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HEIDE

Tribute to the Class of 2025

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Thursday, May 29, 2025

PonteVedraRecorder.com

VOLUME 56, NO. 30 \$1.00

Alhambra captures British theme for 'My Fair Lady'

By Anthony Richards

One of the unique things about the Alhambra Theatre & Dining is that the experience it can create can make you believe that you truly are either in another time period or another country through both their decorations, attire and the food selections served on the menu.

This was accomplished and then some with its latest show "My Fair Lady," as both the staff and talent on stage do an excellent job of capturing the atmosphere of 20th Century London as soon as one walks through the doors.

It helps that the Alhambra has such a passionate following with many that have been coming to shows for years and are willing to do their part to come to the show dressed for the occasion, especially when the show is so well known and acclaimed as "My Fair Lady."

Once seated, the menu reflects the theme even more with popular British style dishes, such as creamy pea salad, fish and chips and Banoffee pie.

Capturing these cultural aspects of the show is something that the Alhambra kitchen usually does a good job hitting and it was obvious that this was another attempt at capturing the essence of the play by helping set the scene.

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Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

BRIEFS

St. Johns County Public Library System to host career fair

The St. Johns County Public Library System invites job seekers, students and career-minded individuals to attend its inaugural career fair at the Solomon Calhoun Community Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 31. The event is free and open to the public; no pre-registration is required. For more information, email sjcpls@tblc. lib.answers.com.

The center is located at 1300 Duval St., St. Augustine. Free Sunshine Bus fare is available for those who say they are attending the career fair.

This free event provides an opportunity to connect with various employers and explore career options across multiple industries. Attendees can learn about company cultures, recruitment processes and potential career paths.

For a complete list of participating employers and more information, see the career fair webpage at www.sjcpls.org/career-fair-2025.

Farmers market open every Friday

The Ponte Vedra Friday Farmers Market takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Friday at The Peace of Heart Community Farm, offering fresh produce, local farm goods and a welcoming space to connect with neighbors and small businesses.

This farmers market features fresh, organically grown produce; Florida grass-fed beef and pork; real local honey; pasture-raised chicken and eggs; wholegrain breads; gluten-free sourdough bread; natural botanical skincare; creations by local artisans and more in a family-friendly atmosphere

The Peace of Heart Community Farm is located at 14A S. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

Essential Tremor Support Group to meet

Do you suspect you have — or a loved one has — essential tremor, a condition often involving the shaking of head, hands and/or legs? "ET" is not Parkinson's, similar but much more prevalent and not well known. You are invited at the Essential Tremor Support Group meeting, 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 3, at the Baptist HealthPlace in Nocatee (400 Colonnade Road, unit 130, Ponte Vedra) to hear from Stephen Morio, territory manager for Insightec Focused Ultrasound, about an incisionless surgical treatment now offered in Jacksonville. Questions and RSVP: Jan Kary, jkary@verizon.

Nature journaling event planned

Join nature journaling instructor Elaine Bergstrom at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) National Estuarine Research Reserve to explore the wonders at the reserve from 9:50 a.m. to noon

Thursday, June 5.

If you are new to nature journaling, this Introduction to Nature Journaling class will help you sketch and record observations and curiosities to reconnect with nature. Drawing and noting any piece of nature is an opportunity to slow down and enjoy the moment.

Online registration is required. To register, go to gtmnerr.org/calendars.

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

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

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, June 7.

Learn about the Guana Peninsula's natural

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.

St. Johns County earns recognition for communications

St. Johns County has earned the Certificate of Excellence in Government Communication from the Florida Municipal Communicators Association (FMCA), becoming just one of 16 Florida governments to receive the award.

FMCA is a professional network of individuals providing communications leadership and support in Florida's cities, towns and villages. The certificate recognizes local governments whose communications staff have established and are using different tools, resources and technology to communicate effectively and efficiently with their residents.

This is the third communications award earned by St. Johns County since September 2024. The county earned two national awards from the City-County Communications & Marketing Association for the "Get Hooked" anti-litter communications campaign.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Briefs

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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, June 6. 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



Judge Stasia Warren

Seventh Judicial Circuit judge announces retirement

Seventh Judicial Circuit Judge Stasia Warren is retiring effective June 5.

Warren began her judicial

service in 1991 as a Volusia County court judge, where she served for more than two decades before stepping down in 2012. She returned to the bench in 2017 when elected as a circuit judge, presiding primarily over family law cases in Volusia County.

Prior to becoming a judge, she served as

a prosecutor in the Seventh Judicial Circuit for six years and spent four years in private practice. Warren received her law degree from the Detroit College of Law and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1980.

Warren's position will be filled by gubernatorial appointment. The Judicial Nominating Commission is currently accepting applications to fill the vacancy. The application deadline is 9 a.m. June 23. For information, go to circuit7.org/wp-content/uploads/JNC7-Notice-of-Vacancy.pdf.

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.

Democratic Club to meet

Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. (5:30 p.m. "chat & chew), Wednesday, June 18, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra.

The featured speaker will be attorney Rhona DiCamillo, who will provide updates on pending court actions involving President Trump's executive orders and policies.

For more information, go to PVDemClub@gmail.com.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan









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4 COMMUNITY NEWSPonte Vedra Recorder · May 29, 2025

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

Beat the heat plants for your landscape!

"Some of the best memories are made in flip-flops." — Kellie Elmore

By Kathy Esfahani

The summer months in Northeast Florida can be hot and humid. When adding to your landscape, it is

Kathy Esfahani

important to select plants that are hardy enough to withstand these sometimes-harsh conditions.

For areas of full sun, look for heattolerant plants such as black-eyed Susan, blue daze, bush daisy, coleus, dune sunflower, gaillardia, gazania, lantana, melampodium, milkweed, ornamental peppers, pentas, portulaca, purslane, Texas sage,

vinca, zinnia and all types of sedums and succulents.

Carolina jessamine, otherwise known as yellow
jessamine, grows as a vine and is a great choice for
climbing up a landscape feature such as a trellis, arbor or
pergola. These yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers release a
sweet fragrance and are very heat tolerant.

For a low maintenance option, consider blue daze as it requires little care other than extra water during dry weather. It is salt tolerant and grows beautifully in



Heat Loving Plants

and fertilizer.

Other beautiful plants for the summer heat are bulbine, butterfly bush, firebush, firespike, hydrangea, Mexican heather, plumbago, salvia and shrimp plant.

In areas of shade, consider heat-tolerant plants such as begonias and impatiens, both annuals. Also look for agapanthus, alocasia, alternanthera, arboricola, caladiums, foxtail fern, Hawaiian ti, ornamental sweet potato and stromanthe.

Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Gaillardia

eastern exposure.
No deadheading required! The plants are covered with small blue flowers that close during the afternoon heat.
Vinca is a great

Vinca is a great annual that comes in a variety of colors for hot, dry weather. Their needs are minimal — only low water



Gaillardia

Please email Kathy at kathys.creative.gardens@gmail. com for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future. For more information and ideas, visit the nursery in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. 904-655-7373.









(904) 273-3703 | 10034 Golf Club Drive | Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 | www.sawgrasscountryclub.com

Work begins on expansion of disability-friendly baseball field

On May 3, St. Johns County officials and staff joined members of the Field of Dreams (FOD) Baseball League to celebrate the start of work on a major expansion of Field of Dreams Baseball, the county's disability-friendly baseball field at Aberdeen Park (1401 Shetland Drive, St. Johns).

The \$1,513,800 project will see the baseball field's existing parking lot expanded, and a new concession building with ADA-accessible restrooms will be added.

District 4 Commissioner and Board of County Commissioners Chair Krista Joseph, District 1 Commissioner Christian Whitehurst, District 2 Commissioner Sarah Arnold and District 3 Commissioner Clay Murphy attended the ceremony, along with Sheriff Robert Hardwick and various St. Johns County administrators and staff. The ceremony was held on the field in between games, with players and their families present, ending in a series of first pitches between the commissioners and players.

"As an employee of St. Johns County, and particularly Parks and Recreation, for over 25 years, seeing this expansion just makes me ecstatic," Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Jamie Baccari said. "Being able to support our partners in expanding recreational opportunities to youths in our community is exactly why I got into this field."

"A mom and dad want their kids to feel welcomed, appreciated, and valued wherever we go," Whitehurst said. "The Field of Dreams is that place."

The FOD Baseball League is a sustainable voluntary organization that provides a safe, ADA-certified facility where children of all ages with mental or physical disabilities can play baseball for free and be an active part of a thriving athletic association.

"The new ADA amenities will really help enhance the Field of Dreams into a premier destination for families and players who already travel from throughout Northeast Florida to our community for this opportunity, to play on this kind of a field," Joseph said. "Beyond the bats and balls, the hits and the hugs, the field represents hope for the players."

"When we started this league in 2011, I never envisioned what we would build here," FOD League Co-Founder George Vancore said. "The commissioners have really stepped up and realized what we have built out here and what we're going to sustain over time."

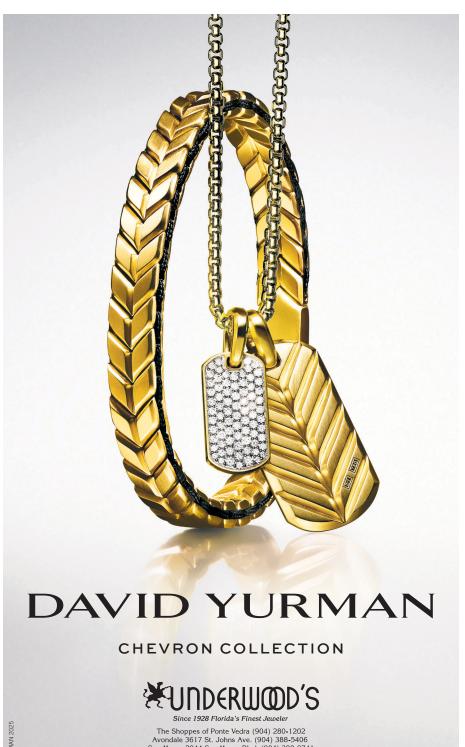
Vancore attributed the success and popularity of Field of Dreams Baseball to a strong partnership with the county.

"This is a very special place, but it doesn't happen by magic," Vancore said. "God bless these children — that's why we're here"



Contributed photo

Local officials break ground on the Field of Dreams field.



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The Ponte Vedra Recorder, celebrating 55 years of community news excellence, has launched our seventh annual BEST OF THE BEST of Ponte Vedra, 32081 & 32082.

YOU, our valued readers, now have the chance to nominate your favorite businesses in various categories online. Online voting begins June 20th after nominations are complete.

HURRY, last day to nominate is June 19th!

www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2025

Chef Donald Green is a culinary leader blending French technique with Southern roots. From mountain kitchens to fine dining, he now brings elevated, guest-focused experiences as the new executive chef at Castillo Craft Bar + Kitchen, located at the Renaissance St. Augustine Historic Downtown Hotel.

Chef Donald Green

As told to Holly Tishfield

Tell us about yourself and your background.

I was born in Baltimore in 1989, but I spent most of my adolescence growing up at Snowshoe Mountain, a ski resort in West Virginia. That's where my culinary journey began. I started working in kitchens on the mountain when I was just 14 years old and steadily moved up the ranks — from line cook to sous chef to outlet chef. I helped open restaurants like Appalachia Kitchen and eventually became the chef of Starship, a restaurant owned by Alterra, the parent company of Snowshoe.

Tell us more about your culinary journey.

Not long after Appalachia Kitchen, I took a promotion as executive sous chef at Crystal Mountain Resort in Washington State. I packed up my life — and brought my entire team of 10 people — and we moved 3,000 miles across the country. I spent a couple of years out there until the pandemic hit, which brought me back east.

I returned to Virginia and joined The Omni Homestead, where I worked my way up to chef de cuisine. That's really where I honed my skills in fine dining. I also had a brief stint at the Greenbrier Sporting Club, which helped shape my approach to hospitality. It's where I learned to create not just great food, but memorable guest experiences. I had the privilege of working under incredible executive chefs and pastry chefs who taught me both the savory and sweet sides of the kitchen. I'm forever grateful to them.

Was being a chef always your dream?

Not at first. But it became clear at The Homestead that this was what I was meant to do. I found joy in the camaraderie of the kitchen, the competition, the pressure and the creativity. My best friend and I were constantly trying to one-up each other — always pushing to elevate the guest experience. That competitive spirit is what made me fall in love with this industry. I haven't looked back since.

What role did your family play in your culinary passion?

A big one. My Grandma Connie — your classic Southern grandmother — could absolutely cook. She and my Pop Frank, who owned Liman Green BBQ, were the first to show me what food could mean to people. I used to hang out at the restaurant doing to-go orders, and I still remember the smell of baked beans and coleslaw. That experience was what sparked my love for cooking. Every award I win is dedicated to Pop Frank — he's the reason I started in this industry.

How did you end up in St. Augustine?

I moved to St. Augustine on March 27, 2025. I'd been planning a move to Florida to be closer to family and had another offer in Naples, but when I visited St. Augustine and met Bryce Hannon (the Renaissance St. Augustine Historic Downtown Hotel & Castillo Craft Bar + Kitchen F&B director) and Meredith (the Renaissance St. Augustine Historic Downtown hotel's GM), I just knew this was the right place for me. It's been the best decision. I love it here — walking my dogs on the beach, riding my bike, and spending time with my Aunt Holly and Grandma Connie, who both live nearby.



Chef Donald Green is the new executive chef at Castillo Craft Bar + Kitchen.

Contributed photo

You recently won the People's Choice Award at the Taste of St. Augustine. Tell us about that.

Winning People's Choice was an incredible feeling. When they announced the winner, I was so proud — of the planning, the execution, the little details that made a difference. It felt amazing to win something for the team. And yes, the short rib dish that won will be featured on the menu at Castillo, exactly the same way. The people spoke, and I want to give them what they loved.

What drew you to Castillo Craft Bar + Kitchen?

The people and the potential. From my first meeting with Bryce and Meredith, I felt like Castillo was a place where I could create something special. It's a space

where we can elevate dining in St. Augustine — bring new flavors, new experiences, and put our stamp on the culinary scene.

What can guests expect from Castillo under your leadership?

My goal is to deliver an elevated guest experience with every dish. I want guests to walk in and, from start to finish, feel like they've had something truly memorable — 10 out of 10 dishes paired with five-star service. The food will feature classic French techniques with an Appalachian flare, and yes, you can count on me stopping by the table to check in. Hospitality is what I live for.

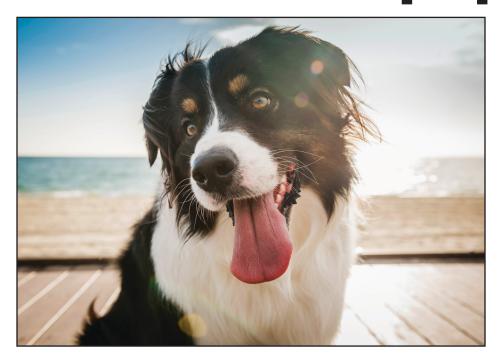
'The Gilded Paw' calendar contest to feature local pups

Is your pup ready for a moment to shine? The St. Augustine Humane Society is calling all muses, masterpieces and majestic pets for the launch of the 2026 Pin Up Paws calendar contest: "The Gilded Paw." Inspired by timeless art and gallery-worthy elegance, this year's theme transforms beloved pets into classic works of art.

"The Pin Up Paws calendar is our largest fundraiser every year, and it's already the talk of the dog park," said Jordan Schipper, director of development. "The calendar is more than just a fun way to show off your pet; it's a lifeline for animals in need. Every vote cast helps us provide affordable vet care, food and resources to families who might otherwise have to surrender their beloved pets."

The first contestant to sign up this year was Bix, a half-Siberian husky rescue pup. This is the third time Bix has participated in the Humane Society's calendar contest with her owner, Linda Atteberry, and they have been a fan favorite every time.

Joining the competition this year is Hoagie, a spunky senior pup from



Swamp Haven Rescue, who's still searching for his forever home. Since coming into foster care, Hoagie has been aging in reverse, making doggy friends everywhere he goes and charming humans with his easygoing personality. One of his

favorite ways to unwind? Watching golf from the porch with his foster family. His contest entry not only helps raise funds for pets in need, but it will also help him find the permanent family he deserves.

To enter, submit a photo of your pet

following the contest guidelines at https://www.gogophotocontest.com/pupcalendar26 and encourage your friends and family to vote. Each \$1 donation equals one vote, with all funds supporting the lifesaving programs of the St. Augustine Humane Society.

The top vote-getters will receive a professional photo shoot with renowned photographer Addison Fitzgerald, followed by a stunning artistic transformation by fine artist and graphic designer Maribel Angel.

The deadline to enter your pet is 8 p.m. July 10, and voting concludes at 8 p.m. July 12.

The Humane Society's resource center includes a wellness and preventative care clinic, a low-cost spay and neuter clinic, a grooming facility and a pet food pantry. These and other services enable local pets to live happily and healthfully in their homes for life.

Business hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Pet owners must pre-register for spay and neuter surgery and for clinic visits. The Humane Society is located at 1665 Old Moultrie Road in St. Augustine.



Whether you're missing out on pickleball, planting tulips, swinging a golf club, or just taking those early morning walks, the board-certified orthopaedic specialists with UF Health Orthopaedics can help you get back to living your best life. We have a history of being recognized for our award-winning care, including earning Healthgrades America's 100 Best Orthopedic Surgery Award. Don't live in pain or miss out on the activities that bring you joy when UF Health Orthopaedics can help get you moving again.

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COMMUNITY NEWS Ponte Vedra Recorder · May 29, 2025







Photo by Susan Griffir

Susan Griffin received the "Community Champion Award."

Sandy Simpson is recognized.

Special 'Community Champion Award' presented to Recorder Publisher Susan Griffin

In a moving tribute to selfless service and quiet heroism, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and The Ponte Vedra Recorder honored five remarkable individuals at the 33rd Annual Local Heroes Awards on Thursday, May 22, at Marsh Landing Country Club.

Established in 1993 by Ponte Vedra Beach Rotarians Vic DiGenti and Chuck Day in partnership with The Recorder, the Local Heroes Awards have become a cherished tradition — celebrating everyday citizens whose extraordinary acts of kindness and service uplift the community and embody the Rotary motto: "Service Above Self."

"This year's honorees truly reflect the heart and soul of our community," said Rotary Club President Beverly Flanagan. "Their compassion, commitment and quiet leadership remind us of the profound impact one person can have. We are honored to recognize their work and share their stories."

Rotarian and Local Heroes Chair Steve Crosby served as emcee for the evening, introducing the 2025 honorees whose dedication continues to shape a stronger, more compassionate Ponte Vedra Beach:

Gary Graham: An active retiree, Graham's energy and empathy remain boundless. After volunteering with Feed My Starving Children to pack meals for hungry children in Chicago, Graham continued his efforts after relocating to Ponte Vedra Beach. Each year, he organizes hundreds of volunteers and raises funds to pack thousands of meals for hungry children.

Carla Montgomery: As executive director of The Child Cancer Fund, Montgomery offers hope and help to families

navigating the unimaginable journey of childhood cancer. Under her guidance, the organization has expanded its reach, ensuring that no family faces financial hardship alone while their child undergoes treatment at Nemours or Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Bob Hughes: Hughes serves as the heart behind the Beaches Council on Aging's Dial-a-Ride program. What began as a volunteer driver position has grown into a full-time mission of love, as he

AWARD continues on Page 9



Photo by Susan Griffin



Photo by Susan Griffin

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Photo by Susan Griffin

Greg Leonard is recognized.

Award

Continued from 8

now coordinates services that connect seniors to essential care, companionship and dignity.

Sandy Simpson: For 47 years, Simpson has shaped young minds as a teacher—not only in the classroom, but through her many years of leading Fletcher High School's Interact Club. Under her

guidance, the club has grown to more than 120 students, who participate in numerous community service projects for organizations such as BEAM, Mission House and the Ronald McDonald House. Through her efforts, she is instilling a lifelong commitment to service in the next generation.

Greg Leonard: Leonard's tireless advocacy for smart, sustainable infrastructure led to the formation of the Citizens Traffic Task Force, which he has led for



Photo by Susan Griffin

Carla Montgomery is recognized.

more than a decade. Through collaboration with local and state leaders, he has worked to ease congestion while preserving the natural beauty and livability of our community.

A Special Tribute: Community Champion Award

In a surprise addition to this year's celebration, the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club presented a special Community Champion Award to Recorder Publisher Susan Griffin, recognizing her nearly 30 years of dedicated leadership in local journalism.

"For almost three decades, Susan has made The Recorder the voice and heartbeat of this community, keeping us connected, informed and inspired," said Crosby. "She's more than a publisher — she's a neighbor, a leader and a true champion of community spirit."

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Atlantic Beach ready for beach season with new lifeguard station

The City of Atlantic Beach has opened its reimagined lifeguard station, a significant enhancement to the city's commitment to public safety along its beautiful coastline.

While keeping the core of its William Morgan design intact, this modern facility designed by Cronk Duch Architecture and Planning will provide Atlantic Beach lifeguards with improved resources and capabilities, further ensuring the well-being of residents and visitors enjoying the ocean.

Located at the Ahern Street beach access which has a new dune walkover, to boot – the new lifeguard station replaces an aging structure and boasts a range of upgrades designed to optimize response times and lifeguard effectiveness.

City officials unveiled the lifeguard station at a May 20 ribbon cutting.

"Today we gather not just to cut a ribbon but to open a new chapter and how we protect and serve those who enjoy this beautiful coastline of ours," Mayor Curtis

The lifeguard station was built by ACON Construction Co. The project had significant oversight and involvement by Police Chief Vic Gualillo and City Engineer Steve

"It's designed for efficiency and built to support the people who put their lives on the line every day to keep beachgoers safe," said longtime lifeguard Capt. John Phillips. "More than that, it's a place of potential. It's a place where future lifeguards will be trained, where local youth might get their first introduction to public service, and where teamwork and dedication will continue to thrive. It's an investment in both infrastructure and in people."

Funded in large part by the City of Jacksonville, the construction of the new lifeguard station underscores the City of Atlantic Beach's ongoing dedication to maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment for all beachgoers.

Beachgoers are encouraged to swim near lifeguard-protected areas and adhere to all posted beach safety flags and instructions.

Kev Enhancements:

• Enhanced Visibility: The modern designs offer lifeguards panoramic views of the beach, crucial for spotting swimmers in

LIFEGUARD continues on Page 11



Photo courtesy of City of Atlantic Beach



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Lifeguard Continued from 10

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Rise 55+, Chamber team up for After Hours

Rise 55+ Active Living at Nocatee hosted a St. Johns County Chamber After Hours event on Wednesday, May 21. Jerry Shafer and his team put together a great evening full of networking, food and drinks. Below are photos from the event.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Contributed photo



Nicole Briggs and Jerry Shafer



Dr. Erika Hamer



Ericha Gore and Pamela Ducas



Mimi Summers and Lani Milton

Women and teens raise funds to fight cardiovascular disease

The owner of Goldyn Hour Style in Jacksonville Beach, Lindsay White, and a student and baseball player at Ponte Vedra High School, Ben Williams, have been named the 2025 First Coast Woman of Impact and Teen of Impact winners, respectively, by the American Heart Association.

Launching annually on National Wear Red Day, Feb. 7, the local leaders were nominated by the American Heart Association to educate, raise funds and inspire people to prioritize their health through community fundraising events and personal network outreach. At the end of the nine-week campaigns, the nominees who made the greatest impact and raised the most funds locally were named the First Coast winners.

The Woman of Impact and Teen of Impact initiatives are a part of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement, which addresses awareness and clinical care gaps in women's greatest health threat, cardiovascular disease.

Collectively, the initiatives raised more than \$351,000 in support of women's heart health, with the Woman of Impact nominees contributing \$151,725 and the Teen of Impact nominees bringing in more than \$199,000.

"Being part of the 2025 First Coast Woman of Impact Campaign has been incredibly meaningful," said White. "It meant so much to me to give back to our community, and one of the most inspiring moments was seeing friends, family and even people I hadn't spoken to in years come together to support the cause. It reminded me of the strength we have when we unite for something bigger than ourselves."

White raised more than \$33,000, and Williams raised nearly \$174,000. Williams' success earned him the title of regional winner, and national runner-up among 177 Teen of Impact nominees across the country.

"Being part of the Teen of Impact campaign has been an incredible honor and something I'll always be grateful for," said Williams. "As a student-athlete, I've seen how important heart health is for living fully — on and off the field. This experience showed me that making a meaningful difference starts when we step up, not just for ourselves, but for others too. I'm thankful for the opportunity to raise awareness, to help strengthen our communities, and to continue supporting the American Heart Association's mission."

The 2025 First Coast Woman of Impact nominees included:

- Mackenzie Berger Integrity Spine & Orthopedics
 - Mandy Johnson Chirps Co. Social
 - Carrie Kuppart Brooksource
 - $\bullet \ Heather \ Long-CapTech$
 - Whitney McGuire RYAM
 - Chandler Morgan Action News Jax
- Jessica Swearingen The Ponte Vedra Club Realty
- Lindsay White Goldyn Hour Style The 2025 First Coast Teen of Impact nominees included:
- Emma Carrigan Beachside High School
- Ben Williams Ponte Vedra High

School

"It has been such a pleasure to work alongside each of our local Woman of Impact and Teen of Impact nominees," said Mallory Sealey, impact campaigns director for the American Heart Association, First Coast. "Thanks to their unwavering support and dedication to the American Heart Association's mission, we are making headway in the fight against heart disease and stroke and advancing research, education and awareness for all."

Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer in the United States. Many instances of cardiac events can be prevented through healthy lifestyle changes.

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New MOSH site planned, current location to close Sept. 1

As Jacksonville experiences a period of dynamic growth, the Museum of Science & History (MOSH) continues to focus its efforts on developing a new state-of-the-art facility that reflects the city's energy and ambition.

The current museum location will close to the public by Sept. 1 so that the MOSH organization can fully engage in shaping the vision for the new museum.

Groundbreaking for the new museum is scheduled for 2026, with completion anticipated in 2028. Once open, the new museum will anchor the Northbank as a premier cultural destination and play a vital role in elevating Jacksonville's presence on the global stage.

MOSH is part of a bigger transformation taking place across the Northbank shipyards.

A new culture and entertainment hub will emerge with projects like the Stadium of the Future, the Four Seasons development and the Emerald Trail expansion reshaping the riverfront. The new museum will serve as the Northbank's cultural heartbeat, acting as a community space, educational resource and economic catalyst for Jacksonville's revitalizing downtown.

"After decades of serving the community from our current location, MOSH is embarking on a bold new chapter to



Contributed photo

The current Museum of Science & History.

create a museum that will act as both cultural institution and social destination for Northeast Florida," said Alistair Dove, CEO of MOSH. "As one of the largest museum development projects in America today, the new museum will become a defining regional landmark that fuels civic pride and inspires lifelong learning. Through its programs and exhibitions, the new museum will celebrate the rich

history and cultural identity of the First Coast, while inspiring future generations to realize the extraordinary potential of this incredibly special region."

Since its founding in 1941, MOSH has served Jacksonville by moving and adapting to the city's needs. Today, thanks to more than \$95 million raised in public and private support and unanimous backing from the mayor and City Council,

MOSH is well on its way to realizing the next chapter.

The new museum will nearly triple annual visitation and create more than seven acres of immersive, indoor-outdoor learning experiences. Designed to blend museum, park and waterfront, this integrated experience will feature 105,000 square feet of exhibition space, interactive discovery labs and innovative programs connecting science, history and the local environment.

By delivering cultural resources and public amenities, this landmark location will drive economic growth and enrich community life across Northeast Florida.

MOSH has always been more than a building — playing a vital role in sparking curiosity, supporting learning and connecting communities across Jacksonville. As MOSH prepares for a transformative leap forward, the organization expressed gratitude to its members, partners and supporters who have brought the project to this moment and continue to power its future.

While the current location will close by Sept. 1, MOSH will remain active in the community through pop-up experiences, partnerships and educational events across Jacksonville.

For more information, go to themosh. org.















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Contributed photos



Sherry and Peyton Davidson with graduate Jaydin Dang and Superintendent Tim Forson



A celebrating Take Stock in Children graduate

INK!, Take Stock in Children program recognizes 13 graduating seniors

By Holly Tishfield

As the school year comes to a close, Investing in Kinds (INK!) and Take Stock in Children celebrated their 2025 class of graduating seniors with a special ceremony on Monday, May 12.

This year marks Take Stock in Children's 30th year of operation in the state of Florida. As the exclusive local affiliate for the statewide Take Stock in Children organization, INK! is proud to recognize its 25th graduating class of 13 exceptional students.

INK! is an educational nonprofit organization in Florida that supports the St. Johns County school district. It's recognized as the sole direct support organization for the school district, providing funding and resourcing for thousands of students and teachers.

The Take Stock in Children program is an initiative geared towards providing a unique opportunity for deserving, lowincome youth through education.

"For us, this is an opportunity to help

INK! continues on Page 17



Continued from 16

students break that cycle of poverty," said Cathy Newman, INK!'s executive director. "The success of hosting the program over the last 25 years and the success of helping these students across the stage for graduation is what we're celebrating."

To qualify for the Take Stock in Children program, students must meet a restricted income level. INK! works with schools to get in touch with parents at the midway point of a student's eighth-grade year to discuss the possibility of applying for — and eventually joining — the

If a student is accepted, they sign a contract that promises they will stay in school, stay out of trouble by remaining drug and crime-free, and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA. Students are also required to meet regularly with their mentors to discuss college exploration, career paths and more.

Students must join before their junior year of high school to join a "cohort," of sorts, once their application has been selected. They'll remain with that cohort of fellow students until graduation in their senior year.

Some years, the program accepts more students per cohort, depending on available funding. Next year's graduating class will celebrate 21 students,



Contributed photo

The St. Augustine Lions Club presents the Take Stock St. Johns Class of 2025 with new laptops.

compared to this year's 13 or last year's 14 students. 2025's students were among the first to enroll in Take Stock in Children post-pandemic, which explains the group's smaller numbers.

All graduates from the program are awarded a two-year scholarship to any Florida state college or technical college of their choice. This year, The St. Augustine Lions Club also presented the Take Stock in Children St. Johns Class of 2025 with new laptops.

From 2025's graduating class, all 13 students from various schools across St. Johns County will continue their education at different institutions across the

Some students chose major universities such as the University of Florida and Florida State University, and others chose state colleges such as Florida State College at Jacksonville and Daytona State College. One student, who earned a 3.9 GPA while in high school, is pursuing

technical certification through First Coast Technical College.

"What we want the students and families to learn is that we're there to help answer questions and we're ready to give information about what the next steps look like," Newman said of her hope for the graduating class. "Also, when the students go off to the next chapter of postsecondary education, we want them to know they have a group of people behind them always cheering them on."





Tips for throwing an unforgettable graduation party

By Holly Tishfield

It's time to celebrate the graduating seniors! The class of 2025 is ready to take their first steps into the big, wide world. We sat down with Seri Kertzner, chief party officer and founder of The Social Society (your home for all of those graduation party needs), to make sure you've got every tool in your arsenal to make your grad's party truly unforgettable. Because every grad deserves a celebration as big as their dreams!

Tip 1: Go all-out with balloons

Who wouldn't love an eye-catching balloon garland in their new school's colors? Or letter balloons spelling out their school's acronym, like "UNF" or "FSU." Don't be afraid to go a little balloon-crazy and fill the space with all sorts of "congratulations" mylar balloons or giant number balloons bringing their graduation year to life. At The Social Society, you can even order custom balloon bouquets with your grad's name, school and a fun phrase like "Here I come, UF!" or "College Bound!"



Grab colorful mylar and letter balloons for your new grad.

Maybe you want to let them know that "the world is your oyster" with jumbo gold circle balloons and vinyl letter stickers spelling out the inspirational phrase.

Tip 2: Create a photo-worthy backdrop

A photo-worthy backdrop is a must-have for any grad party and The Social Society makes it easy to create one that shines. Drape a shimmering fringe curtain behind a bold "Reach for the Stars" banner, or take it a step further with life-size cutouts of your grad's school logo. Or, surprise your grad with a bed party! Decorate their space with school colors, mascot-themed decor and balloon letthey'll want to share. Tip 3: Theme the snack bar No party is complete without finger foods and tasty drinks served in the most charming Gold Fringe Party Cups. When you stop by The Social Society, you can

pick from a selection of school-inspired paper plates (like the Grad Shaped Paper Plate) and paper napkins

ters on the wall or bedroom window. Let them celebrate

their achievement in style with a picture-perfect setup

PARTY continues on Page 19



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Serve snacks and drinks with stylish cutlery and flatware.





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Continued from 18

(like the Grad Letter Paper Cocktail Napkins), perfect for transforming plain cutlery into something spectacular. And don't think we forgot about decorating the table, too! There's always room for a Congrats Paper Table Runner or a stylish Back to School Table Runner. The Social Society also partnered with Amy of the Gifted Boutique for college-themed snacks, swag, hats and more.

Tip 4: Set up a memory and advice station

As your grads set out down that untraveled road, they'll need a little advice and encouragement to



Contributed photo

Society's Illustrated Florida Map Notebook and colorful pens and ask your guests to write down their best piece of advice on everything from making friends in a new city to creating the perfect class schedule. You can turn the station into a photo booth with the help of a Polaroid camera, a scrapbook photo album, and some graduationthemed stickers, like the red and silver heart stickers. It'll make for an extra special keepsake.

get them started. Set up a station with The Social

Tip 5: Don't show up empty-handed

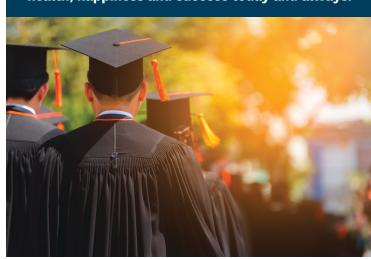
Even if you're not hosting, bringing a thoughtful gift is a great way to celebrate the grad's big moment. Start with a thoughtful graduation card (of which The Social Society has plenty) and consider a special way to let the grad know you're thinking of them. Maybe you'll pick up a Homesick candle in the "New Grad" scent or maybe you're leaning more towards a Brass Monkey Hidden Agenda Undated Mini Planner, to help them keep track of sports meets and classes now that they'll be doing it on their own. Maybe you're the kind of guest who wants to get the party started with Multicolour Star Confetti Small Crackers or 12-inch Deluxe Sparklers. Throwing a great grad party doesn't have to be complicated — and your grad will remember the effort for years to come!

love, Moon

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Wherever you go from here, may the memories, lessons and friendships you've gained accompany you every step of the way.

Congratulations on your graduation, and thanks for making this community proud. We wish you health, happiness and success today and always!



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Wofford College

Yale University

Age one to grade 12 www.esj.org

S OF 2025 TOSSES C

St. Johns County high schools celebrated the graduating class of 2025 last week. Below are photos compiled from several students at Ponte Vedra High, Nease High and Beachside High who shared special moments with family and friends during and after the ceremonies.

Contributed photos



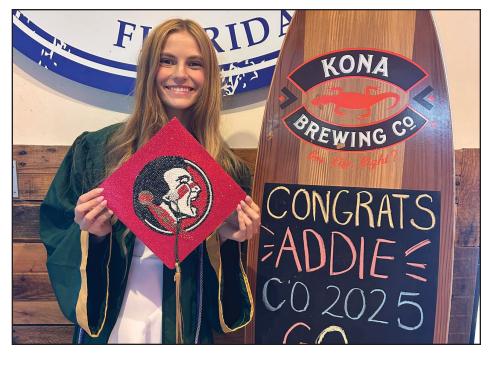










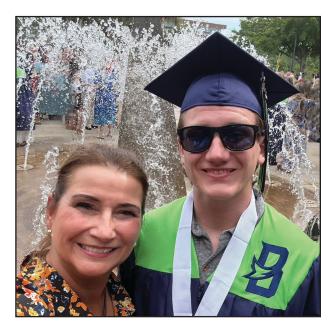












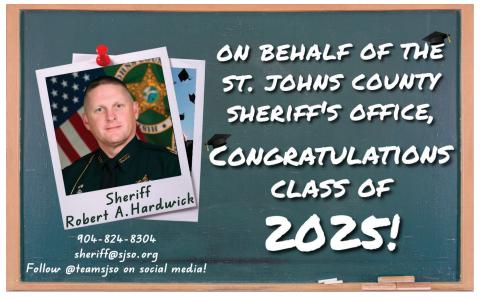






MENU





Flagler College's class of 2025 makes history

Flagler College celebrated the academic and personal accomplishments of more than 560 graduates in the class of 2025 with a commencement ceremony on May 10 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre.

This year's graduating class is the largest in the college's history. The class brought experiences and perspectives from across the country and world, with 18 international students and domestic students from 34 states and one U.S. ter-

The most represented majors among the graduating seniors were business administration (57), psychology (54), coastal environmental science (44), criminology (41), sport management (39), graphic design (30), marketing (27), digital media production and journalism (23), and hospitality and tourism management (23).

The class of 2025 was conferred 441 Bachelor of Arts, nine Bachelor of Fine Arts and 114 Bachelor of Science degrees. Additionally, five students received Master of Arts degrees. Each of these degrees represents rigorous academic journeys successfully completed, a testament to their hard work and dedication.

For the first time this year, three students received a Master of Public Administration degree. These three students



represent the first graduating class from Flagler's Master of Public Administration program launched in the summer of 2024. Behind these degrees are countless experiential learning opportunities, in which 90% of the graduating class participated during their time at Flagler.

The class of 2025 is the first to

complete Flagler's Core experience, a groundbreaking general education program focused on the college's core values and the skills and literacies employers are

More than a third of this year's graduating class has displayed high academic achievement and will graduate with honors: 77 students qualified for cum laude (GPA of 3.5-3.64), 75 qualified for magna cum laude (GPA of 3.65-3.79), and 38 qualified for summa cum laude (GPA of

Among the graduates, 107 are studentathletes. Nineteen students completed Flagler's honors program and will have an honors designation placed on their official academic transcripts. These students were among the 5% of their class invited to join the program during their freshman year.

Flagler's class of 2025 also marks a significant milestone in the institution's history with the graduation of Cam Buttrick, the first grandchild of a Flagler alumnus to earn a degree from the college. Her grandfather, Pete Buttrick, graduated in 1973, and now, more than five decades later. Cam continues the family's enduring legacy to the Flagler community.



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Veritas Classical School graduates first class

By Anthony Richards

It is graduation season and Veritas Classical School in St. Augustine celebrated its first graduating class since the school was founded in 2017 with four students taking part in the festivities during a ceremony at Lewis Auditorium on Monday, May 19.

According to Head of School Dr. Andrew Smalley, as part of the program's rhetoric school curriculum, there is a lot of speaking and debate that students experience from ninth to 12th grade, which includes the seniors having to write a thesis and then present it in front of a crowd before then responding to questions and supporting their thesis.

"It's a monumental experience for these kids," Smalley said. "It's a huge sense of relief and accomplishment for them after doing it."

Veritas does not only feature a classical school education but also one that is centered around Christian beliefs and the Bible which is a major part of the curriculum.

The school's goal is to provide an environment where students feel accomplished and successful in their studies, even when the material is challenging.

Next year, the school is expected to have 315 students, and Smalley believes that the example the first graduating class will be to the younger students is something that will be very powerful.

"They're the pioneers and they've helped lay the path for the future to follow," Smalley said.

He came into his role as head of school in 2021 and to see the first graduating class walk across stage after the school was founded eight years ago was a pre-



Photo courtesy of Veritas Classical School

Graduates from Veritas Classical School throw their caps in the air to celebrate.

cious moment to him, especially knowing how much work the students had put in over the years.

"It's been a labor of love," Smalley said. "There is so much maturing that goes on from ninth to 12th grade. Families recognize that it is some rigorous education, but it is worth it because it makes all the difference."

According to Smalley, the four graduates were awarded half of a million dollars combined worth of college scholarships.

"When these students arrive for college interviews, the typical response (from colleges) is, of course we want them to be here representing our school," Smalley said. "There is an engaging and forthrightness to them."

Through the school's classical and Christian approach to education they aim to focus on the formation of heart, mind and spirit for human flourishing, and Smalley believes the first graduating class exemplifies that in every aspect.

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Dick's Wings location latest to receive rebranding from Alhambra owner

Known for transforming the Alhambra Theatre & Dining into a top-tier cultural and dining destination, owner Craig Smith now brings that same strategic vision to the casual dining and sports bar space as he has acquired and revitalized the Dick's Wings & Grill franchise located at 10750 Atlantic Blvd. in Jack-

Joining him in the venture is his friend and longtime business partner Joel Slotnick, along with restaurant industry veteran Rob Langley.

The newly reimagined Dick's Wings & Grill represents a significant investment in both the brand and the local community.

The restaurant underwent a complete

interior renovation, featuring a sleek, modern design, upgraded kitchen operations and a refreshed menu with elevated takes on crowd favorites.

As a longtime Jacksonville business owner, Smith and his partners saw an opportunity to breathe new life into a beloved local brand.

He is a Jacksonville-based entrepreneur and owner of the Alhambra Theatre & Dining, the number-one-rated dinner theater in the country according to USA Today, as well as St. Johns Food Ser-

"This isn't just about aesthetics—it's about creating an experience that meets the expectations of today's dining customer," Smith said. "We wanted to keep

what people love about Dick's Wings & Grill but also raise the bar. Dining out should be tasty, nice, and affordable. This Dick's Wings & Grill checks all those boxes."

Well known for revitalizing the Alhambra Theatre and transforming it into a thriving cultural hub, Smith—along with Slotnick and Langley-bring that same passion and business acumen to the Dick's Wings brand.

The Atlantic Boulevard location now features expanded beverage options, enhanced entertainment offerings and a renewed commitment to customer

The location's modernization in-

- A fully redesigned interior with contemporary décor and expanded seating.
- An enhanced food and beverage program, including upgraded bar service with a wide selection of bourbons and tequilas.
- Operational improvements focused on guest satisfaction, speed and consis-

This project is part of Smith's broader commitment to revitalizing and reinvesting in local institutions that contribute to Jacksonville's economic and cultural

The Atlantic Boulevard location is now positioned to serve as a flagship model for what a modern Dick's Wings & Grill can be.

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GUEST COLUMN

Frequently asked questions: Divorce insights from Florida Women's Law Group



Submitted by Heather Quick, Florida Women's Law Group.

Divorce is an emotional and monumental decision, but it's essential to take action to protect your future. We're here to guide women with clarity and confidence through divorce and family law matters — that's why we've compiled

our most frequently asked questions with expert answers by Heather Quick, owner, CEO and attorney at Florida Women's Law Group.

How do I know if I need a divorce?

Making the decision to divorce is one that should be undertaken with great thought and consideration for what you want for your life and future. I recommend that you seek counseling, even if your partner will not participate, having a space to freely discuss your feelings can help you get clarity. On average, women spend approximately four years thinking about a divorce before taking action. I recommend if you are thinking about it, you ought to get some professional advice as to your options.

How long does a divorce take?

Every divorce is going to be unique, and the length of the divorce will depend on many factors, such as the complexity of the case and whether the parties reach an agreement. Most divorces last between six to 18 months. Of course, there are

other issues that can affect the length of a divorce such as complexity, court backlog in scheduling and mandatory waiting periods. When thinking about divorce, it is important to understand that it will not be a "quick" process.

What if I can't afford a divorce?

Can you afford to stay married? Examine your health, both physical and mental in your current situation. If you are suffering from anxiety, depression or high blood pressure, it is possible that your living situation is affecting these diseases. What is the price of your health and wellbeing? Often, we make investment decisions like property and transportation investing in yourself is no different. Make a list of the pros and cons of moving on from your relationship, to help you clarify your priorities.

What will happen to my children? I don't trust my spouse to take care of my children.

In Florida, courts prioritize the child's best interests when determining timeshar-

ing (custody) arrangements. Equal time with each parent is the presumed timesharing (custody) agreement if the parties do not agree to a timesharing schedule.

Why choose a female attorney?

As women, we intimately understand the unique challenges women face, having been second-guessed and undervalued in both personal and professional realms. With Florida Women's Law Group, you are not just a priority; you are the priority. Our goal is to strategize with you and assist you in making the best decisions to move forward; we are not here to "tell" you what would be best for you.

For personalized guidance through your divorce journey, consider reaching out to us at Florida Women's Law Group, where women are not just a priority but the priority. Call us at 904-595-8515.

Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only. The information provided in this article is not intended to be legal advice. If you have a legal issue, please contact a lawyer.

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Florida Women's Law Group is the only divorce and family law firm exclusively serving women in Northeast Florida.



Gateway Jax to break ground on Pearl Square building

Gateway Jax, a Jacksonville-based commercial real estate development firm, has announced it will break ground on 425 Beaver St., its second project in Pearl Square, on Thursday, May 29. The mixed-use building, previously known as Block N4, will feature 286 multifamily units, on-site parking, and nearly 20,000 square feet of retail space. The project is anticipated to deliver in 2027.

Following the groundbreaking of 515 Pearl in October, 425 Beaver St. is the next building to commence construction in Pearl Square, a transformational mixed-use urban neighborhood comprising nine city blocks in the core of downtown Jacksonville.

When 425 Beaver St. breaks ground, there will be approximately 500 residential units and 40,000 square feet of retail space actively under construction in Pearl Square, with several additional buildings slated to start later in 2025 and 2026. Upon completion, Pearl Square will deliver more than 1,250 new residential units; approximately 200,000 square feet of retail space; a 100 key boutique hotel; new public spaces, including widened and shaded sidewalks; public park spaces; and a signature curbless festival street with abundant outdoor dining possibilities.

The development will include everything an individual may need on a daily basis, including retail tenants like a full-service grocer, a high-end fitness club, grab-and-go bodegas, restaurants and other daily service providers like salons and shops.

The full buildout of Gateway Jax's holdings will total an estimated \$2 billion in capital investment over the next decade.

"Jacksonville has been called the Bold New City of the South, and it is one of the most unique and special places in the country," said Bryan Moll, CEO of Gateway Jax. "Downtown is the key to taking our city to the next level. It brings together history, culture, sports, entertainment, the waterfront everything that makes our home so special. We're proud to see Pearl Square continue to move forward and play an important role in creating the world-class downtown that we all desire."

The 425 Beaver St. team includes SK+I Architecture, with Elks Manfredi Architects, Ltd. serving as the design architect and interiors by Cecconi Simone; SK&A Structural Engineers; mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering by Lighthouse; and civil engineering by England-Thims

& Miller (ETM). Jacksonville-based Faver Gray will serve as the general contractor. The new parks and public spaces will be designed by Hoerr Schaudt.

Moll went on to say, "The key to a thriving downtown is a mix of uses in a dense, urban and walkable environment. Pearl Square accelerates that goal for Jacksonville. Starting construction on 425 Beaver St. reinforces our and our partners' commitment to this city, its redevelopment and revitalization, and our expertise in bringing unprecedented projects to life. We look forward to continuing our mission to imagine and create welcoming, vibrant urban communities."

For more information on Gateway Jax and the Pearl Square project, go to pearlsquare.com.

Questions to ask when looking for an attorney

When searching for legal representation, individuals may realize that there's no shortage of legal firms. That can make it more challenging to find the right lawyer or attorney. The vetting process is an important part of finding legal representation, and the following are some questions individuals can ask as they look for a lawyer or attorney.

Are you a lawyer or an attorney?

The terms "lawyer" and "attorney" are not interchangeable. The employment search engine Indeed notes that attorneys can represent clients in court and other legal proceedings while lawyers cannot. That's a subtle yet significant distinction that individuals must take into account

when looking for legal representation.

What level of experience do you have in cases like mine?

Though each legal situation is unique, many are not one-of-a-kind instances. So individuals should ask about an attorney's experience with cases like their own and

take note of the breadth of that experience.

What are the potential outcomes of my case?

Even the most experienced and skilled attorney cannot say with absolute certainty what the outcome of a case will ultimately

ATTORNEY continues on Page 30



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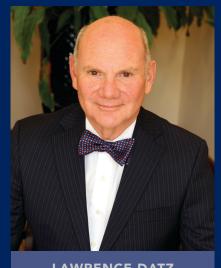
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Pinnacle Financial Partners to expand Ponte Vedra office

Pinnacle Financial Partners is opening its second full-service location in the Jacksonville area with the expansion of its Ponte Vedra office at 100 Corridor Road. That space has been home to the Horizon Group at Pinnacle Asset Management since May 2024 and is now transformed into a full-service location.

"This expansion marks a significant milestone for Pinnacle as we deepen our roots in the Ponte Vedra community," said Scott Keith, regional president for Pinnacle. "We are ready to bring our distinctive service model to more clients in the area, offering them expanded access

to the resources and expertise they need to reach their financial goals."

The expanded space will allow for greater client engagement, expanded banking services, and a robust team of financial professionals dedicated to meeting the needs of the Ponte Vedra community. The Horizon Group, previously housed in the limited-service location, will remain in place as the office takes on additional space within the same building, offering clients seamless access to expanded services.

As part of this growth, Pinnacle welcomes Lisa Schuman as the new office

leader for the Ponte Vedra location. She brings a wealth of experience from her extensive career in financial services. including serving as the financial center manager at First Citizens Bank in Ponte Vedra, plus various leadership roles at Bank of America, Synovus Bank and First Atlantic Bank.

"Lisa is the perfect person to lead our Ponte Vedra office," said Lauren Huvnh. area manager for client services. "Her depth of experience and passion for delivering outstanding client service will be invaluable as we expand our presence in the market. Lisa embodies the Pinnacle culture and will play a key role in helping us build even stronger relationships in the community."

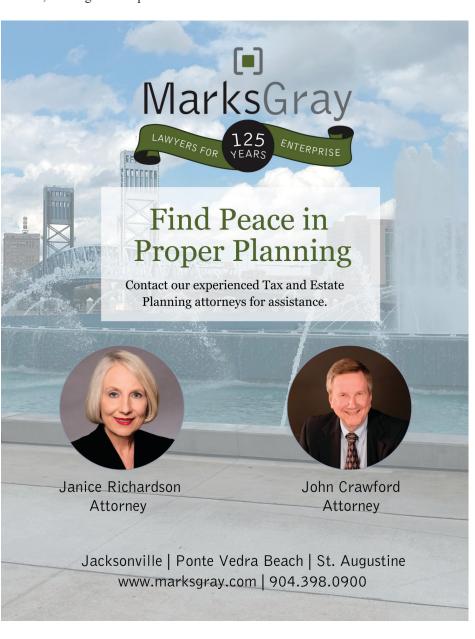
Pinnacle Financial Partners provides a full range of banking, investment, trust, mortgage and insurance products and services designed for businesses and their owners and individuals interested in a comprehensive relationship with their financial institution. The firm is the No. 1 bank in the Nashville-Murfreesboro-

Franklin MSA, according to 2024 deposit data from the FDIC. Pinnacle is No. 9 on FORTUNE magazine's 2025 list of "100 Best Companies to Work For" in the United States, its ninth consecutive appearance, and was recognized by American Banker as one of "America's Best Banks to Work For" 12 years in a row and No. 1 among banks with more than \$10 billion in assets in 2024.

Pinnacle entered North Florida in late 2023 by recruiting local financial services leaders to build a team and open an office in Jacksonville.

The firm began operations in a single location in downtown Nashville, Tennessee, in October 2000 and has since grown to approximately \$54.3 billion in assets as of March 31, 2025. As the second-largest bank holding company in Tennessee, Pinnacle operates in several primarily urban markets across the Southeast.

Additional information concerning Pinnacle, which is included in the Nasdaq Financial-100 Index, can be accessed at www.pnfp.com.



Attorney

be. However, that does not mean they cannot study the details and provide an assessment to give prospective clients an idea of how the case will unfold. When vetting attorneys, individuals should prepare and be ready to discuss details that can help each professional provide the most accurate assessment of their case.

What will your representation cost me?

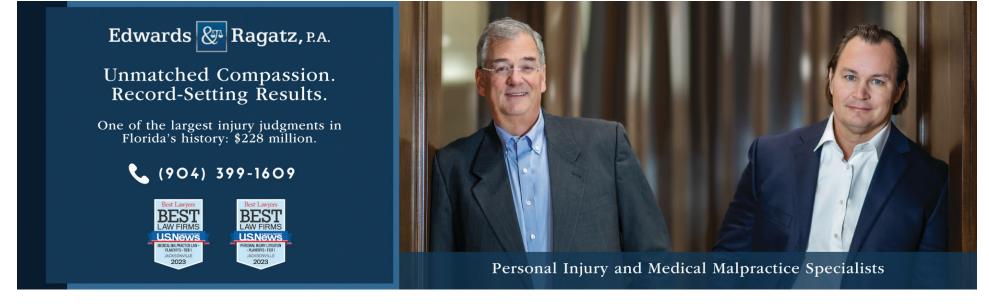
Expenses and attorney fees can be significant, so individuals should not hesitate to ask how much legal representation will cost them. Attorneys represent clients on a contingency basis in certain situations, such as when an individual is suing for damages. In those situations, individuals should confirm what percentage of damages the attorney will receive and if there are any costs they may be responsible for.

In other situations, confirm if an attorney is charging a fixed amount for their services or an hourly fee. It's also necessary to inquire about expenses and request that an attorney provide a reasonable estimate of what their fees will be while they're representing you.

How will we communicate during the case?

It's understandable that individuals want to be kept abreast of the details of any legal matter they're involved in. Ask how that will unfold if you hire the attorney you're vetting. Will an intermediary be calling with periodic updates or can clients contact the attorney directly via an email, phone call or text message?

The right representation can make all the difference in a legal situation. Asking the right questions can help individuals find an attorney they're confident can deliver the best outcome.









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GUEST COLUMN

Why rebalancing can be so important

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

Imagine sitting in a rowboat and wanting to get back to shore. If you just sit there, the wakes from passing boats and the wind could cause you to drift further toward the middle of the lake — not where you want to be. Of course, they might actually move you toward the shore. Who knows?

On the other hand, you could use your paddles. It's more work, but it'll increase the possibility of your reaching your destination.

It's similar with your portfolio. If you neglect it, market activity may cause it to drift away - possibly far away — from where you want it to be.

Take, for example, a portfolio that starts out 60% stocks/40% bonds. If stocks were to have a particularly good year and bonds a bad one, the allocation could shift to, say, 70% stocks/30% bonds without the investor even realizing it. While this portfolio likely has better growth potential than the original, it could also take a bigger hit if stocks, which tend to be more volatile than bonds, turn around and have a bad year.

To help avoid this, you should consider periodically

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"rebalancing" your portfolio. This involves looking at how you're diversified across different types of investments and considering selling some investments and buying others when necessary to bring your portfolio back to the asset allocation you originally intended. In the example above, you might think about selling stocks and buying bonds to get to 60% stocks/40% bonds.

All investing involves risk, including loss of principal.

Asset allocation and diversification are investment methods used to help manage risk. They do not guarantee investment returns or eliminate risk of loss including in a declining market.

Investments in fixed-income securities are subject to market, interest rate, credit and other risks. Bond prices fluctuate inversely to changes in interest rates. Therefore, a general rise in interest rates can cause a bond's price to fall. Credit risk is the risk that an issuer will default on payments of interest and/or principal. This risk is heightened in lower rated bonds. If sold prior to maturity, fixed income securities are subject to market risk. All fixed income investments may be worth less than their original cost upon redemption or maturity.

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

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

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INTHEARTS 33 Ponte Vedra Recorder · May 29, 2025

In the Arts

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MOCA plans 'Jazz in the Afternoon' June 8

The Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville (MOCA), a cultural institute of the University of North Florida, continues its music series, "Jazz in the Afternoon," 2-4 p.m. Sunday, June 8. This event is presented in partnership with the local John Lumpkin Institute and showcases students from the school with a featured performer.

On June 8, "Jazz in the Afternoon" will feature Ryan Little. Little began playing classical piano at the age of 5, and his interest in it led him to find jazz music in high school. Having



MOCA JACKSONVILLE

UNIVERSITY of NORTH FLORIDA.

many great mentors in high school he grew to want to pursue music professionally and decided to study at the University of North Florida. Since then, he has been in the top bands at the school and plays often in and around Jacksonville.

This program takes place in the MOCA Theater and guests can enjoy

drinks from the bar, SoulFULL Eats charcuterie "Board in a Box," or treats from Setlan Coffee. Pre-order is recommended for the "Board in a Box," which can be picked up at the bar the day of the event. Tickets are \$10 and include museum admission, so guests are encouraged to explore the museum before or after the performance.

Featured exhibitions currently include "The Armory South: The 1924 Jacksonville Woman's Club Exhibition Rediscovered" and "Jax Contemporary: MOCA Arts Jacksonville Triennial." which features 64 local artists.

View MOCA's full schedule of programs and details online at eventbrite. com/o/moca-jacksonville-2715586970.

For more information about MOCA, including hours of operation, admission prices and upcoming exhibitions and programs, call 904-366-6911 or go to mocajacksonville.unf.edu.

Limelight turns to the Absurd for 'Rhinoceros'

Eugene Ionesco's "Rhinoceros" comes to the Limelight Theatre! It is the first time ever that Limelight has produced Absurdist Theatre in its 33-year history.

Ionesco is the father of Theatre of the Absurd, which revolutionized the theatre landscape of midcentury Europe and then beyond.

"Rhinoceros" was written in 1959, inspired by the rise of Nazi Germany. In this action-packed allegory that warns of the dangers of nationalistic fervor, mob mentality and the rise of destructive political forces, a provincial village is overrun by rhinoceroses. A young man watches his world descend into the chaos of the stampede, and he is faced with the moral dilemma of his own identity in the face of societal

Absurdist Theatre usually explores existentialism, allegory or symbolism of great magnitude that explores societal insanities and agonies of the human

Limelight is doing something special for "Rhinoceros" audiences. Anyone who comes to the show



wearing something absurd will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a free ticket to every show

(Proprietor), Anthony Romero (Grocer), Emily Panek (Waitress), Michael Gale (Botard), Megan Rodriguez (Housewife With Cat), Amelia Gale (Old Gentleman), Hannah Shaeffer (Logician), Nicholas Frost (Papillon) and Dolores Gende (Mrs. Boeuf).

The director is Mary Claire Branton.

For tickets, go to limelight.ludus.com or call the box office at 904-825-1164.

Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine.

Limelight Theatre presents at least three straight plays each year in addition to five musicals. The education program provides classes for adults and children, producing an additional five shows per season.

Limelight has cultivated loyal patrons and subscribers who enjoy Broadway on a small scale in St. Augustine. The talented visual and performing artists, directors and designers work around the clock to turn out riveting theatre. Limelight students are able to hone their skills and grow their careers in professional theatre and film.



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Direct: (904) 913-8122 bryan.fazio@wfafinet.com

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in the next season. The staff will take photos of each participating patron and vote on the best participant. The cast of "Rhinoceros" is: Alberto Peart

(Berenger), Collin James (Jean), Trevor Kluckman (Dudard), Nicole Maahs (Daisy), Charles Ross

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Alhambra

Continued from 1

Once the scene was set, the play itself did and its job of landing and making the full experience a memorable one with casting that proved to be seemingly spot on with every character.

Sofia Smith and Gary Lee Webber seemingly stole the show with their performances as Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins, respectively.

As the main two protagonists in the production, they did an excellent job of feeding off each other during the performance and really diving into their character portrayals.

It was Smith's third time performing at Alhambra, and she was happy to be back as she continues to work on her degree as a public relations student at the University of Florida.

What makes the timing even more amazing is that Webber had not performed on the Alhambra stage since 2021, but has several credits to his name, including "To Kill a Mockingbird," "The Sound of Music" and "Les Misérables."

He dedicated his performance to his wife of 32 years, Sheri. Another performer making his return to stage, this time after 30 years, was Andy Moritz who played Col. Pickering. He earned a musical theatre degree from Drake University before pursuing a law career and thanks his wife, Juliana, for encouraging him to make the return to acting.

"My Fair Lady" will be shown at the Alhambra through June 22.

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Photos courtesy of Alhambra Theatre & Dining

"My Fair Lady" is being shown at Alhambra Theatre & Dining through June 22.



The Alhambra helped set the scene of early 20th Century London for the musical.

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Photos by Anthony Richards

Defensive back Cooper Sobieck will be a senior for the Sharks next year.



Brayden Felder is a dynamic member of the Nease High offensive attack and will return in the fall as a senior.

SPRING GAMES PROVIDE A GLIMPSE OF UPCOMING FOOTBALL SEASON

By Anthony Richards

Fans got a glimpse of what next year's football season may look like as Ponte Vedra High, Nease High and Beachside High each played their spring football games to cap spring practice.

The Sharks earned a convincing 24-6 victory on the road against Riverside, as they made the trip into Jacksonville

and came back to St. Johns County victorious, a feeling they experienced many times a year ago en route to a postseason berth.

For the Panthers, they welcomed the Menendez High Falcons and lit up the scoreboard with a 44-25 win over the Falcons

The Ponte Vedra Recorder was on site

to provide coverage of the showdown between the Panthers and Falcons at Panther Stadium, but no media was allowed in the gate for the contest.

Meanwhile, the Barracudas offense was on fire and appeared in midseason form during a 52-8 win on the road at Terry Parker High in Jacksonville.

In the first half alone, the Barracudas

receiving corps showcased its versatility as a unit hauling in five touchdowns and 279 yards on just nine completions.

All five receivers return next season for the Barracudas, and they have looked to perfect their timing with quarterback Eddie Jordan who has been operating the offense for years now and will enter his senior season in the fall.



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Summer camp aims to introduce next generation to croquet

By Anthony Richards

Summer camps and sports just seem to go together and there are so many sports out there to pick from but perhaps one of the more unique camps being offered is through the Ponte Vedra Croquet Club.

The club will host two separate fourweek camps with the first beginning June 10 and the second set to start July 8.

The camp will hold sessions three days a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. each day.

Children middle school and high school ages are welcome to attend the camp, which will be tailored to help teach the sport of croquet while learning not only the basics but the different techniques with which to play the game.

One of the benefits of the camp is that not only will campers have instruction during the three days each week but they and their families will also have access to the club so they can come and play on the grounds with club members at any point during the four-week camp period.

The price is \$250 to take part in the four-week camp and receive club access during that time. All equipment used will be provided by the club and campers are asked to wear comfortable athletic wear.

Instructors during the camp will include John Currington, who founded the Ponte Vedra Croquet Club and is a member of the Croquet Hall of Fame; Helen Covington, who is the No. 1-ranked female croquet player in the U.S.; and Anita Huber, who is a member of the club and has been playing croquet for nearly a decade.

The Ponte Vedra Croquet Club is located behind PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School at 100 Mosquito Control Road off of State Road A1A.

To register for the camps, go to www. PonteVedraCroquetClub.com and any questions can be directed to club membership and marketing director Heather Collins by calling 904-834-1614 or by emailing pvccheather@gmail.com.

JAGA PRESENTS 23 WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) held its annual Scholarship Trust Banquet on Tuesday, May 20, at Deerwood Country Club in Jacksonville, where it announced its Class of 2025 scholarship recipients.

Twenty-three students were honored, and in addition, Juan Raigoza of Sawgrass Country Club was awarded a scholarship in support of his Level 3 PGA of America certification program.

Also, eight of the 23 scholarship awardees received enhanced recognition and scholarship support.

Each recipient will be awarded a \$1,250 scholarship for each semester of the 2025-2026 school year. Scholarships are renewable each semester based on scholars meeting certain criteria, including a minimum grade-point average, and required number of credit hours for up to eight semesters.

The class of 23 scholars is the largest in the 51-year history of the JAGA Scholarship Trust. The group's grade-point-average is 3.5, with every scholar having committed numerous hours to community service and most holding down part-time jobs to help defray their educational expenses.



Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Amateur Golf Association

The 23 JAGA scholarship winners that made up the Class of 2025 recipients.

The Level 3 PGA assistant professional scholarship was awarded to Raigoza, who is in the process of securing his Class A certificate.

Having successfully completed his Level 2 certification, Raigoza will receive a \$2,500 scholarship from JAGA. Also, he is registered for Level 3 certification, which

will qualify him for an additional \$2,500 scholarship once he successfully completes it

He is a graduate of The Golf Academy of America in Orlando and has been active in junior golf development. He is an assistant professional on Sawgrass Country Club's director of golf Nate Marozzi's staff.

Since the JAGA Scholarship Trust was formed in 1974, JAGA has awarded approximately \$2 million in grants to approximately 400 deserving young students. The Trust is JAGA's 501 (c)(3) not-forprofit entity that manages the scholarship program.



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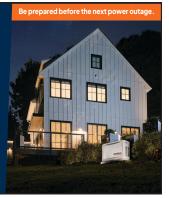


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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. CP25-0377 Division 59
IN RE: ESTATE OF
JEROME TELFAIR,

JEROME TELFAIR,
Deceased.
The administration of the estate of JE-ROME TELFAIR, deceased, whose date of death was October 27, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for St. Johns County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, FL 32084. The names and addresses of the personal representative addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ney are set forth below.

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

ON THEM.
The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies. or may apply. unless a written applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as speci-fied under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUB-

LICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE
TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL

DA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is May 22, 2025. Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ James E. Bedsole JAMES E. BEDSOLE, ESQ. Attorney for Personal Representative Attorney for Personal Representative

Attorney for Personal Representative FL. Bar No.: 500194 2450 Old Moultrie Road, Ste. 104 St. Augustine, FL 32086 Tel: (904) 797-8701

service@bedsolelaw.com Personal Representative: Judyth V. Pittman JUDYTH V PITTMAN

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ACROSS

- 1. Muscular strength
- 5. Not the front
- 9. Japanese female entertainer
- 11. Soars up
- 13. Proof you paid
- 15. Immobile
- 16. Type of drug
- 17. Traveling from place to place
- 19. So
- 21. Los Super Seven member Cesar
- 22. Small insect
- 23. Ancient Hebrew measure
- 25. Beginner
- 26. Consumed
- 27. Fruit of the true service tree
- 29. Part of Congress
- 31. Needlefishes
- 33. Blood serum of an animal
- 34. Ancient measure of length
- 36. Concubine
- 38. One billion years
- 39. Not false
- 41. Vienna (German)
- 43. Short-term memory
- 44. Actresses Meg and Jennifer
- 46. Clothed
- 48. Basketball's "Zen Master"
- 52. Irish bar
- 53. Age-old
- 54. Pride
- 56. Niger's capital
- 57. Makes amends
- 58. Sound made by horses
- 59. Russian river

DOWN

- 1. Cut the baby teeth
- 2. Reflexes
- 3. Midway between east

and southeast

- 4. Beat
- 5. Sign of aging
- 6. Goidelic language of Ireland
- 7. Raise public concern
- 8. Make new again
- 9. Something unpleasant
- 10. Roman orator
- 11. Flavored
- 12. Subdivision
- 14. A pace of running 15. Allows to live
- 18. Terrorist organization
- 20. Feudal Japanese commander
- 24. Type of horse
- 26. Uncoordinated

- 28. Deceased actress Murphy 30. Get into ___: fight
- 32 Inflexible
- 34. Amusing
- 35. Be morose 37. Reviewing online
- 38. Denoting origin
- 40. In addition
- vomiting 43. Ballplayer Denard

42. The state that precedes

- 45. Spiritual discipline
- 47. Database management system
- 49. Fancy car
- 50. Off-road vehicle
- 51. __ bene: observe carefully
- 55. Jerry's pal

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

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!







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