



Kids' Summer Fun Guide Page 21

VOLUME 56, NO. 22 \$1.00

#### Thursday, April 3, 2025

### Lifeguard chairs replaced with trash bins for Deck The Bins initiative

#### **By Anthony Richards**

Deck The Chairs' goal to become involved in the community throughout the year is becoming closer to a reality after the nonprofit organization announced a new initiative called "Deck The Bins."

In many ways, it will be similar to Deck The Chairs, which has gained local fame and recognition in recent years during the holidays, but the concept includes decorating the wooden trash bins seen around Jacksonville Beach rather than lifeguard chairs.

The idea to decorate the trash bins is by wrapping them with various artwork from local students, and those chosen will be decided as part of a student art contest that began on March 31 and will run through May 16.

The contest is open for students ages 8 to 18 and at schools throughout the First Coast area. There will be 36 winners selected to be featured on the trash bins with each winning student awarded \$100 as well.

This latest venture continues the connection that Deck The Chairs has made with local schools in recent years, as many students have been involved in helping design decorations

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Business Weekly Featuring Market Masters: Leaders in Finance Page 34

#### PonteVedraRecorder.com



💡 425 Town Plaza Ave, Ponte Vedra, FL, 32081 🛛 🖸 info@thelink.zone

the link

# **Circle of Creation returns to the link**

#### **By Holly Tishfield**

On Wednesday, March 26, members of the community gathered at the link in Nocatee to kick off the return of the Circle of Creation learning series.

The seven-session series, which will take place from March through early October, is designed to explore the synergy between emotional intelligence and automation, helping participants become their own "command center" for growth, creativity and impact.

The series welcomes women at all stages of their journey to join like-minded individuals and professionals for an engaging series targeted at bridging the gap with constantly evolving technologies.

"I've been very curious about the changing trends in recent years and how things are going to change with technology and artificial intelligence (AI)," said





Gurpreet Sania Misra, co-founder of the link and Sapna Foundation

Photo by Holly Tishfield



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### BRIEFS

#### **Democratic Club**

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, April 28, at the Ponte Vedra branch library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra. "Chat & Chew" begins at 5:30 p.m.

Featured speaker will be Dr. Sunil Joshi, chief health officer for the City of Jacksonville. Joshi will present a health outlook for the First Coast Region and answer questions.

For more information, go to PVDemClub@gmail.com

#### **Guana volunteer orientation planned**

Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) National Estuarine Research Reserve will offer a new volunteer orientation from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 4. Interested volunteers will learn about the background and history of the reserve, volunteer opportunities and the benefits of volunteering at GTM.

Meet at the GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. After completing the volunteer application at gtmnerr.org/ volunteer, contact volunteer coordinator Abby Kuhn at Abigail.Kuhn@FloridaDEP. gov to ensure that it was received.

#### 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.

#### **Beach exploration planned**

Join volunteers at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) National Estuarine Research Reserve for a guided exploration hike from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 5. Learn about the Guana Peninsula's natural

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biodiversity, expansive cultural history, vital estuarine resources and current efforts to protect these resources.

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

The event is free but parking is \$3 per vehicle. Wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are also recommended.

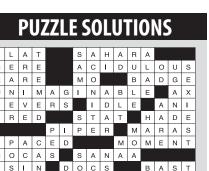
Register at gtmnerr.org/calendar.

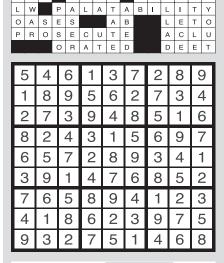
— Compiled by Shaun Ryan





#### Ponte Vedra Recorder · April 3, 2025







### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An opportunity to reduce wasteful spending, improve lives

#### To The Editor:

Obesity is a chronic disease affecting 42% of U.S. adults, with nearly half expected to be impacted by 2030. Despite being a major driver of health care

Thinking of Advertising in the Recorder? For more information call (904) 285-8831 to speak with a Sales Rep. today! costs, Medicare does not currently cover FDA-approved anti-obesity medications (AOMs), which are now delivering never-before-seen improvements. Expanding this coverage presents a smart opportunity to save taxpayer money while improving lives.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed a rule that would allow Medicare to cover these medications. By finalizing this policy, President Trump has the chance to reduce long-term health care spending while giving millions of Americans access to effective treatment.

Medicare spends \$50 billion annually on obesity-related diseases, with beneficiaries who have obesity costing over \$2,000 more per year than those at a healthy weight. Covering AOMs can help prevent expensive complications, like diabetes and heart disease, producing an estimated \$175 billion to \$248 billion in savings over the next decade.

Beyond cost savings, expanding coverage for AOMs would improve quality of life for millions of seniors. Obesity increases the risk of multiple chronic conditions that limit mobility, independence and overall well-being. Providing access to effective treatments will help Medicare beneficiaries live healthier, more active lives for longer.

Medicare already covers treatments for other chronic diseases. Anti-obesity medications have demonstrated unprecedented success in helping patients achieve sustained weight loss, reducing future health care costs.

This is a fiscally responsible, bipartisan solution with strong support from medical experts. By modernizing Medicare to reflect the latest advancements in obesity treatment, President Trump has an opportunity to both cut costs and improve the well-being of millions of Americans.

Randy Ray Chairman of Senior Consumers of America Ponte Vedra



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### the link Continued from 1

Gurpreet Sania Misra, co-founder of the link and Sapna Foundation. "Especially for women in business, I wanted to know how women are feeling right now. Are they ready to adapt or are they on the doorstep of decision?"

The introductory session at the link included presentations from Lori Pugh, vice president, MPI Academy and CEO of Woven Path Consulting, and Tery Spataro, founder of Tery Designs and Creations, some of the Circle of Creation's recurring guest speakers.

"When I approached different women to get assurance about if this is a good topic, everybody related to it, so I think it's on the pulse," Misra said. "This series is meant to help women in business get comfortable with the language and with AI."

In its second year, the Circle of Creation series will feature six more sessions involving emotional intelligence and AI at the link. Attending all sessions will earn you a certificate and a free ticket to the 5th Annual EnterCircle Entrepreneurship Week 2025. This series is free for link members.



Guests attending the introductory session of the Circle of Creation

Photos by Holly Tishfield



Tery Spataro, founder of Tery Designs and Creations



**Gurpreet Sania Misra and Lori Pugh** 



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Tanya Ramos-Puig is chief executive officer for the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, which will hold its annual "A Night in the Vineyard" on April 8.

Tanya Ramos-Puig

#### As told to Shaun Ryan

#### Tell me a bit about yourself, especially your background in the nonprofit sector. Also, how long have you been with the Monique Burr Foundation for Children?

I am a New York native who grew up in a very under-resourced community. I learned firsthand that education was a great equalizer. I have benefitted from mentors throughout my academic and professional career, and I am where I am today because folks believed in me, saw my promise and poured into me. And for that, I am forever grateful. For nearly three decades, I have devoted my career to improving educational opportunities and life outcomes for youth in the most under-resourced communities around the globe. It has been my way of paying it forward. As the CEO of the Monique Burr Foundation (MBF), I am committed to removing obstacles and providing access to evidence-based and trauma-informed prevention education curricula.

Prior to joining MBF, I served as the inaugural president of the Latin Grammy Cultural Foundation (LGCF), the philanthropic arm of The Latin Recording Academy. I was responsible for advancing its mission of furthering international awareness and appreciation of the significant contributions of Latin music and its makers to the world's culture.

I have been able to make a true impact throughout my career, and I feel lucky to be able to do what I love.

#### What do you like most about what you do?

I am a servant leader. I am committed to leaving the world better than I found it and feel truly blessed to serve an organization that is in the business of saving lives and keeping children safe. It means so much to me to be able to live a life of purpose, and serving as the CEO of MBF allows me to do just that alongside an incredible staff, remarkable partners and donors, and our board of directors.

### Describe the MBF programs and why prevention education matters.

MBF programs are personal safety curricula developed to give children and teens knowledge and strategies to recognize, prevent and respond to child abuse, bullying, cyberbullying, online/digital dangers, exploitation and trafficking. The great things about the programs are that they are evidence-based, trauma-informed, age/developmentally appropriate and they work!

Parents and guardians often wonder if they should allow their children to attend MBF lessons. Some fear they will be exposed to topics too advanced for them. Others fear being exposed to these topics will take away their child's innocence. But education doesn't take away a child's innocence, experiences do. And our programs are designed to prevent those very experiences.

### Do you have any tips for parents regarding such things as digital safety and online exploitation?

• Open Communication – Have open and honest conversations about online safety, digital citizenship and the importance of privacy. Having these conversations in a casual and comfortable way can build trust and give youth the confidence to talk to their Safe Adult if they have issues or encounter unsafe situations online.

• Set the Tone and Set Some Boundaries – We encourage parents to familiarize themselves with their child's device's parental settings and controls. Create a set of



#### Tanya Ramos-Puig

internet-use guidelines that fit your child's age and maturity level, including what types of websites are appropriate, what information they are allowed to share online and boundaries around the reasonable times for digital device/ internet use.

• **Participate in their Online Activities** – When possible, we encourage you to join your children in their online activities, whether that be through playing a game together, following their social media accounts, watching funny videos together or just asking them to give you a "tutorial" on how to use whatever app they use often. This not only helps you understand what they are consuming, it helps strengthen your relations and keeps communication open.

• **Don't React Harshly** – If your child experiences something inappropriate or unsafe online, your first reaction may be to take away their digital device completely. However, this could discourage them from coming to you in future instances. Suppose your child encounters something unsafe or engages in something inappropriate online, it's crucial for parents and caregivers to respond thoughtfully rather than reacting harshly. Responding calmly and appropriately will encourage open communication, provide effective problem-solving (that will be received) support and build resilience.

#### Tell me about the MBF's partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club, PAL and Furyk and Friends. Are there any special events or projects in the works with these organizations?

We have had the privilege of partnering with these two

incredible youth-serving organizations (Boys and Girls Club and the Police Athletic League of Jacksonville) over the last year. In our efforts to keep children safe online as well as contribute to developing well-informed digital citizens, we enhanced our Digital Safety Matters curriculum with support from The Jim Moran Foundation to serve after-school youth. We have been able to develop lessons that are engaging, leverage technology and are incredibly interactive. The goal was to meet children where they are at and to leverage learnings from our pilot program that would inform how we deliver this important programming. We pride ourselves on being a learning organization, so we were so thankful for all the input, feedback and thought partnership we received from both PAL and the Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida. Finally, Furyk and Friends have been incredible ambassadors of our life-saving work through their generous donations. They have also leveraged their network to help identify new supporters who are committed to helping us realize our mission.

#### Tell me about "A Night in the Vineyard."

Hosted during Child Abuse Prevention Month, the fourth annual "A Night in the Vineyard" (benefiting the Monique Burr Foundation for Children) is a philanthropic event that features live entertainment, auctions, gourmet food, curated wine pairings, cocktails and interactive art — all while supporting a great cause: prevention of child

Contributed photo

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# Local Ben & Jerry's seeks to combat bullying on Free Cone Day

#### **By Anthony Richards**

The local community will have the opportunity to support a good cause while also enjoying a tasty treat as Ben & Jerry's located in Nocatee will celebrate the company's annual Free Cone Day in a unique way on April 8.

Not only is the location celebrating the company's proud tradition with the nationwide initiative of offering free scoops of ice cream in recognition of the community's continued support, but they have also teamed up with the nonprofit organization Bikers Against Bullies Worldwide to



celebrate while making a stand.

From noon to 8 p.m. complimentary scoops will be given to Ben & Jerry's customers and several members of the Bikers Against Bullies Worldwide will be on hand to help scoop some ice cream while raising awareness about bullying and striving to empower individuals to stand up against it.

As part of being guest scoopers for the day, the bikers will interact with custom-





ers sharing their mission and stories as well as memorable photo opportunities with the "Bullydozer," which is a motorcycle designed as a fun play on words that resembles a bulldozer and is a symbolic reminder of the strength needed by all in the community to effectively push back against bullying.

Some of the members of Bikers Against Bullies Worldwide that will be on hand will include Fred "Flash" Van de Perre, president and founder of USA, Bikers Against Bullies Worldwide, Lisa "Kitty" Van de Perre, "Marine" Troy Holmquist, head liaison with Florida state, Bikers Against Bullies Worldwide, and Isaac "Superman" Morino, Florida chapter liaison with the organization.

There will be family-friendly games and the Acts of Sweetness Public Art Wall at the location for people to take part and view, while they enjoy their scoops of ice cream.

In the spirit of giving back, donations will be accepted for Bikers Against Bullies Worldwide to support their initiatives to combat bullying and promote safer communities.

Teaming up with an operation like Bikers Against Bullies Worldwide is just the latest



Contributed photo Bikers Against Bullies Worldwide will partner with Ben & Jerry's Nocatee to create awareness about bullying on April 8.

initiative that Jessica Shaw, Ben & Jerry's Nocatee owner, has been involved with as part of the community, as the ice cream shop also has certain days called "scoops of inclusion," where Ponte Vedra High School students with learning differences get the opportunity to get behind the counter to serve up both smiles and scoops in a creative and inclusive event.

The Nocatee Ben & Jerry's is located at 295 Pine Lake Drive, Suite No. C101 in Ponte Vedra.

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GURPREET MISRA Co-Founder the link



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# **Bins**

Continued from 1

for that and now the bins will present another opportunity to promote the importance of art as part of a school's curriculum.

One of the most treasured aspects of the Deck The Bins initiative is that it will give students the chance to showcase their artwork in the public sphere like many of them have never had the opportunity to experience prior.

That exposure is something that cannot be matched, especially for young artists still trying to discover their passion for art.

The Deck The Bins contest is made possible due to a collaboration with the City of Jacksonville Beach, Beaches Go Green and Waste Pro, as creating environmental awareness is also at the forefront of the program.

Fitting with the beach theme, the goal of the artwork is to have the environment and beach vibes in mind.

Each student is limited to enter just one piece of artwork, and all submissions must be submitted by emailing



Photo courtesy of Deck The Chairs Artwork will wrap trash bins like this one around Jacksonville Beach this summer as part of the Deck The Bins project.

info@deckthechairs.org with the artwork in file formats of either a JPG or PDF attached.

All submissions must be completed by a parent or guardian 18 years or older with correct contact information included. Just like Deck The Chairs, Deck The Bins will also be free for the public to view, as they will often be in front and center for anybody going to Jacksonville Beach.

Carrie R. Age 9 | Seabreeze Elementary

As Deck The Chairs has become a marquee event on the calendar for fami-

lies to come and see during the holiday season since it started in 2012, and organizers hope that Deck The Bins will have a similar impact for people during the summer months with the increase of beachgoers both locally and visiting from out of town in the summer.

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with designer appliances. The beautiful dining room is ideally located overlooking the pool on one side and off the chef's kitchen at the other end offering the ultimate dining venue. Ponte Vedra Beach is just minutes to the famed TPC, Atlantic Ocean and renowned Mayo Clinic. Sold for \$3,800,000.

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#### **10** COMMUNITY NEWS

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nurserv

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 Shrimp Plants

"In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous." — Aristotle

#### By Kathy Esfahani

The shrimp plant, or Justicia Brandegeeana, is also known as the Mexican shrimp plant or "false hop." Native



Kathy Esfahani

Americans believed shrimp plants provided protection from enemies, particularly during wartime. Shrimp plants have been used in ceremonies in Caribbean and South American countries. Today, early research suggests that chemicals in these plants may have medicinal uses. Although shrimp plants are native to Mexico, these tropical beauties grow well in

#### Florida.

A shrimp plant has green, oval leaves and can grow to be two to six feet tall. They are available as shrubs or standards (a lollipop-shaped form similar to a small tree with a bare trunk and round ball of leaves and blooms at the top).

Shrimp plants love the heat but need regular watering! They may tolerate a bit of shade but prefer areas of full sun for best growth. Light pruning will remove long stems to prevent them from sagging and keep the plant looking full.



**Shrimp Plant Standard** 

Shrimp Plants earn their name from the elongated shape of their flower, resembling shrimp in the sea. They feature drooping blooms in pink, purple and white and are closely related to the golden shrimp plant with yellow blossoms. The blooms of a shrimp plant grow from "bracts" at the end of a stem. The bracts are initially white but turn pink with exposure to sunlight. Bracts continue to grow in a chain-like pattern until they fall off, reaching anywhere from a few centimeters to almost a foot in length!

Shrimp plants give off a "shrimpy" smell to attract pollinators to small white flowers growing out of the bracts. Once shrimp plants begin to bloom, they will produce

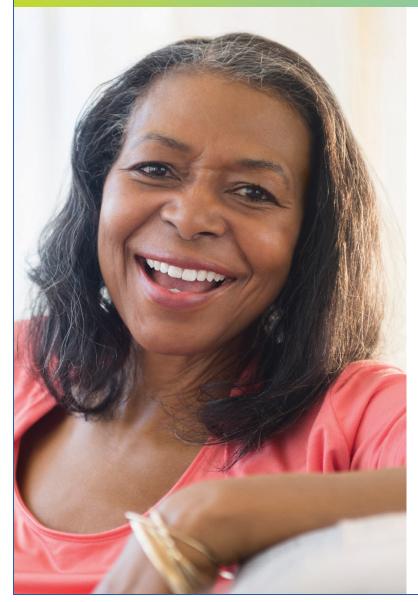


**Golden Shrimp Plant** 

flowers continuously throughout the spring, summer and fall. In our North Florida area (planting zone 9), the plants will lose their leaves in the cooler months of the year but come back the following spring. Because of their constant colorful blooms, shrimp plants are an excellent choice for any sunny location in a landscape. They attract hummingbirds and butterflies to your yard, so place them where you can watch for these fluttering visitors! Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Golden Shrimp Plant

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 the nursery in Ponte Vedra Beach, Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. 904-655-7373.



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# Ramos-Puig

abuse and bullying. We are also very excited about the Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida art showcase this year, which will feature artwork from local students. It's happening on April 8, and you don't want to miss it!

#### In December, you have the Dream Finders Home Pro-Am Golf Tournament. What can you tell me and our readers about that?

Before Monique passed away in 1996, she was in the process of planning her first charitable golf tournament. Unfortunately, Monique did not get a chance to see it come to life. With the assistance and guidance of MG Orender (president of Hampton Golf and former president of the PGA of America), we are blessed to carry out her dream by hosting the annual MBF Champions for Child Safety Pro-Am Golf Tournament. The Tournament — MBF's largest fundraising event of the year — gives players a chance to enjoy a round of golf with a professional golfer while supporting MBF. We have pros like Jim Furyk, Justin James, Vijay Singh and Kenny Knox join us for a fun day on the course at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine, Florida. This year's event will occur on Dec. 8. You can find more information at www.championsforchildsafety.com.

#### What do you like best about living here on the First Coast?

It has been an incredible journey! As a New York native who has worked in Florida for nearly five years, it has been nice to no longer be just a visitor to the First Coast. I truly fell in love with this area, and I feel really lucky to call this my new home alongside my husband of nearly 20 years and my daughter and son. For me, the best part of living here is the opportunity to spend far more time outdoors and, of course, being close to the beach. The beach has always been my happy place!

# Lika Behar Trunk Show with Lika Behar Personal Appearance



Meet Lika Behar with her latest designs and collections created in her studio in Instanbul as wearable art in 22 karat gold, 18 karat gold, silver, and mixed metals with and without diamonds and gems.

> 2 Days Only Friday and Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

### Shoppes of Ponte Vedra Only

Show Hours Friday 10 AM - 6 PM Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM



The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra (904) 280-1202 Avondale 3617 St. Johns Ave. (904) 388-5406 San Marco 2044 San Marco Blvd. (904) 398-9741 Jacksonville, Florida 32207 www.underwoodjewelers.com Ronald McDonald House McGala theme is Western chic

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Jacksonville has announced its signature fundraising event, McGala, taking place on Saturday, April 26, at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa.

This year's event invites guests to embrace the spirit of the West while supporting a mission that keeps families close to their critically ill children receiving medical care. The evening will feature an elegant dinner, live entertainment, exclusive auction items and heartfelt stories from families who have found comfort and care at the House.

"McGala is more than a celebration, it's a night where our community comes together to make a meaningful impact for families in need," said Joey Leik, CEO of RMHC Jacksonville. "Every sponsorship sold, and every donation made directly supports our mission to provide a 'home away from home' for families facing some of the toughest moments of their lives."

Guests can look forward to an unforgettable evening filled with Westerninspired glamour, live music and giving back in style. Proceeds from McGala ensure that RMHC Jacksonville can continue to provide lodging, meals and support to families while their children receive lifesaving medical care.

Sponsorships and tickets are available now. To learn more or secure your spot, go to rmhcjacksonville.org/events/ mcgala.

#### 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:

<u>Please provide sufficient details</u> 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: <u>stevecrosby101@gmail.com</u> 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!



The St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival will conduct several events at Ancient City Farmstead.

# New location for some St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival events

The fifth annual St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival has announced its new home for its signature weekend events. The events scheduled for Friday, May 9, through Sunday, May 11, will now take place at Ancient City Farmstead, located in St. Augustine, just 10 minutes from the downtown historic district.

"An opportunity recently presented itself to move the festival's weekend events planned for this year to Ancient City Farmstead from World Golf Village," said festival founder Jan Gourley. "In moving the festival this year, we were able to establish a permanent location for the 2026 and 2027 festivals. It's a beautiful venue, surrounded by 1,500 acres of lush Florida greenery, which just opened in December 2024, designed with premier wedding and

event facilities/parking, restored farmhouse and barn, and a brand-new luxury barn that will open in April, which will become the festival's new indoor and air-conditioned VIP Lounge. We are extremely excited about this venue, location and partnership with Ancient City Farmstead. It's a chance to help showcase this new St. Augustine hidden gem to the Southeastern regional market and attendees/visitors coming in town for the festival."

The St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival, takes place May 7-11, presented by Publix. It kicks off with its River Walk Tastings event on Wednesday, May 7, at San Sebastian Winery, followed by the Harvest Awards & Tastings on Thursday, May 8, at the Hyatt Place in Vilano Beach.

The festival's weekend signature events will all take place at Ancient City Farmstead including Friday, May 9, Smoke on the Walk; Saturday, May 10, Grand Tasting; and the Sunday, May 11, Mother's Day Sunday Brunch.

The festival is made possible in part by support from St. Johns Cultural Council, Florida's Historic Coast: St. Augustine/Ponte Vedra and a 2025 St. Johns County Tourist Development Grant.

The most up-to-date festival information is available at staugustinefoodandwinefestival.com and the festival's social media channels, facebook.com/StAugustineFood-Wine and instagram.com/staugustinefoodwine.

Ancient City Farmstead is located at 395 St. Marks Pond Blvd., St. Augustine.



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The check presentation to S.A.F.E. Animal Rescue.

Contributed photos

# Palm Valley Rotary distributes raffle funds

The Palm Valley Rotary Club expressed its gratitude recently to local residents who generously supported its 2024 Caring for Our Communities Raffle. Club members recently distributed funds raised to Down Syndrome of Jacksonville, S.A.F.E. Animal Rescue in St. Augustine and Gabriel House.



The check presentation to Down Syndrome of Jacksonville.



# Local club marks Rotary's 120th anniversary



Rotary started with the vision of one man, Paul Harris. The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on Feb. 23, 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. He met with three friends in room 711 of the Unity Building in Chicago, where they formed the Rotary Club of Chicago, the world's first service club, and it has grown into one of the world's largest service organizations. Rotary members

have addressed challenges in their communities and around the world. Rotarians continue to strive for goodwill, peace and understanding among all people of the world, as they also celebrate Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month.

"Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves," said Harris.

The Rotary Club of Palm Valley wished the organization a happy anniversary, stating: "Here's to another 120 years of 'Service Above Self!""





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# FPL's grid investments lead to best overall service reliability

In a recent filing with the Florida Public Service Commission, Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) reported 2024 as the best year ever for the company's overall system reliability according to key industry metrics. This includes the company's lowest average number of minutes an FPL customer experienced an outage — surpassing the previous company-best performance set in 2023.

FPL invests in infrastructure and technology to ensure its customers have reliable service in good weather and bad. FPL's reliability has ranked in the top 10% nationally<sup>1</sup> while its customer bills have remained well below the national average for more than a decade.

• 40% improvement in overall system

reliability in the past two decades.

• 59% better service reliability, systemwide, than the national average and the best among all investor-owned utilities in Florida.

• 82% of FPL's main power lines, systemwide, are hardened, serving critical services such as hospitals and 911 call centers.

• 96% of FPL's transmission structures are steel or concrete.

• 3,000 Storm Secure Underground Program projects have converted neighborhood power lines underground since 2019.

• 227,000 intelligent devices across the FPL grid detect potential issues, helping to prevent outages before they happen

and enabling FPL to restore power faster following outages.

• 2.7 million total customer outages avoided, systemwide, in 2024 with smart grid technology.

Reliability enhancements in Northwest Florida:

• 32% fewer wooden transmission structures in Northwest Florida as part of FPL's conversion to harden the grid with steel or concrete structures.

• 63% improvement in overall system reliability in Northwest Florida since 2018.

• 90 miles of neighborhood power lines undergrounded in Northwest Florida.

• 9,100 smart grid devices installed in Northwest Florida.

"We strive to provide reliable electricity to our customers while keeping

### Myth Busting at Habitat St. Johns

Myth: Habitat gives homes away for free

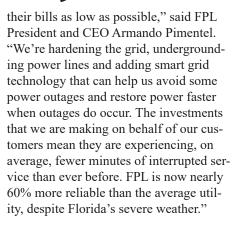
Fact: This is definitely the #1 myth heard at every Habitat in the USA. No, Habitat homes are not free!

Habitat homeowners pay a monthly mortgage payment just like all other homeowners. Habitat St. Johns builds homes that are affordable so hardworking, local families and individuals, including teachers, first responders, hospitality, restaurant & small business employees and others can build stability, security and generational wealth through homeownership.

Visit our website or call to learn how you can help.

www.habitatstjohns.org 904-826-3252

We are YOUR hometown Habitat!



<sup>1</sup> Based on PA Consulting's most recent reliability benchmarking analysis (2023 results), with data from approximately 100 investor-owned utilities (IOU's), with the vast majority utilizing IEEE 2.5 beta methodology.





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# COA plans centenarian luncheons in May

Council on Aging (COA) will honor St. Johns County centenarians and nonagenarians at two centenarian luncheons, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. May 1 at River House (179 Marine St., St Augustine) and 11:30 a.m. May 15 at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center (175 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach).

If you or a loved one will be turning age 95 or better this year, contact Council on Aging to register to participate in the celebration nearest you by calling 904-209-3700.

"We are asking for everyone's help in inviting all of our cherished elders in the community who are eligible to attend," said COA Executive Director Becky Yanni. "Council on Aging must rely upon members of the community to please help us get the word out."

Advance registration is required as space is limited. Each honoree is invited to bring one complimentary guest to the luncheon. Tickets for additional guests may be purchased if space is available.

"We are very excited to be able to host these special events," Yanni said. "The entire community looks forward to the chance to recognize our St. Johns County elders and honor their exceptional lives."



Contributed photo A centenarian luncheon participant at River House in 2024.

Sponsors are needed to finance these special events. Table sponsorships are available for a donation of \$250, and include table and social media recognition, as well as a seat to attend the centenarian luncheon of your choice.

To register to attend or to become a sponsor, contact COA's Karen Foy at 904-209-3700 or kfoy@coasjc.org.

The RSVP deadline for the May 1 River House event is April 17. The RSVP deadline for the May 15 event is May 1.



Photo by Melissa Marcarel

# BRAVE Summit hosts 2,500, focuses on teen mental health

The fifth annual BRAVE Summit welcomed 2,500 high school students from across Florida on March 26, breaking down stigmas and normalizing conversations around mental health. The free event was hosted by UF Health St. Johns at the St. Augustine Ampitheatre. Mental health advocates Emma Benoit

and Charles Clark inspired students with their powerful, personal stories and more than 50 vendor booths, including Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation, supplied attendees with information and resources.

BRAVE continues on Page 18





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# BRAVE

The afternoon also featured art and poetry submitted by student attendees, giveaways, interactive games, photo booths and nationally recognized music artist Paul Russell.

"Each year, it's heartening to see the important work being done at the BRAVE Summit to create a welcoming and safe space for teens to discuss mental health," said Kerry Watson, interim CEO of UF Health St. Johns. "Creating a path for a generation that prioritizes mental health as a vital aspect of overall well-being supports our commitment in creating healthier communities."

The growth of the BRAVE Summit has been inspiring, said Paige Stanton, the event's founder and executive director of UF Health St. Johns Care Connect.

"Each year the event grows exponentially," she said. "Two years ago, we welcomed approximately 1,000 students, then nearly 2,000 attendees last year and to have more than 2,500 join us this year brings us so much joy and tells us that we are filling a need of these students. Our goal is to reach as many young people as possible to let them know that it's OK to talk about mental health, that there are resources available if and when they need help, that there are people who care and that they are not alone."

BRAVE Summit is a centerpiece event of the BRAVE program. BRAVE, which stands for Be Resilient and Voice Emotions, was founded in 2019 and has already made significant progress in connecting high school teens to mental health resources.

Before BRAVE's implementation in St. Johns County Schools, only 35% of students who were referred to mental health providers were seen by a medical professional. With the BRAVE program, that rate has increased to 90%. Since its founding and despite the pandemic, BRAVE has expanded into 10 school districts across the state, with the ability to assist nearly 300,000 students.

Photos by Melissa Marcarelli







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# **Nease NJROTC hosts car show fundraiser**

The Third Annual Nease NJROTC Car Show was held on March 29, as cars of all makes, models and across the decades lined up in the parking lot at Panther Stadium and created a different type of roar than what is heard coming from the stadium during football Fridays in the fall.

The event served as a fundraiser for Nease NJROTC to help toward providing scholarships for graduating seniors.









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# Lecture focus: Modeling soft tissues of dinosaurs

The University of Florida Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience Evenings at Whitney Lecture Series continues at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 10, with the program titled "Beyond the Skeleton: Modeling the Soft Tissues of Dinosaurs and Why We Should Care."

Emma Schachner, assistant professor, Department of Physiological Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, will be the speaker.

This free lecture will be presented in person at the UF Whitney Laboratory Lohman Auditorium, 9505 Ocean Shore Blvd., St. Augustine. Those interested also have the option of registering to watch via Zoom live the night of the lecture.

To register to watch online, go to https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/ WN RNPcvN-kTyCJdejomqrvxw.

What were dinosaur lungs like and how do we know? Reconstructing the soft tissues of extinct animals requires careful detailed study of the anatomy and physiology of living animals specifically birds, the closest living relatives of dinosaurs.

This means getting up close with as many birds as possible. By combining cutting edge imaging techniques like 3D digital anatomical modeling, with classical anatomical dissection and paleontological analysis, Schachner will explain the myriad good and bad ways to investigate what dinosaurs were really like. Additionally, she will share how some of the methods she uses to address these questions can be directly applied to human and veterinary medicine.

Schachner studies the anatomy, physiology, development and evolution the respiratory system of reptiles and birds (including dinosaurs). She runs a multidisciplinary research lab at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. Her research group also specializes in 3D digital imaging and the visual communication of science.

She earned her Ph.D. in paleontology at the University of Pennsylvania, then her postdoctoral training in respiratory physiology at the University of Utah and veterinary biomedical sciences at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. She currently teaches anatomy to first year veterinary students but spent seven years teaching human anatomy to dental, medical and allied health students.

She gave a 2020 TED Talk on "The secret weapon that let dinosaurs take over the planet." More information on her research and team can be found at theropoda.com.



Emma Schachner and the fossilized skull of a deinosuchus.

Contributed photo



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THE RECORDER | APRIL 3, 2025

# Fun2BFit helps preschoolers learn through play

#### **By Holly Tishfield**

Catherine Webb, better known as Coach Cathy at schools around town, started Fun2BFit back in 2012, though her passion for helping children thrive existed long before that.

She served as the itinerant consultant physical therapist for St. John's County schools before beginning her business, a pediatric physical therapist by training, but soon realized that she wanted to take a different approach to serving children in the community.

"There's such a need for health promotion in younger children now," Webb said. "I feel like if I can reach even one family or one kid, it's a blessing for me."

Fun2BFit is a play-based health literacy/exercise program designed specifically for preschools, where children have the opportunity to learn important life lessons on nutrition, wellness, selfcare and exercise through play.

Webb's classes include fun age-appropriate games, music, stories and toys that engage students in health education, physical activity and social skills while also having fun.

"It's more than just physical education," Webb said. "We're teaching them about the tenets of healthy living in an age-appropriate and fun way."



#### Coach Cathy Webb with a few of her students.

Fun2BFit has been one of Webb's lifelong ambitions, but she spent years handling the business part time as she raised her own children. Now, with her children fully grown, she has the time to devote her full attention to engaging with the community.

Webb coordinates with local preschools to facilitate classes as part of the school's curriculum or an additional afterschool enrichment activity. While she does handle special requests for one-on-one



enrichment, Fun2BFit focuses primarily on group settings.

Currently, Fun2BFit serves more than 400 children per week at various preschools in the area, a feat Webb has been able to manage thanks to assistance from a newly hired employee, Stephanie Cornelius.

"I feel very blessed to do what I do; it just fills my heart every day," Webb said. "These kids are little sponges, and they just soak it all up."

As the business grows, Fun2BFit is hoping to expand its offering into new preschools throughout the area, spanning from Baymeadows out to the Beaches community.

To reach Webb for a consultation or questions, email her at coachcathy@ fun2b.fit.





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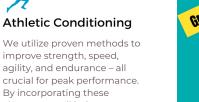
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Campers listen to a demonstration during last year's Colonial Adventure Camp.



Reenactors of the colonial time are a major part of the camp experience.

# **Colonial Adventure Camp soaks up sun, historic charm**

#### **By Anthony Richards**

St. Augustine is known for having pieces of history almost everywhere one looks so it is only fitting that they host a summer camp aimed at capturing that history.

The Colonial Adventure Camp will be hosted by the Colonial Quarter for incoming second to fifth graders July 14-18.

The camp was uniquely designed to not only give the children a memorable and exhilarating summer camp experience but also offer them a better understanding of the history that helped form both the city and the state of Florida.

All five days will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. and will focus on different aspects of history, including "pirate day," when campers are encouraged to dress up and talk like a pirate while learning about real-life pirates during a tour of the St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum.

And of course, what would "pirate day" be without a treasure hunt to capture the true pirate way of life?

Other highlights of the camp will include interacting with reenactors of the time period during various historical demonstrations through crafts, music and games at other famed landmarks, such as the Castillo de San Marcos.

Campers must bring a bagged lunch; water bottle and sunscreen and parents should notify Colonial Quarter staff of any allergies or medical conditions their child has.

Closed-toed shoes and comfortable clothing are recommended due to the summer heat and the amount of walking during certain tours and activities.

Registration for the camp is now open and the cost to attend is \$165 per child,



which includes a camp T-shirt and a gift bag from the St. Augustine Pirate

& Treasure Museum to remember the camp experience.



904.900.1439 | 171 Canal Blvd, Ponte Vedra Beach

# Kiwanis Club of Ponte Vedra welcomes new members

#### **By Holly Tishfield**

Kids need adults who care, a positive influence in communities worldwide so that one day, all children will wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them and provide the support they need to thrive.

That's the mission and goal of Kiwanis and the Kiwanis clubs, a nationwide organization with chapters throughout the state that focus on serving together to change children's lives.

Members of the Nocatee and Ponte Vedra communities recently formed a



new Kiwanis club chapter in St. John's County to further this philanthropic mission and they're hoping to encourage other community members to join them. The club, although only recently getting off the ground, meets twice per month to discuss volunteer-based and fundraising efforts throughout the area. At least once per month, the club will gather at soon-to-be-chosen charities to provide volunteer services.

The organization's strong reputation has led to multiple chapters across North Florida. As St. Johns County continues to grow, members recognized the importance of expanding their reach by establishing a new chapter.

This Saturday, April 5, is the club's first

volunteer day at St. Francis House, where multiple members of the club will meet to assist in the charity's efforts.

The Ponte Vedra chapter of Kiwanis is searching for leadership members of the organization and also encourages interested community members to apply for the roles.

The club is actively recruiting new members. The next public meeting, where interested community members can get involved or ask questions, will take place on Monday, April 7, at 6 p.m. at Vincenzo's Cucina Ponte Vedra Beach.

# The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp benefits children in myriad ways. Recognition of the many advantages of attending summer camp can serve as a great reminder of just how fun it can be for children to spend their time away from school at a camp of their choosing.

• Campers continue to socialize throughout summer. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they're used to, especially for middle and elementary school-aged children.

• Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many include children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds.

• Camp can get kids off their devices. A 2025 study from researchers at the University of Michigan published in the journal Health and Place found that efforts to reduce kids' screen time are more successful when children are given a chance to play outside. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices.

• Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time. That can add an aimlessness to summer days. Camp can provide the structure kids are accustomed to but still offer a break from responsibilities like homework or the commitments required of extracurricular activities.

There's no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.





# IT'S SUMMER CAMPS TIME AGAIN!

Here's a look at some of the many summer camp options available locally.

#### **THE LINK**

Summer camps will be held between June 2 to Aug. 8. The link is located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra in the heart of Nocatee Town Center. Phone: 904-299-3671. Email: info@thelink.zone.

For further information and to register, go to https://www.thelink.zone/camps-2. Here's a look at the camps:

#### **LEGO Robotics**

Explore the world of robotics and programming in this LEGO Robotics summer camp! Through hands-on building and coding activities, kids will develop essential STEM skills such as spatial reasoning, problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking. Note: These are full-day camps. Ten camps to choose from: June 2-6, June 9-13, June 16-20, June 23-27, June 30-July 3, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25, July 28-Aug. 1 and Aug. 4-8.

#### **Creative Culinary**

Teach your child the importance of healthy eating habits and cooking skills with this Healthy Hands Cooking Camp! This camp covers everything from kitchen safety to proper food handling and prepa-



ration. Students will also learn about the pros and cons of packaged foods and how to make informed choices at the grocery store. Best of all, they'll have the chance to create and enjoy delicious, wholesome recipes. Ten camps to choose from: June 2-6, June 9-13, June 16-20, June 23-27, June 30-July 3, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25, July 28-Aug. 1 and Aug. 4-8.

#### **Creator's Corner**

Unleash creativity and craft dream designs. This camp will entail marbling

mastery, sugar scrubs and jar art, clothing transformations, resin creations, abstract art, candle making and drama. Students will bring home their fabulous creations and the knowledge to create them again! Nine camps to choose from: June 2-6, June 9-13, June 16-20, June 23-27, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25, July 28-Aug. 1 and Aug. 4-8.

#### **Olympic Style Fencing**

This is one of the most popular summer camps. Learn the basics of one of the old-

est Olympic sports. Led by Coach Alan Chernomashentsev, an accomplished athlete and experienced coach, students will learn fundamental skills, techniques and rules of fencing. Whether your child is new to the sport or already has the experience, they'll benefit from Coach Alan's expert guidance and commitment to developing good character. Three camps to choose from: June 2-6, June 16-20 and July 21-25.

#### **Kids Can Code**

Unleash your inner tech wizard! Sign up for this exciting Kids Can Code Summer Camp, where creativity meets technology. This hands-on program is designed to inspire young minds and empower kids to become the coders and problem-solvers of tomorrow. Here's what your child will explore with different camp themes to include: Roblox Game Development, Robotics, CodeSpark, Minecraft and Code Combat. With a mix of engaging platforms, interactive lessons and collaborative teamwork, Kids Can Code Summer Camps are the perfect environment to fuel your child's passion for technology. Whether they're a beginner or a budding programmer, they'll gain invaluable skills that make learning fun and

CAMP continues on Page 26



### www.childrensartclasses.com

Where a kid can be an artist.





GIVE YOUR CHILD A SUMMER OF GROWTH, FUN, AND UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES!

This summer, give your child the opportunity to grow in confidence, build independence, and develop valuable life skills at Mandala Wellness! Our camps are designed to empower kids through engaging activities that spark creativity, foster teamwork, and encourage self-discovery.

	SOCIAL SUPERSTARS		COLLEGE PREP			BIKE BUDDIES	
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#### SPOTS ARE LIMITED! >> SCAN TO REGISTER TODAY >> MandalaFamilyWellness.com/camps



(904) 834-7581 183 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach

# Camp

Continued from 25

memorable. Seven camps to choose from: June 9-13, June 23-27, June 30- July 3, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 28- Aug. 1 and Aug. 4-8.

#### **CODE NINJAS**

Code Ninjas is planning camps at five different area campuses.

Transform your child's love for technology into an exciting learning adventure. Guided by a team of "code senseis," Code Ninjas Camps empower kids to gain valuable tech skills and make new friends.

For information, including dates and prices, or to register, go to codeninjas. com and click "Shop Camps." The camps offer a wide variety of fun experiences for "ninjas" ages 5-14. They cover a wide range of topics from electronics to creative design, including rich content for coding or STEM.

The camps will run on weekdays for 10 weeks, June 2 through Aug. 8 (with an exception for July 4). Camp locations are:

• Ponte Vedra Beach: 258 Solana Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. Phone: 904-834-2359

• **St. Johns:** 2758 Race Track Road, Suite 401, St. Johns. Phone: 904-500-2633 • World Golf Village: 533 W. Twin Court Trail, Unit 704, St. Augustine. Phone: 904-217-0652

• **Baymeadows:** 8221 Southside Blvd., Suite 10, Jacksonville. Phone: 904-475-2160

• Fleming Island: 1811 Golden Eagle Way, Suite 28, Fleming Island. Phone: 904-375-0653

Here's a look at the camps:

• Creative Studio: Digital Directors: Learn about filmmaking and storytelling.

• Content Creators — YouTube Stars: Learn video editing, scripting and more.

• Lego: RoboDojo — Build and Battle: Design, build and battle Lego Robots.

• Lego: RoboDojo — On a Mission: Take Lego robotics skills to the next level.

• Minecraft & Roblox Adventures for Beginners: Discover the basics of building and coding with these popular platforms

• Minecraft: Modder Gamers & Minecraft: Modding Masters: Take your favorite game to the next level.

• Minecraft: Movie Makers: Create epic in-game movies.

• Minecraft: Redstone Realm: Master engineering and circuitry.

• Minecraft: Robo in the Dojo: Code and control Minecraft robots.

• Minecraft: Digital Data Defenders: Save the digital world with coding and cybersecurity skills.

• Roblox: 3D World Builders & Roblox: World Creators: Build immersive 3D worlds.

• **Roblox: The Next Level:** Advanced game design and scripting.

• **3D Studio: Creators I:** 3D modeling and design.

• Drone Dome — Challenge the Skies! Code, fly and compete with drones.

#### **FIRST COAST CULTURAL CENTER**

First Coast Cultural Center is offering a variety of summer camps. For more information or to register, go to https:// www.firstcoastculturalcenter.org/programs-events/art-camps.

### Summer Camp at Alhambra Theatre and Dining

Ages 8-17

Cost: \$510 for FCCC members, \$560 for future members

Each camp week is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes two weeks of programming, the musical showcase, and one meal and one complimentary showcase ticket per registered child.

This year's performance will be announced soon.

- Alhambra Camp 2 dates:
- Week 1: July 21-25
- Week 2: July 28-Aug. 1
- Showcase: Aug. 4

#### Summer Art, Culinary and Drama Camps

#### **Exploration Vacation: Florida Life**

All weeks are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at First Coast Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.

Cost: \$300 for future members, \$270 for current members

Students ages 6 years old through 12 years old will create 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional works of art using a variety of tools and techniques, led by professional art teachers in a peaceful, safe setting. Each week children will draw, sculpt, build, paint, explore the galleries and more, related to the weekly theme.

Children will not only explore high quality art making techniques, but also search through the galleries (at FCCC location), play outside and observe the natural world like art detectives!

#### Theme schedule:

• The Science of Art: June 2-6. In the mornings, children will work with acting coach Sheri Lahris to develop their improvisational skills through small group and individual activities! Children can create new scenarios and imagine endless possibilities given the right techniques and tools, while building confidence. In the afternoon, the children will paint, sculpt, draw, print and play games, while

#### CAMP continues on Page 27

# A Portrait of **Potential**

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

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#### MUNNERLYN

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

#### ST. MARK'S

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

#### **BEACHES**

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

### Camp Continued from 26

learning about artists and art history and the "A-ha!" moments of creating.

• Who lives at the Shoreline? June 9-13. In the mornings, children will work with acting coach Sheri Lahris to develop their improvisational skills through small group and individual activities! Children can create new scenarios and imagine endless possibilities given the right techniques and tools, while building confidence. In the afternoon, the children will paint, sculpt, draw, print and play games, while learning about artists and art history and the "A-ha!" moments of creating.

• Natural Florida: June 16-20. Students will learn about Florida's flora and fauna through exploration and discovery. They will draw and paint native species of plants and animals, and discover prehistoric life that still remains, along with invasive species and the impacts through an artful lens.

• Sunset Oranges: June 23-27. Warm colors are a theme this week, along with the study of fruit as it relates to the region, and in art.

• City Life at the Beach: July 7-11. What makes beach towns' architecture so interesting? Students will draw, paint and build a cityscape around a beach view.

• Ocean Textures: July 14-18.



Students will create "sandy," "rough," "salty," "scaly" and more textures out of clay, paint and printmaking, such as Gyotaku fish printing.

• Under the Sea: July 21-25. Students will study sea creatures of all kinds, including those more unknown at the depths of the ocean, and represent them in an artful way.

• Wild Weather in Florida: July 28-Aug. 1. Campers will learn about local weather, climate and how that causes plants and animals to respond. Then they will create paintings, drawings and stories about Florida's wild

weather.

#### **ADVENTURE LANDING**

2780 S.R. 16 St. Augustine 904-827-9400 st-augustine.adventurelanding.com/ groups/day-care-summer-camp

1944 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach 904-246-4386 jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.

com/groups/day-care-summer-camp

#### **JAX COOKING STUDIO**

14035 Beach Blvd. Unit 6, Jacksonville Cooking camps are intended for children age 7 and older. Camps are handson, and the kids eat what they make each day!

https://jaxcookingstudio.com 904-379-6220

#### **LIMELIGHT THEATRE**

11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine. Two camps for kindergarten through grade 3: Broadway Kidz Week (10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 2-6) and Fairy Tale Week (10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 9-13) Two camps for grades 4-8: Musical

Theatre Intensive Week One (2-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 2-6) and Musical Theatre Intensive Week Two (2-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 9-13)

Theatre Devising Camp: For grades 6-8. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 7-11.

"Spamalot Young@Part": For grades 5-12. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 2-27. Performances: 5:30 p.m. June 27 and 28; 12:30 p.m. June 29.

For further information or to register, go to limelight-theatre.org/youth-programs.

#### **TOMMY HULIHAN'S BASKETBALL CAMP**

https://tommyhulihanbasketball.com/ basketball-camp. Where: St. Paul's Gym, 212 5th St.

North, Jacksonville Beach

#### ΥΜζΑ

Summer Day Camp registration is now open. Registration is available online only, and spots are limited.

For ages 5-12.

The Brown Family YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach. 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 2-Aug. 8.

Registration information, as well as other locations and times can be found at https://fcymca.org/programs/camp/ summer-day-camp.

- Compiled by Shaun Ryan



Register at any location, 5 Great Locations to choose:

**Baymeadows** 

Fleming Island Ponte Vedra







St Johns

World Golf

www.codeninjas.com 904 - 217 - 0652





The StrongHer Momentum summer program aims to empower young girls through physical and mental strength training. Age ranges include divided groups with 11-13 year olds & 14-16 year olds.

#### **EXPERT GUIDANCE**

Mackenzie and Cortney will team up to coach the girls throughout the week about how to improve their confidence physically and mentally.

#### **POSITIVE MINDSET**

Participants will learn to cultivate positive self-talk, resilience, and encouragement for peers.

#### **SESSION DATES**

JUNE 9-12 JUNE 23-26 JULY 14-17 JULY 21-24

#### **ADDITIONAL INFO**

Monday - Thursday 10:00am -12:30pm Cost: \$400

5150 Palm Valley RD STE.103 Ponte Vedra Beach, 32082 CONTACT CORTNEY WELCH 912-977-0110

**ABOUT OUR WORKSHOP** 

# Summer fun for children: Activities inspire growth, connection, joy

Summer break is a time of sunshine, freedom and endless possibilities — and with a little creativity, it can also be a season of meaningful growth and discovery for every child. From sensory-rich nature explorations to imaginative art projects and calm spaces that nurture emotional well-being, there are a variety of activities designed to support and engage children of all abilities and learning styles.

#### **1. Nature-Based Adventures**

Outdoor play has always been a favorite summer pastime, but structured nature activities can do more than just entertain. Programs that encourage children to explore trails, interact with animals or tend to a garden can boost confidence, support motor development and create opportunities for meaningful connection. Look for experiences that combine gentle structure with open-ended discovery — like nature walks with sensory prompts or animal encounters that allow for quiet observation and calm interaction.

#### 2. Movement and Mindfulness

Not every child thrives in the chaos of typical summer camps. Calmer, more focused environments that integrate movement with mindfulness can offer both physical and emotional benefits. Think yoga sessions that are playful and adaptive, or obstacle courses designed for success and self-regulation. These kinds of activities are especially beneficial when facilitated by experienced guides who understand the power of individualized pacing and encouragement.

#### 3. Creative Arts and Expression

Art, music and drama offer children a unique outlet to express themselves especially those who communicate best in nontraditional ways. Summer programs that prioritize self-expression over perfection can help kids build self-esteem and develop social connections. Whether it's painting under the trees, storytelling through puppetry or participating in a music circle, the focus should be on participation, not performance.



#### 4. Social-Emotional Learning Through Play

Friendships are often formed through shared experiences, and summer is the perfect time to build those bonds. Look for programs that intentionally weave in social-emotional learning — teaching children how to identify emotions, manage frustration and celebrate their unique strengths. This can be done through small group games, guided free play or interactive lessons built into daily routines.

#### Local Resources for Whole-Child Support

In Ponte Vedra, families have access to unique places where these thoughtful approaches to summer enrichment come together. Summer programs like those offered at Mandala Wellness, emphasize more than just entertainment — they support the whole child through nature-based play, creative expression, and therapeutic learning environments tailored to individual needs. www.mandalafamilywellness.com

Ultimately, the best summer activities are those that allow children to be fully themselves — to explore, grow, connect and feel safe while doing so. With the right setting and support, summer becomes more than a break from school — it becomes a powerful opportunity for every child to shine.

#### — Column submitted by Mandala Family Wellness



# **ST. AUGUSTINE** FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL MAY 7 - 11, 2025

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"One of Florida's Best Food and Wine Festivals" Miami Herald

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V/11C)

Enjoy a variety of all-inclusive beverage and culinary tasting events, featuring some of the region's best restaurants, food trucks, artisans and more. Hundreds of wines, beers and spirits to sample with a souvenir glass – Limited Discount Tickets Available!



#### **NEW LOCATION** Friday - Sunday events only!

St. Augustine's BRAND-NEW premier wedding and event venue, Ancient City Farmstead! Only 10 minutes from historic, downtown St. Augustine, for Friday - Sunday!

### Grand Tasting, Saturday, May 10

- NEW VIP Lounge! Indoor, air-conditioned with Rosé Garden, Gourmet Bloody Mary Bar & Signature Bites, Publix Liquors & Coca-Cola Open Bar, Private **Restrooms and Early Access!**
- Live Music, Publix Cooking Demo Stage, Silent Auction, Artisan Market & People's Choice Harvest Awards





**Buy Tickets Now!** (\*exclude VIP Lounge tickets and Packages)

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**THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!** 











# The link announces highlights for April

#### linkThrive Women's Retreat

Women from across the region will gather at the link, in the heart of Nocatee, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 12 for an inspiring retreat designed to nourish the mind, body and soul while exploring the latest innovations in wellness and entrepreneurship.

Curated for women entrepreneurs, wellness advocates and creatives — and women from all walks of life — this event blends personal empowerment, business insight and holistic well-being.

Here's what to Expect:

• Expert-Led Sessions — Gain insights from industry leaders on wellness, business strategy and personal growth.

• Hands-On Experiences — Engage in mindfulness practices, movement ses-

sions and interactive sessions tailored to fuel inspiration.

• Networking & Collaboration — Connect with like-minded women in an ecosystem designed for support and success.

• Entrepreneurial Showcase — Explore wellness products and services at the expo, featuring local businesses and thought leaders.

Learn more and get tickets at thelink. zone/events-1. Tickets are \$99.

Or register at eventbrite.com/e/ link-thrive-womens-retreat-tickets-1225397790779?aff=oddtdtcreator.

#### Kids Night Out

5:30 to 9:30 p.m. April 12 and 26 Drop the kids off for an evening of fun, creativity and adventure while you enjoy a well-deserved night out! With exciting activities, games and hands-on experiences, Kids Night Out is the perfect way for your little ones to have a blast in a safe, engaging environment.

For April 12, register at app.thelink. zone/tab/event/eventcard?id=recuTvXhI cTomZT2W&referral\_code=1a213376-78ad-45be-8e6b-59c469003219.

For April 26, register at app.thelink. zone/tab/event/eventcard?id=reck4jphXb kiTqJj0&referral\_code=80d8133e-ccbf-4697-b00c-17869d5fcebc.

#### **Mahjong & Mingle**

6-10 p.m. April 18 Join To The Moon Party Designs and the link for The Mahj Royale — a stylish spring evening of mahjong, mingling and just the right amount of friendly competition! Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the game, this event is the perfect way to enjoy Mahjong in a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere.

Register at eventbrite.com/e/mahjong-mingle-the-mahj-royale-tickets-1272686482529?aff=oddtdtcreator.

### Circle of Creation: Design Thinking with Emotional Intelligence + Al

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 30 The second session dives deep into the

concept of Design Thinking or "Human-Centered" Design in relation to emotional intelligence plus AI.

Email info@thelink.zone to inquire about how you can be a sponsor.

# Rally for Kate Charity Golf Tournament raises \$107,500

Trailer Bridge Inc., a global transportation provider headquartered in Jacksonville, recently announced its Rally for Kate Charity Golf Tournament raised \$107,500 for the Kate Amato Foundation, supporting the organization's efforts to find safer, smarter and more effective treatments for children with cancer.

The Kate Amato Foundation, based in Ponte Vedra Beach, will use the gift to fund innovative pediatric cancer research at leading research facilities across the country to accelerate the pace of progress and save young lives. Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children, and only 4% of the total federal research funding is designated for all childhood cancers.

The inaugural Rally for Kate tournament hosted in 2024 raised \$100,000, which helped the foundation double its annual funding for research projects. "When we set out to launch this event, we knew we had the opportunity to make a difference, but what we couldn't predict were the economic headwinds that would

GOLF continues on Page 31



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#### Schedule your visit at: **904-490-6300** or **WindsorPointeJAX.com**

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### Golf Continued from 30

challenge our industry and country," said Trailer Bridge CEO Mitch Luciano. "Yet, despite these uncertainties, our partners continue to step up, choosing to support a cause bigger than business. This tournament is more than a day on the course; it's a testament to the strength of our relationships and the generosity that exists in our world today. At a time when nonprofits need it most, we are rallying together to make an impact that will be felt far beyond today."

The event's participation roster included transportation and logistics providers from Northeast Florida including SSA Marine, the International Longshoreman's Association, ATS, TOTE Maritime, American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, CBX Global and ARCO Design/Build. It also drew support from businesses outside of the Jacksonville community; Priority Global joined from Puerto Rico, and Chicago-based technology provider Mastery Logistics Systems flew in to attend.

Founded in 1991, Trailer Bridge has been a staple in Jacksonville's transportation industry, known locally for its weekly barge service to Puerto Rico from JAXPORT's Blount Island Marine Terminal. The company covers all expenses related to the Rally for Kate golf tournament, allowing 100% of the sponsor-



Rally for Kate Charity Golf Tournament participants gather for a photo.

Contributed photo

ship dollars to go directly to the Kate Amato Foundation. The sold-out event welcomed 88 golfers to Atlantic Beach Country Club for the tournament.

"We are deeply grateful to Trailer Bridge for their partnership and commitment to our cause," said Dr. Lisa Amato, Kate's mom and executive director of the Kate Amato Foundation. "The lack of funding for pediatric cancer research has been a challenge for decades with scientists relying heavily on private funding from nonprofits to support their work. Now, more than ever, support from companies like Trailer Bridge will be necessary to fill the funding gap in the search for cures."

Rally for Kate is the second charity golf tournament hosted by Trailer Bridge. The Rally brand was first established in 2019 to support the people of Puerto Rico with the Rally for Puerto Rico tournament following the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. The Rally for Puerto Rico tournament has raised nearly \$450,000 for Habitat for Humanity of Puerto Rico since its inception with the fifth annual tournament happening at the end of April.

Trailer Bridge focuses on giving back to local nonprofits and groups that support the needs of children and families. The company has been a long-standing supporter of Dreams Come True of Jacksonville and The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund in addition to other local groups. They also support career exploration with area youth of all ages, welcoming groups like Jacksonville Job Corps to their facility for tours and presentations.

Learn more about The Kate Amato Foundation at KateAmatoFoundation.org.



# Support Henrietta's Golden Years Fund

Is there **ANYONE** who belongs to the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club that doesn't know Henrietta??!!

She has an **ultra brite smile** on her face every time she sees you! Yes, service with a smile **ALWAYS!!** If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting her, I suggest you ask for her table at the golf shop restaurant! There you will be treated with the utmost kindness, and yes, the ultra brite smile!

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!

To donate, scan the QR code or visit: https://gofund.me/989d7258







A dish ready to be enjoyed



The Mow Down Parade

# abbage, Potato and Bacon Festival returns April 26-27

The Cabbage, Potato and Bacon Festival returns to Hastings Main Street with delicious new events and the return of beloved favorites on Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27. It will be held on North Main Street in downtown Hastings.

"We are so proud of how this event has grown in just one year," said Jena Dennis, chair of the Hastings Main Street Board of Directors. "It's the most exciting blend of traditional events and modern new experiences, all designed to celebrate the rich agricultural history of Hastings and the surrounding area."

Here's a look at the events:

#### **Rooted Elegance: A Benefit Dinner for** Hastings Main Street – 6 p.m. April 25

Presented by Viva Hospitality in collaboration with the James Beard Foundation. It features a one-of-a-kind menu prepared by

notable chefs inspired by local history and ingredients. Buy Rooted Elegance tickets at vivahosp.com/fojbb.

#### 2025 Spud Run – 7 a.m. April 26

Run through the Hastings countryside with a 15k, 10k, 5k, and 1-mile Cabbage Crawl Fun Run. Register at runsignup. com/Race/FL/Hastings/SpudRun5K-10K15KChallengeandCabbageCrawlFun-RUn.

#### **Taste of Hastings Brunch & Live Cooking** Demos – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 26

Enjoy mouthwatering bites showcasing cabbage, potatoes and bacon from nine talented chefs as well as live cooking demonstrations from chefs John Rivers and Art Smith. Buy Brunch Tasting tickets at zeffy. com/en-US/ticketing/2025-cabbage-potatobacon-festival-brunch-tasting.

#### The Great Hastings "Mow Down" – Noon to 4:30 p.m. April 26

Rev up your engines for the lawn mower races and Mow Down Parade. Register to participate at zeffy.com/en-US/ ticketing/9849788d-333d-4282-9034-317911f57d1c.

#### Saturday Evening Family-Style Dinner -5-9 p.m. April 26

Hosted by Chef Hari Pulapaka and featuring five local chefs, this unforgettable dinner celebrates the farm-to-table journey and the tradition of family supper. Buy Family Style Dinner tickets at zeffy. com/en-US/ticketing/2025-cabbage-potatobacon-festival-family-style-dinner.

The Miss Potato Queen Beauty Pageant - Noon to 4:30 p.m. April 27

Watch contestants compete for the Miss Potato Queen crown. Register to participate at https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/ miss-potato-queen-beauty-pageant--2025.

#### Cottage Artisans Market – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 27

Peruse wares including local art, produce, soaps, and handcrafted goods from a variety of makers. There will be live music, food trucks and more.

Go to https://www.hastingsfl.org/ cabbage-potato-bacon-festival to learn more about the Cabbage, Potato and Bacon Festival. Interested vendors may register at https://www.hastingsfl.org/vendor-info.

This event is presented with support from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, St. Johns Cultural Council and other sponsors.



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Crowns

# Freedom Boat Club receives top awards at conference



Contributed photos Cecil Cohn (president, FBC), Bill Edinger (FBC NE Florida membership executive), Scott Ward (VP and GM of corporate FBC territory), Rebecca Waters (marketing and sales leader, FBC).

Freedom Boat Club (FBC) of Northeast Florida has taken top honors at the 2025 Freedom Forum, the company's annual franchise conference, held this year in Cape Coral in Southwest Florida.

The franchise, with locations in Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach and two locations in St. Augustine, was awarded the 2024 Membership Sales Platinum Award and the 2024 Membership Sales Gold Award, which it also won last year. The big honor went to Bill Edinger, FBC of Northeast Florida's membership director, who received the Membership Executive of the Year Award for the fourth year. "We are so lucky to have someone like Bill on our team," said Lisa Almeida, coowner of FBC of Northeast Florida. "He is an amazing membership director, and we are so proud of his successes. Bill's work ethic is second to none, and this award is evidence of that. We are also very proud of all our staff who helped us grow our Freedom Family. My business partner, Kevin, and I could not be more grateful for their dedication to us and our members."

FBC of Northeast Florida introduces families to boating and helps them create lifetime memories on the water. Almeida



Scott Ward (VP and GM of corporate FBC territory), Ryan Brunette (director of operations, FBC NE Florida), Luke Bickerstaff (assistant director of marketing, FBC NE Florida), Bill Edinger (FBC NE Florida membership executive), Lisa Almeida (co-owner, FBC NE Florida), Mackenzie Conley (assistant director of operations, NE Florida), Cecil Cohn (president, FBC), Kevin Seelig (co-owner, FBC NE Florida), Jonathan Levine (VP and GM of regional operations, FBC).

and co-owner Kevin Seelig have owned the franchise since 2011 and have grown from one location to four with a fleet of 120 boats to allow members a boating option close to home.

FBC of Northeast Florida's headquarters is at the Jacksonville Beach location at Beach Marine. It also operates out of Julington Creek Marina in Jacksonville and Camachee Cove Marina and The Shipyards in St. Augustine.

The Freedom Forum 2025 brought together more than 375 representatives

from franchise locations worldwide and featured an expanded "Freedom University" program. It was Freedom Boat Club's largest-ever partner and vendor expo, connecting franchisees with brands and products designed to support business growth.

The forum concluded with a ceremony recognizing franchisees' exceptional performance and dedication over the past year. Freedom Boat Club has more than 415 locations in the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia.

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# **Secret Garden Market set for April 12**

Spring has sprung, which means a popular local market is around the corner — Secret Garden Market. Presented by Sunday Gathering Table and Jenna Alexander Studio, the fourth annual night market will be held 5-9 p.m. Saturday, April 12.

This intimate springtime market cultivates a special community of Northeast and Central Florida's locals and creatives. Offering handmade goods, art, ceramics, jewelry, vintage and more, the Secret Garden Market is a chance to shop unique wares and connect with artists and creators.

Visitors can grab delicious eats and drinks from Sunday Gathering Table while they shop, including Datil BBQ sandwiches,

Southern potato salad, apple fritters, canned wine, seltzer, beer and non-alcoholic beverages, as DJ Zach Engh spins the tunes.

Jenna Alexander, local artist and market host, will also release a series of small 6-by-6-inch original oil paintings of orange slices — playing with shadow and light and deep saturation of color.

The Secret Garden Market is tucked away behind Sunday, located at 73 San Marco Ave. in downtown St. Augustine. Admission is free, and dogs are welcome.

Vendors include artisan candlemakers, vintage clothing, floral designs, jewelry, upcycled handbags, tallow-based skincare products, custom fabrics, local

honey and more. Confirmed vendors are: Adrienne.Earth, Bear on Paper, ONE SUN Farm & Flora, Lou Jewels, RIG -ReInvented Goods, Vyntage Goods, break coffee cart, Grass Fed Skin, Horizons Vintage, Villa, Buddy's Little Shop, Created by Allie, At300Nelson, Hilaman & Co., Invisible Twin Studio, Dunes, Bee Hill Farm, The SoulShine Co., Good Host, Bluebird Growers, Spruce, Rye Kitchen, Wild Muse, Scout's Honor Vintage, shiftd jewelry, Daylight Studio, yūmi matcha, Sunday's Jubilee, The Fox Mercantile, and Carica Candle Company.

For more information, go to jenna-alexander.com/pages/ secret-garden-market.



Jenna Alexander and Misty Lake, owner of Sunday Gathering Table







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#### **GUEST COLUMN**

# When things seem out of control, control things you can

#### Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

During times of heightened stress, such as when there's extreme market volatility, a person can quickly become overwhelmed and struggle to do things that might be considered simple or obvious. It can be helpful to focus on the things you can control, identify actions that you can take and complete those action steps.

Here are four action items for you to consider:

#### 1. Review your investment plan

Before you start making changes to your investment portfolio, consider your goals. Are you saving for retirement? Do you need to build a college fund for your children? Did a recent event create a need to adjust your plan?

If your goals have changed or if you haven't updated your plan in a while, review and, if necessary, update your investment strategy to support reaching your goals.

#### 2. Understand your risk tolerance

Risk is a key principle in investing. Some investments are riskier than others, but every financial decision involves risk. Since risk is inescapable, the key is to understand your risk tolerance and manage how much you are taking, which should be based on your long-term financial goals. If your tolerance for risk has changed, review your strategy and make sure you are still comfortable with the amount of risk you're taking.



Contributed photo

#### 3. Stick to your plan

When the market gets volatile, investors often react emotionally and may want to pull out of the market to try to avoid loss. However, remember that moving or selling investments during a market decline will likely lock in losses; staying invested may allow you to benefit if the market comes back. Before reacting, take time to step back and try to respond using logic rather than emotion.

#### 4. Organize and update important documents

Are your important documents up-to-date and accessible to those who may need them?

Create a reference list of your documents and consider

making a digital version for easy storage and accessibility. Also ensure that your beneficiary designations for investment accounts, life insurance and other accounts are up-to-date to reflect any new circumstances such as marriage, birth, death or divorce. Beneficiary designations typically supersede your will or trust, so you'll want to confirm that they are current and accurate.

This firm does not provide legal or tax advice. Be sure to consult with your tax and legal advisers before taking any action that could have tax consequences. Any estate plan should be reviewed by an attorney who specializes in estate planning and is licensed to practice law in your state.

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# **GUEST COLUMN** Pass along a tradition of giving to your children



#### **By Chris Thompson**

As an adviser, I often receive questions from my clients who want to help pass along a tradition of giving. If you're looking to impart financial values to your children, here are some ideas on how you can open their eyes to the gift of giving.

**Talk about why you give.** Help your child understand the importance of giving to others in need. Talk early and often about why sharing your knowledge, abilities, possessions or wealth matters to you. Instilling a culture of giving in your family is a process, not a one-time event. Remember to embrace the joy of giving, doing your best not to make giving back feel like a homework assignment or chore.

Find causes your child cares about. Your child is more likely to develop a habit of giving back when he or she is passionate about the cause. Start by brainstorming the possibilities of who your child can help, such as their classmates, animals, the environment or individuals experiencing hunger — and encourage them to think about ways they can be of assistance. Do they love to bake or meet new people? Do they enjoy music or caring for animals? Next, help your child choose one or two charities whose missions reflect their interests. Involve older children in the search and vetting process, teaching them how to have confidence that a charity is doing its best to help the cause.

**Give and volunteer together.** When your children see you volunteering your time, talent and treasure, they see your values at work. Find ways to involve your children in your own giving. With the holiday season in full swing, consider volunteering or purchasing gifts for another family together. Your children will learn first-hand how rewarding giving to others can feel, and you'll have the bonus of creating family memories to cherish, too.

**Encourage disciplined saving.** Kids need to learn how to manage their own money in order to become responsible givers as they grow older. When your children get an allowance, or otherwise receive money, they can practice making responsible choices. Introduce the idea of "save, share and spend" — setting aside a portion of their money for the future, a portion to help others and a portion for fun spending.

**Create a family foundation.** Consider establishing a foundation to fund causes you care about. Formalizing your giving in this way can create ongoing opportunities for you and your children to make a lasting impact on the community. Talk to your financial adviser for advice regarding establishing a foundation and leaving a legacy of service to the next generation.

Chris Thompson, CFP °, CRPC °, CMFA ° is a Private Wealth Advisor and Managing Director with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 31 years. To contact him, www.ameripriseadvisors. com/chris.thompson, 904-380-2290, 818 A1A Hwy N, Suite 301, Ponte Vedra Beach FL

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#### Notable terms every investor should know

Although comprehending the basics of investing is easy, developing a strong understanding of the terminology that is part of successful investing can take some time, particularly for novice investors. Here's a look at some vocabulary that new investors should know.

• Appreciation: The increase in value of a financial asset.

• **Asset:** Anything that has economic value. This can be cash, bonds, stocks, or real estate.

• **Asset allocation:** As there are many different types of assets, investors often spread their investment money among the different classes. This helps balance levels of risk and return as part of individual investment plans.

• Bear/bull market: A bear market is a period of falling asset prices.

A bull market is when prices are moving in an upward trend. • **Bond:** A debt security that an issuer sells to investors in return for a variable or fixed rate over a period of time. Although bonds pay interest to the investor, the amount of money that is invested often can be locked and inaccessible until the end of the bond period. • **Commodities:** These are raw materials like metals, energy or agriculture.

• **Diversification:** Diversification involves investing across a number of asset classes. By diversifying, an investor can generally reduce overall risk while yielding similar or higher returns.

• **Dividend:** The portion of a company 's profit that it pays out to those who own shares of the company 's stock.

• **Maturity:** The date when the bond issuer pays the last principal and interest amount to the investor.

• **Index:** An index measures the performance of a group of assets. A well known index is the S&P 500.

• **Interest:** A fee the borrower pays to a lender in exchange for the use of money. Investors also earn interest when they deposit money in an interest-bearing account.

• Portfolio: The assets owned by an investor or fund.

Principal: An original sum of money invested or lent.
Return: This is the profit or loss of an investment over a period of time. Many investors consider return histories to determine if an investment is safe, too risky or not risky enough.

• **Stock:** A share in ownership of a public or private company. Investing can be profitable when investors learn the vocabulary so they can better navigate their options and communicate more effectively with financial advisors.

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# Code Coast Consulting acquires fifth Code Ninjas location

Code Coast Consulting has announced the acquisition of Code Ninjas St. Johns, officially bringing together all five Code Ninjas locations in Northeast Florida under a single ownership group. This expansion includes existing locations in Fleming Island, Ponte Vedra, World Golf and Baymeadows, further enhancing access, flexibility and innovation for local families.

Code Ninjas, the world's largest and fastest-growing coding franchise for kids, provides a fun and engaging environment where children ages 5-17 learn to code by building their own video games, programming robots and developing problem-solving skills. With expert "senseis," cutting-edge technology and hands-on learning, Code Ninjas prepares the next generation for success in a digital world.

With this acquisition, active Create and JR members can now attend any of the five locations, and camps are now fully transferable, providing even more convenience for families across the region.

"We are very excited to bring together all five locations in Northeast Florida and provide families more flexibility, more convenience and more cool technology for their ninjas to learn, have fun and make an impact," said Ryan Clark, founder of Code Coast Consulting.

Code Coast Consulting specializes in technologydriven solutions, strategic innovation and educational program development. With a mission to foster digital literacy, innovation and leadership, the firm partners with organizations like Code Ninjas to empower future generations through STEM education and mentorship.

For more information about Code Ninjas or Code Coast Consulting, contact Clark at ryan.clark@codeninjas.com.



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THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025 • PAGE 39

# Alliage Saxophone Quintett to perform



An artwork by Cole Cartier.

Beaches Fine Arts Series will bring the Alliage Saxophone Quintett to its free series, with an art exhibit at the reception following the concert featuring works by Cole Cartier, as the grand finale of the 52nd season of concerts.

The event will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, Jacksonville Beach. Doors open at 3:15 pm and seating is first come-first served. Admission is free.

"Alliage" is the most charming alloy of four saxophones and a piano. Unique to this ensemble, which has been awarded two Echo-Klassik prizes, is that the illusion of a large orchestra becomes reality. The melodic and expressive-sounding saxophones combine with the orchestral fullness of a piano to create a listen-

The quintet was founded by Daniel Gauthier, the ensemble's leader and soprano. He is joined by three of today's best soloists on saxophone: Miguel Valles Mateu, alto; Simon Hamrath, tenor; and Sebastian Pottmeier, baritone. The quintet is completed by the Korean

pianist Jang Eun Bae, an experienced and well-versed chamber musician.

ing experience of the highest quality.

Alliage's core repertoire consists of well-known masterpieces of all epochs, cleverly arranged for the ensemble with exceptional sensitivity. Current programs include, e.g., Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Mendelssohn'sA Midsummer Night's Dream, Rimski-Korsakov's Scheherazade, Carmen by Bizet and Gershwin's Porgy and Bess.

The ensemble has released seven CDs. Its first, "Una voce poco fa," received the renowned ECHO Klassik award in 2005.

Inspired by the baroque, Visual artist Cole Cartier paints scenes that pay homage to the working class. Common themes are speed, drama and vulnerability.

The post-concert reception will be hosted by the Jacksonville Beach Woman's Club.

# Focus on nature photography during Florida's Photo Fest

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Florida's Photo Fest will offer more than 100 photography events at locations throughout St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches from April 23 to 27.

The event is an opportunity to learn from professional photographers and nature educators. Sessions cover the spectrum of abilities, from beginners who use iPhones to advanced photographers with top-of-the-line equipment to everyone in between. Classroom and outdoor sessions are used to teach technique, strategy, equipment selection, wildlife identification, processing and more.

Its headquarters are at the St. Jude Celebration Hall on Anastasia Island. With plenty of free parking and comfortable accommodations, the meeting facility is the perfect location for educational workshops. Class-

PHOTO FEST continues on Page 41



The Alliage Saxophone Quintett will perform a free concert on Sunday, April 6.









"Players in the Game," acrylic, painted and silkscreened cutouts, 32-by-24 inches

Nancy Hamlin-Vogler in her studio

"The Game of Time," acrylic, painted and silkscreened cutouts, 32-by-24 inches

# **Butterfield Gallery features new exhibit**

Butterfield Garage Art Gallery will present new work from Nancy Hamlin-Vogler, its April 2025 featured artist. Her new exhibit, "Time Out of Time," opens on the First Friday Artwalk, 5-9 p.m. April 4. Hamlin-Vogler will be present to discuss her new work.

In new paintings on paper, Hamlin-Vogler explores a playful interpretation of the contemporary still life genre. Choosing from an array of jars, bottles, cups, shells and ephemera, she allows the objects to dance or disappear through the painted surface.

"After an extensive studio reorganization, I was reintroduced to a gang of work over the past five decades, along with the memories of creating these drawings, paintings and serigraphs," she said. "This triggered my incessant interest about the nature of time and became a logical segue to express my signature gestural/abstract style using cutout, silkscreened and painted papers."

A diverse two-dimensional artist, Hamlin-Vogler's favorite materials include drawing implements, acrylic and oil paints, charcoal, pastels, pasted rice paper and cut/torn silkscreened paper elements. She is inspired by the landscape, ephemera and nature in her own backyard, adding fortuitous discoveries, worldwide travels and studies in Buddhism thrown into the mix of life's mysteries.

Her work has been included in juried art shows and invitational exhibitions, especially at the St. Augustine Art Association, in which she has won numerous awards.

Most recently, she received an individual Art Ventures grant from the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, to work on a series titled "Backyard Studio Kitchen." She is represented by Arts on Douglas in New Smyrna Beach and is a current and founding member of Butterfield Garage Art Gallery. After finishing graduate school with an M.A. in French literature, Hamlin-Vogler developed an infatuation with the silk-screen printing process, designed a line of colorful greeting cards and established Eastern Sun Printworks. Forty years later, now printed digitally, her iconic card images, featuring suns and moons on blended background mindscapes are still sought after by card aficionados.

For further information, go to nancy-hamlinvogler.com.

Butterfield Garage Art Gallery is located at 137 King St., St. Augustine. The website is butterfieldgarage.com.

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# St. Augustine PoetFest set for April 10-12

St. Johns County is preparing to celebrate the power of words with the 4th Annual St. Augustine PoetFest, set for April 10-12. This three-day event, presented by the St. Johns Cultural Council, Flagler College and Ancient City Poets, brings together poets, writers and literature lovers for a weekend of workshops, performances and discussions on the importance of poetry in culture and history.

At the helm of the festival is Chris Bodor, Florida Beat Poet Laureate and longtime Flagler College groundskeeper. While Bodor spends his days tending to the college's historic landscape, he is equally dedicated to cultivating the literary arts in St. Johns County.

Festival highlights:

### Day One

PoetFest kicks off on Thursday, April 10, at The Waterworks (184 San Marco Ave.) from 6 to 9 p.m., featuring a Beat Poet Summit and an open mic session, where local and visiting poets can take the stage.

### Day Two

On Friday, April 11, Flagler College's Ringhaver Student Center (50 Sevilla St.) hosts a full day of poetry workshops, panel discussions and a book bazaar from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. That evening, the Flagler College English Department will present an open mic night at Relampago Coffee Lab (74 Spanish St.) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

A special highlight of the day is the

# <image><image>

Five beat poet laureates at 2024 PoetFest, from left, Chris Vannoy, George Wallace, Ron Whitehead, Larry Jaffe and Chris Bodor.

"Dolly Parton Poetry Workshop" with Dustin Brookshire, held from 1 to 2:20 p.m. in the Virginia Room. This workshop celebrates Parton's lyrical storytelling and explores how her songwriting inspires poetry and creative writing.

### **Day Three**

The festival continues on Saturday,

April 12, with poetry panels, scheduled readings and book signings at Flagler College from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

One of the festival's signature events, the Haiku Contest winner announcement, will also take place on Saturday, April 12, celebrating the art of concise and expressive poetry by recognizing the top submissions. The festival will conclude with

mersive session, she will explore how storytelling, composition, light, subject, atmosphere and perspective can transform an ordinary shot into a profound experience. a closing reception, where attendees can celebrate the contest winners and connect with fellow poetry enthusiasts.

Bodor founded Ancient City Poets, a group with roots in New York City's thriving poetry scene, where he once hosted open mic nights before relocating to St. Augustine. Since then, he has worked to make poetry a visible and accessible part of life in St. Johns County, proving that the literary arts can flourish anywhere — from the neon lights of Manhattan to the historic charm of the Nation's Oldest City.

"Poetry is everywhere — on city streets, in small towns and in the air we breathe," Bodor said. "I simply want to give opportunities to others, because I would be nowhere if opportunities were not given to me. Poetry is alive in St. Johns County. Under the umbrella of National Poetry Month, we can share that passion and excitement every April, by welcoming locals as well as traveling poets and poetry lovers."

PoetFest is free, open to the public and welcomes seasoned poets, emerging writers and anyone interested in the literary arts. The festival offers an opportunity to engage with accomplished poets, discover new voices and learn more about the significance of poetry in culture and history.

Volunteer opportunities are available at https://linktr.ee/stapoetfest. For more information, go to ancientcitypoets.org/ st-augustine-poetfest.

For further information or to purchase

tickets, go to floridashistoriccoast.com/

events/floridas-birding-photo-fest.

# Photo Fest

Continued from 39

room seminars cover a variety of topics, including creative processes, Photoshop and Lightroom, composition, printing and flash techniques.

The natural beauty of this area is an integral part of the festival's on-location workshops. Notable locations include Frank Butler Park East, Marineland Rock Beach, St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, GTM Research Reserve and Matanzas Inlet. Hands-on education takes place on birding and nature tours, boating trips and walking tours led by local operators. The festival offers workshops focused on photographing birds of prey, birds in flight, horses on the beach, historic architecture, landscapes, portraits, macro photography and light painting.

Florida's Photo Fest will feature two keynote speakers.

Joe Brady is presenting the opening keynote, "Make Better Landscape Photographs," at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park. The talk focuses on the power of light, color and composition to create impactful images. The keynote reception features Lisa Langell and "The Art of Connection — Building Emotional Depth Through Photography." In this engaging and im-



# Village Arts Framing and Gallery marks 50th anniversary



April Artist of the month Tom Nagata's acrylic painting, "Great White Heron"

Village Arts Framing & Gallery is planning its 50th Anniversary Celebration Open House, to be held 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at its Ponte Vedra Beach location in Sawgrass Village located between Chico's and The Hilton Garden Inn.

This milestone event honors five decades of dedication to fine art and expert framing and invites the community to join the celebration.

Founded in 1975, Village Arts has become a cornerstone of the local arts scene, known for its exceptional custom framing services and thoughtfully curated gallery. Owner Pamela Keegan and Gallery Manager Lisa Cederberg have made it their mission to preserve and showcase artwork with the highest level of care and professionalism. Using only archival-quality materials, they ensure every piece — from family heirlooms to contemporary masterpieces — is framed to last a lifetime.

The gallery represents 15 award-winning local artists, working in oil, watercolor, pastel and acrylic. Their di-



Enter the drawing for Cindy Zeigler's "Sunflowers" oil painting.

verse and vibrant works reflect the beauty, creativity and spirit of the region.

During the open house, guests will have the opportunity to meet some of these talented artists, explore their work and learn more about their creative processes. The gallery represents Eve Albrecht, Aurora Ave, Lisa Cederberg, Jami Childers, Jeffrey Desautels, Sandra Fitzsimmons, Carol Grice, Pamela Keegan, Lorraine Millspaugh, Tom Nagata, Rick Petersen, Karen F. Rose, Mary O. Smith, Missy Vanover and Cindy Zeigler.

This month's featured artist is Tom Nagata. See his art as well as more than 150 works by the gallery's artists. During the event the gallery invites visitors to enter a



Village Arts Framing and Gallery Owner Pamela Keegan and Gallery Manager Lisa Cederberg prepare for the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

free drawing for an oil painting by artist Cindy Zeigler. Art enthusiasts, longtime patrons and new friends alike are encouraged to stop by, meet the artists and experience the warmth and creativity that have made Village Arts a beloved local institution.

For more information about the galley, go to villageartspvb.com. The gallery can also be found on Facebook and on Instagram at pamela.keegan.12. The phone number is 904-273-4925.

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# Jacksonville author releases eighth book

If you are looking for a fun, comical read this spring, "Keeping up With Camille" by local author Benjamin Walker might be just what you are looking for.

Departing from his penchant for historical fiction, Walker decided to write a contemporary novel set in France.

The story revolves around Hill Bentley (Binky) Pinkerton, a little-known American academic author who is visiting Paris to add the finishing touches to a biography about Gustave Flaubert. While there, he encounters a lovely young French woman, Camille, who has an affinity for fast cars. Though suspicious of her intentions since he is decades older than she is, he agrees to accompany her to an auction of exotic sports cars.

From there an unlikely whirlwind romance and romp around France begins where they encounter many wonderful and hilarious characters. At the same time, Binky is relentlessly pursued by another woman his own age who wants to marry him while Camille is pursued by younger men. Will their relationship survive?

Walker writes characters in such a way that you can visualize them easily and you feel as if you are experiencing their adventures and mishaps with them. Readers will laugh out loud at the audacity



Contributed photo Author Benjamin Walker with his latest novel

of many of them or fall in love with the naivety of others.

The story takes the reader on trips to various locations in France.

"It's more like a touristeye view of France than

France than my previous novel, 'When

the Old World Was New,' because my main character is not familiar with the country," said Walker.

Walker said it took him about nine months to write "Keeping up With Camille." This book is different from his others because there wasn't as much research needed, and he didn't spend time creating an outline beforehand. He started with the chance encounter of a May/December romance and just ran with it.

"I actually think it turned out to be a better constructed book than most of my previous novels," said Walker. "But I don't know, I have to leave that up to others to judge how well put together it is. I just wrote as things came to me and I tried to keep it within the limits of the main characters and the main story. There aren't a lot of digressions."

The book has a great deal of French in it, but the response from the other characters usually makes it easy to understand — and if not, readers might learn a little French in the process.

"Keeping up With Camille" is available on Amazon.com.

Walker is also the author of seven other novels including "Sentimental Music," "Winds of the South," "An Island in the South," "Return of the Native Son," "Children at the Gate," "Kremlin-bythe-Sea" and "When the Old World Was New."

Walker, who lives in Jacksonville, is a graduate of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, as well as San Francisco State University, where he received an M.A. degree in creative writing.

Walker has a book signing lined up at the Book Loft in Fernandina on April 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Future book signings will be posted on his website, www.jaminpress.com.

For more information contact: Benjamin Walker at Benjaminpwalker@ bellsouth.net.

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Sydney Davis hammers one of her two doubles during the Panthers win over the Sharks on

# Panthers' bats pop early, often against Sharks

### **By Anthony Richards**

The Nease Panthers earned a huge softball victory over the rival Ponte Vedra Sharks on the road and did so in dominant fashion as the offense came alive from the very first pitch of the contest en route to a 14-4 win in six innings on April 1.

It did not take long for the Panthers (6-7) to establish an early lead thanks to a five-run first inning before sophomore Sydney Davis even took to the circle for the Panthers in the bottom of the first.

Davis then did her part to preserve the big lead by controlling the game not only as a pitcher, as she finished pitching all six innings and allowed three runs and scattered six hits, while striking out six as well.

She was also one of two Panther batters that went three-for-four at the plate, joined as well by senior Ariona Navarro.

Two of Davis' three hits were doubles, as she helped her own cause in the circle, which is something she has done often throughout the season as a dynamic twoway player.

In total, six Nease players had more than one hit

Senior Miranda Harmon playing shortstop for the Panthers.



Emma Shin throws an infield grounder to first base.

on the night, including Scarlette Kennedy, Alanna Doherty, Casey Eliason and Sophia Matt, who each had two hits apiece.

The Panthers added two runs in the top of the second



Taylor Scribner delivers a pitch.

inning with some clutch two-out hits and had an 8-0 advantage after just two trips to the plate.

Sophomore Abby Shin got the Sharks on the scoreboard with a two-run triple that she hit sharply on a line before it bounced over the centerfielder's head, allowing her to reach third.

The Sharks (9-4) added a couple of more runs in the coming innings, but it was not enough to mount any sort of a real comeback.

The Sharks outfield produced a pair of highlightreel plays as sophomore Addison Siebenaler made a sprawling catch on a full sprint to her right to rob an extra-base hit in center field, while freshman Carley Clarkson followed it up by throwing a frozen rope from left field to throw out a runner at home plate one inning later.

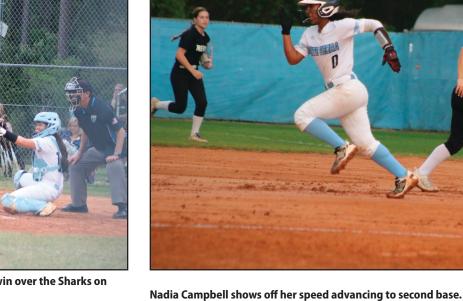
However, it proved to be an inconsistent game for the Sharks defensively, as they also committed five errors on the night, which helped fuel the Panthers' success, especially early.

Consistency fielding is something the Sharks will look to sharpen up heading into the remaining weeks of the regular season.



Kristina Campbell steps into the batter's box.

Photo by Anthony Richards



# Sharks lacrosse set for double dose of senior night

### **By Anthony Richards**

The Ponte Vedra High lacrosse teams will both celebrate senior night as part of doubleheader of games on Friday, April 4.

The night will start with the boys squad facing off against Gainesville Oak Hall (13-1), who is ranked 12th in the state across all classes according to MaxPreps.

It will be a massive battle to end the regular season and a primer for the playoffs as the Sharks (12-3) enter the contest ranked No. 4 overall in the state and No. 12 nationally.

There are only four teams currently ranked higher than the Sharks nationally and this ranking could climb one more time before the postseason gets underway.

The Sharks' girls lacrosse team will follow the boys contest and continue the senior night festivities as they wrap up against the rival Nease High Panthers at 7:30 p.m.

The matchup against the Panthers will not only end the regular season but it will also mark the end of a busy week against



Photo by Anthony Richards

some high-powered opponents, as the Sharks (8-3) defeated the No. 2 in the state Orlando Lake Highland Prep 12-11 in a double overtime classic in the Shark Tank on March 31 and then faced No. 11 ranked Bartram Trail on April 2, which had not concluded at press time for a final result.

Facing tough opponents is something that has become the norm for the Sharks lacrosse programs over the years as in many ways the schedule is meant to challenge them against some of the best teams not only in the state but the across the country in hopes to achieving the lofty goals of winning a state title, which has become more than an expectation for the Sharks.

However, no matter how lofty the goals are, the mindset this Friday will not only be to win but to honor the seniors on each squad that have put the effort over the vears to continue that tradition of success.

The playoffs are right around the corner, but first all attention will be on the senior class and making sure they have a night to remember forever.

# Sporting JAX announces multi-year partnership with adidas

The Ponte Vedra High boys and girls lacrosse teams are both celebrating senior night on

Sporting Club Jacksonville, the United Soccer League's Northeast Florida expansion franchise, has announced a landmark multi-year partnership with global sportswear giant, adidas, as the official kit provider for all professional and youth soccer teams within the club.

Beginning in May, more than 10,000 players from the Sporting JAX Soccer Academy will be the first to wear adidas' iconic three-stripe design in a custom inaugural uniform.

The partnership will also extend to the club's pre-professional USL W League and USL League Two teams, which will debut the new kit when they take the pitch in May and June.

Additionally, this collaboration will culminate with the much-anticipated Sporting JAX professional men's USL Championship and the upcoming women's USL Super League squads. This August, the women's team will kick off their inaugural season at UNF's Hodges Stadium in their custom kits designed by adidas.

Friday, April 4 at the Shark Tank.

As part of this collaboration, adidas will supply a full range of match kits, training kits, coach wear and an extensive selection of fanwear to give supporters access to premium gear that represents the club's ambitious vision. Additional fan merchandise will launch in the coming months.

"We are thrilled to partner with adidas, the world's premier soccer apparel brand," said Sporting JAX President and CEO Steve Livingstone. "This partnership is a defining milestone for our club and ensures that every player, from our academy prospects to our professional athletes, has access to premium gear designed for peak performance. Wearing the same kit as their sports heroes will also inspire young athletes to chase their dreams, knowing they are part of something truly special."

"We are honored to partner with Sporting JAX and are excited to support their vision for the growth of soccer on the First Coast at all levels of the game," said adidas Soccer Sales Director Steven Noble. "We are committed to providing all Sporting JAX players and future partners with the latest technology and highest quality performance wear to help them perform at their very best."

This collaboration supports Sporting JAX's continued commitment to providing elite resources for players of all abilities, from the academy to the professional ranks. It also marks a significant step in the club's mission to elevate soccer in Northeast Florida and cultivate the next generation of talent.

Following the club's recent appointment of Mark Warburton as its new sporting director/head of soccer, the new partnership with adidas reinforces Sporting JAX's rapid growth and commitment to lifting every voice and building a legacy of excellence both on and off the field.

Season tickets for the USL Super League inaugural season are on sale now at www.sportingjax.com/tickets or call 904-863-KICK. For the latest Sporting JAX news and club updates, follow @ Sporting\_JAX across all social media channels.













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

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### ACROSS

- 1. Narrow piece of wood 5. African desert 11. Waxy covering on birds'
- beaks
- 12. Sour
- 16. Infrequent
- 17. Former AL MVP Vaughn 18. Policemen wear one
- 19. Out of the question
- 24. Used to chop
- 25. Symptoms
- 26. Not moving
- 27. Folk singer DiFranco 28. Comedian Armisen
- 29. Quantitative fact
- 30. Incline from vertical
- 31. Scottish musician
- 33. Rooney and Kate are two
- 34. Positioned
- 38. A very short time
- 39. Tropical American shrubs
- 40. Yemen capital
- 43. Spanish municipality
- 44. Medical professionals 45. Fibrous material
- 49. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 50. Without covering
- 51. "Mad Men" honcho Don
- 53. Hockey position
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Fertile spots in a desert 58. They precede C
- 59. "Requiem for a Dream"
- actor Jared
- 60. Try a criminal case
- 63. Liberal rights organization
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Insect repellent

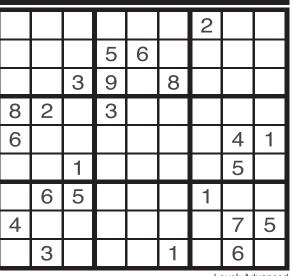
### DOWN

- 1. Unshaven facial hair
- 2. More thin
- 3. Show up
- 4. Seethed
- 5. Ancient Greek city
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Hello

### 8. College sports official 9. Monetary unit of Russia

- 10. Wings
- 13. Take too much of a substance
- 14. A citizen of Uganda
- 15. Most appealing
- 20. Atomic #18
- 21. Global investment
  - bank (abbr.)
- 22. Jewish calendar month
- 23. Popular sandwich
- 27. Swiss river
- 29. Incorrect letters
- 30. Popular entree
- 31. Foot (Latin)
- 32. A driver's license is one form
- 33. Extinct flightless bird
- 34. Appetizer
- 35. After battles
- 51. Unit of loudness

### SUDOKU



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!

- 52. The Ocean State
- 57. Thus
- 61. Where LA is located
- 47. Come to terms 48. Test 50. More dishonorable

36. It neutralizes alkalis

37. Beverage container

40. Gray American rail

41. Salt of acetic acid

42. Canadian province

45. Narrative poem of

popular origin

46. For each one

44. Dish made with lentils

38. Partner to "Pa"

- 54. Monetary unit in Mexico
- 62. Western State

55. Lying down



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