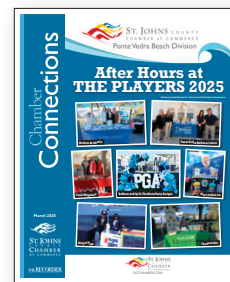


THE RECORDER

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Thursday, March 27, 2025

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Jacksonville Symphony receives \$15M donation

The Jacksonville Symphony has received a historic \$15 million gift, the largest single gift in the orchestra's 75-year history. It is dedicated to the endowment that supports artistic excellence, symphony musicians, the commissioning of new works and artistic partnerships.

Included in this gift is a matching challenge, offering an opportunity for the community to double the impact of their contributions. The donor asked to remain anonymous.

This gift will significantly shape the orchestra's future and strengthen its economic and cultural impact on Jacksonville.

"We are truly in and of our community, and this generous gift stands as a testament to the love and support that drives us forward, affirming that our work and presence matter deeply to those we serve," said Steven Libman, president and CEO. "A robust endowment empowers us to attract and retain the very best talent. The 100 dedicated full-time staff, including 60 gifted musicians, all live and work here, making our symphony an essential part of the city. The symphony is also the primary driver of economic activity downtown."

DONATION continues on **Page 41**

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Fit & Healthy
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NEASE BEGINS NEW SPRING SIGNING TRADITION

By Anthony Richards

Traditions are unique and help make each high school their own and for Nease High School they hope to start a new tradition as they had 22 seniors sign to play sports at the college level during a special combined ceremony on the field at Panther Stadium on Monday, March 24.

The ceremony commemorating the spring signing period is something that Nease athletic director Christos Mastoridis believes will be the latest tradition created at the school.

"People know that we have strong academics in addition to the athletics and these individuals here represent both those bases of Nease," Mastoridis said.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Nease athletic director Christos Mastoridis speaks during the signing ceremony on Monday, March 24.

SIGNING continues on **Page 44**

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BRIEFS

St. Johns County Main Branch Library reopens
The St. Johns County Main Branch Library, 1960 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd., St. Augustine, reopened to the public Monday, March 24, following the completion of a roof replacement project. The library has resumed its regular services and hours.
Materials checked out from this location prior to the closure on Feb. 3 will be due on April 1. For more information about the St. Johns County Public Library System, go to sjcpls.org.

Day of free care and support planned
Ascension St. Vincent’s invites the community to a special event dedicated to serving those in need.
Compassion in Action, a day of free care and support for the community, is designed to provide essential resources, such a food, clothing, health care screenings and access to vital services and information completely free of charge.

The event will be held 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 5, at Revitalize Arlington, 9501 Arlington Expressway, Jacksonville, at the north side of Regency Square Mall.
It will include: a free medical clinic, resources and education on various health issues, Century Critical Care truck, Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, free face painting and balloon animals and free haircuts.
Services will be provided by Ascension St. Vincent’s, Vituity Emergency Services, Ascension Mobile Health Outreach Ministry, JaxCare Connect, CORE (coordinated opioid recovery), Dispensary of Hope program,

Sulzbacher (Housing, Health Care, Hope), Brighter Beginnings Maternal Health and Chandler’s Hope.

Party for Prevention set for April 9
St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS) will hold a Party for Prevention to bring awareness of the issues surrounding child abuse and neglect while providing resources and entertainment to attendees. Local agencies, food, vendors and activities for children and families will be at the event.
SAYS has provided critical mental health services to youth for more than 35 years, currently operating three community programs serving youth and young adults up to age 25, and residential therapeutic group homes for boys ages 6-17 who have experienced emotional trauma or abuse.
The party will be held 4-7 p.m. April 9 at the SAYS main campus, 201 Simone Way, St. Augustine.
For further information, call 904-829-1770 or go to Sayskids.org.

Young professionals to gather for good cause
Sips & CHYPs, a fun-filled happy hour, hosted by CHYPs (Community Hospice Young Professionals), will be held 4-7 p.m. April 19 at Pete’s Bar in Neptune Beach.
This event will feature an open bar, food, live music and more while benefiting The Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. The event brings together local professionals and community members to support compassionate end-of-life care for patients and families in need.
Pete’s Bar is located at 117 First St, Neptune Beach.
For tickets or more information, go to thefoundationcares.org/sips-and-chyps.

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.

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THE RECORDER

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

St. Johns County launches first-ever strategic plan

St. Johns County has launched its 2024–29 Strategic Plan, a roadmap designed to chart the course for the county’s future. After an extensive community engagement process, the plan reflects the collective vision of a thriving community.

“The strategic plan serves as our guiding tool to prioritize residents’ needs, deliver services aligned with our community’s vision, and ensure accountability through strong performance metrics,” County Administrator Joy Andrews said. “It is our essential reference to move forward prudently, making well-informed decisions that reflect our commitment to transparency, efficiency and excellence.”

The plan centers on six core strategic priorities: community trust, community well-being, economic prosperity, enhanced conservation, infrastructure and organiza-

tional excellence. A special webpage has been created at sjcfl.us/sjc-strategic-plan, where the public can access details and a downloadable version of the 24-page planning document.

Assistant County Administrator Sarah Taylor leads the Office of Performance and Transparency, which began developing the county’s first-ever strategic plan in 2023.

“The strategic plan is a living document that will help us define our future vision for the county,” Taylor said. “It reflects our community’s priorities, enabling us to make informed budget and policy decisions while securing the resources needed to keep our county thriving. We are committed to continuously tracking our progress and improving service delivery for everyone in the county.”

The three pillars of the plan are built on:

- Mission: To serve and invest in the com-

munity through innovative leadership, high-quality services and preserving the county’s history and natural beauty while enhancing economic vitality.

- Vision: St. Johns County is a historic community with a thriving population and economy, offering world-class cultural and recreational opportunities and an exceptional quality of life.
- Values: Dedication, openness, adaptability, visionary, financial responsibility, integrity and humility.

The county will use strategic planning software to plan, monitor and publicly report

progress toward its goals and objectives, as well as performance measures. An annual report and year-end presentation to the Board of County Commissioners will provide transparency, while engaging dashboards and data visualization tools will be shared as part of the plan’s ongoing public education efforts.

“The St. Johns County Strategic Plan is a celebration of community input and public engagement,” Andrews said. “We’re excited about our ongoing collaboration as we embark on this journey together to shape the community’s future.”

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

KATHY’S GARDENING GUIDE

Hibiscus

“A flower blossoms for its own joy.” — Oscar Wilde



By Kathy Esfahani

The vivid colors of hibiscus blooms add a tropical feel to any landscape! These fast-growing plants are available as shrubs or small trees and produce flowers that range from 2 to 12 inches in diameter. Their trumpet-shaped blooms feature colors of red, pink, orange, yellow, peach and white. Although blooms may only last one to three days, hibiscus plants can flower prolifically throughout a long spring through fall growing season.

When considering hibiscus plants for your landscape, look for areas of full sun. These plants can tolerate partial shade as long as they receive at least six hours of direct sunlight. If your hibiscus is not producing many flowers, try relocating it into a sunnier area to encourage blooming. Although hibiscus plants prefer well-drained soil that partially dries out between waterings, be sure to water regularly to help the plant produce as many flowers as possible. It may even be necessary to water a hibiscus daily — or twice a day — during the hottest summer temperatures.



Hibiscus

Hibiscus plants are considered either hardy or tropical. Hardy hibiscus plants can survive in cooler climates where winter temperatures drop below zero. In these areas, the shrub will die back during the cold months but then reappear with warmer spring temperatures. Tropical hibiscus plants prefer climates here in North Florida’s planting zone 9 and areas further south. These heat-loving plants thrive in locations with average temperatures over 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

The hibiscus flower is a symbol of beauty, grace and happiness. The extract made from these blooms is known for therapeutic uses, including reducing blood pressure, detoxifying the body and strengthening healing skin. Tea made from hibiscus flowers can ease a sore throat or cough. Extracts from hibiscus blooms can also increase metabolism and are, therefore, sometimes used to aid

Photos provided by Kathy’s Creative Gardens & Nursery



Hibiscus bloom

weight loss. Finally, hibiscus is found as an ingredient in shampoos and conditioners due to chemicals in the blossoms that support healthy, shiny hair.

The bold colors of hibiscus flowers bring interest to any area of a landscape. These plants are useful as a focal point, as background plants or as an informal hedge. They are successful in both garden beds and containers. Add hibiscus plants to your outdoor living area to display an abundance of brightly colored blooms that attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds!

Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Hibiscus

Please email Kathy at kathys.creative.gardens@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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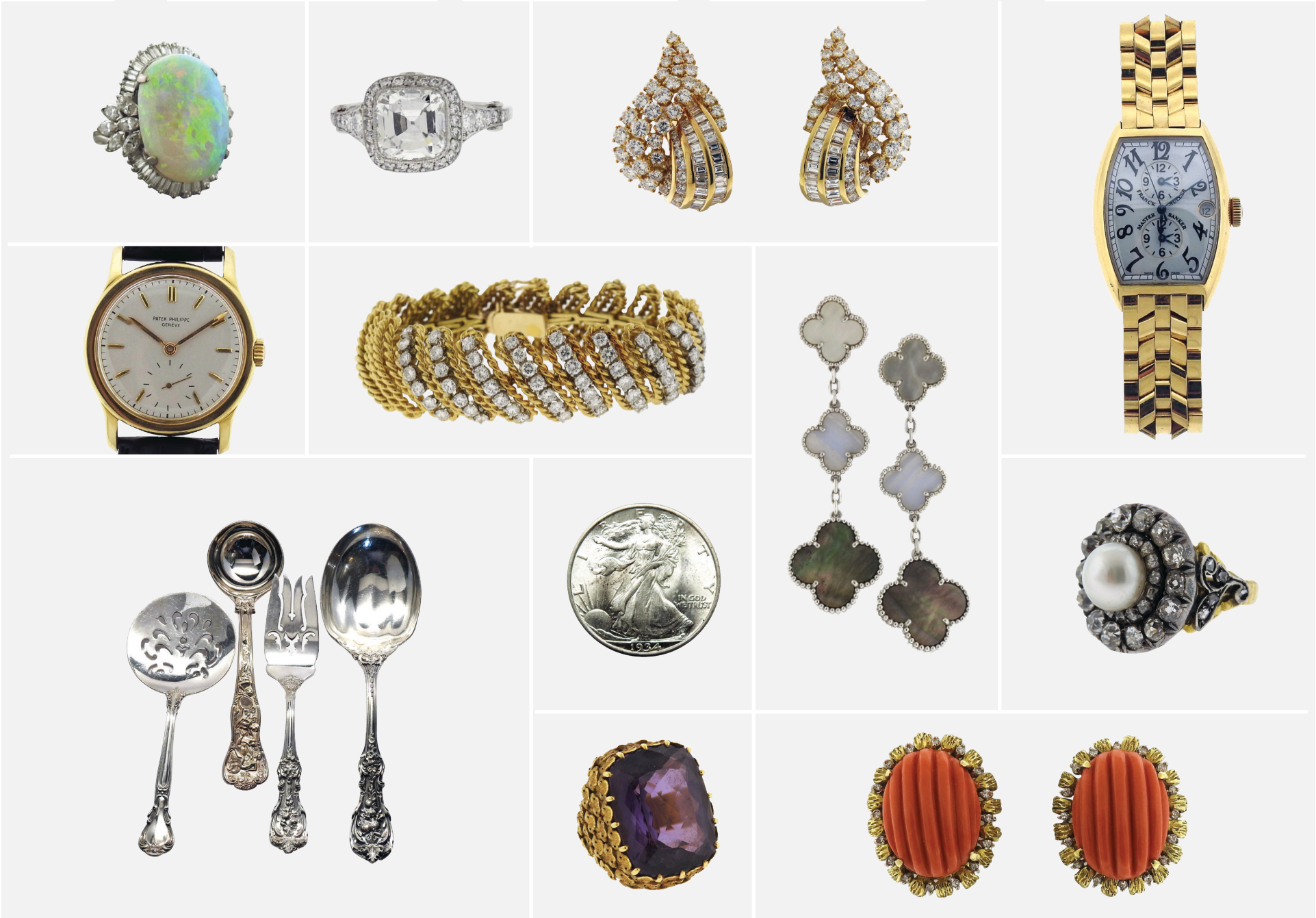


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Susan King is president and CEO of Feeding Northeast Florida, which has been a beneficiary of generosity by THE PLAYERS Championship.

Susan King



Photo provided by Feeding Northeast Florida

Feeding Northeast Florida President and CEO Susan King is seen near one of the nonprofit's trucks.

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me about Feeding Northeast Florida.

Feeding Northeast Florida is the Feeding America affiliate food bank here in Northeast and North Central Florida. We cover 12 counties. We go all the way to Levy County over on the Gulf Coast. And from Flagler up to Nassau over to Baker. There are a little over 8,300 square miles, the size of New Jersey!

We are, at our heart and soul, a logistics warehouse and distribution business. We are a fleet of about 25 refrigerated trucks. We have everything from semi-tractor trailers to 26-foot box trucks. And we literally are moving food from where it exists to where it needs to be, which is on the tables of families in need.

That is accomplished primarily with our agency partnerships and programs, which number over 490 in that 12-county area. And maybe something as big as a Sulzbacher or City Rescue Mission and something as small as a pantry in a church. Even school pantries that we operate in conjunction with the Duval County School System. So, everything in between.

We're the people that provide the food that gets distributed through all those

agencies that are frontline.

How do you manage all that?

I think you grow into it. I used to run BEAM, out at the Beach, for almost seven years. And we were distributing through our pantry operation a little over a million pounds a year. And as we grew to that point, I was just overwhelmed with: This is so much food! And we did 36 million pounds here last year.

But we're not operating pantries, distributing it. Although we do mobile pantries, and we do programming internally – nutrition programs and that kind of thing. But, we're just making it possible for other organizations to do the distributing. Which works really well, because they know the communities that they're serving. They know the cultural preferences. They know the ages and the demographics that they are serving.

So, it's a great partnership.

How does the food come to you?

About 65% of the food we distribute currently – and this model does change over time – it comes through retail donation. So, if you imagine that every grocery store has what potentially could be waste, and if they donate it early enough, we can

make it available for families. Because it's still perfectly good.

That said, we strictly adhere to the USDA's dating standard. So, while I might eat an expired can of green beans at home, we don't necessarily make those foods available to our pantries. So, we're a little stricter than we might personally be, but we're within the standards that the USDA sets.

So, most of it comes through the retail donations. Sometimes those are larger donations that come from manufacturers, but we pick up about 350 stores in our 12-county service area. Most of those require that they be picked up three days a week.

So, we also work with some of our larger agency partners to pick up the stores directly, rather than us sending a truck to Flagler to pick up Publix and deliver it down the street to an agency. We help build capacity in our agency partners by providing them coolers and freezers and storage. I think we have a fleet of about 12 refrigerated trailers, those pull-behind trailers that have generators on them, so we help enhance both their pantries and their transportation, so that they can directly pick up food.

Because if you think about it, if they

pick it up today, and they're just blocks away, not counties away, they can get that food safely on a family's table by the next day.

If we do it, a lot of time we're losing out to three days of life on that food. So, we try very hard to make it available directly to our agencies, even if we have to go pick it up and deliver it directly to the agency rather than bringing it back to our warehouse.

We also have funding through the USDA for some programs, in particular TEFAP [The Emergency Food Assistance Program], which is the emergency food program that's been around probably since the '40s. The old "block of cheese" program, we lovingly refer to it as. But it supports farmers in various commodities, and we get about somewhere between 10 and 12 million pounds a year that come through that program.

We also buy a lot of food directly from Florida farmers in a program called Farmers Feeding Florida. That is a state appropriation. And that is a wonderful way to support farmers. We pay them in what we call pick-and-pack-out fees. It's enough to compensate them and motivate



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SAYS to host Party for Prevention April 9

By Anthony Richards

April is recognized as child abuse prevention month nationally and St. Augustine Youth Services is doing its part to help continue to raise awareness to the local community by hosting the St. Johns County 2025 Party for

Prevention on April 9.

The organization wants the event to help kick off child abuse prevention month with an event that would get the entire community involved in a variety of ways.

The event will be free to the public

and the fair-style family-friendly event will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. at the St. Augustine Youth Services main campus located at 201 Simone Way in St. Augustine.

According to SAYS CEO Schuyler Siefker, 2014 was the first year the



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organization hosted the one-day event, now known as Party for Prevention, but prior to that Schuyler and SAYS staff engaged in a parade of events throughout the month of April to highlight child abuse awareness month.

Many of the ways they have helped create awareness was by creating press releases, doing radio commercials and holding speaking engagements at clubs, businesses and homes throughout the community. In many cases, Schuyler and her team would do about 28 events that month.

The idea behind the Party for Prevention came forth as a creation from the Florida Department of Children and Families, but various agencies host the parties for each county.

"We at SAYS host the St. Johns party and work with several partners on a committee to organize the event, and even more partners and providers participate as 'vendors' at the event on the day of," said Tim Decker, director of development at SAYS.

Some of the other community agencies and organizations taking part will include St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Fire Department, Epic, Family Integrity Program and many others.

There will be games to play and food available for those in attendance to purchase through a food truck that will be on site.

Parking will be available at the Southeast Branch Library with shuttles for transport to and from the event.

SAYS has provided critical mental health services to youth for more than 35 years and currently operates three community programs serving youth and young adults up to 25 years old, as well as residential therapeutic group homes for boys ages 6-17 who have experienced emotional trauma or abuse.



County water regulations promote conservation

By Anthony Richards

It is officially springtime and that means many residents working hard to make their yards look great and that means watering them.

However, St. Johns County reminds all residents that watering also comes with responsibility and that means following the regulations in place to make sure water is used wisely.

St. Johns County has watering restrictions in place that are designed to ensure the efficient use of water for landscape irrigation.

The restrictions allow enough water to establish and maintain healthy landscapes year-round without excess use coming into play.

The mandatory restrictions specify the times when watering may occur, the amount of water that may be applied, and the days when watering may occur for residential and nonresidential locations.

Depending on the time of year determines how the regulations fluctuate, including during Daylight Savings Time, which is the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November, when addresses ending in an odd number or homes with no address at all water on Wednesdays and Saturdays, while addresses ending in even numbers are assigned to water on Thursdays and Sundays.

Non-residential properties are designated to water on



Contributed photo

St. Johns County has watering restrictions in place that are designed to ensure the efficient use of water for landscape irrigation.

Tuesdays and Fridays.

Regardless of what time of year it is or the type of address, the county only permits watering when needed and never between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun and its heat is at its peak.

The 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. time period is a steadfast rule that must be applied even for non-landscape irrigation, such as vegetable gardens, playgrounds, football and soccer fields, agricultural crops and nursery plants.

Irrigation limitations apply to water withdrawn from

ground or surface water, from a private well or pump, or from a public or private utility.

Sprinklers and irrigation systems can be installed to help provide convenience for homeowners and help in the regulation of water by way of automatic monitoring.

However, the county also advises checking irrigation systems regularly for leaks and adjusting sprinklers to make sure only lawns are being watered and not driveways, sidewalks or roadways.

Installing a rain sensor on irrigation controllers can go a long way in helping monitor excess water usage by gathering a moisture reading of the yard and not activating the system while it is raining or following recent rainfall.

Although much of the focus can concentrate on outdoor water usage, indoor use is also an area that can affect whether water regulations are met.

According to the St. Johns County Utility Department, 14% of indoor usage is lost to leaks, which is why the department created the water usage customer portal, which is a tool where residents can view usage statistics, compare their usage against temperature and rainfall amounts, and receive custom usage alerts via email and text message if necessary.

A customer portal account can be created by going to www.sjcfl.us/track-water-usage and entering one's account number on their current water bill to get started.

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Ribault Garden Club plans Monopoly-themed Flower Show

By Shaun Ryan

All eyes will be on Marvin Gardens when the Ribault Garden Club presents its big Flower Show with a Monopoly board game theme April 25 and 26.

The event is open to the public and admission is free.

Visitors will see displays of unique and original floral designs, horticulture, botanical arts and educational/youth exhibits.

The Design Division is a creative showcase based on the Monopoly theme. These distinctive museum-quality designs will showcase local talent.

The Horticulture Division will exhibit the best plants in different categories.

The Botanical Arts Division will celebrate creativity. Visitors may encounter fairy gardens, dried flowers, wearable art and photography.

The Educational/Youth Division encourages gardening and creativity at a

young age.

The show will be held 1-4 p.m. Friday, April 25, and 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at the Ribault Garden Club, 705 Second Ave. North, Jacksonville Beach.

The show's chairs are Carolyn Stevens and Amy Wilson.

This is a National Garden Clubs Inc. (NGC) Standard Flower Show. Designs are submitted by members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

Members of Ribault Garden Club live in the Beaches area, Nocatee, west of the Intracoastal Waterway and throughout Florida. The club is a member of NGC, Deep South Garden Clubs Inc. and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc., District IV.

For more information about the club, go to facebook.com/p/Ribault-Garden-Club-100063693694163, phone 904-246-4641 or email ribaultgc@gmail.com.

Florida's oldest fair features famous Minorcan clam chowder

The 142nd annual St. Ambrose Fair will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church and grounds, 6070 Church Road, Elkton, from State Road 207.

This is Florida's oldest fair — right here in St. Johns County. St. Ambrose Catholic Church celebrated 150 years in February.

Catholic Mass was first celebrated with settlers in a barn on this site in the early 1800s. In 1875, St. Ambrose Parish was established when a small wood frame church was built by the Rev. Fr. Stephen Langlade, a skilled carpenter from France. By 1907, he had also built a rectory, school, convent and a larger church.

The most popular item at the fair is

the Minorcan clam chowder, prepared by Mary Ellen Masters and her chowder crew, which features the famous Datil pepper and a recipe that has been passed down from generation to generation.

The crew makes 190 gallons and it all sells out every time. March is Menorcan Heritage Month in St. Augustine and St. Johns County. Masters' ancestors were part of the Menorcan exodus in 1777, which escaped from a failed plantation as endured servants, and made their way on foot to St. Augustine.

The Menorcanans are credited with bringing the datil pepper to St. Augustine — a spicy pepper that is part of the Minorcan clam chowder recipe and other dishes that



Contributed photos

remain on menus today.

Masters was featured in October 2024 on the popular website, The Bitter Southerner, in a blog called "Clam South." The writer, Caroline Hatchett, also a food

editor with The New York Times, will be at the festival this year to document the Minorcan clam chowder process.

Other menu items at the fair will include pulled pork dinners, French fries, hot dogs and hamburgers, cheeseburgers, boiled peanuts, homemade desserts, ice cream, soda, water and beer. An ATM will be on site. Admission is free.

Also at the event: Live music by local bands Money for Nothing, hay rides, antique cars by the St. Augustine Cruisers, children's games, tours of the historic church, a bake sale, a garage sale, a 50/50 drawing and silent auction.

Free parking on site. Arrive early to get in the chowder line!



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King

Continued from 6

them to not plow under the food. I will tell you that I've never met a farmer that wasn't nearly in tears when they had to plow under a field that they had grown.

It's a great program supported in the state budget. And that provides a couple million pounds a year of fresh, Florida-grown produce.

And then, we'll have various other programs. We write a lot of grants for food purchases, for the things that don't come through the recovery system. Pantries very much want to be able to provide a broad array of product for the people that they're serving. So, a lot of time, there's only so much peanut butter that gets donated in the world, but there's always a demand for peanut butter. So, we buy tractor trailer loads of peanut butter.

Everything's in very large quantities.

How can people help out?

Our website is probably the best place, although we're getting ready to launch a brand new one, which will be so much better than our existing one.

You can volunteer with us, which is wonderful. We had over 16,000 volunteers last year, more than 60,000 volunteer hours. And that can be an individual who goes on the website and signs up for a shift and they come to our warehouse or to one of our distributions.

At the warehouse, you're typically going to be sorting food that's donated, repacking food -- sometimes the produce that we get is in really huge pallet sizes, so we repackage those bulk bins of potatoes into a size that a family can use. That's a great way to do it.

If you volunteer at a mobile pantry, you have direct client contact, because you're helping them get food at a particular site. That's always a wonderful experience.

And we have a few other roles where people can volunteer. I always say I can do way more with a dollar than somebody can at a grocery store, so financial support is incredibly important. We don't have revenue streams, so that's always important.

So, volunteering, donating, advocating

are really important.

How does Feeding Northeast Florida benefit from THE PLAYERS?

THE PLAYERS has been a supporter of the food bank since we started this. We are the youngest food bank in the Feeding America network. We just celebrated our 10th anniversary. Most food banks are between 40 and 50 years old and started as pantries and grew into food bank operations and then became a part of Feeding America.

We stood up this food bank and I was a founding board member when a predecessor food bank lost their contract with Feeding America and we found ourselves as a community that did not have a food bank -- and clearly all of the donated products that goes along with that.

So, along with local philanthropy and some help from Feeding America, we stood up this food bank 10 years ago. And since the beginning, THE PLAYERS has been a supporter of the food bank. We have benefitted from the tournament when there's been leftover food.

When COVID first hit, and you'll remember March 13 of 2020 when THE PLAYERS canceled the tournament, that moment for us was a light switch. I got a call. I'm sure that Billy (Horschel) had made the recommendation. I'm certain of it. And they asked if we would take all of the food that was going to be served at the clubhouse that weekend. And I, of course, said yes and went the next morning, and Billy and his wife Brittany were there along with the kitchen staff and the chefs and everybody who loaded kind of fire-style into one of our small trucks and then, over the next 36 hours, we had three-and-a-half tractor trailer loads of food delivered to our warehouse.

That was just the tip of the iceberg. It was unbelievable. The amount of food, the quality of food, but it was all in large catering size. Imagine a whole salmon marinating! Just big, big, big pans. And pallet after pallet after pallet of it.

So, we triaged at our warehouse. We got everything sealed and wrapped and into our freezers that we could, and the next day, I got a call from John Inseta, who owns the Black Sheep Restaurant Group, and he shared that he was going to have to

lay off 150 of his employees that week.

So, we conjured up a plan where his father, who had a foundation, would send us -- because we were a 501(c)3 -- a donation and we launched what we eventually called Project Share, which was a partnership with restaurants that were technically closed because of the pandemic. We hired their restaurant staff to produce meals for us using the food that initially came from THE PLAYERS.

Within three weeks' time, we had nine restaurants on board and Florida Blue not only let us use their commercial kitchens, but they continued to pay their more than 40 food service employees to produce meals for us.

So, you can imagine it was kind of "Chopped" on steroids. The kitchens didn't know what they were going to be getting. But we have a couple of chefs who are dietitians on our staff, and they would figure out what to send to create balanced, healthy meals. But it was up to the restaurant or Florida Blue to come up with what that was.

At the end of 11 months, we had produced over 650,000 meals, which were distributed primarily to low-income senior housing, like Cathedral Towers downtown, Pablo Towers out at the Beach.

It was life-changing. It was transformational for our organization, and I think for the community that we serve, because we realized that: I can't just give somebody an eggplant or a beautiful fresh cabbage and then necessarily be able to cook that, to prepare it, for it to be appropriate for the family. But if you can support people with a healthy prepared meal, maybe in addition to what they cook themselves, you have just made enormous progress in helping to solve the food insecurity issue.

We just moved into a new facility back in June of last year and we are putting in a large commercial kitchen to continue this as part of the work that we do. It's prepared meals and prepped meals in addition to the distribution of products.

I give credit to THE PLAYERS. You know, we launched something extraordinarily important and, like I said, transformational through their help. Just with them making that call that said, "Will you take this?" And us collectively figuring out what to do with it.

So, they have been really amazing partners in this work and they continue to be.

That Sunday morning that would have been the final day of THE PLAYERS, we had a lot of their leadership and the chefs and they came and we did distributions at the homeless shelters downtown. There were hundreds of sandwiches and prepped stuff that couldn't go into a freezer. So, they came and handed out sandwiches and food and drink.

You know, we all felt so lost [during COVID], but it gave everybody collectively a kind of focus for a time. It was just such an important thing, and I credit them for even thinking about others when they were having to cancel a tournament.

Let me ask a little bit about you. Have you lived in Northeast Florida long?

I have lived in Atlantic Beach for almost 40 years. I transferred from New Orleans office of KPMG -- I'm a CPA by trade -- and met my now-husband of 39 years a couple of weeks after I got here, not really ever intending to stay in Jacksonville. But here I am!

I love Jacksonville. I raised two kids here. It's been a great life. I can't imagine living anywhere else.

What do you like best about this area?

Well, I've always lived at the beach. I would have to say that. But it's also such a wonderful sense of community. I love watching the city start to grow; it's taken a little bit longer than anyone would have hoped. But it's just a friendly, welcoming place, and people do good.

And it's been a great place to work in the nonprofit sector. It's a very collaborative space. The nonprofits work together really well. We're all trying to solve problems and not be siloed.

Anything else?

You know, I want to emphasize how important THE PLAYERS is to our community in what they do. And sometimes, they're really quiet about it. They're so supportive.

I will also share that one of my past board chairs, who's still a board member for us -- Len Brown -- is on their staff and has just been a staunch supporter of our organization.

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AdventHealth breaks ground for new ER

By Shaun Ryan

AdventHealth, a national nonprofit health care system with two hospitals in nearby Flagler County, broke ground Tuesday, March 25, on a 12-bed off-site emergency department in south-central St. Johns County.

The new facility will be located off State Road 207 near the intersection with Wildwood Drive and is projected to open in the second quarter of 2026. Plans for the project began about a year ago.

“Today is a milestone moment, not just for AdventHealth but for our St. Johns County community,” said David Weis, president and CEO for AdventHealth Flagler, St. Johns and Volusia counties.

He added that “with a mission rooted in faith and a culture that prioritizes compassion, we’re not just building an emergency room here. We’re building a partnership with this community. Everything that we do, every decision that we make is about improving the health of the communities we serve.”

He said this project was “just the beginning.” On Feb. 5, AdventHealth acquired 21.5 acres in the World Commerce Center, located mid-county near I-95, for \$13.14 million. Weis suggested that more details on that project would be released soon.

“This new emergency department will provide expert, immediate care when minutes matter the most,” said Denyse Bales-Chubb, president and CEO for AdventHealth Palm Coast and the Flagler/St. Johns market. “But just as important,



Image provided by AdventHealth

This artist rendering shows what the new ER will look like when finished.

it will connect patients seamlessly to follow-up care, ensuring that they have the support they need beyond the ER.”

She said the facility would be open 24/7, 365 days a year. Licensed as an emergency department under the hospital, it will have board-certified emergency room physicians and RNs certified in emergency care. It will also have lab and imaging onsite.

“We’re excited about this opportunity to grow further north,” Bales-Chubb said. “We believe that St. Johns County is a community that is looking for a different type of health care, and we believe that AdventHealth provides that. It’s whole-person care — taking care of mind, body and spirit.”

AdventHealth is one of the largest faith-based systems in the United States.

It cares for nearly 9 million patients each year across the nine states that it serves. It has more than 100,000 “team members” nationwide, 56,000 of whom live in Florida.

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is an abridged version of the article. To read the full text, go to pontevedrarecorder.com.

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Walk to benefit Hubbard House

Hubbard House will conduct its 16th annual Stand Up & Stride Domestic Violence Awareness Walk on Saturday, March 29.

About 1,500 people are expected to attend this event, helping to raise awareness of Hubbard House’s life-saving, life-changing shelter and services, show support for survivors and celebrate the community’s longstanding support of the vision to see “every relationship violence-free.”

The walk features a beautiful route over the Main Street Bridge, games and prizes for the kids and unique opportunities for attendees to connect to the impact of Hubbard House. This year, the walk will be capped off by a performance from the Jacksonville-based singer/songwriter duo The Johns Twins.

As the certified domestic violence center serving Duval and Baker counties, Hubbard House provides free, confidential support for survivors of domestic violence and their families. Life-saving, life-changing services include emergency shelter, children’s services, housing help, counseling and more. Hubbard House’s 24/7 Hotline is 904-354-3114.

In its 48-year history, Hubbard House has served nearly 160,000 survivors of domestic violence and children each year,



The Stand Up & Stride Domestic Violence Awareness Walk benefits the mission of Hubbard House.

including 4,574 last fiscal year.

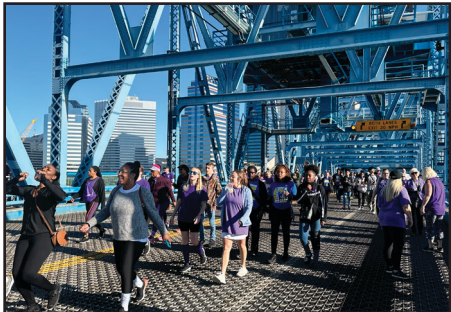
The event opens and family-friendly games begin at 8 a.m. On-stage remarks will be held at 8:50 a.m., including top fundraiser recognition. The walk begins at 9 a.m.

There will be one-mile and full-route options that travel over the Main Street Bridge.

Meet at 330 E. Bay St. (former Duval County Courthouse site). Register to attend, form a team and donate at hubbard-housewalk.com

Other highlights include:

- Kid Zone with games, prizes, balloons and face painting
- Impact Zone commemorating the lives saved by Hubbard House
- Pre-walk/post-walk classes with



Contributed photos

Studio Jear

- First Coast Highlanders leading the start of the walk
- DJ Jim West of West Productions energizing the crowd
- BREW Five Points selling breakfast items and coffee/espresso
- Walk T-shirts and Hubbard House hats for sale

While the event is free to attend, there are incentives for fundraising:

- Raise/donate the cost of a night of shelter and services for a survivor (\$75) and get a free event T-shirt (while supplies last).
- Raise/donate \$250 and be entered in a drawing for prizes, including restaurant gift cards, tickets to local attractions and more.
- Top fundraising teams and individuals will be recognized on stage before the start of the walk.

Hubbard House is the full-service certified domestic violence center providing emergency shelter and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence and their families in Duval and Baker counties in Northeast Florida. Free, confidential support is available 24/7 through Hubbard House’s Hotline at 904-354-3114 and Textline at 904-210-3698.

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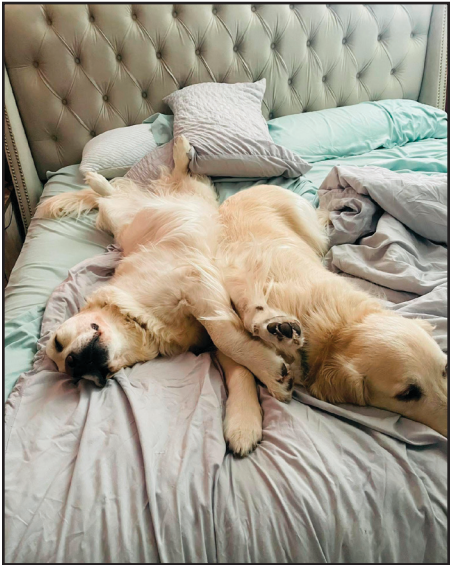
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Jennifer English has always been an avid animal lover.



Personalized thank you bags from Chez Charlotte



Cozy morning snuggles are part of the package deal.

Chez Charlotte: personalized pet care with a homey touch

By Holly Tishfield

Traveling out of town and leaving your furry friend behind can feel like a daunting decision, but Jennifer English, founder and owner of Chez Charlotte pet care, wants her customers to know that their pets will be treated like family while in her care. A “home away from home,” as she refers to it.

“My thought process was that if I had to leave my dog, Charlotte, I’d much rather her be with someone who I know

is going to treat her like a family member,” English said.

While Chez Charlotte is still building its roster of clientele, only beginning about a year ago, English is spreading the word about her personalized pet care by handing out business cards and encouraging people to visit the Chez Charlotte business page on Facebook.

Chez Charlotte is a pet care service that differs from traditional boarding and pet sitting experiences at big facilities. The business is well known in the St. Johns and Duval County areas for private boarding, pet sitting, walks and drop-in visits, medical drop-ins and its newest doggy-day-out service.

When it comes to boarding, clients have the option of leaving their dog(s) with English — who will provide lodging in her own home among mountains of pillows, blankets and dog toys — or opting for a sitter to stay with your animals in your own home.

The business is happy to provide care for both dogs and cats, but English says

they wouldn’t opt out of caring for other beloved animal species, either.

Chez Charlotte adds a thoughtful touch by creating personalized thank-you bags for clients who book stays longer than seven days. Each bag is carefully curated with treats and goodies for both pups and their humans, reflecting the business’s commitment to making every guest feel special and appreciated.

CHEZ continues on Page 15

Fundraising Goal: \$1,000,000



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AND now that she is way past retirement and still working, I think it's time we all dig **DEEP** into our - should I say it?? - Louis Vuitton's and show her how much we appreciated her for all these years. I have personally known her for twenty years. She is **ONE OF A KIND!** Let's send her on her way to enjoy her **GOLDEN YEARS** with a *really, really nice* retirement.



Don't be stingy! After all she has probably waited on you for 15-20 years!

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GUEST COLUMN

Community support key to Jacksonville Humane Society mission

By Erin Gordon

For nearly 140 years, the Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) has been a pillar in Northeast Florida, dedicated to saving and improving the lives of homeless dogs and cats. Founded in 1885, JHS has remained an independent, local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, meaning it is not a chapter of any national animal welfare group. Instead, JHS operates solely through the generosity of the community, relying on donors and supporters to continue its lifesaving work.

Each year, JHS welcomes more than 8,500 dogs and cats through its doors, providing them with shelter, medical care and the opportunity to find new, loving homes. The organization is committed to providing care, comfort and compassion to animals in need while engaging the hearts, hands and minds of our commu-

nity to end the killing of abandoned and orphaned shelter animals.

Thanks to the support of the Jacksonville community, thousands of families find their new best friend each year and Jacksonville remains an exemplary model for shelters nationwide.

Beyond adoptions, JHS offers a variety of programs designed to support both pets and people.

The Pet Help Center provides essential resources for struggling families, including pet food assistance, behavioral guidance and access to veterinary care. JHS also addresses critical gaps in pet health care by offering free vaccines in areas known as veterinary deserts —regions where residents have limited or no access to any veterinary services. By bringing preventative care directly to those in need, JHS helps keep pets healthy and in

their homes.

JHS also recognizes the importance of supporting people alongside pets. The organization’s career development program for veterans, called Troops and Tails, provides hands-on training and job opportunities in animal care, helping former service members transition into fulfilling careers. This initiative not only benefits veterans but also enhances the quality of care provided to animals at JHS.

While JHS provides numerous lifesaving services, its ability to continue this work depends on community support.

One of the best ways to make a lasting impact is by becoming a monthly sustainer. Monthly sustainers are donors who contribute a set amount each month, ensuring that JHS can provide emergency medical care to animals in crisis. These dedicated supporters make it possible for

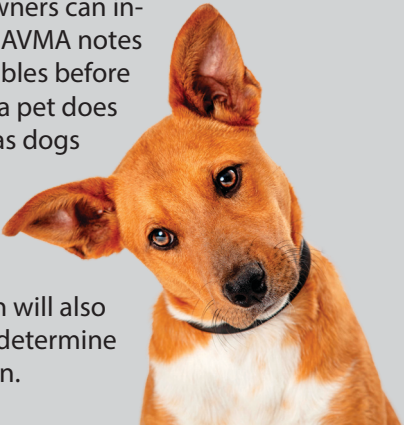
JHS to act quickly when an animal needs immediate medical intervention, helping to save lives and give pets a second chance.

Becoming a monthly sustainer is simple. Anyone interested in making a difference can go to jaxhumane.org/donate or call 904-493-4566 to sign up. No matter the size of the contribution, every dollar helps provide food, shelter and medical care to the animals who need it most.

The Jacksonville Humane Society has served the community for more than a century, and with continued support, it will remain a beacon of hope for homeless pets for years to come. Whether through adoption, donations or volunteer work, every effort makes a difference in the lives of Jacksonville’s animals. Join JHS in its mission and be a part of this lifesaving legacy.

Did You Know?

The American Veterinary Medical Association notes that the Lyme disease vaccine is not right for every dog. The AVMA notes that between 5 and 10 percent of dogs infected with Lyme disease develop signs of illness, but thousands of cases are still reported each year. Many dogs are sufficiently protected against Lyme disease by tick-prevention products recommended by veterinarians, who can help dog owners pick the right products for their pets. During these discussions, pet owners can inquire about the Lyme disease vaccine. The AVMA notes that veterinarians consider a range of variables before recommending the vaccine or suggesting a pet does not need it. Such factors include location, as dogs that live and spend time outdoors in areas with high tick populations may be prime candidates for vaccination. The pet’s lifestyle, including how much time it spends outdoors in grassy areas, and overall health will also be considered as veterinarians attempt to determine if the dog needs a Lyme disease vaccination.



Chez

Continued from 14

The pet care business offers plenty of exercise, snuggles and regular photo updates, which English shares with pet parents via text for added peace of mind.

“I think people are happy with what we provide,” English said, referring to the 100% positive review rate the business has on Facebook. “It’s nice to know that they’re happy and they feel safe to leave their pets with us. It really makes my heart smile and makes me feel like I’m doing something right.”

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Recovery and relaxation made easy at HydroLight Lounge

By Holly Tishfield

Contributed photos

Perhaps now more than ever, we’re focused on opportunities to not only improve our mental wellbeing, but our physical wellbeing, too.

This can come in the form of diet changes or fitness routines, but it can also come in the form of recovery and taking care of our bodies when it’s needed.

HydroLight Lounge in Ponte Vedra is all about the belief that the easiest wellness routines to adopt are always the most enjoyable, offering state-of-the-art water and light therapy treatments in private lounges.

Besides colon hydrotherapy, one of the business’s most popular water-based therapy options, the lounge also offers cold plunges and contrast therapy.

Contrast therapy, although only recently taking off in popularity, offers clients an opportunity to alternate between hot and cold treatments to promote recovery and alleviate pain. Clients can spend a period in a private sauna followed by a dip in a cold plunge pool, where the contrasting temperatures improve circulation, reduce inflammation and accelerate healing.

HydroLight Lounge also specializes in light-based treatments, such as red-light therapy, light therapy and infrared saunas

During red-light therapy, the body is exposed to red and near-infrared lights that stimulate cellular function and enhance various health benefits such as skin health, muscle recovery and performance, joint pain, inflammation, improved sleep and hair growth.

HydroLight Lounge offers a full-body experience where clients spend 20-minute sessions absorbing the red light benefits and can go about their day once the



A contrast therapy room.



One of HydroLight Lounge's infrared saunas

session is complete.

“Some people come in looking for a tool to help with relief,” said Shannon Engel, owner of HydroLight Lounge. “While other people just have a new outlook on health and wellness, and they want to add these services to their daily routine.”

HydroLight Lounge’s services are meant for clients of all ages from all walks of life, from the major NFL athletes to the everyday individual.

Learn more about HydroLight Lounge by visiting www.hydrolightlounge.com or call 904-834-2763.



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GUEST COLUMN

Two decades of Momentum: A journey of wellness in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Marie Merritt, founder

Twenty years ago, I embarked on a journey filled with passion and dedication, and Momentum Fit was born. It sprang from a simple yet profound dream: to empower individuals to embrace healthier, more fulfilling lives. In 2005, it was just me, a modest studio and my unwavering belief in the transformative power of fitness training. My vision was crystal clear: to create a space where everyone felt welcome to move, challenge themselves and discover the joy of physical well-being.

Health and fitness begin from the inside. It's not just about lifting weights or running miles; it's about cultivating sustainable habits that nourish the body and mind. This philosophy, which guided me then, remains the cornerstone of Momentum Fit today. I've always believed that training and health coaching are the essential tools individuals need to thrive, not just survive.

Over the past two decades, Momentum Fit has transformed from a solo venture into a thriving team of 15 dedi-



Contributed photo

Marie Merritt, founder of Momentum Fit

cated professionals. Our commitment to the health of our community has fueled our growth.

Alongside training, we've expanded our services to include massage therapy and active release techniques, addressing a range of physical limitations.

As a National Board Certified Health and Wellness Coach, I'm dedicated to helping individuals navigate behavioral changes for lasting wellness. We

embrace fitness for all ages, supporting everyone from youth to seniors. Addi-

MOMENTUM continues on Page 18



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Momentum

Continued from 17

tionally, we cater to athletes at every level, providing the strength and conditioning necessary for success. Our goal is to serve as a comprehensive resource for the entire community.

The past 20 years in Ponte Vedra Beach have been rewarding. We've witnessed countless transformations, helping individuals reclaim their mobility, reduce pain and rediscover the joy of living. Our team is deeply committed to empowering our clients to move freely, meet life's demands confidently and pursue their passions without limitations.

I firmly believe that exercise and training are not merely activities; they are powerful tools that enable us to rise above the everyday and embrace life's challenges, both planned and unexpected. We unlock a world of freedom and opportunity when we prioritize strength and mobility. I am immensely grateful to this incredible community for the past 20 years. Your trust and support have been the bedrock of our success. I eagerly anticipate the next 20 years, continuing to serve and foster a culture of health and wellness for generations to come.

GUEST COLUMN

The importance of proper exercise dosing



By Dr. Chris Kopp

It's springtime! Warmer weather usually means an increase in activity and maybe an opportunity to tackle some of those new year goals and resolutions that we haven't gotten to yet. Walking is generally perfect to ramp up our activ-

ity level, but we should not ignore the benefits of strength training. Some tend to look to their local gyms as a place to exercise. But how do we decide where to begin? What machines? How much weight? How many repetitions? How often? Of course, there are sometimes trusted fitness professionals at the gyms who can assist. Others will look on the internet and exercise videos to help. These can be a bit more structured and informative. The issue with this option is the lack of interaction between instructor and participant. Are goals discussed? Is it tailored to meet the individual's specific needs? Are past or current medical conditions taken into consideration? One of the patients I treat for lower back pain relies on online videos for her fitness and exercise but consistently comes in with issues related to some of the exercises she is trying to do. I frequently have her perform her routine with me correcting her form. I also have given her instructions on the purpose of different exercises and what the dosage should be based on

the desired effect.

Exercise dosage is not something most folks consider. The general tendency is to use the old and true concept of three sets of 10. However, this is not the best strategy — again, it is not specific for a purpose. As a doctor of physical therapy, exercise dosing has become a crucial area of knowledge for me, not just for my patients but also the students and peers that I teach or mentor. Medical exercise therapy is a concept introduced in the 1950s by Norwegian Physiotherapist Oddvar Holten through which he created a model of exercise intensity based on a specific number of repetitions called the Holten Curve. The Holten Curve gives instruction on the number of repetitions of a given weight that produces fatigue and the functional quality targeted. For instance, if one wants to work on power, five repetitions to fatigue, general strength would be 10-15 repetitions to fatigue (hence the three sets of 10). Endur-

EXERCISE continues on Page 31

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After Hours at THE PLAYERS 2025

Photos provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



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March 2025



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Castillo de San Marcos becomes first National Park area to earn CAC designation

St. Augustine's Castillo de San Marcos National Monument has been awarded Certified Autism Center designation by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES), making it the first national park area to earn CAC status.

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, along with the Castillo and IBCCES, held a ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 15, to acknowledge and celebrate this monumental achievement. Staff from the Chamber and the Castillo, as well as officials from St. Johns County and City of St. Augustine and representatives from other certified businesses, were in attendance to mark the certification.

Since 2023, the Chamber has led an initiative to achieve Certified Autism Destination status for St. Johns County, ensuring that the area offers multiple certified options for entertainment, recreation and lodging.

The Chamber manages a county matching grant to support certification for St. Johns County tourism and hospitality businesses through IBCCES. The certification signifies a commitment to inclusivity for autistic and sensory-sensitive individuals and their families.

"This certification is a monumental step forward in the movement to designate St. Johns County as a Certified Autism Destination, and I hope it will be a spark for more National Park Service sites around Florida and around the country to pursue certification," said Isabelle Renault, president and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "Having a National Park Service area earn the



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
Members of other St. Johns County CAC businesses, along with Myron Pincomb of IBCCES and Isabelle Renault of the St. Johns County Chamber, present the Castillo's certification to Kristina Bransford and Gordie Wilson of the National Park Service.

designation is a testament to the importance of certification and of the program. Our hope is that this step will inspire other St. Johns County attractions to seek certification as well to ensure our community is a welcoming place for all visitors."

Autism affects one in 36 children in the United States, and estimates suggest about 20% of the population is affected by sensory processing sensitivity. As a result, it has become increasingly vital to equip businesses and organizations with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively engage and assist these individuals. The Certified Autism Center designation marks a significant step

St. Johns County Certified Autism Centers

- City of St. Augustine Visitor Information Center
- First Coast Cultural Center
- Old Town Trolley Tours and associated attractions
- Ponte Vedra Visitor Information Center
- Sawgrass Marriott
- St. Augustine Sailing
- St. Johns County Cultural Council
- St. Johns County Parks & Recreation
- St. Johns County Visitors and Convention Bureau

Learn more about certification and apply for the matching grant at sjcchamber.com/autism-certification-matching-grant/.

forward for the larger movement.

As the first national park area to earn the designation, Castillo de San Marcos staff completed a specialized training and certification process, equipping them with resources and best practices to assist visitors. IBCCES also conducted an onsite review to create sensory guides and offer additional recommendations to improve the visitor experience.

"Park staff are committed to the National Park Service's vision to provide amazing, meaningful experiences for everyone who visits these national treasures," said Gordie Wilson, superintendent of the Castillo and Fort Matanzas sites. "This initial step helps us rise to the challenge of creating a fun, equitable and accessible environment where visitors thrive."

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Aliyah Meyer



Lacy Danielson



Katrina Fundora

Chamber adds new staff members

The Chamber has recently added to its staff, with new team members in economic development, membership and marketing.

Aliyah Meyer is the Chamber's economic development coordinator. She is a 2024 graduate of Flagler College, earning a bachelor's degree in economics. She is applying her skills through research and advocacy work, most recently on the Chamber's Attainable Housing efforts.

Katrina Fundora joined the Chamber staff in January as the member engagement manager. She previously worked at

Hyatt Place St. Augustine/Vilano Beach as a group sales coordinator and is using her knowledge of St. Johns County to connect with Chamber members and help them maximize their membership.

Lacy Danielson joined the Chamber staff as the communications and tourism development specialist and is the newest member of the team. She will support the Chamber's tourism initiatives, including the Ponte Vedra Visitor Information Center, as well as the overall marketing and communications efforts.

Chamber Foundation to hold annual fundraiser gala

The St. Johns County Chamber Foundation will hold its annual fundraiser gala on Thursday, April 3, at the Tringali Barn in St. Augustine.

The Denim & Diamonds 2025 Gala will bring together the community to raise funds to support the foundation's mission to serve the entire community and promote growth through leadership opportunities, workforce education and economic development programs.

The foundation's cornerstone program, Leadership St. Johns, is celebrating its 25th year, and some members of this year's class benefitted from scholarships made possible through last year's Foundation Kickoff fundraiser. This year's event will raise additional funds to expand scholarship opportunities and to work toward establishing a disaster relief fund for local businesses.

At the event, attendees can bid on a variety of items in silent and live auctions, including a stay in Italy, memorabilia from the Jacksonville Jaguars, gift baskets from local businesses and much more. Businesses or individuals interested in donating auction items can do so by contacting the Chamber Foundation



Photo provided by Tringali Barn at Heritage Farms

The St. Johns County Chamber Foundation's Denim & Diamonds 2025 Gala will be held Thursday, April 3, at Tringali Barn in St. Augustine.

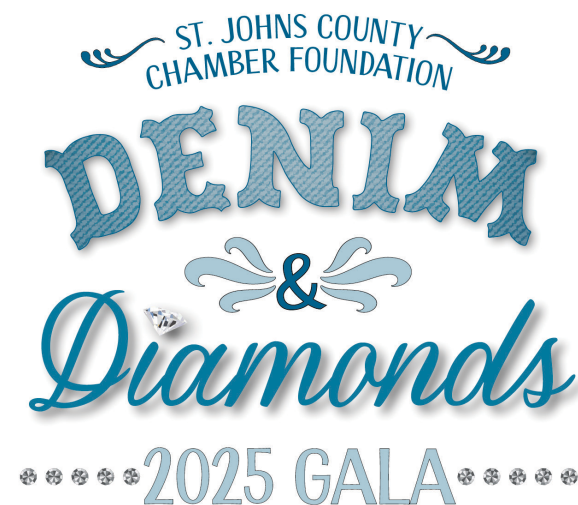
at 904-829-5681 or info@sjcchamberfoundation.org. Sponsorships are also available.

The event will also feature dinner, drinks, a photo booth, entertainment and of course many networking opportunities.

The SJC Chamber Foundation was established in 2023 to extend the Chamber's commitment to strengthening the community through leadership, education and economic development. Its mission is to drive lasting impact by provid-

ing scholarships for Leadership St. Johns, a premier leadership development program, fostering a skilled local workforce, and establishing an emergency fund for businesses facing natural disasters or economic challenges.

The foundation creates opportunities for growth by supporting professional leadership, workforce education and disaster recovery initiatives, ultimately benefiting individuals and businesses throughout the county.



SJC Chamber Foundation Denim & Diamonds Gala

Date: Thursday, April 3

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Tringali Barn, St. Augustine

Tickets: \$100 each or \$750 table of eight; available at bit.ly/foundation_gala_2025

To donate, sponsor or buy tickets, or for more information, contact the foundation at 904-829-5681 or info@sjcchamberfoundation.org.

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Photo credit: First Coast Headshots for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Golf Classic returns for 2025

The St. Johns County Chamber will host its annual Golf Classic on Monday, May 5, at Stillwater Golf and Country Club in St. Johns.

Swing into action with a day of networking, friendly competition and supporting local businesses while experiencing the brand-new Stillwater course and clubhouse. This year, all golfers can take a chance at a Hole in One Contest to win a 2025 Hyundai Santa Fe XRT courtesy of Hyundai of St. Augustine.

The golf tournament serves as a primary fundraiser for the Chamber to support the work as the premier advocacy organization for the St. Johns County business community.



The event starts with check-in from 8 to 9 a.m. and a 9 a.m. tee time. An awards luncheon will follow. Registration is open at bit.ly/sjcchamber_golf2025; special early bird pricing is available through April 1.



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber Radio Hour is hosted by Ed Dwyer, left, of Dwyer Advisory. The first show aired at the beginning of March and featured updates from the Chamber’s Senior Vice President of Economic Development & Public Policy Scott Maynard and County Commissioner Sarah Arnold.

Chamber launches monthly radio show on WSOS

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce has launched a monthly radio show on WSOS 103.9.

The Chamber Radio Hour airs the first Saturday of each month and is hosted by Ed Dwyer of Dwyer Advisory. Listeners can join the Chamber team and special guests as they discuss topics important to St. Johns County businesses, share updates about what the Chamber is doing, highlight Chamber members and more.

The inaugural episode of the show featured a look at the Chamber’s programs and events, an update on the Florida Black History Museum and

the economic impact of THE PLAYERS Championship in the area with guests Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce; Scott Maynard, senior VP of economic development and public policy, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce; Aliyah Meyer, economic development coordinator, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce; Sarah Arnold, county commissioner, District 2.

The community can listen live on 103.9 FM the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m., or go to sjcchamber.com/radio to listen to past episodes.

Social Society hosts After Hours



Photos by Susan Griffin

The Social Society hosted a Chamber After Hours on Jan. 29. Owner Seri Kertzner has created a fun and creative space where customers will find all of the supplies needed to throw a fabulous party, including a balloon bar with delivery options, trendy gift ideas and stunning pieces for everyday entertaining.

Vista Wellness ribbon cutting and After Hours



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Vista Wellness & Integrative Health held both a ribbon cutting ceremony and Chamber After Hours event on Feb. 19. As a committed health care provider, Vista Wellness & Integrative Health supports patients’ health and wellness goals through safe, sustainable and medically supervised approaches.

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Chamber presents legislative priorities to county's legislative delegation

Orv Dothage, chair of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, recently presented the 2025 Legislative Priorities for the Chamber to our legislative delegation. The event was chaired by newly elected state Rep. Kim Kendall and included Sen. Tom Leek, Rep. Judson Sapp and Rep. Sam Greco. This annual hearing allows local residents and officials to request legislation or state funding and share their opinions on matters of state concern ahead of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

The Chamber's priorities focus on economic development, attainable housing, infrastructure and transportation, and tourism.

In addressing the need for additional

Chamber advocacy & public policy

The Chamber's advocacy agendas are available online at sjcchamber.com/advocacy. Read regular updates on the state legislative priorities at bit.ly/sjc-chamber-news.

attainable housing support, Dothage said, "Please consider supporting legislation to incentivize builders and developers further to increase their production of 'attainable housing' for our county's essential workers such as teachers, public safety, health care, tourism/hospitality and manufacturing employees. Without the ability to offer attainable housing

in St. Johns County, these workers are forced to commute from as far away as Palatka, Jacksonville and Daytona, where housing is cheaper, clogging up our roads and battering our transportation infrastructure."

Dothage also pointed out the need for more funding to support infrastructure and that the Chamber's goals directly aligned with the county's goals. Due to the drastic increase in population over the last decade, infrastructure development has become a critical issue. This goal also has a direct impact on economic growth, as transportation and logistics are key factors in any business's decision to expand or locate here.

The Chamber also supports eliminating Florida's sales tax on commercial rent. In recent years, the Legislature has dramatically lowered the sales tax on commercial rents, and the Chamber has encouraged

this delegation to support its final elimination. Every month, business owners are reminded of this tax, which takes scarce dollars away from small businesses that could be used to hire additional workers, replenish inventory and pay current bills so that businesses can continue to thrive and prosper.

The Chamber also supports the county's goal of establishing the Florida Museum of Black History in St. Johns County. The State of Florida Black History Museum Task Force selected the county as the preferred location last year. This museum would, in part, highlight the role of African-American participation in defending and preserving Florida and the United States, including the contributions of the residents of Fort Mose, the Tuskegee Airmen and all African-American veterans.

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St. John Knits hosts After Hours



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

St. John Knits hosted a Chamber After Hours event on Feb. 26. Linda Blackstock organized a delightful evening of networking, food and drinks.

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Leadership St. Johns kicks off 25th year



Contributed photo

The Leadership St. Johns Class of 2025 marks the program's 25th year with the largest class ever.

The St. Johns County Chamber Foundation kicked off 2025 with the 25th Leadership St. Johns class. This cohort of 29 local professionals marks the largest class ever.

Since 2000, more than 400 community and business leaders have graduated from Leadership St. Johns. The program provides structured, interactive programs and activities emphasizing local economic, education, government and volunteerism issues, among others.

LSJ accelerates the development of leadership skills for business, government and community professionals by building relationships and enhancing their knowledge of St. Johns County. Participants at all levels of career advancement establish themselves as key players in the county's

business landscape as they make connections with a diverse group of civic, business and community leaders, professionals and advocates to build a powerful network.

With representation from every business sector in St. Johns County, employers of LSJ participants value the experience and knowledge gained as participants use these new tools to advance the organizations' goals and make an ongoing positive difference in the community. LSJ is the cornerstone program of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the local business community through leadership opportunities, economic development programs and continuing education.

Flagler College hosts After Hours



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Flagler College hosted a Chamber After Hours on March 4 as part of their annual Business Week. Chamber members and Flagler students and alums networked and mingled while enjoying food and drinks and hearing about the economic opportunities in the community. Aliyah Meyer, the Chamber's economic development coordinator and a Flagler alum, was among the speakers.

Chamber Insights:

64%

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Epic Theaters opens its IMAX theater



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Epic Theaters of St. Augustine held its official ribbon cutting on Jan. 8 to celebrate a brand new IMAX theater and revitalized lobby. Epic rolled out the red carpet for guests and held a special event with great food and an exclusive screening of a feature film.

RISE at Nocatee holds grand opening



Photo by Susan Griffin

RISE at Nocatee held its ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening on Jan. 9. RISE at Nocatee brings its 55+ active living experience to one of the best master-planned neighborhoods in Florida.

Rolland Reash Plumbing ribbon cutting



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Rolland Reash Plumbing held its ribbon cutting on Jan. 21. The business' experienced plumbers have served this area over multiple generations. Their team has high standards and always strives to exceed customer expectations.

Cereset ribbon cutting



Photo by Susan Griffin

Cereset Ponte Vedra on a ribbon cutting ceremony on Jan. 22. Cereset is a center for brain health and wellness located in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach in the Veranda Buildings. They use a safe and non-invasive approach to record the "echo" of the brain's real-time dominant frequency. That frequency acts as a "mirror" for the brain to see itself and begin restoring its natural ability to correct any of its imbalances.

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Diesel Barbershop ribbon cutting

Diesel Barbershop held a grand opening and ribbon cutting on Jan. 23 for its newest location at World Golf Village. The business aims to provide the best men's haircut and beard-grooming experience in a fun and enjoyable atmosphere.

Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Your Health ribbon cutting

Your Health marked the introduction of their at-home services to St. Augustine with a ribbon cutting on Feb. 27. Your Health provides personalized preventative care plans and regular check-ins to help individuals stay healthy, avoid hospital visits and live confidently from the comfort of their own homes.

Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Dirt Destroyer ribbon cutting



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Dirt Destroyer held a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 5.

Fresh Market Spirits & Wine

The Fresh Market Spirits & Wine staff gather to celebrate the store's grand opening on March 6.

Photo by Holly Tishfield



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After Hours at THE PLAYERS

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and Jax Chamber hosted the annual After Hours at THE PLAYERS on Thursday, March 3, at TPC Sawgrass. Hundreds of local business leaders from the First Coast region spent the evening networking and celebrating another year of THE PLAYERS Championship. Local restaurants provided food samples, and other vendors had the opportunity to showcase their products and services to attendees.

Photos provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



St. Johns County Parks & Rec, Waterworks earn autism designation

To kick off 2025, St. Johns County Parks & Recreation and the The Waterworks have earned the Certified Autism Center designation from the International Board of Certification and Continuing Education Standards.

The CAC credential is awarded to organizations whose staff undergo autism-specific training and certification, provid-

ing knowledge on best practices, skills and resources to welcome autistic and sensory-sensitive individuals to their location.

Parks & Rec celebrated the achievement on Saturday, March 8, alongside Kite Day at Treaty Oaks Park in St. Augustine.

"This effort is more than just a designation — it is a commitment to ensuring that every family who visits St. Johns

County can feel welcomed, supported and empowered to enjoy all that our beautiful community has to offer," said Isabelle Renault, president and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber.

"St. Johns County Parks and Recreation has taken a major step forward in that mission, reinforcing that outdoor spaces, nature and play should be accessible to everyone."

The Waterworks designation as a Certified Autism Center brings a more inclusive venue option to the community, where guests can experience high-quality cultural events, concerts, educational program-

ming, art classes and more. Members of the St. Johns Cultural Council, which manages The Waterworks cultural center, also received IBCCES autism training.

The addition of Parks & Rec and The Waterworks to the list of CAC organizations brings St. Johns County closer to earning the designation of Certified Autism Destination by IBCCES, which ensures that the area offers multiple certified options for entertainment, recreation and lodging.

For more information, go to sjcchamber.com/autism-certification-matching-grant.

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Pictured from left: Brianna Angulo of IBCCES, Tess Simpson of St. Johns County Parks & Recreation, County Commissioner Clay Murphy, Pamela Murphy and Isabelle Renault of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Sawgrass Pet Resort milestone



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Sawgrass Pet Resort celebrated its five-year anniversary on March 9 with a Chamber After Hours event. Business owner Kate Wagner established the pet resort to provide a pleasant and worry-free experience for both pet and owner.

The Amp adds a new dimension



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre recently celebrated the opening of its first onsite merch shop, its renovated box office and The Kookaburra Coffee Outpost.



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FIT & HEALTHY

Exercise

Continued from 18

ance would be 25-30 repetitions to fatigue. Sometimes, the goal may not be a strength change necessarily, it could be a stimulus for tissue healing or reduce swelling and could even be for pain relief with the repetitions being greater than a 30 count and no fatigue is produced. Knowing your exercise dosage is key to achieve the results you may be after. Proper exercise dosing is even more important if one has a current or past medical problem, particularly, a musculoskeletal issue. That is why the concept of medical exercise therapy and the Holten Curve was developed by a physiotherapist. Physical therapists are movement specialists who have a keen understanding of anatomy, physiology and biomechanics and can examine individuals to identify specific impairments related to functional deficits. Their interventions should always be patient-centered and rely on quality research and the latest evidence. This allows for a much safer, efficient and specific plan of action. One would hope their physical therapist is also knowledgeable in medical exercise therapy as well for the reasons mentioned in this article. Consulting your physician is typically recommended when beginning an exercise routine; however, a licensed and experienced physical therapist also can be a good resource when looking to improve your health and wellness particularly in the presence of an underlying physical issue.

Dr. Chris Kopp PT, DPT is a licensed Doctor of Physical Therapist and is a board certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist and owner of Premier Physical Therapy. He can be reached at info@premierptjax.com or by calling 904-996-6922 or online at www.premierptjax.com.

Generation W to host signature event

Generation W returns to the University of North Florida Fine Arts Center on Friday, March 28, for its annual event with workshops, panels, interactive discussions and more. Now in its 14th year, the event will be presented live and will also be streamed to virtual participants. The event starts at 8 a.m.

This year's theme, "Explore," invites attendees to step boldly into new realms of thinking, to embrace the wonder and awe that curiosity can inspire, and to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of work, life and community. World-renowned guests will lead uncharted conversations on topics that include AI's evolving landscape, the ocean's depths, the vastness of space and hidden stories of history.

Featured speakers include:

- Ian Beacraft, founder and chief futurist at Signal and Cipher, and one of the world's top voices in AI and the future in the country, who will share how these emerging technologies reshape our world.
- Tina Lifford, Hollywood veteran, star of Oprah Winfrey's series "Queen Sugar," and visionary

thought leader, who will take the stage to explore "inner fitness" as a process of internal transformation and healing.

• Olivia Meikle, professor, historian and podcast host who will uncover hidden stories of women throughout history.

Generation W is an action-packed day where attendees can expect the program and speakers to ignite a day of enlightenment and networking.

"Life is rich with the unknown, and there's something undeniably uplifting about igniting our hearts and minds in a day of collective pursuit that has me feeling optimistic," said Donna Orender, founder and CEO of Generation W. "Put on your explorer hat, embrace your curiosity and plan to join us either in person or virtually."

Tickets start at \$99 and the price includes complimentary parking, breakfast, lunch and post-event reception. For more information and to register, go to bit.ly/GenWExplore2025.

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Wolfson Bass Tournament opens registration

Registration is now open for the Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament. The annual competition and boat drawing benefits C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Heart Institute.

Featured events (all at Palatka City Docks):

- Thursday, May 15: Lads & Lasses Tournament (one male, one female

boater).

- Friday, May 16: VIP & Friends Tournament (sponsor boats pre-fish).

- Saturday, May 17: 36th Annual Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament.

Register online at giving.baptistjax.com/event/2025-wolfson-childrens-bass-tournament/e581823 before noon

May 13. In-person registrations will take place at the Palatka City Docks from 4 a.m. to safe light the morning of May 15 and May 16 and from 3 a.m. to safe light on May 17. Boats launch at safe light. The Palatka City Docks are located at 319 River St., Palatka.

Tournament schedule

- Thursday, May 15: Weigh-in begins at 3 p.m. Lads & Lasses winners announced.

- Friday, May 16: Weigh-in begins at 3 p.m. VIP & Friends winners announced.

- Saturday, May 17: Weigh-in begins at 3 p.m. Tournament winners announced.

Weigh-ins continue in 10-minute increments, staggered by boat number. After weigh-in, winners are brought to the stage for awards and cash prizes.

The highlights

- More than \$40,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to competitors from across the Southeast.

- For a suggested donation of \$20, anyone may enter a drawing for a new Bullet Boat with a trailer, courtesy of Bullet Boats and Mercury. All proceeds from the drawing will help fund new

technology for the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Heart Institute at Wolfson Children's Hospital. To enter the bass boat drawing or for information on when ticket sales close, go to WolfsonBassTournament.com.

- Now in its 36th year, the Wolfson Children's Bass Tournament is one of the largest and longest-running bass fishing tournaments in Florida.

- Since the first tournament in 1989, the event has raised more than \$7 million for Wolfson Children's and the patients treated there.

Tournament history

In 1989, the Plant Facilities Department of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, along with several others, organized the bass tournament to fund capital improvements and purchase the latest medical technology for Wolfson Children's Hospital. Today, the tournament welcomes thousands of anglers during the three-day event, which has raised millions for specialized treatments and lifesaving equipment.

To register for the Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass tournament, enter the bass boat drawing or donate to the hospital's mission, go to WolfsonBassTournament.com.

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New board members and officers named

Several people have been named to posts on area boards of directors recently.



Brad Long

The Betty Griffin Center Board of Directors has elected Ponte Vedra Beach resident Brad Long to join the board for the 2024-25 fiscal year. An executive with more than 20 years of experience in building and leading technical teams, Long currently serves as a director of product management at Cisco Systems — joining the company in 2021.

Scenic Jacksonville

Scenic Jacksonville recently welcomed six new members to its board of directors for the 2025-27 term. Through citizen advocacy and civic leadership, the local nonprofit works to enhance the character and beauty of Jacksonville’s natural and built environment — while making a positive impact on the everyday lives of its citizens. The new board members are:

Betty Griffin Center
The Betty Griffin Center Board of Directors has elected Ponte Vedra Beach resident Brad Long to join the board for the



Ellen Cottrill

- Ellen Cottrill, co-owner of Avant Construction Group
- Gayandrial “Ivy” Henderson, director of housing and real estate development of LIFT JAX and landscape architect
- John Alters, business development manager for Carlton Construction
- Max Spann, planner for Half Associates and landscape architect
- Susan Grandin, attorney and



Gayandrial “Ivy” Henderson



Tyler Grant

- landscape architect
- Tyler Grant, attorney



Susan Grandin

Ronald McDonald House Charities

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville recently held its annual board of directors meeting at Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club, where they announced the newly appointed board officers for 2025. The board’s members are officers are:

David Marovich (VyStar Credit Union), chair; Jimmy Farrell (Cox Media Group), vice chair; Molly Miles (Harvest Engagement), secretary; and Jason Lafser (Checkmate Tax Advisors), treasurer
Bill Coats (Ret. Florida Blue), Stephanie Cost (Jacksonville University), Megan Denk (Wolfson Children’s), Will Garcia (Crisgar Corp dba McDonald’s), Jeff Hootselle



David Marovich



Jimmy Farrell

(SkaleSmart), Dr. Danny Indelicato (University of Florida Proton Therapy), Jessica Jones (Jacksonville Jaguars), David Mullins, Jr. (DCC Lee Enterprises dba McDonald’s), Peter Nardin (Morgan Stanley), Neda Sharifi (Foley & Lardner LLP), Tara Spruill (Nemours Children’s Health) and Dr. Yemi Sokumbi (Mayo Clinic).

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



John Alters



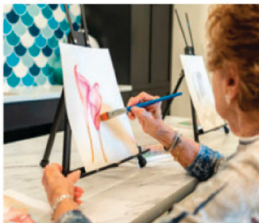
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The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

in cooperation with The Ponte Vedra Recorder

2025 Local Heroes Awards Nomination Form



The Local Heroes Awards recognize individuals who give back to the community and reflect the spirit of the Rotary Club’s motto, “Service Above Self.” From volunteering with local charities to giving back through the arts, education, environmental protection activities or doing your job in an exemplary way, we seek to recognize the “unsung heroes” who make Ponte Vedra such a special place to live, work and raise a family.

To nominate someone, visit pvbrotary.org and complete the online form. Or complete this nomination form and mail it to the address below by April 18, 2025. For more information or any questions, contact Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club member Steve Crosby at stevecrosby101@gmail.com.

Nomination Submitted By:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

Title/Organization (if applicable): _____

Nominee’s activities and/or contributions to the community:

Please provide sufficient details so the nominating committee may give your nominee every consideration! Feel free to attach additional pages as well as a resume, articles or other supporting materials (optional).

Nomination Deadline: April 18, 2025

Email entries to: stevecrosby101@gmail.com

or mail to: Local Heroes Awards Committee

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

P.O. Box 70

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

Or submit your nomination online at: pvbrotary.org

Thank you
for your nomination!

Business Weekly

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

GUEST COLUMN

Investing: The importance of planning

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors



In its 2019 Retirement Study, Wells Fargo found that investors with a planning mindset felt they had greater personal control over matters such as personal debt, investment performance, career and their overall financial life. The planning mindset was defined according to four key components:

1. "I am able to work diligently toward a long-term goal."
2. "In the last six months, I have set and achieved a goal or set of goals to support my financial life."
3. "I prefer saving for retirement now to ensure I have a better life in retirement."
4. "It makes me feel better to have my finances planned out in the next 1-2 years."

According to the study¹, approximately one-third of workers have the planning mindset. Those workers are nearly twice as satisfied with their overall financial life as those without a planning mindset, nearly twice as confident that they'll have enough money saved for retirement, and five times more likely to have a plan for dealing with the unexpected.

Steps to becoming a better planner

The good news is that all investors have

the ability to develop or strengthen planning skills that can help them improve their financial outlook.

The first step is to obtain general financial education, which could include reading books or listening to podcasts on personal investment planning, taking a course online or at a local college, or talking with a financial adviser.

Next come the simple (although not always easy) steps to spend less and save more. Financial apps can help with tasks such as budgeting and tracking spending. Automated nudges — such as a yearly increase in the 401(k) savings rate — can help keep savings plans on track. Just remember that it can take time and practice to change financial habits. Beginning with smaller steps can reinforce the new habits and build confidence to move to the next level.

Then focus on developing a long-term investment plan, including contingency plans to help deal with the unexpected.

Tools such as vision boards — a collage of images that represent future desires — can help investors flesh out goals such as home ownership or retirement preferences. Once the basic plan is in place, continual updates allow investors to adapt to changes in the economy and their own circumstances. A plan should be documented and should be living and breathing — not something you create and forget. Life changes and your plan should keep pace.

With education and effort, investors can use a planning mindset to help achieve long-term financial health and the life that they desire the most. Now is the time to review your plan and make necessary adjustments to help strengthen your efforts toward achieving your ultimate goal.

Wells Fargo Advisors is not a tax or legal advisor.

Footnote: Workers refers to working adults who participated in the survey. On behalf of Wells Fargo, The Harris Poll conducted 3,918 online interviews of 2,708 working Americans 18-75 or older and 1,004 retired Americans, surveying attitudes and behaviors around plan-

INVESTING continues on Page 37

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Investing

Continued from 36

ning, saving and investing for retirement. Working Americans are age 18-75 or older and working full-time (or at least 20 hours if they are working part-time) or are self-employed. Retired Americans self-identified as retired regardless of age.

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UF Nursing secures \$3M to expand Florida’s nurse workforce

By Carlos E. Medina

The University of Florida College of Nursing will receive \$3 million to help address the state’s nursing shortage. These funds — \$1.5 million from Florida’s Linking Industry to Nursing Education program matched by \$1.5 million from UF Health — will support 50 nursing scholarships, lab upgrades, faculty recruitment and retention efforts and expanded student services.

In September, there were more than 16,000 nursing vacancies in the state, according to a report by the Florida Hospital Association. While those numbers are better than the 58,000 vacancies reported in 2022, the group’s long-term projections still show that Florida could have a shortage of almost 60,000 nurses by 2035.

This marks the second year the college has received funding from the program, which was established in 2022 by the Florida Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis. The program requires state funds to be matched by a health care partner.

Recently, the State University System of Florida’s Board of Governors awarded \$1.5 million to the college, with UF Health providing a matching contribution, bringing the total to \$3 million.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to help

address the critical nursing shortage in our state,” said Shakira Henderson, UF College of Nursing dean and UF Health System chief nurse executive. “We are deeply grateful to the Board of Governors, the Legislature and the governor for making this possible and to our invaluable health partners at UF Health for their unwavering support.”

In 2024, UF Health matched a \$400,000 LINE Fund award that funded 40 scholarships for Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing, or ABSN, students.

“At UF Health, we recognize that a strong, well-educated nursing workforce is essential to delivering high-quality patient care,” said UF Health President and CEO Stephen J. Motew. “We are proud to partner with the UF College of Nursing to invest in the future of nursing and help address the critical shortage affecting our state.”

The scholarships are intended for students enrolled in the ABSN program. Designed for those who already hold a bachelor’s degree or higher in another field, the ABSN program provides a fast-track path to a nursing career. However, because these students are pursuing a second degree, they do not qualify for traditional financial aid options like Florida Bright Futures or federal Pell Grants.

Henderson, a second-career nurse herself, understands the unique challenges ABSN students face.

“Embarking on this journey can be overwhelming, but these scholarships will provide crucial support for those transitioning into our esteemed profession,” she said.

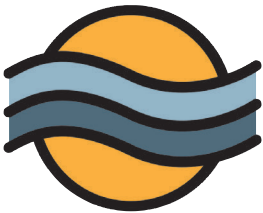
Scholarships require a 36-month work commitment with a 12-month residency program at UF Health. Graduates must work full-time as registered nurses at a UF Health facility.

Scholarships will be available to ABSN students at both the Gainesville and Jacksonville campuses. As part of UF’s academic health center, which houses six health colleges nearby, nursing students receive hands-on experience at UF Health hospitals.

All students accepted into the ABSN program may apply for these scholarships, which cover tuition and books. The 15-month program begins in May.

Additionally, the college plans to expand its student services, including support for student success programs and the Academic-Practice Immersion Program where students apply academic knowledge in clinical settings.

Lab equipment at the Gainesville and Jacksonville campuses will be upgraded. Open labs, expanded lab access and virtual reality labs will be added, and the college’s simulation center equipment will be updated. Additional lab staff will be hired, and faculty recruitment and retention efforts will be undertaken.



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Benchmarks of Success

A look at major career developments in the area



John D. Phipps

UF Health names Phipps chief clinical officer

John D. Phipps, M.D., has been named UF Health's chief clinical officer, a newly created system-level leadership position. He starts April 14.

Phipps will play a vital role in advancing UF Health's clinical operations, safety and quality initiatives, and access

to care.

"Dr. Phipps brings a wealth of clinical experience and leadership expertise that will be instrumental in advancing our efforts to providing our patients with the highest-quality health services," said Stephen J. Motew, M.D., president and system CEO at UF Health, the University of Florida's academic health center. "His leadership will be key in guiding us through the next phase of our journey, driving meaningful progress in patient care by enhancing the overall experience, improving outcomes and ensuring that every patient receives the highest standard of compassionate care and attention they deserve."

Phipps, an endocrinologist and internist, will oversee UF Health's ongoing focus on care excellence, working closely with UF Health's providers across the system's regional markets. He also will be responsible for developing the system's physician practice management services, with an emphasis on strengthening and growing community practices, enhancing access to health services.

Phipps most recently served as chief care transformation officer at Inova Health System, where all five hospitals have achieved a Leapfrog A rating for more than 10 consecutive reporting periods. Throughout his career, he has had a variety of leadership roles.

Pruett joins real estate business

Grace Pruett has joined the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office of Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices Florida Network Realty. A resident of Ponte Vedra Beach since 2011, Pruett's deep-rooted connection to the community brings an invaluable local perspective to her clients.

A graduate of Ponte Vedra High School, Pruett continued her education at Flagler College and



Grace Pruett

Florida State College at Jacksonville. Before embarking on her real estate career, she spent five years as a special needs caregiver, specializing in autism and non-verbal special needs. With her Certified Nursing Assistance License, she provided compassionate, individualized care — an experience that has shaped her ability to listen, empathize

and advocate for the needs of others.

For more information or to contact Pruett, contact her at GPruett.FloridaNetworkRealty.com, 423-838-9773 or Grace.Pruett@FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office, located at 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach. Broker/Manager Erin Spalding can be reached at 904-285-1800, Erin.Spalding@FloridaNetworkRealty.com and floridanetworkrealtycareers.com.

Jimerson Birr appoints Meadows managing partner

Jimerson Birr, a full-service business law firm based in Jacksonville with statewide offices and clients throughout Florida and Georgia, has announced the appointment of Brandon C. Meadows as its new managing partner. In this role, Meadows oversees the firm's legal operations, ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality legal services while guiding the company's strategic growth.

An experienced business litigator and trial lawyer, Meadows advises businesses seeking cost-effective legal solutions. Since joining Jimerson Birr in 2013, he has gained deep insight into the firm's operations, culture and strategic priorities. This experience uniquely equips him to execute a vision that fosters sustained success for clients and the organization alike.

The Florida Bar has certified Meadows in Business Litigation, an elite credential held by fewer than 250 lawyers (approximately 0.2% of attorneys) in the state. Since 2017, Super Lawyers has recognized him annually as a "Rising Star."

Meadows serves on the Fourth Circuit Grievance Committee of the Florida Bar.

GreenPointe Holdings names Griggs to post

GreenPointe Holdings has announced the appointment of Steve Griggs as development manager of the Caribbean Division. Griggs will oversee the new



Steve Griggs

division's daily operations and GreenPointe's strategic growth and expansion throughout the Caribbean.

An accomplished executive, Griggs brings more than 20 years of experience in acquisitions, entitlements, community design, land development and construction to GreenPointe. With a broad range of real estate competencies, Griggs' professional background spans small-

and large-scale projects, including single-family, luxury high-rises, apartments, commercial, hotels and marinas with a collective project value exceeding \$350 million.

Griggs earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Indianapolis and holds numerous professional certifications in the business, real estate and development industries.



Jenny Fuss

Crowley appoints Fuss as chief financial officer

Crowley has named Jenny Fuss as its chief financial officer, leading all of the company's financial strategies and operations to enhance economic performance and business growth.

With more than 20 years of experience as an executive for global institutions, Fuss

brings to Crowley's Senior Leadership Team extensive expertise in management and analysis using data-driven strategies that drive increased profitability and financial effectiveness.

Before joining Crowley, Fuss was chief financial officer of Boart Longyear, a global mining services and equipment company, where she led cost-efficiency initiatives and successfully facilitated a financial restructuring during the company's transition into a private company.

Prior to that, Fuss served as divisional CFO and later vice president of global financial services and systems at Eaton Corp., leading efficiency gains and digital transformation across Eaton's global accounting operations. She also served 20 years in financial roles at Siemens.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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The Floridian to move into custom-designed building

The Floridian has been a constant on Northeast Florida’s list of must-try restaurants since it opened its doors in 2010. Owned by husband-and-wife team Genie and Jeff McNally, The Floridian has become a champion for local producers and growers, with Chef Genie McNally crafting innovative Southern dishes that showcase the best farm-to-table ingredients available.

As they approach 15 years of service, the McNallys have announced that they are building a new restaurant space in St. Augustine Beach that encapsulates the atmosphere and vibe of The Floridian.

“Jeff and I have had a lot of time to dream about The Floridian’s future, and this really is the culmination of years of dreaming,” said Co-owner and Executive Chef Genie McNally. “While we will always adore our previous two locations, we had to take our image of The Floridian and fit it into a pre-existing space. This is our chance to create a restaurant that fits The Floridian aesthetic and meets our high standards for service.”

The McNallys’ farm-to-table eatery first opened in a small space at 39 Cordova St. in downtown St. Augustine and was an instant local favorite. Chef Genie McNally drew culinary inspiration from her familial history, tracing seven generations and rooted in the region’s agricul-



Jeff and Genie and McNally

Photo by Justin Snively

tural landscape. When they had the opportunity to relocate to a larger building on Spanish Street in 2015, they took it, eventually purchasing the location in 2022. The McNallys completely renovated the 1904 building on Spanish Street, turning

it into a cozy and approachable space. As the restaurant continued to evolve, they started forming plans for their next step. “We have such strong memories and connections with both the Cordova and Spanish Street locations,” said Co-owner

Jeff McNally. “They’re a piece of our history, places where we’ve shared meals and memories. This new building is just the next chapter, where we’ll continue to focus on what matters — fresh ingredients, good food and top-notch hospitality.” The McNallys have always had a solid vision for their restaurant and are passionate about executing it. Genie McNally feels so strongly that she is working towards her degree in interior design and architecture from UCLA. Located at 485 Old Beach Road, the restaurant will occupy a new state-of-the-art building. The covered front porch leads into the dining area, boasting 120 comfortable seats and an elevated version of the restaurant’s down-home vibe. The side patio will cater to fast, casual dining and bar customers with games and entertainment. The custom-designed kitchen will be energy efficient and comfortable on even the hottest Florida days. The McNallys plan to complete service at the Spanish Street location on July 28 and celebrate a grand opening at the new space in late fall/winter 2025. The Floridian is currently open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Learn more at thefloridianstaug.com.





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In the Arts

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Watercolor artist Linda Gordon showed her large works and her notecards, each of which was hand-painted.



Julianna O'Hara returned this year with new works in oil.

Photos by Shaun Ryan

Creativity, talent on display at local art show

By Shaun Ryan

Talented local artists exhibited their work March 21-23 at the annual Sawgrass Country Club Art Show, held at the clubhouse. Twenty-four artists working in every medium imaginable were represented, with young artists displaying their work on the weekend.

A silent auction of works donated by the artists raised funds for The Sawgrass Foundation, which benefits the families of club employees.

Here's a look at the artists and the pri-

mary mediums seen in the show:

- Watercolors: Ron Abel, Laura Bender and Linda Gordon
- Acrylics: Tom Bolling, Bob Nickerson and Leigh Roberts
- Oils: Qi Bruce, Christine Dragonetti and Julianna O'Hara
- Multiple mediums: Joanne DiSebastian, Bruce Ann Ferguson, Basil Koutoufaris, Daniel Ostfeld, Katie Tartt, Gail Werneburg and Bart Woloson
- Photography: Linda Caden and Gabe Warmack
- Glass: Suzanne Comella
- Sculptures in joint compound: Mary Herald

Some of the works exhibited fall outside of these categories. An example would be Kathryn Tanksley's wondrous creations using seashells. Another would be Quang X. Pham, an author who brought copies of his books.



Mark Wood produces these eye-catching pieces on his lathe.



Tom Lubrano has been building highly detailed model ships and boats for about 30 years.

mary mediums seen in the show:

Tom Lubrano exhibited his exquisitely detailed model boats, including 19th century Italian ships, an Olympic class sailboat from the mid-20th century and a Criss Craft mahogany runabout.

Lubrano, who's been building these miniature crafts for three decades, said it can take him 50-70 hours to complete one boat, though some have required 300 hours of work.

He enjoys life-sized boats, as well, and likes spending time on the water.

"I love boats," he said. "Love the flow of them. Love the mechanics of them. And

they're art pieces — every one of them."

Also working in wood, though with a different focus, was Mark Wood. He discovered wood-turning after retiring about 10 years ago and produces his art on a lathe. He doesn't favor a specific type of wood, but rather works with whatever becomes available.

"People call me and say, 'I'm taking down this tree; are you interested in the wood?' I always say yes," he said.

His pieces are quite popular and can be found in Cutter & Cutter gallery in St. Augustine.



Among Qi Bruce's paintings are some very large pieces depicting scenes from nature.



Author Quang X. Pham was on hand with his latest book, "Underdog Nation."



Bruce Ann Ferguson sits next to one of her paintings.

Donation

Continued from 1

In his 10th season, Music Director and Conductor Courtney Lewis has built upon the organization’s legacy of artistic excellence, attracting talent from around the world. This financial gift will empower the symphony to continue raising the artistic profile of the orchestra through artistry and innovation. With a strong emphasis on new commissions, a central part of the symphony’s mission of cultural enrichment, this gift helps preserve and secure partnerships with composers of diverse backgrounds.

“In addition to programming music that our audiences know and love, we believe that commissioning new music is an essential part of an orchestra’s work,” said



Photo by James Gilbert

The Jacksonville Symphony will benefit by a recent gift of \$15 million.

Lewis. “These generous funds are essential to ensuring that we engage and inspire all audiences in Jacksonville, now and in the future, through a wide variety of programming and special performances.”

The Jacksonville Symphony has welcomed world-class artists for the 75th season such as pianist Joyce Yang and composers Brittany J. Green and Angel Lam, pianist Barry Douglas, the Marcus

Roberts Trio and guest conductors Robert Spano and Michael Stern. Additionally, internationally acclaimed pianist Conrad Tao has joined as the symphony’s Artist-in-Residence for the 2024-25 season, further enhancing the orchestra’s artistic profile. The notable increase to the endowment provides opportunities for the symphony to sustain this level of programming for seasons to come. “This contribution is a testament to the confidence in the future of the Jacksonville Symphony, and we hope it inspires others to also make transformational gifts,” said Matthew Marcin, Jacksonville Symphony board chair. “Together, we can ensure that the symphony thrives and continues to enrich the cultural fabric of our community for generations to come.”

Boots on the Green supports pediatric hospice and palliative care

Healing Harmonies Presents Boots on the Green is set for 3-7 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at The Yards, 254 Alta Mar Drive, Ponte Vedra. This fun and meaningful music festival will benefit the music therapy program for pediatric patients at Community Hospice & Palliative Care. The \$100 admission includes: Live music, delicious food and two signature cocktails.

Live performances

- Katie O — “The Voice” contestant
- Street Preacher — Semi-finalists at the 2025 International Blues Competition
- Andrew Bloom — Country music artist and writer
- Mama Blue — Sultry Sister of Soul

Food and drinks

- Salt Life
- Harry’s
- Casa Reina
- Bono’s
- Taps On Wheels

Auction and raffle items

- Two box seats to the U.S. Open Men’s Quarterfinal
- Sage Valley Golf Club Experience
- ATP Tennis World Tour Finals in Turin, Italy
- Mark Carlson English 48-by-48-inch painting
- Two NASCAR tickets and pit passes to Talladega
- \$3,500 diamond bracelet raffle
- And much more.

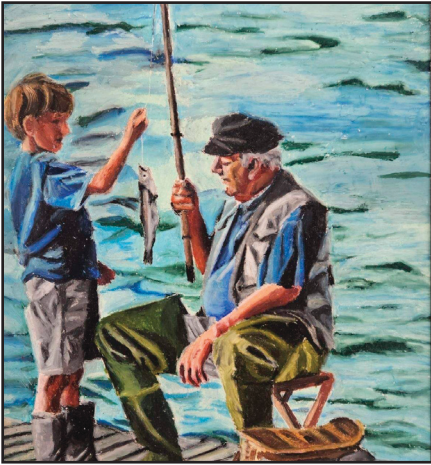
For more information or to purchase tickets, go to thefoundationcares.org/upcoming-events/boots-on-the-green/ or call 866-253-6681.

High School Art Show opens April 4

The St. Augustine Art Association’s 20th Annual St. Johns All-County High School Art Show celebrates the artistic talents of high school students throughout St. Johns County. Presented in partnership with St. Johns County Schools, students from ninth to 12th grade present their work for display and adjudication. The exhibit will be held at the St. Augustine Art Association, 22 Marine St. in St. Augustine, and online at staaa.org from April 4 through April 27.

“Each year, our staff and judges are impressed with the emotional and technical maturity we see in emerging young artists,” said Jennifer Flynt, executive director of STAAA. “The students are intentional with their work and show incredible diversity and depth in medium and creative application. It also speaks highly of our local art teachers and shows how critical it is to have art in schools.”

The exhibit will showcase more than 150 works of art, including 2- and 3-D



Contributed photo

A student artwork from a previous show

creations. Last year’s Best of Show was awarded to Toco Creek High School 11th grader Sienna Predeek for her painting “New Year, New Me,” created under the instruction of J. Cabrera. The exhibit is available online at any

time and in the gallery from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. The show will include works by students enrolled in art programs throughout the St. Johns County School District. This exhibit celebrates creativity and supports students by fostering an appreciation for art and recognizing the talented youth in the area. The exhibit opens during St. Augustine’s First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m. Friday, April 4. Gallery visitors can also enjoy the Miniature Marvels exhibit, which runs concurrently. The 20th Annual St. Johns All-County High School Art Show is presented in partnership with the St. Johns County Schools and sponsored by Le-Shane CPA. It and Miniature Marvels are also sponsored partly by grants from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, the St. Johns County Cultural Council, the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and the Benjamin & Jean Troemel Arts Foundation.

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Elf The Musical

NOV. 20 - DEC. 24

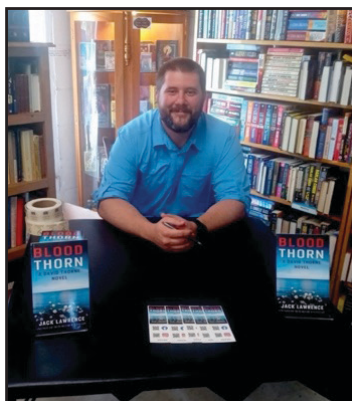
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Retired psychologist unlocks secrets of haunting characters

Readers get bored with flat characters. Without a memorable personality, a writer's hero or villain will end up in a file of unfinished work.

Psychologist turned bestselling mystery writer Jack Lawrence has a fresh perspective on creating compelling, psychologically rich characters that engage readers and keep them hooked. He's going to share that key with members and guests of Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime writers on Saturday, April 12.

Lawrence will talk about creating core fears and desires of a writer's characters — using real psychological principles — to elevate the story. Learn how to create unforgettable protagonists and villains whose motivations feel deeply human, making every twist and turn resonate with readers on a deep emotional level. From detectives to mas-



terminds and their victims, discover how psychology can transform the character development process from flat to unforgettable.

All writers and readers interested in the topic are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at 11:15 a.m. April

12 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, in the Friends of the Library (FOL) room.

Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime is a chapter of the national organization and serves mystery, crime and thriller writers and readers. Programs feature speakers in forensic science, psychology and law enforcement fields.

The group welcomes men and women who want to learn more about writing, promoting and enjoying crime fiction.

For more information, contact floridasistersincrime@gmail.com.

Photographer Bill Boxer exhibit to open at Rotunda Gallery

The St. Johns Cultural Council has announced its next Art in Public Spaces exhibition, "Close to Home," featuring the photography of Bill Boxer. The exhibition will be on display from April 9 through June 5 at the Rotunda Gallery in the St. Johns County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, in St. Augustine.

An opening reception and artist talk will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 9. The event is free and open to the public.

Boxer, widely known as a musician and pianist, has been a lifelong photographer. His journey with photography began in childhood with a Kodak Brownie camera, sparking a passion for capturing the world around him. Growing up near the Bronx Zoo and park trails, he developed an early interest in photographing nature.

"The lessons we learn from observing wildlife and plant life close to home inspire us to get involved in protecting our environment for future generations," Boxer said. "By photographing nature, we see that the wonders of the natural world are closer than we think."

"Close to Home" invites viewers to slow down and appreciate the overlooked beauty of everyday life, highlighting textures, patterns, colors and fleeting moments. The

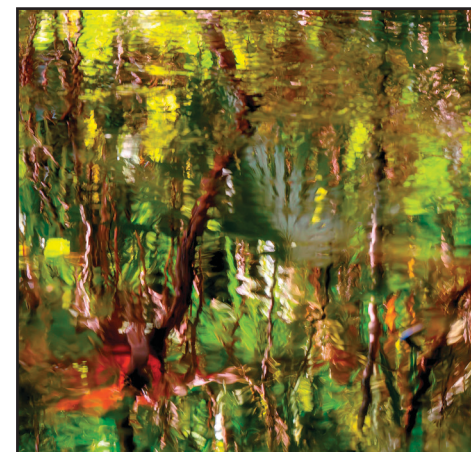


Photo by Bill Boxer

"Liquid Forest" photograph by Bill Boxer

exhibition features images of dewdrops on petals, the delicate wings of a dragonfly, a bee in motion, the unraveling of a flower's bloom and other quiet yet remarkable details of the natural world.

The Art in Public Spaces exhibitions at the Rotunda Gallery feature local artists selected to showcase their work, with new installations rotating throughout the year. The gallery is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, people can contact the St. Johns Cultural Council at 904-434-0959 or email sjcc@historicoast-culture.com.

Upcoming Jacksonville Symphony Experiences

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- **Children's Music Festival**
March 30
- **Conrad Tao & Rite of Spring**
April 4 & 5
- **John Williams: His Oscars, Grammys & More**
April 11 & 12
- **Dvořák's "New World"**
April 25 & 26
- **Latin Jazz Ensemble**
April 27



Our community is so fortunate to have the Jacksonville Symphony, it's always such a thrill and this season has been nothing short of incredible!"

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Sports

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Photos by Anthony Richards



The Ponte Vedra baseball team is riding momentum as part of a four-game win streak during spring break.



Teams try to position themselves as the regular season for baseball and softball will wrap up over the next month.

Baseball, softball teams ready for stretch run

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Sharks baseball squad had a spring break to remember as they won four straight games during the week with wins over Orange Park, Fletcher, Parker and Sandalwood, and doing so by an average margin of victory of 5.7 runs per game.

The stretch matches the team’s longest winning streak of the season and comes at a good time as the Sharks have rebounded from a four-game losing streak prior to the start of their current run and the momentum of the season has turned around as a result.

The Sharks enter the final eight games of the regular season back on the winning side of things with a record of 9-6 and look to continue their winning ways down the stretch.

Those winning ways have also been the norm on the softball field for the Sharks who returned from the time off during spring break with an eye-popping 9-1 record and look poised to make some noise come playoff time.

Just as impressive as their record is the way the Sharks continue to win their games, as they showcase a dynamic combination of both pitching and hitting.

Junior Aoife Weaver leads the team in hits, RBIs, and doubles at the plate and has eight wins and a 1.96 ERA in the circle.

Meanwhile, the Nease softball team has been searching for consistency throughout the season but have also come up big when it matters most as despite having a 3-7 record overall they sit atop the district 2-6A standings after having won all three of their district matchups to this point.

Miranda Harmon continues to have a memorable senior season for the Panthers, as she is the primary offensive

catalyst for the team and contributes in a variety of ways with a .438 batting average with 14 runs scored, six stolen bases and four triples, all of which are team-highs.

Three seniors also lead the Nease baseball team, Jackson Garnecki and Logan Bradley, each have batting averages over .300 on the season and Fletcher Reston leads the Panthers with 11 RBIs.

Garnecki also has 47 strikeouts and a 1.5 ERA in six starts and has been a reliable presence on the mound for the Panthers. His 47 strikeouts rank fifth in all of Class 6A.

JAGA crowns first four-ball champions of the year

By Anthony Richards

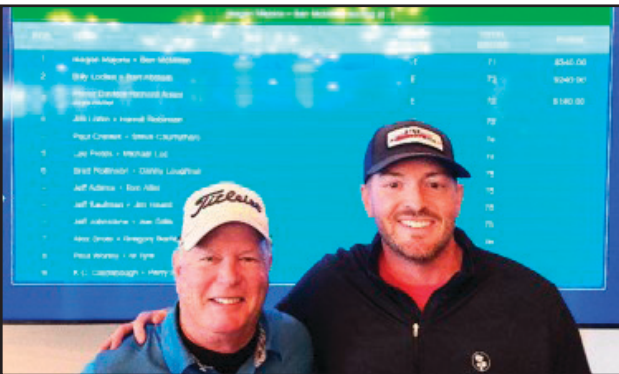
Although the playoff between Rory McIlroy and J.J. Spaun garnered much of the attention, it turns out the Monday playoff to decide THE PLAYERS was not the only golf tournament going on in Northeast Florida on March 17.

At the same time 72 local golfers were battling it out in the JAGA Four-ball tournament and dealing with the same fierce winds that created difficult playing conditions for McIlroy and Spaun at TPC Sawgrass.

The four-ball event was held at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine and the teams who were able to master the winds the best and win were Reagen Majoria and Ben McMillen who won the gross competition and Jeff Johnstone and Joe Gillis who won the net competition.

Majoria and McMillen represented The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach and teamed up to shoot 71 for a score of one-under and proved to be the only group in the gross competition to shoot under par.

Johnstone and Gillis represented Sawgrass Country Club as their home course and won the net competition by one

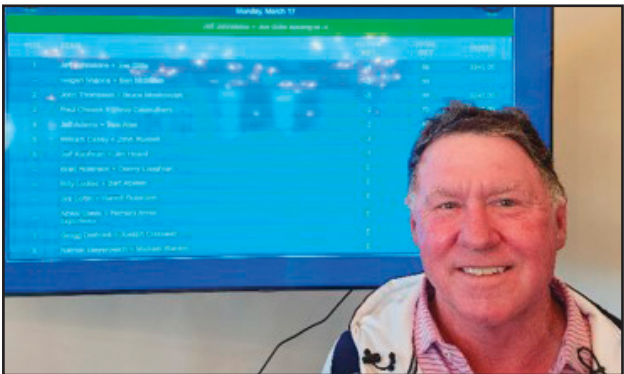


Reagen Majoria and Ben McMillen won the gross division.

stroke after shooting four-under.

Both teams took home \$340 with their victories. The format was one best ball of each twosome with teams competing in both divisions (gross, net) but eligible to win prizes in only one.

JAGA’s next event will also be its oldest with the 68th Senior Amateur Championship set to be held at Marsh



Jeff Johnstone was one half of the net division winning team.

Landing Country Club on April 6 to 8.

Details and information to enter can be found by going to www.golfgenius.com/pages/9766984976250706497, and registration closes on April 1. Richard Ames of Eagle Landing CC is the defending champion.

JAGA’s other four-ball event in 2025 is scheduled for Nov. 3 at Ponte Vedra Inn and Club.

Photos by Anthony Richards



It was a day of smiles and joy as 22 seniors signed to play college sports.



The ceremony took place on the field at Panther Stadium.

Signing

Continued from 1

“This is the day that marks the next step in their journey, and they have carried the name of Nease High School with pride and in doing so they have upheld a tradition of excellence. They’ve set a standard for future generations and proven that success is not given but earned through sacrifice, determination and an unshakable belief in oneself.”

There were many in attendance as parents, friends and coaches that had an influence along each student athlete’s

path were in the stands to witness the ceremony.

According to Mastoridis, it is the support and sacrifice that was behind every offer, victory and moment of growth the seniors had to help get them to the point of signing to play college ball.

“As you move forward, whether it is on a court, field, track or in the classroom, know that you’ll always have a home here at Nease,” Mastoridis said. “You will now represent not just yourselves, but the community, this school and all those who have supported you along the way, and I have no doubt that you’ll continue to embody the values you have brought here today.”

“We are Nease,” is a slogan that has become a part of the community at Nease High and not just on the athletic fields but across anything that the school is involved in.

Mastoridis was recently asked at an athletic competition by an opposing coach about the saying and asked him to describe what the meaning behind “we are Nease,” is all about.

“Individually you are Nease, but collectively, we are Nease, and that’s what we are all about,” Mastoridis said. “One individual is not a team, and one individual is certainly not representative of Nease, but together we form a very tough

competitor.”

The slogan is so ingrained into the fabric of the Nease community that every athlete that came up to the podium to speak after being introduced ended their speech with the words “I am Nease,” and each time it was followed by a roaring applause.

Athletes from various sports were on hand to put pen to paper and sign their college letters of intent, one from baseball, four from football, one from boys golf, three from boys lacrosse, one from girls lacrosse, one from boys soccer, two from girls soccer, six from swimming, and two from girls volleyball.



Elisha Luckett III acknowledges his friends and family in the stands.



Members of the Nease swim team congratulate each other.



Nine different sports teams were represented during the ceremony.



Jackson Coughlin speaks as head coach Max Gurowski looks on.



Each senior was announced individually before signing.

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Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. CP25-0043
Division 59
IN RE: ESTATE OF DORIS PATRICIA GUALTEROS BARRAGAN, Deceased.
The administration of the Estate of Doris Patricia Gualteros Barragan, deceased, whose date of death was February 24th, 2024, and whose social security number is XXX-XX-9999, is pending in the Circuit Court for St. Johns County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, Florida 32084. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney is set forth below.

All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The Personal Representative or Curator has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the Decedent's death by the Decedent or the Decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in sections 732.216 732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under section 732.2211, Florida Statutes.

The date of first publication of this notice is March 20, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Joel A. Savitt
Florida Bar No. 0070680
Joel A. Savitt, P.A.
Post Office Box 268355
Weston, Florida, 33326
Telephone: 954-361-4820
Fax: 954-384-0399
E-Mail: savitt@mindspring.com
Personal Representative:
Erika Carolina Suarez Gualteros
65 Palma Vista Way
Apt. 313
St. Augustine, Florida 32092
Legal 118016 Published 3/20/2025 and 3/27/2025 in St. Johns County Ponte Vedra Recorder newspaper

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• \$31.00 3 weeks • \$37.50 4 weeks
Add lines \$2.15 each

(Couches, TV's, Beds, Household Items, Etc.)

Commercial Line Rates

• \$22.50 1 week • \$39.00 2 weeks
• \$55.50 3 weeks • \$70.00 4 weeks
Add lines \$2.15 each

(Animals, Cars, Renting or Selling a Home or to Advertise Your Business or Services)

Employment Spotlight/Real Estate

1x2 (2"x2") \$40.50/1 wk. • \$70.00/2 wks. • \$100/3 wks.
1x3 (2"x3") \$61.50/1 wk. • \$112.00/2 wks. • \$150.00/3 wks.
2x2 (4"x2") \$82.00/1 wk. • \$153.00/2 wks. • \$200.00/3 wks.
2x3 (4"x3") \$123.00/1 wk. • \$225/2 wks. • \$300/3 wks.



Business & Worship Directory

1.5 x 2 \$55.00/month
1.5 x 4 \$96.52/month
1.5 x 6 \$149.52/month
Rate Guide for: The Recorder

www.pontevedrarecorder.com

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FRIDAY 5PM

RECORDER FAX #
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CROSSWORD

			1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		
			10				11							
12	13		14					15						
16		17						18				19	20	21
22								23						
24							25		26			27		
					28		29					30		
31	32	33			34				35			36		
37			38			39								
40					41			42		43	44	45	46	47
48					49				50					
51									52					
			53						54				55	
		56					57		58					
		59							60					

ACROSS

- State in southwestern India
- Pashto
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- Supervised release from prison
- Greeting
- Type of drug
- ___ Sagan, astronomer
- Every year
- Nasal cavities
- Nova ___, province
- In an inactive way
- Cream-colored root
- Nervous system disease
- Guitarist Clapton
- Three came to see Baby Jesus
- Lebowski's nickname
- Play a role
- Not fresh
- Where golfers begin
- Negatives
- Wild goat
- Releasing hormone
- Makes up
- Fastens
- Exists in large numbers
- A connecting word
- A phase of the heartbeat
- Northern Ireland county
- An independent ruler or chieftain
- Pacific sea bream
- Commercial
- Azure
- Doctor of Education
- Protected oneself against loss
- Car mechanics group

- Heralds
- News group
- Exact copies
- Particles
- Noted 20th C. performer Lena
- Tempted
- Midway between north and east
- Slotted, hinged metal plate
- South American hummingbird
- Neither
- Walk with confidence
- Omit when speaking
- Imperial Chinese currency
- A bakery specializing in French pastry

- Talk incessantly
- Ethnic group of Nigeria
- Longtime NY Times film critic
- Beginners
- Makes a trade
- Sleep
- Not moving
- Popular drink: Pina ___
- Potential benefits
- A place you can get stuck in
- Ancient Greek City
- Chalcedony
- Rover
- Digraph
- Investment vehicle

SUDOKU

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

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

- Pastes for filling crevices
- Acquire



*Based on GM Lux2 SUV EV Segmentation. On a full charge. Actual range may vary based on several factors, including ambient temperature, terrain, battery age and condition, loading, and how you use and maintain your vehicle.

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A red BMW 4 Series Gran Coupé is shown from a front-three-quarter view, driving on a road. The car is sleek and aerodynamic, with a distinctive kidney grille and multi-spoke alloy wheels. The background is a blurred landscape, suggesting motion.

A silver Jeep Wrangler is shown from a front-three-quarter view. It features a black front bumper, a black grille with the Jeep logo, and large black wheels with off-road tires. The vehicle has a roof rack and a spare tire mounted on the side. The background is a solid blue wall.

A white Ram pickup truck is shown from a front-three-quarter view. The truck is parked on a dark, reflective surface. The background is a solid blue color. The truck features a large chrome grille with the Ram logo, chrome headlights, and a chrome bumper. It has a four-door cab and a short bed. The wheels are black with silver accents. The overall image is clean and professional, typical of a corporate website.



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