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**Soccer district tournaments set**  
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Thursday, January 23, 2025

PonteVedraRecorder.com

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## PLAYERS donates \$600K toward teen center

By Shaun Ryan

THE PLAYERS Championship made a transformative donation Tuesday, Jan. 21, to the Boys & Girls Club in St. Augustine.

As dozens of kids — and adults — looked on, Volunteer Chairman Tyler Oldenburg held up a giant check for \$600,000 to be applied toward an all-new, 3,000-square-foot teen center next to the existing facility on West King Street.

“THE PLAYERS is very proud to support the Boys & Girls Club, which has been a very long-term partner of ours,” Oldenburg said.

Orville Dothage III, governance chair for the local club’s advisory board and leader of the teen center committee, put the total cost of the project at about \$1 million. He said the donation was a total surprise.

“The donation by THE PLAYERS is going to allow us to complete this,” he said.

The club had been holding annual fundraisers to help it reach its goal, and it looked as though at least a few more would be needed — until this donation.

The club has been working toward its goal for about five years. The project is currently somewhere in the permitting stage.

The center will meet the needs of the

PLAYERS continues on Page 5

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## Iconic bus set to be preserved landmark

By Anthony Richards

There are many iconic landmarks across Northeast Florida, but for those driving down U.S. 1 the London double-decker bus that stood in front of St. Augustine’s Kings Head Pub for years was one that became a fixture.

However, since the Kings Head Pub closed its doors in September, the bus faced an uncertain future, that is until Craig Smith, owner of St Johns Food Services and Alhambra Theatre & Dining, felt compelled to save it.

Upon hearing the news that the bus was set to be sent to a

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Contributed photo

The iconic double-decker bus located along U.S. 1 was recently bought by local business owner Craig Smith who plans to restore it for the community to enjoy for years to come.

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## THE RECORDER

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## BRIEFS

### Immigration attorney to speak at Democratic Club meeting

Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will meet at 6 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, 101 Library Blvd. Chat & chew starts at 5:30 p.m. Immigration attorney Andrea Reyes to speak about current U.S. immigration policies and protocols and how they may be affected with the new administration. All are welcome. For further information, go to [PVDemclub@gmail.com](mailto:PVDemclub@gmail.com).

### Palm Valley Market every Tuesday

The Palm Valley Market is held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Tuesday inside the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Road. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, local honey, tea, seasonal treats, soap, jewelry, plants and more.

### Register for 2025-26 school year at PVPV Rawlings

PVPV Rawlings Elementary in Ponte Vedra Beach will participate in the Controlled Open Enrollment (COE) process for the 2025-26 school year. COE allows families to apply for enrollment at participating schools of their choice. The COE application window will be April 28-May 15.

PVPV Rawlings is offering information sessions and tours of the school to help families make educated decisions about where their children should go to elementary school. These will be held at 9 a.m. March 14 and 2:30 p.m. April 30. Sign-up and background check are required to attend. Call Laurie Jason at 904-547-8579 to reserve a spot.

PVPV Rawlings Elementary School is located at 610 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach.

### Clerk's Office to host Valentine's Day Group Wedding, Vow Renewal

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller's Office — with House of Assembly Events — will host its third-annual Valentine's Day group wedding and vow renewal event.

"We are honored to host this special ceremony on Valentine's Day!" said Clerk Brandon J. Patty. "This year, we're adding vow renewals to the occasion, and we are grateful to our partners at House of Assembly Events for collaborating with us on this momentous occasion."

To tie the knot on Valentine's Day, couples must register for the event online at <https://stjohnsclerk.com/wedding> by Feb. 7. Space is limited to the first 50 couples.

The ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. Feb. 14 at The Carriage House, 259 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine, and will be officiated by The Honorable Judge Howard O. McGillin Jr. Photography services and bridal bouquets are available to participants for an additional fee.

Participating couples are still required to purchase a marriage license and adhere to any waiting period (Florida residents who have not had counseling). More information about license requirements and fees can be obtained by calling 904-819-3600 or going to <https://stjohnsclerk.com/marriage-licenses-ceremonies>.

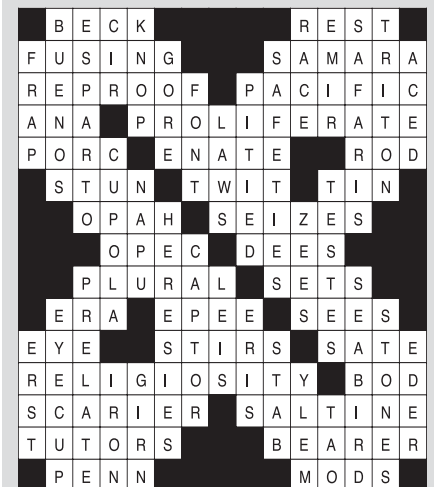
### Beach cleanup is Saturday

The Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM) will conduct a beach cleanup from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. Meet at the GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, where gloves and trash bags will be provided. Participants will be directed to a specific beach for cleanup. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are recommended.

Email [Abigail.Kuhn@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Abigail.Kuhn@FloridaDEP.gov) to participate.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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

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# Main branch library closing for roof replacement

The Main Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library System will be temporarily closed for roof replacement beginning Monday, Feb. 3. This project is scheduled to be complete in approximately two months, and the facility is anticipated to reopen to the public by the end of March.

During this closure, no items will be due, all holds will be extended and impacted patrons will not accrue late fees. In addition, the book drop will be inaccessible and donations will not be accepted at this location.

### Service Accommodations

Patrons who would like to pick up holds or use library services are encouraged to use the Anastasia Island (124 Seagrove Main St.) or Southeast (6670

U.S. 1 South) branches. For information on all branch locations, go to [sjcpls.org/branches](http://sjcpls.org/branches).

Alternatively, patrons may pick up holds and return items through a temporary bookmobile stop every Thursday throughout the closure from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Main Branch. This stop does not include browsing onboard the bookmobile. Patrons can send holds to this stop by calling any branch location or emailing [libbe@sjcfl.us](mailto:libbe@sjcfl.us). To view a schedule of stops, go to [sjcpls.org/branches/bookmobile](http://sjcpls.org/branches/bookmobile).

### Programming

During this closure, library staff will offer storytimes and select programs at The Waterworks building, 184 San Marco Ave., located next to the Main Branch.

Go to [sjcpls.org/branches/main-branch](http://sjcpls.org/branches/main-branch) for more information on upcoming programs.

### AARP Tax Preparation Assistance

AARP Tax Preparation Assistance will not be offered at the Main Branch this season.

To accommodate users of this service, expanded hours will be offered at the Solomon Calhoun Community Center, 1300 Duval St. AARP will offer appointments from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, beginning Feb. 3. To make

an appointment at the Solomon Calhoun Community Center, call 904-671-7146 or go to [www.sjcpls.org/free-tax-preparation-assistance-at-various-locations-in-st-johns-county-2025](http://www.sjcpls.org/free-tax-preparation-assistance-at-various-locations-in-st-johns-county-2025) to find a list of all AARP tax assistance locations.

Patrons may also access various online resources, including e-books, databases and digital newspaper access, on the St. Johns County Public Library System website at [sjcpls.org](http://sjcpls.org). For more information about this closure or other library system services, go to the website or email [sjcpls@tblc.libanswers.com](mailto:sjcpls@tblc.libanswers.com).

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# Bus

Continued from 1

junkyard if no one put in a offer for it, Smith immediately reached out to the pub’s owner with an proposal to preserve the cherished local landmark.

With his intent to restore the bus, Smith also enlisted the help of Marshall Adkison, owner of Adkison’s Towing, who was then on his way with a team of employees ready to take on the challenge of moving the double-decker bus just 45 minutes after his conversation with Smith.

What made moving the bus a challenge was the fact that it had been in the same place for more than 25 years, which meant they had to dig tracks for it to move along in the dirt just to get it up on the flat bed of a tow truck.

However, within hours, their shared vision of rescuing the bus became a reality and by 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16, the bus was safely transported to St Johns Food Service, where it will remain until restoration plans are finalized.

Smith has a history of revitalizing regional icons and giving them new life, as in 2009, he purchased Alhambra Theatre & Dining, which was then in disrepair, and transformed it from a \$2.5 million business into a thriving \$12 million enterprise.

Over 15 years, Smith has renovated the venue twice and welcomed more than 130,000 guests in 2023 alone.

Similarly, in 2023, Smith revitalized St Johns Food Service, a 75-year-old St. Augustine institution, boosting its sales, growing its customer base, and reshaping its culture.

“I have probably passed this bus 10,000 times in my travels down Phillips Highway, ever since I was a kid, and even more so since I bought St Johns Food Service,” Smith said. “When I saw the news about the bus being taken to the junkyard, I knew I had to save it. So, here we are.”

As for the bus’s future.

“We’ll start by figuring out how to restore it and then work on finding a location where the public can enjoy it,” Smith said. “Like the orange dinosaur on Beach Boulevard, we want to preserve these iconic pieces of Jacksonville’s history, even as our city grows and changes.”

Smith’s dedication to preserving local heritage while fostering growth continues to leave a positive mark on the community.

The rescued double-decker bus is just the latest testament to his commitment to celebrating the past while embracing the future.



Contributed photo

Adkison Towing partnered with Smith to help move the bus from its 25-year location on Thursday, Jan. 16.



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# PLAYERS

Continued from 1

local teen population. Currently, the club is only able to provide a 220-square-foot room for the 15-20 teens who use it. The club would like to expand that to 100-150 teens. The new facility would be patterned after a similar one in Jacksonville, which has a recording studio, dance studio, barbershop, robotics lab and more.

But, said Paul Martinez, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida, the goal isn't to compete with other clubs and youth centers.

"We're competing against the streets," he said.

Students between the ages of 6 and 18 arrive daily by bus after school. They are given hot meals and help with their homework, and then they go off to a variety of fun activities. The club also gives the youths an introduction to entrepreneurship, trade school, college and the military.

Miranda Thomas, 13, a student at Murray Middle School, has been going to the club daily for several years.

"I love this place!" she said. "This is a really fun place to be."

She said she can't wait to see the new facility.

"I am so excited to have all the fun activities in there," she said. "Game room? That's nice. "Barbershop? Wow. A lot of the teens love art, and they're putting an art room in there. It sounds amazing!"

THE PLAYERS has partnered with the Boys & Girls



Photos by Shaun Ryan

**PLAYERS Volunteer Chair Tyler Oldenburg, at center in red, presented a \$600,000 check from THE PLAYERS Championship to the Boys & Girls Club in St. Augustine.**



**Orville Dothage III, governance chair for the club's advisory board, speaks during the presentation Tuesday, Jan. 21.**

Club since 2005. Regionally, the club has 59 locations and serves more than 6,000 young people across Alachua, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties.

"We serve, right here in Northeast Florida, more teenagers than anybody in the country," said Martinez.

Oldenburg credited support from THE PLAYERS'



**Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida President and CEO Paul Martinez speaks during the presentation.**

sponsors, spectators and volunteers to make such charitable giving possible.

"Giving back is really the overriding force behind everything we do at THE PLAYERS, and it's allowed us to make a very tremendous impact in our community," he said.

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*Amy Novak, owner of The Gifted Boutique, turned her passion for crafts into a thriving business offering custom spirit wear and gifts, while fostering community ties through local events and charitable collaborations.*

## Amy Novak

### As told to Holly Tishfield

#### Tell me about your background.

I've lived in the Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra Beach area with my husband, Brian, since 1998. We raised both of our kids, Ally and Aaron, here in town, and sent them both to Ponte Vedra High School. We're currently in Nocatee and we just love the area. I started my business, The Gifted Boutique, about 11 years ago now. It's been growing exponentially in the past several years, which is exciting.

#### Do you come from a background in business ownership and entrepreneurship? How did The Gifted Boutique get its start?

I guess I have a little bit of a background of entrepreneurship in my family; however, my business started by accident. I used to be a teacher, and then I worked in medical education for a while, but at the same time I always loved crafts and making things to put up around my home. I started out making decorative wreaths for friends and it just grew from there. When my daughter was at PVHS, she was on the dance team, so I started making stuff for them, different dance costumes or shirts and other things. I started out small, selling at local markets and little pop-up events, and then it grew into doing a lot of the spirit wear for local schools and charities and things like that.

#### You began by selling your merchandise locally but recently transitioned into a storefront, right?

I began the business in 2014. In my first storefront, I shared the space with another business. I was there for about one year. I've been here, in my current storefront, for about two years. Before that, like I mentioned, I was selling online or doing pop-ups. I still do a lot of spirit wear parties for the local teams, where parents come and mingle and can purchase specialized shirts that are custom for their kid and their sport.

#### How has the experience been different for you being in your own storefront?

It's been great. I love to be face-to-face with customers. I love to meet new people. When you think of Ponte Vedra, there's a lot of people, but it seems like everyone knows everyone and it's nice to know people. I've also loved it because my kids are out of PVHS now and I like being able to stay



Contributed photo

Amy Novak, owner of The Gifted Boutique

linked to the schools, because I love that. It's one of my favorite things, all the sports and community events.

#### Do you hand-make everything yourself or do you have a team that helps you?

I do make things, but I also have a team that helps me. We do a lot of our printing in-house. We do embroidery and we also have a whole line of gifts and gift baskets that we make. I worked in a gift basket store when I was in high school and college, and I've always loved it, too. So, I decided to sell those as well as all of the custom apparel.

#### I understand you work with charities, too. What kind of charities have you worked with?

I sometimes do fundraisers for different sports teams in the area, but I've also worked with charities like the Trenton Stewart Foundation and NOC'n Out Breast Cancer from Nocatee. They always do little fundraisers at my shop where I'll donate a portion back to their foundation, and then we also do all of their shirts. Other times we'll just do a give back night, where we open for business and whatever people buy, we donate a portion back to local organizations.

#### What's your favorite part about what you do?

I love the creative outlet of it all. No day is ever the same. I love the events that we do, too. I enjoy seeing all the different people, and I also enjoy actually making the shirts, designing different things for different people and bringing their vision to life. I really do love it every single day. There's rarely a day where I go home unhappy. It's nice to have a job that you actually love. Of course, it's still hard work and there can be a lot of hours and stress, but for the most part, it's a happy place to be.



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-Amber L.

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# St. Johns County better prepared for fires than in '98

By Shaun Ryan

Twenty-seven years ago, wildfires broke out across Florida due to lightning and dry weather conditions. For two months, the blazes raged, burning – according to one source – half a million acres, 100 structures and 86 vehicles. An estimated \$300 million in timber was lost, and 135 miles of I-95 were closed from Jacksonville south.

St. Johns County bore much of the impact, though it was perhaps worse in Flagler County, which was completely evacuated.

At the time, firefighting in St. Johns County was handled by a volunteer department.

“The volunteers were just unable to get to those fires in a timely manner, which is what caused the fires to spread like they did,” St. Johns County Fire Rescue Chief Sean McGee told the County Commission during its regular meeting Tuesday, Jan. 21.

McGee was asked by commission Chair Krista Joseph to speak on the status of the county’s fire prevention efforts in the wake of news about the devastating fires in Southern California.

More than 40,000 acres in that region have been burned and more than two dozen people have died. Mass evacuations, countless homes destroyed and strained resources have left people wondering whether their own communities could

face such devastation.

“What California’s experiencing really is a bunch of individual things that came together at the wrong time,” said McGee. “Our hearts and prayers go out to those folks out there. It’s a level of devastation I haven’t witnessed in my 26 years in this business.”

Fortunately for St. Johns County, locals learned a valuable lesson from the 1998 fires. A professional firefighting department was created and critical strategies have been implemented to guard against any repeat.

The ultimate authority over wildfires in Florida resides with the state Division of Forestry, but Fire Rescue acts as a support agency. In this, it has the ability to seek aid from St. Augustine, surrounding counties and other entities across the state.

One thing Florida has going for it that California does not is its topography. Fire burns slower across flat land than it does on mountainous terrain. The state’s wet environment and absence of the type of winds found in Southern California benefit the Sunshine State.

An adequate supply of water is critical. Hydrants in St. Johns County are checked twice a year and crews train heavily for fires in areas where there are no hydrants. Firefighters are able to use retention

ponds, lakes and other static bodies of water, and tankers can be deployed to act as portable hydrants.

Anthony Petellat, manager for the state Forestry Service district that serves St. Johns, Flagler and Volusia counties, also spoke at Tuesday’s meeting.

He cited a couple of challenges associated with the rapid growth in this area, primarily heavy traffic that can hinder large trucks responding to fires and construction of homes that butt up against swamps, which firefighters have great difficulty accessing.

He called prescribed burns the most cost-effective tool they have.

“Last year in the state of Florida, we burned about a quarter of a million acres, which is a record high for us,” he said. “If we don’t prescribe-burn, Florida is a ‘fire machine.’ That fuel is going to just continue to build and build, and then when a wildfire does happen – because we are the lightning capital – it is going to just be devastating.”

But McGee ended on a positive note, again by comparing current conditions to those in 1998.

“With the coverage and the personnel and the equipment that we have now, we’re a lot more covered,” he said. “We can get there a lot faster.”

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Photos courtesy of Friends of the GTM Reserve



The GTM Reserve has plenty of big things planned for 2025.



The reserve is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

# Exciting changes on horizon for GTM Reserve

By Anthony Richards

It is set to be a memorable 2025 for the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve in Ponte Vedra Beach with several big plans on the schedule for the horizon.

The plans include an update to the facility itself with a plan to make parking automated and renovation of the exhibit hall on site, as well as the celebration of the reserve's 25th anniversary.

The parking will be the first aspect of the updates that will be completed.

According to Dale Viger, executive director of Friends of the GTM, the switch to make the parking process automated has already started with the implementation in certain aspects, but it is expected to be fully functioning sometime in early March.

Once the parking process is in place, visitors will have the option to pay by either receiving a text code or by QR code on their phone.

She said that the reason for the parking change is to just continue and make sure that the reserve is making the proper

updates to keep up with the times and the continued advances in technology that make it more convenient for visitors.

"This day in age, people just don't have cash on them like they did in the past, so we wanted to make sure to consider that," Viger said.

The exhibit hall renovation is one that will take more time to make happen compared to the parking, and it is in the "very early stages."

The current design of the exhibit hall is about 20 years old.

"We want to make sure we're doing

our part to bring everything up to date," Viger said. "We look forward to your support in this transformative effort."

According to Viger, late spring or early summer is the hopeful time to begin the fundraiser campaign for the hall's renovation.

Finally, the GTM Reserve is celebrating 25 years on May 8 with a silver-studded celebration at Pesca by Michael at Hyatt Place in the St. Augustine and Vilano Beach area.

"We can't wait to commemorate this milestone with everyone," Viger said.

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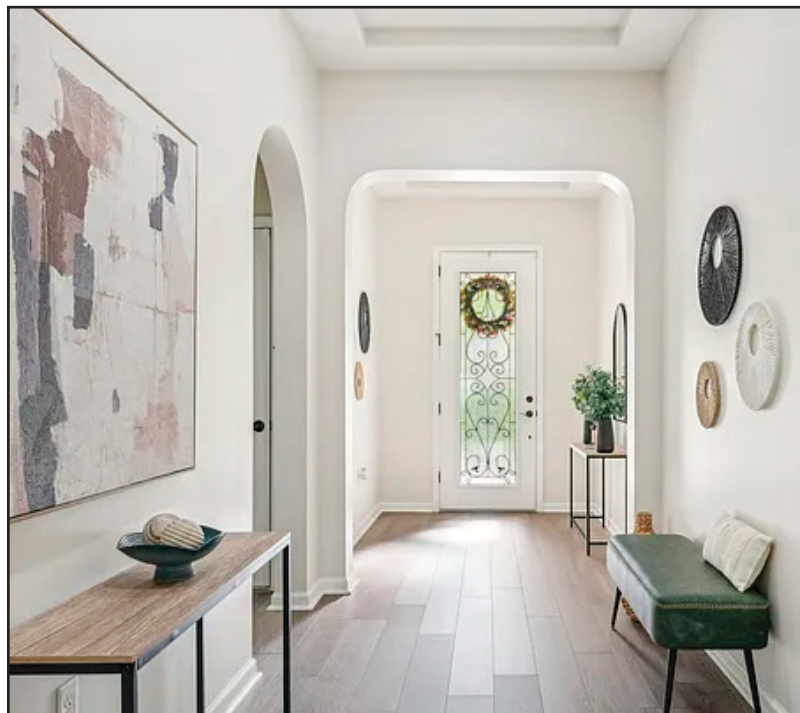
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Before: A home entryway before Organized & Done's services



After: The same home entryway after Organized & Done's services



Contributed photos

Jennefer Flood and Mairennny Peragine

# Organized & Done: Making spaces functional, beautiful, clutter-free

By Holly Tishfield

When Jennefer Flood left her 15-year career as a paralegal in New York City to move to Northeast Florida with her family, she knew it was time to pursue a career that truly aligned with her passions.

Flood opened Organized & Done about two-and-a-half years ago to chase a lifelong fascination with organization. She took courses, became a certified home stager and got involved with the community to make her dream of starting an organizing business come true.

"It's nice to give back and to be a part of the community," said Flood. "Nice to see the community embrace this field."

Organized & Done is a one-stop shop for organizing, decluttering, packing and unpacking services. The business employs a four-step system to ensure a client's satisfaction with everything from simple projects such as organizing a pantry to more complex projects such as moving homes.

During a moving service, Flood and her business

partner, Mairennny Peragine, will stick with a client from the beginning of their journey all the way to their new home. First, the team will go in and declutter the existing space. Then, they'll pack the home with a color-coded packing system, providing the client with a content list that makes it easy to find important items. If the client is selling their home, Flood and Peragine will stage the space to make it appealing to new buyers. Lastly, the Organized & Done team will assist with unpacking, organizing and/or redesigning the new home. No stone is left unturned.

Peragine, a member of Flood's family and close confidant, joined her at Organized & Done just a few short months ago, although the two always envisioned opening a business together. Peragine comes from a background in visual merchandising, which was put to good use when the two opened Staged & Done, a DBA of Organized & Done.

"I thought what Jennefer was doing with organizing was special, so I followed her and brought my background in visual merchandising into it," Peragine said.

Although Organized & Done offers a wide array of services at a wide array of prices, they pride themselves on being affordable to anyone in the community. The Organized & Done team will purchase new equipment and staging pieces for a client who requests it, but in other scenarios, Peragine and Flood are happy to work with what a client already has.

"Sometimes people already have the resources; they just need a little push," Peragine said.

Senior services are among Flood's favorite clients, where the Organized & Done team's goal is to provide a safer home environment that allows senior citizens to manage their belongings.

"It's nice to help those who have limitations and can't help themselves," Flood said. "I love helping our seniors stay in their homes longer by making it more functional for them."

You can visit the Organized & Done website at [www.organizedanddone.net](http://www.organizedanddone.net), find staging services with Staged & Done at [www.stagedanddone.com](http://www.stagedanddone.com), or reach out directly by calling 904-417-8386.



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# Huge turnout attends Great Tree Giveaway

Greenscape of Jacksonville, a tree advocacy nonprofit teamed up with the city of Jacksonville to hold the annual Great Tree Giveaway in downtown Jacksonville on Jan. 18. A total of 1,600 trees of a variety of types were given away for free during the event, which has been taking place since 1987.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Contributed photos

**Pictured:** Mary Loochtan, Rick Loochtan, Carolyn Parmi, Laura Atkinson, Abby Clark, Kathy Hutmacher, Terrill Persky and Susan Kary.

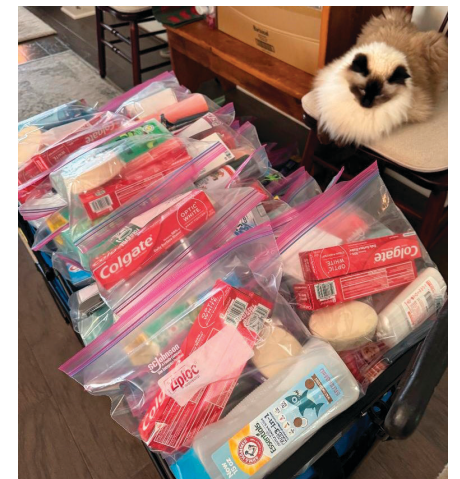
# Democratic Club honors MLK Day of Service

At the last meeting of the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club, participants brought many needed items for donation to First90 (and their sister organization Beyond90) for legally arriving refugees beginning new lives in Northeast Florida.

The plight of refugees is a heart-wrenching global issue demanding our attention and compassion, club members said. The refugees are ordinary people who have been forced to flee their homes due to violence, persecution or other life-threatening circumstances.

Many of these individuals and families are suffering from unspeakable horrors and trauma, many having spent years in refugee camps waiting for the word they have been granted temporary protective status to the United States.

Volunteers from the club delivered bulky items and, honoring the Martin Luther King Day of National Service on Monday, Jan. 20, assembled personal care items into kits to be given to the



**The quality control manager supervised the bag assembly.**

new arrivals, helping them know they are valued and welcome into the fabric of our communities.

Donations are welcome at [www.First90.org](http://www.First90.org) or [www.Beyond90.org](http://www.Beyond90.org) providing assistance beyond the initial 90 days.

— Jan Kary



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# Jordan Davis to perform PLAYERS Military Appreciation Day concert

THE PLAYERS Championship has announced that award-winning, multi-Platinum singer-songwriter Jordan Davis will headline the annual Military Appreciation Day Concert on Tuesday, March 11. Davis, known for chart-topping hits such as "Take It From Me," "Buy Dirt" and "Next Thing You Know," will perform for military personnel, veterans and fans.

With seven No. 1 hits on country radio and numerous award nominations, Davis is a highly anticipated act for this year's concert.

"We are beyond excited to have Jordan Davis join us for Military Appreciation Day at THE PLAYERS," said Lee Smith, executive director of THE PLAYERS Championship. "His remarkable talent and connection to his fans will make this a truly special event, and we look forward to his performance helping kick off an unforgettable week."

The Military Appreciation Day Ceremony will take place at 4:30 p.m. March 11 on the Island Green 17th Hole. The concert is free to any Tuesday ticket holder; a Tuesday Stadium Pass starts at \$40 and is available for purchase at

THEPLAYERS.com/TICKETS. Parking for Tuesday is separate and must be purchased in advance.

## Military and Veteran Ticket Offerings

Active duty, retired, reserve and National Guard members verified through the military identification system and one dependent will have access to complimentary tickets on March 11 and 12 as well as one competition day from March 13 to March 16, while supplies last. Complimentary tickets come with a \$20 digital voucher to be used at on-site food vendors for food and non-alcoholic beverages.

To secure military and veteran tickets, go to THEPLAYERS.com/tickets. If assistance is needed, contact: ticketsupport@pgatourhq.com. Parking passes are not included in any ticket purchases. A separate parking pass is required each day of tournament week and must be purchased online in advance at theplayers.com/parking.

## Patriots' Outpost presented by CSX

All service members have exclusive

access to the Patriots' Outpost, presented by CSX, an exclusive military lounge near the No. 16 tee. The lounge is open throughout tournament week, offering complimentary snacks and beverages for service members.

## Flyover Tradition Continues

The annual tradition of a flyover on Military Appreciation Day will return, featuring the 169th Fighter Wing.

## Military Job Fair

THE PLAYERS, in partnership with the Jacksonville Military Veterans Coalition, will host its 12th annual Military Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at the Patriots' Outpost. This free event is open to military personnel, veterans and military spouses. More than 30 companies will be on-site offering job opportunities.

## PGA TOUR Fan Shop Discounts

On March 11, active duty, retired, reserve and National Guard members will receive a 20% discount in the PGA TOUR Fan Shop in the Welcome Experi-

ence (must present valid military I.D.).

"It's an honor to offer this small tribute to our military members and veterans," said Smith. "Their dedication and sacrifices are truly appreciated, and we look forward to celebrating them during this year's tournament."

For more information on THE PLAYERS' military programming, go to theplayers.com/military.

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2024 Gala



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2024 charity check presentation: HUGS

# Ponte Vedra Woman's Club raises funds for charity

Through its events, the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club is hoping to raise more than \$50,000 per year for local charities and have fun meeting new friends. Here's a look at the charities:

- Betty Griffin Center: Shelter and services for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault
- BEAM: Helping low-income residents in Jacksonville's beach communities
- Mission House: The only day facility to help meet the needs of people who are homeless at the Beaches through compassion, faith and programs designed to provide assistance at an individual level.
- Port in the Storm: This is the only homeless youth shelter in St. Johns County for ages 18-24



Membership at holiday party

- Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind: Educating students from all over Florida, tuition-free, who are hearing-impaired, blind/visually impaired or deaf and blind.

Here are some of the club's upcoming events:



Contributed photos

2024 Gala

- Purely Social PVWC: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4 at V's Pizza, 154 Canal Blvd., Ponte Vedra. Free for registered members and guests. [www.pontevedrawomansclub.com](http://www.pontevedrawomansclub.com)
- Ponte Vedra Woman's Club Luncheon: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at Marsh Landing Country Club. Check-in at 11:30 p.m. David Kampfe, owner of Dynamic Fitness Gym, will be the guest speaker. RSVP by noon Feb. 14 to attend. Register at [www.pontevedrawomansclub.com](http://www.pontevedrawomansclub.com). Cost: \$30.
- Great Gatsby Gala: 6-10 p.m. Feb. 22 at The Greenhouse at The Yards. Catered by The Local. Music by Chris Thomas Project. Cost: \$175. For tickets, go to [www.pontevedrawomansclub.com](http://www.pontevedrawomansclub.com) and click Events.



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# Fun family event at zoo raises money for important program

## For The Recorder

The Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care has announced the inaugural “ROARS and More” event, to be presented by THE PLAYERS, on Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

This family-friendly celebration will raise vital funds to support Community PedsCare, a program dedicated to providing compassionate care for children and their families during challenging times.

The event, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., will immerse attendees in a dazzling experience. Guests can marvel at more than 1,000 stunning lantern displays showcasing enchanting animals and vibrant plants throughout the zoo.

Each loop will bring a delightful surprise toy for the kids, adding extra joy to their night. Family-friendly entertainment and thrilling performances at the “ROARS and More” showcase promise to captivate audiences of all ages.

Culinary enthusiasts will savor gourmet bites from Jacksonville’s top

restaurants at the Flamingo Food Court, while adults can enjoy refreshing beverages at the “ROAR AND POUR” bars. To end the evening on a sweet note, Candyland Corner — a favorite from the former Doors & More event — will offer a nostalgic and delectable finale.

Funds raised during “ROARS and More” will empower Community PedsCare to expand its services, supporting nearly 3,000 families through specialized care and essential resources.

“We are embarking on an exciting new adventure with ‘ROARS and More,’” said Annie Tuttle, executive director of The Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. “This event allows us to continue making a meaningful impact in the lives of families facing unimaginable challenges while offering a fun and engaging experience for the community.”

Admission tickets are now available at [thefoundationcares.org/upcoming-events/roars-and-more](http://thefoundationcares.org/upcoming-events/roars-and-more). They are also available through [Roarsandmore.thefoundationcares.org](http://Roarsandmore.thefoundationcares.org).

# Betty Griffin Center plans annual breakfast

The Betty Griffin Center is the only provider of support services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in St. Johns County. On March 3, the Betty Griffin Center Board of Directors will host the center’s Second Annual Breakfast at The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach.

Last year, speakers included Sheriff Robert Hardwick; Madison Schemitz, the teen survivor of an attempted murder-suicide stabbing attack in Ponte Vedra who talked about the challenge and struggles she has overcome since the attack; along with Kristin Paul, a two-time award-winning author who spoke about the difficulties women experience while trying to plan and execute a safe escape and what it feels

like to live freely and happily again.

Proceeds from the breakfast will help the organization fund emergency and support services, including an emergency shelter, two rape crisis units, transitional housing, counseling, legal and financial education programs and preventive education programs.

Doors open at 7:15 a.m. The breakfast and program will be 7:30 to 9 a.m.

Tickets are \$80 and are available now at Eventbrite ([eventbrite.com/e/betty-griffin-center-2nd-annual-breakfast-tickets-1109274793769](http://eventbrite.com/e/betty-griffin-center-2nd-annual-breakfast-tickets-1109274793769)).

If your company is interested in becoming a sponsor of the event, contact Kenlie Herring at [kenlieh@bettygriffincenter.org](mailto:kenlieh@bettygriffincenter.org) or call Kenlie at 904-808-8544 ext. 207.

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# 18th DONNA Marathon Weekend kicks off Jan. 31

The 18th annual DONNA Marathon Weekend, an official event of The DONNA Foundation and a signature event of the organization's Survivorship, Education and Awareness Program, will turn up the pink in downtown Jacksonville and the Beaches on Jan. 31 to Feb. 2. The theme of this year's race is "Destination: Fearless," a celebration of love over fear, representing the idea that every step we take together, every mile we complete, is a step toward embracing a life of hope — a life that is fearless.

The 26.2 with DONNA The National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer is the only marathon in the country dedicated to serving those living with breast cancer. Ranked number four in the country for best half marathons and honored as one of the top 25 flattest marathons, the annual DONNA Marathon Weekend races are popular with runners worldwide.

Proceeds from DONNA Marathon Weekend provide hope, support and financial relief to those living with breast cancer, both local to Jacksonville and across the country.

In fiscal year 2024, the foundation served more than 1,103 patients and worked to resolve financial barriers related to housing, utilities, transportation and more through the DONNA CareLine. The foundation provided more than \$738,001 in financial services and debt relief, including more than \$54,000 in direct financial aid to families in need.

Since its inception, DONNA Marathon Weekend has raised funds that have supported The DONNA Foundation's service to more than 20,647 families living with breast cancer, disbursed \$3.3 million toward groundbreaking breast cancer research, and provided more than \$6.5 million in financial relief to those in need.

"The old saying goes, 'Life is 10% what happens to you, and 90% how you react to it,'" said Donna Deegan, Jacksonville mayor and founder of The Donna Foundation. "As a three-time survivor, that has never seemed more true to me. This race is all about reacting to life's challenges with love over fear. I'm so grateful for the hope and joy and deep sense of accomplishment this



Map courtesy of The DONNA Foundation

event brings to so many, and the confidence it infuses into those who cross the finish line. This year, like every year, that infusion comes right on time. Welcome to Jacksonville — I can't wait to see you on the road!"

DONNA Marathon Weekend will once again bring events to downtown Jacksonville and the Beaches.

EverBank Stadium and the indoor Flex Field at Daily's Place will be the host venue for the Friday and Saturday events, including the DONNA Health & Wellness Expo, sponsored by the Jaguars Foundation and Bold Events; the DONNA Dash, a family-friendly one-mile fun run; the annual FIS DONNA 5K, which will start and finish

at EverBank Stadium, giving runners the first look at the Jacksonville Sports District and a sneak peak of the "Stadium of the Future"; and the 110 Ultra Marathon.

On Sunday, events return to the Beaches with the half marathon and full marathon. Marathon runners will complete a double loop course through Jacksonville, Neptune and Atlantic Beaches, beginning and ending at the Seawalk Pavilion in the heart of Jacksonville Beach.

Free and open to the public, the DONNA Health & Wellness Expo will feature educational events presented by Mayo Clinic, packet pickup, a tasting of "Sunny with a Chance of Flowers" wines provided by sponsor Sunny Wines, photo opportunities, shopping and much more.

New to DONNA Marathon Weekend this year is the Pete's Bar DONNA Crawl. This new event, presented by iTP Partners, features a start alongside the marathoners, veering off to complete a two-mile course, ending at the famed Pete's Bar. Athletes can grab a beverage at the Neptune Beach institution, then find a spot to cheer on half and full marathon finishers at the Beaches Town Center.

In addition to being a Boston qualifier, the DONNA Marathon has been selected again this year by the Abbott World Marathon Majors as a qualifying race for the AbbottWMM Marathon Tours & Travel Age Group World Ranking program. Through this distinction, participants in the DONNA Marathon Tours & Travel can compete to earn ranking points to be invited to the 2026 AbbottWMM Marathon Tours & Travel Age Group Championships.

Race registration will remain open through 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 while capacity allows; many events are expected to sell out.

Volunteer opportunities through the Daiichi-Sankyo DONNA Volunteer program are still available.

Local Jacksonville residents can enjoy discounted registration thanks to the Locals Rule program, sponsored by the Jaguars Foundation and Bold Events.

For more information on the DONNA Marathon Weekend and its events, go to [breastcancermarathon.com](http://breastcancermarathon.com).



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# ‘She saved my life’

Jacksonville resident Dawn R. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy for years. “My feet and legs were extremely painful and my doctor told me there was nothing they could do. He said I would have to take Gabapentin for the rest of my life.”

Peripheral Neuropathy is the pain, discomfort and numbness caused by nerve damage of the peripheral nervous system. Dawn explained that daily tasks like opening doors and using the bathroom were overwhelmingly painful. “How can you live for the next 30 years when you don’t even want to get out of bed to do simple things?”

She was experiencing the burning, numbness, tingling and sharp pains that those suffering with neuropathy often describe. “The way I would describe it... it’s equivalent to walking on glass.” Dawn hadn’t worn socks in five years and was wearing shoes two sizes too big so that nothing would “touch” her feet.

Unfortunately, Dawn’s story is all too familiar for the over 3 million people in the U.S. suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy. While each of our patients are unique, they all come to the clinic with similar stories: They aren’t sleeping at night because of the burning in their feet. They have difficulty walking, shopping, or doing any activity for more than 30 minutes because of the pain.

They’re struggling with balance and living in fear that they might fall. Their doctors have told them to “just live with the pain” and they’re taking medications that aren’t working or have uncomfortable side effects.

Fortunately, four months ago, Dawn found our clinic, Riverplace Acupuncture Integrative Health and the work that Dr. Jann Turpin is doing to treat those suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy without invasive surgeries or medications. Using the time-tested science of acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA to assist in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing, Dr. Turpin and her team are creating a breakthrough treatment for this debilitating disease.

“Now when I go to bed at night I don’t have those shooting pains. I don’t have that burning sensation. I don’t have pain coming up my legs,” Dawn explains, enthusiastically describing life after receiving a series of treatments. “I can wear socks and shoes!” Dawn and her sister now operate a successful dog walking business, sometimes covering up to 5 miles a day. “It’s life altering. As far as I’m concerned, she saved my life.”

Dr. Turpin and her team have been helping the senior community for over 14 years using the most cutting edge and innovative integrative medicine.

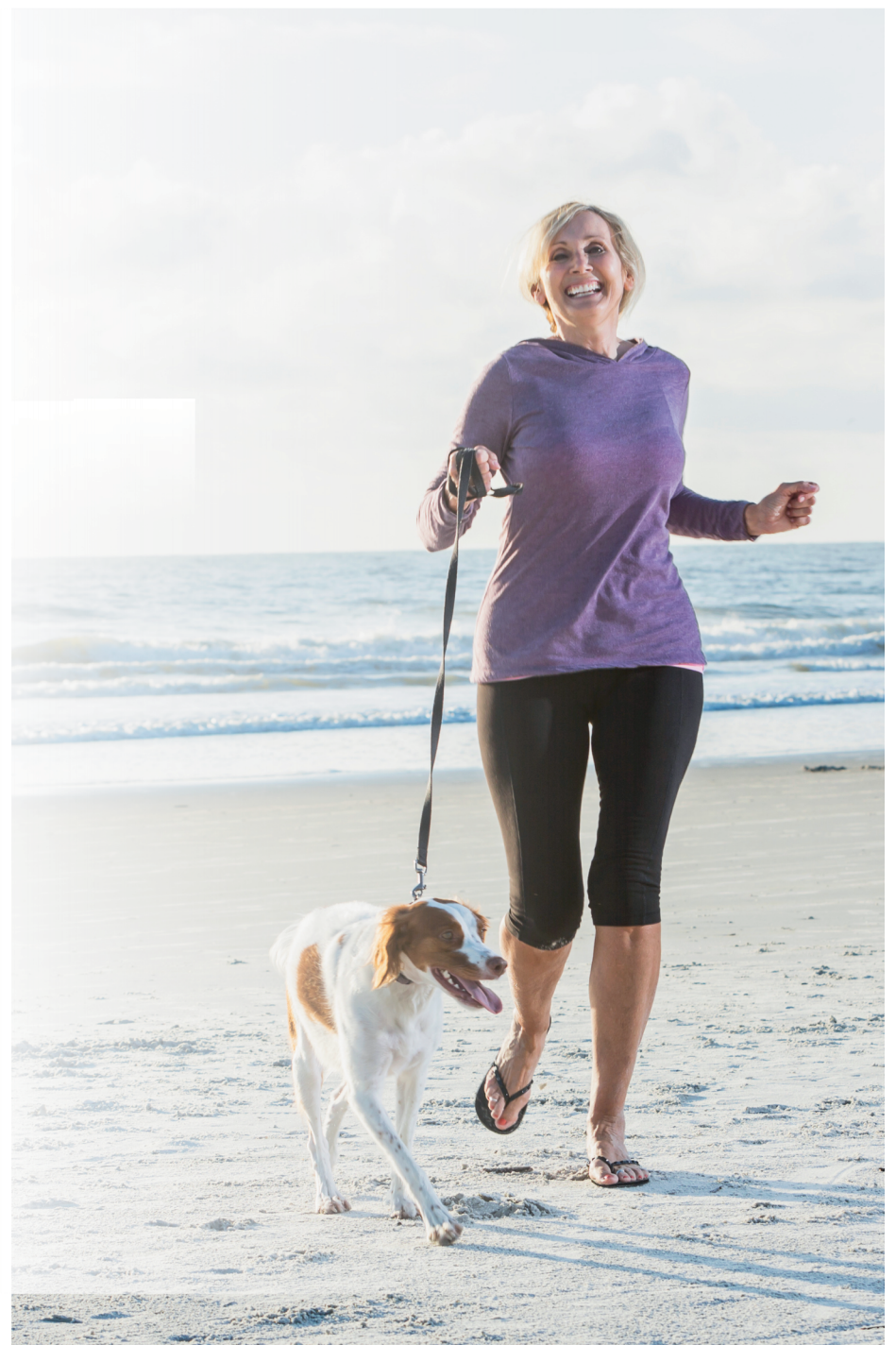
Specializing in chronic pain cases, specifically those that have been deemed ‘hopeless’ or ‘untreatable,’ she consistently generates unparalleled results.

What was once a missing link in senior healthcare is now easily accessible to the residents of Jacksonville and the Beaches.

If you’ve missed too much pickleball time because of pain,

or you’ve passed on that beach sunset because you’re afraid of falling, it’s time to call Riverplace Acupuncture Integrative Health. It’s time you let your golden years become truly golden.

Call (904) 720-8887 today to schedule your consultation, or visit [www.RiverplaceAcupuncture.com](http://www.RiverplaceAcupuncture.com) to take advantage of our New Patient Offer!



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# Humane Society auction funds pets' dental care

## For The Recorder

While your yearly dental exam may seem like a routine task, it's not so simple for dogs and cats.

Some people may not realize the critical importance of dental health for their pets, while others may be struggling with the costs. When pets don't receive routine dental care, major issues — and major costs — can arise.

In February, the St. Augustine Humane Society's Share the Love Auction recognizes National Pet Dental Health Month by raising money to help animals with important dental procedures. Now through Feb. 11, many special items, experiences, services and more will be available for auction at [www.21auctions.com/love2025](http://www.21auctions.com/love2025).

"Dental health is important for the whole family, including our treasured pet members," said Carolyn Sindad Smith, executive director of the St. Augustine Humane Society. "We recognize that for some, costs can easily add up and exceed their financial capabilities. That's where we can step in and offer some much-needed assistance. Our goal for the Share the Love Auction this year is to raise \$3,000, and all proceeds benefit pets requiring the most care."



Vet tech Heather Jett cares for a pet at the St. Augustine Humane Society.

Contributed photo

The St. Augustine Humane Society works to ensure that all pets live safe, happy and healthy lives and that pet owners have the tools and education to create lasting relationships with their animals, lowering the risk of them ending up in shelters or on the streets.

The St. Augustine Humane Society's Dental Health Program aims to provide life-saving dental care to the animals that need it most. Dental issues are increasing in pets, with 80% of dogs and 70% of cats showing signs of periodontal disease by the age of 3. These diseases can cause serious issues, damaging not only the teeth, roots, mouth and gums but also vital organs, including the kidneys and heart.

"We are currently experiencing a surge in pets requiring critical dental care," said Sindad Smith. "The Share the Love Auction is a wonderful way to help. This year's auction features baskets with gourmet food, wine and pet supplies, gift certificates to popular restaurants, vacation experiences to Panama and Antigua, classes, activities like golf and scuba diving and more. Bidders can snag a great Valentine's Day gift for a loved one or themselves while giving the gift of health to an animal in need. It's truly a win-win!"

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

## KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

# Camellias

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams." — Henry David Thoreau

By Kathy Esfahani

Winter has arrived in North Florida, and we still have several more weeks before spring planting to avoid the chance of frosts. But that doesn't mean you can't have color in your landscape now! Camellias are evergreen shrubs that brighten the cooler months with stunning, colorful blooms in January.



Kathy Esfahani

Camellias have adorned Southern landscapes for about 200 years. Many types of camellias are available and offer sizes ranging from dwarf varieties to the larger camellia japonica. These Japanese camellias often grow to heights of six to 12 feet but can be larger if older. They can reach six to 10 feet in width and produce flowers in white, pink and red. Consider the growth potential for your selected camellias when adding them to your landscape.

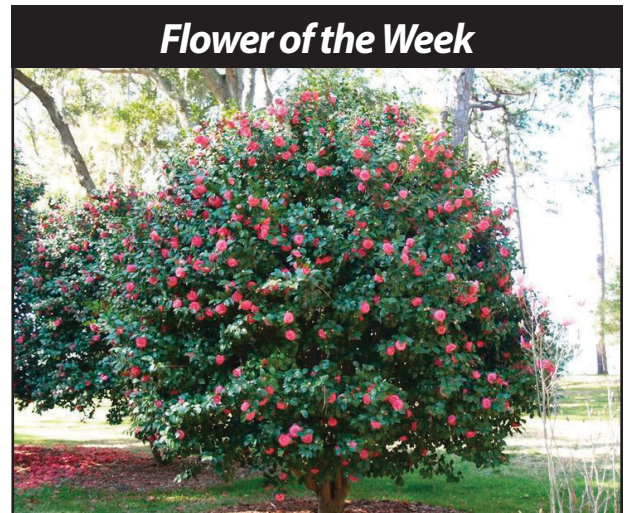
Because camellias are low maintenance and can live for many years, they can be ideal landscaping plants. Camellias prefer partial sun — ideally morning sunshine and afternoon shade. Plant them in shallow holes to



Camellia bloom

expose the top of the plant's crown (the area of the plant where the stem meets the roots). Be sure your camellias have at least five feet of space between them and other trees/shrubs so that they are not competing for water and nutrients. Camellias prefer well-drained but consistently moist soil. Regular watering is essential, particularly during the first year after planting. Rainfall may be

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery



Flower of the Week

Camellia

enough for more mature plants as long as extra water is given during dry periods. If needed, prune camellias during summer months before new buds appear.

Camellias can serve many purposes in your landscape. Use them to establish a foundation for landscape beds, to create borders or hedges around your yard, or to accent with pops of color for winter months. Grouping several camellia shrubs together can enhance their impact in a landscape.

Happy planting!

*Flower of the Week: Camellia*

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

# Hatcher receives 2024 Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award

For The Recorder

Marsha Hatcher, a multidisciplinary visual artist who has exhibited her work and helped to build a more vibrant arts community in Northeast Florida for three decades, has been honored with the 2024 Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award.

This year, the award provides a \$20,000 unrestricted grant, the largest of its kind in the region. It is bestowed annually in recognition of a gifted local artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida.

The award is named for the late Ann McDonald Baker, whose leadership helped create and nurture such vital cultural gems such as The Community Foundation's Art Ventures Initiative, the Arts Assembly (now the Cultural Council), Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and Greenscape, among others. Marsha is the 10th winner of the award.

"Our mother's passion was to make her community a better, more beautiful and caring place," said Sally Baker Lee, her daughter and chair of the selection committee. Hatcher was nominated by Carol Alexander, a trustee at The Community Foundation and member of the award selection committee. "Marsha Hatcher



The four children of Ann McDonald Baker with this year's Art Ventures Award winner, Marsha Hatcher, at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, which Ann McDonald Baker helped establish in 1985. From left to right: Sally Baker Lee, Missy Boney, Marsha Hatcher, Margaret Wetherbee and Tom Baker.

Contributed photo

exemplifies this devotion, as do all the recipients of the Ann Baker Art Ventures Award over the last 10 years."

Hatcher has traveled the world, and her art, primarily painting, captures these diverse experiences. She has mastered several artistic media including oils, acrylic, wood and metal, and enjoys experiment-

ing with colors and mediums. She has exhibited her work in the Ritz Theatre & Museum, the Beaches Museum and History Park, Yellow House and the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, among many others. She learned of the award in the fall at a surprise announcement at the office of The Community Foundation.

"I was elated, I was happy, I was thrilled," said Hatcher. "My first thought was, 'Why me?' I realize I do things for the community that I think are required. If you're part of the community, you know you have your roles in the community, so I do what I can to lift it up."

Hatcher has lent a strong artistic voice to issues around racial justice. Twice a recipient of an Art Ventures grant, one project awarded was her "Premeditated, Extrajudicial" exhibit at the Museum of Science & History.

Helping other artists find their voices, Hatcher is an arts educator and a founding, and still active, board member for The Art Center Cooperative. Since 2005, this nonprofit artist collaborative has been staging exhibitions for area artists, providing professional supports and completing community projects, including several at area schools. Most recently, Hatcher has been an instructor of visual arts students at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

"Marsha's work over three decades truly speaks for itself," said Isaiah M. Oliver, president of The Community Foundation. "Her contributions have made an enduring impact on helping Jacksonville cultivate and retain its talented emerging artists."

# Business Weekly

For MORE business news, go to [facebook.com/ThePVRecorder](https://facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

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[www.PonteVedraRecorder.com](https://www.PonteVedraRecorder.com)

## Pizza Hut of Ponte Vedra grand opening is Jan. 31

Flynn Group LP, owner and operator of more than 975 Pizza Hut locations in 27 states and the largest franchisee in the system, has announced that the official grand opening of its new restaurant, located at 10580 U.S. 1 North, Ponte Vedra, will be held Jan. 31.

The new Pizza Hut of Ponte Vedra, which quietly opened its doors to guests Jan. 14, will mark the occasion by giving away free pizza for one year to the first 25 guests in line. Conditions apply. See store for details.

The 1,393-square-foot restaurant, which will create about 15 jobs, features Pizza Hut's popular menu items, a fresh new look and more modern, compact design. Bold, energetic graphics are displayed on the interior and exterior of the new smaller design concept, making it ideal for delivery, curbside and carryout



Contributed photo

The new Pizza Hut of Ponte Vedra is located at 10580 U.S. 1 North.

orders.

Pizza Hut of Ponte Vedra's regular hours of operation are 10 a.m. to midnight Sunday-Thursday and 10 a.m. to 1

a.m. Friday and Saturday.

"We are excited to officially celebrate the highly anticipated grand opening of our new Pizza Hut of Ponte Vedra loca-

tion," said Jerrod Mitchell, vice president of marketing, Flynn Group. "More than just serving the iconic Pizza Hut favorites our guests love, Flynn Group views each of our locations as an investment in the local economy, through job creation and philanthropic initiatives. We look forward to providing the reliable and value-driven dining experience Pizza Hut fans love while being an active business partner to the Ponte Vedra community."

Flynn Group is looking to hire people across its restaurant brands nationwide, with available positions including delivery drivers, cooks, shift leaders and managers.

For more information, including details on employment opportunities, go to [Flynn.com/Your-Career](https://Flynn.com/Your-Career)

Other Pizza Hut locations owned and operated by Flynn Group nearby include Jacksonville, St. Augustine and St. Johns.



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Taping the Beachwalk episode



Visiting a penthouse in downtown Jacksonville



The Hammond family attends a Jumbo Shrimp game, which will be featured in one episode.

## Real estate team to air season two of 'Property Tours of NE Florida'

Brad and Alyssa Hammond of The Hammond Family Group will premiere season two of their local TV show, "Property Tours of Northeast Florida" at 11 a.m. Feb. 16 on ABC25 (WJXX) — one week after the Super Bowl.

They've made a couple of changes since the broadcast of season one that should further enhance the show:

- Instead of featuring two homes/communities per episode, they are featuring one home/community plus an area attraction. The featured attractions include: a Jumbo Shrimp baseball game, The Ritz Carlton at Amelia Island, St. Johns Town Center (iFly, Escape Game and TopGolf),

The Jacksonville Zoo and historic St. Augustine (The Museums at Old Town and St. George Street).

- Regarding the home feature, the Hammonds will actively tour the home with the guests discussing the property and community with them throughout the tour. This differs from season one, where they spoke while sitting in the properties' living rooms.

Here's a look at the episodes for season two:

- Feb. 16: Jumbo Shrimp minor league baseball game / San Marco Place
- Feb. 23: Ritz Carlton Resort at Amelia Island / Beachwalk

- March 2: St. Johns Town Center shopping district / Ponte Vedra Boulevard oceanfront

- March 9: The Jacksonville Zoo / Rivertown

- March 16: Old Town Museums and St. George Street / Historic St. Augustine

Viewers will learn more about some of the attractions of Northeast Florida while discovering properties in the regional market.

Want to see episodes from season one? Go to: [youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIaS5fJ6oA5PX7Q70pSM93wSJKY1I3ue](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIaS5fJ6oA5PX7Q70pSM93wSJKY1I3ue).

Learn more about The Hammond Family Group at [hammondfamilygroup.com](https://hammondfamilygroup.com).

# Benchmarks of Success

## A look at major career developments in the area



### Sharon Brown joins UF Health Primary Care – Julington Creek

Sharon Brown, advanced practice registered nurse, has joined UF Health Primary Care — Julington Creek and is now seeing patients.

Brown accepts patients 18 months and older and is eager to provide high-quality, compassionate medical care to patients and families in the region. Brown joins primary care physician Tristan Imhof M.D., who currently cares for patients at the practice.

With more than three decades in clinical practice, Brown has gained extensive experience in treating chronic and acute illnesses. She is most interested in managing chronic diseases, women’s health, mental health, nutrition, immunizations, orthopaedics, dermatology and pharmacology. She is skilled at gathering thorough patient histories, performing physical exams, triaging more serious injuries and illnesses and interpreting the results of labs and imaging tests.

As an active-duty Army nurse for much of her career, Brown learned how to care for people from a wide variety of geographic and cultural backgrounds.

UF Health Primary Care — Julington Creek is accepting patients for primary care and preventive health services. The practice is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 904-819-1005 to schedule an appointment or go to [StJohns.UFHealth.org/julingtoncreek](http://StJohns.UFHealth.org/julingtoncreek) to learn more.

### Appointments made to Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta has announced the appointment of Bemetra Simmons and Christy Budnick to the Jacksonville Branch board of directors. Simmons was appointed by

the Board of Governors to a three-term ending Dec. 31, 2027. Budnick was appointed by the Atlanta board of directors to a three-year term ending Dec. 31, 2027.

Simmons is president and chief executive officer of The Tampa Bay Partnership in Tampa. She is on the board directors of the Tampa Bay Sports Commission and Leadership Florida. Simmons is a graduate of Wake Forest University.

Budnick is chair of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty in Northeast Florida. She is a graduate of the University of Lynchburg.

Additionally, Brian Wolfburg has been reappointed by the Atlanta board of directors to serve a three-year term ending Dec. 31, 2027. Wolfburg is president and chief executive officer of VyStar Credit Union in Jacksonville, Florida, and a graduate of New York University.



Amy Pierce

### Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens appoints three

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens has announced the appointment of three new members to its staff: Amy Pierce as chief development officer, Mary Mantey as the Doolittle Family Director of Gardens & Horticulture, and Brianna Sharpe as the Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole Associate Curator, a position named in honor of the Jacksonville native and internationally renowned educator, scholar and transformational leader.

Pierce’s extensive career in the development field spans more than two decades. Most recently, she held the position of vice president and assistant treasurer of the Southeastern Grocer Gives Foundation and senior manager of Community Engagement & Charitable Giving of Southeastern Grocers.

She has held leadership positions in Northeast Florida nonprofits and educational institutions including serving

as the chief development officer of the Jacksonville Humane Society, the major gifts system officer at St. Vincent’s HealthCare and the director of development of the University of North Florida.



Mary Mantey

Mantey most recently served as landscape designer at the Elizabeth River Project in Norfolk, Virginia, where she designed and permitted residential and commercial living shorelines, riparian buffers and other conservation landscaping. Prior to that role, she was the curator of woody plants and horticulture manager at the Norfolk Botanical Garden and also house gardener at Bartram’s Garden in Philadelphia.



Brianna Sharpe

In her new role, Sharpe will work collaboratively with museum colleagues to promote, interpret and expand the Cummer Museum’s permanent collection that builds upon the museum’s vision of engaging all of the people who live, work in and visit Jacksonville. This new position was made possible by funding from a \$650,000 grant the museum received in 2023 from the Leadership in Art Museums (LAM) initiative, a partnership between the Ford Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Pilot House Philanthropy and Alice L. Walton Foundation.

### Hayes named Limelight Theatre’s board president

Limelight Theatre, St. Augustine’s premier community theatre, has announced that Jen Hayes has been elected as the new president of its board of directors. Hayes, a local Realtor, previously served as chair of the strategic planning committee, is a passionate supporter of the arts and theatre community and will lead the organization’s efforts to expand its reach, further its mission, and strengthen its contributions to the

cultural landscape of St. Augustine.

Hayes brings a wealth of experience in corporate leadership, project management, community engagement and fundraising. Her vision for the future of Limelight Theatre focuses on fostering collaboration, increasing education and family programming, and providing a diverse array of productions that inspire, educate, and entertain the community.

### UNF Army ROTC leader promoted to major

Capt. Christopher Ricciardi, commanding officer of the University of North Florida’s Army ROTC program, was promoted to the rank of major in the U.S. Army on Jan. 9. Officiating the promotion ceremony was U.S. Army Col. Jason Dumser, brigade commander for the U.S. Army Cadet Command’s Southeast Region, which is the highest point in the chain of command for UNF’s ROTC program.

The UNF Army ROTC is on track to be amongst the top-performing ROTC programs in the nation. The program first opened in the 1980s and was re-established in 2009. More than 160 officers have been commissioned since 2009.

UNF’s ROTC program currently has 72 cadets enrolled from UNF, Jacksonville University and Florida State College at Jacksonville and five full-time military science faculty positions. The program issued more than \$650,000 in scholarships/stipends to its cadets for the 2024-25 school year.

Additionally, 15 cadets are receiving state/federal tuition assistance in conjunction with service in the Florida Army National Guard and Army Reserves. The program will commission 22 officers into active-duty Army, Army National Guard or Army Reserve roles as second lieutenants by May.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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## GUEST COLUMN

# What should you know about risk and your investments?

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

Risk, and the role it plays in a portfolio, can be among the most difficult concepts to understand fully. Sometimes our view of risk isn't something we consider until there's a sharp market downturn or other activity that compels us to question our tolerances. To help bring the positives and negatives of risk into clearer focus, here are four important risk-related considerations for investors.

## 1. Risk has many faces

The term "risk" usually refers to investment risk: the idea that you could purchase stock at \$50 a share and it could be worth \$25 a year later. This kind of risk is relatively easy to understand, and it's measurable based on the ups and downs in an investment's price. The more volatile the price has been, the riskier the investment is considered to be.

Investment risk is only one risk investors can face. Others include:

- **Market risk.** This is the risk that the entire market will decline and pull your investment down with it. This happened to stocks during the Great Recession, as well as during the market decline due to the initial impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

- **Inflation risk.** Inflation is the overall increase in prices in an economy. There's a risk that an investment's return won't be enough to overcome inflation's impact. For example, if inflation runs 2% a year and your investment returns only 1%, your investment will buy less at the end of the year than at the beginning.



- **Opportunity risk.** Some investors believe you can avoid risk by investing conservatively. Opportunity risk is the possibility of missing out on the chance to earn better returns because you aren't being more aggressive.

There are other types of risk, too, including some specific to certain investment categories. For example, bond investors face default risk — the risk that the issuer will fail to make interest payments or repay the bond's par value at maturity.

## 2. Risks are usually linked to expected return

This is possibly the most important thing to understand about risk. Risk

and return generally go hand-in-hand: If you put money into a low-risk investment, you should probably expect lower returns. If you choose a higher-risk investment, you're likely seeking higher potential returns.

Of course, things don't always work out the way you expect. A high-risk investment may not get better returns. (In fact, you could lose your entire investment.)

## 3. You should determine your risk tolerance

Your risk tolerance is how much risk you can comfortably live with in your portfolio. Determining your risk tolerance can be challenging. One indicator that you've exceeded your investment risk tolerance: when your investments' performance keeps you awake at night — especially when there's market volatility.

It's OK to have a relatively low risk tolerance. However, focusing on lower-risk strategies may mean that you need to adjust your objectives — for example, having \$750,000 at retirement instead of \$1 million. Or, you may need to increase

the time until you tap into your investments. For example, you may decide to work until age 67 instead of 65 so you have more time to earn money, add to your portfolio, and wait before you begin to withdraw funds.

## 4. Help is available

Because risk is complicated — and only one aspect of investing — consider looking to a financial adviser for help with building your portfolio. A financial adviser will take the time to get to know your goals and understand your risk tolerance before recommending an investment plan.

All investing involves risk including the possible loss of principal.

Equity securities are subject to market risk, which means their value may fluctuate in response to general economic and market conditions, the prospects of individual companies, and industry sectors. Investments in equity securities are generally more volatile than other types of securities.

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

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Family room and dining



Back view



Ocean walk

# Ocean Views from penthouse-level Serenata condo

By Tina Webster, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services FNR

Step into the epitome of coastal luxury with the only penthouse-level retreat available at Serenata Beach.

Perched high above, this rare gem offers an unrivaled blend of sweeping direct ocean vistas and breathtaking Guana sunsets, creating a dual showcase of nature's finest displays. This bright and airy villa is designed for those who crave both comfort and sophistication.

Featuring three spacious bedrooms and three full baths, its open layout is enhanced by large tile floors, soaring ceilings and timeless plantation shutters. Two expansive terraces extend the



Aerial view

living space outdoors, inviting you to savor morning coffee as the sun rises over the Atlantic or toast to another

perfect day as the sky blazes in hues of gold over the Intracoastal.

Resort-style living is effortless in this

exclusive oceanfront community. With over half a mile of pristine, secluded beach and private pool, you'll find relaxation at every turn.

Steps away from the condo, the newly renovated South Ponte Vedra Club (formerly Serenata Beach Club) will be opening soon. The South Ponte Vedra Ocean Club will be an exclusive private oceanfront club offering members unparalleled experience of luxury, leisure and coastal beauty. Memberships are available today to join this wonderful new club.

Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to live on the top floor of Serenata Beach, where elegance meets the ease of maintenance-free living. The salt life awaits.

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# In the Arts

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## First Coast Opera gala to feature renowned composer



Juan Antonio Simarro

### For The Recorder

First Coast Opera will welcome world-renowned composer and musician Juan Antonio Simarro as the headliner for its upcoming gala on Feb. 1 at Embassy Suites in St. Augustine Beach. Known for his electrifying performances and dedication to making music accessible, Simarro's appearance will make this a night to remember.

Simarro recently composed the score for the 75th Anniversary of UNESCO in Spain, an honor that underscores his status as a cultural ambassador. His music accompanied this historic event featuring Nobel laureates such as Rigoberta Menchú and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Simarro has also collaborated globally, performing alongside icons like Julio Iglesias and creating TVE's



Curtis Tucker, general and artistic director of the First Coast Opera

corporate music for its 50th anniversary, marking his wide-reaching influence on the music world.

Here's a brief look at Simarro's career:

- Has brought symphonic music to 21st-century audiences.
- Composer of the "Symphony for a Better World," endorsed by the Spanish Federation of UNESCO Centers. The composition is a

candidate to become UNESCO's anthem.

- Recognized as one of the 50 most influential people in the country by Merca2 magazine for the second consecutive year.
- Artistic director of the Spanish Symphony Orchestra.
- Recipient of the Spanish Music Academy Award for Best Symphonic Composition for his work "Hallelujah"

from "A Christmas Opera."

- Composer of the official anthem for the Spanish Olympic Committee and the National Rhythmic Gymnastics Team.

In addition to his compositions, Simarro is a popular presenter on "Clásicos y Reverentes" on La2 de TVE, sharing his passion for classical music with a wide audience. His works, including the celebrated "Symphony for a Better World," have been performed at prestigious events like the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, captivating audiences worldwide.

The First Coast Opera gala will begin at 5 p.m. and conclude at 10 p.m. Feb. 1 at Embassy Suites, St. Augustine Beach. Tickets for this exclusive event are on sale now. VIP guests will enjoy a champagne reception, a meet-and-greet with Simarro, and a signed copy of his acclaimed educational DVD, "Your Class is an Orchestra."

General admission tickets are \$175; VIP tickets are \$250. To learn more or to buy tickets, go to firstcoastopera.com and click on "Tickets."

## Lightner Museum announces call for artists

### For The Recorder

With support from the Benjamin and Jean Troemel Arts Foundation, the Lightner Museum has announced the fifth year of the Lightner Local exhibition series. Created to showcase the talents of artists who live in Northeast and Cen-

tral Florida, three artists working in any media will be awarded solo exhibitions at the museum in 2025.

The Lightner Museum will host three exhibitions, opening on March 7, June 6 and Sept. 5. Each exhibition will be on display in the museum's East Room Gallery for approximately eight weeks.

Selected artists will receive:

- Solo exhibition at the Lightner Museum in the East Room Gallery
- Promotion via the museum's website, lightnermuseum.org
- Press outreach
- Social media outreach
- Exhibition opening during St. August-

ine's First Friday Art Walk

- \$2,000 honorarium

Lightner Museum staff will work directly with the selected artists to produce the exhibition and will promote it through print and online media. Submission deadline is Feb. 1.

### Applications

Artists should send the following:

- Three images of recent work — including title, dimensions, medium and date for each work
- Proposed exhibition title
- Exhibition proposal — 500 words or less
- Artist statement — 500 words or less
- Artist bio — 500 words or less
- Contact details
- Do not send actual artwork

Applications should be emailed to: lightnerlocal@lightnermuseum.org.

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Visitors tour an exhibit at the Lightner Museum.



# 'Bad Outdoorsmen' to open at Crisp-Ellert Art Museum

The Crisp-Ellert Art Museum (CEAM) and Flagler College will welcome artists and collaborators Katie Hargrave and Meredith Laura Lynn back to campus for their exhibition "Bad Outdoorsmen." Curated by former director Julie Dickover, the show will be on view from Jan. 20 through April 19. Lynn will lead a walkthrough of the exhibition on Friday, Feb. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. during the First Friday Artwalk. This event is free and open to the public.

The artists' project-based collaborative practice is grounded in an inquiry of so-called "public lands." They use materials such as tents, coolers and postcards as sculptural bases that they manipulate with photographic imagery. Drawn to historical landscape photography, environmental literature and social media images within their studio research, the artists often collapse many forms and sources within one body of work.

During their 2022 CEAM Artist Residency at Flagler College, Hargrave and Lynn continued their research into influential environmentalists. Through previous projects, they had researched the legacy of John Muir, who came to north Florida in 1866. After spending time in the archives of the St. Augustine



Contributed photo

Historical Society, they expanded their research to include John Audubon and Billy Bartram, two other significant figures in the history of American conservation movements who spent time in St. Augustine.

"Bad Outdoorsmen" chronicles the failures and difficulties these men encountered in this region and contextualizes their legacies in contemporary pop culture representations of the outdoors, particularly reality survivalist television

shows.

In their exhibition at the Crisp-Ellert Art Museum, Hargrave and Lynn continue to examine their own relationship to "public land" through a mock audition tape for the reality TV series "Alone." Exploring the disparities between the survivalists in "Alone" and conservationists Muir, Bartram and Audubon, Hargrave and Lynn created five-channel video recorded at locations visited by these "bad outdoorsmen."

Each episode of "Alone" begins with a quote from a conservationist, many from Muir. For their video, the artists gathered stills from the episodes of "Alone" starting with Muir quotes, cut the images into a leaf-like camouflage pattern and sewed them onto full body suits.

They then fashioned these articles after traditional ghillie suits, designed to camouflage the wearer. Hargrave and Lynn recorded themselves visiting sites where Audubon camped and Bartram tried to start a homestead.

The show also features a wall-based textile installation of pages from Muir's text, abstracted with drawings from Bartram and Audubon to explore the tropes and myths that contribute to our understanding of the outdoors. Through sculpture and video installation, their work explores how consumerism, mainstream conservation movements, the romanticization of western expansion and attitude toward nature all interrelate.

CEAM programming is supported through grants from the Dr. JoAnn Crisp-Ellert Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, the St. Johns Cultural Council and voco, an IGH hotel.

## Upcoming Jacksonville Symphony Experiences

- **Beethoven & Rachmaninoff**  
January 31 & February 1
- **A Journey Through Symphonic Americana**  
February 6 & 7
- **Violins of Hope: Building Bridges Through the Power of Music**  
February 15
- **Soul Kings: Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, The Righteous Brothers & More**  
February 21 & 22
- **Beethoven's "Emperor"**  
March 7 & 8



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Photo by Todd Rosenberg courtesy of the Jacksonville Symphony  
Conductor Michael Stern

# Jacksonville Symphony to present 'Beethoven & Rachmaninoff'

The Jacksonville Symphony continues its 75th Anniversary Season with the sixth Florida Blue Classical concert "Beethoven & Rachmaninoff," on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Renowned guest conductor Michael Stern will lead the symphony through a program of classical masterpieces, featuring Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Symphonic Dances" and Guillaume Connesson's "Flame Writing."

The program starts with "Flame Writing," an electrifying contemporary work inspired by the composer's fascination with energy and motion. The piece, known for its vibrant orchestration and rhythmic drive, was also composed with Beethoven in mind.

"I wanted to compose a work with a fierceness that would draw a psychological portrait of [Ludwig van] Beethoven and, more generally, pay homage to the music of Germany," said Connesson. "In the development, the four themes are transmuted, recalling the sudden emergence of the major mode in the finale of Beethoven's Fifth. Following the drama comes a dance of joy."

The symphony will then perform Rachmaninoff's "Symphonic Dances," a three-movement suite that was originally composed during his later years in Huntington, Long Island. This work has been referred to as a swan song and was almost presented as a ballet due to its many dance rhythms. It is both

nostalgic and innovative, showcasing Rachmaninoff's signature harmonies while embracing modern elements of 20th-century music.

The final piece of the program is Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, often hailed as one of his most exhilarating symphonies. Known for its rhythmic vitality and emotional depth, this work features an iconic second movement and a lively final movement that will end the evening with a joyful energy.

To learn more about the pieces, watch Music Director Courtney Lewis' Insight episodes available at [JaxSymphony.org](http://JaxSymphony.org) and on the symphony's YouTube channel.

Tickets are available at [JaxSymphony.org](http://JaxSymphony.org) or by calling the box office at 904-354-5547.

# Jacksonville Dance Theatre pushes artistic boundaries with RENDER

Jacksonville Dance Theatre (JDT) continues its innovative 13th season with RENDER, an evening of boundary-pushing contemporary modern dance works presented at The Florida Ballet. This intimate performance series will run for four shows on Feb. 1-2 at the Picinich-Byrd Theatre.

RENDER features a triple bill of new, non-traditional dance works from commissioned artists Eboné Amos, Theresa Jimmerson and James Morrow, each bringing their unique artistic vision to create an immersive and thought-provoking experience.

"RENDER represents a crucial moment in JDT's artistic evolution," said Rebecca R. Levy, JDT's artistic director. "By bringing together these three distinctive choreographic voices in the intimate setting of the Picinich-Byrd Theatre, we're creating an environment where audiences can experience the cutting edge of contemporary modern dance up close. Each piece challenges our understanding of what dance can be and say."

Amos, assistant professor of African-American studies in the Theatre and Dance Department at Austin Peay State University, presents "cabins in the sky," a work that explores the transformative power of the Black radical imagination through movement. Amos, who has performed with renowned artists, including Debbie Al-



Contributed photo

len and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, brings her unique blend of cultural storytelling and avant-garde movement to explore how embodied practice might translate visionary thinking into concrete change.

New York-based German choreographer Jimmerson's "Stoffocation" examines materialism and identity through sinuous physicality. Inspired by James Wallman's book, the piece explores how a relationship with material possessions affects one's sense of self. Drawing from her background as a member of a family of professional musicians, Jimmerson creates work that captures complex layers of human experience through highly physical movement.

Morrow, an internationally recognized award-winning choreographer and founder of James Morrow/THE MOVEMENT, presents "Machine Girl," an immersive multimedia work exploring artificial intelligence. Known for developing the "Urban Fusion" movement style and bringing together street dance, modern and contempo-

rary elements, Morrow's piece investigates the evolution of AI and its implications for human control and consciousness.

"Creating 'cabins in the sky' with Jacksonville Dance Theatre has been truly remarkable," said Amos. "The dancers' willingness to dive into challenging material, combined with their technical excellence, has allowed us to create something that speaks to both the heart and mind. JDT's dedication to pushing boundaries while staying true to cultural storytelling makes this collaboration especially meaningful. Together, we're showing how dance can be a powerful force for transformation and connection."

RENDER will be presented at 6 and 8 p.m. Feb. 1, and 1 and 3 p.m. Feb. 2 at The Picinich-Byrd Theatre at The Florida Ballet, 10131 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville.

Tickets are \$35 per person. Quantities are limited for each performance. Purchase tickets at [jacksonvilledance-theatre.org/render](http://jacksonvilledance-theatre.org/render).

# Sports

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Photos by Anthony Richards



The Nease and Beachside boys soccer squads are ready for the start of their district tournaments on Tuesday, Jan. 28.



The Nease Panthers girls soccer team has claimed the No. 2 seed in the district 3-6A tournament.

## Soccer district tournament brackets set

By Anthony Richards

This year's soccer district tournaments have been set and there are several local teams who have their eyes set on a possible district title and state tournament berth.

Ponte Vedra High and Beachside High are both in district 4-5A with the Sharks' boys entering the tournament as the top seed with a record of 12-2, with their only losses coming to Creekside and Clay.

The Sharks won nine of the contests by more than one goal as they showcased a high-powered offense with senior striker Thomas Arndt and junior midfielder Nick Churchill both averaging one goal per game during the regular season.

Junior Keegan Cornett has been solid in goal throughout the season and has been a big reason why the Sharks have four shutouts.

Although the Sharks are the top seed, the Barracudas (11-3-2) will be the host team for the tournament as the No. 2 seed and it appears that the two teams are on a collision course to meet in the final.

The Barracudas have a lockdown defense that has accounted for 10 shutouts and only allowed four goals all season long.

The Sharks will have a bye in the first round and play the winner of St. Augustine High and Ed White High in the semifinals on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m., while the Barracudas will play third-seeded Englewood High in their semifinal matchup at 6 p.m. on Jan. 28.

In the District 3-6A boys' tournament, the Nease Panthers (7-5-3) are the No. 3 seed and will face Matanzas in the semifinals at Bartram Trail High on Jan. 28 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The Panthers have a lot of momentum

heading into the district tournament after having finished the regular season with a record of 4-1-1 in their final six games.

Senior defenseman Tyler Ghazanfari leads the Panthers with 10 goals and is second on the team with four assists as well.

Just as on the boys side of things, the girls soccer tournament in district 4-5A features the same bracket with the Sharks (10-3-2) as the top seed and the Barracudas (8-5-2) right behind as the No. 2 seed.

The Sharks' girls' squad is ranked No. 8 in the state among all classes and is 20th nationally according to Max Preps and will begin what it hopes will be yet another deep run as they look to defend their state title from a year ago.

Lily Morse and Izzy Whitaker are a pair of junior forwards that have been a dynamic duo for the Sharks offensively. Together, they have combined for 20

goals on 75 shots this season.

After a furious start to the year where the Barracudas won seven of their first eight games, it has been a rough stretch to end the season with only one win in their final seven contests.

The Barracudas will look to rediscover their early season form as the postseason gets underway.

Ponte Vedra High will host the tournament with the Barracudas facing St. Augustine High on Monday, Jan. 27, at 6 p.m. with the Sharks facing the winner of Englewood High and Ed White High to follow at 7:30 p.m.

The Nease girls have claimed the No. 2 seed in the district 3-6A and will square off against Toco Creek High at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 24.

The Panthers (11-3-2) have outscored opponents 46-10 during the regular season.

## Monster fourth quarter leads Panthers to win over rival Sharks

By Anthony Richards

The Nease High Panthers girls basketball team bounced back and got redemption from a loss earlier in the season to the rival Ponte Vedra High Sharks with a 53-43 victory on Friday, Jan. 17.

In both contests between the teams this year it was the road team that had the edge on that night.

It was a close game throughout the first three quarters with the squads tied at 13 after the first quarter and the Panthers (8-9, 3-1) clinging to a 36-34 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

However, just when the look and feel of the game was very similar to the first meeting between the two, which was tight until the end when the Sharks (9-10, 1-1) won 39-37.

But the difference in the game this time around proved to be an explosion by the Panthers offense in the final frame, as they outscored the Sharks 17-9 and extended the lead to double digits in the process.

The impressive nature of the Panthers' offensive night was fueled by their ability to spread the ball around and have several players involved in the game plan.

As a result, they had all six players that played score at least five points, including McKenna Owens and Casey Eliason leading the way with 15 and 10 points, respectively.

Others who contributed to the balanced attack were Audrey Rollins with nine points, Abigail Robinson and Sage Pytel with seven points apiece, and Sydney Minx rounding out the scoring with five points.

Robinson was also a force on the glass all night and grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds.

For the Sharks, freshman Jocelyn Hoffmann continued her productive season with a game-high 16 points thanks to hitting four of 10 three-point attempts.

Arden Doherty joined Hoffmann in double figures scoring with 12 points in the contest.

Next up for the Panthers are a pair of home games against St. Johns County foes Creekside and Bartram Trail on Thursday, Jan. 23, and Friday, Jan. 24, both games will start at 7:30 p.m., while the Sharks welcome in St. Augustine High to the Shark Tank on Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

# PGA of America hands out local chapter awards

By Anthony Richards

The Northern chapter of the North Florida section of the PGA of America held its annual chapter awards event on Thursday, Jan. 16.

The 2024 award winners included three members representing the Sawgrass Country Club staff and one from the PGA Tour Performance Center.

Sawgrass Country Club was honored with Sydney Mattiace winning the professional of the year award, Aaron Russell earned the Rolex senior player of the year, and Stefan Brunt was named the PGA professional development award winner.

Andrew Lanahan with the PGA Tour Performance Center was awarded the teacher/coach of the year.

Other golf clubs honored from the St. Johns County area included Wes Tucker and Bea Mauricio from St. Johns Golf Club.

Tucker received the Bill Strausbaugh Award for his role in education and Mauricio received recognition as assistant professional of the year, while Ryan Koury of Sawgrass Marriott was named public merchandiser of the year and Reagan Davis of World Golf Village was the resort merchandiser of the year.

The event was the last official duty of Derek Sprague as TPC Sawgrass general manager who presented the awards before heading to Frisco, Texas, to begin his new role as chief executive officer of the PGA of America.



The 2024 PGA of America North Florida chapter award winners were announced on Thursday, Jan. 16.

Contributed photo

# New race to debut on DONNA Marathon Weekend

The DONNA Foundation will be racing toward the fun on Feb. 2 with an all-new race on DONNA Marathon Weekend 2025. Athletes can enjoy the brand-new Pete's Bar DONNA Crawl, a race designed for athletes who want a good time for a good cause.

The race begins at the start line with the

marathoners at 7:30 a.m. but diverts to a scenic two-mile jaunt where runners can run, walk or crawl, ending at the iconic Neptune Beach institution, Pete's Bar. Participants meet at Seawalk Pavilion, 75 1st St. N., Jacksonville Beach.

Participants will cross the finish line and head directly to an exclusive celebration

waiting on Lemon Street. Runners will head into Pete's for post-crawl festivities, bites and drinks, and then will be free to explore the Beaches Town Center and find a front-row spot to cheer on everyone running the National Marathon and Half Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer.

This all-new race boasts a medal that doubles as a bottle opener, and a chance to participate in DONNA Marathon

Weekend without the long training commitment of running a full marathon.

Registration for the Pete's Bar DONNA Crawl is \$50; spots are limited. Register at [breastcancermarathon.com/races-challenges/petes](http://breastcancermarathon.com/races-challenges/petes). Monthly Giving Society members will receive an exclusive discount.

All registrants must be 21 years of age or older to participate.

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

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INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOHN JOSEPH III, DECEASED, CHRIS UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARIANNE M. UNKNOWN, U.S. BANK TRUST ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF CAPITAL TRUST 1, STATE OF FLORIDA, LISA ANN GRIFVIN SPOUSE OF LISA ANN UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN COMMON WITH LISA GRIFFIN, are hereby notified that the Clerk of the Court will sell and best bidder for cash at 10:00 AM on February 2, 2024, the following de-

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## NEAT AND TIDY WORD SEARCH

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

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

- |              |             |                 |                |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| ACTIVITY     | DONATION    | MANAGEMENT      | REPURPOSE      |
| CLOSETS      | FILING      | ORGANIZING      | SEQUENCING     |
| CLUTTER      | GARAGE      | PACKRAT         | SORTING        |
| COLLECTIBLES | GROUPING    | PERFECTIONIST   | SYSTEM         |
| COMMON AREA  | LABELS      | PROCRASTINATION | TIDYING        |
| CONTAINERS   | MAINTENANCE | PURGING         | VERTICAL SPACE |

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### CROSSWORD

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

- ACROSS**
- 1. "Loser" rocker
  - 5. Partner to relaxation
  - 9. Mixing
  - 11. Winged nut
  - 13. Expression of blame
  - 15. Vast ocean
  - 16. Comedienne Gasteyer
  - 17. Multiply
  - 19. Meat from a pig (French)
  - 21. Related
  - 22. Rocker Stewart
  - 23. Surprise completely
  - 25. Loon
  - 26. Canister
  - 27. Large, deep-bodied fish
  - 29. Takes forcefully
  - 31. Oil cartel
  - 33. Palmer and Hepburn are two
  - 34. More than one
  - 36. Places down purposefully
  - 38. Pitching statistic
  - 39. Type of sword
  - 41. Witnesses
  - 43. Body part
  - 44. Mixes slowly
  - 46. Satisfy
  - 48. Strong belief
  - 52. One's physique (slang)
  - 53. More frightening
  - 54. Soup cracker
  - 56. Teaches
  - 57. One who carries something
  - 58. Actor Sean
  - 59. Changes
- DOWN**
- 5. Competition
  - 6. Muslim ruler title
  - 7. Hunting expeditions
  - 8. Large mollusk
  - 9. Bind securely
  - 10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
  - 11. 2-point plays in football
  - 12. Breezed through
  - 14. Type setting
  - 15. Felt for
  - 18. Codified rules
  - 20. Small dome
  - 24. Chevrotain
  - 26. Male reproductive gland
  - 28. Controversial beliefs
  - 30. ZZZ
  - 32. One who confines
  - another
  - 34. Bishop
  - 35. Garlands
  - 37. Bird that flies by the coast
  - 38. Optical device
  - 40. Greek goddess of discord
  - 42. Some are "Rolling"
  - 43. Formerly (archaic)
  - 45. Thrust a knife into
  - 47. German river
  - 49. Atomic #26
  - 50. Make a grotesque face
  - 51. Primordial matter of the universe
  - 55. Chinese philosophical principle

### SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

- DOWN**
- 1. \_\_\_ Aires, city
  - 2. Coarse grass
  - 3. Type of gene
  - 4. Door handle



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