

the

register

FIRST ON THE FIRST COAST

Home
for the
Holidays

**FEATURING
HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS**

+

SEASON OF GIVING

**WINE & DINE ON
THE FIRST COAST**

AND MUCH MORE!

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

PRO-VISION PAINTING

#1 PAINT COMPANY IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH

REFRESH
YOUR HOME

All you need is a little paint.

INTERIOR
EXTERIOR
CABINET REFINISHING



WWW.PROVISIONPAINTS.COM



(904) 760-4333



82 San Juan Drive

4BD | 4.5 BA | 3312sf | \$2,999,000

Welcome to this charming custom-built home nestled in the highly desired area of Old Ponte Vedra, offering unparalleled privacy with lush landscape and gorgeous golf course views. The property boasts just under a half an acre, with a large circular drive, side-entry garage and no immediate neighbor to the north. The first floor has 2 bedrooms with ADA compliant doorways and barrier free showers in both full baths and the second floor has 2 more ensuite bedrooms. Mature trees and landscaping provide a tranquil oasis right outside your door.



330 Ponte Vedra Blvd.

\$5,300,000

Priced \$200,000 below Appraisal Value!

Rare opportunity to purchase a cleared lot on the west side of the Boulevard in Ponte Vedra Beach and build your dream home from the ground up. With 0.54 acres and 100 ft. frontage on the Blvd., this lot backs up to the 3rd green of the PVIC Ocean Course and is just 12 lots south of the Club. Easy beach access!



10 Lake Terrace

0.47 Acres | 170 Ft. on Lagoon
SOLD FOR \$2,275,000

Discover the perfect canvas to build your dream home on the expansive 1/2 acre lot, ideally situated in the highly desired area of Old Ponte Vedra. Tucked away on a quiet cul-de-sac with 170 ft. on the lagoon, just a short walk or bike ride to the beach and the prestigious Ponte Vedra Inn and Club.

FROM COTTAGES TO CASTLES beachshomes.com

elizabeth hudson
904.553.2032



sarah alexander
904.334.3104



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES
FLORIDA NETWORK
REALTY



HUDGINS + ALEXANDER

#1 TOP PRODUCING TEAM! Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices • Florida Network Realty

© 2023 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc.* Equal Housing Opportunity. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your home is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation.

staff

Hugh Osteen
COO/VP

Susan Griffin
Publisher

Amber Anderson
Page/Graphic Designer

Lisa Murphy
Ad Designer

Shaun Ryan
Editor

Anthony Richards
Staff Writer

Holly Tishfield
Staff Writer

April Snyder
Sales Assistant

Kristin Flanagan
Account Executive

Melissa Domingues
Account Executive

Joe Wilhelm
Circulation Manager

Contributors:
Leigh Cort
Janet Westling

about the cover



The photo on the cover was provided by The Social Society.

Read more about *The Social Society* on page 40.

- 6** ONE OF US: Dana Stallings
- 8** Spanish Colonial home a coastal gem
- 10** Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa plans holiday happenings
- 16** Kilmeade to bring tour to Jacksonville
- 18** Winners on the field, life make up hall of fame class
- 20** Gators, Bulls kick off season with showcase in Jacksonville



PHOTO BY SUSAN GRIFFIN

Caring Chefs — Page 22

Season of Giving

22 Caring Chefs celebrates 40-year tradition of giving

23 425 wishes granted

24 \$323,000 Raised to Support Crucial Programs for At-Risk Jacksonville Youth

Wine & Dine

26 TABLE TALK: The Artistry of Popcorn

28 Savoring Southern flavors and wildlife wonders at Whiskey, Wine and Wildlife

30 FROM HOBBY TO HIT: Charcuterie boards inspired by business owner's heritage

31 Whiskey Cake Kitchen & Bar hosts VIP party ahead of opening

32 TABLE TALK: Ooh! It's frozen custard like they made a century ago



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Presentation is as important as flavor. — Page 30

34 Holiday Happenings

37 Event staffing company fuels small businesses, student growth

38 The Ritz-Carlton hosts busy season of holiday events

40 The Social Society becomes Nocatee's new destination for celebrations

42 Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras plan six concerts

43 'Dickens on Center' — 10 years of spirited fun

ADVERTISING (904) 285-8831 | DISTRIBUTION (904) 285-8831

PUBLISHED BY OSTEEN MEDIA GROUP INC - LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
PONTE VEDRA RECORDER, 1102 A1A North, Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
www.pontevedrarecorder.com

The Register is published bimonthly.

JACKSONVILLE, YOUR BEST SKIN IS WAITING.

AVONDALE | FERNADINA BEACH | PONTE VEDRA | ST. AUGUSTINE | ST. JOHNS TOWN CENTER
ATLANTIC BEACH COMING SOON



YOUR ALLY IN AESTHETICS.
SKINCARE | INJECTABLES | BODY

Elase[®]
MED SPA

ONE OF US

Dana Stallings

as told to **HOLLY TISHFIELD**
Contributed photo

Dana Stallings, a seasoned Jacksonville entrepreneur, owns a Kilwins store in the St. Johns Town Center and is preparing to open her second location in St. Johns County.

Tell me about your background.

I've lived in Jacksonville for a little over 30 years. We moved here because my husband was in the Navy, and we raised both of our children here, who now have children of their own. I've kind of been an entrepreneur all my life. I owned and operated a children's daycare center for over 20 years, and in the midst of that I realized that I wanted to do something different, which is when I opened my first Kilwins. My husband became an attorney after leaving the military, and now he handles that kind of piece of our business, as well.

What inspired you to open your own Kilwins?

Well, we always used to go to St. Augustine Kilwins stores. At that time, we didn't even know that it was a franchise, but it was around that same time that I realized I wanted to do something different, other than childcare. We had talked about getting into the diner business or something, because when I was growing up, I used to work in a diner, and I always loved that. We happened to be talking and having that conversation at a Kilwins and we looked on the wall and there was a map that said, "Own your own Kilwins." We picked up the brochure that night and went home, submitted an inquiry, and they called us the next day.

Can you tell me more about Kilwins?

Kilwins is a chocolate, fudge and ice cream shop. It's a franchise. We opened in the St. Johns Town Center when the



shopping center first opened, so just about 20 years ago. It's been a great business for us and just a lot of fun because the whole family can work at it. Our girls kind of grew up working in it.

And now you own two Kilwins locations. Tell me about your new store.

Yes! Two months ago we opened a second Kilwins location on County Road 210, in St. Johns, and it's the first Kilwins with a drive-through, the first stand-alone location. It's been a big adventure for us because at first the franchise didn't really believe in doing a drive-through, but we thought: Why not? Everybody wants to stay in their cars and use a drive-through.

It's all new to us; even though a drive-through isn't new to most people, it's new to our Kilwins family. It's proved to be a great destination. It's just so fun to have the area.

How is your new location unique?

This new store is twice the size of our Town Center location. It has indoor and outdoor seating, which is just awesome. There aren't very many days that it's a perfect day to sit outside and eat ice cream, right? This location, because it's twice as big, it's just easier to see all the products, and thanks to all the windows it's

very bright inside!

What do you like the best about what you do?

I've always loved food, baking and cooking. It's just fun because people come in and they're excited. It's a place where you create memories with families. They come in because they want a sweet treat, or it's somebody's birthday, or there's a celebration. In the new location, we see so many grandparents bring in their grandchildren. We just love seeing them sit at the table.

O'STEEN

VOLVO

CARS OF JACKSONVILLE

Sign & Drive Holiday Sales Event



on any new XC90, XC60, or XC40*

\$0 down, \$0 due at signing, and \$0 first payment

OSTEENVOLVO.COM | 10863 PHILIPS HIGHWAY, JACKSONVILLE

*Previous model year shown. Advertiser offer does not include taxes, title, registration, license, and other retailer fees which may be due and payable upfront. The Volvo Sign & Drive offer is available towards the lease of a new 2024 or 2025 XC40 B5, XC60 B5 & T8, or XC90 B5, B6 & T8 through Volvo Car Financial Services (VCFS). For example, for a 2025 XC90 T8 Ultra monthly payment of \$1033 for 36 months based on \$80,895 MSRP; for a 2025 XC60 T8 Ultra monthly payment of \$905 for 36 months based on \$69,145 MSRP; and for a 2025 XC40 B5 Ultra monthly payment of \$745 for 36 months based on \$50,595 MSRP. Offer available to qualified customers. Not everyone will qualify. No security deposit required. A noncash credit equal to the amount of the first payment is disclosed on the VCFS lease agreement at time of signing. Minimum lease agreement term is 24 months. Offer expires January 2, 2025. See your participating Volvo Cars retailer for details. See O'Steen Volvo Cars of Jacksonville for details. All rights reserved. All logos used with permission.

5X CARFAX
TOP-RATED
DEALER
2019 • 2020 • 2021 • 2022 • 2023

Discover
Limitless
Luxury





Spanish Colonial home A COASTAL GEM

story by **JACK FLOYD**
Contributed photos



This exquisite Spanish Colonial jewel is partially surrounded by an ancient oak forest. It is situated 30 feet above the ocean on one of the highest dunes in the area and straddles two lots, giving it 320 feet of beach frontage and some of the most magnificent views on the Northeast Florida coast. It's secluded but close to all the major amenities of Ponte Vedra Beach and located one mile south of Mickler's Landing away from the beach crowds.

This custom 10,000-square-foot home with five bedrooms and four-and-a-half baths was designed by Hansen Architects of Savannah and built by Dana B. Kenyon Co. It is constructed from reinforced poured concrete and concrete block with concrete and rebar filled cells. From its Spanish terracotta tile roof to its basement wine cellar, this house is a stunner. Inside, it features an open design with beamed, vaulted ceilings as well as Spanish tile and teakwood flooring with Portuguese tile accents. The patio has a heated pool and spa with plenty of room for small gatherings.

Once you enter the residence you're greeted by a huge atrium with a fountain and hand-painted walls topped by a 15-by-25-foot skylight mounted 30 feet above the

sunlit, plant-filled atrium tile floor below. When you walk toward the living area, there is a formal dining room with a dramatic ocean view. Farther along you see an expansive living room seating area facing a massive woodburning fireplace. Above you, there are large wrought iron chandeliers hanging from the high ceiling. Those and all the other ornate wrought iron work such as railings, gates and some custom tables were hand crafted by blacksmith David Ponsler of Ponsler Metal Design.

As you walk toward the ground floor bedrooms there is a library/study with another woodburning fireplace bordered with decorative Portuguese tile. The complete interior of this room is lined with custom fabricated maple cabinetry and shelving. And high on the wall facing east there is a small stained-glass window, giving the room a splash of color from the outside morning sun.

There is also a master bedroom suite and two guest bedrooms downstairs, all with custom-designed Italian tile floors and showers in their respective bathrooms. There are two more bedrooms upstairs, both with balconies and panoramic ocean views. Both share a double bathroom with separate showers and custom Italian tile work. Finally, there is a modern kitchen with Sub Zero refrigerator and other modern appliances along with a kitchen dining area and informal bar seating.

And the best feature of all. This property is owned and being sold by The Sontag Foundation with all the sale proceeds going to fight brain cancer.

Offered at **\$25,500,000**
Represented by Michelle and Jack Floyd of "The Floyd Group"
One Sotheby's International Realty

TICKETS are NOW AVAILABLE for **THE HISTORY, LIBERTY & LAUGHS TOUR**

Brian Kilmeade combines the themes of his hit FOX NATION series with his best selling historic books for a patriotic LIVE stage show like no other.

Join Brian for a fun, engaging and motivational journey through America's remarkable past and how it relates to the issues of today. Don't miss this inspirational and immersive experience as he takes you inside his newest book!

Saturday, February 15, 2025
at the Florida Theater
8 East Forsyth Street, Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32202



VIP EXPERIENCE MEET BRIAN BEFORE SHOW!

Enjoy the BEST SEATS in the house and meet Brian Kilmeade for an Exclusive Pre-Show Meet & Greet and Intimate Q & A. Each VIP ticket holder receives an Autographed & Personalized Copy of Brian's newest book *Teddy and Booker T.* & a commemorative VIP Laminate.



**SCAN HERE TO GET
YOUR TICKETS!**



BRIAN KILMEADE

www.briankilmeade.com

SAWGRASS MARRIOTT GOLF RESORT & SPA PLANS HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

story by **HOLLY TISHFIELD**

photos courtesy of **SAWGRASS
MARRIOTT GOLF RESORT & SPA**

It's the most wonderful time of the year for holiday happenings at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa. Guests can look forward to a wide array of celebrations between now and the new year, with events that kick off as early as Thanksgiving Day.

On Thanksgiving Day, guests can head to 1912 Ocean Bar & Rooftop at the Sawgrass Marriott's Cabana Beach Club for an array of classic Thanksgiving dishes with a beautiful ocean view. Or, at the main resort, guests can stop into Vernon's First Coast Kitchen & Bar for a Thanksgiving Day buffet. Both restaurants are open for regular business hours.

Black Friday begins a beloved annual tradition, the Teddy Bear Tea, which will occur every Saturday between opening



day and Christmas Day. This exclusive tea party is a perfect holiday tradition to celebrate with the whole family. While enjoying a classic tea service, children can participate in holiday crafts and indulge in a selection of savory and sweet holiday treats. They'll even go home with a teddy bear to commemorate the special day.

The next day, continuing the weekend of holiday celebrations, Sawgrass Marriott will host its annual Christmas tree lighting and gingerbread creation reveal in the resort's lower lobby. Guests can expect a dazzling 30-foot tree, complimentary snacks and a champagne toast. Children may even glimpse the famed "Florida snow" on the outside lawn. During the tree lighting, Sawgrass Marriott is also previewing its new Christmas speakeasy.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 ■

A Portrait of Potential

The Episcopal experience means learning extends far beyond the classroom. Our graduates *Seek Understanding* as lifelong learners; *Develop a Sense of Self* earned through challenge; *Live with Honor and Purpose*, choosing to lead, do good, and serve others; and *Pursue a Life of Faith*, in a way meaningful to them while respecting the dignity of every human being. Across our Four Pillars — Academics, Athletics, Fine Arts, and Spiritual Life — Episcopal students find their passions while shaping who, not what, they will become.

Visit ESJ.org To *Explore Your Future*



EPISCOPAL
SCHOOL of JACKSONVILLE

MUNNERLYN

GRADES 6 – 12
4455 ATLANTIC BLVD.
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207
904.396.7104

ST. MARK'S

AGE 1 – GRADE 5
4114 OXFORD AVE.
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210
904.388.2632

BEACHES

PRE-K 3 – GRADE 5
450 11th AVE. NORTH
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250
904.246.2466

SAWGRASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

“We’ll have a lot of locals at the resort for the tree lighting; it’s become pretty popular,” said Sarah Lawrence, senior marketing manager at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa. “We figured we’d let our guests enjoy the speakeasy a little early.”

The Christmas speakeasy will open every Thursday night between the lighting and the Sunday before Christmas, offering guests a bright assortment of Christmas decorations, themed cocktails and cheery music. The speakeasy is open to the public and can be found by asking a staff member at the lower lobby bar for secret directions.

The resort’s Spa-liday event on Dec. 5 offers an open house experience at the serene spa, featuring giveaways, wine tastings, hors d’oeuvres, chair massages and more.

Finally, rounding out the holiday season, Vernon’s First Coast Kitchen & Bar will host a family-style Christmas Eve dinner and Christmas Day buffet. Guests can make reservations using Open Table and expect a delicious outro to the holiday season.



1912 | OCEAN BAR
& ROOFTOP

Sunday Brunch

11:00AM - 2:00pm

Sunday Football

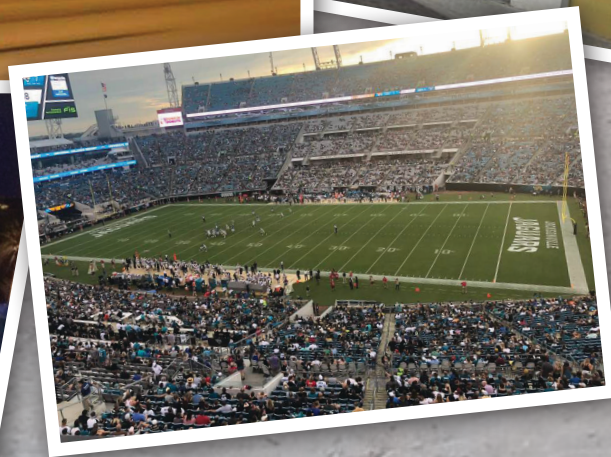
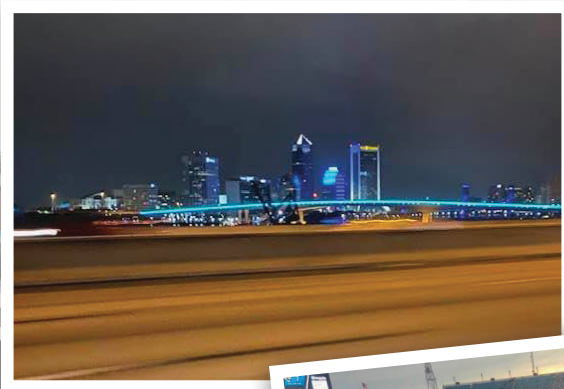
Special Rooftop Menu 1:00PM - 4:00pm

Happy Hour

New Hours 4:00PM - 7:00pm

2nd Floor Bar Only

FACES OF *The First Coast*



Faces Of The First Coast is an exclusive feature for First Coast Register readers to get to know prominent business leaders in Northeast Florida's coastal communities.

If you would like to be featured in Faces of the First Coast, please contact us at (904) 285-8831.

**Paid advertisement*



Clareberryrealestate.com

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

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

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

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

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



FACES OF THE FIRST COAST

THE FACE OF LUXURY REAL ESTATE

Clare Berry

BERRY & CO. REAL ESTATE

(904) 382-5875

clare@clareberry.realtor

330 A1A North, Suite 305

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082





Christie Guerrero (L), Jay Henderlite (C), and Molly Sasso (R) have all achieved Board Certification in Marital and Family Law.

Jacksonville’s newest family law firm, Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite, is also its most credentialed. Molly Sasso, Christie Guerrero, and Jay Henderlite are all Board Certified in Marital and Family Law by the Florida Bar, which makes it the only law firm in Northeast Florida to boast three family law “experts” at its helm. Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite is an unparalleled provider of legal services in Northeast Florida which showcases not only the best legal talent the area has to offer, but a premium client experience that reflects the level of care we bring to every case. When choosing a law firm to assist you in challenging and uncertain times, SGH is the absolute top tier of family law practitioners in Northeast Florida.

Your experience working with the lawyers of SGH will be elevated above anything else the region has to offer. We are skilled advocates for those navigating the legal system in all types of family-related matters. Divorce, Adoption, Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Law, Paternity, LGBTQ+ Family Matters, and every family matter in between. If it’s related to dissolving, forming, or protecting family relationships, we are your local experts.



FACES OF THE
FIRST COAST

THE FACES OF
**FAMILY
LAW**

**SASSO
GUERRERO &
HENDERLITE**

.....
Southside/St.Johns/Beaches
9191 R G Skinner Pkwy, Suite 703
Jacksonville, FL 32256

**Downtown Jacksonville/
Urban Core**
218 E. Ashley St
Jacksonville, FL 32202

.....
(904) 619-1386
www.familylawyerjax.com



Eric Stratton
PRESIDENT, LEAD INCOME
PLANNER



Sam Magdalein
FOUNDING PARTNER, INVESTMENT
ADVISOR REPRESENTATIVE



Jake Blair
LEAD STRATEGIC ANALYST

Stratton & Co.: Your Partner for Retirement Planning

Stratton & Co., a second-generation, family-owned business, has been a cornerstone of financial and retirement planning in Northeast Florida since 2001. We pride ourselves on delivering tailored retirement strategies that not only protect your nest egg but also enhance your lifestyle throughout your retirement years. Our mission is to ensure that every client enjoys a secure, worry-free retirement by providing ongoing guidance and personalized advice.

MEET YOUR RETIREMENT TEAM

Stratton & Co. is unique, boasting a team of financial professionals who collaborate seamlessly to provide holistic retirement planning. Our team includes two principal owners serving as Senior Advisors. Eric Stratton, our founding partner, brings decades of expertise in retirement income planning. He is joined by Sam Magdalein, our Investment Advisor Representative, who has an extensive background in investment and portfolio management. Jake Blair, who joined our team in 2015, has played a crucial role in creating, implementing, and overseeing comprehensive retirement income strategies.

The synergy among Eric, Sam, and Jake ensures that each client receives a meticulously crafted retirement plan, addressing every aspect of financial security. This cohesive approach allows Stratton & Co. to offer personalized and effective solutions, providing income security and peace of mind throughout the retirement journey.

COMMITMENT TO NORTHEAST FLORIDA

For over two decades, Stratton & Co. has been deeply rooted in Northeast Florida, helping clients

achieve their dream retirement. We have guided hundreds through market complexities and life's unpredictable challenges, creating proactive strategies to support desired lifestyles throughout retirement.

TAILORED SERVICES FOR RETIREES

We understand that retirement is evolving, with earlier retirements and longer lifespans increasing financial complexities. Issues like inflation and market volatility pose significant risks. Our team consistently crafts predictable, reliable retirement forecasts, allowing clients to enjoy life without financial worries, even in uncertain times.

COLLABORATIVE TEAM APPROACH

Retirement planning at Stratton & Co. is a collaborative effort. Rather than working with a single advisor, you benefit from the specialized expertise of our entire team. From investment review to income plan creation and ongoing implementation, we ensure every aspect of your plan is meticulously managed. Our philosophy emphasizes listening to fully understand your needs and develop a personalized strategy.

EXCEPTIONAL CLIENT SERVICE

Our clients value the personal touch at Stratton & Co. You can always speak to a real person, not just during scheduled events or annual reviews, offering a refreshing change in today's impersonal financial services industry.

DISCOVER THE STRATTON & CO. DIFFERENCE

If you're approaching or in retirement and want

to secure your financial future, contact us for a complimentary introductory call or meeting. With no account minimums and no cost or obligation, learn if Stratton & Co. is the right fit for your financial needs. We're excited to help you live your retirement, your way!

**FACES OF THE
FIRST COAST**

**THE FACES OF
RETIREMENT**

STRATTON & CO.

(904) 425-0943
9191 RG Skinner Pwky, Ste 502
Jacksonville, FL 32256

info@retirementteam.com
www.retirementteam.com

**Stratton &
Company**

Materials offered by Stratton & Company, including articles, booklets, and seminars are designed to provide general information on the subjects covered. They are not intended to provide specific financial, legal or tax advice. Stratton & Company provides insurance and annuities and its representatives do not give investment, legal or tax advice. You are encouraged to consult your tax advisor or attorney or investment advisor. By contacting us, downloading booklets, or attending events, you may be offered a meeting to discuss how our insurance services can meet your retirement needs. Investment advisory services offered by duly registered individuals through CreativeOne Wealth, LLC a Registered Investment Adviser. CreativeOne Wealth, LLC and Stratton & Company are unaffiliated entities.



KILMEADE TO BRING TOUR TO JACKSONVILLE

story by **SHAUN RYAN**
Contributed photos

📌 **FOX & Friends** co-host Brian Kilmeade will bring his “History, Liberty & Laughs Tour” to the Florida Theatre on Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available now at briankilmeade.com/tour.

Kilmeade brings together themes from his “FOX Nation” TV series and his bestselling history books for a live, patriotic stage show like no other. It promises to take the audience on a “fun, engaging and motivational journey through America’s remarkable past and how it relates to the issues of today.”

The event also incorporates a book tour for Kilmeade’s latest work. Ticket prices are \$49 and \$75.

Kilmeade is a busy man. He’s been on air six hours a day, five days a week since 2006. “FOX & Friends” runs from 6 to 9 a.m., and afterward, Kilmeade hosts his nationally syndicated radio program, “The Brian Kilmeade Show,” which local listeners can hear from 10 a.m. to noon on Jacksonville’s 104.5 WOKV.

Kilmeade also hosts “One Nation with Brian Kilmeade” at 9 p.m. Saturdays on the FOX News Channel, as well as “What Made America Great” on “FOX Nation.”

In what counts for his spare time, Kilmeade has written seven books, six of which have been New York Times bestsellers: “The Games Do Count,” “It’s How You Play the Game,” “George Washington’s Secret Six,” “Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates,”

“Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans,” “Sam Houston and the Alamo Avengers” and “The President and the Freedom Fighter.”

Joining Kilmeade on his stage show will be friends Rick Fatscher and Patrick O’Rourke. Together, they bring to life moments in history when Americans have made critical decisions that continue to affect us today.

The Florida Theatre is located at 128 E. Forsyth St., Suite 300, Jacksonville. The box office phone number is 904-355-2787.

A VIP Experience is also available. That includes an exclusive pre-show meet-and-greet and a personalized copy of Kilmeade’s latest book, “Teddy and Booker T.,” as well as a commemorative VIP laminate.

Selling Ponte Vedra Beach 32082 - Enjoy Seaside Living Year Round



2375 Ponte Vedra Blvd
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082



4 bathrooms a large living room den, sunroom, family room and updated kitchen with designer appliances. The beautiful dining room is ideally located overlooking the pool on one side and off the chef’s kitchen at the other end offering the ultimate dining venue.

26 Maria Place
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
4 Beds | 4 Baths | 4,979 sq. ft. | \$4,200,000

Located in coveted Old Ponte Vedra Beach, 26 Maria Place lies in the perfect location within walking distance to the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and the Lodge. With almost 5,000 square feet of spacious living, this home includes outdoor living with three outdoor patios, with a pool, a pergola and lagoon. This coastal home can accommodate a large family with space to entertain their friends that includes 4 bedrooms,



Janet Westling,
REALTOR®
GRI, CIPs, Luxury Collection Specialist



904.813.1913 Cell
www.janetwestling.com
Janet.Westling@bhhsnfr.com



© 2023 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc. Equal Housing Opportunity. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your home is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation.

LIVE IN LUXURY

at Atwater of Nocatee



Resort Style Amenities & Community Spaces



Golf Course & Carts Available to Residents Onsite



Robust Activity Calendar of Events for All Ages

Voted Best of Nocatee Three Years in a Row!

Experience resort-style living at Atwater of Nocatee, where modern elegance and comfort blend seamlessly. Our multi-family apartment complex has been designed to offer an unparalleled lifestyle with luxury amenities and a vibrant community atmosphere.

Why Choose Us

Resort Amenities

Designed for those who crave resort-style living, blending luxury with the ultimate in comfort and convenience. Whether you're looking for sophisticated apartment homes or exceptional community experiences, Atwater delivers.

For a limited time, enjoy **2 MONTHS FREE** on one-bedroom apartments starting at \$1,799 and two-bedrooms starting at \$1,999. Sign an 18-month lease and unlock even more savings with a **3rd month FREE!**

Mention this ad and receive an **additional \$500** off on top of these incredible offers. It's the perfect time to move into your dream home at Atwater of Nocatee.

Contact us today at **(904) 715-4420** to schedule your tour and make award-winning, resort-style living a reality.

Award-Winning Living

Recognized for excellence in apartment living, Atwater of Nocatee has earned the prestigious Best of Nocatee award for three consecutive years. Atwater delivers award-winning living that exceeds expectations.

THE
ATWATER

Come discover why we've been voted Best of Nocatee for three consecutive years!
Contact us today at (904) 715-4420 to learn more!

(904) 715-4420 | www.AtwateratNocatee.com | 48 Pine Shadow Pkwy, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32081





Mike Peterson was joined by his sons on stage for a special moment.



The 2024 Georgia-Florida Hall of Fame class included Mike Fisher, Bill Goldberg, Fred Weary and Mike Peterson.



Bill Goldberg speaks about the honor of being in the Georgia-Florida Hall of Fame.

WINNERS ON THE FIELD, LIFE MAKE UP HALL OF FAME CLASS

story and photos by **ANTHONY RICHARDS**

The Georgia-Florida Hall of Fame inducted its 2024 class on Nov. 1, and the group can probably best be described as “winners.”

Fred Weary and Mike Peterson were introduced as the Florida Gators’ inductees, and both were teammates on defense when the Gators won the school’s first national championship in 1996.

Weary set a school record of 15 career interceptions and looked back on his first appearance in a game and how he inserted himself onto the field and wound up never losing his starting spot from then on.

“We ended up losing the game, but I ended up getting SEC defensive player of the week,” Weary said. “It was thanks to the confidence that I had, and I knew if I could just show them what I was doing in practice, I could also do it in the game. If you all have confidence in what you’re doing, I want you to please put your mind on it and go do it, because without that self-confidence I had, I wouldn’t be up here today.”

Peterson had Jacksonville ties from the time he spent in the NFL as a member with the Jaguars, and even had one of his former Jaguars’ teammates Marcus Stroud in attendance, which he made sure to mention during his acceptance speech with Stroud having played at Georgia.

“We all know Marcus likes to talk a lot, he’s a big d-lineman, and they always seem to like to talk,” Peterson chuckled. “But I figured out a trick if you want to get a former Georgia player to quit talking, just ask them what’s your record against the Gators? By the way, I’m 3-1 (against Georgia).”

However, Peterson was not the only one with Jacksonville close to his heart among this year’s inductees, as Jacksonville native and Bolles School graduate Mike Fisher represented the Bulldogs.

The defensive back is best known for being a member of the famed “Junkyard Dogs” defense at Georgia and for sealing the 1980 national championship with a late interception in the Sugar Bowl against Notre Dame.

Bill Goldberg was the second Georgia representative in this year’s class and is also a member of the WWE Hall of Fame after a career in professional wrestling and is an actor.

He played defensive tackle for the Bulldogs and went 3-1 against the Gators in the late ‘80s.

“I’m a defensive lineman, not a wrestler or an actor, or a commentator, and I will be one until the day I die,” Goldberg said. “I’m appreciative of that, proud of that, and thankful for that. I made it a mission of mine through all my exploits to try and set an example not just for kids, but for little Jewish kids to know that they could break the stereotype. That’s the great thing about football, it doesn’t matter who you or where you come from, it just matters who’s next to you and who you represent.”

ELLIE BING

A LIFESTYLE BOUTIQUE

clothing — jewelry — gifts — accessories



Ponte Vedra Beach
215 Tourside Dr,
Suite #1760
904-232-8866

Jacksonville Beach
Off Beach Blvd.,
21 12th St. South
904-249-6444

www.elliebing.com • @elliebing

THE SOCIAL SOCIETY

Your Party Starts Here



**PARTY
SUPPLIES**



**HOLIDAY
DECOR**



**UNIQUE
GIFTS**



**IN-STORE
EVENTS**



**BALLOON
BUNDLES**



**AND SO
MUCH MORE**

Join the Party

THESOCIALSOCIETY.COM
@SHOPTHESOCIALSOCIETY

300 PINE LAKE DR., STE. E104
PONTE VEDRA, FL





Alex Condon of the Gators (No. 21) fights for space under the basket against Quincy Ademokoya of the Bulls.



Walter Clayton Jr. shoots a jumper with a defender approaching.



The Florida Gators' pep band made the trip to Jacksonville.

GATORS, BULLS KICK OFF SEASON WITH SHOWCASE IN JACKSONVILLE

photos by ANTHONY RICHARDS

The Florida Gators defeated the South Florida Bulls 98-83 in the inaugural Jacksonville Sports Foundation Invitational at the VyStar

Veterans Memorial Arena on Nov. 4. It was the college basketball season opener for both teams.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 21 ■

Take Control of Your Life

Let go of self-sabotaging beliefs, anxieties, or behaviors that hold you back from the life you want.

Hypnosis can help you permanently update the software in your mind. Maybe you're facing a big test, surgery, weight loss, chronic illness, or want to improve your game. You are in control. It's not "woo-woo" – it's science.

Schedule a free consult today at:
www.wellmindedhypnosis.com

Well minded HYPNOSIS

Kati Lambert, MS, CCHt
Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist
Appointments available in-person or online.

JOIN US FOR THE 22ND ANNUAL GINGERBREAD EXTRAVAGANZA

DEC. 7-28

Delores Barr Weaver FOREVER EVENT FUND

OLD ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

KIDS DAY

SATURDAY, DEC. 14 / 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

SANTA CLAUS PHOTO OPI
FACE PAINTERS! FOOD TRUCK!

DATE NIGHTS

THURSDAY, DEC. 12 & 19 / 5:30-7:30 P.M.

SUPPORTED BY

VISIT JAXHISTORY.ORG /GBX2024

[first coast register]



De'Ante Green of South Florida hangs in the air while shooting a jumper.



It was a fun and vibrant atmosphere during the inaugural Jacksonville Sports Foundation Invitational.



Florida's Alijah Martin drives to the basket against Kasen Jennings.



Rueben Chinyelu blocks a shot for the Gators.

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



CABANA
BEACH CLUB

MEMBERSHIPS TO MATCH YOUR LIFESTYLE
www.sawgrassmarriottbeachclub.com



Kristi Collins- Membership Director
kristi.d.collins@marriott.com

[season of giving]



Caring Chefs was held at The Glass Factory in Jacksonville.



A sign made of florals and greenery welcomed guests to the event.



St. Augustine's SouLo Lyon provided live music.



Mel and Felicia Cox

CARING CHEFS CELEBRATES 40- YEAR TRADITION OF GIVING

photos by **SUSAN GRIFFIN**



Rebecca Mason and Susan Raiford



Trudy Touche and Nicole Lindo

Children's Home Society of Florida hosted its 40th Annual Caring Chefs event on Oct. 13, which has become a beloved tradition in Jacksonville over the years.

The fundraiser unites the area's finest chefs, sommeliers and brewers with guests and volunteers to help raise proceeds to benefit children and families across Northeast Florida.

For more than 120 years, Children's Home Society of Florida has been dedicated to supporting children and their families by fostering a legacy grounded in providing safety, security, hope and brighter futures.



Taverna Handcrafted Italian



Copeland's of New Orleans



Vernon's First Coast Kitchen & Bar at Sawgrass Marriott



Cone & Cream



Nineteen at TPC Sawgrass



TacoLu Baha Mexicana



Super Food & Brew

425 WISHES GRANTED

Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida celebrates record-breaking year

FOR THE REGISTER

Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida is celebrating a major milestone, marking its 30th anniversary with a record-breaking achievement of granting 425 lifechanging wishes during the 2024 fiscal year.

Looking ahead, the chapter is setting an ambitious goal to grant 450 wishes in the upcoming fiscal year, continuing its mission to bring hope, strength and joy to children facing critical illnesses. This achievement marks a significant moment in the chapter's history, bringing the total number of wishes granted

to more than 7,500 since its opening in 1994.

This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication and generosity of the community that supports the chapter. The chapter's heartfelt thanks go out to all the donors, dedicated staff, committed volunteers, inspiring wish families and generous corporate sponsors, whose support has made this milestone possible.

"The team set their sights on granting 425 wishes and only saw the possibilities in delivering more joy and hope than ever before," said Laurie Armendariz, vice president of mission delivery for Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida. "Their passion to grant the wish of every eligible child is a beautiful collaboration with compassionate volunteers, donors and partners throughout our community."

Together, the chapter and its supporters have proven the extraordinary power

of community to create life-changing experiences for children and their families. Among the experiences this year were wishes as unique as a car parade, a room redo, becoming a police officer for a day, meeting the legendary band Metallica and even a wish to be a super dog helper. These experiences represent the wide variety of wishes the chapter brings to life, showing that no wish is too big or too unique to be brought to life.

As Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida strives to grant 450 wishes next year, the chapter invites the public to be a part of this extraordinary journey. Whether through donations, volunteering or becoming a corporate partner, there are countless ways to get involved and help make a difference. Help keep the magic alive and continue bringing hope, joy and strength to children and their families by visiting wish.org/cnfl.



Kare for Kids

Your donation of just \$10/month or \$100/year will provide a homeless child or teen with safe shelter, vital services and meals for a year!

No child or teenager should spend the night on the streets... especially at Christmas!



ST. FRANCIS HOUSING CRISIS CENTER
PORT IN THE STORM HOMELESS YOUTH CENTER
SOS STREET OUTREACH SERVICES

Programs of St. Augustine Society
Compassion ♦ Shelter ♦ Opportunity



JOIN TODAY!



Brain Tumor Network

GUIDING PATIENTS. EMPOWERING CARE.

FREE PERSONALIZED BRAIN TUMOR PATIENT NAVIGATION

Each patient has access to a Nurse and Social Work Navigator, each specialized in primary brain tumor care. This dedicated co-navigation team is available to provide tailored, one-on-one support, meeting the unique needs of patients at every stage of their brain tumor journey.

- Simplified answers to tumor & treatment-related questions
- Nationwide clinical trial search
- Explore second opinions
- Connection to resources
- Identify financial assistance grants & support networks



844.286.6110
BrainTumorNetwork.org



\$323,000 RAISED TO SUPPORT CRUCIAL PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK JACKSONVILLE YOUTH

FOR THE REGISTER
Contributed photos

The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation's (MWYF) annual Current/Sherman Group of Merrill Lynch Champions For Children Gala, presented by Florida Blue, raised \$323,000 to

benefit the foundation's afterschool and summer camp programs for underprivileged youth in Jacksonville's urban core. The foundation's vision is that the young people in the program will have the resources they need to rise to their full potential and become contributing

members of society. The Oct. 24 gala brought together more than 300 community leaders and supporters of that vision.

Attendees enjoyed a cocktail reception, a live and silent auction, engaging games, dinner and student and alumni testimonials highlighting the life-changing impact of MWYF's programs.

MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation has been empowering Jacksonville's youth for more than 28 years, offering essential resources to help students succeed in school, build resilience and thrive both in and out of the classroom. The funds raised at this year's gala will allow MWYF to continue providing academic support, life skills workshops, enrichment

activities, counseling, mentoring and college-and-career preparation for hundreds of students each year.

"The incredible support from the Champions For Children Gala ensures that we can continue offering programs that help our students unlock their potential and create a brighter future for themselves and their families," said MWYF Founder MaliVai Washington. "Every dollar raised strengthens our ability to serve Jacksonville's youth, helping them build the skills, confidence and resilience they need to become successful adults."

The afterschool and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 ■



Many of our neighbors are facing tough financial times.

You can help them keep their homes safe, warm, and filled with hope.



Your donation provides rent and utility assistance, hunger relief, and a path to stability.

BEAM
Help and Hope Since 1965
www.jaxbeam.org/donate

Education. Connection. Advocacy. Awareness.

(904) 801-5535 • www.jaxhopeinc.org

[season of giving]

YOUTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

summer programs provide a safe and nurturing environment for at-risk students in Jacksonville's urban core. By focusing on academics, social-emotional development and personal growth, MWYF is equipping youth with tools they can use to break the cycle of poverty and achieve their goals.

The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation is a Jacksonville-based youth development program that empowers young individuals through academic assistance, life skills, mentorship, and tennis programs. The foundation is dedicated to providing comprehensive support for students, nurturing their potential and fostering positive growth.

Learn more at malwashington.com.



Transporting seniors who still have life and want to LIVE IT!!

**Our Dial-a-Ride program takes seniors and disabled adults anywhere they wish to go in the Jacksonville Beaches area from Mayport through to Ponte Vedra Beach, including Mayo and Cypress Village
(Please call us three days prior to your appointment)**

(904) 246-1477 Ext. 1

Please consider donating to help keep our vehicles on the road and assist more seniors in their goal to remain independent and in their own homes. LEARN MORE AT:

www.beachescoa.org





Rebecca Turner shows off some of the delicious treats available at The Poppin Box.



A recent children's party was a success with both kids and their parents.

TABLE TALK

THE ARTISTRY OF POPCORN

The Poppin Box offers great popcorn, candy and much more

story and photos by
LEIGH CORT



Leigh Cort

When this Mississippi girl decided to buy The Poppin Box in Jullington Creek/Fruit Cove after being a customer for many years, Rebecca Turner and her husband Bill set their sights on making this captivating confection shop into a deliciously popular

sweet destination in 2021.

It's not just a popcorn, fudge and candy store where fans come in to satisfy a sweet tooth in the bustling Shops at Bartram Walk. The Poppin Box has evolved into a very popular party place for community events, Summer Story Time for kids and weekly parties, and now, in their third holiday season, children and families can meet Santa at their "Jingle Jamboree."

From 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 6, it's going to be a wonderland of holiday activities starting with free cotton candy, face painting, karaoke music and an old-fashioned cake walk. At the same time, customers will enjoy shopping among 70 specialty popcorn flavors that are created from kernel to gift with Christmas names like "Grinch," "Poppin Peppermint" and



Corporate gifts featuring tasty popcorn help businesses win customers and clients.

"Holly Mix"!

The Poppin Box creates specialty fudges, too, in a Candyland-style kitchen along with aromatic candied nuts and mile-high popcorn buckets! They make rich, classic, dark chocolate fudge, peppermint swirl, maple walnut or peach cobbler fudge. Rebecca Turner and team are amazed that they can make so much enchantment in such a small space!

"We make people smile with our genuine customer service, unique candy selections and vintage candies that spark memories with olde-fashioned favorites," Turner said. "There are hundreds of choices from Charleston Chew and Pez to Candy Dots, wax lips and even antique signs!"

There's a burst of excitement no matter where you gaze.

The moment you walk onto The Poppin Box welcome mat, it's hard to decide which section of their candy emporium to visit first. Do you take the personal white basket and begin with the jellybeans, chocolate pretzel sticks, peanut butter chews, fresh roasted nuts, cinnamon red hots, taffy or Chunkies?

The bright, imaginative shelves are filled with endless ideas for gifting — and they ship everywhere, too. From small personal bags of popcorn through

medium, large and then onto the giant keepsake buckets, The Poppin Box is anxious to help you with your dream flavors and combinations. Imagine fall popcorn specialties of "Caramel Apple," "Pumpkin Cheesecake" and "Buttermilk Pancake"!

Rebecca Turner's clever cheesy combinations are as popular as the chocolate/vanilla sweet choices. There are endless combinations for football and tailgating season that might tempt you: "Beer Cheese," "Dill Pickle," "Bacon Cheddar," "Caribbean Jerk" and "Spicy Buffalo." At The Poppin Box, customers can even order custom-designed labels that Turner creates for their favorite teams. And the popcorn itself is designed with your team's colors.

The ingenious "marketing bags" are perfect for helping businesses grow through customized gifts bearing company logos on the bags and matching color popcorn — created with the realization that people connect with smells and tastes that make memories.

Whether during the holiday season or all year round, The Poppin Box is perfect for children's parties in their happy party room for up to 20 children. It's an hour-and-a-half adventure that begins with a tour of the candy kitchen, hands-on popcorn decorating class, a sampling of three candies and three popcorn flavors, beverage and a take-home goodie bag that includes their individual popcorn creation. So, unwrap your popcorn and favorite candy and get your holiday sweet tooth ready for making memories.

Popcorn and candy are the answer, no matter the question. They are the sugar-coated magic that makes everything better.

**On A1A between St. Augustine and Ponte
Vedra Beach on the Intracoastal 2
blocks south of the castle in North Beach**



FRESH LOCAL SEAFOOD



Come By Car or Boat!

(904) 829-1105

We offer outstanding family dining, whether you're looking for steamed oysters, peel 'n eat shrimp, fresh salad, great soups, a terrific steak or blackened chicken, we have something for everyone and every appetite!

**Lunch & Dinner - 7 Days a Week
Full Bar • Live Music • Beautiful Sunsets
Happy Hour 3-7 pm in the bar**

**Ask Us About Private Parties In Our
Covered Party Pavilion On The Water!**

www.aunt-kates.com • 612 Euclid Avenue



PHOTO COURTESY OF WHISKEY, WINE & WILDLIFE

The A1A Soiree



PHOTO PROVIDED BY WHISKEY, WINE & WILDLIFE

The W3 Sunday Brunch

SAVORING SOUTHERN FLAVORS AND WILDLIFE WONDERS AT WHISKEY, WINE AND WILDLIFE

story by **HOLLY TISHFIELD**



PHOTO BY HOLLY TISHFIELD

Chuck and Janet Kane

Whiskey, Wine and Wildlife made a vibrant return to Vilano Beach, offering attendees a unique blend of gourmet bites, award-winning beverages and immersive wildlife experiences — all in support of local causes.

The annual event raises funds and awareness for Vilano Beach Main Street and the Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) Reserve, drawing some of the South's finest chefs and local culinary talents to showcase their craft through curated tastings and culinary experiences.

Over three days, guests enjoyed a variety of events, including culinary master classes, an evening soiree, the signature grand tasting, a jazz brunch, and guided tours through the GTM Reserve, celebrating the "three W's" that inspired the event's name.

"We came from Williamsburg, Virginia just for this event," said Chuck Kane, who traveled to the beach town with his wife, Janet.

Friday evening offered guests an elegant four-course dinner paired with wine crafted by Executive Chef Michael Lugo and the renowned VIVA Hospitality team. Guests could also savor gourmet bites and live music at the A1A Soiree. Earlier,



PHOTO BY HOLLY TISHFIELD

Shirley Bradley, Nicole Oehler, Brandi Patrich and Janet Reburn



PHOTO BY HOLLY TISHFIELD

Brandi and Jose Cortes



PHOTO BY HOLLY TISHFIELD

Melinda Cordi, Sammy Obi and Steven Gubba

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 ■

WILDLIFE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

three master classes led by celebrity guest chefs, cookbook authors and beverage experts provided hands-on experiences for culinary enthusiasts.

On Saturday, attendees explored the scenic GTM Reserve on private guided tours, concluding with a wine and cheese tasting sponsored by Cabot Cheese. The W3 Grand Tasting followed, featuring hundreds of unlimited food and beverage samples, from craft spirits to local wines and beers, with businesses competing for titles like Best Overall, Best BBQ and Best Dessert.

Guests finished off the weekend with jazz brunch on Sunday morning, featuring gourmet breakfast and lunch stations at Pesca by Michael's. The brunch also included beverage tasting stations with sparkling wine, mimosas, Bloody Mary's, spirits, wines and beers.

With an atmosphere of fine food, drink and community spirit, this culinary weekend offered guests an unforgettable experience while supporting vital local organizations.



PHOTO BY HOLLY TISHFIELD
Dominik Tajti



PHOTO PROVIDED BY WHISKEY, WINE & WILDLIFE
The W3 Sunday Brunch



PHOTO BY HOLLY TISHFIELD
The A1A Soiree



PHOTO PROVIDED BY WHISKEY, WINE & WILDLIFE
The A1A Soiree



PHOTO BY HOLLY TISHFIELD
Bri Serna and Rachel Blankenship

metro
-diner-

FEED YOUR WANT

PONTE VEDRA
340 FRONT ST
(904) 513-8422

JAX BEACH
1534 THIRD ST. N.
(904) 853-6817

GATHER, SHARE, & EXPERIENCE TRADITION

PONTE VEDRA BEACH
155 Tourside Dr #1500
(904) 395-3989

DISCOVER OUR MENU
by visiting
TrascaAndCo.com

TRASCA & CO EATERY
Tap Room



Blaue's charcuterie boards are as appealing to look at as they are to sample.



Char Above the Bar owner Allison Blaue shows off a tray of delicious selections.



The selections are matched to the nature of the festivities.

FROM HOBBY TO HIT

CHARCUTERIE BOARDS INSPIRED BY BUSINESS OWNER'S HERITAGE

Char Above the Bar tailors offerings to customers' events

story by **HOLLY TISHFIELD**
Contributed photos

What started as a hobby for Jacksonville resident Allison Blaue quickly evolved into Char Above the Bar, a thriving charcuterie business that allowed her to leave her corporate job and pursue her passion full-time.

Blaue's journey began in 2022 after a two-week trip to Italy, which inspired her to launch her own business. She taught herself through online videos, perfecting a unique approach, and made her debut with a grazing table for a friend's wedding.

"It was time to go big or go home at that point," she said.

Since launching on social media, Char Above the Bar has become popular across the Northeast Florida area. While bridal and baby showers have become their bread and butter, they also service private events, weddings, birthday parties and much more.

"We've had great support from the local community," Blaue said.



Char Above the Bar owner Allison Blaue presents a unique charcuterie assortment.

Her Italian-American heritage heavily influences her craft, inspired by memories of her grandmother's elaborate spreads of meats, cheeses, fruits and antipasto.

Offering both grazing tables and charcuterie boards, Blaue's business tailors options for different gatherings. While grazing tables are ideal for larger groups and offer a wider variety of foods, the classic charcuterie boards are perfect

for the more intimate gatherings and still pack a punch in terms of delicious snack options.

Blaue is committed to reducing food waste, making it a mission at Char Above the Bar. Her team has developed a formula to help minimize excess and ensure sustainability.

Her approach to crafting the beautifully arranged boards and tables combines client ideas with her creative instincts. She's happy to create a similar design to ones that clients find online, but at this point in her business, Blaue said that most of her clients trust her to create something wholly original.

"It's kind of like the way an interior designer works," she explained. "I can walk into a space and see the vision."

Char Above the Bar serves all of Northeast Florida and has recently expanded into Central Florida, with plans for further growth. Blaue enjoys hosting workshops, teaching clients how to craft charcuterie boards and pair wines, and offers private lessons as well.

Reflecting on her favorite part of her business, Blaue noted how it has become a creative outlet that lets her incorporate family values and traditions.

"Being raised in an Italian-American family like mine, food and drink and family and friendship is everything to me," she said. "I'm very blessed."

[wine & dine]



Caitlin Royals and Marissa Royals



Dasha Daniel and Kelsey Kendall

WHISKEY CAKE KITCHEN & BAR HOSTS VIP PARTY AHEAD OF OPENING

story and photos by **HOLLY TISHFIELD**



Whiskey Cake Kitchen & Bar kicked off November with a VIP party ahead of its official opening later this month. The Texas-based restaurant, now located in St. John's Town Center, is renowned for its scratch-made dishes and extensive whiskey collection.

Guests enjoyed an exclusive preview of new menu items, a Whiskey Wall featuring more than 250 curated whiskeys and spirits, a bourbon-tasting experience, an infusion alchemy station, a whiskey blending experience, among many other activities.



Coastal Casual
AT ITS BEST

Specializing in coastal southern cuisine, *Barbara Jean's On The Water* is a favorite among locals and visitors alike, conveniently located in Ponte Vedra Beach and offering picturesque views of the Intracoastal Waterway.

BARBARA
Jean's
ON THE WATER

VOTED PONTE VEDRA'S BEST OF THE BEST 6 YEARS IN A ROW

(904) 280-7522 | 15 South Roscoe Blvd, Ponte Vedra Beach | BarbaraJeansOnTheWater.com

TABLE TALK

OOH! IT'S FROZEN CUSTARD LIKE THEY MADE A CENTURY AGO

story and photos by
LEIGH CORT



Leigh Cort

There is a charming, colorful delicious dessert destination in World Golf Village that has customers dreaming about return visits every day to enjoy Heidi Trammell's authentic frozen custard café, Twisted Turtle Creamery!

Once you slip into the neighborhood's entrance at the crossroads of I-95 and International Golf Parkway and leave the hubbub of traffic behind, it's a welcome oasis of outrageous frozen custards, sauces, toppings



Heidi Trammell, owner of Twisted Turtle Creamery

and baked goods that Chef Heidi personally crafts into unforgettable frozen desserts.

You must visit with one warning: It's very difficult to select just one masterpiece. So, plan to visit with a small group of passionate gourmets!

It's obvious, from the moment you enter her tropical South Pacific-themed, eat-in café, that she is a "chemist" of magical combinations and flavors. Her knowledge and command of frozen custard has no boundaries. The velvety smooth and rich flavors (totally different from ice cream) ensure a more dense, creamy pleasure without the churning of air like the process of making ice cream. Sundaes, parfaits, custard shakes (blizzards) and a la modes are all made to order with a menu of ingredients that Heidi also prepares from scratch.

When, in 1919, frozen custard was introduced in Coney Island, New York, it was a huge success, with the ice cream's addition of eggs to the cream, sugar and specialty flavorings. Although Chef Heidi

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 ■

St. Augustine! The Ocean! The Reef!



Enjoy ocean views from every table.

Expanded Outdoor Seating

Serving Lunch & Dinner

Live Music Friday & Saturday

Fresh Fish, Seafood, Steaks & So Much More

Voted BEST HAPPY HOUR and BEST BRUNCH in St. Augustine



The Atlantic Ocean! A constant view that never looks the same! The Reef is one of the few remaining truly oceanfront restaurants in Northeast Florida. Unrivaled views, Great food and wine. Just 20 minutes South of Ponte Vedra on A1A.

4100 Coastal Highway A1A North • (904) 824-8008

www.thereefstaugustine.com

CUSTARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32



Butter Pecan Pumpkin Sundae

isn't going to serve 18,460 cones like that legendary hot summer weekend on the boardwalk in Coney Island, she is going to happily discuss and prepare something unforgettable just for you that might include her Heidi-made caramel, hot fudge, fruit sauces like mango, raspberry, bananas foster — and my favorite, the Buffalo Trace Bourbon whipped cream.

Each chef has his or her own food philosophy, which is not limited to a typical restaurant eatery. Heidi's open dessert kitchen is a wonderland of her belief that customers love unique combinations of "sweet

& savory" — even in desserts at Twisted Turtle Creamery.

Imagine this holiday season's "Butter Pecan Pumpkin Sundae with Whipped Cream and Crunchy Pepitas" or "Pineapple Lemon Curd Sundae Topped with Harissa Candied Pistachios"!

Yes, they combine that savory-and-sweet richness along with the outrageous crunchy topping. Who doesn't yearn for the holidays when we can finally indulge in eggnog?

Heidi's blizzards are decadently rich with vanilla custard and ginger snaps. I can only imagine what she is planning with her Heidi-made old fashioned peanut brittle, giant warm apple turnovers, madly rich chocolate chunk brownies, Swiss rolls with Amarena cherries and oatmeal cream pies!



Lemon Meringue Pie Sundae

When Heidi opened last year after a year in the making, it took a family project to create the dessert café featuring a long bar hand painted with Pacific Ocean waves and a giant wall mural transporting you to tropical islands.

"We have a frozen custard shop like no other, and we'll gladly pull you out of your comfort zone to fall in love with custard," she said.

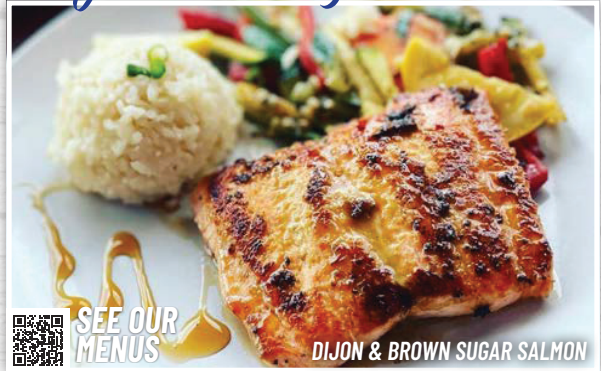
With indoor space to accommodate small parties up to 24 guests, Chef Heidi welcomes your call for great party ideas. With easy complimentary parking in the shopping area, she has been busy hosting "spirit nights" for schools and teams as fundraisers. It's such a cute café that you might only need to stick with the South Pacific theme and bring colorful lei's for your guests.

Calling 904-460-2643 will get you directly to the Chef!

As a proud supporter of the Mickler Beach Landing Turtle Patrol and the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Biology Science (and their sea turtle hospital), 2025 is a perfect time to visit the Twisted Turtle Creamery and Chef Heidi. I'll bet you can't stump her with your own wild creation from her menu of insanely delicious ingredients. This holiday season might be Santa's favorite: the "Strawberry Shorty," topped with Heidi-made strawberry sauce, Scottish shortbread croutons and whipped cream!



Refined Dining at Pussers



SEE OUR MENUS

DIJON & BROWN SUGAR SALMON

WE'RE OPEN DAILY!

SUNDAY-THURSDAY 11AM-9PM | FRIDAY & SATURDAY 11AM-10PM

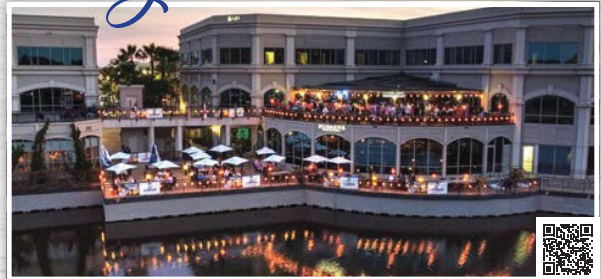


HAPPY HOUR
MONDAY-FRIDAY 3-7PM



DAILY SPECIALS
MONDAY-FRIDAY

Host Your Parties & Events



CHOOSE FROM SIX EVENT SPACES

Cocktail Parties to Fine Sit Down Dinners up to 200 People
FOLLOW THE QR CODE TO SEE OUR VENUES & LEARN MORE!

Gift Cards!



LIMITED TIME OFFER!

GET \$5 FREE
WHEN YOU SPEND \$25

Offer valid through 12/31/2024
Bonus Card Redemption Begins 01/01/2025

Order Online



ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP!

ALL YOUR FAVORITES
AVAILABLE TO-GO

FOLLOW THE QR CODE TO START YOUR ORDER!

Claim Your Free Appetizer!



FOLLOW THE QR CODE FOR A

FREE
FIRECRACKER
SHRIMP

RECEIVE A COUPON TO REDEEM
DURING YOUR NEXT VISIT

PUSSERSPVB.COM | (904) 280-7766

816 Highway 1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach FL 32082



[calendar of events]

Holiday Happenings

There are a bevy of holiday events being held this holiday season across the First Coast. Many events are free to attend; for those that are not, fees for admission or registration are noted.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

31st ANNUAL NIGHTS OF LIGHTS

When: Nightly through Jan. 26
Where: Downtown St. Augustine

More than 3 million lights brighten the historic district in a display National Geographic magazine called one of the 10 best places in the world to see holiday lights.

CANDLELIGHT TOURS AT THE VILLA ZORAYDA MUSEUM

When: 5:30 and 7 p.m. Dec. 6,

13, 16, 20, 27, 30 and Jan. 3
Where: Villa Zorayda Museum, 83 King St., St. Augustine
Admission: \$25.99 adults, \$13.99 children 6-12. Not recommended for children younger than 6

The villa is decorated for the holidays with a spectacular Christmas tree and more than 100 candles throughout the museum. For more information, go to villazorayda.com/candlelighttours.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

When: 9 a.m. Dec. 7
Where: Downtown St. Augustine
Admission: Free

Experience St. Augustine's annual Christmas Parade with floats, marching bands, cars, horses and the arrival of Santa.

PALM VALLEY BOAT PARADE

When: 6 p.m. Dec. 7
Where: South Roscoe Boulevard, Ponte Vedra Beach
Admission: Free

Celebrate the holiday season with the lighted boat parade. The parade route is seven miles of the Intracoastal and starts one mile south of the Palm Valley Bridge and travels north.

For information, call 770-827-9318 or go to palmvalleyboatparade.com

SURF ILLUMINATION

When: 4-7 p.m. Dec. 7
Where: St. Johns County Ocean Pier Park at 350 A1A Beach Boulevard, St. Augustine Beach
Admission: Free

Features a ceremonial lighting of the holiday tree, a visit from Santa, music, arts and crafts and children's activities.

VILANO HOLIDAY VILLAGE

When: Nov. 30-Dec. 21
Where: 101 Vilano Road, St. Augustine

An 18-foot Christmas tree shines as the centerpiece of festive joy at Vilano Holiday Village. Enjoy music, local authors, delectable food and a Christmas Artisan Market for unique gifts. Santa and Mrs. Claus will make special appearances.

SANDY CLAUS MARATHON, HALF-MARATHON AND 10K

When: Times vary Dec. 1
Where: Crosswater Hall, 245 Nocatee Center Parkway, Ponte Vedra

Registration: \$15-\$50
Runners will wind along the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35 ■



MARRIOTT RESORT
SAWGRASS

Tree Lighting CEREMONY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024 | 5:00PM - 7:00PM
RESORT LOBBY

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE EVENING TO
CELEBRATE
THE START OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

SNOW, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES,
REFRESHMENTS & MORE!

1000 TPC BOULEVARD PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL,
32082

[calendar of events]

Greenways Trails and through some of the neighborhoods in Nocatee. Go to runsignup.com/Race/FL/PonteVedra/SandyClauseHalfMarathon

HOLIDAY MARKET AT LIGHTNER MUSEUM

When: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 5
Where: Lightner Museum, 75 King St., St. Augustine
Admission: Free to attend

Local artisans showcasing their ware will be on display at the Lightner Museum Holiday Market.

HOLIDAY REGATTA OF LIGHTS

When: 6-7:30 p.m. Dec. 14
Where: Matanzas Bay between the Bridge of Lions and Castillo de San Marcos
Admission: Free

This annual holiday tradition features boats decorated with brilliant lighted displays.

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT! NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS SHOW

When: 8:30 p.m. Dec. 31

Where: St. Johns County Ocean Pier Park, 350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach.
Admission: Free

DUVAL COUNTY

DECK THE CHAIRS

When: 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. nightly to Jan. 1

Where: Seawalk Pavilion and Latham Plaza Park, 75 1st St. North, Jacksonville Beach

Admission: Free

DAZZLING NIGHTS

When: 5:30 p.m. (last entry 8:30 p.m.) Nightly to Dec. 29

Where: Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, 1445 Millcoke Road, Jacksonville

Admission: \$22 adult, \$19 child, plus fees. Free to children age 2 and younger.

Have a snowball fight; traverse a candy-cane corridor; see thousands of twinkling lights and snowflakes, illuminated flower paintings and a forest of lasers; discover a path of 1,000

brilliant fireflies; stop at the giant, shimmering Christmas tree. Of course, there will be a nightly snowfall. Light bites, hot chocolate, beer and wine are available to purchase. To schedule a visit and buy tickets, go to dazzlingjax.com.

JACKSONVILLE LIGHT BOAT PARADE

When: 6:30 p.m. Nov. 30

Where: St. Johns River, downtown Jacksonville

Admission: Free

The boat parade has been a holiday tradition for more than 30 years. Vessels of all shapes and sizes adorn their hulls with festive decorations as they float along the north and south banks of the St. Johns River. Residents and visitors alike gather downtown along the North and Southbank Riverwalks to witness this magical event. Following the parade, the evening concludes with a fireworks show featuring the one-of-a-kind waterfall fireworks on the Main Street and

Acosta Bridge.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

When: 7 p.m. Dec. 22

Where: Florida Theatre, 128 E. Forsyth St., Suite 300, Jacksonville

Bah! Humbug! One of the greatest stories in the history of English literature, Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol has enchanted audiences the world over and become a best beloved Christmas tradition for families everywhere. This powerful tale of redemption follows Ebenezer Scrooge on his epic journey from nasty curmudgeon to benevolent saint. This dazzling new adaptation bursts onto the stage with first class professional actors, gorgeous costumes, stunning sets and puppetry. More than two dozen timeless Christmas carols are woven throughout this glorious production.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 ■

Let Pour'd Perfections bring the party to you!

Sip, savor and celebrate with our mobile bar! Whether you want a specialty cocktail bar or a family-friendly juice bar, we create every drink with your vision in mind. Our converted horse trailer can fit almost anywhere, but with our mobile bar and champagne wall, we can serve guests in any space!

PERFECT FOR WEDDINGS, ENGAGEMENT PARTIES, BRIDAL SHOWERS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, CORPORATE EVENTS, OFFICE PARTIES, FESTIVALS, FUNDRAISING EVENTS & MORE!



CURATED SPECIALTY COCKTAILS AND MOCKTAILS • BEER AND WINE
FROZEN DRINKS • LEMONADE & TEA • CRAFT SODAS • INFUSED WATERS

(904) 383-9578

www.pourdperfections.com



[calendar of events]

JAX SYMPHONY: HOLIDAY POPS

When: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5
Where: Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts, 300 Water St., Jacksonville
Admission: \$30-\$88

THE 33RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY NUTCRACKER

When: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13; 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14;
Where: Florida Theatre, 128 E. Forsyth St., Suite 300, Jacksonville
Admission: \$25-\$65

Community Nutcracker is the only nonprofit, volunteer-run organization that offers a portion of its proceeds to local charitable agencies including Dreams Come True and has donated over \$800,000 in the past 32 years! The performing company is made up of local talent with more than 200 dancers ranging in age from 9 to adult from Northeast Florida auditioning and performing in the production.

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS HOLIDAY CONCERT

When: 6 p.m. Dec. 9
Where: Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts, 300 Water St., Jacksonville
Admission: \$10 adult, \$5 child. Go to my.jaxsymphony.org/24-25-jso/holiday-concert.

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA

When: 7 p.m. Dec. 12
Where: VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville
Admission: \$119-\$389

29TH ANNUAL MISS FELICIA'S NUTCRACKER BALLET

When: 6 p.m. Dec. 14
Where: UNF Lazzara Performance Hall, 1 UNF Drive, Jacksonville
Admission: \$35-\$40. Go to christchurchdancers.ticketspice.com/the-nutcracker-winter-2024

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

When: 10:30-11 p.m. Dec. 31.

Fireworks at midnight
Where: Along the St. Johns River, downtown Jacksonville
Admission: Free

Say goodbye to 2024 and ring in the New Year with a spectacular fireworks display over the St. Johns River. Make your way down to the waterfront with friends or family before midnight to snag a great seat for the festivities. Fireworks will begin exactly at midnight.

80TH ANNUAL GATOR BOWL

When: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 2
Where: EverBank Stadium, downtown Jacksonville
Admission: \$50-\$375

A college football tradition around New Year's Day will pit an SEC vs. an ACC team together for the 80th meeting for the bowl game.

NASSAU COUNTY

LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE
When: 4-6 p.m. Dec. 7

Where: Parade begins in Central Park, Fernandina Beach
Admission: Free

The parade will consist of lighted floats, dancers and more. The parade is organized by America's Youth Inc.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SHRIMP DROP

When: 6-11:59 p.m. Dec. 31
Where: Marina parking lot B, Fernandina Beach
Admission: Free

Light up Amelia with the City of Fernandina and Florida Public Utilities presents the annual New Year's Eve Shrimp Drop and fireworks display. This event features music, a laser show, food and non-food vendors and party favors courtesy of Florida Public Utilities. The shrimp drops at 7 p.m., in conjunction with the Greenwich Mean Time stroke of midnight followed by the fireworks display.

— Compiled by Anthony Richards



Let Char Above The Bar create a unique & interactive culinary experience for your next party!

Indulge in the finer things in life with Char Above The Bar's curated charcuterie and grazing tables. Our displays bring people together over beautifully crafted spreads, blending fresh flavors with exquisite presentation. From intimate gatherings to grand celebrations, we design custom boards and tables that are as memorable as they are delicious. Perfect for any occasion, our offerings feature the finest cheeses, meats, fruits, and gourmet accompaniments, arranged to inspire and delight. Let us elevate your event with an unforgettable spread that's sure to impress. Taste the beauty—one bite at a time.

Perfect for Weddings, Engagement Parties, Bridal & Baby Showers, Graduation & Birthday Parties, Corporate Events, Fundraisers, and any event in between!

Custom Charcuterie Boards & Grazing Tables curated to fit all your wants and dietary needs.

321-609-0501 • charabovethebar.com

EVENT STAFFING COMPANY FUELS SMALL BUSINESSES, STUDENT GROWTH

story by **HOLLY TISHFIELD**
Contributed photos

In 2018, after 15 years working in the events industry, Jade Robinson noticed a gap in the Northeast Florida event staffing market, and along with co-founder Robert Jackson, she set out to fix it.

Their event staffing business, All About You Staffing, was born from the idea that staffing should go beyond general labor and focus on building genuine, trustworthy connections with business owners.

“I always tell clients that you’re not just getting general labor, you’re getting an actual human being,” Robinson said.

Over the last six years, Robinson and Jackson have



The team at All About You Staffing

developed a business that is deeply community-driven, one that prides itself on lifting up local business owners and providing exceptional customer service, setting them apart in the industry.

Post pandemic, All About You Staffing introduced a community youth development program by partnering

with nonprofit Developed 2 Overcome. High schoolers as young as 15 have the opportunity to join Robinson’s staff and learn critical hospitality, communication and life skills to help them excel in their future careers. When students are preparing for college, Jackson even provides mock-interview sessions and

resume building classes.

“Being a business owner now, someone who is able to provide opportunities for people to work and learn skills has been such a huge achievement for me,” Robinson said. “Knowing that I’m contributing to the economic development of Northeast Florida ... and helping lift people up is one of my favorite things in the whole world.”

All About You Staffing provides services to St. Johns, Duval, Clay and Nassau counties. Each team member is fully trained in-house to handle a wide variety of events including catering, decorating and bartending at locations such as banquet venues, corporate offices, private homes and more.

YOU ARE INVITED TO



SPA-LA-DAY Open House

SAWGRASS *Spa*

AT MARRIOTT



ON THE 5TH OF DECEMBER, 5:30PM-7:30PM
GIVEAWAYS, SPECIALS, HORS D'OEUVRES, WINE TASTING AND MUCH MORE

RSVP :



THE RITZ-CARLTON HOSTS BUSY SEASON OF HOLIDAY EVENTS

story by **ANTHONY RICHARDS**

The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island is set to embrace the festive atmosphere that comes with the holiday season.

And they jump right into the festivities as they kick off their holiday fun right after Thanksgiving as they prepare to welcome Santa Claus for a special Breakfast with Santa event on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21.

Besides lighting Christmas trees, dispensing gifts and flying through the skies with reindeer, Santa and Mrs. Claus will generously take time during their busy season to host the events for the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island guests.

Breakfast with Santa is an opportunity for children to delight in sharing their holiday dreams and wishes with Santa, while the whole family can enjoy an extravagant breakfast buffet decorated in magical gingerbread and other holiday creations in The Ritz-Carlton Ballroom Foyer from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The special breakfasts are \$89 a ticket for guests ages 10 and older and \$79 for

children ages four to nine years old.

Champagne and Bloody Mary packages are available for an additional \$35 for guests 21 years and older.

If having breakfast with Santa was not enough, the day of festive vibes will continue with a Nutcracker Tea and performance by The Florida Ballet from noon to 2 p.m. in The Ritz-Carlton Ballroom Foyer.

There will be many chances to create memories with a charming afternoon tea, amid holiday cheer and festive treats, including a presentation of tea sandwiches, pastries, holiday cookies and savory bites for all to choose from.

Tickets for the Nutcracker Tea are \$130 for guests ages 10 and older, \$89 for children ages four to nine years old, and just like Breakfast with Santa, a champagne and Bloody Mary package is available for an additional \$35.

There will also be Santa's Storybook Tea, which will take place on Dec. 7, where Santa will read a cherished Christmas story to the children during a magical time of afternoon tea.

Guests will also have opportunities to

get in the holiday spirit from a baking standpoint, as there will be a Holiday Cocktail and Gingerbread class on Dec. 1.

The class offers the opportunity to sip on a signature holiday cocktail and create a gingerbread house with the help of The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island pastry chefs on staff.

The fun and interactive activity will be a unique way to bolster family bonds and is a delicious respite from the hectic pace of other holiday activities that may not be as delicious.

The gingerbread house guests make will be carefully packed and prepared for safe transport so they can take it home to enjoy.

That will not be the only opportunity to build gingerbread houses with the help of The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island pastry chefs, as there will also be a build-a-gingerbread class on Dec. 7, which has become a tradition at the resort over the years.

The pastry chefs on staff will provide guidance and share their secrets to help guests taking part create the best gingerbread house to signify the holiday season.

DESIGN ELEMENTS INTERIORS

904-292-1619



Design Services — Art & Accessories
Fine Furnishings — Window Treatments
“UNIQUE & UNUSUAL”

10950 San Jose Blvd, Suite 48 | Jacksonville, FL 32223

THE FUTURE OF CONCRETE COATINGS



SHARK COATINGS

INDUSTRIAL SURFACE COATINGS

PATIOS - DRIVEWAYS - GARAGES - POOLS



1-866-91-SHARK
WWW.SHARKFLOORCOATINGS.COM

THE SOCIAL SOCIETY BECOMES NOCATEE'S NEW DESTINATION FOR CELEBRATIONS

story by **HOLLY TISHFIELD**
Contributed photos

Seri Kertzner's journey to entrepreneurship began with a love for fashion, a study in business and economics and a leap of faith to New York City.

At just 22, Kertzner left her hometown of Toronto, Canada, to move to New York City and take a financial assistant position with the iconic NYC brand Kate Spade. She saw this as an opportunity to blend her passion for fashion with what she hoped would be a rewarding income.

Kertzner spent more than 10 years working with various fashion brands in the city before transitioning into production roles. During that time, she immersed herself in the vibrant social scene of the early 2000s, quickly building strong connections. It was also during this period that she met and



eventually married her husband.

"I absolutely loved planning my wedding," Kertzner said. "I was always throwing these big parties in my small NYC apartment and my friends started recommending that I do it for a living

— so I listened and started a party-planning business."

After having her first child, Kertzner left the fashion world and brought to life her party planning business, Little Miss Party Planner. The business covers a wide range of party planning needs, from essential decor items like plates, cups and napkins to branded products and themed kits. After rebranding as REV New York, it continues to thrive, renowned nationwide for its popular "parties in a box" offerings.

Amidst the pandemic, Kertzner and her family moved to Northeast Florida at a friend's recommendation. The move was intended to be temporary, but after falling in love with the laid-back Floridian lifestyle, they stayed. Their decision to stay gave Kertzner the chance to pursue another entrepreneurial dream:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 41 ■

Make a Part of the Past Your Present

WE BUY & SELL ESTATE JEWELRY



Unique jewelry, vintage and antique, new arrivals weekly.

Estate Jewelry is full of exciting surprises. There is always something unexpected to find.

ESTATE JEWELRY • NEW JEWELRY • BRIDAL • WATCHES • CUSTOM

MANDARIN

9825 San Jose Blvd #40
904-268-7975



JACKSONVILLE BEACH

3988 3rd Street South
904-280-7700

HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

Shop online at esplingjewelers.com

*Where Expert Service Meets
Your Jewelry Needs*

SOCIAL SOCIETY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

opening a storefront.

Seeing the growth in the Nocatee town center area, she knew she'd found the perfect home for her business. In September of this year, Kertzner opened The Social Society, a party supply and decor store like no other.

"It's been really great!" she said. "People walk in and their first reaction is that the town needs this. It brings so much joy. I feel like it's been really well received."

With an endless array of party decor, a card wall packed with unique cards for every occasion, and a balloon bar offering custom garlands and designs, The Social Society has become the talk of the town.

The Nocatee storefront also offers in-person events and workshops, another aspect of the business that Kertzner was looking forward to offering guests.

"My favorite part about running The Social Society is talking to the customers who come in," she said. "I just love the excitement that they show, it feels very rewarding. It feels like I've really done something good for the community, and I'm very proud."



Your Carefree Oasis of Luxury

Did you know that Starling operates four senior living communities in the Ponte Vedra area, including Starling at Ponte Vedra (formerly The Palms)?

This is an exciting time to be part of the Starling family because we continue to invest in our communities and in our people!

To learn more about life at any of our luxury senior living communities, give us a call today!



**STARLING
AT PONTE VEDRA**
ASSISTED LIVING
and MEMORY CARE

904-686-3700
ALF#12887



**STARLING
AT NOCATEE**
ASSISTED LIVING
and MEMORY CARE

904-834-4199
ALF#13109



**STARLING
AT NOCATEE**
INDEPENDENT
LIVING

904-834-4511



**STARLING
AT SAN JOSE**
ASSISTED LIVING
and MEMORY CARE

904-337-6350
ALF#12887

Call today to learn about current specials!
Learn more at www.StarlingLiving.com

Miss Felicia's Dance Ministry
presents the 29th annual

Christ Episcopal Church NUTCRACKER

TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW



December 14th, 2024 at 6 pm
UNF Lazzara Performance Hall

missfeliciasdance.com

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS PLAN SIX CONCERTS

The Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras (JSYO) have a stellar season of performances in Jacoby Symphony Hall with all six ensemble levels. The first concert took place Nov. 10, and the final performance will be May 12. These performances not only highlight the talents of the student musicians, but provide an opportunity for them to appreciate their growth, improve confidence and gain experience in a professional setting.

The Fall, Holiday and Spring concerts feature the six levels of ensembles on stage performing everything from Alan Silvestri to Sergei Rachmaninoff. These concerts are enjoyable for the whole family and offer a wide variety of programming.

The Young Artist Competition takes place Feb. 10, and features solo performances by the JSYO Philharmonic's finest young artists. The winner will earn the coveted opportunity to perform a featured solo with the Jacksonville Symphony and the JSYO at the prestigious Major/Minor concert in May.

The JSYO's Repertory and Philharmonic ensembles perform with the musicians of the Jacksonville Symphony during the Major/Minor concert on May 7. This unique collaboration offers talented youth the chance to hone their skills and shine alongside seasoned performers in a heartwarming concert experience.

The final performance of the season is the annual Festival of Strings on May 12. Four ensembles of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras come together with nearly 100 students from Communities In Schools' "Jump Start Strings" program for an epic performance featuring more than 200 young musicians.

The 2024-25 JSYO schedule continues:

- **Holiday Concert:** 6 p.m. Dec. 9
- **Young Artist Competition:** 6 p.m. Feb. 10
- **Spring Concert:** 5:30 p.m. March 30
- **Major/Minor:** 7 p.m. May 7
- **Festival of Strings:** 6 p.m. May 12

Sawgrass *Holiday* Speakeasy

Thursdays 12/5, 12/12, 12/19

7:30PM until



MARRIOTT RESORT
SAWGRASS

&



check in at the SIP's bar for entry

[first coast arts]

'DICKENS ON CENTER' — 10 YEARS OF SPIRITED FUN

Before you go, check out these top 10 insider tips

Photos courtesy of
DEREMER STUDIOS LLC

FOR THE REGISTER

Under a canopy of twinkling lights, Amelia Island will celebrate a decade of Dickens during the 10th Annual Dickens on Centre festival, Dec. 12-15. An immersive Victorian holiday experience in the island's historic downtown district, Dickens on Centre offers a variety of magical holiday attractions.



A lamppost banner welcomes visitors to the popular Dickens on Centre event, held each year in Amelia Island.

Boasting the largest Christmas Market in Northeast Florida, the festival features multiple stages with live entertainment, vendor booths decked with holiday gifts, music filling the air, shops bustling day and night with good cheer and much more.

A beloved Florida tradition, Dickens on Centre is a favorite of visitors and residents to escape the usual holiday hustle and bustle and step back in time for a fun-filled Victorian Christmas

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44 ■

Village Arts Framing and Gallery

155 Tourside Dr. #1520 Sawgrass Village
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Between Hilton Garden Inn and Chico's
904.273.4925



Artist Missy Vanover

**We wish you a
Happy Holiday Season!**

www.villageartspvb.com

M - F 10 to 5
Sat 10 to 4

Over 150 Original Works
of Art on Exhibit





Churchill & Lacroix

Antiquaire



ESTATE JEWELRY
QUALITY ANTIQUES
FINE ART



OVER 400 ESTATE JEWELRY PIECES AND FINE OBJETS D'ART SUCH AS:
Rolux-Cartier-Omega-Baume Mercier-Tiffany & Co.-Tiffany Studios-Baccarat-Lalique-Herend-Loetz-Steuben-Hawkes Roycroft-Meissen-Wedgwood-Minton-Limoges-Moorcroft and more...






75 KING STREET, SUITE 121, SAINT AUGUSTINE, FL 32084

Located in the Lightner Museum Courtyard
 Phone: 904.827.9009
www.churchill-lacroix.com
 Shop Hours: 7 Days a Week - 10:00am - 5:00pm



CLOSED:
 New Years Eve & Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Eve & Day, Christmas Eve & Day

DICKENS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

getaway. To help make the most of the many merry festivities at this year's event, Amelia Island compiled a list of "Top 10 Insider Tips to the Best of Dickens on Centre."

1. Don't Miss the Kickoff — The weekend begins with the Dickens Illuminated Procession on Dec. 12. It's a glowing celebration of the light of the holidays. This strolling parade begins at Fernandina Harbor Marina on Front Street, featuring lights, music and merriment. Nearby food trucks will be selling hot dogs, funnel cakes and other local fan favorites. It's free to participate in the procession, so bring a battery-operated lantern and join in the fun! The parade ends with a stunning light show featuring 500 drones.

2. Prepare for Holiday Shopping Galore — The Dickens on Centre Christmas Market, Dec. 13-15, is the largest in Northeast Florida and offers tons of local and small-business vendors with specialty items and crafts, such as hand-painted oyster ornaments, jewelry and much more. While browsing, don't skip the vendors in Oliver's Alley, Cratchit's Corner, Peddler's Village and Artist's Al-



An artisan demonstration at the event.

ley; their handcrafted items are perfect for last-minute gifts. You can catch a live show in between shopping or take advantage of the free Dickens Express Christmas Trolley.

3. Pose for a Family Keepsake — While browsing the Christmas Market,

stop in for your Portrait with St. Nick on Dec. 13-15 and capture the moment with a treasured keepsake. Various timeslots are available throughout the weekend and take only 15 minutes. If you want to really get in the Victorian spirit, consider dressing in your favorite Dickens-era attire. You'll find St. Nick set up in his workshop in Tiny Tim's Kid Zone.

4. Eat, Drink and Be Mobile — Kick your Bah Humbugs to the curb and enjoy the Dickens Dining & Drinks mobile adventure experience from Dec. 1 through 15. Unlock challenges as you explore Amelia Island's culinary scene. Complete tasks and follow the interactive map to collect points for exclusive festival prizes guaranteed to impress any Scrooge. If you're hungry for more, head to Oliver's Eats between Dec. 13 and 15 for food trucks and treats or stop by Fezziwig's Courtyard, also between Dec. 13 and 15, for a nostalgic holiday experience inspired by the classic "A Christmas Carol."

5. Stop by Tiny Tim's for Big Fun — Dickens on Centre features fun for the whole family, including kid-themed vendors and activities at Tiny Tim's Kid Zone, available Dec. 12-15. Here you

CONTINUED ON PAGE 45 ■



Visitors spend time inside a giant snow globe.



Period costumes can be found everywhere.



Run Like The Dickens participants pause for a photo with their prehistoric pals.

LIMITED EDITION GALLERY

FINE ARTS COLLECTION

Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 11am-4pm

1112 3rd Street, Neptune Beach

Contact: graig@lmtedgallery.com

(904)720-3151

Instagram: @lmtedgallery

25+ featured artists



Established 2013



The Dickens Illuminated Procession kicks off the festivities.



Santa Claus meets with a couple of young friends to hear their Christmas wishes.



A skilled artisan creates a face from a block of wood.



Photo keepsakes will be cherished for years to come.

DICKENS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 44

can draft a Letter to Santa in the Elves at Work tent, brought to life by Amelia Island's own Villa Villekulla toy store, or stop in for a holiday showing at the Old Vic Theatre movie alley.

6. Check the Schedule — The weekend is jam-packed with inspired live entertainment from Dec. 13 through 15, including theatrical shows, costumed characters, musical acts and visits from Jolly Old St. Nick. The mesmerizing 3-D Drone Show, Dec. 12-14, over Amelia

River is a nightly fan favorite, lighting up the sky with colorful holiday images. How do you keep track of it all? Be sure to check the full lineup of entertainment online, making it easy to create your family's custom Dickens on Centre itinerary. Go to: ameliaisland.com/wp-content/uploads/DickensOnCentre_2023-Entertainment-Schedule.pdf

7. Do the Beach Run & Parade of Paws — On Saturday morning, Dec. 14, head to Main Beach Park for Run Like the Dickens, a one-mile fun-run on the beach, complete with costumed characters and hot chocolate at the

finish line. After the run, take the free Dickens Express Trolley downtown for the Parade of Paws. Featuring all the best-dressed local dogs and pets, the parade will include costume prizes for Best Victorian, Most Original, Looks Most Like Owner and more.

8. Snag a Snow Globe — Experience the whimsy of the holiday inside a real-life snow globe! Book a magical hour at the Enchanted Village — available Dec. 13-15 — in one of 10 festive domes, each decorated in a unique holiday theme.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46 ■



Give Tickets
TO THE MOST SPECTACULAR 2025 SHOW SEASON

ALHAMBRA SEASON SCHEDULE

<p><i>Southern Fried Funeral</i> JANUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 9</p> <p><i>West Side Story</i> FEB. 20 - MARCH 30</p> <p><i>Beautiful The Carole King Musical</i> APRIL 3 - MAY 11</p> <p><i>My Fair Lady</i> MAY 15 - JUNE 22</p>	<p><i>Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> JUNE 26 - AUGUST 17</p> <p><i>Fall Surprise</i> AUGUST 28 - OCT. 5</p> <p><i>The Mystery of Edwin Drood</i> OCT. 9 - NOV. 16</p> <p><i>Elf The Musical</i> NOV. 20 - DEC. 24</p>
---	---







ALHAMBRA
THEATRE & DINING

GET YOUR SEASON TICKETS TODAY!
904-641-1212 | alhambrajax.com

DICKENS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

The one-hour experience accommodates up to six people and includes individual charcuterie grazing boxes. The snow globes are equipped for any kind of weather and are nestled near The Portly Gentleman, the Enchanted Village's tavern. Be advised: the forecast calls for snow – it's best to book early, as the snow globes always sell out. Tickets are available at ameliaisland.com/series/dickens-enchanted-village.

9. Don't Be Afraid of the Dark –

For those age 21 and older, don't miss the most exclusive Victorian Masquerade party of the season. Dickens After Dark: Marley's Masquerade on Dec. 14 transforms the historic Lesesne House into a costumed soiree. Enjoy live music, stilt walkers, jugglers, magic, tarot card readings, a commemorative photobooth and a few fun surprises along the way. Costumes are required and masks encouraged to spark your inner Victorian high-society persona!

10. Stay Close to the Festivities –



You never know who is going to turn out for "Dickens After Dark: Marley's Masquerade."

The best insider's tip is to book your Amelia Island accommodation well in advance. Go to: ameliaisland.com/places-to-stay. There is nothing better



Dickens on Centre is an annual holiday celebration based on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

than waking up refreshed at a historic bed & breakfast or familiar hotel in walking distance, ready to explore the festival and celebrate a decade of Dickens. Once settled in, you can likely utilize the free Dickens Express Trolley or walk to many of the special events.

Start planning your Dickens on Centre experience today! For more information, go to ameliaisland.com/dickens-on-centre.

For visitor information and online planning, go to www.ameliaisland.com.

Teddy Bear TEA

Dates:

11/29, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 12/22

Enjoy a Holiday Tradition at Vernon's First Coast Kitchen. Join us for Teddy Bear Tea, each table will receive traditional savory and sweet treats as well as tea service.

\$55.00 ++ per person \$30.00 ++ Children 12 and under

Includes 2024 Sawgrass Marriott Teddy Bear

VERNON'S

FIRST COAST KITCHEN & BAR



MARRIOTT RESORT
SAWGRASS

Minimize the Sun Maximize your Space



UPGRADE YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE
to fully enjoy your Florida lifestyle

(904) 484-7580

TitanShuttersandScreens.com



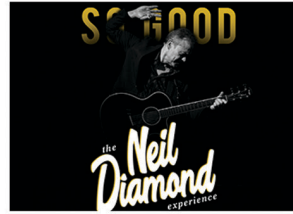
SCAN TO EXPLORE SHADE + SCREEN OPTIONS

Smart Pergolas • Motorized Awnings
Retractable Screens • Hurricane Products
Elite Screen Rooms

TITAN
OUTDOOR SOLUTIONS



**1964 THE BEATLES
TRIBUTE**
DECEMBER 6 AT 7:30 PM



**SO GOOD!
THE NEIL DIAMOND
EXPERIENCE**
FEBRUARY 5 AT 7:30 PM



**LIGHTWIRE THEATER:
A VERY ELECTRIC
CHRISTMAS**
DECEMBER 8 AT 2:00 PM



**TAYLOR SHINES -
THE LASER
SPECTACULAR**
FEBRUARY 9 AT 6:00 PM



**CHRISTMAS WITH
THE CELTS**
DECEMBER 17 AT 7:30 PM



**OZARK MOUNTAIN
DAREDEVILS**
FEBRUARY 12 AT 7:30 PM



**LARRY, STEVE, AND
RUDY: THE GATLIN
BROTHERS**
JANUARY 10 AT 7:30 PM



**BLIPPI: JOIN THE
BAND TOUR!**
FEBRUARY 25 AT 6:00 PM



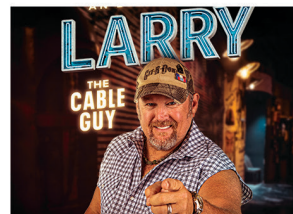
**ALWAYS LORETTA
WITH THE
COALMINERS**
JANUARY 16 AT 7:30 PM



ONE NIGHT IN MEMPHIS
MARCH 3 AT 7:30 PM



**THE HIT MEN OF
COUNTRY**
JANUARY 19 AT 7:00 PM



LARRY THE CABLE GUY
MARCH 6 AT 7:30 PM



**RANDY TRAVIS:
MORE LIFE TOUR**
JANUARY 25 AT 7:30 PM



**THE MACHINE
PERFORMS
PINK FLOYD**
MARCH 14 AT 7:30 PM