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Valentine's Day Page 13

Thursday, February 6, 2025

PonteVedraRecorder.com

VOLUME 56, NO. 14 \$1.00

Local event promotes understanding

Community gathers for second annual Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate event

By Holly Tishfield

On Thursday, Jan. 30, members of the community joined together at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach for the second annual Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate kickoff meeting and dinner.

Beyond its catchy name and the incentive of a complimentary bagel with cream cheese, this campaign empowers the community to stand against antisemitism and all forms of hate through education and unity.

"I really enjoy the initiative because it brings everyone together to try to eradicate hate in our community," said Ayak Akech, a teen volunteer with Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate. "We can do that by educating each other and talking about the different forms of hate that we've seen. Hate generally comes from a lack of education, and I think it's the only way we can make a change."

Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate was founded in 2020 by the University of Florida Hillel group, an effort designed to combat antisemitism and hate by encouraging community members to make a pledge and engage in important conversations. Last year, local community leaders from diverse backgrounds kickstarted the Jacksonville division of the campaign with about 50 volunteers. For year

EVENT continues on **Page 10**

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Sharks outlast Barracudas, rack up another district title

By Anthony Richards

The quest to defend their state championship from a year ago is in full swing after the Sharks handled business as the top seed with a convincing 8-0 win over Lake City Columbia High in the Class 5A state tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The Sharks (12-3-2) earned their No. 1 seed in region one with yet another girls soccer district title following a 1-0 victory over the Beachside High Barracudas at home on Jan. 29.

Home cooking is something the Sharks will have in their favor for the next couple of rounds as long as they keep winning until the state semifinals thanks to their top seeding.

Lily Morse has been someone the Sharks

SHARKS continues on Page 36



The Sharks earned the top seed in the Class 5A state tournament after winning the district championship over Beachside on Jan. 29.







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BRIEFS

Challah bake to celebrate cancer survivors

Chabad at the Beaches and Sharsheret will hold the Beaches Pink Challah Bake to celebrate, support and honor those in the community who have been affected by breast cancer. This women's event will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, at Chabad at the Beaches, 521 A1A North, Ponte Vedra, with a pre-event social at 6 p.m.

Featuring engaging stories from breast cancer survivors and those with breast cancer in their lives, the challah bake will combine the mitzvah of challah with education and awareness for women of all ages. To RSVP, go to chabadbeaches.com/pinkchallahbake. Cost is \$30.

GTM volunteer orientation Friday

Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) National Estuarine Research Reserve will offer a new volunteer

orientation from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 7.

Interested volunteers will learn about the background and history of the reserve, volunteer opportunities and the benefits of volunteering at GTM.

Meet at the GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

After completing the volunteer application at gtmnerr.org/volunteer, contact volunteer coordinator Abby Kuhn at Abigail.Kuhn@FloridaDEP.gov to ensure that it was received.

Virtual workshop to help job seekers

The Savvy Job Hunters Ministry of Christ Episcopal Church will host a free virtual workshop, "Must-Have Interviewing Tips", from 10:30 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 21.

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Learn interviewing pointers to get you started, preparing yourself for the interview, 20 interview questions, and more. The workshop will be presented by Buddy Webster, partner, LEADERS Professional Recruiting, Inc.

Email Pam Ottesen at pottesen66@gmail. com to receive the Zoom meeting link.

PVPV Rawlings sets informational meeting

PVPV Rawlings Elementary School will hold an informational meeting from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Beaches Branch Library, 600 Third St., Neptune Beach.

This is for any family living in or around the St. Johns County School District and is interested in attending PVPV Rawlings via controlled open enrollment for the 2025-26 school year.

Sign-up is required to attend. To reserve a space, call Ms. Jason at 547-8579. Space is limited to two parents/guardians per child.

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.

Family seining activity planned

Join a guided family seining activity from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Learn about the animals and their roles in Guana Lake by pulling a seine net and collecting species of fish, crabs and other marine life.

Meet at GTM Research Reserve Guana Dam, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

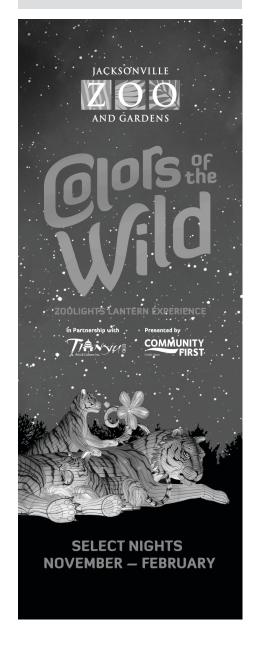
Register online at gtmnerr.org/visit/events. The event is free, but parking is \$3 per vehicle. All necessary gear (waders and boots) will be provided. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are recommended.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Food for Fines program collects more than 2,500 food items

St. Johns County Public Library patrons were exceptionally generous over the holiday season, donating more than 2,500 nonperishable food items for St. Johns County's Health and Human Services Food Pantry through Food for Fines. The annual Food for Fines program enables patrons to donate food to local families in need while helping to reduce their own overdue fines during the holiday season.

"It's a real benefit to the community we serve to have the Food for Fines program," said Tracy Dillon, social services manager for St. Johns County. "The food donated by library patrons replenishes our dwindling food supplies and allows us to operate our food pantry for nearly the whole year."

Health and Human Services provides a wide variety of services throughout the



Contributed photos

year for approximately 10,000 clients in St. Johns County.

"Since we first implemented Food



for Fines in 2009, the community has really gotten behind the program. It's even supported by our patrons who don't

have fines," said Debra Rhodes Gibson, St. Johns County Public Library System director. "We're thrilled that we were able to offer our patrons \$2 off their fines for each item of food donated and help their generous donations go a little further."

Food for Fines is one of several collaborative programs that the St. Johns County Public Library System participates in with other county departments, extending its reach to St. Johns County residents. To learn more about the library system and its programming, go to sjcpls.org.



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Local high school student Sam Evans of Nocatee with Asheville City Schools representatives after recently dropping off 1,315 new and gently used donated children's books to the school system.



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Leading with Literature has quickly grown to more than 10 states and four time zones.



Evans and Leading with Literature has already begun its second drive, which this time is focused on raising books to donate for children affected by the recent California wildfires.

ocal teen creates national book drive initiati.

By Anthony Richards

In just a matter of months since beginning Leading with Literature, local high schooler Sam Evans' dream of making a difference with his nonprofit is in full swing.

Evans is a 16-year-old homeschool student who lives in Nocatee and started the nonprofit in November with the goal of having an initiative that could gather and donate books for people in Asheville, North Carolina, affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton.

In the past couple of months, 1,315 new and gently used children's books were donated to the cause and Evans recently made a trip to North Carolina and delivered them to Asheville City Schools representatives.

"Asheville City Schools is deeply appreciative of the generous donation of books provided by Leading with Literature. As a district still recovering from the impact of Hurricane Helene, these books will spark the imagination of our students, offering them a magical escape to new worlds and self-discovery through the act of reading," said Marilee Woodard, communications coordinator for Asheville City Schools.

According to Evans, the cause was something close to his heart having grown up in South Florida and having

experienced hurricanes in the past and having family in the North Carolina area.

However, it is an initiative that he believes can have the ability to help anyone who is going through tough times following a natural disaster of any sort.

"I've been reading since I was three, and something I've experienced is that books no matter if we're having a good or bad day have the ability to transform your mood," Evans said. "Helping to escape reality is something that is not just for one place or one city but for those all over."

Which is why he is proud of Leading with Literature not just for being a entirely student-led initiative but one that

has quickly become a high school volunteer network that spans across more than 10 states and four time zones.

The books gathered for the Asheville City Schools project were donated at various drop-off outlets including the Leading with Literature registry on www.Amazon.com as well as at Happy Medium Books Café in Jacksonville and several libraries.

"We want to thank everyone who participated in the Leading with Literature book drive," said Evans. "Your generosity will support these kids in North Carolina who suffered devastating impacts

BOOK continues on Page 5



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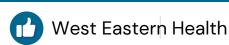
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Book

Continued from 4

from the storms. It is heartwarming that every donation put a book into a child's hands."

The quick growth of the initiative is something he did not necessarily expect but he is happy to see how many more lives can be influenced as it only continues to spread the word to

"I didn't know what to expect, I just thought that there had to be some way to help, and this seemed like a perfect way to go about it," Evans said.

His networking as a homeschooler helped him to get the word spread to

Other high schoolers across the country served as regional coordinators to help raise books in the various states, including more than 200 books gathered by Georgia regional coordinator Sai Lakkimsetti and Sophia Lopez from Ohio who served as Leading with Literature social media director and created and shared posts on social media to encourage book



Sam Evans started Leading with Literature in November as a way to donate books to communities affected by natural disasters.

donations and to answer questions about the drive.

Evans and Leading with Literature has already begun its second drive, which this time is focused on raising books to donate for children affected by the recent California wildfires.

Donations can be made through the Leading with Literature registry on Amazon.

February fun at the link

Check out the great events happening at the link in Nocatee for the month of February. Go to app@thelink.zone for more details and to register for any of the events listed below.

Kids Night Out = Parents Night Out

Twice each month, Feb. 8 and 22 Who is ready for Kids Night Out at the link? Remember Kids Night Out = Parents Night Out. There will be a PJ Pizza Party and movies to watch on the 20-foot-wide video wall. As the evening progresses, everyone will play games and do arts and crafts, STEM projects and more. The night out will conclude with DJ Raphi's famous dance party!

the link Teen Club

Twice each month, Feb. 11 and 25 Established in 2023, the link Teen Club is the ultimate hub for high school teens to connect, learn and grow. Inspiring guest speakers ignite curiosity about the future, while teambuilding activities and community service projects foster leadership and purpose. Be a part of this effort in making a difference one experience at a time!

link Thrive Shway Nights: Paint Your Date!

Thursday, Feb. 13

Looking for a hilarious and creative way to celebrate Valentine's Day? Grab your partner and attend this fun-filled painting class that will have you both laughing out loud! No art skills needed! Just bring your sense of humor as you create a comical keepsake portrait of vour loved one. Plus, learn basic color mixing while capturing their unique essence on

Mahjong & Mingle: If You Love Me, Let Me

Friday, Feb. 21

Celebrate Galentine's Day with an unforgettable evening of fun, friendship and mahjong at the link! Whether you're a mahjong pro or just starting to learn, this event is designed for everyone to enjoy.

Spring Break Camps — Registration Now

Go to app@thelink.zone to register your kids for cooking, art or LEGO robotics camps. Half day and full day options available. Space is limited, so don't delay.

Seaside Estate in Ponte Vedra Beach on the Lagoon

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Vic DiGenti of Ponte Vedra Beach is the author of several novels, short stories and works of nonfiction. His most recent work is "James R. Anthony: The Banker Who Shaped Florida's History."

Vic DiGenti

As told to Holly Tishfield

Tell me about your background.

I grew up in South Florida and after graduating from the University of Florida with a degree in telecommunications, I came to Jacksonville working with several radio and television stations. My last position was with WJCT, the PBS and NPR stations in Jacksonville, where I worked as a producer-director, did some on-air work and produced the Jacksonville Jazz Festival for eight years.

I always considered myself a writer and did some freelance on the side. The first money I made as a writer was in sixth grade when I won an essay contest that came with a \$25 savings bond.

After retiring, I followed my passion and wrote my first novel, "Windrusher," an adventure-fantasy featuring a cat as the protagonist. My wife had been volunteering with a cat rescue organization, and we were knee-deep in felines at the time. So, I guess I didn't have a choice. I've since written six novels, a book of short stories and 12 works of nonfiction, working as a ghostwriter and biographer.

What drew you to Ponte Vedra Beach?

I was living in Arlington while working at Channel 4. One Sunday, my roommate and I decided to drive to the Oasis Bar in Ponte Vedra Beach. Walking on the beach, my roommate spotted a young woman he knew sunbathing with another young woman.

While he talked with the girl he'd met at a party, I introduced myself to the other young lady, and, as they say, one thing led to another, and we were married a year later. We lived on Jacksonville's southside, but we continued to visit the beaches here and one day we saw a billboard for a new Ponte Vedra Beach development called Innlet Beach. We checked it out and liked what we saw.

We were one of the first dozen or so people to buy there, and we've lived and raised our family here ever since, in what's now called the Sawgrass Players Club.

How did you get into ghostwriting?

After writing three books in the "Windrusher" series, I wrote a mystery series.

In 2014, I was working on my seventh novel, a standalone thriller, when a WWII veteran asked me to look at the biography he'd been writing. He was 90 years old, and acknowledged he wasn't a writer. He gave me a three-ring binder with about 100 typed pages. I could see he needed a lot of help and wrote a two-page evaluation for him. Several days later he called and said, "This is just what I need. Why don't you write it?"

As I said, I was working on another novel, but I wanted to help him, and we came to an agreement. That book, "We Were Amateur Soldiers," launched me on a new writing career.

Over the past nine years I've written a dozen biographies and family histories and edited and published five or six more for other writers.

What is your latest book about?

Most of my clients are the result of word-of-mouth referrals. One of my former clients referred me to a woman living in Vicar's Landing who wanted to preserve her grandfather's legacy. Her grandfather, James R. Anthony,

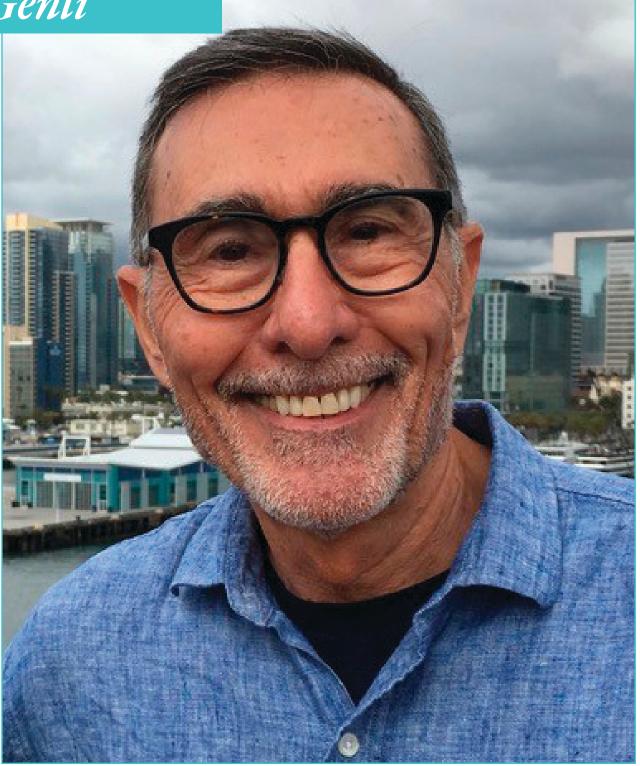


Photo courtesy of Vic DiGenti

Vic DiGenti

had been a successful entrepreneur in retail, real estate, banking and insurance here in Florida during the early 1900s. He knew Henry Flagler and, as a banker, helped bankroll other developers during that period.

After he retired, Anthony wrote five journals meticulously documenting his life and business affairs. His granddaughter had inherited the journals, and I used them to craft a story that was as much a Florida history as a biography.

The book is titled "James R. Anthony: The Banker Who Shaped Florida's History," and it is available for sale on Amazon and some area bookstores.

Are you working on another biography?

I'm in between projects now and took the time to finish a short story for an upcoming anthology using my pen name, Parker Francis. But I'm talking to a few people about collaborating with them, so I might be working on another one soon.

What do you like best about ghostwriting?

As a collaborator, I've had the privilege of working with people from all walks of life. Along with two WWII veterans, I've collaborated with a former police officer, a jazz musician, entrepreneurs, a Congressional aide, a chief economist for the FCC and retired corporate executives.

I'm honored they share their life stories with me, and sometimes I feel I've been given a master's class by these accomplished professionals.

Writing a biography combines my love of writing, research and history. Each project is different, and we work closely together for eight months to a year, so it's important we are comfortable with one another, and they know they can trust me with their cherished memories and life experiences.

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12603 Marsh Dreek Dr. - \$1,350,000
120 Indian Cove Lane - \$1,325,000
40 Jefferson Ave. - \$1,320,000
308 Kari Ct. - Over Asking \$1,305,000
24543 Deer Trace - \$1,299,000
112 Indian Cove Lane - \$1,299,000
91 San Juan Dr. #G3 - \$1,270,000
14402 Marina San Pablo #206 - \$1,250,000
12603 Marsh Creek Dr. - \$1,200,000
3855 Painted Bunting Way - \$1,120,000
1176 Salt Marsh Cir. - \$1,098,000
189 Buena Vista Dr. - \$975,000
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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

Be patient — spring is almost here!

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." — Hal Borland



Kathy Esfahani

By Kathy Esfahani

Many of us are frustrated with the appearance of our beautiful flowers and trees. Winter's cooler temperatures can be challenging for our favorite heat-loving

plants! But do not despair — many of the flowers and trees that look so sad at the moment are not dead! Do not pull them up or cut off the brown leaves. These brown areas can help protect the plants against future cold temperatures. It is best to wait until frost season is completely over before pruning.

Although early March is even more safe, wait at least until after Valentine's Day before you consider pruning your plants. Then, look at the extended weather forecast. If temperatures are predicted to



Frost-damaged but alive!

stay warm for the couple weeks ahead, it may be safe to begin cutting back your plants. Keep these tips in mind when helping your plants recover from the winter freezes:

- Cold/frost burn causes the brown leaves. Many of these plants are not dead!
- Once warmer temperatures are here to stay, prune plants down to at least where the first green shows. If you do not see green stems and leaves, the plant is most

likely dead.

- But it can sometimes be difficult to determine if the plant is still alive. If you are unsure, allow three weeks for a plant to produce new growth. If there is still no new growth after a few weeks, remove and replace the plant.
- Fertilizing is also important at this time. Be sure to follow the instructions on your specific fertilizer.

Remember to continue fertilizing your palms and citrus trees every three months. If you have not fertilized recently, February is a great time to give these plants some extra nutrients ahead of spring growth. Look for fertilizer that is specific to palm trees or citrus trees, and carefully follow the instructions on the label.

Finally, it is a good time to prepare your lawn for the coming spring and summer seasons. Use warm days to check your irrigation system for broken or misdirected sprinkler heads. Once temperatures will remain above 65 degrees for four to five days, it is

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery



Bush Daisy

important to apply a pre-emergent weed killer to your lawn. Note that this pre-emergent is not a "weed and feed" fertilizer; it is solely a weed treatment to help control weeds in your lawn throughout the coming season. For best results, it is important to time this application just as temperatures warm up!

Be patient — spring is coming soon!

Flower of the Week: Bush Daisy

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



DEATH NOTICES

George Lee Bishop

George Lee Bishop, 93, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Jan. 31, 2025. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250, 904-249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com

Irvin H. Davis

Irvin H. Davis, 95, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Feb. 1, 2025. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Funeral Home & Cremation Centre 904-249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com.

Esteban Aristides Lazo

Esteban Aristides Lazo, 79, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Feb. 1, 2025. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Funeral Home & Cremation Centre 904-249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com.

Maureen Christina Milner Wallace

Maureen Christina Milner Wallace, 78, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Jan. 15, 2025. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery — 904-285-1130 — www.pontevedravalley.com



GTM Reserve to host new fishing clinic

By Anthony Richards



The Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve is set to introduce a new program called Fishing

101, which is a clinic designed for anglers of all experience levels.

From beginners looking to learn the basics of fishing to enthusiasts wanting to refine their skills with a fishing pole in their hands.

The course utilizes a hands-on approach to essential fishing and casting techniques, gear selection and ethical angling practices.

The clinic series will start Feb. 20 and consist of a six-week series of classes that will run until March 27 and take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Some of the topics covered will include fishing rules and regulations, rig making and the various baits used for fresh and saltwater fishing.

The class will explore all aspects of fishing beyond just using a fishing pole, such as the use of nets and traps as a tool to catch certain species.

Anyone interested in the regulations of fishing in Florida or applying for a fishing

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license can go to www.myfwc.com/fishing to find the information.

The cost of the clinic is \$175 for members of Friends of GTM Research Reserve, which is a nonprofit organization working with the reserve or \$225 for non-members.

Some of the incentives surrounding those who attend all six classes include being entered for a chance to win a rod and reel, and raffle prizes and other giveaways will be handed out during each class as well



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Dr. Rudy Jamison, executive director of the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission



The Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate welcome desk included a QR code to sign the pledge



Photos by Holly Tishfield

Donna Orender, CEO of Orender Unlimited and Generation W

Event

Continued from 1

two, the Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate kickoff saw 80 volunteers and even more attendees, including a passionate group of teen volunteers from Paxton High School, Stanton High School, Ponte Vedra High School, Episcopal High School, Terry Parker High School, Bolles High School and Landrum Middle School.

The teens opened the evening by introducing themselves, sharing personal insights on the importance of combating hate and explaining their reasons for signing the pledge.

"I volunteered because I had my bat mitzvah last year and I've seen a lot of hate going around," said Iyla Vaughan, a middle school volunteer. "I really wanted to get involved because I think it's important to learn more about it."

In its second year, the Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate campaign in Ponte Vedra has grown from Christ Episcopal Church, Beth El The Beaches Synagogue, Palms Presbyterian Church and JaxTHRIVE members to include Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and African Methodist Episcopal Church members, as well.

"I hope that the resounding message is that we can only be strong when we stand together — with the greater community," said Laurie Berger, Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate committee member and membership chair at Beth El The Beaches Synagogue. "The more that people understand what hate and antisemitism looks like, what people's stories and experiences are, if that could shift somebody's mindset to understand

what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes ... that's worth everything."

The Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate campaign's dinner last week was the kickstart to a year of post education programs and meetings. The campaign set an ambitious goal of 2,000 signatures for the Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate pledge, surpassing the amount from last year. The campaign's grant this year was founded through the Together Strong Community Fund.

"We're getting to know each other as human beings," said Rabbi Benjamin Dyme of Beth El The Beaches Synagogue. "Once we're familiar with one another, it's so much easier to have a picture of a person in our heads and not this unidentified, anonymous 'other.""

The meeting saw a moving presentation from Donna Orender, CEO of Orender Unlimited and Generation W,

about the impact of antisemitism and the effect of hatred on a community. Dr. Rudy Jamison, executive director of the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission, spoke about the necessity of creating "just spaces," an ecological context between us and our environments that's occupied by justice.

"The whole idea [of Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate] is to gather people from different parts of the community to share ideas and stories," said the Rev. Helen Jackson of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. "We come together to share stories and give hope because without hope we might as well give up. But we all know that there is hope, and hope is what brought us together here in unity."

Members of the community not affiliated with the participating churches can still take the pledge online at https:// form.jotform.com/250075050312138.





SEEKING CRAFTERS

Mandarin United Methodist Women's 34th Annual Craft Festival

Festival will be held **Saturday, October 5, 2024** located at **11270 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, Fl.** Our show has over 120 crafters with handmade items only. If interested in participating, please contact **Darlene** at **mumcraftfestival@gmail.com**



Contributed photos







Tabitha Kinney and a friend in the food pantry.



Food on the pantry shelves

Experience prompts Ascension St. Vincent's nurse to start food pantry

A brush with food insecurity early in Tabitha Kinney's life motivated her to start a food pantry program at Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County in St. Johns that is helping those facing similar hardships in her community.

Kinney, a nurse manager at St. Vincent's St. Johns County, said the struggles she and her husband faced with food insecurity decades ago left a lasting impression.

"My husband and I started very young and didn't have much," she recalled. "We could have leaned on our families more, but we made it work. We made a \$1 stretch, which sometimes meant compromising on healthy food options for our small family. I've never forgotten what that's like."

The idea to establish a food pantry program began to take hold after participating in the Roots of Ministry leadership formation program, designed to educate associates on the mission and vision of St. Vincent's founders. As she learned more about St. Vincent's 100-year commitment to community service, Kinney felt she was called to make a difference.

"I kept waiting for someone else to do it, but I finally realized, 'Why not me?'" she saic

Kinney's realization that she could be an agent for change led her to create the program a year ago. She credits associates and community partner Feeding Northeast Florida for contributing nonperishable items and other essentials that keep shelves stocked and ready to assist those in need. She also works with the dietary team to create balanced meal kits that "fly off the shelves."

Health questionnaires help nurses and case managers identify patients in need.

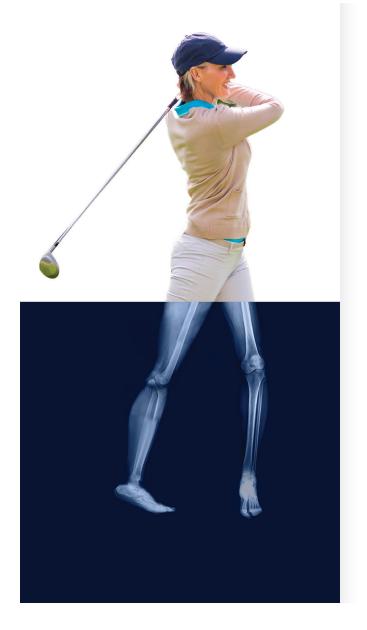
"We hand out food liberally to patients

and their families and send them home with care packages," Kinney said.

Shortly after the food pantry opened, an associate shared with Kinney that she was unable to afford nutritious food for her child. This encounter reinforced the need for this initiative in the community.

"No one should go without the means to feed their family," she said.

Kinney is currently networking with food pantry organizations in the area to increase supplies and donations from other community members to grow the St. Vincent's food pantry.



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Valentine's Day gift giving made easy



Contributed by Seri Kertzner

The fun, sprawling card wall at The Social Society

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about ways to surprise that special someone in your life. Everyone knows that the best gifts come from the heart — but it couldn't hurt to throw in a bouquet of roses or a box of chocolates, too. Searching for inspiration? Take a look at some of our local suggestions and treat your loved one to the Valentine's Day gift they deserve.

The Social Society

Throw the sweetest Galentine's Day party in town with specially themed tableware and decor from The Social Society. Heart-shaped champagne flutes, pink checkered napkins, rose gold sparkler wands, and more await you at this one-stop shop for everything party- and gift-related. Send a handwritten note to your loved ones with one of The Social Society's unique, heartfelt cards from their picture-perfect card wall. You can find gifts for that book lover in your life like the pink and green Ceramic Book Vase or pick up the new "Thank you, Mom" candle as a thank you for all that unsolicited love advice that turned out to be right. Whether you're showing some Valentine's love to your spouse, children, best friends or four-

legged companions, The Social Society has the perfect gifts to make their hearts (and tails) happy.

Underwood Jewelers

Add a little shine to your loved one's day with a beautiful gift from Underwood Jewelers. Whether you're looking for unique Rolex items, dazzling rings, jewelencrusted pendants or elegant cufflinks, Underwood Jewelers is sure to impress. Not sure where to begin? One of Underwood's knowledgeable associates will be there to help you curate the perfect piece for your favorite person.

Jacksonville Symphony

Hoping to find a romantic outing for your sweet-heart? Surprise them with tickets to see the Jacksonville Symphony perform one of their jaw-dropping concerts throughout the month of February. Symphonic fans are in for a special season with performances from internationally beloved concert series and renowned conductors from across the nation.

GIFT continues on Page 16



GUEST COLUMN

Protect your heart and wallet this Valentine's Day

Provided by First Florida Credit

Love is in the air this February, but don't let the romance cloud your judgment. While Cupid's arrows may aim for your heart, they can sometimes hit your wallet instead.

There are a variety of pressures we all face every Valentine's Day — find a new partner, take your current relationship to the next level or spend beyond your means to show your affection to those in your life. Unfortunately, while grand gestures are appreciated and applauded, there are people out there who are only in

Americans lost \$1.14 billion in romance scams in 2023, according to the Federal Trade Commission. The average person lost \$2,200 from sending crypto, gift cards or bank transfers to someone they thought were dating. Many victims even go so far as to invest in their new partner's "idea or business."

It's easy to feel more trusting and



generous during this romantic season, but it's crucial to evaluate your connections before offering financial support. While these tips are especially timely now, staying vigilant against scams is something to practice all year long.

Don't trust sad stories

Often, scammers will try to tempt their "love interests" into sending money by telling them they are ill, hurt, in jail or even stuck abroad with no way to get home. If anyone asks you for money, and you haven't met them in person, it's a

major red flag. Scammers prey on your emotions, so do your research and trust your instincts.

Never share your financial informa-

Aside from trying to attain gift cards or a simple Venmo payment, scammers may try to take it one step further and get your bank information. By no means should an online friend have a reason to ask for your bank account details, credit card numbers or social security number.

Keep your guard up

It's a simple rule, but it's easy to let your guard down when you feel a romantic connection with someone. Scammers will say anything to make you feel safe and loved. Then, they take it to another level. Do your due diligence and verify details they share, such as their job, location or background through a quick online search. If something feels off, listen to your gut and cut off communication.

On the other hand, for those of you who are in a committed relationship one that is very much in person — you may be thinking now is the time to take your relationship to the next level: moving in together or popping the question.

Merging your lives also often means merging your finances. Experts say money issues are a common source of tension

> **Monday - Thursday** 11am - 6pm Dia Feliz!

among couples. And, as a reminder, the average divorce costs \$15,000.

So, if you find yourself in this next stage of life with your significant other this Valentine's Day, it's important to approach your financial future with care.

Talk regularly and openly about finances

One of the most common mistakes couples make is simply not discussing money. While it may feel uncomfortable at first, having honest discussions about your financial habits — like how you handle rent payments, dining out or saving for the future — can prevent misunderstandings. Set aside time to talk about your financial goals, monthly expenses and how you'll manage shared costs.

Define short- and long-term goals together

It's also important that you develop goals as a couple. Different priorities can make a relationship rocky. If one person wants to save for a house while the other plans to spend thousands traveling Europe, conflicts are bound to arise. Have an open discussion about saving for big goals to ensure you're both on the same page financially.

PROTECT continues on **Page 15**



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How to make your Valentine's Day roses last longer

Valentine's Day spending shows little sign of waning. Floral arrangements are among the most popular purchases on this special day. According to Rio Roses, customers spent \$2.3 billion on flowers for Valentine's Day in 2022. Valentine's Day tends to be the busiest day for florists as plenty of people want to surprise sweethearts with bouquets and other floral arrangements. Red roses account for 70 percent of all Valentine's Day flower purchases.

Early in 2023, Finance Buzz researched the average cost of a dozen roses in each state so shoppers could expect what they would pay to gift their loved ones, and the average price for a dozen roses in the United States was \$80.16 at that time. Pennsylvania had the most affordable roses and Hawaii the most expensive.



Protect

Continued from 14

Weigh pros and cons of a joint account

The decision to create a joint account or maintain separate accounts ultimately depends on the couple's financial preferences and goals. A joint account can simplify bill payments, shared expenses and long-term financial planning — if you're both on the same page about that Europe trip. Some couples prefer separate accounts to offer autonomy and privacy. If you see the value in both, many couples do a hybrid approach and create a joint account while also maintaining separate accounts.

Online and offline love, though vastly different, can both cost you. Romance scams and real-life quarrels put thousands of people into debt every year. Open communication, setting boundaries and being mindful of potential red flags can save you from emotional and financial heartbreak this Valentine's Day. Love responsibly — your future self will thank you.

Roses can be costly, and recipients may want to do their bests to ensure the flowers last as long as possible.

- Unwrap the bouquet from any plastic as soon as possible to let the flowers breathe. Also, recut the stems with sharp scissors at a 45-degree angle.
- Remove any leaves from the stems that would end up sitting in the water when the roses are placed in a vase.
 - Wash the vessel to rid it of dirt, dust

and any grime to give the roses the best start possible.

- Use lukewarm water to fill the vase. Water that is too hot or too cold may shock the blooms and shorten their life span. Fill the vase to three-quarters full.
- Use the flower food that comes with the roses. It is a good mix of nutrients to help prolong the life of the roses. A teaspoon of sugar dissolved in water also can be used in a pinch if the roses didn't

come with flower food.

- Change the water every few days, especially if it is cloudy. This is a good time to re-snip the stems and add more flower food to the lukewarm water.
- Keep any cut flowers away from direct sunlight, drafts and radiators or heating vents.

With proper care, cut roses may be able to last seven to 10 days, says Southern Living magazine.

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Gift

Continued from 13



Contributed by Amy Novak

Personalized gift baskets for your Valentine at The Gifted

The Gifted Boutique

This local boutique is home to dozens of fun Valentine's Day gifts, making it a creative giftgiver's dream come true. From sweet treats and pop-up flower cards to candles and spa items, from heart-shaped jewelry to hair accessories, this personalized boutique is the go-to for gifts for your Valentine, Galentine, or kids! They specialize in custom gift baskets, bags, graphic tees and custom sweatshirts, too. Whatever you're looking for, The Gifted Boutique can curate the perfect gift for you.

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

Give the gift of relaxation with a spa treatment at the renowned Spa at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa. With countless treatments, from massages to facials, body wraps to CBD enhancements, manicures to pedicures, reflexology and more, The Spa is an ideal getaway for the one you love. Nestled in the heart of Ponte Vedra among stunning natural landscapes, The Spa at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa has something special for everyone.

Espling Jewelers

This Valentine's Day, Espling Jewelers offers timeless gifts that make a statement of love. From vintage diamond rings to elegant pearl necklaces, their curated selection blends classic romance with modern style. With a legacy of quality and personal service, they help you find the perfect piece to celebrate your special someone. Explore their collection online or in-store to find a gift that will be cherished for

Pick the perfect Valentine's Day flowers

Just because millions of roses are prepared in advance of Valentine's Day sales doesn't mean this is the type of flower that one has to choose for a bouquet or arrangement. A surprise bouquet can feature unique blooms. Here are tips to give the perfect bouquet to the person who claims your heart.

- Identify your loved one's favorite colors and flowers. Understanding your partner's floral preferences is the first step in choosing a Valentine's Day arrangement. Many have a favorite flower type or color, and everyone's isn't necessarily a red rose. Some people love bright daffodils, while others like exotic lilies. Pay attention to these likes to select flowers that will delight vour partner.
- Select fresh flowers. When buying flowers in person, make sure they are fresh by gently feeling the part of the petal that meets the stem. If this part is firm, then the flower is fresh.
- Opt for neutral tones. If you're unsure of which flowers to

buy, stick with varietals in white and soft, neutral tones. This will lend a more romantic vibe to the bouquet. Bright, high-contrast florals may come off as tacky unless you can guarantee that the person prefers them.

- Keep allergies in mind. Valentine's Day should be about offering love, not a case of the sniffles. If the person in your life suffers from floral allergies, avoid certain blooms, like sunflowers, chrysanthemums and hyacinths, suggests Funny How Flowers Do That, a United Kingdom-based flower company. Tulips, irises and hydrangea are less likely to cause an allergic reaction.
- Order early. Time is of the essence when getting flowers for Valentine's Day. Florists may rush or have fewer flowers to work with as Valentine's Day draws closer. Ordering well in advance means you'll get your desired arrangement.

Choosing flowers comes down to a few simple steps to offer a gift of love on Valentine's Day.



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Palm Valley Rotary winners dine in style

Grand prize winners of November's Caring for Our Community Raffle, held by the Rotary Club of Palm Valley, recently enjoyed their prize: an executive chef-created multi-course dinner with paired wines at Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club. After the guests arrived by limousine, they were warmly welcomed with butler-passed champagne and hors d'oeuvres, and an impressive charcuterie set up in front of a roaring fire in the mansion's Brandywine Room, where they enjoyed a sunset view of the St. Johns River. Each course, including

desert, was accompanied with a specially selected wine. Pictured are Kevin Carter, Marti Tyrrel (the winning ticket holder), Steve Tyrrel, Lori Beechuck, Nancy Goodwin and Frankie Redding.

The Palm Valley Rotary Club thanked those who purchased tickets for their annual Caring for Our Community Raffle. Proceeds went toward helping support Down Syndrome Jacksonville, S.A.F.E. Animal Rescue (a no-kill animal shelter) and Gabriel House (a nonprofit health hospitality facility on the Mayo Clinic



Contributed photo



Landrum students Nikolas Preovolos. Eva Stoleru, Gabby Olitsky and Suzanna



Contributed photos

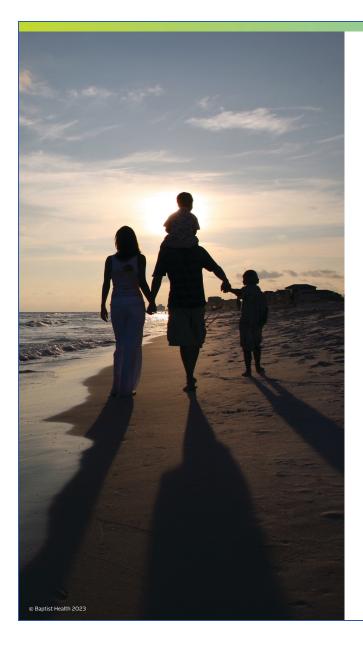
Teacher Dean Grall talks to OPE Students.

Landrum event inspires students

Principal Troy Kasting of Landrum Middle School recently organized visits to Ocean Palms Elementary and PVPV Elementary to engage fifth graders about opportunities awaiting them at Landrum. These events were a resounding success, leaving students and staff energized about the upcoming school year.

During these visits, Kasting introduced students to a variety of programs and electives, including a brand-new guitar elective. To highlight this offering, eighth grader Nikolas Preovolos performed on his guitar, and there were featured performances by students Eva Stoleru, Gabby Olitsky and Suzanna Crownover, who delivered a monologue and piece they are preparing for the state competition. Teachers Dean Grall, Morgan Williams and Kyle Speed

LANDRUM continues on Page 23



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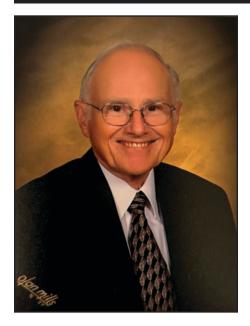
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18 COMMUNITY NEWS

OBITUARIES



James Randolph Brown, Jr.

James Randolph Brown, Jr. (Randy), age 89, died peacefully at his home in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla, January 25, 2025, after a two-year battle with melanoma

Randy was born April 4, 1935, in Atlanta to James Randolph Brown, Sr. and Myra Louise Boynton Brown. His family moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1946, and he lived there ever since. Randy attended Fletcher High School, graduating in 1953. He continued his education for a year at Washington and Lee University,

where he pledged Phi Delta Theta before transferring to the University of Florida to be with his sister (and meet his future wife!). He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business in 1957.

Randy's business life was in a variety of fields, from traveling the back roads of Florida selling parking meters and road signs to municipalities, and working with his father remanufacturing thermostats, to running a real estate brokerage, operating a Slush Puppie franchise, manufacturing pipe locators and, most recently, creating flags and windsocks and installing flagpoles. He ran most of these businesses from the building he and his father built in 1971 on 9th Street South in Jacksonville Beach, where he took pride in his commitment to his neighbors, developing relationships with the community, rescuing and loving feral cats, and selling American flags to people who stopped by the office (stories included free of charge).

As a child, Randy was visited with setbacks that shaped his future self. He and his sister acquired a blood disease as children that brought them close to death. Several years later, Randy suffered an accident that removed half his right foot. Being bed-bound during these occurrences developed in him a penchant for working with his hands and a sense of responsibility to be helpful to others as so many had been to him. He was always

thoughtful about doing the right thing and was willing to help whoever asked.

Randy loved the outdoors. As a young man, he fished the ocean, lakes and Intracoastal, and went quail hunting with his dog, Ponte, in the palmetto fields beyond the bypass (A1A to you new-timers). He planted many pine trees on his properties along Solana Road and was careful to preserve as many trees as possible on the land he developed at Kathryn Oaks in Sawgrass. But Randy's main love was his family and friends. He enjoyed the visits of relatives and former classmates, recounting tales of their travels and shared histories.

Randy will be remembered for his service in the community: with The Ponte Vedra Community Association; the Volunteer Sheriff's Patrol; and Boy Scout Troop 277; and, most specifically, Ponte Vedra-Palm Valley School (PVPV) and Christ Church, of which both institutions his family had a hand in establishing. In addition to being a past president of the PTA, he served as PVPV's Fall Festival emcee for more than a decade, and the image of him in his top hat and tails, announcing cake walks and raffle winners, is assuredly burned into many a former student's mind. At Christ Church, his journey began with being the Church's first acolyte at the inaugural service Christmas Eve, 1951. Subsequent years saw him serving on the Vestry, serving

many a pancake breakfast and spaghetti supper in the old parish hall, and serving as a chalice bearer and as a Lay Eucharistic Minister.

Randy is survived by his wife of 62 years, Jane Campbell Brown; son, James R. Brown, III (Lisa Newbern); daughter, Kathryn B. Schafer (Mac); grandchildren, Hunter Schafer, Hannah Schafer, Tory Schafer, Marissa Brown, Skye Schafer, and Griffin Brown; Siblings, Barbara Kosiba (David Peedin) and Nancy Ballard (Paul); niece, Elizabeth Owen; and nephews, Ronnie Veal, Mike Cook, Dan Cook, Randy Cook and Jeff Kosiba. He was predeceased by his parents; sisters, Myra B. Cook and Nancy L. Brown; and nephews, Billy Chester and Brett Kosiba.

A Memorial Service will be held Tuesday, February 18 at 11 a.m. at Christ Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach with a reception in the parish hall immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Christ Church, 904-285-6127, or to Community Hospice and Palliative Care, 904-886-3883. Please visit his online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com.

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Teen dating violence awareness month: believe survivors

This February, Hubbard House is calling on Northeast Florida to take a stand against teen dating violence and support teen survivors in our community.

In recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Hubbard House is launching a social media campaign, #It-StartsWithBelieving. The theme reflects that, to end teen dating violence in North-

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east Florida, teens need to be taken seriously when they express concerns about their relationships. It's also crucially important that community members believe they can be part of the solution.

"A safer community for teen survivors is a safer community for all of us," said Hubbard House CEO Dr. Gail Patin. "That's why we are giving supporters the resources they need to recognize teen dating violence and help teen survivors find safety."

One in three U.S. teenagers experience physical, sexual or emotional abuse by a dating partner. Though teen dating violence is common, it is often overlooked. In fact, 81% of parents either do not know or do not believe teen dating violence is an issue, according to love is respect, a national anti-teen dating violence advocacy organization. Adults may dismiss teen relationships as "a phase" or "young love that won't last," but the relationship is real to the teens involved, and so is the abuse.

There are many ways to get involved with Teen Dating Violence Awareness

3.6 .1

- Learn how to identify teen dating violence and support survivors by reading Hubbard House's blog post.
- Join "Wear Orange Day" to raise awareness by wearing your best orange outfit on Feb. 11.
- Like and share Hubbard House's #ItStartswithBelieving social media campaign on Facebook and Instagram.
- Invite a Hubbard House speaker to present on teen dating violence and healthy relationship skills at your school, company or other organization. Go to Hubbard House's website to learn more.

Hubbard House has robust youth and teen programming, including prevention education and therapeutic support for teen survivors, with parental consent. Hubbard House can help teen survivors address immediate safety needs and learn how to connect with safe adults. Any teen in Duval or Baker county who needs free, confidential support can reach out to Hubbard House through the 24/7 Textline at 904-210-3698 or Hotline at 904-354-3114.

Dorion Family Pediatric Center to benefit pediatric care

The Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care has announced the establishment of the Dorion Family Pediatric Center. This transformative initiative aims to improve outcomes for pediatric patients and their families while expanding access to care for children living with complex illnesses in the community.

The Dorion Family Pediatric Center will elevate the Community PedsCare program, providing a tailored environment designed to meet the unique needs of children and their families. This new space will allow for an expanded range of therapies and support services in a dedicated, pediatric-friendly setting.

The new center will offer a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere where pediatric patients and their families can find comfort and connection. By fostering socialization among children with similar conditions, the center aims to reduce the isolation often experienced by families. Additionally, the centralized location will significantly reduce travel time for the clinical team, who spent countless hours traveling to patients' homes last year. This change will enable specialists to spend more time delivering direct care and support to families.

The facility will also provide comprehensive therapeutic recreation activities to promote community integration and



Contributed photo

Pictured from left, Fontaine LeMaistre, Patrice Austin, Tabitha Furyk, Mary McElroy, Susan Dubow, Annie Tuttle, Dottie Dorion, Liza Dorion, Mark Dorion, Helen Dorion, Fernando Acosta-Rua, Phillip Ward and Kevin Robbins.

normalization for children with varying abilities. This inclusive approach will help build a supportive community for children with life-limiting medical complexities. Moreover, the center will serve as a sanctuary for families navigating the emotional challenges of pediatric illnesses, offering a space for parents, patients and siblings to find solace and strength.

The Dorion Family Pediatric Center is named in honor of the Dorion family, who are steadfast advocates for compassionate care. Their leadership played a pivotal role in establishing the organization, and their generosity has now come full circle with this transformative gift. Their legacy of compassion and dedication will continue to shape the future of pediatric care in the community for generations to come.

The Dorion Family Pediatric Center will offer a broad range of services, including caregiver support programs, psychosocial care, spiritual care tailored

to the needs of families and regularly scheduled events that foster community and provide moments of respite. Educational opportunities will be available to help families and caregivers learn and grow, while on-site activities will give caregivers much-needed breaks from their responsibilities.

For more information about the Dorion Family Pediatric Center and ways to support it, go to campaign.thefoundation-cares.org.



Women's Food Alliance appoints 12 to leadership council

The Women's Food Alliance is celebrating its 12th anniversary with the newly appointed First Coast Leadership Council 2025-26.

One of the foremost networking organizations for hospitality women in Southeast USA, it's comprised of 12 professional hospitality women who share their time, talent, cultural heritage, career diversity, creative ideas and positive spirit.

For further information, go to WomensFoodAlliance.com.

The Women's Food Alliance First Coast Leadership Council for 2025:

- Ellie Schultze: executive chef, Chez L'Amour
- Kelly Mabry: owner/operator (ret), two Tropical Smoothie Cafes
- Sue Lomba: social media/tech advisor, V.P., Women's Food Alliance
- Erin Kelly: business development, Kelly Farm
- Nancy Slatsky: culinary sales and consulting, Mr. Greens Produce
- Cindy Campbell-Taylor: president and CEO, Taylor Made Solutions USA
- Cindy Stavely: executive director, St. Augustine Pirate/Treasure Museum &



Colonial Quarter

- Chelsy Johnson: general manager, Viva Hospitality
- Monica Anderson: co-owner/president, Arble Baking Co.
 - Isela Gonzalez: co-owner, Paladar

Cuban Eatery — Nostalgia!

- Marie Milton: owner, Three Stories
- Leigh Cort: founder/president, Womens Food Alliance

The Womens Food Alliance cultivates

and advances networking, education and collaboration for women in the culinary and hospitality industry. It is a safe haven of trusted advice, genuine support and a place to grow.

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What is a Panino?

The Panino is the heart of our menu. It's a unique, Italian creation eaten like a rolled-up sandwich.







Pictured from left: Shad Khan, Jacksonville Jaguars owner; Jessica Murphy, managing director, Southeast Division Executive, Wells Fargo Commercial Banking; Deepak Chopra,



Pictured from left: Michael Mayo, president and CEO, Baptist Health; Kendra McCray, president, The Women's Board; Maxine McBride, co-chair, Florida Forum; Deepak Chopra, MD; Randy DeFoor, co-chair, Florida Forum; Allegra Jaros, president, Wolfson Children's Hospital; and Ashley Helmick,



Pictured from left: Randy DeFoor, co-chair, Florida Forum; Shad Khan, Jacksonville Jaguars owner; Maxine McBride, cochair, Florida Forum; and Deepak Chopra, MD.

Florida Forum Speaker Series features Deepak Chopra

Deepak Chopra, physician, author and world-renowned pioneer in integrative medicine and personal transformation, recently shared inspiring and thoughtprovoking insights during an appearance at the Florida Forum Speaker Series, presented by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital. Chopra discussed his philosophies on mindfulness and well-being during an engaging conversation with Jacksonville Jaguars team owner Shad Khan, who moderated the program.

The Florida Forum Speaker Series supporting Wolfson Children's Hospital concludes with Floridian, journalist and novelist Carl Hiaasen in a conversation with Florida Times-Union columnist Mark Woods on Feb. 12. The program will begin at 7 p.m. at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts. The series is made possible by long-time partners and generous sponsors Landstar, Wells Fargo and Florida Blue.

Subscriptions for the Florida Forum events start at \$170 each for general seating, \$235 for preferred seating, \$300 for one reserved Bronze level ticket, \$600 for two reserved Bronze level tickets, \$1,500 for two reserved Silver level tickets and \$3,000 for four reserved Gold level tickets. The purchase of a Silver or Gold ticket package includes invitations to the private receptions honoring the speakers following the lectures. Patrons under the age of 30 may purchase Young Subscriber tickets for \$100 each. To purchase tickets, go to thefloridaforum.com, call 904-202-2886, or email womensboard@bmcjax.

The Florida Forum raises awareness and funds for Wolfson Children's Hospital, supporting its mission to ensure the finest available pediatric health care for all children. The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital is committed to raising \$1.5 million for two new

Kids Kare Mobile Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and other Wolfson Children's Hospital programs. The Kids Kare Mobile ICUs are part of Wolfson Children's Hospital's Neonatal and Pediatric Critical Care Transport fleet and include necessary life-support equipment for the transportation of critically ill and injured infants and children. Kids Kare vehicles and helicopters safely transport nearly 3,000 infants and children a year to Wolfson Children's Hospital for emergency neonatal and pediatric critical and trauma care.

For more information, go to womensboardwch.com.

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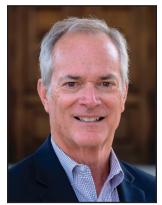
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Steve Harrison — making a difference for local seniors through Council on Aging



Steve Harriso

As a teenager, Steve Harrison worked at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club alongside his father, Murle Harrison, who enjoyed a 40-year career with the club as club manager. After high school, the younger Harrison attended the business school at Florida State University and ventured forth into a career in the hospitality indus-

try that took him throughout the United States and the British Virgin Islands. Harrison returned to Ponte Vedra in 2000 to serve as general manager and oversee the construction of Serenata Beach Club. It was there that he first met Cathy Brown, who was executive director at the time for St. Johns County Council on Aging (COA).

"Cathy said she needed a golf tournament to raise funds for COA programs," Harrison remembered. "So COA's first charity golf tournament was launched there in 2003, which we called the 'Serenata Cup.' That was also the year Cathy recruited me for the COA Board of Directors."

The COA Champions for Elders Golf Tournament, as it is now known, is still going strong. Harrison is

going strong as well, as president at the helm of COA's board, charting a course to create a brighter future for older adults in the community.

During his 20-plus years on the board, COA has seen a rapid expansion of programs and services for the growing population of older adults in St. Johns County. COA has also made notable accomplishments that have enhanced quality of life in Ponte Vedra.

In 2007, COA constructed THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. The center was founded in partnership with St. Johns County and with initial financial support from THE PLAYERS and private donors in the community, including Don and LaVonne Blackburn.

The center serves lunch and offers classes, lectures, activities and special events, Tuesdays through Fridays. Transportation services to and from the center are available through COA's paratransit services. To learn more about the programs offered there, go to coasjc.org/ponte-vedra-center or call 904-209-3659.

In 2015, COA founded the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center at the St. Johns County facility at 1048 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. There, COA offers their innovative Integrative Memory Enhancement Program, IMEP, a classroom program that helps attendees strengthen their cognitive functioning and slow the progression of memory loss and dementia.

The center also provides valuable respite time and support for caregivers. The IMEP program is offered at

other locations throughout the county, and nationally, by agencies and facilities that serve seniors and lease the program for use.

To learn more, go to imeprogram.com or call 904-729-9535.

After serving Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach as parish executive for 14 years, Harrison retired last year with plans for travel and adventure with his wife, Debbie. However, the needs of older adults in our community continue, and COA continues to benefit from his support and leadership.

"Our primary mission is to keep people in their homes for as long as they can, and bring assurances to their families as well," Harrison explained. "However, we also want to make sure we are providing the services and facilities that are helpful and enriching to our community. We are asking questions; for example, what does a newly retired person want today? We have the desire and the ability to be creative at COA. It's not just bingo and bridge; we are here to support and inspire our community."

"Of course, we can't accomplish this without the support of community members," he continued. "I encourage everyone to get involved however they can. We need our hometown's support to create the bright future we've envisioned for us all."

To learn more about COA's comprehensive programs and services and to get involved, go to coasjc.org, or call 904-209-3700.

Meet Kris, a local veteran...

Kris is a Habitat St. Johns Homeowner.

"Life is a lot less stressful now. I find myself reflecting on how good life is now. I think back to the military and constantly being on the move. I am incredibly happy to be on a solid, stable foundation and in a place to call home. It is an amazing feeling!"

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Join us in our mission today!





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UF Health St. Johns nurse receives award

Jessica Coutu, R.N., has been recognized as the UF Health St. Johns DAISY Award recipient for the fourth quarter of 2024. The DAISY Award is an international program that celebrates the kindness and care nurses give each day by paying tribute to one nurse who provided exemplary care for a patient in the months leading up to the ceremony.

Coutu is a nurse in the renal care unit and has been with UF Health Flagler Hospital for seven years.

When nominating Coutu, one patient — who was admitted after coming to the ER for serious stomach issues wrote that she never once had to call for anything during her hospital stay. "She was proactive, timely and precise in all of her duties with administering all my medications," the patient wrote. "She is very attentive and funny. She made me feel comfortable during a very uncomfortable time."

Coutu received additional accolades from another patient, who felt compelled by the nurse's compassion to write a second nomination for her to receive a DAISY award.

"The love and care that she showed me was priceless," the patient wrote. "She listens to her patients. She didn't mind, when she had some free time, to come talk and lift my spirits. She picked up on me feeling down and depressed. The compassion and care in her conversation for three days lifted mv soul."

In recognition of this honor, Coutu received a stone-carved "Healer's Touch" trophy, a DAISY winner's pin, a gift basket and a \$200 bonus. But it's gaining the confidence of her patients that means the most to this nurse.

"I often pick up on needs that aren't necessarily medical. It's just as important to me to also tend to my patient's emotional needs and deliver wholistic care," explained Coutu. "I try to help put a smile on their face to help them get through the difficult moment they're going through."

"Jessica is a devoted nurse in so many ways. Renal care requires timely and accurate delivery of medications, which she is always on top of, but her kind spirit is just as healing to her patients. We are proud to have her on our team," said Michelle Paulo, R.N., interim vice president of nursing at UF Health St. Johns.

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

Landrum

Continued from 17

also participated to provide information and support.

Nikolas also showcased his talents during the Rising Sixth Grade Night at Landrum, an event designed to help incoming students and their families feel at home.

The Rising Sixth Grade Night featured activities allowing prospective students to explore classrooms, meet teachers and learn more about Landrum through a QR code tour. Additionally, Millie's Homemade Ice Cream Truck was on-site, adding a sweet treat to the evening. Kasting and PTO President Annelee Chetty delivered warm opening remarks, setting an inviting tone for the evening.

"We're thrilled to welcome our new Pride members next year," said Kasting.

Landrum Middle School is known for its strong academic programs, innovative electives and supportive environment. The new guitar elective highlights the school's commitment to offering diverse opportunities for students to explore their interests and talents.

Events like these pave the way for a seamless transition for incoming sixth graders, ensuring they feel confident and eager to embark on the next chapter of their educational journey.













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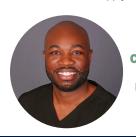
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D1 Training opens at U.S. 1 location

Facility specializes in agebased fitness programs

By Shaun Ryan

When Jessica Hayes was ready to seek out new opportunities following her time as a stay-at-home mom, she and husband Nathan did some research and discovered D1 Training, a fitness enrichment concept that matched the family's values.

"When we learned more about it and the culture of the company, what they do, we were just blown away," Jessica Hayes said.

Founded in 2001 by former NFL player

Will Bartholomew, D1 Training began franchising in 2017. Today, it has more than 100 performance centers already open and more than 100 in various stages of development.

Hayes, who had taught fifth grade students for about nine years, saw this as an ideal chance to work with children again and to help them achieve their fitness goals. It was an easy decision.

So, on Dec. 2, they opened their facility at 10860 U.S. 1, Unit 202, in Ponte

D1 Training offers four age-based programs: rookie, for ages 7-11; developmental, for ages 12-14; prep, for ages 15-18; and adult. Each program is



based on five tenets: dynamic warm-up, performance, strength program, core and conditioning and cool down.

In addition to these programs, D1 Training offers team training, where

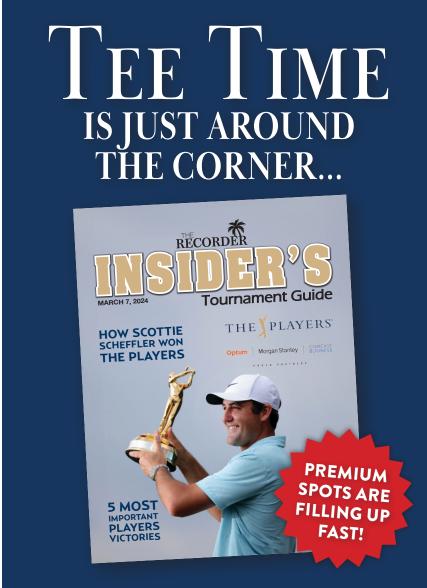
athletes come in to work on specific skills; and small group training, designed around the athletes' individual goals.

"It's very personalized," Hayes said. "We say, 'You pick your goal, and we'll help you get there."

The facility also offers personal training, for those wanting that service. In addition, it offers D1 on Campus, where D1 coaches go out to work with teams on their own campuses. These may be high school teams, recreational leagues or something else.

For parents, who want to work out alongside their children, D1 has an adult

D1 TRAINING continues on Page 28





Published by the Ponte Vedra Recorder, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

THERECORDER

New technologies to benefit brain and spine tumor patients

St. Vincent's Riverside is now offering new technologies to benefit patients with brain and spine tumors. These technologies are used in procedures performed by Dr. Aristotelis Filippidis, a neurosurgeon with subspecialty in neurosurgical oncol-

"Our hospital is committed to providing our physicians with the best available technology to address their patients' surgical and medical care needs," said Scott Kashman, president and CEO of St. Vincent's Riverside. "These additions ensure we are among the premier neurosurgical institutes in the country, allowing our patients to receive this excellent care in their own community."

New technologies include:

- Gleolan: a one-of-a-kind fluorescent optical imaging agent that illuminates a common and devastating type of brain tumor called glioma, maximizing resection.
- GammaTile: a postage-stamp-sized device that is designed to deliver radiation at the tumor cavity, the same day with surgery, designed to delay tumor regrowth for patients without delaying care.
- Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy (LITT): minimally invasive laser technology, designed to ablate brain tumors in difficult access areas, with laser precision.
- · Advanced brain mapping and Tractography: technology that informs surgeons



Contributed photos

Dr. Aristotelis Filippidis uses new technology during a procedure.

in real-time about dangerous areas to avoid while resecting brain tumors.

• VADER Screw System: carbon fiber screws and rods for spinal tumor patients that are completely radiolucent, allowing for clear visualization in postoperative imaging, providing improved radiation planning and dose delivery.

"Our goal, as neurosurgeons, is to al-

ways provide the best treatment possible, with unique care plans developed for each individual patient," said Filippidis. "These technologies help us deliver on that promise for every patient who trusts us with their care, reflecting our philosophy of minimal intervention with maximum outcomes. We combine expertise with these technologies to ensure patients



with tumors from the greater Jacksonville area do not have to seek their care away from home anymore."

St. Vincent's Riverside was named a Best Regional Hospital by the U.S. News and World Report's Best Hospital Rankings for 2024-25. St. Vincent's was also named a top 15 health system in the country for 2024 by Fortune and PINC AI.

For more information on neurosurgery at St. Vincent's Riverside, go to ascen-



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From left, Susan Kos (BHHSFNR assistant manager), Steve Ferguson, Tracy Glochau (BHHSFNR managing broker), Becky Scheffler, Rae Andreano and Onnalee Ricci of The Ricci Group of the



Contributed photos

The St. Augustine office team (Top Office/Chairman's Cup award)

Real estate company sees \$1.6B in closed sales

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has announced that the company achieved \$1.6 billion closed sales volume in 2024, a 10% increase from its closed sales volume in 2023. The company closed 2,609 units and attained an average sales price of \$612,182, an 8% increase year-over-year.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty ranked No. 1 in closed sales volume with a 5.6% market share and No. 1 as the luxury real estate leader in closed sales volume with a 9.6% market share among properties priced \$750,000 and above. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty associates recently celebrated the company's success and its Realtors' achievements at the 2024 Annual Awards celebration.

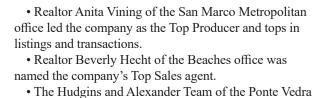
"I am so proud of our Realtors, managers and support team members who demonstrated dedication, leadership and commitment to achieve our clients' goals," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty President Ann King. "Our company's tremendous success is a direct result of the talent, initiative and collaboration



From left, Ann King, Elizabeth Hudgins, Sarah Alexander (the Hudgins and Alexander Team) and Erin Spalding (BHHSFNR managing broker) of the Ponte Vedra Beach office

between our Realtors, employees and business partners."

The event brought hundreds of real estate professionals together to commemorate numerous achievements. The company's 2024 Top Producers include:



- Beach office was recognized as the Top Producing Team. • The Ricci Group of the Palm Coast Beach office was
- named Top Team in listings, sales and transactions.
- Realtor Nikki Clowers of the Beaches office was named Rookie of the Year.
- The St. Augustine office, under the leadership of Tracy Glochau, received the Top Office/Chairman's Cup award, which recognizes success in a number of categories including client feedback, selecting talent, listing sides, closed sides, per person productivity, closed volume and

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, go to FloridaNetworkRealty.com or FLNetworkRealty.com.



From left, Ann King, Realtor Anita Vining of the San Marco **Metropolitan office and Linda Sherrer**



From left, Ann King and Realtor Beverly Hecht of the Beaches



From left, Linda Sherrer and Realtor Nikki Clowers (Rookie of the Year award) of the Beaches office





GUEST COLUMN

Build your portfolio on a solid foundation

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

Asset allocation can be to investment planning what the foundation is to a house or the chassis is to a car. It's what everything else is built upon. And just as important as constructing a house on a firm foundation, having the right asset allocation can be vital to helping you work toward your financial goals.

Although the name may sound intimidating, asset allocation is just a technical term for a rather simple concept. It's merely how your portfolio is divided up among different types of investments, such as stocks, bonds and what are called "cash alternatives."

How it works

Using asset allocation to build a portfolio designed to help you reach your long-term goals requires taking three primary factors into consideration:

Goals. These are simply what you're investing the achieve. For many of us, a major goal is to enjoy a financially secure retirement. If you have younger children or grandchildren, helping them afford higher education without building a mountain of debt is likely another goal. Or maybe you'd also like to make a luxury purchase — such as buying a vacation home or dream car or taking an exotic vacation — down the road.

Time horizon. One reason why knowing your goals is important is because it helps determine your time horizon (how long you have until you need to tap into your investments). If you're 28, for example, and want to retire at 68, your time horizon is 40 years. Simple as that.

Risk tolerance. Your risk tolerance is the amount of



volatility in your portfolio's value you're comfortable with. If you find you can't sleep because you're worried about your investments — especially when there's market volatility — you probably need to adjust your asset allocation to suit your risk tolerance.

Putting the pieces together

With those factors in hand, you can begin to piece your asset allocation together. The primary building blocks, at least to begin with, are likely to include:

Stocks. Historically, stocks have offered attractive returns, but along with those returns, there's also been periods of volatility. If you're young, you generally have a long time horizon — especially when it comes to retirement. That may allow you to have a larger allocation to stocks because you have longer to ride out any short-term market volatility that occurs.

Bonds. One reason investors like bonds in a portfolio is because their prices have historically been relatively stable. By owning bonds, an investor's aim may be to

help manage his or her portfolio's overall value when there's volatility in the stock market. The larger the proportion of bonds, the more steady the portfolio's overall value should remain. Keep in mind, however, that bonds' returns have been significantly less than stocks.

Cash alternatives. These are relatively lower-risk, lower-return investments. On the upside, they can easily be converted into cash when it's needed. On the downside, their returns may not even keep up with inflation.

Once you've decided on the types of investments to include, you need to determine how much of each is appropriate. If you're looking to grow your investments' value, you'll likely have a larger stock allocation and a smaller one for bonds. The result would be a portfolio with more potential volatility than one with a larger proportion of bonds. You should ask yourself if that's a trade-off you're comfortable with.

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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Hospitals plan new 4-story ER

Baptist Health unveiled plans Jan. 27 for a new, four-story emergency tower located on Prudential Drive in the center of its main campus for Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Designed to dramatically improve the region's access to advanced emergency care for adults and children, the new emergency and patient care tower, totaling 123,000 square feet, will expand the health system's capacity to provide the highest level of care for chest pain, stroke, behavioral health crises, complex illnesses or injuries, pediatric trauma and more

The project begins this year and will open in phases. Upon completion in 2029, the expansive tower will feature:

• Two distinctive emergency rooms,

waiting areas and patient care rooms comprised of 100 emergency rooms in total, 63 for adults and 37 for children, including three pediatric trauma rooms on the first floor;

- Imaging, laboratory and ancillary resources to support efficient emergency and trauma services;
- A new endoscopy suite, plus expanded areas for pre- and post-operative heart

care on the second floor; and

• Future expansion plans for 68 additional inpatient rooms on the third and fourth floors.

"Our main campus provides care for more emergency patients than any other hospital in the greater Jacksonville area," said Michael A. Mayo, president and

ER continues on Page 28







Jessica Hayes, co-owner with husband Nathan of the new D1 Training facility in Ponte Vedra, welcomes the opportunity to help both adults and children achieve their fitness goals.

D1 Training

class scheduled to run concurrently with a rookie class, each with its own coach.

"I think that is something really unique," said Hayes. "Parents and their kids can work our side-by-side, coached differently."

In addition to fitness, D1 coaches conduct a lot of character building, and they place a special emphasis on working as a team. They talk with the children on topics, such as "respect" or "responsibility."

Hayes believes what keeps people coming back is the sense of community created by the D1 culture.

"What's really important to me is building that community," she said. "You might come in here not knowing anybody, but you'll meet someone here and you'll feel like you're part of a team."

"Jessica and Nathan are the ideal candidates to bring the D1 Training experience to Ponte Vedra," said the brand's chief operating officer, Dan Murphy.

"We're thrilled to welcome them to the D1 family and are confident in their ability to show the Ponte Vedra area what they've been missing out on. D1 is a unique fitness experience built around the individual to help people meet their athletic goals. Our strong network of franchisees embodies our core values to bring the D1 Training vision to life, and we know Jessica and Nathan will do just that in Ponte Vedra and the surrounding communities."

Getting started is easy. Rookies can come in for a trial class. For others, there is a one-on-one assessment with the head coach or the general manager.

"We do movement screenings to see where they are and where they want to be," said Hayes. "Then, we make some recommendations about what program would suit them best."

Call 904-747-9344 or go to d1training.com/ponte-vedra for information. The facility's Instagram page is updated daily. The scheduled times for each age group can be found on the D1 Training

Continued from 27

CEO of Baptist Health. "We feel strongly, and our board wholeheartedly agrees, that it is critical to ensure we not only provide the best quality of care but also make the experience the best it can be for our patients and caregivers alike. We challenged ourselves to do more than expand and renovate what exists today - instead, we are re-imagining the entire environment

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of care."

The new tower will include an enhanced arrival experience to the emergency center entrance, providing a more visible, accessible patient drop-off area that quickly guides patients and their loved ones to care.

- Adults experiencing a medical emergency will be seen in the Baptist Jacksonville emergency center, which is an accredited chest pain center and the region's only Joint Commission-certified comprehensive stroke center.
- Children and their caregivers will receive specialized care in the Wolfson Children's Hospital emergency center, which features a child-centered design, and specialized equipment, clinical protocols and multi-disciplinary pediatric care teams to provide the only comprehensive Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center for our region.

"We're fortunate to play a vital role in the care of people throughout the region," said Nicole B. Thomas, hospital president of Baptist Jacksonville. "Also, we are especially grateful for the support

of our generous donors who enable us to enhance and expand life-saving care and advanced treatment options for our community. The new tower is a testament to our health system's extraordinary commitment to raising the bar in 24/7 care for those facing an emergency."

Philanthropy will play a key role in helping fund state-of-the-art technology, equipment and staffing for the emergency tower.

The new emergency and patient care tower also will expand the capacity of Wolfson Children's Porter Family Children's Trauma Center, the region's only state-designated, American College of Surgeons (ACS)-verified Level I Pediatric Trauma Center.

As a Level I trauma center, Wolfson Children's Hospital offers comprehensive trauma care for all injuries, including burns, drownings, falls, motor vehicle accidents and wounds. With a 24/7 in-house pediatric trauma team, patients experience faster, direct access to specialized care during the critical "golden hour" following a severe or life-threatening

trauma, when prompt medical care can significantly increase the chances of

"It matters where parents take their child in an emergency, and we are proud to offer children and their families the highest level of pediatric emergency and trauma care," said Allegra C. Jaros, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital. "As the heart of our regional network of pediatric emergency centers, this new tower continues our commitment to delivering top-decile, specialized care by offering advanced treatments and technologies in an environment designed entirely with children and families in mind. It is a reimagined space where innovation, compassion and collaboration come together to provide seamless life-saving care to every child in our community and beyond."

During construction, the Baptist Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital ERs will remain open 24/7 and wayfinding signage and dedicated personnel will help ensure emergency services remain easy to locate and access.

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Salt Life Food Shack conducts 'Finish Breast Cancer' fundraising campaign

Salt Life Food Shack is continuing its tradition of supporting The DONNA Foundation's mission to provide financial assistance and support for families living with breast cancer and fund critical research. This month, all three Salt Life Food Shack locations — Jacksonville Beach, St. Augustine Beach and Fernandina Beach — will participate in the month-long "Finish Breast Cancer" fundraising campaign.

Throughout the month, guests can contribute to the cause by adding a donation of any amount to their bill. As a thankyou, donors will receive a \$5 off coupon for their next visit to the Shack. All of the donations collected go directly to The DONNA Foundation and its mission.

Salt Life Food Shack's support for The DONNA Foundation spans 13 years and is rooted in a shared vision for community support. Since four people are diagnosed with breast cancer daily on the First Coast, the reality is everyone is

touched by this disease in some way.

"From hosting fundraisers to participating in community events, this collaboration has become a cornerstone of Salt Life Food Shack's commitment to giving back," said Jeff Jabot, owner/operator of Salt Life Food Shack. "To date, Salt Life Food Shack has donated over \$10,000 to The DONNA Foundation to support its mission. We are hoping to double that amount through this year's campaign."

Salt Life Food Shack's commitment extends beyond fundraising at the Shack. On Sunday, Feb. 2, it co-hosted the DON-NA Marathon Finish Line VIP Party with Surfer The Bar, celebrating the runners, survivors and supporters who embody the spirit of hope and determination that defines DONNA Marathon Weekend.

"The strength of our partnership with Salt Life Food Shack is a testament to the power of community," said Amanda Napolitano, executive director of The DONNA Foundation. "Their ongoing



support for over a decade has helped us deliver life-changing assistance to breast cancer patients and fund the research needed to end this disease. Every dollar donated through this campaign eliminates barriers to care for breast cancer patients."

Established in June 2023, The DONNA Foundation has served more than 20,647 families by providing more than \$6.5 million in financial services and \$3.3 million in support of research. The DONNA Foundation is committed to creating a

world where breast cancer patients have unrestricted access to successful treatment, empowering them to overcome challenges and ultimately finish breast cancer.

Salt Life Food Shack invites the community to participate in the "Finish Breast Cancer" campaign by dining and donating at any of their locations during February. Those who wish to support the foundation directly can donate on the foundation's website year-round at The DONNA Foundation.org.

Tips when shopping for home, auto and health insurance

Insurance is a necessity that can provide a financial safety net in the case of accidents, natural disasters, injuries, and other emergencies. Adequate coverage can ensure policy holders' lives are not turned upside down when an unexpected event like an auto accident or harsh storm threatens to drain their bank accounts.

The stakes are indeed high when shopping for insurance, as consumers want to be sure the policy they ultimately choose is going to safeguard them if or when they need it. With that in mind, individuals can consider these tips when shopping for insurance.

• Resist any inclination to make price your top priority. Price should not be an afterthought when shopping for insurance, but it's important that consumers avoid making it their mission to find the lowest possible premiums. Though a low-cost policy might suit your immediate financial needs, such a policy may not offer a level of coverage necessary to prevent adverse financial outcomes should you experience accident or injury. It's best to prioritize getting the coverage you need over the lowest possible policy cost.

• Comparison shop. Once you have identified the level of coverage you need, you can then begin comparison shopping. Most insurance providers can issue quotes in a matter of minutes, and many offer similar levels of coverage. So the process of gathering quotes on policies offering similar, if not identical, coverage should

not take long.

· Shop around for discounts, too.

Savvy consumers know to shop around for discounts that can lower the cost of a given policy. For example, many providers discount their homeowners' policies if policy holders install security features in their homes. Home alarm systems, security cameras and even added exterior lighting might help lower the cost of homeowners' insurance policies. Such discounts can typically be found regardless of which type of policy you're looking for, so shop around or speak directly with customer service representatives to identify ways to lower the cost of coverage.

· Choose additional coverage for particularly valuable items. Certain items,

like engagement rings, may require additional coverage not offered by standard policies. For example, a standard renter's insurance policy may not cover expensive jewelry. But losing an item like an engagement ring to theft or a natural disaster can be emotionally devastating and costly to replace. Such a blow is easier to manage when policy holders know the items are fully covered.

Insurance is necessary whether individuals are looking to protect their health, their homes, their cars, or their financial futures. A few simple strategies can ensure consumers have the coverage they need to avoid financial ruin should they experience an accident, injury or natural disaster. when you download the package.

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Holocaust victims' instruments featured

The Jacksonville Symphony will present "Violins of Hope: Building Bridges Through the Power of Music" at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at Jacoby Symphony Hall. This special concert features instruments once owned by Holocaust victims, restored by Amnon and Avshalom Weinstein, and performed by Symphony musicians under the direction of Music Director Courtney Lewis.

The program includes solo performances by Concertmaster Adelya Nartadjieva and narration of selected readings chosen by the Symphony's Violins of Hope Advisory Council, comprising local leaders, educators and second-generation Holocaust survivors. Guests can also view more than 60 of the restored instruments in the lobby before the concert.

Leading up to the event, the Symphony will host educational and outreach programs, including panel discussions and

ensemble performances at the University of North Florida, the Jacksonville Public Library and Congregation Ahavath Chesed. These events are free and open to the public, but tickets are required due to limited seating.

"Unfortunately, antisemitism is still prevalent today, and in some areas, even rising. Through 'Violins of Hope,' we aim to build bridges, fostering connection and empathy through music to stand against intolerance," said Steven B. Libman, president and CEO of the Jacksonville Symphony.

Tickets for Violins of Hope are available at JaxSymphony.org or by calling the box office at 904-354-5547. The concert is part of the Greta Challen Berg Artist Series and is sponsored by Dr. Eugene and Brenda Wolchok.

Community educational events are planned to foster dialogue, inclusion and

understanding between diverse communities through panelist discussions, ensemble performances and a display of the instruments. There is no cost to attend these events, but registration is required as space is limited. To register, go to jax-symphony.org/violins-of-hope-2025.

These events will be: 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10, at University of North Florida; 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Jacksonville Public Library; and 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Congregation Ahavath Chesed Temple.

The Advisory Council Members: Elizabeth Anderson, CEO of One Jax; Cecelia Cristol, volunteer with Jewish Family & Community Services; Dr. Barbara Darby, Jacksonville Symphony Board member and DEI Committee chair; Mariam Feist, CEO of the Jewish Federation & Foundation for Northeast Florida; Rabbi Maya Glasser, head rabbi at The Temple,

Congregation Ahavath Chesed; Stacey Goldring: founder of the Searching for Identity Foundation; Elyse Gustafson, priest at Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd; Rodney Hurst, Jacksonville native, civil rights activist, historian and author; Dr. Courtney Krolikoski, history professor at Jacksonville University; Anne Lufrano, Jacksonville Symphony, former board member; Patricia McElroy, president of the VyStar Foundation; Patrick Nolan, history professor at the University of North Florida; Isaiah Oliver, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida; Lior Spring, executive director of the Miller Family Foundation; and Brenda Wolchok, Jacksonville Symphony, former board member.

For further information, go to https://www.jaxsymphony.org/violins-of-hope-2025.

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CONCERT REVIEW

Jacksonville Symphony dances night away with Beethoven, Rachmaninoff

Review by Matt Bickett

Look inside any beehive and you'll find bees dancing for one another. Wiggling and waggling, bees dance to share the location of nearby pollen in relation to the sun and the hive. In much the same way, Theseus, an ancient Greek hero, danced the Crane Dance to show young Athenians how to escape from the Minotaur in the myth of Ariadne. Today, young Jacksonvillians dance with friends on the beach or in exercise classes or even for video games — dancing in all its forms is essential to life together.

In celebration of dance, the Jackson-ville Symphony performed a concert of orchestral music Friday and Saturday nights at Jacoby Symphony Hall. Guest conductor Michael Stern led the ensemble in an energetic and moving program of musical dance, drawing the entire hall into Guillaume Connesson's "Flammenschrift," Ludwig van Beethoven's Seventh Symphony and Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Symphonic Dances."

Stern opened the program with a warm welcome and insightful comments, with high praise for Jackson-ville's investment in the high quality of its orchestra. In particular, he shared the story of his encounter with a young attendee as the crowd entered the Jacksonville Center for Performing

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Arts — highlighting how vital it is to welcome younger audience members.

The ensemble's performance of the opening work, Connesson's energetic and impetuous "Flammenschrift" ("Flame writing"), impressed with bright string tone and energetic winds. The orchestra's athleticism was on full display in this newer work, with continuous streams of thrilling notes like lightning flashing through the sky, as Stern explained beforehand. As an homage to German music, the piece (whose name comes from one of Goethe's most intimate poems) sought to depict the mind and genius of Beethoven — perfectly setting the tone for one of Beethoven's most raucous symphonies to follow.

Stern's reading of Beethoven's Seventh highlighted hidden gems of the Jacksonville Symphony's forces. The virtuosity of the bass section, balanced with a presence and fullness of tone, in the first movement laid the groundwork for an extroverted yet warm viola section in the second. While a focus on the grandeur of the strings' sound overshadowed passages requiring a leaner agility, the drama of the pauses and winds-vs.-strings remained captivating.

The undeniable charm of the Seventh Symphony's dancing rhythms came across in the orchestra's energy — one couldn't help but imagine the Easter Beagle (of the Charlie Brown classic) dancing through the first movement and the high-kicks of the final movement's can-can. Surprisingly, the energy did not wane for the famous second movement. Stern's in-

terpretation, likely considered too fast in some contexts, seemed to capture the anxiety of dancing in this political moment — an act of defiantly asserting the power of our humanity amidst chaos. Perhaps Stern was showing us the way to something.

Following intermission, the audience was met with a warm sound and welcome brass presence in the opening of Rachmaninoff's "Symphonic Dances." The expectation for intensity in dance rhythms, set up in the first half of the program, was met here with an earthy sound and wind virtuosity. However, a new addition surprised: the expertly played alto saxophone solo brought a tone color not often featured in the Florida Blue Classical Series, making a strong impression without stealing the show.

The program concluded with Rachmaninoff quoting the famous "Dies irae" (from the Requiem Mass) in the third of the "Symphony Dances," bringing the night's theme of dance into the realm of the sacred. The bassoons' soaring lines of Russian Orthodox chant among the musical dance rounded out this impressive program. With dance running through so much of life, it only makes sense that it find no enemy in this more mysterious part of ourselves (Ren McCormack, of "Footloose," would agree).

Matt Bickett is a musician and scholar living in Jacksonville. He serves as director of music ministries at Riverside Presbyterian Church and artistic director of the Friends of Music at Riverside.

Players by the Sea plans 60th season

Players by the Sea, Jacksonville Beach's community theatre, is celebrating its 60th season. Since its founding in 1966, the theatre has been a cultural cornerstone to the Jacksonville Beach community and the surrounding area, delivering performances that inspire, challenge and unite audiences from all walks of life.

"Season 60 is a unique celebration of hope, joy and togetherness," said Bradley Akers, managing director. "This line-up highlights the power of human connection, bringing to life characters who discover resilience, humor and purpose through the bonds they build. Each story reminds us of the magic of shared experiences and the inspiration we find in one another."

"Funny Girl" will open the season beginning on Friday, Feb. 21. This true-to-life musical journey of Fanny Brice blends laughter, love and show-stopping tunes like "Don't Rain on My Parade" and "People."

Following that, it's the Northeast Florida premier of "Waitress" the musical (May 2-18). Waitress and expert pie maker Jenna navigates the challenges of an unfulfilling marriage and dreams of a fresh start. With the help of her quirky co-workers and surprising new love, she imagines a sweeter life.

After that, "Ripcord" (June 13-22), a comical play that takes place in a senior living facility pits two feisty women, Marilyn and Abby, against each other in a battle of wits, pranks and surprising revelations.

Next, "Disaster!" strikes (July 11-27) with a 1970s disco fever musical that causes much chaos from one ridiculous disaster to another. From songs like "I Will Survive" to "Hot Stuff," this show is described as a wild ride.

SEASON continues on Page 34



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Black History Month exhibit tells powerful story with photography

"Where We Stand," a powerful exhibition by St. Augustine fine art photographer Lenny Foster, will open with a reception at First Coast Cultural Center on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. In celebration of Black History Month, this exhibit will be featured at FCCC through March 27, and it is free and open to the public.

Foster's unique storytelling technique involves placing shoes, representing groups and individuals, in historical places throughout the city. For example, one of his thought-provoking photos shows shoes lined up at the Woolworth's lunch counter where "The Saint Augustine Four" were arrested for a sit-in. Others are in places where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke and at the plaza market where slaves were sold.

"As the awareness of this history dawned on me, it became the focus of my work," said Foster, who moved from Taos, New Mexico. "I feel honored to be able to share this history, through my work, with a



Photo courtesy of First Coast Cultural Center

"Sisters of the Pen and Page (Florida writers Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings)" by Lenny Foster

broader public."

According to Donna Guzzo, FCCC's president and CEO, "One truly walks

through time when viewing Lenny's compelling work. It is my hope that visitors will leave with a deeper appreciation of Black History and the struggles and triumphs of the people who greatly impacted the Civil Rights Movement."

For more information on Foster's exhibition and other events and programs, go to FCCC's website at https://www.firstcoastculturalcenter.org or call 904-280-0614. FCCC is located at 6000B Sawgrass Village Circle in Ponte Vedra Beach. Learn more about Foster, who also published a book of photos with poems by J.M. White, at his website: https://www.galleryonefortyfour.com.

Additionally, tickets are now on sale for FCCC's 30th anniversary gala, "Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts!" This annual event will be held at TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse from 6 to 8 p.m. April 27. To support FCCC, a nonprofit organization, gala sponsorships and program advertisements are being sought. Contact Kimberly Sheridan at ksheridan@firstcoastculturalcenter.org or click Upcoming Events on FCCC's website.

Explore Black History Month at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens invites the community to explore Black History Month during February through works on view year-round in its galleries. The Cummer Museum's Permanent Collection contains a number of works by Black artists that date from the mid-19th century through the present day.

This month, visitors will travel back in time to Jacksonville's silent film era through the exhibition "Jacksonville's Norman Studios: Movie Posters from the Permanent Collection." Silent filmmaker Richard Norman purchased the bankrupt Eagle Studios complex in Arlington in 1920. Norman produced at least eight feature films in eight years and gained national attention by producing films with Black casts for Black audiences. His productions, low cost yet polished and entertaining, featured Black actors as cowboys, pilots and businessmen in romance, mystery and action films. He recruited some of the most prominent stage actors to make the switch to the screen. The museum acquired 18

original film promotional posters for its Permanent Collection in 2002.

Also on view from the Permanent Collection are two striking sculptures by Augusta Savage in the Helen Murchison and Edward W. Lane, Jr. Gallery. A gifted sculptor, Savage (1892–1962) was born in Green Cove Springs and later became a significant teacher, leader and catalyst for change. Overcoming poverty, racism and sexual discrimination, Savage became one of this country's most influential artists of the 20th century, playing

an instrumental role in the development of some of the most celebrated African-American artists.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to view works by ancient Egyptian artists, William Artis (1914-1977), Romare Bearden (1911-1988), Sanford Biggers (b. 1970), Robert Seldon Duncanson (1821-1872), Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000), Hughie Lee-Smith (1915-1999), Whitfield Lovell (b, 1959), Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937), and Mildred Thompson (1936-2003), among others.

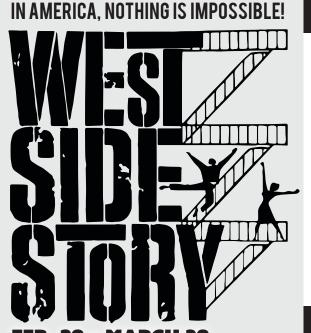
In addition to a self-guided tour available on site, visitors can also enjoy Drop-In Tour: Black Artists in the Collection 2-3 p.m. Feb. 16 to learn more about the contributions and achievements of Black artists on view year-round throughout the museum. For young visitors this month, Artful Storytime, (formerly Storyteller Mornings), is an opportunity to explore the rich tapestry of African-American history and culture through an engaging tale. After the story, children will enjoy a fun, hands-on artmaking experience. That will be held 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Feb. 20.

Also, "Spirit in the Land" ends its national tour in Jacksonville at the Cummer Museum on Feb. 9.

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville. Complimentary parking is located across Riverside Avenue from the museum entrance and on the corner of Riverside Avenue and Post Street.

For more details, go to cummermuseum.org or call 904-356-6857.





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Collage artist to be featured at Butterfield Garage Art Gallery

The Butterfield Garage Art Gallery will present work from Eric Rakov, the February 2025 Featured Artist. Working in collage, Rakov's subjects range from tabletop still-life scenes to vignettes from his international travels.

His exhibit opens on the First Friday Artwalk, 5-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7. Rakov will give a short artist's talk at 6 p.m. to share his journey and discuss his technique.

Rakov is an award-winning collage artist who primarily uses recycled magazines as his palette to create vibrant impressionistic artwork. He applies the media in a painterly style, building colors in layers, creating dark shadows and bright highlights.

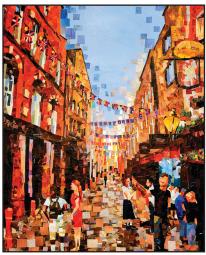
Butterfield Garage Art Gallery is open every day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during Artwalk on the First Friday of every month until 9 p.m. Disabled parking available in front of the building.

Butterfield Garage Art Gallery is located at 137 King St., St. Augustine. The phone number is 904-825-4577. Email info@butterfieldgarage.com.

For more information, see the gallery website: butterfieldgarage.com.



Photos courtesy of Butterfield Garage Art Gallery **"Outdoor Café"**



"Street Scene"

Symphony announces February schedule

The Jacksonville Symphony presents four programs in February, including the internationally renowned project "Violins of Hope" on Feb. 15. All performances take place in Jacoby Symphony Hall at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts.

Symphony in 60 / Matinee Series: A Journey Through Symphonic Americana

6:30 p.m. Feb. 6; 11 a.m. Feb. 7 Thomas Wilkins, principal conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, returns to lead the Jacksonville Symphony through a symphonic exploration of Americana music. From heartfelt melodies to stirring rhythms, this concert celebrates the vibrant tapestry of American musical heritage.

For more: https://my.jaxsymphony.org/ overview/thomas-wilkins

Concert Organ Series: Solo Organ Recital

7:30 p.m. Feb. 8
Greg Zelek takes center stage in a
captivating solo recital that showcases
the boundless range of the Bryan Concert
Organ. Embark on a journey spanning di-



verse musical eras and marvel at Zelek's innovative technique and expression in this thrilling finale of the Concert Organ Series

For more: https://my.jaxsymphony.org/overview/solo-organ-2024-25

75th Anniversary Special: Violins of Hope

7:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Violins of Hope, the internationally beloved concert series featuring instruments once owned by Holocaust victims before and during World War II, returns to Jacoby Symphony Hall for a concert that is more than just a musical experience — it's a testament to the power of resilience and the importance of remembrance. Violins, violas and cellos, all lovingly restored by Israeli violinmakers

SYMPHONY continues on **Page 34**

Upcoming Jacksonville Symphony Experiences

- 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
- Adelya & Aurica Play Bach March 13
- Gershwin & Berlin March 21 & 22



JaxSymphony.org 904.354.5547

Season

Continued from 31

Following that is "The White Chip" (Sept. 19-28), a play about a charismatic theatre director who struggles with addiction and is on a quest for redemption. Through raw humor and insight, this show offers deeply relatable storytelling.

In "The Play That Goes Wrong," another comical play, a theatre troupe attempts to stage a murder mystery — except everything that can go wrong, does go wrong. This sidesplitting theatrical experience will leave you continuously laughing.

Last but not least and to close out Season 60 is "Sister Act." Based on the Touchstone Pictures motion picture, this story is a celebration of music, sisterhood and the power of finding your voice in the most unexpected places.

Season 60 subscriptions are now available for purchase. Go to https://players-bythesea.org/2025-season or call the box office at 904-249-0289.

For nearly 60 years, Players by the Sea has presented productions that are engaging, thought-provoking, emotionally stimulating and entertaining through the extraordinary support and dedication from community volunteers — actors, directors, designers, backstage crews, carpenters, visual artists, etc. Boasting two theatre spaces — a 150-seat Mainstage Theatre and an 80-seat Studio Theatre — Players by the Sea is an artistic home for anyone who wants to engage with the community through interactive and incredible storytelling.

Symphony

Continued from 33

Amnon and Avshalom Weinstein serve as symbols of hope in the face of unimaginable adversity.

For more: https://www.jaxsymphony.org/violins-of-hope-2025/

Pops: Soul Kings: Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, The Righteous Brothers & More

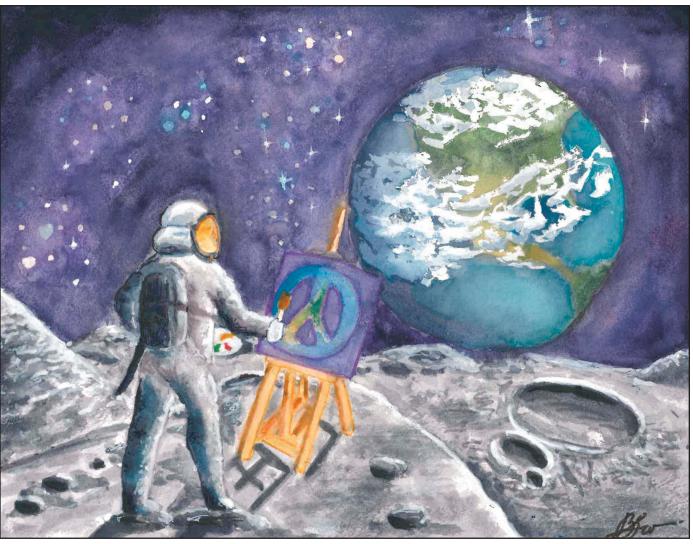
7:30 p.m. Feb. 21 and 22

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The winning cover art from last year by Brigita Sniokaityte, Swiss Point Middle School.

Student art, poetry to be featured in calendar

Betty Griffin Center is accepting art and poetry submissions from St. Johns County students for the 2026 "A Day Without Violence" calendar.

The project is open to all St. Johns County students in kindergarten through 12th grade, whether they attend public school, private school or are homeschooled. All entries are due by Friday, April 30.

Prizes are awarded for the winners, who are selected by a group of independent artists: first place: \$50; second place: \$25; 11 honorable mentions will be presented \$10 each.

All 13 winning artists and 12 poets will have their work reproduced in the Betty Griffin Center "A Day Without Violence 2026 Calendar." The agency prints more than 3,000 calendars for distribution throughout the county. Raintree Graphics was the print sponsor for the 2025 calendar.

"With the support of St. Johns County School teachers, we receive around 1,000 art and poetry entries from students each year during the contest," said Betty Griffin Center CEO Kelly Franklin.

Winners will receive special recognition during a St. Johns County School

Board meeting and have their artwork displayed at a local art gallery this October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Student artists and poets can drop off their submissions at the following locations:

- Betty Griffin Center Thrift Shoppe locations at 445 S.R. 13 North, St. Johns (corner of Race Track Road and S.R. 13) or 1961 A1A South, St. Augustine
- Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd., Fruit Cove
- Hastings Branch Library, 6195 S. Main St., Hastings
- Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library,101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
- Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine
- Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main St., St. Augustine Beach
- In April only: Main Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine

To be eligible, artwork must be in color, able to be reproduced at 8-by-10 inches and suitable for framing (horizontal format only). All original 2D media is acceptable. The theme "A Day

Without Violence" must be reflected in the art or words. An entry form must accompany each piece of art, which can be downloaded from the Betty Griffin Center website at https://bettygriffincenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Calendar-Contest-Application.rtf.

Any businesses or other donors interested in sponsoring the printing of the calendar should contact event coordinator Carole Sullivan at 904-808-8544, extension 201, or email caroles@bettygriffincenter.org.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 • PAGE 35

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Beachside High defeated Ponte Vedra High 1-0 to win the boys soccer district championship on Jan. 30.



The Barracudas hoisted the trophy following the victory.



hotos by Anthony Richards

Raynez Robinson flies down the sideline.

Offense coming alive for Barracudas playoff run

By Anthony Richards

In just three years as a program and the boys soccer team at Beachside High already has two district championships to its name.

The second of which came when the Barracudas defeated the Ponte Vedra High Sharks 1-0 to secure the district title on Thursday, Jan. 30.

Despite the score, the Barracudas seemingly controlled the game with the possession belonging in their favor throughout and as a result it allowed them to be more of the aggressor and scoring chances began to pile up, especially in

the second half.

The Barracudas broke a scoreless tie early in the second half as Raynez Robinson capitalized on a yellow card given to the Sharks' goalkeeper on a play in the box, which led to him burying a penalty kick in the back of the net.

Throughout the whole sequence, Robinson showcased a calm, cool and collected approach en route to putting the Barracudas up in the match, and they never looked back from there.

Two shots rattled off the post and crossbar, as the Barracudas chances did not stop following the successful penalty



Both teams made the state tournament in Class 5A.

kick and the Barracudas could have won by an even wider margin if those shots had fallen. The Barracudas offensive tenacity carried over into the state tournament as they went on the road and handed Gulf Breeze High a 4-1 defeat in the first round.

They hope the offense will keep travelling as they face another stiff opponent in top-seeded and undefeated Pensacola Booker T. Washington on Friday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. The Wildcats are regarded as the No. 1 team in the state regardless of class.

The Sharks made the state tournament as a No. 7 seed and suffered a 3-1 loss to top-five-ranked Arnold High in Panama City during the first round.



Santiago Suarez of Beachside maintains possession along the sideline.



Beachside defenders slide to block a pass.



One goal was the difference for the Barracudas and Sharks in the boys soccer district title game.



Beachside players block a free kick attempt.



Beachside hosted Ponte Vedra for the district championship on Jan. 30.



The Barracudas celebrate a district title.

36 SPORTS



Beachside's Bella Duenas battles for possession deep in the offensive end.



Annie Wooten (No. 14) maneuvers with the ball.



Caroline Sureda passes the ball.



Head coach Dave Silverberg speaks with his team following another district championship.

Sharks

Continued from

have leaned on this year to lead their offensive attack, and she has been up to the task time and time again.

She leads the Sharks with 15 goals, including coming through with the game-winner early in the second half against the Barracudas (10-6-2) to secure the district title and contributed a goal during the Sharks' route of the Tigers in the first round at state.

Freshman Annie Wooten and senior Natalie McCann each scored two goals apiece as well to open this year's state tournament.

The Sharks will host the Mosely High Dolphins out of Lynn Haven during the regional semifinal Friday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. The Dolphins defeated Fleming Island High 2-1 in the first round

The Barracudas made some noise as well during the opening round of the state tournament as they defeated top-five ranked Gulf Breeze High 2-0 to pull off the upset as the No. 6 seed and advanced to face another major test on the road against No. 1 seed Chiles High in Tallahassee on Friday, Feb. 7 at

Alannah Zander has been clutch in goal for the Barracudas and the junior goalkeeper will look to continue to be a wall in net to help them continue their magical run this year.

Photos by Anthony Richards



The Sharks celebrate winning another district title.



Sharks goalkeeper Abby Kennedy saves a shot.



The Sharks and Barracudas found themselves in a defensive battle for the district championship.



Charlotte Martin (No. 16) of Ponte Vedra makes a move on Bella Duenas (No. 13) of Beachside.

Sharks ride wave of momentum into districts

It was a furious end to the month of January for the Ponte Vedra High boys basketball team as they finished the regular season 6-2 in their final eight games and are carrying a ton of momentum into postseason play.

The Sharks (16-8) stamped a big exclamation point on their recent run during the regular season finale, which was also senior night for David Sanchez Barrera, Alex Katsikas and Paul Burkhardt, following a 68-65 win over the Ribault High Trojans (17-7), who are ranked No. 5 in Class 4A.

Together the trio combined to score half of the Sharks 68 points on the night,

including Sanchez Barrera who joined Maddux Palmer with a team-high 20 points.

Both Sanchez Barrera and Palmer were on fire with their shooting and made more than 55% of the shots they took against the Trojans, who did not have an answer for them.

The Sharks held an 18-point advantage with less than five minutes to play before the Trojans battled back thanks to a 17-0 run in the waning moments.

However, the Sharks weathered the push and held on to secure the victory at the end.

The three-point line proved to be a

difference-maker in the game with Katsikas and Sanchez Barrera knocking down four shots from beyond the arc apiece.

Katsikas established a rhythm from long range, and he made all four of his three-point attempts to add to what was a memorable senior night all around for the veteran guard.

He finished in double figures scoring 12 points to accompany Trace Westercamp who tallied 10 points.

As the year has progressed, Palmer has continued to be a dominant force for the Sharks and that was on full display once again as he posted a double-double, grabbing a game-high 10 rebounds to go with

his 20 points.

Burkhardt was a major distributor of the ball for the offense in the contest with four assists, while Sanchez Barrera also showcased his ability as a floor general as he led the Sharks with five assists.

Next up for the Sharks is the district 4-5A tournament where they entered as the No. 1 seed and took on No. 5 Ed White High in the semifinals on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Shark Tank.

With a win in the semifinals, the Sharks would advance to host the winner of No. 2 St. Augustine High or No. 6 Englewood High in the district championship on Friday, Feb. 7.

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Galen Harris v. Thomas Blackburn

To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An automatic restraining order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are hereby summonsed and required to serve Patrick K Burke, Esq. Burke Levy, PC P.O. Box 959, Westborough, MA 01581. Your Answer if any 20 days from the date of this Notice. If you fail to do so, the Court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are required to file a copy of your Answer if any, in the Register of this Court. WITNESS, Hon. Lee Peterson, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 1, 2024 Register of Probate Colleen Brierly

Legal 113276 Published 2/6/2025, 2/13/2025, 2/20/2025 and 2/27/2025 in St. Johns County Ponte Vedra Recorder newspaper

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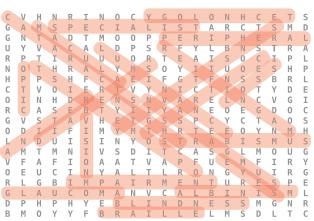
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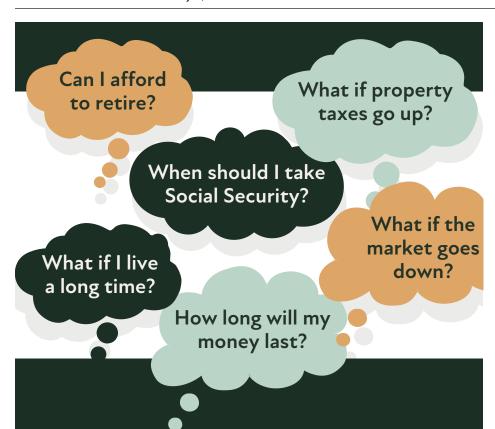
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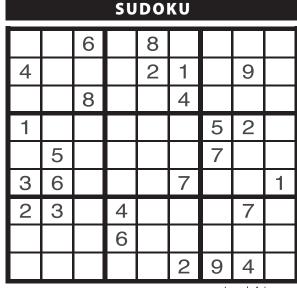
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- 6. Cook
- 10. Manning and Wallach are two
- 14. Chameleon
- 15. A way to fill up
- 17. What MLBers hope to play in
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Indefinite period of time
- 21. Excites
- 22. Males
- 23. Mongol leader Genghis
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Soda comes in them 29. Not nice
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- 59. Square measures
- 60. 2.000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and __, critics

DOWN

- 1. Mouths
- 2. Buffalo
- 3. You plug it in
- 4. Each
- 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. King of Thebes

- 7. English name meaning "mythical hunter"
- 8. Indicates near
- 9. More herbaceous
- 10. Gas-powered cars need one
- 11. Dishonest individual
- 12. Systems, doctrines, theories
- 13. The woman
- 16. The whole of one's holdings
- 18. Witnesses
- 22. Doctor
- 23. Paul ___, Swiss painter 24. Kids look for him on
- December 24
- 25. Single
- 27. Competitions
- 28. Predict the future
- 29. Cage for trained hawks
- 30. Musician Clapton
- 31. Frozen water 33. Semiformal men's
- evening attire

- 35. Most worn
- 36. Common soap ingredient
- 37. Former EU monetary unit
- 39. Provisions
- 42. Book parts
- 43. Republic of Ireland
- 44. Partner to "Pa" 46. Sammy ___, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth . American
- 49. Solar disk in Egyptian mythology
- 50. Minute arachnid
- 51. From a distance
- 52. Monthly apartment cost
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Tourist destination
- 55. "Woman" in Oiibwe language
- 56. Pointed end of a pen



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!

