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Page 24

Thursday, February 27, 2025

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VOLUME 56, NO. 17 \$1.00

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*Sharks reload,
repeat as state
champions*

By Anthony Richards

Winning a state title takes a special team, but defending that title is in some ways even harder because of the expectations going into the next year.

However, the Sharks' girls soccer program has become accustomed to such expectations over the years under head coach Dave Silverberg and that experience came to play as they defeated North Fort Myers and Miami Lourdes Academy, both 2-1, in the Class 5A state semifinal and championship game to win back-to-back state titles.

According to Silverberg, each squad and season is different in its own way, and this year's may have been arguably one of his best coaching displays.

The Sharks lost about a dozen seniors from last year's state title team, including two that began the season with the team before graduating and enrolling early in college.

As a result, the program experienced a drastic switch from having a heavy senior-laden presence to one that was suddenly having to play an array of talented but young players, some of whom were seeing extended minutes for the first time.

However, the Sharks leaned on the veteran presence they still had on the

CHAMPIONS continues on Page 36

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Horschels honored with Beman Award for community service

By Anthony Richards

Each year the Celebration of Golf presented by Circle K helps honor not only success on the golf course but also showcases the various ways that the game strives to make a difference in the local community.

This year's honorees of the Deane Beman Award, which is the night's highest honor, were Billy and Brittany Horschel who as husband and wife have supported numerous people on the First Coast with their philanthropic efforts over the years.

"The game of golf is special, and the Horschel family is special," Deane Beman said.

The former PGA Tour commissioner



Photo by Anthony Richards

Former PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman presented Billy and Brittany Horschel the 2025 Beman Award for their philanthropic efforts in the community during the Ninth Annual Celebration of Golf presented by Circle K.

HORSCHELS continues on Page 10

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INSIDE

One of Us
Page 6

Business Weekly
Pages 28-30

In the Arts
Pages 31-34

Sports
Pages 35-36

THE RECORDER

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BRIEFS

Nature journaling event planned

Join nature journaling instructor Elaine Bergstrom at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) National Estuarine Research Reserve to explore the wonders at the reserve from 9:50 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 6, for the first of a nature journaling series.

Each month focuses on a different topic using words, pictures and numbers to learn more about what participants observe. The event is free but online registration is required. To register, go to gtmnerr.org/calendars.

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

Wear comfortable closed-toe shoes. Hat, insect repellent, water, sunscreen and binoculars are recommended.

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.

Wildflower course to be offered

Nature’s Palette: Wildflowers at GTM Reserve, a six-week course exploring the beauty and diversity of local wildflowers, will be offered beginning at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 12.

Whether you’re an artist, nature enthusiast or simply curious about the floral wonders of this region, this course offers a unique oppor-

tunity to deepen your connection with nature.

Cost is \$225 per person or \$175 with a GTM membership. Spaces are limited. To register, go to gtmnerr.org/calendars.

GTM guided exploration hike planned

Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) National Estuarine Research Reserve will offer a guided exploration hike from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 1. Learn about the peninsula’s natural biodiversity, expansive cultural history, vital estuarine resources and current efforts to protect these resources.

To register, go to gtmnerr.org/calendars.

Meet at GTM Research Reserve Trailhead Pavilion (west of Guana Dam), 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Family seining activity planned

Join a guided family seining activity from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 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/calendars.

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

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DEATH NOTICES

Edward Riley Alter
Edward Riley Alter, 40, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Feb. 18, 2025. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 www.quinn-sahlz.com

Andrez Anthony Collazo
Andrez Anthony Collazo, 19, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Feb. 13, 2025. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

David Bartlett Dunlap, Sr.
David Bartlett Dunlap, Sr., 85, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died Feb. 18, 2025. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, Jacksonville Beach, 904-249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com

Peter Gordon Kuchar
Peter Gordon Kuchar, 74, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Feb. 4, 2025. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Schools lock down after threats made

By Shaun Ryan

Two St. Johns County middle schools were briefly locked down this week after receiving threats from a caller or callers. In both instances, the caller was male. The St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office and federal and state authorities are investigating.

Monday morning, Feb. 24, a member of the Landrum Middle School staff received a call from someone stating that he was nearby, had a firearm and wanted to “kill children.” School staff initiated emergency lockdown procedures, and an alert was sent to the Sheriff’s Office Real Time Intelligence Center, where analysts took over school cameras. School buses were diverted away, and law enforcement personnel swept into the area.

The resource deputy onsite took action to protect students and staff.

Due to its proximity to Landrum, Ocean Palms Elementary was placed on a soft lockdown. Both lockdowns were lifted after law enforcement searched the areas.

Tuesday morning, Feb. 25, a caller phoned Pacetti Bay Middle School to say he was nearby, had firearms and explosives, had committed a homicide and then made threats against the school.

The resource deputy onsite spoke with the caller, and the school was placed on lockdown while law enforcement conducted a search. No credible threat was found.

Both incidents are considered hoaxes and possibly “swatting,” where a hoax emergency call is made for the purpose of generating a response from law enforcement.

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Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Sister Elena and Tom Sullivan at the luncheon

Contributed photos



Gov. Ron DeSantis enjoys lunch with his friends of many years, Tom and Glory Sullivan, at the luncheon.

\$1M raised at birthday fundraiser for poor children

More than 150 family, friends, business leaders, dignitaries and religious clergy attended a Holy Mass and luncheon on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, to honor the life of Thomas F. P. “Tom” Sullivan and to celebrate his 90th birthday. The Mass took place at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 545 State Road A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach, and was presided over by Cardinal

Donald Wuerl, a close personal friend of Sullivan and his wife, Glory. Wuerl served as archbishop of Washington, D.C., and papal adviser from 2006 to 2018. There were 16 clergy on the altar for the Mass.
A luncheon reception followed the Mass at TPC Sawgrass. Among the notable guests in attendance were Gov. Ron DeSantis; Bishop Erik Pohlmeier

(Diocese of St. Augustine); Bishop Barry Knestout (Diocese of Richmond, Virginia); and from Manila, Mother Elena Belarmino (superior general, Sisters of Mary); from Tanzania, Sister Margie Cheong; from Manila, former Superior General Sister Maria and Secretary General Sister Magarita; and from Mexico, Sister Marilyn.
Several speakers took to the podium

to recognize Sullivan’s life of leadership, his steadfast commitment to charitable causes and his deep devotion to his Catholic faith.
Some of the more than \$1 million in donations from this event will be used to fulfill Sullivan’s wish to fund chapels in the Sisters of Mary’s Boystown and Girlstown in Tanzania.

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Underwood Jewelers supports Ponte Vedra Woman’s Club and charities

By Holly Tishfield

Last week, representatives from the Ponte Vedra Woman’s Club, Michelle Purdy and Parker Alter, met with John Rutkowski at Underwood Jewelers in Ponte Vedra to receive a check with proceeds raised during their annual winter 2024 trunk show and fundraiser.

Since its founding in 1970, the Ponte Vedra Woman’s Club (PVWC) has been bringing together women for social, educational and charitable efforts in the Beaches and St Johns County areas.

They regularly support their legacy charity, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB), along with four other organizations that change every two years. For June 2024 through May 2026, the Ponte Vedra Woman’s Club is supporting the Betty Griffin Center, BEAM, Mission House, Port in the Storm. The club also gives scholarships to high school seniors each year in the Beaches



Photo by Holly Tishfield

Michelle Purdy, Parker Alter and John Rutkowski and St Johns County schools and acts as an “Angel Tree” for St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS) and FSDB.

The club joined forces with Underwood Jewelers to bring its members to shop for one-of-a-kind jewelry and

designer pieces during the winter trunk show, kicking off with a private PVWC member/guest sales event. Beyond sales for that particular evening, Underwood Jewelers also allotted a percentage of all sales from the succeeding weekend and donated two jewelry pieces for a raffle. “They’ve been an amazing partner with us throughout the years,” said Purdy. The check presented to the club with a combination of sales from the trunk show and a percentage of sales from the weekend totaled \$13,000. The money raised with the two donated items amounted to \$5,110, bringing the grand total of proceeds to more than \$18,000, well beyond the club’s goal. The \$18,000 will be distributed amongst the Ponte Vedra Woman’s Club’s chosen charities and used to support their important efforts and initiatives.



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Aviv Kaslasi has been a successful local businessman for several years, and he attributes his success to the way he treats his customers. Here, he tells us a little bit about what he does.

Aviv Kaslasi

As told to Shaun Ryan

What is the name of your business?

4 SEASONS A/C LLC

What products and services do you provide?

We offer residential and commercial HVAC services, which include repairs, regular service and installation.

Tell me a little about your professional background. How did you get into this line of work? How long have you been in business?

I sort of fell into this trade unexpectedly when a friend asked me to help him with his start up, that was many years ago. I have always had a passion for helping people and this was a way to do just that and make a living.

I understand there is a great demand for your services and that customers are very happy with your business. What is the secret to your success?

Honesty. You must be honest with people always, in business and in life in general.

Main reason I decided to take a leap of faith and start my own HVAC company is because I grew tired of constant push for sales in this industry. I would come home every day just emotionally drained because I was constantly pushed to upsell things and essentially lie to people, because the bosses always focused on numbers.

My focus is on people and relationships. I believe that if you do right by people, they will do right by you. My business has been thriving for the past four years solely based on word of mouth. I am beyond grateful and blessed.

What do you like best about what you do?

This is going to sound so cliché, but people. I am such an introvert in my personal life but with my customers I just feel free. Knowing in my heart that I am doing right by people and helping them not only save money but time as well just makes me more comfortable when interacting with them.

Do you live in Ponte Vedra, Nocatee, Jacksonville or somewhere else? How long have you lived in Northeast Florida?

I have been in the area for over 15 years and have always lived in or near Ponte Vedra. I love this area.

What do you like best about living in this area?

I love the convenience of being a short drive from everything, honestly. If we want to take family out sightseeing, old St. Augustine is right there. Need to get to the airport — under an hour! And, of course, the abundance of farmer's markets, which are one of my family's favorite things to do on weekends.



Aviv Kaslasi's HVAC business has been offering service and installation locally for four years.

Contributed photo



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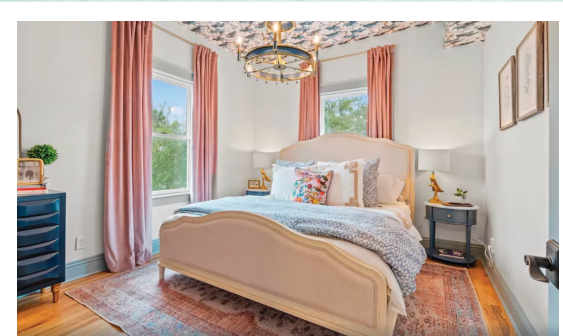
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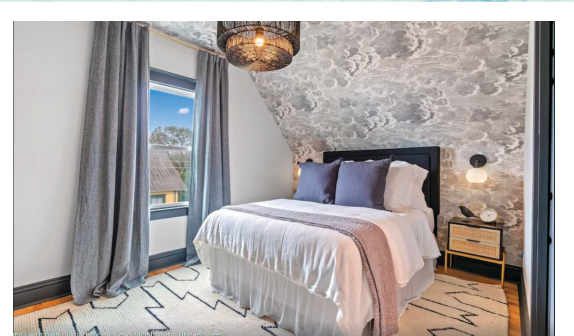
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Local student chosen to attend Senate youth program in D.C.

By Anthony Richards

Ponte Vedra High senior Ella York will get a taste of what it is like to be a senator after she received the honor of being one of two students chosen to represent Florida at the 63rd Annual United States Senate Youth Program.

York will be joined by Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott as they represent Florida during the weeklong program from March 1 to 8 in Washington, D.C.

She was selected from among the state's top student leaders to be part of the 104 national student delegation that will attend the various meetings and

briefings with senators, President Donald Trump, a justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies and other officials throughout the busy week.

On top of this experience, York will also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for her undergraduate study for being selected as a delegate.

With these scholarships, students are encouraged to pursue coursework in the fields of history and political science, which fits perfectly with York's plan to focus on international relations in college and pursue a career in national security or intelligence.

As a result, serving in a government

setting is nothing new for York, as she serves as a school representative in the superintendent's student advisory council, and as the president of the Ponte Vedra High student government, she has organized numerous fundraising events and spent hours volunteering with food drives, book drives and school and community events.

She also serves as president and founder of her school's debate club, which has won a pair of state championships under her leadership.

York's resume does not stop there and includes interning for the United States Secret Service at the Jacksonville field

office during the summer of 2024, where she helped agents compile evidence, analyze financial records and work with victims.

Representing her state at the national level is something she has done in the past when she was also one of two students selected to represent the state during the FBI Youth Leadership Program at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, and was selected for the state department's virtual national security language initiative for youth, where she was chosen as a keynote speaker for the Russian classes.

Clerk's Office plans Passport Saturday event

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller's Office will hold a special Passport Saturday Event from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 1 at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center in St. Augustine. No appointment is necessary during this special weekend event.

"Coordinating schedules for passports during regular business hours can be a challenge, especially for families," said Clerk Brandon J. Patty. "We hope this special event will make life a little easier for those in need of a passport."

The Clerk's Office will open on the north side of the judicial center to accept and review applications for first-time passports, passports which were issued more than 15 years ago and require a new application, minors under age 16, or individuals whose passports have been lost, stolen or damaged. Clerks will process passport applications, offer passport photo services and provide help with forms.

Anyone traveling internationally must have a passport book, including infants, and every applicant required to use a new

application form must appear in person, regardless of age. According to the U.S. Department of State, the current processing times for routine service are between four and six weeks and expedited service is between two and three weeks.

Passport renewal applications that conform to federal guidelines (adult passports issued within 15 years) using Form DS-82 cannot be processed at the Clerk's Office. While clerks are available to look over these renewal applications for accuracy and supply passport photos, renewal applica-

tions must be submitted to the U.S. Department of State online or by mail. Go to <https://travel.state.gov> for details.

Download the comprehensive passport guide at stjohnsclerk.com/passports/#flipbook-passport-guide/1 for more information.



Crawford Tiedeberg wins first place in MLK essay contest



Crawford accepting his award at the St. Johns County MLK Essay Contest ceremony.

Crawford Tiedeberg, a seventh grader at Landrum Middle School, has won first place in the St. Johns County School District Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest for the middle school division.

This annual competition, organized by the St. Johns Education Association and the Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration Committee, honors King’s enduring legacy.

This year’s theme, “The time is always right to do what is right,” inspired Crawford to write a heartfelt essay about inclusion and advocacy in the special needs community. His piece was deeply personal, focusing on his twin brother, Whitaker, who has special needs.

“My brother does not have a voice, so it is my responsibility to help others see him the way I see him,” said Crawford.

Beyond his writing talents, Crawford is an active member of Best Buddies at Landrum Middle School and a dedicated lacrosse player for PV Jaws 2030. He also plays recreational lacrosse with Riptide every spring, proudly wearing No. 2 in honor of his twin brother, ensuring Whitaker is always with him on the field.

“Landrum Middle School celebrates Crawford’s compassion, leadership and commitment to inclusion, which embody the very principles Dr. King championed,” according to a statement from the school.

Contributed photos



Crawford with his twin brother, Whitaker, the inspiration behind his winning essay.

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Photos by Anthony Richards
This year's Celebration of Golf presented by Circle K was hosted by TPC Sawgrass.

Horschels

Continued from 1

was in attendance to present the award to the Horschel family, which included their children coming on stage for a special family moment.

"Billy and Brittany have a long history of giving back," Deane Beman said. "The PGA Tour has raised more money for charity than all other sports combined, and the approximate number is about \$4 billion. But interestingly enough, no one

has calculated how much the players and their families, like Billy and Brittany, have raised on their own. Just a little calculation on my part tells me that the players on their own may have raised as much as their organization itself."

Billy Horschel has won eight tournaments since turning professional in 2009, but it is his service to the local community where he is just as competitive and driven to succeed.

"When Duke (Butler III, president of Jacksonville Amateur Golf Association) called to notify me last summer



Brittany and Billy Horschel presented a check for \$20,000 to JAGA President Duke Butler III for the JAGA Charitable Trust and its yearly student scholarships.

that Brittany and I were going to be the recipients of the Deane Beaman Award, I was sort of speechless, which if you know me, doesn't happen very often," Billy Horschel chuckled. "Deane is an icon in the sport, and as I've said many times, without Deane I wouldn't have the platform that I have to play this wonderful game of golf and to be able to give back like this."

Billy and Brittany Horschel launched the Horschel Family Foundation in October 2023, and it supports four major pillars within the community, including

healing, hope, honor and health.

"This community is one that loves the game of golf but also loves to give back and see our community prosper," Billy Horschel said. "I tell people that the foundation is my wife's baby, and to have the ability to help lead the mental health and addiction side of it we are very passionate about."

The foundation strives to focus on these pillars through advocacy of addiction recovery with a designated well-

HORSCHELS continues on Page 11

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Horschels

Continued from 10

ness space at the Brown Family YMCA in Ponte Vedra Beach, as well as being continued ambassadors hosting events for Feeding Northeast Florida and K9s for Warriors, as well as helping grow opportunities for minority golfers by promoting tournaments with the Advocates Professional Golf Association.

Continuing their passion for charity,

the Horschel Family Foundation donated a check for \$20,000 to the JAGA Charitable Trust to go toward college scholarships that the organization awards to local high school seniors each year.

“The unique thing about giving back is that there are no rules,” Brittany Horschel said. “It doesn’t matter how little of a gesture you do or how much money you give, it’s all about giving back and it all makes a difference in your community.”



Photos by Anthony Richards

A panel discussion was held with the Horschels and Deane Beman as part of the night’s festivities.



Several marquee names in the golf world attended the event, including Jim Furyk.



Circle K had representation in attendance as the primary sponsor of the event.





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Collaboration to deliver THE PLAYERS Championship in Shared Reality

Cosm, a leading immersive technology, media and entertainment company, and the PGA Tour have announced a collaboration to present THE PLAYERS Championship 2025 in Shared Reality at Cosm's experiential venues in Los Angeles at Hollywood Park and Dallas at Grandscape.

Set for March 11-16, THE PLAYERS Championship, presented by Optum, Morgan Stanley and Comcast Business, annually combines the strongest field in golf with the world-class venue that is THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

Fans in Los Angeles and Dallas, how-

ever, will be able to experience the PGA Tour's flagship event at Cosm's venues, featuring large-scale 87-foot-diameter 12K-plus LED domes that bridge the virtual and physical worlds. Guests will be transported to the 16th, 17th and 18th holes and enjoy the feeling and energy of the game's most famous three-hole

stretch.

Cosm's broadcast will feature never-before-utilized camera positions on these legendary holes, creating an unparalleled viewing experience.

"We are excited to announce this new

REALITY continues on **Page 17**

Community Hospice & Palliative Care recognized for veterans' care

Community Hospice & Palliative Care has announced its advancement from Level Three to Level Four Partner status in the We Honor Veterans program, a national initiative by the National Alliance for Care at Home in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This achievement highlights the organization's continued dedication to providing specialized, compassionate end-of-life care tailored to the unique needs of veterans in the Northeast and North Central communities.

Building on its previous success as a Level Three partner, Community Hospice

& Palliative Care undertook additional initiatives to earn this prestigious Level Four designation. These efforts included enhancing staff education on veteran-specific care, collaborating with local organizations to better serve veterans and implementing best-practice standards for identifying and meeting the needs of veterans in hospice care.

"Reaching Level Four in the We Honor Veterans program is an exciting honor," said Kristy Skonieczny, clinical resource nurse, Community Hospice & Palliative Care. "It has been a passion project for me this year. This recognition further supports the quality of care our organization provides to all our

patients, especially our veterans. Veterans are a special population near and dear to me, as I am the daughter of a Korean War veteran and a veteran myself."

As a Level Four partner, Community Hospice & Palliative Care is now eligible to pursue Level Five, the program's highest distinction. This achievement underscores the organization's dedication to leading efforts to ensure veterans receive the highest quality end-of-life care.

"Achieving Level Four status in the We Honor Veterans program is a significant milestone for our organization and a testament to our unwavering commitment to

those who have served our country," said Phillip Ward, president and CEO of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. "At Community Hospice & Palliative Care, we recognize the sacrifices veterans, and their families have made, and we are honored to provide the specialized care and support they deserve. This achievement reflects the dedication of our team in ensuring that veterans receive compassionate, high-quality end-of-life care tailored to their unique needs."

To learn more about Community Hospice & Palliative Care and the veteran's program, go to CommunityHospice.com.

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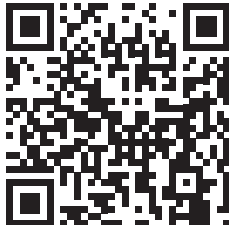
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Photo credit: Glo MacDonald

The Jacksonville Police and Fire Pipes & Drums march in a past parade.



Photo credit: Gary LeVeille

501st Legion, 7th Squad march in a past parade.

St. Augustine’s St. Patrick Parade set for March 8

St. Augustine is famously known as the Nation’s Oldest City, but many are surprised to learn of its place in Celtic history. St. Augustine is also the site of America’s first recorded St. Patrick Celebration in 1600 and the world’s first recorded St. Patrick’s Day parade in 1601.

The event is celebrating its 425th anniversary this year and has become a beloved local tradition, attracting crowds from across Northeast Florida. St. Augustine’s St. Patrick Parade begins at 10 a.m. March 8, and starts at Francis Field, 25 W. Castillo Drive.

The parade route travels through the historic downtown area, returning to the Celtic Music & Heritage Festival at Francis Field.

“It’s incredible to be celebrating the 425th anniversary of the oldest St. Patrick’s Day Parade in the world,” said Albert Syeles, St. Augustine’s St. Patrick Parade producer and member of Romanza’s Board of Directors. “The world’s first St. Patrick’s procession was led by St. Augustine’s Irish vicar, Father Ricardo Artur, in 1601. St. Augustine’s event pre-dates Boston’s first St. Patrick’s celebration in 1737, New York City’s first St. Patrick’s Day parade in 1762 and Ireland’s first St. Patrick’s Day parade in 1903.”

This year’s grand marshal is Kay Burtin. She is a champion of the arts community, serving as administrator of the St. Augustine Art Association beginning in 1989. The now-thriving art association

just celebrated its centennial, buoyed by Burtin’s passion.

The St. Patrick Parade reviewing stand will be hosted by Ann O’Malley’s Irish Pub, 23 Orange St. St. Augustine’s own Jessica Clark will serve as this year’s parade announcer. Clark is an Emmy Award-winning news anchor and reporter for First Coast News.

This year’s parade judges include Davey Hartzel, co-host of The 904 Now; Amy Hendrickson, award-winning local musician; Dr. Roger Smith, local historian and professor at the University of Florida, and director of the St. Augustine History Festival; Renee Unsworth, photographer and founder of TotallyStAugustine.com; and Doug Murr, owner/operator of Dog Rose Brewing Company.

The parade features professional bands, including the City of St. Augustine Pipes & Drums Band, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department’s JFRD Pipes & Drums, Daytona Beach Pipes & Drums and Rosie O’Grady’s Highlanders. Also marching are the 501st Legion, 7th Squad, floats, dancers, horses, carriages, tour trains, trolleys and more.

For more information or to register a parade group, go to celticstaugustine.com/parade.

The St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival is sponsored by Ann O’Malley’s Deli & Pub, Barley Republic Pub, Mindful Solutions and by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council and the St. Johns County Cultural Council.

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Dave and Joan Swanson have been married 65 years.



Contributed photos

Area residents celebrate Valentine's Day

On Feb. 15th, Ponte Vedra Community Association (PVCA) members partook in the association's annual Sweetheart Dinner & Dance to celebrate Valentine's Day. Gathering in the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Ballroom, all enjoyed visiting with friends and neighbors, a delicious meal

and dancing the night away. Dave and Joan Swanson won the "Longest Married Couple Award" for having been married the longest of all attendees — 65 years. Organizers recognized the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club for helping to make the event

a truly sweet one, as well as Jana Kelly and Anita Strachota, the PVCA Board's event chairs. PVCA has been in existence for more than 75 years and promotes a sense of community in its membership by providing two annual social events: the Tree

Lighting & Toy Drive in December and the Sweetheart Dinner Dance in February. All are welcome to join. For details about the association, including how to become a member, go to pontevedraca.org.



Format, field unveiled for Creator Classic at TPC Sawgrass

Fan-favorite content creators will square off for the Creator Classic at TPC Sawgrass, the first of three in the season-long creator series announced last month.

The event, open to THE PLAYERS Championship Wednesday ticketholders, will be broadcast on the PGA Tour's YouTube channel and several other media platforms.

The nine-hole competition, one of the many examples of the Tour working to deliver fans more of what they want and enjoy, will get underway on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 12, at TPC Sawgrass before play begins at the Tour's flagship event the following day.

On the eve of THE PLAYERS presented by Optum, Morgan Stanley and Comcast Business, 10 of the most prominent golf creators will take on the world-class venue that is THE PLAYERS Stadium Course, facing the same dynamic and challenging conditions as the pros, to compete for the Creator Classic at TPC Sawgrass title.

The field features returning participants from the inaugural 2024 event -- the Bryan Bros, Fat Perez from "Bob Does Sports," Gabby Golf Girl and Roger Steele -- plus new participants Grant Horvat, Kyle Berkshire, Tisha Alyn, Soly from "No Laying Up" and a "Barstool" personality who will be determined via qualifier.

The tournament will consist of eight holes of stroke play, beginning on the par-4 10th hole, and conclude on THE PLAYERS Stadium Course's iconic island-green 17th, with the top three finishers advancing to a one-hole sudden death playoff, again on the world-famous 17th.

Pairings and tee times will be an-



Photos provided by The PGA Tour

Roger Steele

nounced the day before the event.

"There is arguably no better place to kick off our season-long creator series than on THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass, where the iconic 17th hole represents the culmination of this first competition," said Chris Wandell, PGA Tour senior vice president, media. "The PGA Tour is intently focused on delivering unique, premium content and experiences like this to our diverse and growing fanbase, all while amplifying the voices of our participating creators."

Similar to the event in 2024, the competition will be streamed live via the PGA Tour's YouTube channel as well as GOLF Channel, ESPN+, and the PGA Tour Channel on Pluto TV, Roku, Samsung TV Plus, Prime Video, Fire TV, Tubi, Xumo Play and LG Channels.

The inaugural Creator Classic garnered

more than 2.7 million views on YouTube and was YouTube's No. 2 trending video following the competition, which engaged nearly 60 million golf fans across all social media platforms during a four-week period.

The Creator Classic at TPC Sawgrass will be produced to the quality of a premium broadcast, featuring live ShotLink powered by CDW scoring/data, Trackman shot tracing -- including tracing via drones -- and rich, on-screen graphics.

The broadcast team will consist of golf media personalities Shane Bacon and Doug Smith, Skratz's Dan Rapaport, as well as golf content creator and influencer Paige Spiranac.

Pro Shop Studios, the production company behind the Netflix hit series "Full Swing" and "Happy Gilmore 2," will partner with PGA Tour Studios to run on-

ground and broadcast production.

"As the strongest field in golf prepares to compete at THE PLAYERS Championship, it's surreal to know that a number of golf's most recognizable content creators will walk the same fairways of TPC Sawgrass just one day prior," said Chad Mumm, co-founder of Pro Shop. "We appreciate the collaboration with the PGA Tour in bringing this creator series to life at one of golf's iconic courses to entertain and inspire our fans."

For those looking to experience the excitement of the Creator Classic at TPC Sawgrass in person, fans are encouraged to purchase a Stadium Pass for Wednesday at THE PLAYERS Championship.

The field and competition format for the final two events in the creator series, which will be contested at the Trust Championship on the Wissahickon Course at The Philadelphia Cricket Club and the Tour Championship at East Lake Golf Club, will be announced at a later date.

For more information about the Creator Classic at TPC Sawgrass, go to theplayers.com/creator-classic.

Reality

Continued from 12

collaboration with Cosm, bringing THE PLAYERS Championship to our fans in a first-of-its kind immersive experience," said Chris Wandell, PGA Tour senior vice president, media. "The final three holes at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass present one of the most well-known settings in sports, delivering unprecedented drama for our fans onsite and watching around the world, and today's announcement adds to our continued efforts to elevate that experience in dramatic new ways."

"We are thrilled to collaborate with PGA Tour and deliver a new way for golf fans to experience THE PLAYERS Championship like never before," added

Peter Murphy, senior vice president, content and media at Cosm. "Through Shared Reality, The Dome at Cosm will transport guests straight to TPC Sawgrass, evoking the feeling of being at THE PLAYERS Championship and providing a never-before-seen perspective of the iconic Island Green, while the linear feeds showcased on our wall-to-wall LED display in The Hall will deliver an unmatched viewing experience. We look forward to bringing this one-of-a-kind experience for fans at our venues in Los Angeles and Dallas."

To enhance Cosm's immersive Shared Reality presentation of THE PLAYERS Championship, additional elements of the tournament experience will be integrated throughout its venues, including custom food and beverage options and THE PLAYERS merchandise sold onsite by

PGA Tour Superstores. Additionally, TGL's Los Angeles Golf Club will have their mobile Drybox simulator onsite at Cosm Los Angeles, giving attendees the opportunity to play the iconic Island Green at TPC Sawgrass.

Both Cosm venues will feature mobile gaming stations that provide the chance for fans to play PGA Tour 2K25, the newest edition of the hit video game franchise.

Cosm opened doors to its first venue in Los Angeles at Hollywood Park, adjacent to SoFi Stadium, in July 2024, and second venue in Dallas at The Colony's Grandscape in August 2024.

Last year the company announced its third location will be in downtown Atlanta's Centennial Yards, and its fourth venue will be located in downtown Detroit, adjacent to Campus Martius.

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CSX donation helps Nemours expand access to behavioral health services

Contributed photos

Nemours Children's Health has announced a \$250,000 donation from CSX to address the increasing demand for pediatric behavioral health services. This funding will expand services to reach underinsured children across North Florida, with a particular focus on the underinsured and hard-to-reach families who may not have access to other resources.

The donation benefits the Pediatric Acute Telemental Health (PATH) program which provides video visits to North Florida area families with children ages 2 to 17 for mental health issues including ADHD, behavior problems, depression and anxiety.

In recent years, there has been a notable rise in mental health issues among children. Significant barriers, such as high costs and a shortage of providers, combined with increased demand, often result in wait times of six months or more for mental health services.

Founded in 2023, PATH offers children short term care with a licensed mental health provider within a week. The team of professionals provides assessment and treatment recommendations, crisis



Dr. Amanda Lochrie, founder of PATH and division chief of psychology

intervention, referrals and brief treatment options.

"We are deeply grateful to CSX for their generous gift to support our telemental health program," said R. Lawrence Moss, MD, president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health. "Mental health challenges are rising among young people, and we want to do everything in our power to get kids the help they need as quickly



R. Lawrence Moss, MD, president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health

as possible. This investment will help Nemours support more children across North Florida, particularly those who face barriers to in-person care."

A PATH appointment is a face-to-face video visit with a mental health professional. Children do not have to be a patient of Nemours Children's to access the program. PATH offers extended hours for appointments, as well as Saturday ap-

pointment times. PATH hours are Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, and every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. A visit can cost as little as \$0 or a copay, depending on insurance coverage of telehealth services.

"CSX is committed to strengthening the communities where we live and work -- especially right here in our home of Jacksonville," said Joe Hinrichs, president and chief executive officer of CSX. "Partnering with Nemours Children's Health helps ensure that children and families in our community have the vital resources and access they need for high-quality care when they need it most."

- To schedule an appointment:
- Request an appointment by calling 904-697-3600 and follow the prompts to schedule an appointment
 - Use the Nemours app to request an appointment. (Go to the App Store or Google Play. Search for Nemours and download the app. Once the app has downloaded, you can make an appointment. If you do not already have a MyNemours account, go to "Sign Up" and follow the steps to create your account.)

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Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside offers a breakthrough COPD/emphysema treatment

St. Vincent's Riverside now offers a treatment for patients with severe chronic pulmonary obstructive disease (COPD)/emphysema. The Zephyr Valve treatment helps patients breathe with less difficulty, do more and enjoy a better quality of life. St. Vincent's Riverside is one of only five premier practices for this treatment in Florida, which means it has achieved a higher level of experience and is committed to following certain best practices aimed at optimizing results.

"This technology gives our most vulnerable chronic lung disease patients the ability to breathe easier, live healthier lives and reach their personal potential," said Scott Kashman, president and CEO of St. Vincent's Riverside. "We are committed to delivering the most advanced care offerings to our patients and community; close to home and tailored to their specific needs."

After a series of tests that determine a patient's eligibility, an average of four valves are placed while the patient is under general anesthesia. These one-way valves allow the trapped air to escape but prevents new air from entering. This allows the healthier parts of the lungs to



Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside

expand and relieves the pressure on the diaphragm, which decreases shortness of breath and makes breathing easier.

Globally, more than 40,000 patients have been treated with these lung valves.

More than 15 million Americans suffer from COPD, and 3.5 million of those patients have emphysema. Emphysema is a progressive and life-threatening lung disease with no cure. Patients often live

with severe shortness of breath that keeps them from doing simple daily activities like walking, taking a shower, even while pausing to catch their breath or resting.

St. Vincent's Riverside was named a High Performing Hospital for COPD care and 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



Zephyr® Valve, image courtesy of Pulmonx®

Contributed photos

The Zephyr Valve

in the country for 2024 by Fortune and PINC AI.

To learn more about St. Vincent's Riverside Lung Institute, go to ascension.org.

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Tips to protect your eyes in the workplace

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health says about 2,000 workers sustain job-related eye injuries that require medical treatment each year in the United States. Employment-related injuries can be traced to hazards like chemicals, radiation, dust, and flying debris. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that almost 70 percent of the accidents studied on the job resulted from flying or falling objects or sparks striking the eye. However, digital eye strain from working on a computer on a daily basis also affects professionals' eyes.

Preventing eye injuries often comes down to recognition of hazards and what can be done to avoid common injuries. These tips can help.

- Employees should be educated and trained on all dangers specific to the workplace.
- Employers should install barrier and shields in areas prone to flying debris and dust.
- Employees working in hazardous environments should have access to and be wearing eye safety equipment at all times.
- The proper use of eye safety

EYES continues on Page 22

Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside cardiology program recognized

St. Vincent's Riverside has been recognized by the American College of Cardiology for its demonstrated expertise and commitment in treating patients receiving transcatheter valve repair and replacement procedures.

The hospital was awarded Transcatheter Valve Certification; it is the only facility in Northeast Florida to have earned this certification.

"Patients expect superior cardiovascular care at our hospital and this certification underscores our commitment to the health of our communities," said Scott Kashman, president and CEO of St. Vincent's Riverside. "We are ensuring our patients receive high quality care with the physicians and care teams they trust without having to leave their community."

This certification focuses on the essential quality components pertaining to transcatheter valve aortic replacement procedures (TAVR) and now includes Mitraclip, which is used in a minimally-invasive procedure to repair a patient's mitral valve, which opens to let blood flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle in the heart. During the procedure, doctors access the mitral valve with a catheter that is guided through a vein in



Contributed photos

The hospital was awarded Transcatheter Valve Certification.

the leg to reach the heart. A small implanted clip is attached to the mitral valve to help it close more completely. This helps to restore normal blood flow through a patient's heart.

Unlike surgery, the procedure does not require opening the chest and temporarily stopping the heart. On average, this minimally-invasive procedure takes between one and three hours. Plus, most patients go home within one to three days.

"Our cardiologists are experienced in providing the specialized care our patients need," said Dr. Samer Garas, director of cardiovascular services at St. Vincent's Riverside. "This certification reaffirms our commitment to providing the best outcomes for anyone who comes to us for help."

The Transcatheter Valve Certification is an external review and certification process that pairs with established national clinical databases to monitor patient safety and real-world outcomes related to transcatheter valve therapies.

"St. Vincent's Riverside has demonstrated its commitment to providing Northeast Florida with excellent heart care," said Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, chair of the ACC Accreditation Management Board. "ACC Accreditation Services is proud to award St. Vincent's Riverside with Transcatheter Valve Certification."

St. Vincent's Riverside was named a Best Regional Hospital by the U.S. News and World Report's Best Hospital Rankings for 2024-2025. 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 cardiology at St. Vincent's Riverside, go to ascension.org.

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Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County presents heart education event

Leaders at Ascension St. Vincent's have begun a health care education series, designed for people in the community who are 55-plus years old.

The first event in the series took place this month and focused on cardiology, as it is American Heart Month. The hospital welcomed several community members and treated them to an engaging conversation with hospital leadership and Dr. Amr Barakat, a cardiologist with the hospital.

Barakat walked attendees through the various inner workings of the heart

and the most common conditions they should be aware of. He also explained how new smartwatch features can help them keep track of their health and provide their doctor with important information.

This event was the first of a planned series of education events for those who are 55-plus in the community. Organizers are targeting the summer for their next event.



Dr. Amr Barakat



People attend the first in a series of health care education events.

Contributed photos

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Emergency centers nationally recognized for patient experience

The Baptist/Wolfson Children's Emergency Town Center and the Wolfson Children's Emergency Center at Baptist Medical Center South have earned prestigious recognition from Press Ganey, a national leader in health care consumer and workforce engagement, for delivering an exceptional patient experience.

- The Baptist/Wolfson Children's Emergency Town Center received the 2024 Guardian of Excellence Award in Patient Experience.

- The Wolfson Children's Emergency Center at Baptist South received the 2024 Pinnacle of Excellence Award in Patient Experience.

Both awards are based on feedback from Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's patients. Collected through a survey following a patient's visit, the responses reflect patients' genuine experience during the time at the emergency center.

According to Press Ganey, the annual awards recognize organizations that put human experience at the heart of health care and set high standards in patient experience, employee experience, safety and quality.

Guardian of Excellence

The 2024 Guardian of Excellence Award for Patient Experience honors organizations that have consistently reached the top 95th to 99th percentile for designated survey measures, including likelihood to recommend, overall rating and teamwork.

The award highlights outstanding performance in delivering top decile patient care, as reflected by patients' direct feedback. It recognizes the best of the best in patient satisfaction within the health care industry.

"At Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's, we're dedicated to making every patient experience exceptional through compassionate care, innovative solutions and convenient access," said Tammy Daniel, executive vice president and chief nursing officer of Baptist Health. "We are incredibly proud of our team and their commitment to excellence and teamwork in providing a consistently superior patient experience."

Pinnacle of Excellence

The Press Ganey Pinnacle of Excellence Award for Patient Experience recognizes the four top-performing

organizations in each category: clinical quality, consumer experience, employee experience, patient experience and physician experience.

Winners are identified based on performance on three full years of data, from April 2021 to March 2024. The award is based on performance for designated survey measures, including likelihood to recommend, overall rating and teamwork.

"The 24/7 commitment of Wolfson Children's pediatric emergency physicians, nurses and support teams to providing top-decile emergency care for the region's children is incredible," said Allegra C. Jaros, president of Wolfson Children's. "We know a visit to the ER can be overwhelming and are proud of the Wolfson Children's team at Baptist South for creating an environment where every patient and their family feels safe, supported and valued."

"The Wolfson Children's emergency team at Baptist South always puts patients and their families first and strives to exceed expectations during every interaction," said Kyle Dorsey, hospital president of Baptist South. "This award recognizes the impact this team makes on patients' lives."

Eyes

Continued from 22

equipment means using the right kind of protection for the job. Forms of eye protection include goggles, safety glasses, face shields, or full face respirators.

- Employees should take breaks when working on the computer. To help alleviate digital eye strain, experts recommend the 20-20-20 rule. This means taking a 20-second break to view something 20 feet away every 20 minutes.

- Special filters can protect the eyes from optimal radiation exposure. Filters can be used when welding or working with lasers.

- Employees should recognize that contact lenses can't provide protection from eye hazards in the workplace. However, contact lenses can provide improved vision in the workplace. According to the American Optometric Association, workers should be allowed to wear contact lenses in most eye-hazardous environments, provided they wear eye protection over the contact lenses.

Prevent Blindness America says 90 percent of all workplace eye injuries can be avoided by wearing proper safety eyewear and following the safety guidelines recommended for each particular industry.



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Registration open for Challenge 22 Walk

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American Legion 5th District Riders and Post 129 will present the fifth-annual Challenge 22 Walk at 9 a.m. March 22 at the Jacksonville Beach Seawalk Pavilion. Net proceeds will fund veteran suicide prevention programs and services in the beaches communities.

“Through Challenge 22, we’re not only raising funds to help prevent suicide among our veterans, but also to raise awareness about veteran suicide in our beaches communities,” said Post 129 Commander Jeff Durden. “A survey conducted by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs showed that roughly 22 veterans are dying by suicide each day in our country.”

Walkers can pre-register now at <https://give.floridalegion.org/ch22jax>. The cost is \$22 per walker or \$35 for registration and an event T-shirt or tank top.

Post 129 has 30 coalition partners and 13 strategic partners that receive funds to provide veteran prevention services in Northeast Florida.

For sponsorship information and a sponsor form, go to <https://give.floridalegion.org/ch22jax> or contact Legion Post 129 Treasurer Jim Wineland at Jim@iserved-mycountry.org.

Post 129 has set a goal to raise \$20,000



through the event, which will be distributed among suicide-prevention groups, treatment providers and nonprofits that help veterans in need of mental health assistance — including the American Legion Department of Florida’s Project VetRelief.

On-site registration starts at 8 a.m. March 22 at the Jacksonville Beach Seawalk Pavilion, located at 75 First St.

North. The 2.2-mile walk begins at 9 a.m. on the beach to Oceanfront Park and back, followed by a program and live music from the pavilion stage. Silent auctions, raffles and other activities are planned after the event from 4 to 8 p.m. at Legion Post 129 at 1151 S. 4th St. in Jacksonville Beach.

Challenge 22 is part of The 22 Project,

which supports underserved war veterans who have traumatic brain injuries and are at risk for depression and/or suicide. In collaboration with physicians, therapists and health care workers, veterans receive advanced medical treatments including care and evaluation by highly trained, board-certified physicians at no cost to the veteran.

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GUEST COLUMN

3 steps for raising kids with money smarts

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

Regardless of how much money a family may have, parents have a responsibility to teach their children about finances. Starting early, children need to learn about how to be financially responsible once they leave the house and become independent.

Here are three steps parents can take starting today:

1. Find teachable moments

It can be difficult to find time to sit down and talk specifically about money, but natural opportunities to teach pop up practically every day.

For example, you can incorporate financial responsibility into an impromptu math lesson about money: If you find something the child wants that originally costs \$100 and is on sale for 30% off, you can ask how much the new price is — and, now that they are only spending \$70, what they might do with the leftover \$30.

2. Take a lifelong view toward financial literacy

Every child should have a tool kit of basic financial literacy skills by age 18, including concepts such as how to spend, how to save, how to give and the value of a dollar.

This can start very early with an exercise as simple as a three piggy banks analogy. You encourage the child to divide any money he or she receives into three piggy banks: spending, saving and community/charity. This shows the concept of different purposes of money rather than having it all be for spending. Repeating this exer-



Contributed photo

cise can help ingrain the habit of saving regularly.

By late childhood or adolescence, parents can add concepts such as what it means to invest, what companies one might invest in and how to assess risk with an investment.

You can encourage children in high school to think about college expenses by examining the costs and coming up with a credible college budget. Ask them to consider basic questions: What will you need in order to make this happen? What will the family need to supply, and what is the student expected to supply in terms of tuition, books, room and board, transportation and normal spending money?

And parents and grandparents can continue to encourage responsible, long-term financial responsibility by giving young adults an incentive to begin saving for

retirement early. If you're able, and they have earned income, offer to match what they save into a Roth IRA. It's also wise to encourage contributions to a 401(k) at work.

3. Show how it's done

Your child's healthy relationship with money begins with an open and honest relationship within a family that models good money behavior. These discussions can be challenging, but the fruit is well worth the labor.

Stress education and expect them to do well in school. Parents who do really well in teaching financial literacy typically lead by example — they tend to be savers and are more careful with spending money. Remember to be that example.

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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St. Johns County summer camp lottery underway

The St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department has opened its online lottery for spots in its 2025 summer camp program. The link will close at 9 p.m. Friday, March 7.

To handle the extremely high demand for spots in these camps, Parks and Recreation uses an online drawing system to randomly pick camp participants. Only children ages 5 (who have completed kindergarten) through 12 are eligible for spots in summer camp, and they must be St. Johns County residents.

The link has been posted on the Summer Camp 2025 web page at sjcfl.us/summer-camps. The drawing results will be emailed no later than March 24 and will not be shared prior to that date.

Please wait for your results before contacting Parks and Recreation and remember to check your spam/junk mail folders. If your first choice for a camp location is



Contributed photo

The St. Johns County summer camp lottery underway now.

full, your child will be placed in your second choice. If your second choice is full, you will receive a denial email, at which point you will have the option to be placed on a waiting list.

The 2025 camp locations are:

- Davis Park (210 Davis Park Road, Ponte Vedra)
- Ketterlinus Gym (60 Orange St., St. Augustine)
- Plantation Park (3060 Racetrack Road, St. Johns)
- Trout Creek (6795 Collier Road, St. Augustine)

Summer camp will run from June 9 through July 25, excluding June 19 and July 4. Campers participate in a variety of fun activities, including field trips, arts and crafts and swimming. The normal cost is \$430 per child, though children with the proper paperwork may be eligible for reduced-cost lunch or free lunch prices (\$330 and \$230 respectively).

Parks and rec to hold environmental camp for high schoolers

By Anthony Richards

The St. Johns County parks and recreation department is known as a valuable resource for both residents and visitors of the area to use for a greater sense of community, appreciation of nature and respect for nature.

And a popular time that children have to explore outside is during spring and summer breaks, the first of which is on the horizon and will be March 17 to 21 this year.

The weather during March in Florida is often very inviting to spend time outdoors in an attempt to either soak up some sun-rays by going to spots like the beach or getting active in a variety of ways.

The main youth camp during spring break that St. Johns County parks and recreation is putting on this year is called “sustainable futures: career camp,” which

will be held at San Sebastian River Park during the official spring break week for students in high school.

It will be a daily camp from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and it is designed to give students the opportunity to explore exciting career paths in the fields of environmental studies through a hands-on camp experience.

While many camps are geared toward younger ages, the focus of this one is unique because it looks to introduce students to new discoveries in a time when they have many career path choices perhaps on their mind.

A variety of careers will be highlighted during the camp, including the areas of environmental science, wildlife conservation and sustainability.

These are fields that until the camp a student may not have had the chance to go through the steps of learning what

it takes to have a career in one of those fields and hopefully leave with a better sense of who they are and where their passion may lie.

On top of the insight gathered during the weeklong camp, each student will also earn 10 service-learning hours for taking part in the meaningful environmental community projects that will be part of the camp itinerary.

Even if a student does not discover that an environmental career path is for them, the goal of the camp is to at least pass along practical knowledge that they can use moving forward to be the best stewards of the planet they can be.

Registration for the camp closes on March 13 and the cost to take part is \$200 per student.

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Ponte Vedra Church is launching a new service ministry for students in grades six through 12. Students in Action will concentrate on a different service topic per month, with a focus on building compassion and serving the community in practical ways.

This is a free program and all are welcome. The group meets on the first Saturday of every month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd.

RSVPs are required to attend. To sign up and save your spot, contact Taylor Hall at cym@pontevedra.church.

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Hiaasen appears at the Florida Forum Speaker Series

Carl Hiaasen, Floridian, journalist and novelist, recently shared memorable insights during an appearance at the Florida Forum Speaker Series, presented by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Hiaasen discussed Florida's culture, politics and environment during a thoughtful conversation with Florida Times-Union columnist Mark Woods. A longtime Miami Herald columnist, author and three-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, Hiaasen shared numerous personal insights about his life and career, including his early days as a newspaper reporter; the Apple TV adaptation his novel, "Bad Monkey"; and his deep love for Florida.

The Florida Forum Speaker Series supporting Wolfson Children's Hospital is made possible by long-time partners and generous sponsors Landstar, Wells Fargo and Florida Blue.

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 transporta-



Contributed photo

Carl Hiaasen shared memorable insights during an appearance at the Florida Forum. Pictured from left: Maxine McBride, co-chair, Florida Forum; Courtney Harris, chief of staff, Office of the CEO, Florida Blue; Hiaasen; Allegra Jaros, president, Wolfson Children's Hospital; Kendra McCray, president, The Women's Board; Randy DeFoor, co-chair, Florida Forum.

tion of critically ill and injured infants and children.

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pediatric critical and trauma care.

For more information, go to womensboardwch.com.



Chef Barry Honan taste-tests one of the dishes.



Attendees enjoy an exquisite dinner under the stars in support of culinary arts and local heritage.



Exquisite dishes were served at the James Beard Dinner.

Contributed photos

BENEFIT DINNER RAISES \$5K FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The inaugural Friends of James Beard Benefit Dinner, held Jan. 26, brought together 120 guests, including community leaders, philanthropists and food enthusiasts, to celebrate culinary excellence while raising \$5,000 for The Woman's Exchange of St. Augustine.

The James Beard Foundation is one of the most prestigious culinary organizations in the country, dedicated to honoring exceptional chefs, advancing sustainable food initiatives and fostering a more inclusive food culture.

Hosting this event in St. Johns County

was a significant milestone for the local food scene, spotlighting the region's culinary talent on a national stage.

Event highlights:

- Culinary excellence — Guests enjoyed a seven-course meal featuring regional ingredients and creative techniques, including citrus-cured Florida snapper and datil pepper-infused short ribs, crafted by some of St. Johns County's top chefs.

- A historic setting — Hosted at the Peña-Peck House, one of the county's most treasured landmarks, the event

blended culinary artistry with cultural significance.

- Impactful philanthropy — The evening raised \$5,000 to support The Woman's Exchange of St. Augustine, funding scholarships for women over the age of 30 returning to school, and preserving the Peña-Peck House.

Featured chefs:

- Chef Barry Honan (Lotus Noodle Bar) was the leading chef who organized the event

- Marcel Vizcarra (Llama Restaurant), Genie McNally (The Floridian), Joshua

Smith (Catch 27), Matthew Brown (Asado Life)

Notable guests and community leaders included:

- St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline

- Christina Parrish Stone, past executive director of the St. Johns Cultural Council

- Lauren Titus, editor of Edibles magazine

- Stephanie and Michael Lugo, owners of Michael's Steakhouse, La Nouvelle and Pesca Rooftop

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

Container Gardens

“Never underestimate the healing power of a quiet moment in the garden.” — Josephine Albert



By Kathy Esfahani

Container gardening is growing plants in containers or planters instead of in the ground. Planters can be a wonderful way to bring flowers into areas not accessible through natural landscaping. Consider incorporating planters by an entrance, on patios, around pools and even within landscape beds. Container gardens can be created in traditional planters or more unique options such as old bird baths, wood crates, pallet garden boxes and more. For variety in your planters, use a mixture of annuals, perennials, herbs, evergreens and tropicals.

Remember the following tips as you create your container garden:

- A healthy planter must have drainage. Make sure there is a hole in the bottom of your planter, and add pebbles in the bottom to create easy drainage. Place a tray on the bottom to prevent leaks.
- Be sure to use good potting soil that includes



Planters

- fertilizer.
- Select a planter that is large enough to hold the plants you want to include.
 - Determine the sun exposure in your location to best select appropriate plants.
 - Choose plants that provide a variety of heights and colors.
 - Arrange your plants in three layers: the tallest or largest plant in the center to the back of the pot, a burst

Flower of the Week



African Iris

of color filling around the middle, and cascading flowers or succulents to create an “overflow” around the edge of the planter.
Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: African Iris

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



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Business Weekly

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025 • PAGE 28

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Electric Dough Pizza Co. poised for opening in spring 2025

CuliVino Hospitality Management and Consulting has announced that construction is underway on Chef Tom Gray's newest restaurant, Electric Dough Pizza Co. Located in the historic San Marco Theatre building, the new handmade pizza-centric restaurant is planned for opening in the spring.

"I look forward to bringing our Electric Dough Pizza Co. experience to the San Marco community," said Gray, who announced the concept and location in 2024. "San Marco is close to my heart, and I am excited to bring a new menu, distinctive atmosphere and heartfelt hospitality to this iconic location. Electric Dough Pizza Co. promises to be a remarkable dining destination."

Interior construction commenced earlier this year. Gray engaged the architectural design firm ai3 and Urban Partners Construction to bring the restaurant's vision to life. Gray recently did a walk-through of Electric Dough Pizza Co.'s 4,200-square-foot interior with Shaping America's Plate Founder and CEO Pam Smith and Culinary Innovation Partner Chef Cliff Pleau. Gray is partnering with Shaping America's Plate, a leading multi-dimensional food and beverage consultancy firm, known for its innovation, delicious wellness and approach to sustainability on Electric Dough Pizza Co.'s menu offerings.

Electric Dough Pizza Co.'s menu will be announced in the spring. It will offer Gray's rectangular artisan pizzas featuring a Roman-style dough with Detroit-style crispy,



From left, Chef Tom Gray recently did a walk-through of Electric Dough Pizza Co.'s interior with Shaping America's Plate Founder and CEO Pam Smith and Culinary Innovation Partner Chef Cliff Pleau

cheesy edges. The restaurant will focus on fresh flavors and high-quality "better for you" ingredients.

Along with pizza, Electric Dough Pizza Co. will offer seasonally-inspired fresh salads and a rotating selection of gelato and sorbets. Beverages will include a full cocktail bar, domestic and imported beer and wine, along with organic craft sodas and zero-proof offerings.

Photo credit: Kathleen Catherall



From left, Shaping America's Plate Culinary Innovation Partner Chef Cliff Pleau, Founder and CEO Pam Smith and Chef Tom Gray

Electric Dough Pizza Co. will include a retail area offering take-and-bake frozen pizzas, fresh pastas, from-scratch sauces, house-made pimento cheese and other products to enjoy at home.

Electric Dough Pizza Co. will be the counterpart to Gray's two full-service restaurants, Prati Italia at the St. Johns Town Center and Town Hall, situated just a few storefronts from the San Marco Theatre location.

To learn more, go to electricdoughpizza.com.

SERVPRO FRANCHISES JOIN PARTNERSHIP

SERVPRO Team TMC, a leading SERVPRO group with operations across Massachusetts and Rhode Island, announced Feb. 20 its partnership with several established SERVPRO franchises in Northeast Florida. The franchises included in this partnership will continue to service Jacksonville Beach/Ponte Vedra, St. Johns, Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Northwest,

Fernandina Beach/Jacksonville Northeast and Mandarin.

SERVPRO is a water and fire restoration company specializing in water extraction, home drying, mold remediation, smoke cleaning and deodorizing and construction services, with more than 2,200 independently owned franchises across the United States and Canada.

SERVPRO is also the official cleaning and restoration company of The PGA Tour.

The Mandarin, St. Johns, Jacksonville Beach/Ponte Vedra and Atlantic Beach franchises were established by Tom and Robin Braddock in 1981, and the Fernandina Beach/Jacksonville Northeast and Jacksonville Northwest operations

were launched in 2008 by Peter Reilly. Noteworthy clients have included Baptist Health and GATE Petroleum Company.

Local leaders from each group will remain in place to ensure continuity of service to existing clients while preserving decades of institutional knowledge.

SERVPRO continues on Page 29

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Lennar opens a new model home at TrailMark

Lennar recently celebrated the grand opening of its newly decorated model home at the nature-first community of TrailMark in St. Johns County.

The model is located in a newly opened phase of the community where Lennar is offering three new floorplans for homebuyers at the community.

“We appreciate our relationship with Lennar, and we are thrilled to see their continued success at TrailMark,” said Gregg Kern, division manager, North Florida Region. “Our premier builder team offers exceptional home designs that appeal to families of all ages and sizes. Our residents enjoy a wonderful community lifestyle with connections to their neighbors and many recreational offerings at TrailMark.”

The new model at TrailMark, the Trevi II, highlights Lennar’s style and quality with an emphasis on comfort, spacious design and contemporary finishes. The model is light and bright with pops of neutral colors accentuated with natural elements and textures. A second model, the Charle II, will open in the spring.

Lennar at TrailMark is offering three one- and two-story floorplans, the Trevi II, the Charle II and the Brio II, ranging from approximately 1,943 square feet to 2,360 square feet of living space with four to five bedrooms and two to three bathrooms.

The plans create a seamless flow between chef-ready kitchens, dining rooms and versatile great rooms. The owner’s suites provide a separate oasis with spa-like bathrooms and walk-in closets. The Trevi II and Charle II are one-story designs while the Brio II also features a second floor for the bedrooms. Prices start in the \$400,000s.

Every new home at TrailMark also comes com-



Contributed photos

The new Trevi II model at TrailMark.

plete with Lennar’s signature Everything’s Included program. Popular upgrades and modern finishes are standard on every home at no additional cost, including quartz countertops in kitchens and bathrooms, upgraded stainless steel appliances, hard surface flooring in main living areas, smart home technology and more.

TrailMark has been designed around its natural environment, creating opportunities for residents to connect with nature and their neighborhood. TrailMark offers a recreation-rich lifestyle with thoughtfully designed amenities to enhance the community experience, such as miles of trails and parks that connect residents with their neighborhood and a kayak launch to Six Mile Creek.



The Trevi II model is light and bright with neutral colors accentuated with natural elements and textures.

The community amenities center features a beach-entry pool overlooking a large central lake, fitness center, a variety of sports courts, playing fields and more.

TrailMark’s premier builder team, which also includes Dream Finders Homes, Drees Homes and Richmond American Homes, offers single-family, one- and two-story homes in a conservation area setting priced from the \$400,000s to the \$900,000s. Dream Finders Homes’ Reverie at TrailMark, a 55+ community for active adults, offers single-family homes enhanced with abundant recreational amenities priced from the \$300,000s to the \$700,000s. Decorated model homes are open daily.

To learn more, go to TrailMarkLiving.com.

SERVPRO

Continued from 28

Lauren Braddock is now sales director and partner; Ben Alcorn is general manager and partner; and Pamela Reilly is reconstruction and office administrator.

“The Braddock, Alcorn and Reilly families have invested decades of service into the Northeast Florida community,” said Joe Tutsch, Jr., president/partner of SERVPRO Team TMC. “Similarly, the families that formed SERVPRO Team TMC are deeply invested in the Boston and Providence areas. As one combined team, our local leaders will share technology, tools and resources to ensure every job gets done right — no matter how big or small.”

The expansion agreement, effective January 2025, brings additional capacity to all markets where SERVPRO Team TMC operates. This strategic partnership leverages each team’s existing strengths and complementary areas of expertise to provide a seamless service experience based on each client’s specific requirements.

Staff members, technology and equipment can be deployed immediately — positioning SERVPRO Team TMC to respond swiftly and effectively to any restoration needs in the communities they serve.

“This partnership means we can deliver more of everything that matters for our



Contributed photo

Members of the Braddock and Alcorn families will continue to serve the new partnership.

clients’ homes and businesses,” said Lauren Braddock. “We now have even greater capacity to provide restoration and cleaning services when, where and how it’s needed; more hands to assist when a fire, hurricane or winter storm strikes; and more job opportunities in the community we call home.”

SERVPRO Team TMC is accepting applications for several positions, including crew chiefs and construction management. Employee benefits include performance-based commission/bonuses, health insurance assistance, opportunities for advancement, vacation pay and paid holidays.

Learn more and apply at servpro-jacksonville-beach-ponte-vedra.careerplug.com/jobs.

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Benchmarks of Success

A look at major career developments in the area



White joins Timucuan Parks Foundation Board of Directors

Timucuan Parks Foundation (TPF) has added Kevin White to its board of directors. White is a senior landscape architect with England — Thims & Miller, Inc., responsible for creating aesthetic, sustainable and functional outdoor spaces.

White said he is passionate about park preservation, and as a landscape architect, he has worked on several new and existing park improvement designs throughout Northeast Florida. He will utilize his expertise to guide the nonprofit as it develops programs and initiatives for community engagement, education and enjoyment.

Richardson named interim executive director

The Jacksonville Dance Theatre Board of Directors recently announced the selection of Kat Richardson as interim executive

director.

Richardson has been a dedicated supporter of JDT for years, contributing as an artist, patron and board member. She brings a wealth of experience in corporate entertainment, performing arts and business.



Katie Belcher joins real estate business

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has welcomed Katie Belcher to its team of real estate professionals. With deep roots in Northeast Florida, Belcher brings 28 years of local expertise and a passion for helping clients achieve their real estate dreams.

A graduate of Flagler College with a bachelor's degree in deaf elementary education, Belcher spent 20 years as a dedicated teacher before transitioning to real estate. Her extensive knowledge of the area combined with her warm, empathetic approach makes her a trusted adviser for buyers and sellers alike.

Erin Spalding is broker/manager for the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office, 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach.

She can be reached at 904-285-1800, Erin.Spalding@FloridaNetworkRealty.com and floridanetworkrealtycareers.com.

Three join North Florida Land Trust board

North Florida Land Trust's board of directors has three new members: Janyce Dawkins, Tom Goodrich and Natalie Healy. The three started their terms at the January board meeting, and each will serve a three-year term.

Originally from Louisiana, Dawkins began her professional career with Bellsouth and attended law school at Florida State University. She practiced law in the Atlanta area for several years before taking a position as the director of the equal opportunity office at the University of Georgia. Following retirement, Dawkins and her husband moved to historic American Beach, where she is the immediate past president of the American Beach Property Owners Association.

Goodrich has lived in Atlantic Beach since 1993, is a private wealth adviser with Ameriprise Financial and is a graduate of the University of Florida. He is originally from Ft. Lauderdale. Goodrich said he can now dedicate his time and financial



Janyce Dawkins



Tom Goodrich



Natalie Healy

resources to NFLT and looks forward to helping build on the nonprofit's success.

Healy is a Jacksonville Beach resident who manages operations for The Healy Foundation alongside her husband. The foundation was established in 2002 to support nonprofit programs in education, the arts and the environment across Florida. Healy has experience in account management, executive management and marketing. She earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of North Florida. She also received a Florida Teacher Certificate through the Teach First Coast Program at Florida Community College at Jacksonville, now Florida State College at Jacksonville.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

ConventionSouth magazine honors local resort

Situated oceanfront along a 500-foot stretch of Florida's Northeast Atlantic shoreline, the Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort was recently presented the 2024 Readers' Choice Award from ConventionSouth magazine.

This is the third consecutive year the award-winning resort has received this recognition.

A leading meetings industry publication, ConventionSouth annually polls thousands of meeting professionals to

identify top-performing hotels, resorts and conference centers across the South. The Readers' Choice Award is a testament to the outstanding services and facilities that set the winners apart in catering to the unique needs of meeting and event planners.

"It's a genuine honor to be recognized among the best meeting facilities in the South by such a discerning group of professionals," said Jason Kern, general manager of Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort. "I'm very proud

of our team and their consistent dedication to providing exceptional service for meetings and events, which is the key to earning our third consecutive Readers' Choice Award."

Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort offers options for groups from 10 to 500. The resort offers more than 20,000 square feet of event space, with outdoor terraces and pre-function areas and a 5,200-square-foot oceanfront ballroom.

With a combination of exceptional brand offerings, including free made-to-order breakfast each morning and a nightly complimentary evening reception (service of alcohol is subject to state and local laws) and sophisticated meeting facilities, a stunning beachfront setting and exceptional staff, Embassy Suites St. Augustine Beach promises an unparalleled meeting experience.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025 • PAGE 31

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American classic 'West Side Story' hits Alhambra stage

By Anthony Richards

The first musical of the Alhambra Theatre & Dining's 2025 season is underway, and it is an American classic as well, with "West Side Story" hitting the local stage and being shown through March 30.

The musical won four Tony Awards in 1961 and since then, it has been captivating audiences on the Broadway trail with its tale inspired by "Romeo and Juliet" but with a twist of American flair.

Many of the actors in the production are from other parts of the country and are performing at the Alhambra for the first time, but bring with them experience, especially when it comes to "West Side Story," and that was evident throughout the performance.

Brayden Schilling plays Tony and Lauren Henriques plays Maria, who are the young couple and love interest that the play revolves around,



Photo courtesy of Alhambra Theatre & Dining

ALHAMBRA continues on Page 34

"West Side Story" will be shown at Alhambra Theatre & Dining through March 30.

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Celebrated artist makes stop in St. Johns County

By Shaun Ryan

For just two hours Monday, Feb. 25, anyone stopping by The Grand Bohemian Gallery in downtown St. Augustine made a discovery sure to elicit a “wow.”

World-renowned artist Anna Razumovskaya, having just finished an exhibit in Atlanta and en route to another in Naples, Florida, took a brief detour to the Nation’s Oldest City to show some of her work.

“The Grand Bohemian Gallery is right in the middle, so we decided to stop and just talk to the people, express our great gratitude,” she said. “They’ve been such an amazing gallery to work with, and they have great presentation of our work.”

The Russia-born and -educated artist creates works that blend the classical with the modern. Though her subjects vary, she often paints dynamically posed women draped in colorful attire — the clothing often gathered around or blossoming about the subject.

“For me as an artist, it’s easy to express myself through the form that I know,” Razumovskaya explained. “The female form, I can relate to it. I know the subject, so it’s easy for me to transfer my feelings, my emotion, through the form I know.”

Another favorite subject is horses in mid-action.

“I love this subject,” she said. “It’s majesty and grace and beauty and movement and motion; it’s all there.”

Her paintings are usually done in oil and are often large, sometimes 70-by-80 inches. Her work has been described as a “dialogue between reality and dreams.”

Razumovskaya also creates bronze sculptures, which she admits was a challenge when she started.

“I was thinking that if I know how to draw, it will be easier for me,” she said. “But then I realized it requires a completely different mindset.”

Razumovskaya is based in Canada, having first arrived there 26 years ago with \$100 in her pocket and “a huge, amazing dream.” She found a job and began to sell her work for as little as \$9.99.

Today, her paintings can be found in some of the biggest



Photo provided by Anna Razumovskaya

Anna Razumovskaya is seen with some of her work.

collections around the world — including that of the British Royal Family.

Through her art, she wants to remind people that: “We have to remember that life is beautiful, and what a gift we have to be alive!”

Learn more about Anna Razumovskaya at anna-art.com.

Gallery announces open call for art

Butterfield Garage Art Gallery, 137 King St., St. Augustine, is hosting its fourth annual Open Community Art Project as a way to celebrate art in the community. Anyone interested is invited to celebrate creativity by creating and exhibiting artworks that speak to the concept “Art of Food.” Any one, any age can participate.

What do you love most about food? Is it how your favorite coffee smells in the morning, the vibrant colors at a farmers’ market or the growing of food itself? Perhaps it’s the social camaraderie, food artistically presented on the plate or prepping in the kitchen. Be as creative as you like in your interpretation.

Draw it, paint it, collage it — any medium. Canvases and entry forms can be picked up at Butterfield Garage Art Gallery. Entry fee is \$10 per entry and includes an 8-by-8 inch canvas. Works created with materials other than the canvas supplied must conform to the 8-by-8 inch dimensions.

Entry forms are available at the gallery, or on the Butterfield Garage website butterfieldgarage.com. The gallery is open every day 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All entries must be received at Butterfield Garage Art Gallery no later than April 27. The exhibit opening reception will take place on May 1, and the exhibit will continue through May 31. Artists decide whether their work will be for sale. Butterfield Garage will handle any sales and will retain a 15% fee.

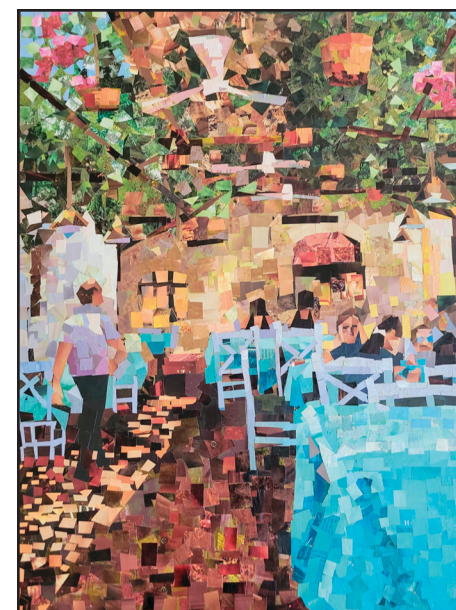


Photo provided by Butterfield Garage Art Gallery
“Outdoor Café” by Eric Racov

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	<i>Elf The Musical</i> NOV. 20 – DEC. 24

GET YOUR ALHAMBRA TICKETS TODAY!
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Photographer featured at Butterfield Garage

The Butterfield Garage Art Gallery, 137 King St., St. Augustine, will present new work from photographer Tina Henle, the featured artist for March. Her exhibit, “From Above and Below” will be on display from 5 to 9 p.m. March 7 during First Friday Artwalk. She will give a short artist’s talk at 6 p.m. to discuss her new work.

Henle’s images are born of the solace she experiences with the ocean in its power and beauty. Wandering the beach, she said, “is a meditation for me, never knowing what will capture my attention. The image, ‘To Fly,’ was an unexpected surprise that crossed my lens as I focused on the shore one morning. Other images are also of unexpected moments on my wanderings of the beauty of nature: aerials while dreaming out windows of planes, hiking through a volcano on a foggy morning in Bali and hiking in the rainy Highlands of Scotland.”

Henle is an award-winning freelance photographer with



“To Fly” by Tina Henle

Photo provided by Butterfield Garage Art Gallery

more than 45 years of fine art, portrait and wedding photography. Growing up on the island of St. Croix, she acquired her first camera, a twin lens Rollei-flex, from her father, Fritz Henle at age 18. Thus began her love for photography and passion for travel and diverse cultures.

In 1984, she received a BA in art and anthropology from the University of New Mexico and worked and mentored with her father throughout the 1980s. She has exhibited in numerous group and solo shows and co-owned the Henle Gallery in St. Croix for 27 years.

Henle now resides in St. Augustine and has been a member of Butterfield Garage Gallery since 2017. She continues to travel worldwide, always adding to her portfolio of creative fine art photography.

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

Upcoming Jacksonville Symphony Experiences

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Student to join orchestra for concert

The St. Augustine Orchestra's (SAO) Winter Concert will present the enchanting music of Sibelius and Tchaikovsky at 8 p.m. March 13 at Toco Creek High School, 11200 St Johns Pkwy., St. Augustine. This performance features local talent Leila Warren, a Ponte Vedra High School sophomore and violinist, the winner of the SAO Young Artists Competition.

Featured works include: Finlandia, op. 26 and Violin Concerto, 1st movement by Jean Sibelius; and Symphony No. 2, "Little Russian" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

For tickets, go to zeffy.com/en-US/

ticketing/sibelius-and-tchaikovsky-winter—2025.

In addition to winning the St. Augustine Orchestra's Young Artists Competition, Leila Warren won the 2024 Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra Young Artist Concerto Competition for the second time, First Place at the Charleston International Music Competition, and First Place at the NFSO-John Leatherwood Concerto Competition where she had the opportunity to solo with the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra.

She is a member of the Model United Nations Team, Mu Alpha Theta (math-



Contributed photo

Ponte Vedra High School sophomore and violinist Leila Warren

ematics), the American Sign Language Honor Society and the International Thespian Honor Society and performed onstage at PVHS as Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet." She also tutors refugee students through the JaxThrive organization. The St. Augustine Orchestra is a not-for-profit orchestra with more than 50 volunteer members promoting symphonic excellence throughout the First Coast of Florida under artistic director Maestro Scott Gregg. One of St. Augustine's longest-running cultural entities, SAO is a foundation of cultural, artistic and historic legacy in St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

Autrey book launch reception to benefit Operation New Uniform

Local business leader and author Ron Autrey will sign copies of his new book, "Farnsworth's Secret War," at a cocktail reception to be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at Timuquana Country Club, 4028 Timuquana Road, Jacksonville.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Operation New Uniform, a Jacksonville-headquartered nonprofit that assists veterans and military spouses in making a successful transition to civilian life.

The retired president, CEO and Chairman of Miller Electric, Autrey recently embarked on a second career as an author with the publication of "Ron's World: All the Times I Died," a historical memoir that recounts key moments in his life within the context of the world events happening at the time.

"Farnsworth's Secret War" — Autrey's first novel — is a political spy thriller that follows 10 years in the life of a fictional West Point graduate and Army intelligence officer.

Tickets for the March 20 book launch reception and signing event are \$125 per person and are available on Eventbrite.com. All proceeds from the event will benefit Operation New Uniform.

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Alhambra

Continued from 31

and together they put forth a great performance that had a mix of both passion in their portrayal of their characters and a chemistry on stage that could be felt in the audience.

Their acting is spot on and helps transform the roles into something that the crowd can truly relate with, which in turn captures the emotions of the production and keeps the audience engaged in the plot throughout.

Another thing that kept people on the edge of their seats was the fight scenes, which did an excellent job of mixing acting, lighting and sound to pull off some tense moments and really set the mood at those times.

Thaddeus Walker made his ninth production appearance at the Alhambra and had double duty of serving as fight choreographer for the production as well as playing Lieutenant Shrank.

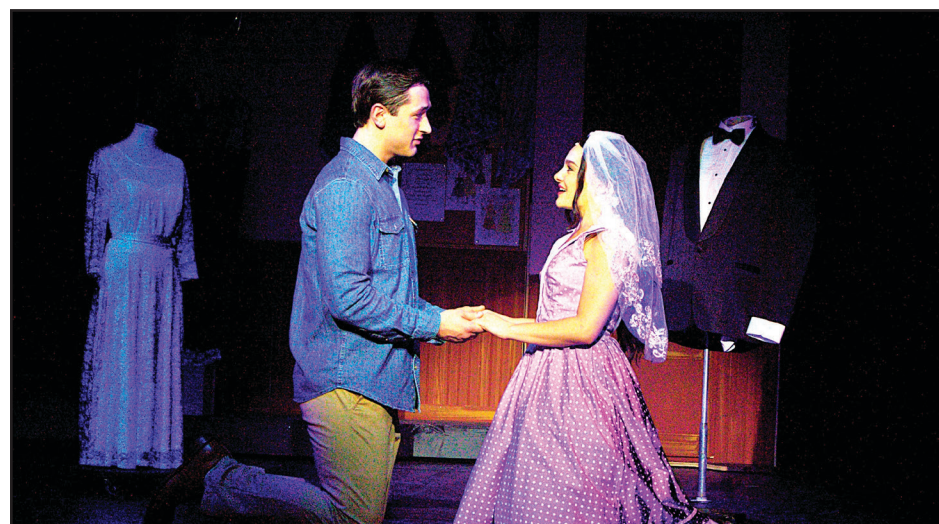
Ken Uibel played the role of Doc and "West Side Story" marked the 100th show that he had been a part of at Alhambra since making his debut at the theatre in 1985.

He has performed in more than 300 productions of various shows during his career, and he is happy to perform his final one at the Alhambra as he will retire from acting once "West Side Story" wraps up.

According to Alhambra owner Craig Smith, Uibel is someone very recognizable by those who have been coming to Alhambra for years and a true Alhambra legend.

He is most known for his portrayal of Marley in "A Christmas Carol," a production he has been in 25 times over the years and even met his wife Becky at the Alhambra 30 years ago.

For tickets to see "West Side Story," go to www.alhambrajax.com.



Photos courtesy of Alhambra Theatre & Dining

"West Side Story" is a tale inspired by "Romeo and Juliet" with an American twist.



It is the second production of Alhambra's 2025 season.



The play has a mix of national, regional and local talent.

Sports

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025 • PAGE 35

Send your sports news to
news@pontevedrarecorder.com

For LIVE Sports and updates,
follow our Twitter, @PVR_sports

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Maddox Palmer and Trace Westercamp were influencers on the backboards and scored 14 and 13 points, respectively, against Tallahassee Leon in the regional final.



The Sharks are headed to their fourth straight final four appearance. Photos by Anthony Richards

FOUR YEARS OF FINAL FOURS

By Anthony Richards

Trips to the final four almost feel part of the Ponte Vedra High boys basketball team’s designated schedule at the start of the season each year after the Sharks secured their fourth straight trip to the state semifinals after a 65-51 win over Tallahassee Leon High in a regional final on Feb. 20.

The seniors on the squad will not know what it feels like to not end the season playing in the final four with a prime shot at a state title.

Those seniors made some crucial baskets down the stretch against the Lions (20-8)

as the Sharks continued to wear down their opponent and eventually extended the lead for good with a dominant fourth quarter that went in favor of the Sharks, 20-10.

Prior to that, it was a back-and-forth battle with the Sharks clinging to a one-point lead at halftime and only four points separated the teams heading into the final frame.

Four Sharks scored double figures on the night, as they displayed the balanced attack that makes them so difficult to defend.

David Sanchez Barrera scored a team-high for the Sharks with 16 points and nearly had a double-double with nine as-

sists and three steals in the game.

Performances like that have been expected by Sanchez Barrera, who has developed into a true playmaking guard for the Sharks, where he can do it all and contribute no matter which end of the floor it is.

Katsikas provides a dangerous guard tandem and made his presence felt from beyond the arc hitting four three-pointers for all 12 of his points.

Maddox Palmer and Trace Westercamp were influencers on the backboards and scored 14 and 13 points, respectively, while also giving the Sharks the edge by outrebounding the Lions 22-15 on the

night.

Westercamp also proved to be a rim protector with four blocks.

The combination of offensive efficiency and defensive tenacity is a unique mix that the Sharks have, and it has been a hallmark of the program during the recent run of final fours.

It is a major reason why they have made yet another deep playoff run and have their sights set on that elusive state championship. Could this be the year?

The Sharks will play in the state semifinal against Leesburg High (17-7) on Wednesday, March 5, starting at 3 p.m. at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland.

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Photos by Anthony Richards



Lulu Consunji (No. 3) scored a goal in both the state semifinal and state championship.



The Sharks are back-to-back Class 5A girls soccer state champions.

Champions

Continued from 1

team, especially in the likes of seniors Natalie McCann and Quinlee Irwin and seasoned juniors such as Grace Archer, Izzy Whitaker and Lily Morse.

Seasons like this year when so much turnover takes place is when the differ-

ence between the Sharks and other girls soccer programs really begins to stand out, because there is a true understanding by everyone involved from seniors to freshmen of the lofty goals the team has each year, and it has created the definition of a winning culture.

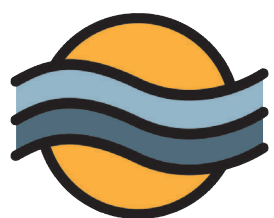
The Sharks advanced to the championship game following a 2-1 victory over the North Fort Myers Red Knights

thanks to goals from Morse and sophomore Lulu Consunji on Feb. 19 at the Lake Mrytle Sports Complex in Auburn-dale.

Three days later they were back it and finished the deal for a second straight title by defeating the Miami Lourdes Academy 2-1, once again getting a goal from Consunji as well as fellow sophomore Katie DeVincentis as the youth

movement for the Sharks came through in a big way en route to another state title.

Consunji had five goals for the season before scoring a pair in the final four, while sophomore goalkeeper Abby Kennedy stopped 18 of 20 shots faced during the 160 minutes played during the final four contests.



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Date: May 1, 2024
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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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47	48				49				50	51	52	53
55					56					57		58
59					60					61		
62					63					64		

ACROSS

1. Greek mythological figure

5. Small amount

8. Play a role

11. River in Georgia and Alabama

13. Water in the solid state

14. Ancient Greek sophist

15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste

16. Fleece

17. Writer/actress Dunham

18. Behave in a way that belittles

20. Comedienne Gasteyer

21. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire

22. Conceits

25. Slowed down

30. Nourishment

31. Midway between east and southeast

32. Fights

33. Comedienne Tyler

38. Standing operating procedure

41. Locks

43. Old

45. Song sung to one's lover

47. Whale ship captain

49. Moved quickly on foot

50. Volcanic craters

55. Large musical instrument

56. Liquefied natural gas

57. Ethiopian town

59. Not closed

60. A team's best pitcher

61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

62. Disfigure

63. Prefix denoting "in a"

64. Sleep

4. Continent

5. Albania's capital

6. Poisonous plant

7. Argues

8. Assists

9. Town in Galilee

10. Russian leader

12. Promotional materials

14. Wings

19. Not odd

23. Expression of creativity

24. Conceptualize

25. A digital tape recording of sound

26. Peyton's little brother

27. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)

28. Difference in potential

29. Owner

34. I (German)

35. Chinese conception of poetry

36. The world of the dead

37. Sign language

39. Coincide

40. Religious observance

41. Confined condition (abbr.)

42. Polite interruption sound

44. Texas ballplayer

45. Type of sword

46. Abba __, Israeli politician

47. Basic unit of a chemical element

48. Native American people in California

51. Swiss river

52. Hebrew calendar month

53. Easily swindled person

54. One point south of southwest

58. Small island (British)

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

DOWN

1. S. American plant

2. Soul and calypso song

3. Fruit of the service tree



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