwood Jewelers - Sterling Silver Blue Topaz Pendant Necklace \$
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- Florida Water Tours - Dolphin & Wildlife Adventure Tour & Sunset Cruise \$\$
- Ten Salon - \$257 Gift Basket (includes haircut & blow-dry plus lotion, hairspray, shampoo & conditioner) \$\$

Raffle Information

Raffle Ticket Donation: \$100
 Maximum Number of Tickets: 250
 Last Date to Purchase Tickets: Friday, Nov. 15, 2024
 Drawing: Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
 Winning ticket numbers will be posted on www.PalmValleyRotaryClub.org

Order Tickets Here:



<https://PalmValleyRotaryClub.org/page/CaringforOurCommunityRaffle>

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Sports

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2024 · PAGE 27

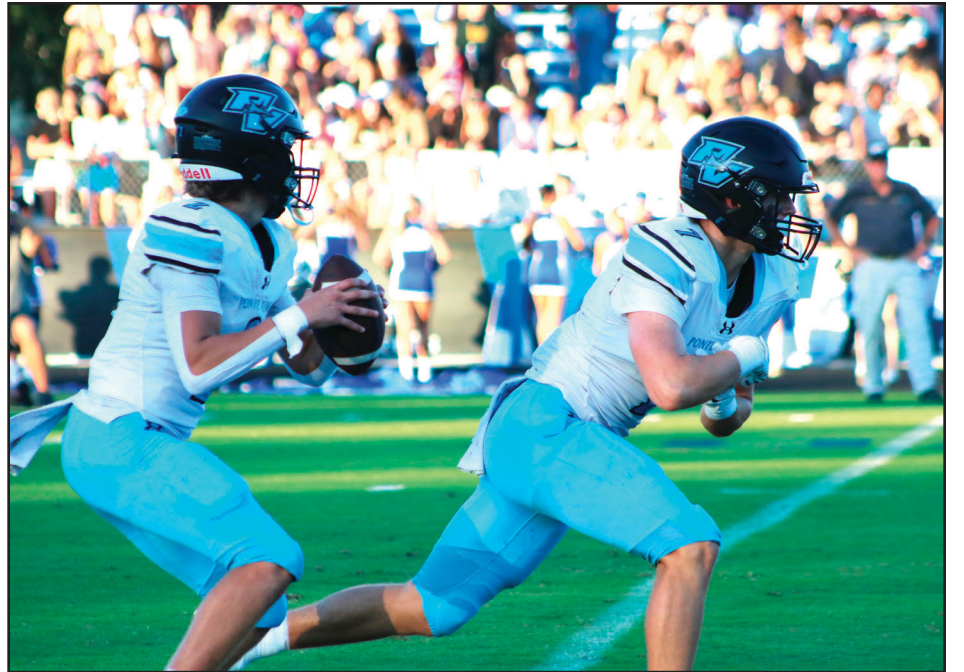
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Senior Ryker Kemp was one of four players who had a sack for the Sharks against IMG Academy White.



Drew Price and Brian Case continue to be major cogs in the Sharks' offensive attack.

Photos by Anthony Richards

Sharks prove to be road warriors in win over IMG Academy squad

By Anthony Richards

A deep playoff run will most likely mean an eventual long road trip to another part of the state and the Ponte Vedra Sharks proved that they have what it takes with a 27-14 victory over IMG Academy White on Oct. 24.

The Sharks (7-2) made the nearly four-hour road trip to Bradenton, which head coach Steve Price scheduled as a nice test and a dress rehearsal of sorts for what the Sharks could face in the postseason.

Well, the Sharks passed the test with flying colors as they jumped out to a 21-0 halftime lead and never looked back.

The Ascenders (5-3) had no answer for Brian Case running the ball, which has been a common theme for Sharks' opponents this season, as he finished with 139 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries for a whopping seven-yard average.

Drew Price added a pair of touchdowns passing to Caleb Stanton and Jack Berquist. He completed eight



Sophomore tight end Caleb Stanton continues to develop into a receiving force, especially in the red zone.

passes in the game to six different receivers, including sophomore Tucker Henderson joining the mix by hauling in a 38-yard pass, just his second reception of the season at the varsity level.

Junior defensive end Reece Beck continues to find his groove with the Sharks' defense and has popped a lot in recent weeks and that was the case once again.

Beck had three of the Sharks' six sacks on the night and was also credited with two more quarterback hurries, four tackles for a loss and recovered a fumble.

Also, part of the sack brigade were Talan Babin, Ryker Kemp and Martin Geary.

Babin's big night did not stop there, as he also finished with seven tackles, three for a loss.

The Sharks will wrap up the regular season at home against the Creekside Knights (5-4) on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. The contest will be senior night with several festivities planned to honor the seniors in possibly their last game in the Shark Tank.

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Elisha Luckett (No. 9) celebrates with teammates after he intercepted a pass.



Members of the Nease defense gather for a photo following a forced turnover.



Nate Harry was an efficient passer on the night throwing for four touchdowns and 271 yards.

District

Continued from 1

thers as senior Elisha Luckett returned the opening kickoff 90 yards for the score and they were on the board with a bang.

“We’ve been practicing kick return a lot, and I just saw my blockers do their thing and when I saw the opening I just hit it full speed,” Luckett said.

From then on, it was a show put on by the Panthers’ offensively, especially through the air as Nate Harry tossed four touchdown strikes on the night to four different receivers. He finished just playing the first half and completed seven of 10 passes for 271 yards to ac-

company the touchdowns.

“I’ll tell you what, Nate Harry was lights out tonight,” Nease head coach Collin Drafts said. “It was just pitch and catch out there, and you can’t ask for a better first half then to be up 41-0.”

The receivers Harry connected with included Tyler Ghazanfari, Maddox Spencer, Fletcher Reston and Vernon Stephens.

Much of the Panthers’ success came on deep balls, as two of Harry’s touchdown passes in the game went for 43 and 59 yards, as well as other chunk plays that set up other scores.

Stephens ended up with two receiving touchdowns on the night as he also caught a 71-yarder from senior John



Photos by Anthony Richards
Elisha Luckett leaps to intercept a pass.

Carragher, who came in and played quarterback in the second half.

The defense shut out the Toros in the first half and forced a pair of turnovers with Luckett and Kash Kolbow intercepting passes.

Luckett’s interception came on a lofted ball into the secondary, where he showcased his athletic ability by boxing out the receiver and making a nice grab to high point the pass.

“That play was just all about watching film,” Luckett said. “Coach ‘G’ (Garth) really puts it in our minds to be disciplined and to be ready for all fake and trickery stuff. I knew once I saw the ball in the air, that I just had to go make a play.”

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Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. CP24-0760
Division 59
IN RE: ESTATE OF JOYCE MARIE LIBBEY, Deceased.

The administration of the estate of JOYCE MARIE LIBBEY, deceased, whose date of death was September 20, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for St. Johns County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, FL 32084. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is October 31, 2024.

Personal Representative:
/s/ Richard L. Waler, Jr.
RICHARD L. WALER, JR.
P.O. Box 4497
St. Augustine, Florida 32085
Attorney for Personal Representative:
/s/ James E. Bedsole, Esq.
JAMES E. BEDSOLE, ESQ.
FL. Bar No.: 500194
2450 Old Moultrie Road, Ste. 104
St. Augustine, FL 32086
Tel: (904) 797-8701
service@bedsolelaw.com

Legal 105733 Published 10/31/2024 and 11/7/2024 in St. Johns County Ponte Vedra Recorder newspaper

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. CP24-0759
Division 59
IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES K. LIBBEY, Deceased.

The administration of the estate of JAMES K. LIBBEY, deceased, whose date of death was June 29, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for St. Johns County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, FL 32084. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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JAMES E. BEDSOLE, ESQ.
FL. Bar No.: 500194
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St. Augustine, FL 32086
Tel: (904) 797-8701
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NOMINATIONS: Oct. 4 - Nov. 10
VOTING: Nov. 11 - Dec. 2
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- ACROSS**
- 1. Unequaled
 - 5. ___-fi (slang)
 - 8. Synthetic resin
 - 11. Chadic language Bura-__
 - 13. Influential come Election Day
 - 14. Bucket
 - 15. European river
 - 16. Earn a perfect score
 - 17. Horizontal passage
 - 18. Barely sufficient
 - 20. Dekaliter
 - 21. Goo Goo Dolls hit
 - 22. Australian city
 - 25. Female servants
 - 30. Plumbing fixtures
 - 31. Tooth caregiver
 - 32. Book of Esther antagonist
 - 33. Say aloud
 - 38. Thyrotrophic hormone
 - 41. Absolute
 - 43. Untimely
 - 45. Area or neighborhood
 - 47. Juicy fruit
 - 49. Expresses distaste, disapproval
 - 50. S. American rodents
 - 55. Swedish rock group
 - 56. Influential American president
 - 57. Volume
 - 59. Begged
 - 60. Resin-like substance secreted by certain lac insects
 - 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - 62. Good friend
 - 63. Body part
 - 64. Tableland
- 3. Invests in little enterprises
 - 4. Rock legend Turner
 - 5. Dug into
 - 6. Laughed
 - 7. Northern European nation
 - 8. San Diego ballplayer
 - 9. Eight
 - 10. Substitutes (abbr.)
 - 12. Moved swiftly on foot
 - 14. Compensated
 - 19. Volcano in the Philippines
 - 23. Speak ill of
 - 24. One who publishes
 - 25. Expression of bafflement
 - 26. Macaws
 - 27. Matchstick game
 - 28. We all have our own
 - 29. Divinatory
- 34. Explosive
 - 35. Follows sigma
 - 36. Sea eagle
 - 37. Type of bread
 - 39. Bit used with a set of reins
 - 40. Time away from work
 - 41. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
 - 42. Lots on your plate (abbr.)
 - 44. Actor Brosnan
 - 45. It's part of packaging
 - 46. Towards the oral region
 - 47. Public Theater creator Joseph
 - 48. Ancient Syrian city
 - 51. Swiss river
 - 52. Mollusk
 - 53. A French abbot
 - 54. Hoagies
 - 58. Not present (slang)

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

Level: Intermediate

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

- DOWN**
- 1. Barrels per day (abbr.)
 - 2. Body parts



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