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Thursday, November 21, 2024

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World Golf Village hosts international billiards tournament

By Anthony Richards

The World Golf Village is known for its golf but for the next week it will also be the center of the billiards world as the 2024 International Open is underway and will be played at the World Golf Village Renaissance Resort in St. Augustine through Nov. 26.

Several champions will be crowned during the tournament in many categories, such as nine-ball, 10-ball, straight pool and a junior competition.

It is the first year that the event will be held at the venue after making the move to St. Augustine after spending the last 45 years in Norfolk, Virginia.

“Players from all over the world come for this event and we needed a bigger space and the representative for that hotel was also a representative for this one and said, ‘How about Florida?’” Tournament organizer Pat Fleming said. “As soon as we walked through the door, we thought it was unbelievable, and not only did we love the place but we’re also going to have even more types of tournaments.”

The space led to not only having professional tournaments played but there is also a nine-ball semi-pro competition going on as well as a couple of mini competitions called shot rack banks, where players must bank shots of the walls of the table, and one-pocket, where six players can play and

BILLIARDS continues on Page 35

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EnterCircle 2024 celebrates the unexpected

By Shaun Ryan

November 12-16 was a week to “unlock serendipity” when the Sapna Foundation presented its fourth annual EnterCircle Entrepreneurship Week, an opportunity for professionals and students to learn from inspiring speakers and each other.

The focus this year was on recognizing ways the unexpected can benefit non-profits, businesses and communities. As always, attendees gathered at the link, a unique space in Nocatee where entrepreneurs collaborate to grow their businesses and the community accesses an array of events, classes and camps.

The Sapna Foundation seeks to alleviate poverty using innovative solutions.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

ENTERCIRCLE continues on Page 12

Social Enterprise Panel Discussion took the stage at the link Wednesday morning.

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THE RECORDER

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BRIEFS

Popular local Nutcracker set for Dec. 14

Miss Felicia's Dance Ministry and Christ Episcopal Church will present the 29th annual Nutcracker Ballet at 6 p.m. Dec. 14 at UNF Lazzara Performance Hall. For tickets, go to christchurchdancers.ticketspice.com/the-nutcracker-winter-2024.

Beaches Community Fund accepts grant applications

The Beaches Community Fund, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, is accepting applications for grant funding available in 2025. The fund makes grants to nonprofit organizations serving the Beaches communities from Mayport to Guana, east of the Intracoastal Waterway. Last year, it granted \$290,000 to Beaches nonprofits.

Applications will be accepted through January 10, 2025. To learn more and to apply, go to jaxcf.org/learn/beaches-community-fund.

Beach cleanup is Saturday

The Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM) will conduct a beach cleanup from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 23. Meet at the GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, where gloves and trash bags will be provided. Participants will be directed to a specific beach for cleanup. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are recommended.

Email Abigail.Kuhn@FloridaDEP.gov to participate.

Essential tremor group to meet

The Essential Tremor Support Group will welcome Zhigao Huang, MD, Ph.D., Baptist Health neurologist and movement disorder specialist at its next meeting, 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee, 400 Colonnade Drive, Ponte Vedra.

Huang will answer questions about essential tremor, such as: Is it always generational? Is there a pill to "fix it?" What are the best of all the available treatments? And more.

For further information or to RSVP, contact Jan Kary at jkary@verizon.net or 202-438-6750.

Democratic Club to meet

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, 101 Library Blvd. Optional chat & chew starts at 5:30 p.m.

The featured speaker will be Marie Garnes, volunteer campaign chair for St. Johns County, who will offer data and analysis on the results of the 2024 general election up and down the ballot. For additional information, email PVDemclub@gmail.com.

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.

Clerk's Office to host National Adoption Day Celebration

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller's office will host a special ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 22, to celebrate National Adoption Day. The event will be held at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, marking the culmination of a long adoption process for six local children joining their forever families.

In 2023, family law clerks provided support during court proceedings that formed 76 new families. When adoptive parents seek permanency with a child, the clerks process the petition for adoption, administer oaths and provide certified copies of the final judgment. Since January, petitioners have filed 65 adoption cases in St. Johns County.

St. Johns County handles all family-related cases — including adoptions — under a Unified Family Court model. This comprehensive approach assigns one judge to oversee all matters involving one family, providing continuity for children adopted out of foster care.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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School breaks ground for new building



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Exciting times are underway as the Episcopal School of Jacksonville Beaches Campus breaks ground on a new classroom building, marking the beginning of an important addition to the campus.

This expansion will play a crucial role in enhancing the educational environment, accommodating the student body at two classes per grade, and providing more dynamic learning spaces. The initial phases of groundwork and construction preparation have started, with crews preparing the land for the new building.

This building has been designed with input from faculty, architects and educational plan-

ners, ensuring the final structure will meet the evolving needs of the Beaches Campus students and teachers. Scheduled to open in summer 2025, the new classroom building will feature modern, flexible spaces that foster both collaboration and independent study, with classrooms equipped with the latest technology.

For more information on the Beaches Campus Classroom Expansion project or to learn which donating and naming opportunities are still available, go to esj.org/support/capital-campaigns/beaches-campus-classroom-expansion-campaign.

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31st Annual Nights of Lights kicks off Saturday

St. Augustine’s internationally acclaimed Nights of Lights festival returns on Saturday, Nov. 23, and continues nightly through Jan. 26. Since 1994 the city provided this festive atmosphere inspired by the Spanish tradition of displaying a white candle in windows during the Christmas holidays.

The festival kicks off with Light Up! Night on Saturday, Nov. 23, beginning at 4 p.m. and featuring music and live performances. The official lighting ceremony starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Plaza de la

Constitución when a switch is flipped and more than 3 million white lights illuminate and outline public and private buildings, bridges, trees and more throughout St. Augustine’s Historic District.

Whether visitors want to stroll, ride or sail, there are many options for Nights of Lights experiences. For those comfortable on foot, the Christmas tree in the Plaza de la Constitución, Lightner Museum and the Bridge of Lions are can’t-miss selfie spots. Ancient City Tours offers guided walking tours that include St. Augustine’s history,

For a unique vantage point from above, climb 219 steps to the top of the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum or hop on a sightseeing flight with First City Helicopters.

For a festive tour, climb aboard Old Town Trolley’s Famous Nights of Lights Tour or Santa’s Red Express Tours. Each has a convivial atmosphere with music and fun facts. St. Augustine Land & Sea Tours offers luxury golf cart tours (in Spanish and English), while Country Carriages takes a step back in time with romantic and

snuggly horse-drawn carriage tours. The Tasting Tours offers a variety of tours on horse-drawn carriages and open-air electric shuttles. Choose from an adults-only wine tour or the family-oriented Un-Merry Grinchmas Rides, Bah-Humbug Scrooge Ride and Magical Ride with Santa.

There are dozens of ways to explore the Nights of Lights adventures waiting in the Nation’s Oldest City. Make planning your brilliant adventure a breeze with the trip planner or the new AI Assistant on FloridasHistoricCoast.com.

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Florida Water Tours offers unique Nights of Lights experience

Nights of Lights is approaching, and one of the best places to experience it is from the deck of a Florida Water Tours Nights of Lights Cruise.

With a crew consisting of passionate conservationists and marine educators, passengers can admire the city's stunning lights display while learning about the thriving ecosystem of St. Augustine. Departing from Camachee Cove Yacht Harbor Marina at the base of the Vilano Bridge, Florida Water Tours offers beautiful downtown views without the parking stress.

"Snow is something we rarely see in St. Augustine, so we have to create our own holiday cheer," said Jessica Jadick, founder and owner of Florida Water Tours. "There's something about being on the water with crisp air, holiday tunes and a warm cup of cocoa that just makes you feel happy and gets you into the spirit."

Florida Water Tours' Nights of Lights cruises depart from the Camachee Cove Yacht Harbor Marina and travel south on the Tolomato and Matanzas River towards downtown St. Augustine, where



Photo Credit: Island Sun Media

the city is illuminated with white lights from the spires down to the fences.

Departures begin on Nov. 23 and continue through Jan. 26. The Sunset Nights of Lights Cruise is a 90-minute excursion and departs daily on The Osprey at 5 p.m. for adults 21 years and older and on The Island Breeze at 5:15 p.m. for all ages.

The Sunset Nights of Lights Cruise is \$49 for ages 13 and older, \$22 for ages 3 to 12 and \$8 for children two and under.

The Nights of Lights Cruise is a 75-minute excursion and departs daily on The Osprey at 6:45 p.m. for all ages and at 8:15 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. for adults 21 years and older; The Island Breeze

departs at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. for adults and children age 7 and older.

The Nights of Lights Cruise is \$39 for ages 13 and older, \$19 for ages 3 to 12 and \$6 for children two and under.

The Osprey is a 45-foot pontoon boat and has an onboard bar offering Irish cream, mimosas, sangria, beer, wine, canned cocktails, water, soft drinks and snacks for purchase. The Island Breeze is a 35-foot pontoon boat that allows guests to bring their favorite beverages onboard. Beer, wine, and cocktails are available for purchase in the ship's store. Delicious graze boxes, including the special Nights of Lights Star Grazer Box with charcuterie, nuts, olives, fruits and chocolates, are available for pre-order.

All departures include 3D glasses to enhance the lights and one cup of hot cocoa.

Florida Water Tour's two vessels are docked at Camachee Cove Yacht Harbor Marina, just north of downtown St. Augustine, with plentiful, free parking. Guests can check availability at florida watertour.com/cruises/nights-of-lights.

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Chef Wesley Nogueira

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me about yourself and your journey to becoming a chef.

I was born in São Paulo, Brazil, but I grew up in Philadelphia. I came to the States when I was very young. I was maybe 3 years old.

Until I was 15, I was raised in Philly. Then, from 15 until the present time, I've been here in Jacksonville.

I started my career pretty young. I was a prep cook/dishwasher at my first job, which was at a sushi café in Riverside. I was there for a couple of years while I finished high school.

Then, I started taking classes at UNF for sports psychology, but it didn't end up being my thing.

At that time, I was working at Koja, which was a Korean/Japanese cuisine bistro at The Landing, which is no more. But it was really good. Taught me a lot of things. That was my first managerial position; I was the kitchen manager there for a couple of years.

Unfortunately, it didn't last. The Landing got demolished.

So, after that, I got a job offer from a friend who owns bb's Restaurant and Biscotti's in San Marco and the Avondale area. I was there for nine years. I worked from the bottom all the way to the top.

I worked under a lot of great chefs. I worked under Chef Carlos Ramirez. I worked under Josh Agan. And then, I worked under Chef Chris Cohen.

In 2017, my last year there, I was offered different positions but I decided to branch out and start my own self-employment. I did a lot of private chef functions. Did a lot of catering functions. And I also had my food truck, which I named after my firstborn, Khloe. So, I named my company Khloe's Kitchen.

My first three or four years, I was just trying to get my brand going. Trying to get my name out there.

You appeared on Food Network programs.

I was on "Guy's Grocery Games." It was a great experience. It was a very proud moment in my life. I met a lot of chefs that are still there.

And then, a couple of years later I was called back. I was recast for another show called "Beachside Brawl." That one was really good. I opened up a little bit more...

When I did "Beachside Brawl," it was off Redondo Beach in California. I met a lot of great Food Network chefs — Brian Malarkey and Chef Eric Adjepong...

Other than that, my brand's grown. I've done a lot of interesting dinners... I was actually Trevor Lawrence's private chef his first few years with the Jags. I didn't really publicize it as much as people thought I should. I wanted to respect his privacy.

I was asked to be his permanent chef, but I was still wanting to do my brand so kind of declined the opportunity to be his permanent chef, but I had a great relationship with him. He's very awesome, a very good man. And his wife Marissa — they're great people and I wish we could have continued.

How are things going now?

I primarily do a lot of heavy catering, private dinners. I'm a chef for St. Augustine Sailing. When they do a private dinner, they subcontract me and we do four- to five-course dinners on the boat.

That's actually something that I've been doing for the



Contributed photo

last three years.

I did some cultural dinners for the link. I enjoyed it. I loved the immersive part of it. I'm a little sad that we couldn't continue doing them, but that's the nature of those things...

Do you still run your food truck?

No, after COVID, we became busy and never really got a chance to re-establish my food truck. I still have it but it's kind of sitting there in the parking lot. Maybe if I could find a permanent spot and then maybe I could hire some help... but for now, what we're doing right now, it's just too much...

Catering's my bread and butter. We have about 20-25 regular customers. And then, like I said, we're doing private dinners...

Is this a career that lets you spend time as a dad?

Yeah. Working for myself, definitely. You know, I can adjust things. If I haven't seen my kids in two weeks, I can take a day or two off to be a father.

Working in a kitchen for somebody else, you're always needed. Even on your off days, people are calling you. Something's wrong or somebody called out...

Were you influenced by your Filipino and Brazilian roots?

My mom, she cooked a lot when we were younger... Because she didn't have time to cook every day, she would batch cook. She would cook a big old batch of stew for the week or a big old casserole for the week... and it would have Filipino, Asian, Oriental ingredients that me and my brother could just reheat.

When it comes to my cooking style, I just like what I like. You know, I'm not very limited. I try to be very resourceful. I don't want to limit myself creatively.

How can people contact you?

They can go to my web page, khloeskitchen.com. Or you can reach me directly on my Facebook or Instagram, which is @WesleyNogueira.



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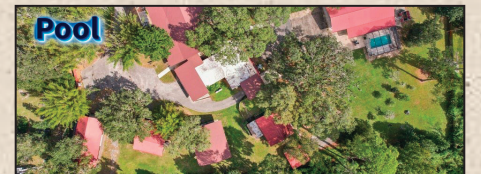
VILLAS OF VILANO

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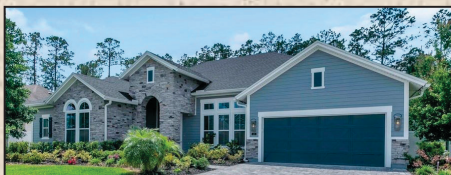
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The Recorder's garden columnist, Kathy Esfahani of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, shares her tips for growing gorgeous gardens in Northeast Florida.

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

Celebrate Thanksgiving with flowers

"Flowers are like friends; they bring color to your world." — Unknown



By Kathy Esfahani

As you prepare your home for Thanksgiving celebrations, remember to include flowers as part of your decor! Use flowers in table centerpieces and arrangements. Be sure to highlight tables, shelves and mantles in all areas where family and friends may gather such as the entryway, kitchen, living room and dining room. Arrange flowers in vases, hollowed-out pumpkins, baskets or cornucopias. Surround the flowers with candles, pumpkins, fruits, fall-colored leaves, berry branches and other seasonal decor.

Flowers suitable for Thanksgiving arrangements come in bold colors such



Thanksgiving decor

as yellows, oranges, reds and purples. Consider these popular choices for your Thanksgiving decorations:

- Sunflowers feature bright, golden petals that stand out in an arrangement. They symbolize joy and gratitude. These cheerful blooms will leave a lasting impression on your guests!
- Daisies are available in a wide range of colors and have a pleasant scent to add

floral notes to your Thanksgiving aromas. Their dainty blooms add a softness to your arrangement and an intimate feeling for your gathering.

- Asters come in a variety of styles, and their blooms show off slim petals in many colors. They are considered to be a symbol of love and patience.
- Roses come in a wide range of colors including purples, oranges and yellows perfect for the Thanksgiving season. Their timeless elegance has a general appeal and symbolizes romance.
- Carnations add a soft touch to your holiday decor and will last a long time after cutting. They feature blooms in yellow, red, purple and white suitable for adding to any arrangement. These flowers represent the true meaning of the season.
- Mums are a traditional fall favorite! These plants feature bountiful blooms in yellows, oranges, reds and whites. Larger plants can stand alone or be a centerpiece for seasonal decor while smaller mums are perfect to include in a bouquet.
- Calla lilies feature a trumpet-shaped



Flower of the Week

Sunflower

flower that stands out in an arrangement. They are available in a variety of colors including a deep purple tone that provides a contrast to traditional yellows and oranges.

Happy decorating, and have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving holiday!

Flower of the Week: Sunflower

Please email Kathy at kcg.pvr@gmail.com for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future. For more information and ideas, visit Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. The phone number is 904-655-7373.

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Deck The Chairs plans packed holiday schedule

The popular North Florida holiday tradition, Jax Beach Deck The Chairs (JBDTC), is celebrating 12 seasons promoting children’s arts and arts education. Opening 6:30 p.m. Nov. 27 at the Seawalk Pavilion with a performance by Brass Addiction Band and the official kickoff of Best Chair Voting.

Highlights for visitors include: more than 40 children’s stage programs; Third Annual Deck The Chairs Student Decorating Challenge; Moonlight Movies presented by City of Jax Beach; Tuba Christmas showcasing 200 tuba players; Worship Night; Christmas Eve Service presented by Ocean City Church; and, TaxSlayer Gator Bowl Pep Rally.

“The Seawalk Pavilion stage will be busy throughout the holidays,” said Kurtis Loftus, Deck The Chairs executive director. “DTC initiated early outreach across the First Coast inviting children’s visual and performing arts groups to take advantage of the JBDTC arts event. We anticipate showcasing more than 1,500 young performers on our stage this



season.”

Another Deck The Chairs 2024 program growth is the Student Decorating Challenge. Twenty student chairs will be on display at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens and JBDTC. Themes are “Celebrate The Animal Kingdom” and “Let Young Hearts Shine.” All art programs received decorating stipend and spent three months in creative development with teachers and DTC Student Exhibit Development Director Cathy Thomasson.

“The youth who participate in our student exhibits have a unique opportunity to engage and express their creativity through our major public exhibition, Deck The Chairs, which serves as a vibrant holiday platform for artistic growth,” Thomasson said. “Through

DTC’s education and outreach, initiatives for our First Coast’s public and private art programs help cultivate the next generation of artists, enriching schools and communities with diverse and dynamic expressions of art.”

Student Decorating Challenge Programs:

- Beaches Exhibit — Clay Charter Academy, The Discovery School Duval Charter at Coastal, First Coast Home-schoolers, Fletcher High School, Fletcher Middle School, Murray Middle School, The Bolles School, The Art Room, Sandalwood High School
- Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens — AMikids Duval, Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Fernandina Beach Middle School, Girls of Virtue, Fort Caroline Middle School, Historic Eastside Community Development Corp, LaVilla

School of the Arts, Nease High School, The Art Garage, Westside Middle School

Deck The Chairs (DTC) promotes children’s arts and art education through a nationally recognized holiday display featuring decorated lifeguard chairs. Free and open to the public, DTC has provided important economic benefits to the Beaches over the past 12 seasons. Deck The Chairs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity. For more information, go to deckthechairs.org.

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Cypress Village hosts “Pink Out” event

Contributed photos

Cypress Village Retirement Community recently held a “Pink Out” event, bringing the community together in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This special event raised awareness, emphasized the importance of early detection and paid tribute to two inspiring women from the community: longtime team member Patricia Graham-James and community spokesperson Debbie Cooper.

Graham-James, affectionately known as “Ms. Pat,” has devoted 26 years to caring for Cypress Village residents. She was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer earlier this year and is currently undergoing treatment, with a major procedure planned in the coming weeks as she continues her courageous battle to become cancer-free.

Cooper, a stage 3 breast cancer survivor, has become a passionate advocate for breast cancer awareness. During the event, she shared her story with residents and staff, recalling how she once dreaded aging, even shedding tears on her 30th and 40th birthdays. However, after being diagnosed with cancer at 49, Debbie joyfully celebrated turning 50 and recently marked her 60th birthday as a cancer survivor. Her message to the community is clear: “Life is a precious gift,” and she urges everyone to prioritize mammograms and self-exams.

Through initiatives like the upcoming on-site mammogram screenings with Baptist MD Anderson’s Buddy Bus, Cypress Village demonstrates its commitment to awareness, early detection and a supportive community for those affected by breast cancer. By bringing essential health resources directly to residents and staff, Cypress Village goes beyond awareness — taking meaningful action to prioritize the health and well-being of its com-



munity members.

“Today’s Pink Out event not only celebrated the resilience and bravery of Ms. Pat, Debbie and all those affected by breast cancer, but also highlighted Cypress Village’s dedication to fostering a compassionate and supportive community,” said Cypress Village Executive



Director Ty Morgan. “Together, we stand united in the fight against breast cancer, raising awareness, promoting early detection and embracing hope for a future without cancer.”

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Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds support COA's Shelter and Shade Project

Contributed rendering

St. Johns County Council on Aging (COA) recently announced receipt of a grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida that will greatly improve quality of life for seniors in St. Johns County.

The grant of \$545,000 has provided the balance of funds necessary to construct phase one of COA's Shelter and Shade project at their senior center facilities at 180 Marine St., St. Augustine. The grant also enables matching grant opportunities to support completion of phase two of the project.

The Shelter and Shade project phase one will raise the elevation of the building entrance and construct a covered portico and other improvements to provide shelter from the elements and ease of access for participants.

"We cannot thank Delores Barr Weaver enough for her generosity and support for our mission," COA Executive Director Becky Yanni said. "We are so excited to be able to create more protection, more comfort and more joy for the seniors in our community."

St. Augustine's A.D. Davis Construction will oversee the improvements, designed by Open City Architecture and Marquis, Latimer + Halback Inc. In 2009, A.D. Davis Construction built River House, COA's lifelong learning center and events venue at 179 Marine St., St. Augustine.

Phase two of the Shelter and Shade project will refinish and screen the outdoor deck for Sunshine Center adult day-care participants, so they may sit outside year-round in the shade and enjoy nature therapy in COA's garden.

COA's 180 Marine St. facility houses the Coastal Community Senior Center, one of six senior centers COA operates throughout the county, and the Sunshine Center, COA's adult daycare center. Participants are able to enjoy the company of friends, engaging activities, nutritious lunches and, in the case of the Sunshine Center, skilled nursing care in a secured environment for those dealing with Alzheimer's, dementia and other brain disorders.

The Sunshine Center also provides crucial respite time for caregivers and caregiver support and education through COA's Community Care-Giving program. COA offers transportation to and from the centers for participants through their Paratransit bus service. Paratransit buses are equipped to accommodate assistive devices such as wheelchairs and walkers, and transport participants door-to-door from their homes to COA centers safely.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of Delores Barr Weaver in making this much-needed improvement a reality," said COA Development Manager Amy Robinson. "We thank The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida for facilitating and helping make this possible."

With the support of this grant, COA asks members of the community and local businesses to join in the effort to complete phase two of the project. To contribute to the project, contact Robinson at 904-209-3700. Donations may also be made online at coasjc.org/donate.

For more information on the comprehensive programs and services COA provides for older adults and caregivers in St. Johns County, go to coasjc.org, or call 904-209-3700.



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EnterCircle panel dives into importance of social enterprise

There were plenty of panels that took place during 2024 EnterCircle at the link in Nocatee, including a social enterprise panel.

The panel included Kristin Keen, founder and CEO of Rethreaded; Monte Walker, president and CEO of Habijax; and Cindy Funkhouser, president and CEO with Sulzbacher Center.

This panel focused on nonprofits and the different approaches and aspects considered compared to other for-profit businesses.

“I feel like sometimes nonprofits can be talked down, but I feel like what unites us is the business side of it and how the members of the staff are all working toward the same goal,” Keen said. “We engage with businesses and still create those partnerships, because we still have a service that we offer.”

They each shared some of the lessons they have learned over the years and what they have found are the keys to sustainability.

According to Walker, there are still plenty of ways where nonprofits must think like any other business.

“We recently combined two stores into one on Beach Boulevard and we’ve started to call it a home improvement superstore,” Walker said. “We have new and used products and a lot of people



Photo by Anthony Richards

A social enterprise panel kicked things off at 2024 EnterCircle on Nov. 13.

don’t know that half of our products are new. We’ve pretty much got everything you would see at a big-box store like Home Depot or Lowes.”

He explained how developing partnerships over the past 16 years has made all the difference and helped make the store what it is today.

“We have developed a really robust network of liquidators across the country so we are constantly looking for great buys on new merchandise that we can make available to our community here,” Walker said. “The proceeds from the store we use to build homes, and at least 15% to 20% of our homes are built

because of what we make from the store, and it also creates a good cash flow for us with our retail sales.”

Funkhouser explained how its all about finding a social enterprise approach that works for a specific organization because not everything will work or be the right fit for every nonprofit across the board.

“Our social enterprise is called ‘Inside the Box,’ which is a lunch catering program, and I have to say it wasn’t our idea,” Funkhouser said. “We have some good friends in Tampa, which is considered like our sister agency called Metropolitan Ministries, who had been doing this for more than 12 years, and they said they would love to franchise and for us to be their guinea pig. We’re always happy to take a risk and now it’s been less than a year, but we’re already breaking even and getting the word out.”

The ability to not let fear of taking a risk get in the way of growing the business is something that is a common thread both in the nonprofit and for-profit worlds.

At the end of the day, the panel’s message was clear that getting a message out to the local community is always something at the back of their minds and it is the case no matter what business it may be.

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EnterCircle

Continued from 1

EnterCircle kicked off Tuesday, Nov. 12, with the St. Johns County Schools Innovation Challenge, which gave student teams a chance to workshop their business innovations in anticipation of a district competition in January.

Then, on Wednesday, Nov. 13, things really got underway with Social Enterprise Day and Business Expo. Topics included community wealth building, innovative funding sources and the future of social enterprises.

Sriram Bharatam of Kuza Biashara Limited, delivered the innovation keynote. His organization offers small business learning, training and empowerment in Africa.

A Social Enterprise Panel Discussion followed with Dawn Lockhart, CEO of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida; Cindy Funkhouser, president and CEO of the Sulzbacher Center; Kristin Keen, founder and CEO of Rethreaded; and Monte Walker, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Jacksonville.

The next event was “Community Wealth Building — Doing Well By Doing Good,” a presentation by select leaders representing an array of corporate entities primarily from across St. Johns and Duval counties. Each spoke about ways



Photo by Shaun Ryan

EnterCircle attendees listen to a presentation.

in which their corporations give back to their communities. Paid volunteer hours encourage employees to get involved and the collective financial commitment by the businesses represented on the panel account for millions of dollars in donations.

The panel was comprised of Lockhart; Patricia McElroy, senior vice president and foundation president for Vystar Credit Union; Whitney Myer, senior vice president and chief community impact officer at the Jacksonville Jaguars; Emily Bellock, senior director of community outreach for PGA Tour; and Susan Towler, executive director for corporate social responsibility with the Florida Blue Foundation.

Following the panel discussion was a survey of attendees, Social Enterprise Challenge Opportunity, and a presentation by Lockhart about Catalyst Northeast

Florida, a data-rich resource.

Closing out the agenda was “Innovative Capital Resources & Nontraditional Sources of Revenue/Funding” with Lockhart; Gregory Grant of Jacksonville’s Office of Economic Development; James Coggin, senior director for grantmaking and impact investing at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida; and Iris Jones, consumer credit counseling services manager for Self-Help Credit Union.

Throughout the day, a business expo introduced attendees to participating businesses in the area.

The second day of EnterCircle 2024 was the Youth Symposium. One hundred students from Creekside and Ponte Vedra high schools attended to glean valuable insights from speakers who have navigated their own journeys from high school to



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EnterCircle

Continued from 12

career success.

Adam Lowe, head of operations for Higher Pixels, got things started with his presentation, "Life is a Math Problem." Employing insights he gained in his own experience, he took the attendees along on a tour of life from childhood to the "Golden Years," explaining the essentials of making the most of each stage to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

Breakout sessions followed: a personal finances workshop with Lowe and "Creating with AI" with Tery Spataro of Tery Designs and Creations.

Entrepreneur and president of the Ponte Vedra Beach Toastmasters Chris Engl followed with his presentation, after which Marcia Conner, executive adviser, analyst and bestselling author, spoke about innovation and systems thinking.

The morning session wrapped up with "How I Built a Space Tech Company," presented by Andrew Rush, co-founder and CEO of Star Catcher, which is building the first energy grid for space. The world is beginning to realize life as it had



Raghu Misra, co-founder of the link, speaks to the audience during EnterCircle on Wednesday.

once only existed in science fiction, and these students will be a part of an exciting future.

Motivational speaker and resilience coach Rob Swymer gave his audience some things to think about with his presentation, "Unleashing the Technology of the Body to Live in a Peak State."

Finally, Pete Cochrane, co-founder and host of Two Recruiters and a Microphone, spoke about his diverse background and work in recruiting. He described his own professional journey and offered key lessons he learned along

the way.

EnterCircle 2024 culminated Friday, Nov. 15, in Women's Day during which speakers from government, private enterprise, the media and more offered attendees indispensable advice and observations.

Marithza Calderon-Ross, meteorologist with Action News Jax and now executive director with St. Johns County Parks Foundation, started things off with a high-energy welcome and introduction of keynote speaker Jessie Shternshus, CEO of The Improv Effect.

Shternshus' business employs improvisation to help professionals become more confident, creative and capable of making an impact. Her topic was "Together to Gather." Attendees engaged in activities that encouraged connecting with others, an essential component of "Unlocking Serendipity," the theme of this year's Entrepreneurship Week.

St. Johns County Commissioner Krista Joseph followed with her presentation, "Making Lemons Out of Lemonade: How Life's Unexpected Challenges Turn Out to be Blessings." It's a theme Joseph is qualified to explore, having endured great personal tragedy and discovered ways to

bring positive outcomes out of it.

The day continued with additional speakers, a panel discussion and presentation of Circle of Creation Awards. Circle of Creation was an initiative held in May and designed to create networking and educational opportunities for entrepreneurial women.

Other speakers on the schedule Friday were: Marcia Connor, executive adviser, analyst and best-selling author; Jen Cart of Stellar Growth Strategies; and motivational speaker Amy Dix of Choose Happy, who wrapped up the day with her presentation, "The Magic of Serendipity: Unlocking Happiness Through Chance."

An artist, she employed her painting skills to surprise her audience. She painted a picture of gymnast Simone Biles, winner of 11 Olympic medals, live on the stage at the link. But Dix didn't approach her painting in the usual way. Using acrylics, she painted it upside down and, only when it was finished, did she turn it around to reveal the completed image.

The event concluded with a raffle.

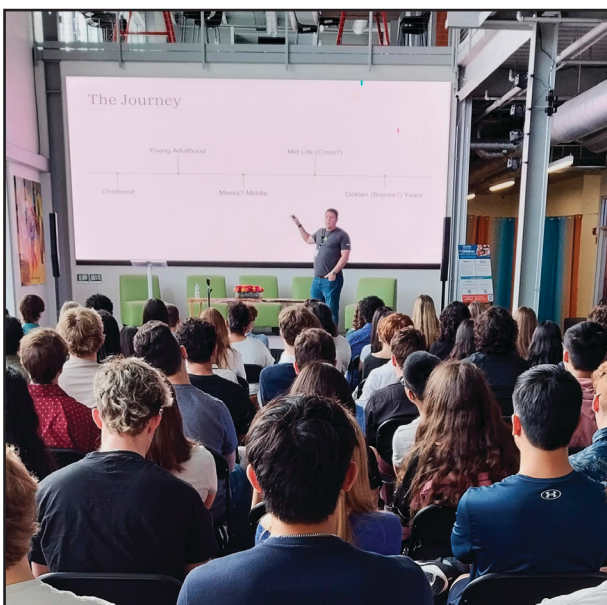
The link is located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra.

For more information about the link or EnterCircle, go to thelink.zone.

Photos by Shaun Ryan



Ponte Vedra Beach Toastmasters President Chris Engl speaks at EnterCircle 2024.



Adam Lowe, head of operations for Higher Pixels, speaks at EnterCircle 2024.



Gregory Grant of Jacksonville's Office of Economic Development speaks during EnterCircle.



Kim Jones, Lesley Brawn and Marithza Calderon-Ross get a photo taken at the Selfie Station.



Andrew Rush, co-founder and CEO of Star Catcher, speaks at EnterCircle 2024.



Attendees introduce themselves and chat during EnterCircle 2024 Women's Day.



Amy Dix with her painting of gymnast Simone Biles.



Jessie Shternshus leads attendees in a "Yes, And ..." exercise.



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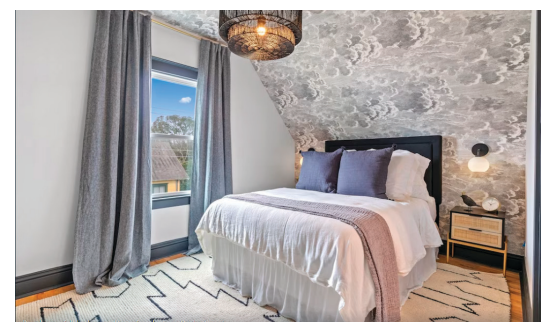
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'Christmas on the River' tickets available for holiday benefit event

St. Johns County Council on Aging (COA) invites members of the public to ring in the St. Augustine holiday season at "Christmas on the River," a gilded age holiday celebration on Sunday, Nov. 24, from 5 to 8 p.m. at River House. The annual fundraising event supports COA's Care Connection program, which provides St. Johns County seniors with the services they need in order to continue to enjoy independence and quality of life at home. Tickets are on sale now at coasjc.org/cotr.

Attendees are invited to enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine tasting, live music and a charity auction at River House, 179 Marine St., St. Augustine. Tickets to the event are \$100 per person and may be purchased online at coasjc.org/cotr or by calling 904-209-3700. On-site parking is plentiful and free.

"Each year, we look forward to gathering with friends, old and new, and celebrating the beginning of the St. Augustine holiday season in style," said



Contributed photo

COA Executive Director Becky Yanni. "Even better, it feels so good knowing that we are helping so many of our community's elders to continue to enjoy their independence, comfort and

dignity in the place they call home."

COA's Care Connection program is financed entirely through donations and powered by caring, local COA volunteers. The program supports seniors

in remaining in their homes where they are most comfortable, rather than being forced by circumstances to enter assisted living. Services provided include minor home repairs, lawn maintenance, safety device installation, wheelchair ramp construction, as well as assistance obtaining low or no-cost prescriptions, pet food, wheelchairs and other assistive devices. Care Connection provides these crucial services for which no other funding sources exist.

A wide range of sponsorship opportunities are available to support the event and the Care Connection program, starting at the \$300 level. All sponsorships include tickets to the event and numerous recognition opportunities online and at the event. To learn more, contact Janel Graham at 904-209-3700 or jgraham@coasjc.org.

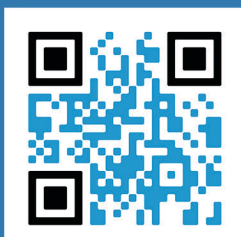
Tickets to Christmas on the River may be purchased at coasjc.org/cotr. For more information on COA's Care Connection program and to get involved, go to coasjc.org/care-connection or call 904-209-3700.



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Landrum names October Students of the Month

Landrum Middle School continues its "Students of the Month" program, recognizing students for their exemplary character, resilience, academic performance and effort. In October, the honorees were sixth grader Reid Bevill, seventh grader

Crawford Tiedeberg and eighth grader Andy Rasavongseuk.

The students, chosen by their teachers, enjoyed a special lunch in Principal Kasting's office, sponsored by Chick-fil-A at Marsh Landing Parkway.



Contributed photo

Principal Kasting enjoying lunch with students in his office as part of the October "Students of the Month" celebration.

Landrum announces spelling bee champs

Alice B. Landrum Middle School recognizes the winners of its 2024-25 Spelling Bee, showcasing the exceptional talent and dedication of its students.

- 4th Place and 6th Grade Winner: Luke Sekeres
- 3rd Place: Brooklyn Pennington
- 2nd Place: Taylor Alt

• 1st Place: Vidya Siliveri — A remarkable achievement as Vidya earns the title of Alice B. Landrum Spelling Bee Champion for the third consecutive year.

Vidya will now advance to represent Landrum Middle School at the district-level competition.



Contributed photo

Landrum students Brooklyn Pennington, Taylor Alt and Vidya Siliveri

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Cricco named United Way of St. Johns County president, CEO

Former K9s for Warriors CEO and 9/11 Memorial and Museum senior vice president brings visionary leadership to United Way



Carl Cricco

United Way of St. Johns County, serving St. Johns and Putnam counties, has announced Carl Cricco as its new president and chief executive officer, ushering in a new era of strategic leadership. Cricco, whose extensive experience spans nonprofit leadership, marketing and fundraising, officially joined United Way on Nov. 4 and will play a pivotal role in driving the organization’s mission to create lasting community impact.

Cricco joins United Way following his tenure as CEO of K9s for Warriors, where he led the nonprofit through its most successful fundraising year in history. Prior to his leadership at K9s for Warriors, Cricco served as senior vice president of sales and marketing

at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York. In this role, he consistently exceeded annual revenue goals, launched and expanded the marketing department and oversaw 90% of the organization’s annual revenue.

“We are thrilled to welcome Carl,”

said Bobby Crum, chair of the United Way of St. Johns County Board of Directors. “His visionary leadership will unite our community in making lasting, transformative impacts.”

Before becoming CEO at K9s for Warriors, Cricco served as the chief marketing and development officer, where he developed innovative strategies that heightened the organization’s national visibility and donor profile. His passion for service and commitment to helping those in need will continue as he transitions to United Way.

Under Cricco’s leadership, United Way of St. Johns County will remain focused on mobilizing the community to action, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive. His experience in nonprofit leadership, marketing and development positions him to lead United Way into its next phase of growth and innovation.

“As the new president and CEO of United Way of St. Johns County, I am honored to join an organization with such a deep commitment to improving the lives of our community members,” said

Cricco. “Together with our dedicated partners, donors and volunteers, we will continue to tackle the most pressing challenges, support families in need and create lasting, positive change across St. Johns and Putnam counties. I am excited to lead United Way in building a stronger, more resilient community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.”

United Way of St. Johns County brings together agencies, businesses, organizations, faith-based groups, government and individuals to focus on the community problems that matter most. Partners share the vision and have the energy, passion, expertise and resources to get the work done.

For more than 65 years, United Way of St. Johns County has improved lives and built a strong, healthy community by strategically investing in quality programs, building partnerships, advocating for better policies, engaging the community and leveraging resources. Success is measured not by dollars raised, but by lives improved and changed.

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Jacksonville Arboretum announces new holiday light show

Tickets are now on sale for Glowing Gardens, a newly designed holiday light show from the Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens (JABG) from Nov. 29 to Dec. 29. Designed by Tres Fromme from 3. Fromme Design and Emily Saccenti from Elemental Exhibitions, Glowing Gardens draws inspiration from the Arboretum's natural beauty.

Visitors can expect an entirely new light show custom-designed for JABG's unique landscape, featuring hummingbird sculptures, shimmering bromeliad stars, a mesmerizing ground display resembling a stream and more.

Beyond the light displays, Glowing Gardens promises a variety of immersive experiences for the whole family. Enjoy delicious food, beverages and alcoholic drinks from Mojo BBQ and Cup of Job, meet and greet festive characters on select nights, capture unforgettable photos and indulge in popcorn and other treats.

One of the most noteworthy aspects of this year's event is JABG's dedication to making Glowing Gardens a more accessible and family-friendly experience. For the first time, JABG has implemented a new ticketing system that eliminates hidden fees for all JABG events, resulting in significantly reduced ticket prices. Additionally, this is the first year that all proceeds from the light show will benefit the Arboretum, meaning that 100% of ticket sales and sponsorships will directly support JABG's mission of cultivating understanding and wonder by engaging the community through the natural beauty of Northeast Florida.

"We are excited to continue this beloved community tradition in a whole new way," said Dana Doody, executive director of the Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. "This year's light show is a celebration of the Arboretum's natural beauty, and we can't wait to share

it with everyone!"

Ticket prices range from \$19 to \$25. Special pricing available for JABG members. Peak nights tend to sell out fast, so JABG encourages guests to plan ahead.

For more information about Glowing Gardens, go to jacksonvillearboretum.org or email events@jacksonvillearboretum.org. For sponsorship opportunities, reach out to Director of Philanthropy Michelle Beers at michelleb@jacksonvillearboretum.org.

Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens is located at 1445 Millcoe Road, Jacksonville. Purchase tickets at jacksonvillearboretum.org.

The Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to cultivate understanding and wonder by engaging the community through the natural beauty of Northeast Florida. The 136 acres that comprise the Jacksonville Arboretum

& Botanical Gardens are unique in that there are 13 distinct ecosystems within its boundaries. Over three miles of award-winning trails traverse these richly diverse habitats, which include freshwater and tidal marshes, upland hardwood forest, pine flatwoods and dry prairie, bottomland forest and live oak hammock. Woven in this rich diversity, the Arboretum offers beautifully curated botanical gardens, ranging from the rich greens of a Fernery to the bright florals of a Pollinator Garden. Alongside these unique natural attractions, the Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens attracts visitors through annual special events and educational programs.

Conveniently located off the Monument Road exit on I-295 in East Arlington, the park is open to the public seven days a week. For more information, visit jacksonvillearboretum.org or email info@jacksonvillearboretum.org.



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Gene Nordan to entertain at Coastal Friends luncheon

Coastal Friends has announced that Gene Nordan will entertain the group at their special holiday luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 4. For almost 15 years, Nordan entertained patrons in the piano bar at Le Chateau, a former Atlantic Beach oceanfront bar and restaurant. Nordan will regale the group with holiday tunes at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The holiday luncheon is open to members and guests, as well as the community. There will be a special holiday menu consisting of caesar salad, lasagna and cheesecake. 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 chair-

man at bartshar@comcast.net as soon as possible. The deadline for checks to be received is Friday morning, Nov. 29.

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 ladies' adventures and outings, book club, bunco, canasta, happy hour, lunch in, lunch out, mah jongg, samba, stitch & chat 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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Leaving a LEGACY

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THE RECORDER

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November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

Throughout November, Community Hospice & Palliative Care will join organizations across the country in recognizing National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. This annual observance raises awareness about the compassionate and comprehensive care available to individuals and families navigating serious illnesses.

In honor of National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, Community Hospice & Palliative Care shines a spotlight on the true Care Heroes. The interdisciplin-

ary team, also known as the care team, is crucial in providing holistic care to patients and their caregivers during one of the most challenging times in their lives. This team, which typically includes doctors, nurses, social workers, spiritual counselors and other specialists, works collaboratively to address not only the medical needs of the patient but also their emotional, spiritual and psychological well-being. By combining their expertise, the care team ensures patients receive personalized support tailored

to their specific condition. At the same time, caregivers are given the guidance and resources they need to navigate the complexities of end-of-life care. This comprehensive approach enhances the quality of life for patients and their loved ones, fostering comfort, dignity and peace for those facing terminal or serious illnesses.

In addition to hospice and palliative care, Community Hospice & Palliative Care offers a range of additional services. These include grief and bereavement

support, pediatric care, veteran care and advance care planning. Their team of more than 1,000 volunteers helps support these services through pet therapy, art and music therapy, spiritual care and fundraising efforts to ensure that no one is turned away due to an inability to pay.

This November, Community Hospice & Palliative Care continues its mission to provide compassionate care to all, focusing on quality of life, dignity and support for patients and families during the end-of-life journey.

Coach guides others through grief, caregiving through experience

By Holly Tishfield

For Tammy Badida, helping others navigate the paths of grief and caregiving is more than a career; it's deeply personal. Her business, Learn to Live Again, was born from her own experiences with loss and the desire to be the kind of support she once needed.

"I've stood at the doorstep of grief more times than I can count," Badida said. "One day we're mothers and fathers and sons and daughters juggling careers and families — and then the next day we're thrust into the throws of caregiving and grief."

In summer of 2024, Badida officially launched Learn to Live Again, a grief and caregiving coaching service designed to support individuals of all ages as they cope with various forms of loss. Her services include navigating grief from the loss of a loved one but also navigating many other forms of grief and the unique shapes they come in.

As a certified grief and caregiving coach, Badida offers clients tools and resources to regain balance and move forward when life feels overwhelming.



Photo by Holly Tishfield

Tammy Badida helps grieving clients navigate challenges, set goals and learn to live again.

Sessions are conducted online via Zoom, allowing her to connect with clients wherever they are. She begins with a consultation to understand each client's

unique needs before offering flexible packages of one, five or 10 sessions.

Badida's approach emphasizes meeting her clients where they are, providing

compassion and understanding as they work together to set goals and move toward healing. While counselors often focus on diagnosing and treating mental health issues, Badida's work centers on helping clients navigate specific challenges, set actionable goals and ultimately learn to live again.

"I want to be a friend to people. 'Coach' is just a word I use professionally," she said. "I want to fill a needed gap as a caregiver for the caregiver, because I've been in their shoes."

What sets Learn to Live Again apart is Badida's ability to blend her grief and caregiving expertise into a service that's uniquely tailored. Her background allows her to guide clients not only through personal loss but also through the emotional complexities of caregiving.

"It's rewarding to know that I've taken my past and my pain and turned it into a resource that others can use to move forward on their path to healing," she said. "And just knowing that my clients are healing. There is nothing on this earth that gives me more satisfaction than that."



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GUEST COLUMN

What is long-term care, and how can you plan for it financially?

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

Long-term care is the services needed to help you if a chronic illness or disability stops you from living on your own or performing daily personal activities such as getting dressed, taking medicine or making meals.

You might not need these services until later in life, but consider planning well in advance. You don't want to be developing a plan to pay for long-term care after you already need it. Here are four considerations to keep in mind as you develop a long-term care plan:

Know the different levels of care and their costs

Aging in place often refers to services being delivered to you in your home and can include aid rendered by visiting nurses, family and friends. It can also mean living in a continuing care community that has different facilities, each providing increasing levels of care. You move into the facility that matches

the level of care you need and move to higher levels of care as you require them. The benefit of residing in such a community is that you "age in place" as you progress through the facilities that offer the level of care you need. It can be comforting to know that you will not need to seek a new care facility each time your care requirements change. You just progress through the stages within the same community.

An **assisted living facility** is often a residence that provides staff who can assist with daily needs (showering, dressing, taking medications). Moving into assisted living may also add a level of security knowing that you are not alone if a fall or a health event occurs.

Skilled care refers to a residential facility (or nursing home) that includes on-site medical care. These facilities often include short-term rehabilitation services following a hospital stay as well as 24-hour nursing care for full-time residents who require extensive assistance and supervision. Memory care units may also be provided in these

facilities for residents with cognitive challenges such as Alzheimer's who require the most extreme level of supervision and care.

As you would expect, the associated costs for care increase with the complexity of the level of care.

Discuss how you want to be looked after with loved ones

It is important for you to communicate your wishes so that they can be understood and considered. Though you may assume your adult children are going to care for and support you if the need for long-term care arises, you should find out whether that is the case by speaking to them directly. Consider working together to create an action plan that supports your needs.

Consider how you'll pay for long-term care

Health insurance and government programs, such as Medicaid and Medicare, impose restrictions and limits when it comes to paying for long-term care. That means you

may need to incorporate other approaches into your plan such as liquidating assets, paying out of pocket, relying on a family member to pay or purchasing long-term care insurance. For help with deciding, discuss the choices thoroughly with your legal and financial advisors.

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Dave Pentel, Judy and Steve Silverman, Lana and Carlos Urrutia, Allison and Ken Jacobs

River Garden recognized as leader in compassionate community care

Supporters understand importance of giving

For The Recorder

River Garden Hebrew Home recently announced that it has again been recognized among the nation's best nursing

homes by U.S. News & World Report and named as the No. 1 nursing home in Florida by Newsweek. These prestigious accolades highlight the home's commitment to providing exceptional care and a nurturing environment for its residents.

The rankings reflect the hard work and

RIVER GARDEN continues on **Page 27**

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Ponte Vedra Gardens Memory Care offers personalized approach

By Holly Tishfield

Supporting individuals with memory loss requires more than medical expertise — it calls for compassion, understanding and a dedication to enhancing quality of life. The Ponte Vedra Gardens Memory Care Facility has cultivated a mission of enhancing and enriching the lives of individuals living with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia through a loving and person-centered approach to memory care.

“We consider it a privilege to care for those who can’t care for themselves,” said Julie Davidson, sales and marketing director at Ponte Vedra Gardens Memory Care Facility.

The company operates three locations across the Jacksonville area: Ortega, San Jose and Ponte Vedra. The Ponte Vedra facility includes two secure neighborhoods designed to meet residents’ needs. “Bridges” serves individuals in the early-to-moderate stages, while “Discovery” supports those with more advanced conditions. Both neighborhoods provide a level of personalized care that stands out from other facilities.

Ponte Vedra Gardens Memory Care Facility holds an Extended Congregate Care (ECC) license, allowing residents to continue their routines and receive compassionate, end-of-life care within the familiar surroundings of the facility. This license ensures a seamless transition as care needs evolve, providing peace of mind for both



Photo by Holly Tishfield

Staff at the Ponte Vedra Gardens Memory Care Facility are part of what sets the facility apart.

residents and their families.

Employees at Ponte Vedra Gardens Memory Care Facility receive specialized training in memory care and the unique challenges it presents. Unlike many facilities that assign general assisted living staff to memory care roles, Ponte Vedra Gardens ensures its team is thoroughly trained in memory care before they begin working

directly with residents.

“The caregivers, they’re the foundation of the facility,” said Barbara Madison, executive director at Ponte Vedra Gardens Memory Care Facility. “They’re well trained and they have so much purpose and love for the residents. They’re the frontlines, and we just appreciate them so much.”

What sets Ponte Vedra Gardens apart from other communities?

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Ponte Vedra Gardens goes beyond merely making our residents safe and comfortable. It starts by learning everything there is to know about those entrusted in our care – their passions, achievements, careers, family, hobbies and interests. This allows our staff members to develop an individualized plan of care designed around their specific life story, creating moments of delight, wonder and meaning for the residents in their care each and every day.



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Cypress Village honors veterans with a Veterans Day dinner

Cypress Village Retirement Community hosted its annual Veterans Dinner, honoring the men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces. The heartfelt event brought together residents and staff to celebrate and thank those who dedicated their lives to protecting our nation's freedom.

The evening featured a formal dinner and moving tributes to veterans from all branches of service. Residents shared personal stories and memories of their time in the military, fostering a

deep sense of camaraderie and pride.

The director of Administrative Services at Cypress Village, Laurel Mundell, led the evening with a live rendition of the National Anthem setting a tone of reverence and celebration. Veterans in attendance were also honored with special recognition, receiving commemorative pins as a token of appreciation for their selfless service and sacrifice. These moments underscored the gratitude felt throughout the community for the contributions of these

brave individuals.

"This evening is a cherished tradition at Cypress Village," said Ty Morgan, executive director. "We are grateful for the sacrifices our veterans have made, and this dinner allows us to come together as a community to recognize their courage and service."

The Veterans Appreciation Dinner is just one of the ways Cypress Village demonstrates its commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for its residents. Events

like this not only honor the past but also strengthen bonds within the community.

Cypress Village is a Retirement Care Community that offers residents an outstanding standard of living with all the services and amenities. Located adjacent to the Mayo Clinic, Cypress Village has beautifully appointed homes and apartments on a 120-acre campus. For more information on this unmatched lifestyle of comfort and convenience, call 904-223-6100.

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River Garden

Continued from 24

dedication of the staff, who strive to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. There is a rigorous evaluation process that considers various factors, including quality of care, service offerings and resident satisfaction.

“We are incredibly honored to receive this dual recognition from U.S. News & World Report and Newsweek,” said Mauri Mizrahi, chief executive officer of River Garden. “This achievement is a testament to our team’s unwavering commitment to excellence in care and the strong bonds we build with our residents, their families and our community.”

For 79 years, River Garden has been dedicated to delivering quality health care services. As part of its mission, River Garden serves residents of all faiths, ensuring that each receives exceptional medical care and has the opportunity to participate in engaging activities.

River Garden celebrated recently at its 32nd Foundation Gala, a special event where supporters, staff and volunteers gathered to reflect on the organization’s accomplishments and reaffirm its values of compassion, dignity and respect for all residents. The gala is an important fundraising event, helping to sustain and expand River Garden’s mission through vital charitable contributions. These



Contributed photo

Linda Stein and Christina Levine

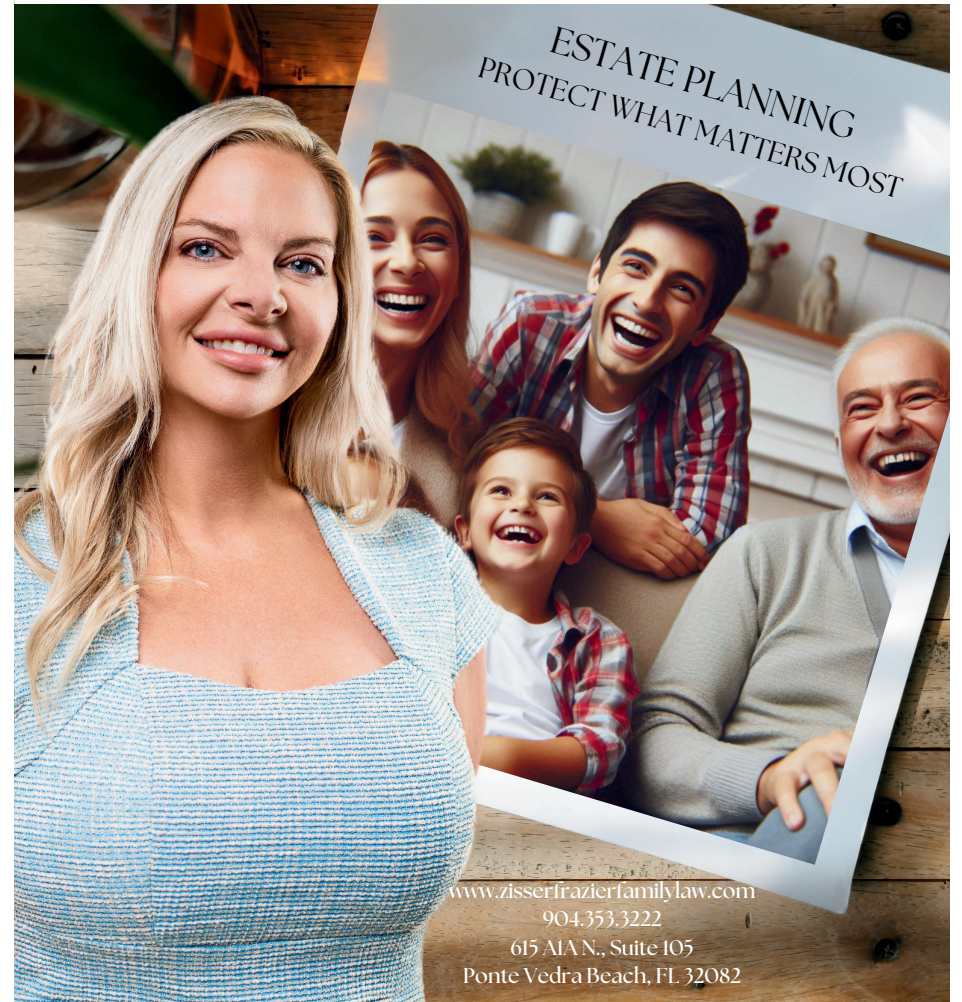
funds help ensure that residents continue to receive high-quality care, with access to a wide range of services, from skilled nursing to rehabilitation therapies and specialized memory care.

“At River Garden, we believe that every resident deserves the highest standard of care in an environment that supports their health, dignity and quality of life,” said Christina Levine, chief development officer at River Garden. “This recognition is a testament to the outstanding care provided by our staff and the generosity of our donors and community partners. It is the collective commitment to our mission that makes River Garden so special.”

For more information about River Garden and its award-winning services, go to www.rivergarden.org or contact Kari Bell, communications and marketing director, at kbell@rivergarden.org.



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How to make renovation projects go smoothly

Homeowners are spending big bucks on home renovations. According to the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University, home improvement project spending continues to increase. It's predicted to go from \$472 billion spent in 2022 to \$485 billion in 2024.

Those targeting a specific home renovation likely know there is much that goes into the process from start to finish. Patience is a requisite virtue with any remodel, as even a thoroughly conceptualized plan can encounter a few bumps along the way. Although there is no way to completely remove renovation-related obstacles, there are ways to make projects go more smoothly.

• Establish a clear plan from the beginning.

Now is not the time to be on the fence about details. A vision for the renovation is essential, and should include details about layout, materials, colors, and design.

• Manage your expectations.

Again, this speaks to a need for patience with a project but also involves flexibility. Being too rigid when choosing materials can require waiting for back-ordered supplies to come in.



Wanting contractors to bend to your schedule can delay the project even further. Creativity and flexibility are key.

• Establish a budget.

It can be easy to spend beyond one's means, especially when issues crop up. Black House Real Estate stresses the importance of creating a budget before starting a renovation, which may involve working with a local

professional to help. Houzz advises preparing for worst-case scenarios by adding anywhere from 1 percent to 20 percent to the budget. Commit to sticking to the budget no matter what comes down the pike.

• Assemble a good team.

Thoroughly research all contractors who will be involved with the renovation. These include designers, architects, builders, and more. Be sure

they come highly recommended and research online reviews. A good team removes some stress from the project because you'll know the work is in experienced hands.

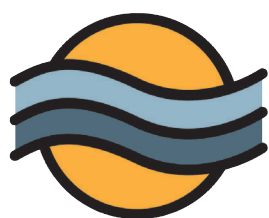
• Prepare the space for the remodel.

Any work you can do will help save on labor costs and make it easier for the team to get started on the project. Clear out clutter and personal items. Ask if it would be helpful for you to handle some demolition, whether that's pulling up old tile, removing drywall or another task.

• Have an escape hatch at the ready.

Home renovations can cause upheaval to daily life, and that can mean stress on top of already chaotic schedules. If money and situation allow, plan a getaway during a particularly tough stretch of the project so the noise, mess, and disruptions will not induce headaches. Consider spending a few nights at a hotel or a friend or relative's house to escape the constant grind of the project.

Home renovation projects add value and functionality to homes. Such undertakings can go more smoothly with some sound planning.



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Give your living room a new vibe

An ‘out with the old, in with the new’ mentality can extend to people’s visions for their homes. A home in need of repair or renovation can serve as a catalyst to take inventory of personal style and help make interior spaces reflect one’s unique vibe.

A living room can grow stale over time and often serves as a catch-call for clothing, blankets, gadgets, and other items. Upon recognizing a living room has seen better days, individuals may decide it’s time to give the space a new vibe. That transformation can start with these strategies.

Organize first

Clutter frequently is the culprit behind a living room that may not give off the vibe individuals desire. As families grow and people add belongings, space may be at a premium. Less is more has never been a more important concept. Remove extraneous items before purchasing new furniture or transitioning to a new design. You may even want to remove everything and start from scratch before reintroducing desirable elements to the space.

Seek the assistance of professionals

Some people are adept at decorating and designing spaces. But just as you wouldn’t perform your own medical procedures, you should leave jobs like interior design and renovations to the professionals. Hiring a professional interior



designer and contractors can really bring a living room together in ways homeowners may have never imagined. These pros can build off your ideas and truly create a space that may be worthy of a magazine spread.

Promote wellness

You may want to consider adding natural materials in the design to promote well-being. Eco-friendly furnishings, raw fibers and organic textures will create an environment from sustainable choices. Plenty of plants also can create a welcoming environment that helps you surround yourself with positive energy and the items you love.

Light it up

One of the easiest ways to transform a room’s vibe is to utilize lighting. Change draperies to allow more natural light to shine in. Consider additional windows or skylights

if yours is a particularly dark home. If you desire to create a more vivid or cozy ambiance, use a combination of accent, task and supplemental lighting in the space so there are no dim corners.

Create an industrial or urban vibe

Industrial-chic design celebrates the bones of a building. It’s what makes city lofts so appealing, with their exposed beams and brick. Even those who live in suburbia or out in the country can give a living room this look with subtle nods to the style. Unadorned windows, clean lines on furniture, oversized, gallery-style art, and metal accents can add touches of this popular look to your home.

Revamping a living room doesn’t have to be difficult. With an idea in place and some professional touches, an entirely new vibe can be achieved.

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FAQ about garage remodels

Homeowners tend to want to maximize all of the space they have in their homes. For some this may involve turning a garage from a utilitarian space into one that serves multiple purposes.

According to The Mortgage Reports, a home-buying and improvement resource, garage renovations can increase the value of a home and add living space. Garage remodels can create additional storage space, provide an area for a home gym or even create room for a home office. Prior to beginning a garage remodel, homeowners may have some common questions about the process.

How much does the renovation cost?

Several factors will ultimately determine the final price of a garage remodel, but HomeAdvisor says the national average for a garage remodel falls between \$6,000 and \$26,000. Most homeowners come in at around \$15,000 for a total garage conversion.

Will I recoup the investment?

A garage conversion adds value to a home if it creates new and usable living space. The firm Cottage, which pulled together a team of builders, architects and technologists, advises the average garage



conversion provides an 80 percent return on investment. That ROI varies depending on location.

How can I upgrade the flooring?

Garages traditionally feature concrete floors. Although durable, concrete floors can feel damp, hard and cold underfoot. Both vinyl plank and epoxy flooring options can elevate the design and functionality of the garage.

Can I have the best of both worlds?

Sometimes a garage needs to serve many purposes. Lofting the garage means a homeowner can still park cars or utilize the lower space as a living area, all the while items are stored overhead. Some flip this design scenario and have the loft area as a bedroom or finished living space, while the lower portion remains a traditional garage area. Another thought is to finish only a portion of the garage. This works well for two- or three-car garages where there will be room to park a car and the remainder will serve another purpose.

What are other ways to improve the garage?

Installing more windows or improving the lighting in the garage can be important. The garage improvement experts at Danley's say window installation enables people to circulate air in the garage without having to open the garage door. Improving the lighting means the garage can still be enjoyed or utilized after dark. Spread out lighting in the garage and use a combination of overhead and task lighting just as one would in the home itself.



How do I deter bugs or other pests from entering?

Insects often want to hunker down in garages, and they may find it easy to get inside a garage. Keeping the garage clean and organized is the best way to deter pests and to spot infestations before they become problematic, indicates Mosquito Joe pest control company. Reducing water and humidity in the space, weath-

erproofing at the base of the garage door and other entry spots and utilizing insect repellents to make the garage less hospitable also can decrease the risk of insect infestation.

Remodeling a garage can add value and plenty of usable space to a home. Whether a garage houses cars or hosts neighborhood game night, a garage renovation can be well worth the investment.

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Small renovations that can make a big impact

Home renovations provide a host of benefits. Such projects can increase resale value and improve the safety, aesthetics and functionality of a home. Some homeowners may employ the mantra “go big or go home” when they embark on home improvements, thinking that only the largest renovations produce noticeable change. But that’s not the case. Various smaller renovations can provide a lot of bang for homeowners’ bucks as well.

• **Countertops (and hardware):** A complete kitchen overhaul may stretch some homeowners’ budgets. However, changing an older countertop for a new material can provide the facelift a kitchen needs. And while changing the cabinets may be homeowners’ ultimate goal, swapping hardware in dated finishes for newer handles and pulls can provide low-cost appeal.

• **Paint:** Painting a space is an inexpensive improvement that adds maximum impact. Paint can transform dark and drab rooms into bright and airy oases. Paint also can be used to create an accent wall or cozy nooks. Homeowners also can showcase their personalities with their choice of paint colors.

• **Lighting:** Homeowners should not underestimate what a change in lighting can do. When rooms or exterior spaces are illuminated, they take on entirely



new looks. It’s worth it to invest in new lighting, whether it’s a dramatic hanging light over the dining room table or task lighting in dim spaces.

• **Weatherproofing:** Improving windows, doors, weatherstripping, and insulation in a home can offer visual appeal and help homeowners save money. The initial investment may be significant, but those costs will pay off in energy savings. According to One Main Financial, space heating is the largest energy expense the average American homeowner has, accounting for around 45 percent of all energy costs.

• **Mudroom:** Turn an entryway into a more functional space with the addition of cabinets, benches or custom-designed

storage options that perfectly fit the area. Cubbies and cabinets can corral shoes, umbrellas, hats, bags, and much more.

• **Accent updates:** Any space, whether it’s inside or outside a home, can get a fresh look with new decorative accents. Invest in new throw pillows and even slipcovers for living room sofas. Use new tile or paint the brick on a fireplace in a den, then update the mantel with decorative displays. Purchase wall art that can bring different colors into a room. Change the cushions on deck furniture and buy color-coordinated planters.

These subtle changes will not cost as much as full-scale renovations, but they can still help homeowners transform their homes.

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Contributed photos



Lindsay Amerault and father, James, living with Alzheimer's.



Kevin and Susan Murphy walk for Kevin's mother, who is living with Alzheimer's.



Start line participants

Walk to End Alzheimer's raises more than \$300K

Despite the rain on Saturday, thousands came out to the J.B. Coxwell Amphitheater at the University of North Florida for Walk to End Alzheimer's Jacksonville. The event raised funds and awareness for Alzheimer's, a disease impacting one in eight older adults in Florida.

Participants included Lindsay Amerault and her father, James, who is living with Alzheimer's. Amerault lost her mother to Alzheimer's in 2019 and now serves as a caregiver for her father.

"One step and just one day at a time, I'm walking to end Alzheimer's," said Amerault. "I'm a caregiver, a daughter, a sister, a stepmom, a wife. I'm walking for everyone who may encounter this journey moving forward."

Kevin and Susan Murphy walked for Kevin's mother living with Alzheimer's.

"We just learned a lot in the last year and how life changing it is for families, not only the person that has it but everyone around them," said Kevin Murphy at the

Walk. "We wanted to come here and support."

More than 17,000 Duval County residents age 65 and older are estimated to be living with Alzheimer's, a progressive brain disease that impacts thinking, memory and behavior. Florida has the second largest number of people living with the disease in the U.S. and 840,000 unpaid dementia caregivers.

At the Walk, participants carried flowers representing their connection to Alzheimer's and other dementia. Blue means someone is living with the disease, yellow is for caregivers, purple for those who have lost someone and orange shows solidarity in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

Lynn Baltz carried the yellow flower as a caregiver for her sister, Sharon, living with younger-onset Alzheimer's.

"I have walked by Sharon's side from her first doctor's appointment to her eventual diagnosis," said Baltz. "She still has so much life left to live. I hope and pray every

day for a cure to be found in time."

At the Walk, participants gathered for a ceremony led by Anthony Austin from First Coast News. Speakers shared the devastating impact of Alzheimer's, the importance of continued research, care and support outreach, and the hope it brings.

New treatments have become available that, for the first time ever, slow the progression of Alzheimer's for those in the early stages. Lecanemab received traditional FDA approval in 2023 and Donanemab received approval in July 2024. Both treatments have been shown to impact the underlying biology of the disease, giving families more time with loved ones.

To date, Walk participants have raised more than \$300,000 to benefit care, support, research, advocacy and awareness initiatives through the Alzheimer's Association Central & North Florida Chapter. Donations are still being accepted for Walk to End Alzheimer's through Dec. 31. Donate or learn more at alz.org/JacksonvilleWalk.

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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 vote for their favorite businesses in various categories online, such as auto & transportation, home & finance, food & drink and more! Online voting ends December 2nd.

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NAFSA Executive Director and CEO Dr. Fanta Aw, Sarah Park, Carter Magnano and NAFSA Region VII chair Rachel Hendrix.



Contributed photos
The NAFSA Region VII Sylvia Shortt Memorial Community Volunteer Award

Teen-led nonprofit JaxTHRIVE wins NAFSA Volunteer Award

JaxTHRIVE, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit led by high school seniors Carter Magnano from Ponte Vedra High School and Sarah Park from Bolles' won the NAFSA Region VII Sylvia Shortt Memorial Community Volunteer Award on Nov. 11.

JaxTHRIVE provides essential tutoring, life skills and mentorship to refugee students from diverse backgrounds, empowering them to thrive academically and socially. Over the past seven years, JaxTHRIVE has positively impacted about 300 refugee students through innovative programs, including virtual tutoring and in-person Super Saturdays.

NAFSA is the world's largest and most comprehensive international education association, with more than 10,000 members at more than 4,000 institutions in 140-plus countries. The Sylvia Shortt Memorial Community Volunteer Award aims to recognize the important and significant contributions of unpaid volunteers who support international initiatives within the local communities in the NAFSA Region VII, covering Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

While co-presidents Park and Magnano accepted the award on behalf of their nonprofit, they shared the recognition with JaxTHRIVE's strong network of student volunteers. According to Magnano and Park, the organization has grown significantly, now supporting more than 14 chapters and working with more than 350 volunteers both online and in person.

At the NAFSA award ceremony, organizers noted the strong relationships JaxTHRIVE fosters between tutors and refugee students, citing initiatives such



JaxTHRIVE co-presidents Carter Magnano and Sarah Park

as the Female Empowerment Program, Financial Literacy Workshop and JaxTHRIVE Journeys, which promote cultural understanding and personal growth. Magnano and Park also recently co-authored a children's book titled "New Beginnings: Refugee Children's Tales of Hope and Resilience," sharing the stories of refugee students to foster empathy and understanding within the community. The book is available to order on Amazon, with 100% of the profits going directly to JaxTHRIVE.



Billiards is a game that requires a lot of focus.



More than 300 players are participating in the various tournaments.

Billiards

Continued from 1

must get the most balls they can into their assigned pocket.

“One-pocket is a very strategic game, and it’s kind of like chess on a pool table,” Fleming said.

As a result of the additional tournaments, there are more than 300 players from roughly 27 countries represented and competing for a prize fund of \$290,000 across all the tournaments.

The convention hall at the World Golf Village Renaissance Resort was filled with 32 tables consisting of games happening of each one with a featured table

in the center that is equipped with television cameras with stadium-type seating around it.

According to straight pool director Karl Kantrowitz, 40 million people play pool across the United States, and it can be played no matter a person’s age or gender.

Billiards is one of the most popular sports in the Philippines, according to Fleming, and there are several top players in the world that come from Asian and European countries.

This has led to a shift over the past four years and an extra focus on developing the next generation of billiards players in America, which has led to the junior tournament taking place, which is one of

eight stops the Junior American Series makes throughout the year.

“Over the years we’ve been getting beat by the Europeans and other players from around the world because their governments help support it, so with this tour it brings up the level of play, and we actually have some of our players that are here playing in the pro events,” Kory Wolford said. “I think in the next 10 years this will level the playing field with that of what Europe has.”

Johnny Archer, who was voted Player of the Decade in the 1990s by Billiards Digest is competing in the event’s straight pool tournament after getting back into playing the professional tournament scene after a retirement stint.

Seeing the junior players competing brings him back to when he first started playing the game and the passion that he developed for it over the years.

“I was playing video games with my friends in a town in South Georgia and I remember one summer the video games were getting boring because we had gotten really good at them, so we decided to go in the back of this little store where they had a pool table and we just started playing,” Archer said. “Turns out I kept playing and they didn’t.”

The nine-ball and junior championships will be played on Nov. 22, while the 10-ball title match will be on Nov. 24 and the straight pool title decided on Nov. 26.

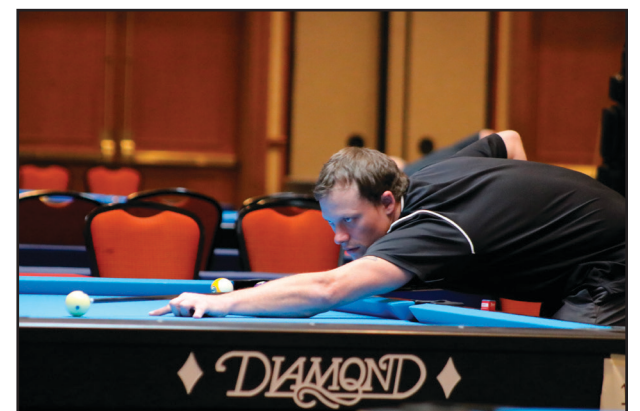
Photos by Anthony Richards



Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz and David Alcaide are among the top five nine-ball pro players in the world.



Kristian Dimitrov is competing in the nine-ball semi pro competition.



Players came from 27 countries to take part in the tournaments.



32 tables covered the floor of the convention hall at the World Golf Village Renaissance Resort.

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Ryan Murphy with mascot Bubbles



Swim lesson in progress



Ryan Murphy with Goldfish students.

Olympic medalist and family open Goldfish Swim School

Nine-time Olympic medalist and world champion swimmer Ryan Murphy, his parents Pat and Katy Murphy, and grandfather Mike Sullivan have opened Goldfish Swim School — St. Johns, located at 2420 County Road 210 W.

Founded by parents for parents with The Science of SwimPlay, Goldfish Swim School focuses on teaching through guided play, a practice backed by science for its efficacy in learning to swim. The new swim school offers a 90-degree heated indoor swimming pool, air-conditioned viewing facility, state-of-the-art water purification, private space for parties and events, private changing rooms, hair and swimsuit drying stations, and more.

“I have led and observed countless swim lessons throughout my career, and the curriculum and culture that Goldfish Swim School offers is second to none,” Ryan Murphy said. “My family is proud to own this new school to spread the importance of safe swimming and water



Ryan Murphy a swim book he authored as a child

safety in our hometown.”

As the first franchise location in Northeast Florida, Goldfish Swim School welcomes children as young as four months old, up to 12 years old. There are five class categories, divided by age and intensity: Mini, Junior, Glider, Pro and Swim Force. Most group classes have a ratio of four students per instructor.

For mini classes, a parent, grandparent or guardian is in the water with the



Contributed photos

Ryan and mom Katy Murphy with family.

little swimmer, whereas Swim Force is the most advanced pre-swim team level. All classes are staffed by highly trained

and trustworthy personnel. For additional safety measures, all lessons are also overseen by a lifeguard and a deck supervisor.

“Swim lessons are more important than ever, especially in Florida where we are surrounded by water,” said Katy Murphy. “We are honored to introduce a lifesaving skill to children across Northeast Florida through an interactive, safe environment that makes our students excited to come to swim lessons.”

Ryan Murphy has been a longtime advocate for water safety, working to increase access to swim lessons with the USA Swimming Foundation and as an ambassador for Speedo since 2017.

Unfortunately, drowning deaths are on the rise in the United States and drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1-4. However, research shows that you can reduce the risk of drowning by 88% for 1- to 4-year-olds who take formal swim lessons.

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Gateway Jax breaks ground on Pearl Square

Gateway Jax, a Jacksonville-based commercial real estate development firm sponsored by JWB Real Estate Capital and DLP Capital, broke ground Oct. 29 on Pearl Square, its inaugural project in Jacksonville.

Joined by Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan, Jacksonville City Council President Randy White, investors and downtown stakeholders, Gateway Jax leaders celebrated the start of construction on the project's first building located at 515 Pearl St., and bound by Pearl, Church, Ashley and Julia streets.

The ceremony marked the official beginning of an unprecedented mixed-use development in the urban core, which will total an estimated \$2 billion in capital investment over the next decade.

"Transformation takes experience, financial resources and relentless support. Thankfully, our project has benefited from all three over the past two years," said Bryan Moll, CEO of Gateway Jax. "From city support to neighborhood backing, public-private partnerships are a key ingredient in making projects like this possible. We know downtown — and Jacksonville as a whole — is ready for this type of development, and we, along with our investors and sponsors, are honored to be among its most determined champions."

"A vibrant downtown is a hallmark of a thriving city," said Deegan. "Breaking ground on Pearl Square is another important step toward the revitalized downtown we all want to see. We believe in the vision that Gateway Jax has for activating the urban core and its surrounding areas. This project can and will spark even more growth — both downtown and across our city."

The project was announced in September 2023 and subsequently received unanimous approval by the Downtown Development Review Board and incentive packages authorized by the Downtown Investment Authority that garnered unanimous approval from the



Jacksonville City Council.

The approved legislation included approval of an incentive package totaling \$98.5 million, comprising \$59.6 million in Recapture Enhanced Value grants over 17 years and \$38.9 million in completion grants, which are not paid until the projects are complete and on the city's tax rolls.

"Projects like Pearl Square can completely reshape a city," said White. "Gateway Jax's leadership team brings experience with similar scale developments across the country. That previous work, combined with their passion for Jacksonville's future, reinforces their ability to bring this to fruition and create exciting new spaces within our city."

Pearl Square will deliver more than 1,250 new residential units; approximately 200,000 square feet of retail space; vibrant new public spaces, including widened and shaded sidewalks; lush public park spaces; and a signature curbside festival street with abundant outdoor dining possibilities. The development will include everything an individual may need on a daily basis, including retail tenants like a full-service grocer, a

high-end fitness club, grab-and-go bodegas, restaurants and other daily service providers like salons and shops. The walkable urban neighborhood will be a destination for Jacksonville residents to live, work and play.

The project designer of 515 Pearl is SK+I Architecture, with interiors by Streetsense. Jacksonville-based FaverGray is the general contractor, with civil engineering provided by England-Thims & Miller (ETM). Leasing of the project's retail spaces will be led by Colliers' Urban Division. The new parks and public spaces will be designed by Hoerr Schaudt.

This project represents the first phase of a broad-scale development vision. To date, Gateway Jax has acquired holdings that span 28 city blocks in downtown Jacksonville. At full build-out, the redevelopment is expected to create approximately 2,700 permanent jobs and spur more than \$750 million in annual economic impact.

"We are proud to be one of the sponsors of this incredible project that will spark a true metamorphosis in downtown Jacksonville," said Alex Sifakis, founding partner of JWB Real Estate Capital. "Bryan and his team have developed a once-in-a-generation project here in the core of our city. Today is a vital step in the process of reimagining the future of Jacksonville."

"Pearl Square represents more than just a new development — it's a bold step forward in reshaping the future of downtown Jacksonville," said Don Wenner, founder and CEO of DLP Capital. "At DLP, we are committed to investing in projects that create lasting impact, and Gateway Jax is the perfect partner in this transformational journey. Together, we are building not just buildings but opportunities for people to thrive, work and live in a vibrant, interconnected community."

For more information on Gateway Jax and the Pearl Square project, go to pearlsquare.com.




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St. Vincent's Southside



St. Vincent's Clay County

Ascension St. Vincent's Southside, Clay County earn 'A' grades

St. Vincent's Southside and Clay County have earned an A fall 2024 Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization that grades nearly 3,000 general hospitals throughout the United States. St. Vincent's Riverside improved to a B grade for fall 2024.

The Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to all general acute care hospitals across the country. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program exclusively

based on hospital prevention of medical errors, infections and injuries.

"We're blessed to see sustained success at Clay County and improvements in our safety grades at Riverside and Southside," said Dr. Mario Pulido, St. Vincent's chief medical officer. "These grades are a result of the hard work and attentiveness of our physicians, care teams and associates who put the safety and wellbeing of our patients first."

St. Vincent's Southside and Clay County are among fewer than 30% of

hospitals nationwide to achieve a fall 2024 A. In Florida, the hospitals are two of only 71 to achieve an A.

The grading system is peer-reviewed and open to public scrutiny. Hospital Safety Grade results are based on more than 30 national performance measures and are updated each fall and spring.

"Achieving an A Hospital Safety Grade is a significant accomplishment for St. Vincent's Southside and Clay County," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "It

reflects enormous dedication to your patients and their families, and your whole community should be proud. I extend my congratulations to St. Vincent's, its leadership, clinicians, staff and volunteers for their tireless efforts to put patients first."

St. Vincent's was also recognized as a top 15 health system in the country for 2024 by Fortune and PINC AI.

To see full grade details for St. Vincent's hospitals, go to HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

Grantham recognized with nursing award

Contributed photos



Linda Grantham

Linda Grantham, R.N., has been honored as the UF Health St. Johns DAISY Award recipient for the second quarter of 2024. The DAISY Award is an international program that celebrates the kindness and care nurses give each day by recognizing one special nurse who went above and beyond for a patient.

In her nomination, Grantham's patient, Barbara Day, described her as someone who is "kind, caring and so much more." Day said Grantham checked in on her often, always ensuring she was comfortable and had everything she needed and sending her off at discharge with a big hug and words of encouragement for her recovery.

Being acknowledged with a DAISY award is "truly an honor," Grantham said. "I was so surprised by this recognition but very honored. I came to nursing as a second career, and I just love this job and this hospital."

This DAISY Award recognizing Grantham is a reminder that exemplary care isn't only about medical knowledge; a nurse's compassion and support can also make a big impact.

"Linda is an exceptional nurse who cares deeply about every single one of her patients. She's an example of the kind of personalized care we strive to give everyone who comes through our doors," said Michelle Paulo, R.N., interim vice president of nursing at UF Health St. Johns.

In recognition of this honor, Grantham received a stone-carved "Healer's Touch" trophy, a DAISY winner's pin, a gift basket and a \$200 bonus.

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation, based in California, was established by J. Mark Barnes and his family in memory of his son J. Patrick Barnes. J. Patrick died in 1999 of complications from an autoimmune disease. The nursing care he and his family received inspired them to thank nurses for the profound difference they make in patients' lives.



Linda Grantham with her patient, Barbara Day

Vested Metals expands into new Fort Wayne location

Vested Metals is a raw material specialty steel and metals supplier with expertise in the medical, defense and government contracting, aerospace, industrial, energy, automotive and transportation markets. With its headquarters in historic St. Augustine, Vested Metals has continued to be a growing force in the local business community. It recently announced it is expanding with a dedicated Sales and Service Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which officially opened in October.

“This new location will allow us to expand our product offering and capabilities and better service our customers in the Midwest and beyond,” said Viv Helwig, president of Vested Metals. “It’s a major step in expanding our footprint and increasing our efficiency. Fort Wayne is a strategic nexus for our customers west of the Mississippi. It’s within an hour of major manufacturing hubs like Chicago, Indianapolis and Detroit. It is also located next to Warsaw, Indiana, known as ‘The Orthopedic Capital of the World.’ This will help us reduce lead times and continue to offer competitive rates for high-quality products.”

The new center is a state-of-the-art powerhouse. With 20,000 square feet of space, the increased warehouse capacity



Contributed photo

Viv Helwig, president and founder of Vested Metals International

allows Vested Metal to stock a broader range of materials and greater inventory to fulfill customer orders. The large facility also allows for advanced process-

ing capabilities.

The center boasts cutting-edge processing saws, allowing precision cutting tailored to each customer’s needs and

space for tumbling services to refine a product’s finish. An upgraded packaging department allows staff to create custom packing solutions to ensure materials are safely and securely shipped. Additional capabilities will be offered, and for the first time, Vested Metals will offer local flatbed truck delivery of products on its own trucks and serviced by its staff.

Vested Metals was launched as a start-up in 2014 by Helwig and focused on raw material specialty metals and steel distribution, value-added processing and metallurgical consulting. Vested Metals has earned a spot on Inc. Magazine's 5000 fastest-growing companies list five years in a row (2019-2023).

“We are thrilled to join the business community in Fort Wayne,” said Helwig. “Something we take pride in at Vested Metals is doing good where we do business. Our first and most important core value is ‘People Are Forever.’ We’re excited to become a part of a growing community and be active partners in its success.”

Vested Metals’ new Sales and Service Center is located at 6450 Innovation Blvd., Suite 102, in Fort Wayne. They celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 24, and are planning a future open house.

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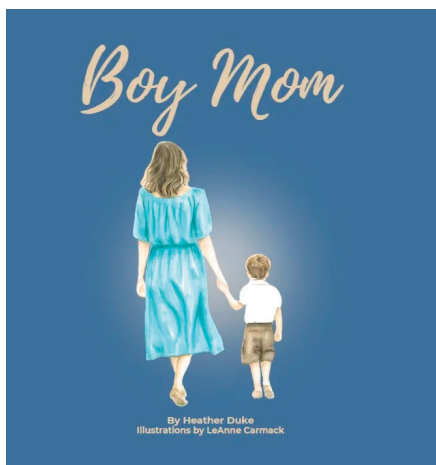
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Local author plans family-centered book launch party

“Boy Mom,” a new children’s book by local author Heather Duke, is celebrating its official launch with a fun and interactive book launch party at The Little Social in Ponte Vedra. This heartwarming event is set for 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, and promises to be a memorable experience for moms and their young sons.

Duke, a mom of two boys and founder of Heather Duke Stories, will read her latest book aloud to guests in a cozy and engaging setting. The event will also feature a meet-and-greet with both Duke and the book’s illustrator, LeAnne Carmack, and a craft art activity for children. Each ticket includes one signed copy of “Boy Mom,” making it the perfect opportunity for local families to connect with the author and celebrate the special bond between mothers and sons.

“We’ve all heard the phrase ‘Mom’s



little boy’ — and this book captures that relationship beautifully, from the tender moments of morning hugs to the quiet bedtime snuggles,” said Duke. “I can’t wait to share ‘Boy Mom’ with local families and celebrate what it means to be a boy mom.”

The Little Social is a vibrant indoor playground where children can play and parents can relax. This inviting space in Ponte Vedra is the perfect venue for this family-friendly celebration. It is located at 145 Hilden Road, Unit 122, Ponte Vedra.

Tickets are \$37.50 each, which

includes one adult and one child, a signed copy of “Boy Mom,” a live author reading and a craft art activity. Tickets can be purchased at <https://bit.ly/boymomparty>.

“Boy Mom” is a thoughtfully crafted, custom board book that celebrates the unique relationship between mothers and their young sons. Written in rhyme and designed for small hands, its comforting narrative and vibrant illustrations will help little ones and their moms feel seen, heard and loved.

An Orange Park-based author, Duke’s debut children’s book, “Two Shoes,” was inspired by her passion for storytelling and her desire to create books that bring joy to both children and parents. With “Boy Mom,” she continues her mission to inspire young readers and foster a lifelong love of literature.

The Little Social, an upscale children’s play café, is a space where children can learn, explore and socialize in a safe and stimulating environment. The Little Social offers parents a sophisticated and relaxing retreat while their little ones enjoy a variety of engaging activities. Learn more at www.thelittlesocial.com.

Jazz Series opens with ‘Big Band Holiday’

The Jacksonville Symphony presents its 2024-25 JP Morgan Chase & Co. Jazz Series with three performances in Jacoby Symphony Hall. Curated by the Jacksonville Symphony’s Principal Tuba and Jacksonville Jazz Collective Director James Jenkins, this series features some of Northeast Florida’s finest jazz musicians.

This series recently launched during the 2023-24 season and, after much success, the symphony welcomes it back during its 75th Anniversary Season, starting with a fun new holiday show.

“What will Santa Claus say when he finds everybody in Jacoby Hall swinging?” said Jenkins. “We look forward to joyfully discovering the answer to this and other questions as we present holiday favorites in the big band style. Enjoy a little ‘Charlie Brown Xmas’ and Stan Kenton Band’s ‘O Holy Night,’” during “Big Band Holiday” on Sunday, Nov. 24.

Here’s a look at the 2024-25 JP Morgan Chase & Co. Jazz Series Schedule:

- “Big Band Holiday”: 3 p.m. Nov. 24. Featuring members of the Jacksonville Jazz Collective
- “Local Vocals”: 3 p.m. Jan. 26. Featuring members of the Jacksonville Jazz Collective and guest vocalists Linda Cole, Lisa Kelly and Bonnie Eisele.
- Latin Jazz Ensemble: 3 p.m. April 27. Featuring members of the Jacksonville Jazz Collective, guest vocalist and guitarist Goliath Flores and vocalist Michelle Manzo.

Tickets are available at JaxSymphony.org or by calling the box office at 904-354-5547. This concert series is sponsored by JP Morgan Chase & Co., and the “Big Band Holiday” program is part of the Greta Challen Berg Artist Series.



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“Beyond Triathlon” film star Dottie Dorion, center, and Bacardi team



“Beyond Triathlon” film star Dottie Dorion, center, surrounded by Volunteers in Medicine board and staff members



Photos by Verance Photography
Kevin Gay, Jesse Kraker, Ellen Wiss and Rob Kelly

‘Beyond Triathlon’ documentary debut raises \$30,000 for UNF

Dottie Dorion’s matching contribution helps fund scholarships

The “Beyond Triathlon” documentary made a profound impact at its debut screening last month at the University of North Florida’s Lazzara Performing Arts Center, raising nearly \$30,000 to support scholarships for female student-athletes. With close to 400 attendees, the event seamlessly combined film, philanthropy and celebration, all to empower the next generation of women athletes at UNF.

Thanks to a dollar-for-dollar match from the film’s star, Dottie Dorion, the total raised for scholarships doubled, amplifying the impact. Dorion, a trailblazer in master sports and devoted philanthropist, expressed her gratitude to the audience: “I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together. Supporting these

young women through scholarships means empowering the next wave of athletes and leaders.”

The documentary “Beyond Triathlon” captivated the audience with its inspiring portrayal of women excelling in master sports. The film features renowned athletes such as triathletes Dorion and Celeste Callahan, Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan and three-time Olympic gold medalist Nancy Hogshead. Narrated by pioneering athlete Sika Henry, the film provided an intimate look at the struggles and triumphs of female athletes who have paved the way in competitive sports.

UNF President Moez Limayem opened the event, speaking on the importance of the partnership between UNF and “Beyond Triathlon.” Limayem expressed his gratitude for Dorion’s unwavering support of UNF over the years, stating that her legacy has shaped much of what UNF does, especially in the area of athletics. He went on

to state that the funds raised would enable more female student-athletes to pursue their academic and athletic ambitions.

The event also featured a moving speech from Ashley Cozard, a recent UNF graduate and recipient of the Lisanne Dorion Scholarship, who spoke about the transformative impact the scholarship had on her education and athletic career. Cozard went on to thank Dorion for her support, which allowed her to pursue her dreams in the classroom and in the pool.

Bacardi played a central role in the event, sponsoring the “Triumphant Toast to Excellence” reception that followed the screening and the creation of an exclusive Spirit of A Woman blend. VP of Supply Chain Innovation Andy del Rosal recognized Dorion for her leadership and philanthropy and talked about how honored Bacardi was to partner with “Beyond Triathlon” and support the next generation of female sports leaders. He went on to say

that the event embodies Bacardi’s commitment to gender equality and community development.

He also presented Dorion with a proclamation from Deegan commemorating Oct. 12, 2024, as “Dottie Dorion Day.”

The success of the “Beyond Triathlon” documentary debut highlights the power of community and shared purpose.

“This event was more than just a film — it was about coming together to support and uplift future generations of female leaders,” said Niki Logoreci, executive director of the Jacksonville Film Festival, which presented the film.

“‘Beyond Triathlon’ is a wonderful history of the development of Master’s Women’s Sports as experienced firsthand by Celeste Callahan and me,” said Dorion. “The theme and our driving force was not to get accolades for our own sports achievements but to emphasize what it enabled us to do for others.”



“Beyond Triathlon” film stars Celeste Callahan and Dottie Dorion



Pictured from left: “Beyond Triathlon” producers Brian Bayerl and Chuck Malkus, and “Beyond Triathlon” film stars Dottie Dorion, Celeste Callahan and Olympic gold medalist Nancy Hogshead



University of North Florida student athletes greet guests upon arrival for the screening.



“Beyond Triathlon” event producer Cindy Cooper, Jacksonville Film Festival Executive Director Niki Logoreci, Paige Ludecke, Dr. Leslie Gordon and Bacardi representative Lynn Bauman



Bacardi VP of Supply Chain Innovations Andy del Rosal and “Beyond Triathlon” star Dottie Dorion



Guests enjoy taking selfies and downloading photos at Bacardi’s #DOWHATMOVESYOU photo backdrop

Sports

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Eleven Ponte Vedra High lacrosse signees gathered at Vincenzo's Italian Restaurant for a special signing day ceremony on Nov. 13.



Ponte Vedra girls lacrosse head coach Dan Toole speaks prior to the players signing.



Ryker Kemp, Mason Hauseman and Camden Ezring in the moments leading up to signing their college commitments.

Photos by Anthony Richards

Bevy of Sharks' lacrosse players shoot and score on signing day

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra lacrosse program produced its share of college signees this year with 11 players signing to play college lacrosse.

The signees gathered at Vincenzo's Italian Restaurant for a special signing day ceremony on Nov. 13.

Those signing included five from the Sharks' girls lacrosse program with Hannah Toole going to Florida State; Ashley Albert, Taylor Burke and Aubrey Schmidt signing to Embry-Riddle; and Abby Paul deciding to go to Lynn University.

According to Toole, she is excited to sign with Florida State because they are a new program, and she is looking forward to leaving her mark as they grow.

"I'm excited to be part of something new, and it's going to be a really cool experience," Toole said. "I'm sure its going to be a lot of work, but I'm excited to

get started."

For Paul, it was her visit to Lynn that led her to believing it was the right fit for her.

"The biggest thing that drew me to Lynn is the team community they have there," Paul said. "I just loved how close they all were and the connection they had with the coaches. And the location (in Boca Raton) is very beautiful."

Embry-Riddle was always a school Schmidt was interested in because of her goal to become a commercial airline pilot.

However, she is also happy that she gets the opportunity to continue playing lacrosse at the next level while she works on getting her degree.

"I'm really excited just to learn new things and just push myself even further," Schmidt said.

Six players signed from the boys team on the night, including Ryker Kemp with Utah; Jackson Hume with Lynn; Brody

Murchison with Methodist University; Blake Powers with Sewanee, Camden Ezring with Anderson University and Mason Hauseman with Jacksonville University.

"It's great to have finally signed," Ezring said. "It's a real weight off your shoulders and I just want to thank Anderson for the opportunity."

Prior to the recruiting process Kemp had never been to Utah, but now he will spend his next four years in the state after committing to the University of Utah.

Although it may be far from Florida, he is anxious to play for one of the contending teams nationally every year.

"There always in the playoffs and they're always giving it a run for their money," Kemp said. "One of my friends from Ponte Vedra, Freddie DiMarzo, is on the team and he just loves it there."

The recruiting process is uniquely different for each person and for Hauseman

he decided the best place for him to continue his career was by staying in town and going to Jacksonville University.

"My dad went there, so that was a big impact, and the group of guys I met on my first visit just made me feel at home and fall in love with the campus," Hauseman said.

Although the Dolphins are a smaller school they are a fearless program in many ways as they do not shy away from scheduling contest against national powers and have developed a strong lacrosse tradition over the years.

"They play Duke and all these other big schools every year, and they are on the winning end in a lot of those games," Hauseman said.

Family and friends filed into Vincenzo's to be part of the signing ceremony, and that support will surely be with the student-athletes throughout their college careers as well.



Ponte Vedra Croquet Club hosted Seahorse Tournament

The Ponte Vedra Croquet Club was thrilled to host the Second Annual Seahorse Tournament Oct. 30 to Nov. 3.

The prestigious golf croquet singles tournament brought in over 48 players from around the world of all competitive levels and gave them the opportunity to showcase their croquet skills in a friendly and spirited atmosphere.

Photos courtesy of Ponte Vedra Croquet Club





The Panthers host the Oakleaf Knights in the second round of the Class 6A football playoffs on Nov. 22.



The Sharks travel to take on No. 1 seed Niceville on Nov. 22.

Photos by Anthony Richards

Panthers, Sharks ready for round two

By Anthony Richards

It is onto the second round and both the Ponte Vedra Sharks and Nease Panthers are still alive and looking to continue advancing through the state playoffs.

After handling business against the Tate Aggies, the No. 1-ranked Nease Panthers (10-0) will take on the Oakleaf Knights (8-3) from nearby Clay County, as the Knights defeated the Mandarin Mustangs 17-14.

Both teams came about their wins in different ways as the Knights survived a battle against the Mustangs, while the Panthers established an early lead and never looked back against the visiting Aggies.

The Panthers could not have started the postseason any better as they kicked things off by playing a complete game where the offense and defense both produced seam-

lessly.

K.J. Perry made the most of his carries, scoring two touchdowns on nine carries, while quarterback Nate Harry was a calm customer in the pocket completing 15 of 17 pass attempts for three touchdowns, all to Maddox Spencer.

Spencer took over the game at points and was hard to defend for the Aggies, as he finished with eight catches for 171 yards and the scores.

His performance will surely have the Knights focused even more on him than they already would have been, which is a dangerous proposal for the Knights, as it will open up opportunities for the various other Panthers' receivers who have shown the ability to threaten defenses throughout the year.

Defensively, the Panthers forced three turnovers and will give another stiff test for Oakleaf junior quarterback Jack McKissock and the Knights offense.

The Knights had scored more than 30 points in six games during the regular season, but they struggled to score against teams like Mandarin, Fleming Island and Hawthorne, who are all on par with the Panthers.

Speaking of defense, the Sharks are coming off a historic night on that side of the ball with eight sacks against Beachside, including five for senior Ryker Kemp.

The Sharks (9-2) will need that effort to carry over into the second round when they go on the road to face the Class 5A top-seeded Niceville Eagles (10-1).

It is a long trip out to the Florida

Panhandle, but it is not something Kemp is worried about, as he feels the team is prepared for it following their regular season matchup against IMG Academy White a couple weeks ago when they came back with a victory after going to Bradenton.

Now is the time where the experience the Sharks gained from that road trip will come into play and could be the difference in how they handle adversity and the process that goes into a five-hour-plus trip.

On offense, the Sharks have found their groove for some time now and their confidence appears higher than ever, after Drew Price threw for five touchdowns and Brian Case rushed for 193 yards and a score in the first round.

Both games will be played on Nov. 22 with kickoff at 7 p.m.

Students celebrate signing day across area



Members of the Ponte Vedra High, Nease High and Beachside High swim teams signed to swim at the college level during a ceremony at Planet Swim where they each train.



Episcopal School athletes signed to various colleges on signing day.

POSTSEASON PRODUCES SHARE OF PLAYMAKERS



Maddox Spencer was focused in during the first-round matchup.

The Nease Panthers and Ponte Veda Sharks both gave their fanbases plenty to cheer as they each earned home victories in the first round of the football playoffs. Below are photos recapping the action-packed night.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Noah Hodge tackles a ball carrier as the rest of the Panthers' defense swarms.



K.J. Perry (No. 7) follows a block from Quinn Cullum on a run.



Brayden Felder gets yards after a catch.



Senior quarterback Drew Price and the Sharks' offense got rolling in the second half and blew out the Beachside Barracudas in the first round of the playoffs on Nov. 15.



Senior defensive lineman Ryker Kemp (No. 51) had five sacks in the game and became Ponte Veda High's all-time leader in career sacks.



Brian Case turns the corner on a long run down the sideline.



Sharks' defensive back Cooper Sobieck (No. 36) is in perfect position for a pass breakup.

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

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FROZEN DESSERT WORD SEARCH

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

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

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| BANANA SPLIT | COOKIE DOUGH | ICE MILK | SHERBET |
| BROWNIE | CUP | ICES | SORBET |
| CHERRY | FROZEN YOGURT | MIXED | SPRINKLES |
| CHOCOLATE SYRUP | GELATO | NUTS | SUNDAE |
| COLD | HOT FUDGE | PEANUT BUTTER | WAFFLE |
| CONE | ICE CREAM | REFRESHING | WHIPPED CREAM |

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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						

ACROSS

- Defunct airline
- Beverage container
- A team's best pitcher
- Unit of liquid capacity
- It comes before two
- Male child
- Type of wheat
- One's mother
- Upper side of an organism
- United is one
- Extraction process
- A being with lesser divine status
- People living together in a community
- Luxury automaker
- This (Spanish)
- Semitic language
- Period for a defined purpose
- Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure
- Up in the air (abbr.)
- American marsupial
- Decadent dessert
- Aquatic plant
- About aviation
- Summer footwear
- Rugged mountain ranges
- With tin
- Cut on the surface of a hard object
- Wrapped in cloth
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- "American Idol" contestant Clay
- Midway between east and southeast
- Court decision "___ v. Wade"
- Born of
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Actress ___Margaret
- Not even

DOWN

- Guatemalan town
- Of funny things
- Actress ___ de Armas
- Agents of one's downfall
- Takes forcibly
- Body lice
- Large nest of a bird of prey
- Unhappy
- Popular holiday dessert
- Habitual drunkard
- Used of a number or amount not specified
- Complications
- Fail to win
- Before the present
- Musical genre
- Flurry
- 007's creator
- Indiana Pacer Toppin
- Midway between north and northeast
- Feeling
- Damage another's reputation
- Mottled citrus fruit
- Beauty product
- They man first, second and third
- Harness
- Herb
- Expressed concern
- Mississippi scientific area (abbr.)
- Consumed
- Nostrils
- Gathered fallen leaves
- Express good wishes
- Monetary unit of Brunei
- Japanese Buddhist festival

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

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!

Level: Advanced

DOWN

- Heat unit
- ___ Faulkner, American writer



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