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PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

April 29, 2021

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PonteVedraRecorder.com

## GOAL-ORIENTED



The Ponte Vedra High School girls lacrosse team runs off the field after defeating St. Augustine 18-2 in the regional semifinals last Thursday. The Lady Sharks will play Gulf Breeze in the regional final Thursday, April 29. For more, go to sports on page 36

Photo by Paris Moulden



**INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!**  
The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!



Mother's Day

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Gift of Giving

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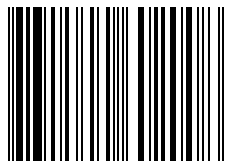
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## Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. Email submissions to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

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Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.



Find us on Twitter @[@PonteVedraNews](https://twitter.com/PonteVedraNews) and on Instagram @[pvrecorder](https://www.instagram.com/pvrecorder)

### NOTE TO READERS

**Weekly newsletter:** The Recorder offers a weekly newsletter every Monday that outlines some of the top stories of the week, as well as providing access to our E-Edition and Entertainment EXTRA! To get the newsletter emailed for free, email [don@opcfla.com](mailto:don@opcfla.com). We'll add you to the list.

### ADOPT A PET

#### CAT OF THE WEEK

Hello my name is Cloud. I am a 4-year-old male domestic medium-hair cat. When my owner was no longer able to keep me, he turned me over to the next best thing, The Pet Center, where I am getting lots of love and attention. They say I have the softest fur in the entire place! No wonder my owner named me Cloud. While times here are good, I am anxious to find a new home to call my own. Please call the shelter and arrange a meet and greet, and I promise you will think I am the softest tool! #58251



#### DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi! My name is Bindi. I am a 5-year-old female terrier mix. I found myself at the Pet Center as a stray. I have made lots of friends here, but I am ready for a real home, one to call my own. My ideal family will just love me and understand that while I am heartworm positive, I can be easily cured of this disease and go on to live out my days bringing my new family joy. (The Friends of the SJC Pet Center offers a \$250 voucher towards treatment of Bindi's heartworm treatment. Her case is a very mild one and easily treatable with preventatives.) Come see me at the Pet Center today! #58189

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to its new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training, and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

### St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road in St. Augustine, off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. **For more information, please call the St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

### BRIEFS

#### On-beach driving and swimming restricted at Vilano Beach on May 1-2

On-beach driving is prohibited and swimming will be limited at Vilano Beach on May 1 and 2 for the Pro Watercross National Tour. Parking and traffic flow in the Vilano Beach area will also be impacted for the duration of the event. In addition, Vilano Beach visitors are encouraged to avoid swimming in the course set up area from Vilano Road to the

southern jetties on Friday, April 30. Pro Watercross National Tour spectators are encouraged to find alternative modes of transportation and parking locations. Porpoise Point beach access will remain open and accessible for four-wheel drive vehicles. For the most up-to-date information on beach access and driving conditions, follow @SJCBeaches on Facebook and Twitter, or download St. Johns County's Reach the Beach app. For more information, call (904) 209-0331.

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	M	A	S	S	G	N	P	A	D	A	M	
F	E	N	C	E	N	O	R	S	T	E	L	A
A	S	T	E	R	A	D	O	T	O	D	O	S
R	A	I	N	B	O	W	M	A	R	M	E	E
T	I	C	T	O	R	E						
A	D	S	A	C	R	E	C	E	R	S	E	I
S	O	P	S	A	I	D	E	T	E	N	E	T
K	N	E	E	M	O	I	R	A	S	E	R	A
E	N	A	C	T	T	O	I	L	T	A	I	L
R	A	K	S	H	A	U	N	I	T	K	E	Y
E	G	I	S	B	E	E						
V	I	V	I	A	N	W	I	N	S	L	O	W
R	I	M	E	S	F	B	I	E	T	U	D	E
P	S	A	L	M	R	A	N	T	O	X	I	N
M	A	M	A	A	D	D	S	P	E	N	D	

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



**SATURDAY, MAY 22  
& SUNDAY, MAY 23**

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

#### Save the Date

The Art in the Garden Festival is a weekend celebration of creativity in all its forms—intriguing art, curated music, demonstration classes, extraordinary living pictures—all within our lush gardens. Learn more at [jacksonvillezoo.org](http://jacksonvillezoo.org).





# Briefs

Continued from 2

## SJC School District happenings

St. Johns County School District will hold a minority teacher recruitment fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 15. Interviews will be conducted face to face with district and school administrators. Virtual interviews will be conducted by request. To learn more, go to [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/recruitment/jobfairs/#be-me](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/recruitment/jobfairs/#be-me).

There will also be a School Board workshop at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 4, or thereafter upon the conclusion of the special School Board meeting. The workshop will be held in the auditorium of the SJCS Administrative Building at 40 Orange St.,

St. Augustine and via Webex. Instructions to access this virtual meeting will be posted on the St. Johns County School District website at [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us).

## SJC Parks and Recreation seeks help to catalog, identify species

Through May 3, the City Nature Challenge will allow people across the globe to compete and collaborate to get out and make as many observations in nature as they can. Being a part of this challenge by downloading the iNaturalist app ([www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)) and uploading observations anywhere in St. Johns County. Learn more about the City Nature Challenge at [www.citynaturechallenge.org](http://www.citynaturechallenge.org). Register to participate in this event at [secure.rec1.com/FL/stjohns-county-fl/catalog/index](http://secure.rec1.com/FL/stjohns-county-fl/catalog/index).

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Like us on Facebook! [Facebook.com/WatsonPonteVedra](https://www.facebook.com/WatsonPonteVedra)



# Bolles PVB students clean up area beaches

As part of their Earth Day focus, all students from the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus are visiting nearby beaches to pick up trash and make their community environment a little cleaner.

On April 20, the campus' youngest and oldest students traveled to a nearby beach to make a difference, while those in grade three traveled to South Ponte Vedra Beach for their outreach.

In addition to collecting litter and other debris, students also took time to observe marine life and absorb science instruction from teacher Carolyn Houston.

Beach clean ups for all classes are ongoing along area beaches through the rest of the week.



Photos provided by Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus

## FIELD DAY AT BOLLES PONTE VEDRA BEACH CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS COLLEGE TEAMS



Photos provided by The Bolles School

2021 Field Day on the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus pitted class against class in fun-filled, daylong competition on the campus athletic field April 16. Each class was represented by different college teams and colors. The youngest students began the day with a parade onto the field, where they participated in various activities and cheered on their peers. Later in the day, students in grades three through five enjoyed the same opportunity to flex their power of play skills. Coaches Melissa Stone and Reggie McAfee and the campus faculty and administrators organized the event.

## Garnett and Gold Scholar Society inducts Ponte Vedra's Slade and St. Augustine's Hale

Florida State University welcomed 236 new inductees, including Beth Slade of Ponte Vedra High and Margaret Hale of St. Augustine, into its Garnet and Gold Scholar Society this spring.

Established in 2010, the society facilitates student involvement and recognizes undergraduate students who excel within and beyond the classroom in at least three of five areas: international experience, internship, leadership, research and service.

The induction ceremony was held virtually this spring due to COVID-19.

"We are proud to welcome this new group of inductees to the Garnet and Gold Scholar Society," said Amy Hecht, vice president for student affairs. "They are a wonderful representation of the university, and we are pleased to give them recognition for their involvement bettering the campus and community."

Slade studied theater; Hale studied nursing.

To become an inductee of the Garnet and Gold Scholar Society, students must meet the engagement criteria and submit a synthesis reflection project in their final semester before graduation. Participants are recognized during graduation and receive a designation on their official university transcript, both of which make the students more marketable to potential employers or graduate programs.

"As Garnet and Gold Scholars, your achievement speaks to your desire to make the most of your Florida State education and reflects well on the values of this university," said President John Thrasher. "You have set a shining example for your fellow students and for all those who will follow in your footsteps. I am so proud of you."



# Nease NJROTC places 3rd at national championships



**ABOVE:** Cadet Brodie Mongon leads the Nease NJROTC unarmed basic drill team to a first-place finish during the Navy Nationals Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships.

**RIGHT:** Nease NJROTC's armed basic team performs its third-place finish during the Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships.

Photos provided by Nease NJROTC



Competing against the top 25 NJROTC drill teams across the country, Nease placed third at the 2021 Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships on April 16.

The Navy Nationals comprise a series of nine events — five drill, three athletic and one academic — where the cumulative scores are added to determine the overall national champion. Nease represented NJROTC Area-12, which covers the 60 NJROTC programs across Northern Florida and Georgia, having won the Area-12 Drill Championship last month in Lee County, Georgia.



**Cadet Johnny Castillo sprints the anchor leg to Nease's record-setting 16x100 relays.**

Nease won first place in two events — the 16-by-100 relay and unarmed basic drill. The team garnered six additional trophies, including third place in overall athletics, armed basic drill, armed exhibition drill and push-ups. Two cadets earned individual medals for athletics — Emmelie Neff finished fourth in situps with 320 and Amber Vidler finished sixth in pushups with 86.

“These young men and women persevered since August practicing at 7:30 a.m.,” said senior naval science instructor Cpt. Scott LaRoche. “Finishing third in the nation validated their commitment to excellence.”

Nease has qualified and competed at the Navy Nationals every year since 2015 (last year's championships were canceled, but the team qualified), having never finished higher than sixth place. The top five schools are recognized with individual trophies.

“I believed we nailed our performance perfectly,” said Cadet Brodie Mongon, commander of the winning unarmed basic drill team. “Knowing how incredible some of the other programs from places like California, Virginia and Florida are makes this trophy even more special.”



**Renovated Coastal Cottage**

Fully renovated and ideally located in central Ponte Vedra Beach, this pristine home offers easy access to JTB, entertainment, and just a short bike ride to the beach. With custom craftsmanship and quality finishes throughout, you would think it was newly constructed.

**3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms. \$795,000.**



**Ideally Located in San Marco**

Fully rebuilt in 2005, this 2nd floor end unit condominium is within short walking distance to San Marco Square. It has front and rear balconies and comes with covered parking and an additional storage unit.

**2 Bedrooms, 2 bathrooms \$399,000.**



**Stunning Riverfront Estate**

Riverfront/SanMarco. Instantly makes you feel you've been swept away to a chateau in France. Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes, this 10,204-sq.-ft. home is a masterpiece in design and built for entertaining.

**5 bedroom, 6 full bath, 5 half bath \$6,200,000**



**Pristine Craftsmanship on Ponte Vedra Blvd.**

Thoughtfully designed and showcasing exquisite craftsmanship throughout, this custom coastal home offers master suites on both floors, along with an office, loft area, ample storage and a flex space ideal for a 5th bedroom.

**4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$2,150,000**



**Water to Golf Views in Marsh Landing**

Exquisite lagoon to golf views from this cul de sac beauty. Open floorplan/kitchen/dining spaces w/fireplace and oversized windows. Guest ensuite, 1/2 bath & laundry room finish off the first floor. Master retreat w/ fireplace, HIS & HERS baths/closets, wet bar w/ fridge leading to outdoor deck & hot tub. Private with Summer Kitchen and fire pit overlooking pool and lagoon. **5 Bedrooms, 5 Bathrooms. \$1,400,000**



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*Mary Marx is president and CEO of the Pace Center for Girls, a nonprofit that aims to provide girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy.*

As told to Holly Tishfield

**Can you please briefly tell us about your background?**

I have been involved in children's advocacy for more than 30 years through my work in Florida with Pace Center for Girls, and the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach and in the San Francisco Bay area, through the Museum of Children's Art and the East Bay Conservation Corps. Through my current involvement in advocacy, I have been fortunate to work with great partners on local, state and federal legislation to prevent girls who have experienced significant trauma from dropping out of school and preventing them from entering the juvenile justice system or involvement in human trafficking. Nationally, I serve on the Legislative and Juvenile Law committees for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Statewide, I am a Leadership Florida graduate, and locally, I am a Leadership Jacksonville graduate and a member of the Women's Giving Alliance. In our community, I am honored to serve as the Ponte Vedra Rotary Club's club counselor for Rotary Youth Exchange, where we send Ponte Vedra high school students on year-long global exchanges and host students from around the world for a year at Ponte Vedra High School.

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

As president and CEO, I have the opportunity to work alongside an amazing group of colleagues, partners, volunteers and elected officials to ensure that marginalized girls have an opportunity to change their lives and set themselves on a path to a successful future. Pace started in Jacksonville in 1985, and since that time has grown to be statewide, helping more than 40,000 girls find a path to success across 22 of Florida's most diverse communities. Recently we expanded into Georgia and now have the opportunity to make an impact in other states. One of the most fulfilling parts of my role as CEO is seeing the impact Pace has on girls, their families and the communities we serve. Pace girls are our next generation of mothers, workforce and community leaders, and it is humbling to watch them find their voice and achieve their potential.

**What are some of the challenges that your industry/company is facing?**

Every day, we help girls address some of the biggest challenges women face in the 21st century, including gender, economic and racial inequality. Prior to March 2020, Pace was focused on growth beyond Florida and our work on reforming systems that serve as barriers to girls' success. As a result of the pandemic, we made the strategic decision to focus on our culture of caring, purpose, learning and results rather than multi-state expansion. This pivot was partially driven by a shift in public sector resources in other states, but more significantly because the pandemic had such an impact on our girls and families, who were already experiencing systemic racism, trauma and poverty. Because we cannot and will not stop our work, we continued providing the full school day and counseling and case management virtually, as well as ensuring our girls and families basic needs, like access to food and hygiene products, were being met. While consistent, face-to-face contact will always be our gold standard for nurturing intensive, long-term relationships with our girls, we know it has only strengthened our model to have more effective ways of keeping in touch with our girls and families. Over the past 11 months, we have continued to demonstrate strong outcomes, and our staff has been amazing in shifting how and where they work. Our 21 Pace Centers across the state

## Mary Marx



Photo provided by Mary Marx

operate as schools, and we reopened our campuses in August, requiring that we also put significant resources into ensuring our girls and staff remained safe and healthy.

**What are your primary roles/responsibilities?**

As president and CEO, I am responsible for a combined staff of more than 500 team members in Florida and Georgia, an organizational budget of over \$50 million and guiding the overall vision, mission and strategic direction of the organization. In addition to providing direct services to more than 3,000 girls and families every year, Pace focuses on reforming public systems and policies in Florida that result in high incarceration rates among girls. Pace has been a key partner in helping change public policy that has resulted in a 66% decrease over the past decade in the

number of girls that are referred to Florida's juvenile justice system. In 2019, Pace embarked on a national expansion strategy using a community participatory action model grounded in the needs, issues, concerns and strategies of communities to achieve community transformation and social change.

**What do you enjoy most about living in the North Florida area?**

The amazing natural beauty of the area. From the moss-covered live oaks to the beautiful beaches and Intracoastal, to the Winslow Homer skies, we live in an extraordinary place.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**

Most days I can be found running on the beach or hiking in the Guana Reserve.



# Nocatee attracting more businesses

By Shaun Ryan

Nocatee continues to attract new businesses to the growing community's central hub.

Last year, Nocatee Town Center saw the opening of Ben & Jerry's, Burn Boot Camp, Clean Juice, First Watch Daytime Café, fit20, GreenWise Market, Lululemon, Makk Fashions, Panera Bread, Really Good Beer Stop, Sherwin Williams and Tank's Sushi Bistro.

In the health-and-wellness sector, Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee, CareSpot Urgent Care and Flagler Health Village opened their doors.

This year, Suntrust Bank has opened a branch near GreenWise Market at the intersection of Town Plaza Avenue and Crosswater Parkway.

And more is coming.

This summer, the link, a unique co-working space and hub for innovation start-ups is slated to open. The 22,500-square-foot "smart" building is under construction now. The facility will be a hub for tech entrepreneurs to launch their businesses and then flourish.

The enterprise, considered the "workplace of the future," will also offer occupants' families an environment of learning, playing, thinking and doing.



Photo provided by the link via Facebook

**The link, a 22,000-square-foot co-working space and innovation facility expected to open this summer, is one of many new businesses making a home in Nocatee.**

There will be recreational and educational activities, as well as a fitness room and an area for yoga classes.

Another big development is the opening of Amazing Explorers Academy, also set for this summer. It will be located on the northwest corner of the roundabout between Lakeside and Publix, north of the Town Plaza Office Condos and opposite Flagler Health Village.

This early learning academy fosters a

nurturing environment where children can develop lifelong learning skills. Curricula that focus on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics will equip these children for the future. Cameras will allow parents to observe via an app available to them.

In addition, the academy has partnered with Nemours Children's Health Center to provide healthy meals and with The Contentment Foundation to help children and

staff learn about emotional intelligence and mindfulness.

In addition, construction has begun on a CVS Pharmacy, which will be located north of the David Weekley Homes Design Center on the corner of Nocatee Village Drive and Crosswater Parkway. It is slated to open early in 2022.

Beyond homes and businesses, new amenities continue to add to the quality of life for Nocatee residents.

West End Park has large, shaded playgrounds, open-air pavilions and small and large dog park spaces. The park is accessible via several sidewalks. It is located south of Baptist HealthPlace on the north side of West End at Town Center – which is located between Preservation Trail and Colonnade Drive.

Settler's Pond, meanwhile, will feature a recreational area anchored by a 14-acre pond, which will be stocked for fishing.

Scheduled to open this summer, Settler's Pond will allow outdoor enthusiasts to use kayaks, paddleboards and canoes. There will be a large, shaded playground and a lakefront pavilion with restrooms on site. Small and large dog park spaces will also be available.

The park will have walking trails to the new Settler's Landing neighborhood and Pine Island Academy, the new K-8 school.



## We're here for you throughout your breast cancer journey

### Let's discuss your breast reconstruction options

Deciding to have breast reconstruction is a personal choice. Virtual seminars at Ascension St. Vincent's are available to help you learn more about reconstruction options and allow you to connect with others on a similar journey. Our breast cancer specialists are here to answer your questions and help support you.

To sign up for a virtual seminar, call 904-822-3630 or email [BRAdeduc@ascension.org](mailto:BRAdeduc@ascension.org)







Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

## Moms need timeouts, too

While time-outs may be torturous for young children eager to get up and go, alone time may sound like paradise to busy mothers.

It can be helpful for parents to schedule daily timeouts, though breaks a few times per week can do the trick as well.

Timeouts can benefit moms who need a break during or after a long day. Such breaks can be restful and reenergizing.

Any woman can benefit from a time-out, but working mothers juggling careers and home life may be especially in need of scheduled breaks.

Women who want to incorporate more

breaks into their daily routines should know that it's possible to do so, even on the most hectic days.

■ **You don't need much time.** A break doesn't need to be extensive to be effective. Schedule around 30 minutes for the timeout. That's just enough time to watch a sitcom, read a chapter in a book or enjoy a nice, steamy bath.

■ **Choose a kid-free time of day.** If possible, select a timeout period when the kids are away from home or you can be guaranteed some alone time. If this is not

**TIMEOUT** continues on **Page 9**

— ♦ THE ♦ —  
*Perfect Day*



— ♦ FOR THE ♦ —  
*Perfect Mom*

With a gift card from The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, the special moms in your life can enjoy their perfect day whenever they are ready. With a range of pampering treatments to choose from and all day to enjoy the luxury and safety of the region's largest spa, it's not only the perfect day, it's the perfect gift.

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MM1481



# Creative Mother's Day celebration and gift ideas

On Sunday, May 9, millions of people will celebrate the special women in their lives, particularly the mothers, grandmothers and stepmothers who often tirelessly care for those they love.

Created by Anna Jarvis in the early 20th century and designated an official United States holiday in 1914, Mother's Day is a special day in many families. Apart from birthdays, primary female caregivers may not always get the recognition they deserve, nor be entitled to a day to kick back and relax and let others take the helm. Mother's Day entitles them to something special.

Even though the way people have been living has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mother's Day may be the first holiday on the calendar when the world can finally regain some sense of normalcy. But caution should still prevail during Mother's Day celebrations. Thankfully, there are plenty of creative ways to celebrate mothers and mother figures this year.

■ **Dine truly "al fresco."** Outdoor dining has become commonplace, and even before it was a safety measure, enjoying a meal on a sun-soaked patio or overlooking a body of water was popular. If you're worried about limited restaurant space or crowds, plan a picnic at a scenic location, such as a botanical garden or county park. Include Mom's favorite foods and enjoy the fresh air and delicious foods together.

■ **Create a photo slideshow.** Digital photos have eclipsed

prints in many people's hearts. But too often digital photos never get seen after they're initially taken. That can change when you compile a slideshow of favorite photos from childhood and even present-day photos that Mom is sure to appreciate. Use sentimental music or Mom's favorite songs as the soundtrack, and include some inspirational quotations or personal voiceovers. This is one gift that can be shared in person or over group meeting apps.

■ **Get involved together.** An especially meaningful way to honor a mother who is always giving her time and love is to become involved in a difference-making organization. Joint volunteerism is a great way to spend more time together working toward a worthy goal.

■ **Enjoy her hobbies and interests.** Devote a day or more to trying Mom's interests and hobbies, whether they include hitting the links, knitting, singing in the church choir, or digging in her garden.

■ **Send an edible gift.** If you can't be there to celebrate with Mom in person, have a special meal delivered to her door. Then enjoy the same foods with her via Google Meet, Facetime or Zoom. Don't forget a tasty cocktail so you can toast the special woman in your life.

Mother's Day celebrations can be unique, heartfelt and customized based on family needs.

## Timeout

Continued from 8

possible, make an arrangement with your spouse to look after the kids while you get some alone time.

■ **Find an enjoyable activity.** Select an activity for the timeout that you may not have the opportunity to enjoy when other people or tasks require your attention. Listening to music, taking an exercise class, writing in a journal, engaging in artwork or other crafts or reading a book make for great timeout activities. A timeout is not the time to catch up on chores.

■ **Treat yourself on occasion.** Build an extra treat into the time-out, such as a bite of a favorite dessert or purchasing a clothing accessory or a luxurious body butter. This can make the timeout even more enjoyable.

Timeouts can be utilized by women who feel they need opportunities to unwind and put themselves first for a short time.

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# Bolles robotics teams win awards, advance to regionals

All four lower school robotics teams from the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach and Whitehurst campuses received top qualifying event honors and advanced to regionals during the FIRST LEGO League Northeast Florida competition recently.

Teams were divided into separate qualifiers bearing names from “Star Wars,” which is a sponsor of FIRST LEGO League Replay this year.

The Whitehurst grade four team, Savage Unknown Power (‘SUP), for example, was in the Tauntaun race qualifier. That team won top honors for their robot design presentation.

The Whitehurst grade five team, Gigaflops, competed in the Kessel Run qualifier. They won top honors for their project presentation. Both Whitehurst teams moved on to regionals.

The Ponte Vedra Beach Campus grade four Future Bolles Innovators (FBI) team won the Innovation Project Award for their qualifier and are moving on to regionals. The Ponte Vedra Beach Campus grade five Council of Intellectual Aliens (CIA) team won the Rising All Star Award and is moving on in the competition at regionals.

The FBI team has been working hard to redesign the flags commonly used in flag football so individuals in wheelchairs can



**Bolles Team CIA from the Ponte Vedra Beach Campus won the Rising All Star Award.**

have an easier time playing flag football without the traditional clip on the belt digging into their back, according to Coach Andrew Nation.

“Their prototypes were economical, produced using duct tape and Velcro,” Nation said. “Their prototypes were sent over to Brooks Adaptive Sports, where their younger wheelchair basketball team played sharks and minnows using the flags.”

The next set of projects, robot design, core values and robot game videos, must be submitted this week, according to



**Team FBI from the Ponte Vedra Beach Campus won the Innovation Project Award.**

Whitehurst coach Beth Zerkowski. Judging for regionals begins in June. The top teams from regionals will move on to the state competition this summer.

The Whitehurst teams are coached by Zerkowski and Jennifer Moore. The Ponte Vedra Beach teams are coached by Nation and Carolyn Houston.

Student team members include:

FBI: Archer Brinson, Dalton Claudio, Fletcher DePuy, Camden Hendershot, Nathan Levinson, Liam Mumford, Alexis Rubin, Jessica Rubin, May Strain and Aidan Wallace.

CIA: Noel DePuy, Ben Hargreaves, Ella Cate Merritt, Will Moffett, Reid Moscarillo, Peyton Olson, Raphael Park, Lilybeth Posick, Thomas Rueger, Anya Shetty, Rohit Singh and Andrew Winter.

Team ‘SUP: Sammy Benitez, Ronald Crawford, Jake Cumber, Sona Deshmukh, Parker Owens, Riley Powell, Cole Sandifer, Jane Shad, Jimmy Sterling and Liam Sumner.

Gigaflops: Ben DeAlexandris, Kate DeAlexandris, Dylan Downer, Nikhil Patel, Kaia Roychowdhury, Amal Shaik, Adi Yadav and Aariz Zuberi.

Photos provided by the Bolles School

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# Penguin chick hatches at zoo just in time for World Penguin Day

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens announced the hatching of a Magellanic penguin chick ahead of World Penguin Day on Sunday, April 25. This chick marks the eighth successful hatching at the zoo since the opening of the Tuxedo Coast exhibit in 2010, and the first since 2019.

The chick hatched on March 25 to parents Oreo and Kowalski. This is their fourth successful hatchling. They have been responsible parents, so staff have not had to intervene to help with hatching or rearing the chick.

The chick's gender is not known at this time but will be determined soon through DNA testing. The little one is expected to make its public debut in the next few months as keepers continue to monitor its growth through weekly weigh-ins. Magellanic penguin chicks usually stay in their nests with the parents for about 70 days before fledging. This is when birds acquire the necessary feathers for independent activity.

"This penguin chick is a great new addition to our Magellanic colony," said Mike Taylor, curator of Herps, Birds and Others. "Our animal care staff have enjoyed watching experienced parents Oreo and Kowalski continue to be exceptional with their new offspring. We are excited to watch this little one grow."



Photo by Morgan Purvis

Magellanic penguins are one of eight species found in South America and the surrounding islands. They are medium-sized penguins and can weigh between 6-14 pounds. Young birds often have a pattern on their feet that are blotched and gradually fade to black by the time they are 10 years old.

Of the 18 recognized species of penguins, 11 are listing as vulnerable or endangered primarily because of habitat loss, overfishing and climate change. Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens supports the work of Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds, whose primary objective is to reverse the decline of seabird populations through the rescue, rehabilitation and release of ill, injured, abandoned and oiled seabirds — especially African penguins.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### Society of Mixed Media Artists presents "Brave New World"

**When:** Ongoing

The Society of Mixed Media Artists, (SoMMA), presents Brave New World, an online art exhibition. Our new world of COVID-19 has lasted longer than anyone thought possible. The entries into this juried exhibit are both a reaction to and an expression of feelings about the current circumstances. The artists of SoMMA hope that sharing these images (thoughts) will help others to express their own and hope that they will encourage everyone to brave this new world (albeit cautiously). All art may be purchased by contacting SoMMA at [sommaartists@gmail.com](mailto:sommaartists@gmail.com). For more information or to see the exhibition, go to [sommartists.com/brave-new-world-exhibit](http://sommartists.com/brave-new-world-exhibit).

### Ponte Vedra Beach Toastmasters Club meetings

**When:** 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesdays

Take the opportunity to improve your public speaking skills, gain greater confidence and become a better leader. Join the Ponte Vedra Beach Toastmasters Club every Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The structure of the Toastmaster meetings allows everybody to participate and hone their skills while having a good time. Currently, the meetings are held via Zoom. Send an email to [vpm-5199@toastmastersclubs.org](mailto:vpm-5199@toastmastersclubs.org) to receive the current link. Find more information at <https://pontevedratoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org>.

### Jaxen's Fun Day Fundraiser

**When:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 1

88 Blessings Inc. and Miami Dolphins star Allen Hurns have partnered with the Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine to host this fundraiser for five-year-old Jaxen Mathis, who is suffering from a rare brain cancer, and his mom, Rowenda, who has had to quit her job to care for him. The classic car show is at the museum, 4730 U.S. 1, St. Augustine. It is free, but donations to help Jaxen and his mom are welcome. Jaxen was diagnosed nearly two years ago with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, which has a five-year survival rate of 2%. Six weeks of proton radiation, chemotherapy and a clinical study in Gainesville stabilized his tumor, but a follow-up scan in September showed that it was progressing. Low-dose chemotherapy paired with steroids was started in the hope that it would slow the growth, but the treatment has stopped working and has been discontinued. Now, Jaxen, an outgoing boy who enjoys baseball, monster trucks, cooking, animals, Spiderman and McDonald's can no longer walk, talk or consume nutrients by mouth. Through it all, he has not complained. For further information, contact Erica Wilson at 904-290-3588.

### Car parade for API Heritage Month celebration

**When:** 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 8

May is Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month, paying tribute to the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who are instrumental in the success of the United States and Territories. The Asian Pacific Americans of Northeast Florida is opening the month-long celebrations with a car parade on Saturday, May 8. The car parade is an

CALENDAR continues on Page 14

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# Food + Wine Fest announces final schedule

Limited tickets left as some events sold out

The St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival is approaching rapidly, and several events have already sold out, with limited tickets left for many events.

Festival organizers suggest that those thinking about going make plans to purchase tickets now, as they may not be available the week of the festival.

“We know it’s often hard to create awareness for an inaugural food and wine event, but the St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival really seems to be resonating with food-and-wine lovers from around the South,” said Jan Gourley, festival co-founder and director. “We are looking forward to hopefully selling out the entire festival in the next two weeks. I’m encouraging everyone to check the festival’s website event pages before making plans – which will identify sold out events.”

Here’s a look at the events at press time:

## World Golf Hall of Fame Winemaker’s Dinner (sold out)

*Reception, 6-7 p.m.; dinner, 7-10 p.m. May 6, St. Johns County Convention Center, 500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine.*

A gourmet food lover’s experience with a six-course dinner, featuring three guest

celebrity/James Beard Foundation award-winning and nominated chefs.

Chefs are: Maneet Chauhan, TV personality, award-winning chef and author, recently crowned the winner of Guy Fieri’s Tournament of Champions, with a restaurant group in Nashville, Tennessee; Paul Fehribach, chef/owner and author, Big Jones, Chicago; and Michael Gulotta, chef/owner, Mopho and Maypop, New Orleans.

The three local chefs participating in the dinner include Brian Whittington of Preserved Restaurant in St. Augustine, Michael Lugo of Michael’s St. Augustine and Josh Smith, Catch 27.

## Epicurean Master Classes

■ “Bourbon and Mixology 101” with Philip McDaniel, CEO/co-founder, and Clark Gilmore, brand ambassador, at St. Augustine Distillery, 112 Riberia St., St. Augustine. 10:30 a.m. to noon May 7. (Sold out)

■ “Cooking Aloo Chaat with Maneet Chauhan” – includes a signed copy of Maneet Chauhan’s new “Chaat Cookbook.” 1-1:45 p.m. May 7. (Sold out)

■ “Virtual Tasting” with Morgan Norman, Greg Norman Estates. 2-2:45 p.m. May 7.

■ “Experience Grilling on Urban Asado’s Argentine Inspired Live Fire Grills” with Nick Carrera and Matt Brown. 3-3:45 p.m. May 7.

■ “From the 18th Hole to the 19th Hole” with Jan Stephenson, Jan Stephenson Wines. 4-4:45 p.m. May 7.

## “Smoke on the Walk”

*6:30-8:30 p.m. May 7, 1 World Golf Place, St. Augustine*

This barbecue extravaganza is a showcase of the Southeast’s most celebrated pitmasters and grill masters with wine, beer and spirits along the Walk of Champions in World Golf Village.

There will be live music with Remedy Tree. Enjoy unlimited beverage tastings in a souvenir glass, along with grilled, smoked and roasted gourmet barbecue bites — all included with ticket price.

This is an event for those age 21 and older only. No pets allowed.

## “Rise & Shine”

*8:30-11:30 a.m. May 8, Villagio Grille, World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort, 500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine*

Light breakfast bites and a choice of mimosa, champagne or Bloody Mary.

## Main Event

*1-4 p.m. May 8, Walk of Champions, World Golf Hall of Fame, 1 World Golf Place, St. Augustine*

A fun afternoon of culinary and beverage

age tastings, with live music in the Walk of Champions, the centerpiece of the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Tickets include a souvenir glass for unlimited beverage tastings from hundreds of wines, beer and spirits. Each guest will receive an RFID wristband, which will be used for admission and to purchase culinary tasting credits.

The Taste of the South Magazine Demonstration Stage will feature chef and beverage demos. The schedule includes:

■ **1:15-2 p.m.:** Paul Fehribach, Big Jones, Chicago. “Pickled Shrimp & Gazpacho”

■ **2:15-3 p.m.:** Brian Whittington, Preserved Restaurant/Chop Shop, St. Augustine. “Local Fish, Port Canaveral Shrimp, Etouffee, Local Rice Middlins”

■ **3:15-4 p.m.:** Cory Bahr, Tony Chachere’s Ambassador Chef, Opelousas, Louisiana.

Each stage session will be limited to 200 people.

The Jacksonville Magazine Music Stage will showcase Ramona + the Riot. The Jacksonville Magazine Sparkling Lounge will showcase a wide variety of sparkling beverages.

This is an event for those age 21 and older only. No pets allowed.

**FESTIVAL** continues on **Page 13**



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# Kids cooking healthy contest planned; open to ages 7-12

Wen Raiti, owner of House of Leaf & Bean on Beach Boulevard in Jacksonville is hosting the first annual Kids Cooking Healthy Contest for children ages 7 to 12 with culinary prizes that they can share with their families.

### Kids Cooking Healthy official rules:

The categories of healthy food entries that kids can submit include the following items. If you choose to use some of Leaf & Bean's tofu crust or chef-made tofu, that is recommended along with your local supermarket products: vegan cookies, sliders, flatbreads.

Each entry must include: recipe, child's name, address, phone, email (parent or guardian contact), recipe name and brief story about the healthy recipe titled "Why I Like to Cook Healthy for My Family." Email to Leigh Cort (publicist for House of Leaf and Bean) at: leigh@leighcort-publicity.com.

Deadline for submissions is July 22.

Entries will be judged on originality and use of ingredients, deliciousness, presentation, entry dish name and story about "Why I Like to Cook Healthy for My Family."

The top 12 finalists will be invited to attend the official contest judging on Aug. 2 at House of Leaf & Bean. All children must be accompanied by an adult. A minimum of six tastings must be on a presentation serving plate for the judges. Each child must bring the completed item's name, recipe and the child's name on a piece of paper to accompany the dessert.

### Rules for finalists:

There are no substitutions or transfer of prizes. Prizes are not redeemable for cash. By acceptance of prizes, winners give consent to use of their names and/or photographs for publicity purposes without further compensation. Finalists will be

notified by July 27.

Following the contest, names of winners will be posted on houseofleafnbean.com.

Judges will be Chef Mimi Lan – The Taste Curator; Stephanie Crosier – clinic dietitian, Crosier Health & Wellness; Chef Vernetta Stewart — ACook4You; and Heather Borders – registered dietitian, Kailo Nutrition.

The grand prize winner will receive one night family vacation for four at the St. Francis Inn in St. Augustine (Sunday through Thursday, based on availability); two tickets to "The Sound of Music," playing Aug. 12–Sept. 19, at Alhambra Theatre & Dining; a tea ceremony for four children at House of Leaf & Bean; a Gyo Greens Cookbook, Gyo bag and small edible plant and a \$20 gift certificate to the St. Augustine Seafood Company (at the Colonial Quarter St. Augustine).

The first runner up will receive a \$50 gift certificate to attend a kids' cooking class at JAX Cooking Studio; a Gyo Greens Cookbook, Gyo bag and small edible plant; a \$30 dining gift certificate to Taberna Del Caballo (at the Colonial Quarter St. Augustine); tea and a tea set gift basket from House of Leaf & Bean.

The second runner up will receive a \$30 dining gift certificate to Bull & Crown Publick House (at the Colonial Quarter St. Augustine), a Gyo Greens Cookbook, Gyo bag and small edible plant; NuttyScoopz, a four-pack "snack pack" of award-winning organic peanut butter dip.

Every finalist will receive a Tropical Smoothie gift card (value \$5); four tickets to the Pirate Museum; and four tickets to the Colonial Quarter Experience.

Ideas for recipes might be found at noracooks.com/vegan-recipes.

# Festival

Continued from 12

The "Hall of Fame VIP Lounge," presented from 1 to 4 p.m. by Green-Wise Market, Jacksonville International Airport and Atlanta Magazine is an exclusive, catered experience with special swag bags, private restrooms, open bars and live music from Salt & Pine. The separate admission ticket also includes full access to the general admission St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival area on the Walk of Champions. There are a limited number of these tickets available.

In addition, the VIP Lounge Celebrity Meet & Greet Stage will feature meet-and-greet opportunities with guest celebrity winemakers and chefs, with sample tastings. The stage schedule is as follows: 1:15-1:45 p.m., Jan Stephenson, Jan Stephenson Wine & Spirits; GreenWise Market, "How to Make Fresh Mozzarella"; 2:45-3:15 p.m., Five Sisters Spirit Vodka, the Culhane sisters, Atlantic Beach; 3:30-4 p.m., Bryan

Furman, Bryan Furman BBQ, Atlanta, Georgia. Each stage session will be limited to 200 people.

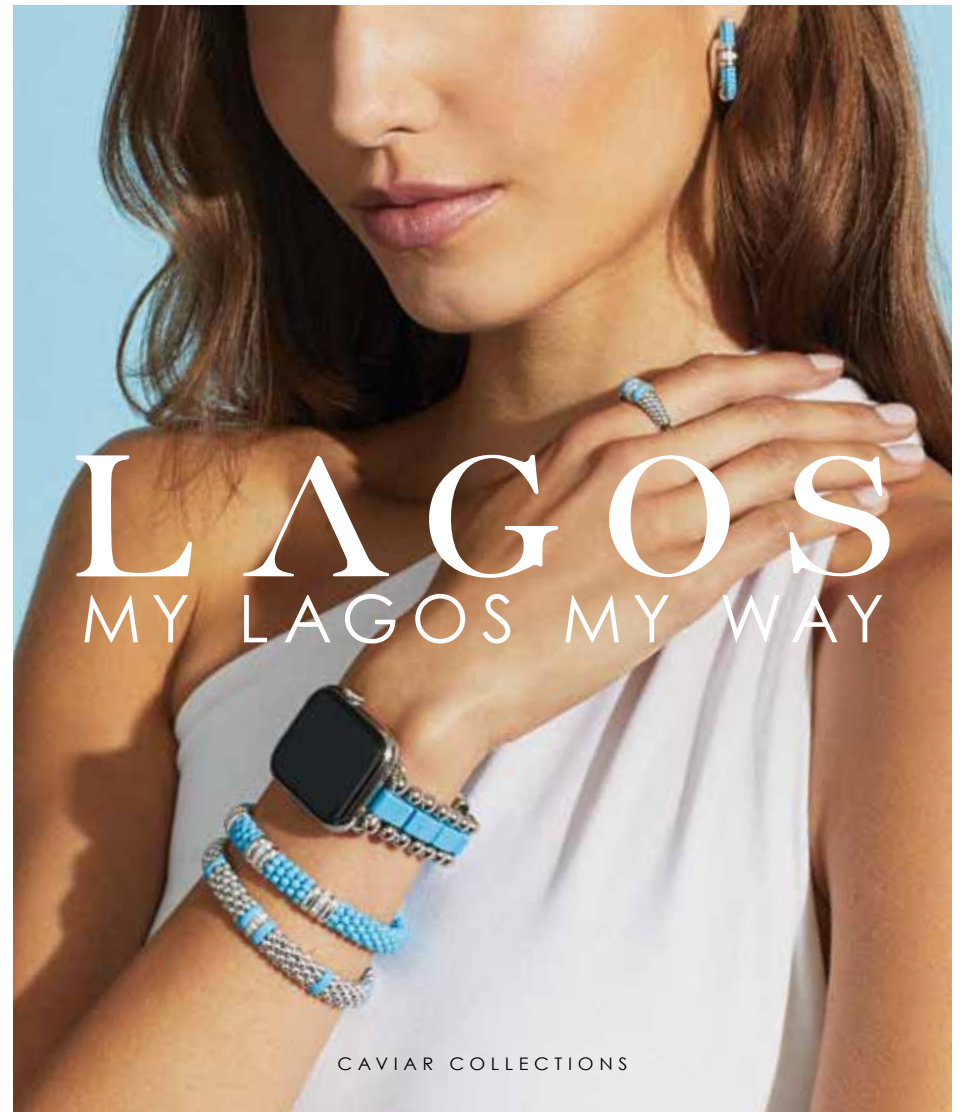
### "The Jazz Brunch"

10 a.m.- 2 p.m. May 9. St. Johns County Convention Center, 500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine

This is a family-friendly event.

The Jazz Brunch falls on Mother's Day, and each special lady will be greeted with a rose and a souvenir tasting glass. The all-inclusive-priced ticket features live music with Sam Pacetti, brunch buffet with carving station, indulgent sides, made-to-order omelet station, seafood station and a variety of desserts. There will be a Bloody Mary bar, champagne, mimosas and a host of beverage stations inside the brunch – coffee, iced tea and soft drinks will also be included.

Volunteer positions for those age 21 and older are still available for the Main Event. Details can be found at [staugustinefoodandwinefestival.com/volunteer](http://staugustinefoodandwinefestival.com/volunteer).



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**OBITUARIES**

**Thomas C. Adair, Jr.**

Thomas C. Adair, Jr. died peacefully at home on April 21, 2021. He was born on November 28, 1940 in Columbia, SC. He was an alumnus of the University of South Carolina, Columbia Campus.

Nicknamed "Tommie" or "Tom", he was known for his quick-witted sense of humor, and stellar work ethic. In his youth, he held a paper route, worked for the US Post Office, & also sold insurance while attending school. He was activated in the Air National Guard during the Berlin Crisis, & sent to Spain for a year.

Upon his return from Spain, he took a job with Greyhound Bus Lines, where he was employed for over 40 years. He married Ingra Puckett, & they were married for 29 years. The couple had 2 children, Elizabeth (Beth), and John. The family lived in Charlotte, NC, Winston-Salem, NC & Columbia, SC until 1979. They

left the Carolina region with a job transfer to move to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida where he was district sales supervisor for the NE Florida region. Later the company would merge with Trailways, and in 1986, he was relocated to Orlando, Florida. More job changes brought another move, and he opted to return to the Carolina region to eventually retire. He was area general manager for two bus terminals, Greenville and Columbia, & lived in Clinton, SC which was midway between both. He would later retire as independent contractor for the Greenville bus terminal.

In the late 90's, he would meet his wife Tracy Adair. She is well liked by the whole family, and they were best friends as well as spouses. They were married over 25 years.

An avid reader, Tom loved reading history books & magazines (on politics, stereotypes, photography, fitness, motorcycles & rifles). In his 20's, 30's & 40's he had a weight room, workout area & photography dark room in all of his homes. He

took his son shopping in the 80's for surfboards, and the family really enjoyed living in FL and going to the beach. In his late 40's, he took up motorcycle riding & shooting rifles at the range, and did so well into his 70's. Football was always up for Sunday dinner discussion, being a fan of the Carolina Gamecocks.

He was placed to rest on April 26, 2021 in Fountain Inn, SC and the family appreciated all the prayers while they had a private service. Due to Covid, crowd restrictions were in place. Neighbors were so kind to reach out and also mow his lawn on occasion when his daughter wasn't able to get to SC, or his wife was helping him in his final days. Tom had a lot of support from his sister Celia, & wife Tracy who were there daily for 2 years in his final days, and from his daughter Beth who was in SC every weekend during her 2 month leave of absence from her flight attendant job in May and June, as well as most of fall and all of December of 2020.

He is survived by his wife Tracy Adair,

sister Celia Adair, both of Taylors, SC, daughter Elizabeth (Beth) Adair of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida & numerous cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Adair, Sr., son John Thomas Adair, & numerous aunts and uncles.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Meals-On-Wheels, 15 Oregon Street, Greenville, SC 29605, or to mealsonwheelsamerica.org.

**Cleo Moffitt Shannon**

Cleo Moffitt Shannon, 103, of St. Augustine, Florida, died April 21, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

**Grace Darling Wawzynski**

Grace Darling Wawzynski, 87, of Jacksonville Beach, died April 18, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre (904) 249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com.

**Rummage for Riches Sale!**

**May 1st: 8 a.m. to noon**

Lord of Life  
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**Calendar**

Continued from 11

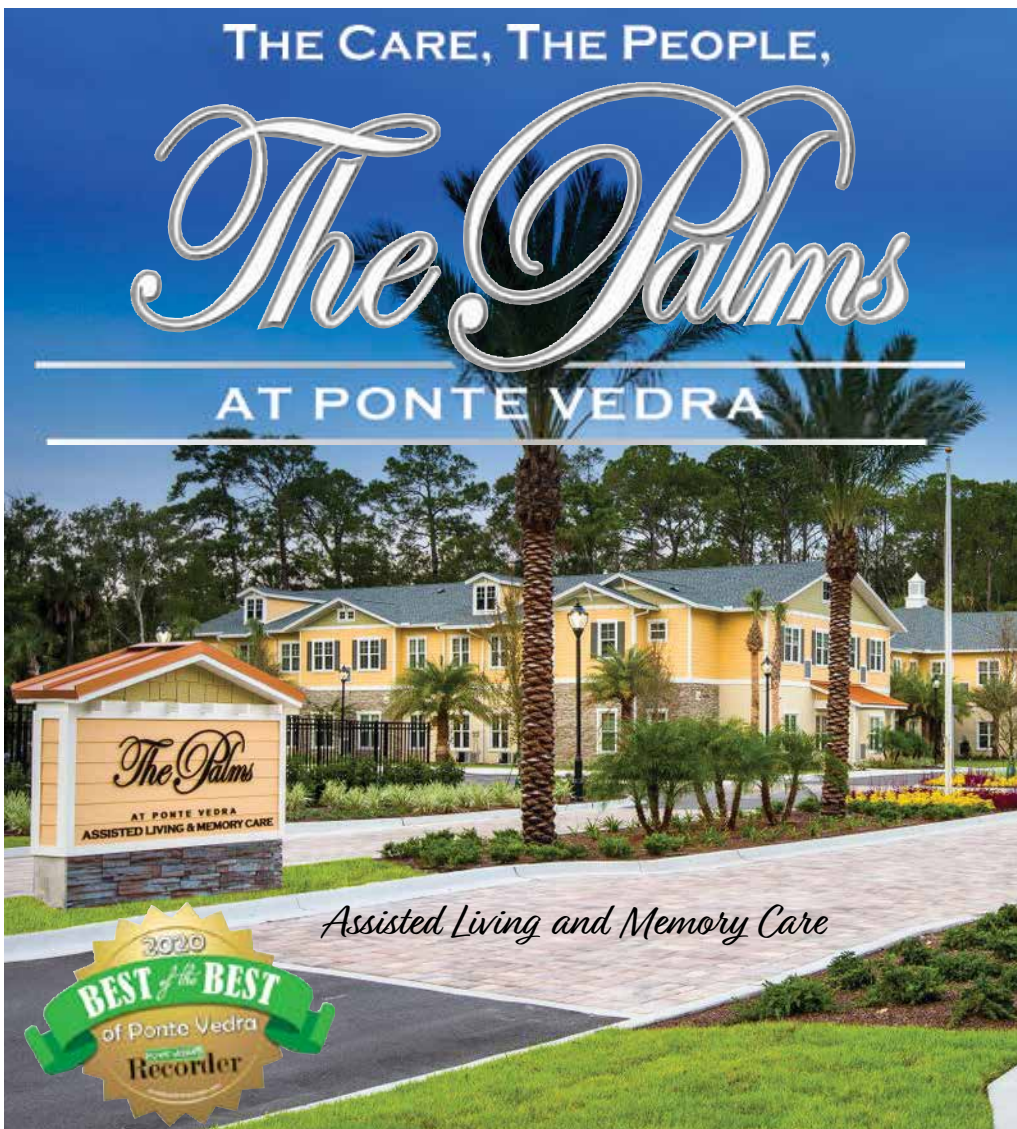
opportunity for all Asian Pacific Americans to show pride in their heritage and patriotism, and for all Americans, businesses and veteran organizations to honor those in their community who have served and are serving in our Armed Forces and community first responders. The parade will assemble at 10:30 a.m. on May 8 at BJ's Plaza, corner of Atlantic Boulevard

and Kernan Boulevard South. Asian and Pacific Islanders, U.S. veterans, patriots and businesses are welcome to participate in the parade by contacting Mauro Gines at (904) 402-1628. A limited number of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month car signs are available at the assembly point. A ticketed reception with limited seating is being offered by Maharlika Sports Bar & Grill, 14255 Beach Blvd. Reception tickets are \$15 and available while supply lasts by contacting at Ofie at (904) 521-7298 or Mauro at (904) 402-1628.


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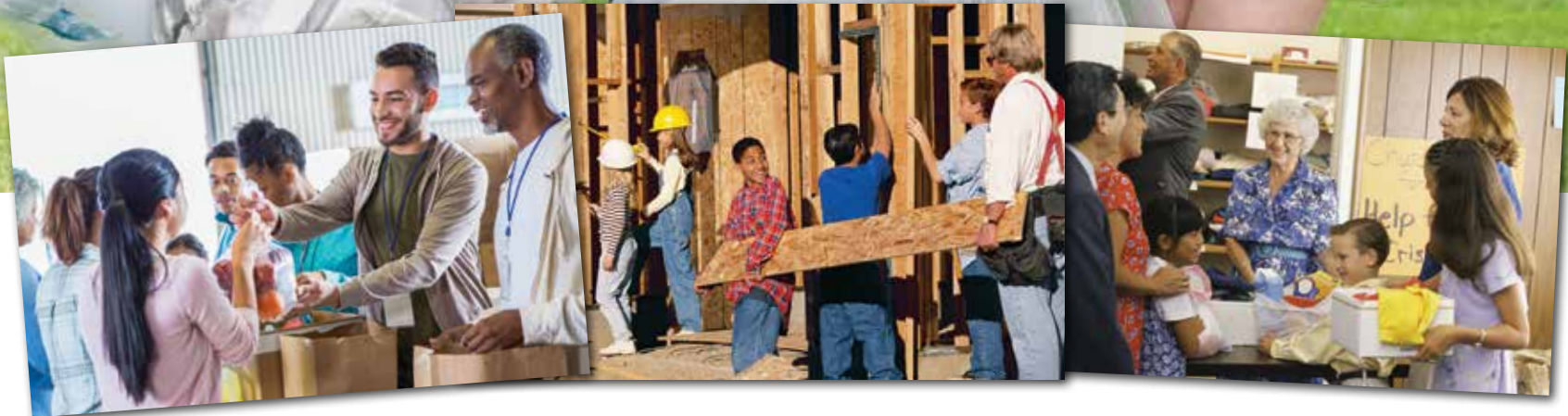
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# Recorder



## NEW SKATE RAMP

Local teacher building vertical skate ramp for community kids

## WORLD WATER DAY

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra raises funds to help provide clean water in Cambodia

## FUN RUN RETURNS

Chemo Noir's 1-mile run, wine-tasting event comes back to beach June 26

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Sawgrass Country Club raises funds for JAGA golfers



# Local teacher building vertical skate ramp for community kids

The next time you're driving through West Augustine, don't be surprised if you see people flying through the air.

Brennan Gagnon, a local homeowner and teacher at R. J. Murray Middle School, is building an 11-foot-tall, 24-foot-wide vertical skate ramp in his backyard. Once completed, Datil Pepper Vert Ramp will be open to members of the community for free.

When Gagnon closed on his first home this past year, he immediately knew it was the perfect opportunity to pursue his dream of providing a safe space for kids to come together and experience something new.

"Vert skating offers a unique set of thrills that a lot of skateboarding doesn't offer," explained Gagnon. "Skateboarding, in general, offers two unique opportunities. Both the community and the people that you're able to meet are incredibly special. I thought to myself, 'If I'm ever able to become a homeowner, I would love to raise the money or save the money and build a vert ramp for kids to use, create friendships, develop confidence and just really conquer something.'"

As a youth worker and teacher in West Augustine, Gagnon was aware of the need to create something special for kids in the community.

Since they broke ground, the project has raised more than \$12,000 for material and labor, while additional funds for a staircase, ladders, fans and lights are still needed.

Upon completion of the ramp, other donations will go toward purchasing a set of "house gear" to store onsite for kids who don't have their own, including skateboards, helmets and protective pads.

"Skateboarding offers an outlet," explained Gagnon. "Growing up can be tough on young kids, and the kids where I live are under the highest amount of stress, so it just seemed natural to open up that space. It is also an excellent opportunity for cross-cultural relationships and friendships to form between local residents and those outside the community who might never have stepped foot in West Augustine otherwise. I want to give a huge thank you to anyone who has given this project any ounce of attention, money or time."

The Datil Pepper Vert Ramp is located on Toco Road in West Augustine and will be open to the community during set hours to be determined at a later date.

Donations can be made at [www.gofundme.com/f/saint-augustine-fl-backyard-vert-ramp](http://www.gofundme.com/f/saint-augustine-fl-backyard-vert-ramp). Gagnon can be contacted at [brennangagnon711@gmail.com](mailto:brennangagnon711@gmail.com)

Follow along on social media @datilpeppervertramp for updates.



R. J. Murray Middle School teacher Brennan Gagnon and two young helpers are seen atop the vertical skate ramp they are building for the community's kids.



Contributed photos

ABOVE: Gagnon and two young helpers work on a vertical skate ramp that, when complete, will be available for the community's kids to use.

LEFT: Gagnon sits atop the vertical skate ramp he is building in his backyard for the community's kids.

# Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach welcomes 2 new faces

Callie Johnson has accepted the position of community connections manager at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. She assumed this role on April 19. Johnson has previous work experience in communication and the nonprofit sector as a board member of a St. Augustine-based nonprofit, Team A. Maise, Inc.

Born and raised in Jacksonville, Johnson has always had a passion for her community. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Jacksonville University in communication and master of science degree from the University of North Florida in communication management, specializing in nonprofit management.



Callie Johnson



Bryannah Ford

Aside from her passion for the art of communication, Johnson is a certified wedding and event planner, a self-taught baker and involved in her church as a member of the worship team. She has also been a volunteer in many differ-

ent organizations over the course of her life, including Ronald McDonald House Charities, the Florida Forest Service, St. Johns County School District and Women for Glory a local chapter of Grace for Glory Global Ministries.

"During my childhood, volunteering, music and art were a crucial part of my development and will always be a passion of mine," Johnson said. "I am very excited and proud to serve my community and Renaissance Society members in my role as community connections manager with the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach."

CCPVB President and Executive

Director Donna Guzzo said, "We are delighted to have Callie join us. Her passion for the arts is noticeable and her energy is contagious. We look forward to a successful journey!"

Johnson can be reached via email at [cjohnson@ccpvb.org](mailto:cjohnson@ccpvb.org), by phone at (904) 280-0614, ext. 1202, or at the Cultural Center, 3972 3rd St. South in Jacksonville Beach.

Also, Bryannah Ford has accepted the position of programs and membership coordinator at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. She assumed this role on



# Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra raises \$7K for clean water in Cambodia

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra gathered on the patio of Treylor Park restaurant in Nocatee on March 22 to commemorate World Water Day. To celebrate, the group marked the end of a fundraising effort for clean water filters in Cambodia. This effort resulted in a contribution of \$7,000 to the Rotary-sponsored Water for Cambodia project.

“Through our club’s efforts 87 additional bio-sand water filters will be installed in the Siem Reap region of Cambodia, and will help over 435 needy villagers there,” President of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Ian Aguilar said at the gathering.

Approximately 15 Rotarians from Nocatee and Bartram Trail were in attendance to applauded the news.

Rotary International set up the Water for Cambodia project in Siem Reap after local health officials requested help there. At that point, more than one out of every 10 children under the age of 5 was dying due to clean water issues like malaria, diarrhea and respiratory diseases. Through the leadership of Rotarian Gunther Hausen, now deceased, the minds and hearts and funding capabilities of Rotary were enlisted to take strong action.

Water for Cambodia relies heavily on locally made bio-sand filters that require no electricity and last for many years. Dirty water is filtered through three layers of sand and gravel, coming out on the other end with very few bacteria and no parasites. The filters are periodically tested by a project-owned water lab in the area to make sure they’re working properly.

Water for Cambodia has been blessed over the years by a string of global grants from the Rotary Foundation, and that strong support continues. There are now over 25,000 family filters in use in the Siem Reap section of Cambodia, serving over 125,000 villagers. Each filter costs about \$80 to produce and serves about five people per filter.



Photo provided by Bob Wilfong

## Cultural Center

Continued from 16

April 13, having previously worked with Primrose Schools.

Having lived in Jacksonville, her entire life, Ford is extremely immersed in the Jacksonville community, as well as the arts sector. Bryannah will receive her bachelor’s of fine arts degree in ceramics from the University of North Florida in July.

Ford has been showcased in various art shows in Jacksonville. Her art is centered around the idea of functionality. Her main goal is to promote hand-made objects into being a part of everyday life. Distributing art into the community inspires Ford in her own work. In her new position at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, she is excited to serve the arts community and do her part in uplifting local artists.

“When I purchased my first ceramic pieces from Bryannah, I knew she was the right person for the job,” Guzzo said. “

Ford can be reached via email at [bford@ccpvb.org](mailto:bford@ccpvb.org), by phone at (904) 280-0614, ext. 1211 or at the Cultural Center’s location in Jacksonville Beach.

Donate to Our Matching Campaign Until May 15th!

[BIT.LY/APRILMATCH2021](https://bit.ly/aprilmatch2021)



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★ **KETTLE KRUSH 5K**  
EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS MAY 4TH  
JULY 24 | 7:30AM | DOWNTOWN JAX



★ **SPUDS & SPROCKETS RIDE**  
130TH ANNIVERSARY BIKE RIDE  
OCT. 16 | 7:30AM | CAMP KEYSTONE



★ **ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**  
FEATURING THE TERRITORIAL BAND & SONGSTERS  
OCT. 15 | 6 PM | 900 W ADAMS ST





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**Gifts to River Garden secure its legacy, fortify its future, and ensure a place of exceptional, loving care that will stand the test of time.**

[RiverGarden.org/donate/](http://RiverGarden.org/donate/)



Photo provided by Sawgrass Country Club

From left: Stefan Brunt, Sawgrass CC director of golf; Jeff Adams, JAGA president; Ken Hicks, JAGA Scholarship; C.W. Cook; Sawgrass CC general manager; Tom Tomlin, JAGA director; Gregg Deiboldt, JAGA director; and Ray Gottschalk, JAGA director.

# Sawgrass Country Club donates more than \$14K for JAGA scholarship fund

With the help of contributions by its members, Sawgrass Country Club raised \$14,355 in 2021 to support the Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) scholarship fund.

JAGA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of the game of golf, and the purpose of the fund is to financially support students in need who have expressed interest in any aspect of the game (player, administration, grounds, club management, etc). All contributions by members go directly into the scholarship fund, and Sawgrass Country Club has been able to assist 26 young people reach their goals.

JAGA was organized in 1954. There are 40 golf clubs that are currently members of the organization, ranging in location from Jacksonville to Lake City, Amelia

Island, Ponte Vedra and points in between.

The JAGA Scholarship Fund program currently has 28 young men and women receiving scholarship aid at the rate of \$2,000 annually for undergraduate study.

Since its inception in 1974, the Scholarship Fund has grown through contributions from JAGA member clubs, golf tournaments and private donations. There have been hundreds of scholarships awarded to deserving young people. The initial award of \$250 per term has grown to \$1,000 per term for up to eight terms of undergraduate study.

The students have gone on to successful careers as golf course superintendents, golf club managers, PGA TOUR Players, PGA Professionals and other careers both inside and outside the golf industry.

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# Baptist Health welcomes new board members, chairs

Appointments will continue to advance mission of the locally owned health system

Baptist Health recently announced the newest members of the Baptist Health, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, Baptist Medical Center South, Baptist Medical Center Nassau and Wolfson Children's Hospital's boards of directors.

Cleve Warren has been appointed to the Baptist Health System board. Rachael Tutwiler Fortune and Marsha Oliver have been appointed to Baptist Jacksonville's board, and Marcy Stoudt and Michael Ammiano joined Baptist South and Baptist Nassau's boards, respectively. Wolfson Children's welcomes Michael DuBow as the new chair of its board of directors and Baptist Jacksonville welcomes Michael Diaz as the new chair of its board of directors.

"As the only locally governed, faith-based, not-for-profit health care system in Northeast Florida, our volunteer boards play an instrumental role in our organization and our region," said Dr. Michael A. Mayo, interim CEO of Baptist Health. "These new board members join 91 exceptional individuals in Baptist Health governance who volunteer their time and expertise to help us improve access

to high-quality care and ensure we are prepared to meet the future health needs of our growing community."

The newly appointed board members will serve three-year terms.

## Baptist Health

■ Cleve Warren is the chief investment officer for Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ), and executive director of the Florida State College at Jacksonville Foundation. He currently serves on the board of the First Coast Metropolitan YMCA, Tiger Academy Charter School, the Tournament Players Championship Advisory Board, and the Eartha M.M. White Legacy Fund Advisory Board. A retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, Warren earned a bachelor's degree in banking and finance from the University of North Florida, and a master's degree in business administration from Jacksonville University.

## Baptist Jacksonville

■ Michael K. Diaz (chair) is a co-founder and chief financial officer of St. Augustine Distillery Company and chairman of FabTech Supply. He previously served as chief operating officer of Black



**Cleve Warren**



**Michael K. Diaz**

He is currently on the Baptist Hospital Foundation board, the board of Southern Baptist Hospital of Florida, and the board of directors of Deerwood Rotary.

■ Rachael Tutwiler Fortune currently serves as president of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund and has served the organization in an executive capacity for nearly four years. Fortune has worked in the public education sector for more than a decade, most notably performing grant management at the Department of Education for the Race to the Top initiative under former President Barack Obama's administration and helping shape youth policy at the Department of Health and Human Services. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of North Florida and earned a master's degree



**Rachael Tutwiler Fortune**

in education policy, organization and leadership studies from Stanford University.

■ Marsha Oliver is vice president of community and inclusion at the PGA TOUR and recently served as senior director of community outreach for THE PLAYERS Championship. She previously worked as director of public affairs for the City of Jacksonville and as assistant superintendent of communications for Duval County Public Schools. She has an extensive history with community engagement, as evidenced by her experience serving on the boards of local organizations, including the Eartha M.M. White Legacy Fund and Community Hospice & Palliative Care. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in public relations from Florida A&M University and holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.



**Marsha Oliver**

## Baptist South

■ Marcy Stoudt is CEO of Revel Coach, an executive coaching firm focused on women in leadership. Her company works with a variety of clients to provide execu-

APPOINTMENTS continues on Page 21

## You can help me find my path to success.

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# Local law firm celebrates 5 years by donating to 5 charities

Parra Harris Law announced it is celebrating its law firm's fifth anniversary with an event on May 5, "Celebrating 5 on 5/5 at 5," a Cinco de Mayo-themed party at the firm's location on St. Augustine Road. Founded in January 2016, the family law litigation boutique was founded upon the principles that "Family Matters."

In the firm's first five years, founder Paola Parra Harris has received recognition as "Ultimate Attorney in Family Law" from the Jacksonville Business Journal, "Hispanic Business Leader of the Year" from the Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board and "Woman of Distinction" from the Gateway Council Girl Scouts.

In addition, she has been received the highest possible attorney rating in both legal ability and ethical standards reflecting the confidential opinions of members of the bar and judiciary as an AV preeminent attorney from Martindale Hubbell since 2017 to 2021. The firm also serves as a fully bilingual family law firm with all three attorneys, Parra

Harris, Mercedes Blason-Aguilar and Lt. Cmdr. (Ret.) Priscilla "PJ" Justiniano, being fully bilingual in Spanish. The three Latina women assist clients in their native language of Spanish.

To commemorate the special occasion, the firm is highlighting and donating to five local charities that promote the family law firm's mission and tagline, "Family Matters."

These five charities are Sulzbacher, Catholic Charities of Jacksonville, Hubbard House, JALA (Jacksonville Area Legal Aid) and The Giving Closet Project. The nonprofits' executive directors will be presented the donations at firm's May 5 event. Paola Parra Harris is currently a board member of the Sulzbacher and a past board chair of the Catholic Charities of Jacksonville. The "Celebrating 5 on 5/5 at 5" event will feature a mariachi band, margaritas and fun for attendees, which will include local judges, magistrates, mediators, clients, colleagues and other special guests. For more information about the family law firm, go to [www.parraharrislaw.com](http://www.parraharrislaw.com).



Photo provided by Parra Harris Law

Parra Harris Law celebrated its fifth anniversary by donating to five local charities.

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## THEME: SESAME STREET

### ACROSS

- Scarecrow stuffing
- Observe
- Kind of ski lift
- "Fear of Flying" author Jong
- Madame Tussauds' medium
- Fervent
- Never say this?
- You to are is as thou to \_\_\_\_
- Skylit lobbies
- \*It isn't easy "bein' green" for him
- \*First bilingual Sesame Street puppet
- Flower precursor
- Rental on the links
- Rowing prop
- Banana remnant
- Besmear
- Poker variety
- Away from wind
- Like helium gas
- Coconut fiber
- Like an iPhone
- Singular of #33
- Down
- Per \_\_\_\_, or yearly
- Guesstimate phrase, 2 words
- Raise, as in child
- Bob Marley's music
- TV classic " \_\_\_\_ Make a Deal"
- Hi-\_\_\_\_ monitor
- Oscar Wilde's Dorian \_\_\_\_
- \*Sesame Street's Meryl Sheep
- \*Every starred clue in this puzzle
- \*Self-described as lovable, cute and furry
- One born to Japanese immigrants
- Be in the red
- He had no cause?
- Thin mountain ridge
- Local area network
- Unmanned flyer
- Hospital statistics unit, pl.
- NaOH
- Church assembly

### DOWN

- D.C. V.I.P.
- "Star \_\_\_\_"
- Either Gauche or Droite in Paris
- Like a lemon
- Beginning of a workout
- Special law enforcement unit, acr.
- Elephant's distinguished feature
- Uncredited actor
- Lake \_\_\_\_ caca, South America
- \*Ernie's roommate
- Diva's delivery
- Swedish shag rug
- " \_\_\_\_ your seat-belts"
- Think tank output
- Eyeball shape
- Old English for before
- Arya Stark's Needle and Jedi's Lightsaber, e.g.
- Lagoon wall
- Each and all
- Bog down
- From a second-hand store
- Four-legged friends
- Autry or Wilder
- Jet black
- Nevada city
- Pick up, as in suspect
- Modus operandi
- Light-emitting diode

## SUDOKU

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Guests enjoy the United Way Giver's Gala in January 2020. The event was reimagined this year, and moved to May 7, because of the pandemic, but allows people to bid on silent auction items from the comfort of home.

Recorder file photo



# United Way's reimagined Givers Gala set for May 7

The United Way Givers Gala was not only rescheduled, but also reimagined this year. With concerns for health safety, the event typically held in January, was moved to May 7. The nonprofit's strong desire to protect the wellbeing of guests also required the event decreased attendance significantly.

The United Way found a way to bring the event to all by posting its silent auction online. Those who are still limiting social interaction, can bid from their armchair. For those that prefer to skip black-tie events, bid from your mobile device.

GalaBid, an online platform, is easy to use. The tradition continues with wonderful

items up for grabs. All dollars raised will be put to work in the community. Most importantly, this James Bond-themed auction is not "For Your Eyes Only."

All tickets for the reimagined gala were purchased by early-bird sponsors back in December. If you have an interest in a last-minute ticket to the gala on May 7, email Dawn.Infanti@unitedway-sjc.org to be added to the wait list. If tickets are returned for resale, United Way will work to accommodate guests on the list.

To bid on silent auction items, go to [app.galabid.com/004giversgala/items](http://app.galabid.com/004giversgala/items).

For more information on United Way of St. Johns County, go to [unitedway-sjc.org](http://unitedway-sjc.org).

## Appointments

Continued from 19



Marcy Stoudt

Marcy Stoudt is a professional in the fields of executive, business and career coaching services. Prior to Revel Coach, Stoudt spent 22 years in corporate America in various roles from vice president of strategy to vice president of sales, marketing and customer experience. Stoudt lives in Ponte Vedra Beach and earned a Bachelor of Arts in communications from Denison University in Ohio.

### Baptist Nassau

Michael Ammiano is senior vice president and commercial account director at Harden, a Gallagher Company. During his 40-year career in the insurance industry, Ammiano has held senior management and brokerage positions with several national brokerage firms. He has previously served as chairman of the board of trustees for the North Florida Multiple Sclerosis Society and chairman of Baptist Jacksonville's Development Council. He currently serves on Baptist



Michael Ammiano

Nassau's Development Council and is a graduate of Leadership Jacksonville. Ammiano earned his Bachelor of Arts in economics and Master of Business Administration from Stetson University.

### Wolfson Children's Hospital

Michael DuBow (chair) is a Jacksonville native who is actively involved in the Northeast Florida community. In addition to his leadership role on the Wolfson Children's Board,



Michael DuBow

DuBow is a trustee with the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and vice president of the Jacksonville Jewish Center Board of Directors. He also supports several local nonprofits through grants awarded by the DuBow Family Foundation, for which he serves as vice president. DuBow served as president and co-founder of HMS Sales and Marketing from 1990 to 2000, when the company was sold to Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals. He stayed on as a consultant for Sun Pharma/Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals until 2010. DuBow earned a Bachelor of Science in Management degree in marketing from Tulane University in New Orleans, and a Master of Business Administration degree in accounting from the University of Florida.

## Will YOU Kare for Kids?

There are children in our community who do not know where they will sleep tonight or where their next meal is coming from. You can help!

Join Kare for Kids! Your donation of just \$10 a month or \$100 annually will provide a homeless child or teen with safe shelter, vital services and meals.

Visit [www.stfrancisshelter.org](http://www.stfrancisshelter.org) and click on Kare for Kids!

**No child or teenager should have to spend the night on the streets. You Can Help.**



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# Hunger Fight announces FreshJax as legacy partner

Hunger Fight, Inc. recently announced FreshJax as its legacy partner. FreshJax, a Jacksonville-based family business that handcrafts organic spice blends, has agreed to a long-term partnership to end childhood hunger.

Hunger Fight recently launched a capital campaign in an effort to raise funds to purchase its own facility to meet the increase in demand for services and fulfill their mission to eradicate childhood hunger and illiteracy.

FreshJax, which also has a mission to combat childhood hunger and donates a meal to a hungry child for every gift set or two large spice bottles purchased on its website, has committed to become a top-tier partner in helping to make Hunger Fight's capital campaign goal a reality.

"There are so many synergies with Hunger Fight and FreshJax, we couldn't have picked a more 'organic' legacy partner," said Sherri Porter, founder and executive director of Hunger Fight. "We both have a passion and mission for eradicating childhood hunger and with both organizations being headquartered in Jacksonville, I think teaming together will allow us to make an even larger

impact in our community."

With FreshJax's contribution to the capital campaign, Hunger Fight hopes to purchase its own warehouse by October 2023 to enable the nonprofit ability to host more in-house packing events and provide more meals and books to those in need. As a legacy partner, FreshJax will have a room named after it at the current and future Hunger Fight headquarters.

"Teaming up with Hunger Fight allows us to give back to the community who is supporting us on our mission and our vision to donate more than 50 million meals to kids in need," said FreshJax CEO Jason McDonald. "Every FreshJax sale creates a donation. We are excited to see how our combined efforts and passion to feed hungry children in need will change the world."

Hunger Fight is a nonprofit organization established in 2012. Its mission is to end hunger and illiteracy through the provision of nutritious meals to children, seniors, and families in need and age-appropriate books to preschoolers by engaging communities and mobilizing partners. For more information about Hunger Fight, go to [www.hungerfight.org](http://www.hungerfight.org).


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Source: Real Value of Joining a Local Chamber of Commerce  
Shapiro Group, 2012.



# Chemo Noir fun run, wine-tasting event returns June 26

By Holly Tishfield

As life slowly begins to climb back to normal, more and more businesses are welcoming guests to their outdoor and pandemic-friendly events and festivals. Luckily for local nonprofit Chemo Noir, its upcoming event has always been enjoyed on the sunny shores of Jacksonville Beach.

On Saturday, June 26, Chemo Noir is bringing back its fifth annual one-mile “fun run” and wine tasting event at Casa Marina. Participants purchase tickets on-line and the money raised from the event goes directly towards Chemo Noir’s goal of providing financial support to families, friends and warriors battling cancer.

“It has grown year after year,” said Chemo Noir founder Katrin Casey. “I feel like people that come experience it one year bring friends the next year.”

Last year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the run was hosted virtually, but now it is back in person and better than ever. This annual run gives participants the opportunity to run or walk a mile from the Jacksonville Beach pier and back. The half-mile turning point, which is dubbed Tara’s Turn in dedication to one of the nonprofit’s first supporters Tara Newton Richardson, serves as a water station for the joggers.

“It is a big part of my story,” said Casey. “When I got sick, I could not lift anything over 10 pounds or run for almost two years. So, the first time I had a



Photos provided by Katrin Casey

**ABOVE: Chemo Noir’s starting line at the 2019 race.**

**RIGHT: Barrett Thomas performs at the wine-tasting event in 2019. This year’s event is scheduled for June 26.**

chance to run I went on the beach, ran a mile, cried the whole time, and [decided] to make an event around it.”

Following the run, ticket holders can mosey back to Casa Marina for wine tastings and beer tastings from local breweries. Royal Palm Wine & Tapas will sponsor the wine tasting this year, as well as some rosé tastings provided by KC Evolve.

Guests can listen to Barrett Thomas perform live, and participate in raffles and games, as well.

Tickets for the event, that normally gathers close to 1,000 participants, have been limited this year and are quickly selling out. To sign up for the race, or learn more about it, go to [chemonoir.com](http://chemonoir.com).



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# INK! fundraises for Giving Day 2021, donations due May 5

INK!'s participation in Giving Day 2021 is a special recognition program and opportunity to share the work of INK! (Investing in Kids).

The nonprofit organization was created and has been in existence since 1994 in St. Augustine, when there was a movement to support K-12 public education. A group of volunteers recognized that state funding was not meeting classroom needs and the St. Johns County Education Foundation was created.

In 2015, the Foundation changed its name to INK! (Investing in Kids). INK!'s focus is to enhance classroom learning with programs, services, and resources through donations to help teachers and students. For more information and to contribute on Wednesday, May 5, go to the website at [ink-stjohns.org](http://ink-stjohns.org) and click the donation button.

Giving Day 2021 is presented by Endless Summer Realty and The FOCUS Group, both located in St. Augustine. The 24-hour online giving event is designed to empower the community to support local nonprofits and



Photo provided by [metrocreativeconnection.com](http://metrocreativeconnection.com)

meaningful causes. In 2020, \$194,380 was raised through 1,089 donors benefiting more than 55 nonprofits. This year, the goal is to raise more funds for worthy organizations and partner with a larger number of nonprofits. Starting in 2019, Giving Day has grown from an idea to

help local people give wisely, to a movement that has inspired a broad culture of community-wide philanthropy.

"We are pleased to participate in Giving Day 2021. Donations will make a meaningful impact in enhancing the quality of life for hundreds of educators and children," said Donna Lueders, INK! executive director. "Our work is challenging, however it is enormously rewarding. Donations will help teachers do their jobs more easily and efficiently in St. Johns County. Education is the one gift you can provide that will never grow old, tatter or break. This is the gift students need for a better future and for their dreams, while making our education foundation stronger for generations to come."

View the video as an example of school programs funded by Giving Day and additional campaigns at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2Ocdou3FA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2Ocdou3FA). For more information, contact David "Davey" Hartzel, INK!'s director of fund development at (904) 547-7120 or email David. [Hartzel@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Hartzel@stjohns.k12.fl.us).

## INK! receives \$16,000 in donations through School Spirit Pays

The St. Johns County Education Foundation, Inc. which operates as INK! (Investing in Kids) has partnered with School Spirit Pays for eight years to create recurring revenue streams for funding from companies and community organizations which provide monthly contributions at no cost to their businesses.

School Spirit Pays, Inc. is a registered independent sales organization (ISO) of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

According to INK!'s Executive Director Donna Lueders, during the alliance, the nonprofit has received more than \$16,000 from the ISO through a business credit card processing method that offers competitive rates and a donation of 25% of net revenues from the participating firm. Debit and credit card transactions yield earnings to support contributions for teachers and students in classrooms throughout St. Johns County.

"We greatly appreciate the donations from local and regional business owners who have selected our organization to supplement school funding," Lueders said. "Budget shortfalls in education can have potentially devastating effects on the quality of education and we need this and many additional ongoing funding solutions now more important than ever."

INK! is a nonprofit organization that provides innovated programs and classroom resources to support the academic success of St. Johns County public school students. The organization was established in 1994 after issues became apparent that local schools and teachers needed additional resources beyond what is provided by federal, state, local governments and parent associations.

"Demands for our services and programs are increasing exponentially as the student population continues to rise in our

rapidly growing region," Lueders said. "For the last several years, the student population has grown by a minimum of four percent annually. Additional students require more educators to be hired and district funds are bare bones.

"The problem is that students and teachers are suffering while working extremely hard every day to obtain the tools necessary for academic success. Today's classrooms are less likely to be equipped to help all types of learners. Educators must look to outside resources for support."

In 2020, INK! generated more than \$840,000, which was directed back into classrooms to enhance public education in St. Johns County. With the School Spirit Pays donations, businesses are helping with the nonprofit's activities to focus on providing students and teachers with items including the latest in technology, supplies, programs and services in learn-

ing, proper tools, funding and equipment, among many others.

"Our priorities with primarily underserved students include establishing connections between schools, the community, workplaces, and the global enterprise to inspire children's abilities to compete in a local and worldwide economy," Lueders said. "We have learned that students who start behind in school tend to stay behind without proper intervention. Early intervention with viable equipment and learning curriculum leads to higher graduation rates and, ultimately, better communities."

INK! provides innovative resources to support academic success for all St. Johns County public schools to benefit 44,000 students and approximately 2,785 teachers. For more information, call Donna Lueders at (904) 547-7120, email Donna. [Lueders@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Lueders@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or go to [www.ink-stjohns.org](http://www.ink-stjohns.org).

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# Local group tours unique wildlife sanctuary

Two dozen Newcomers Alumnae members and guests took a private outdoor tour April 14 of Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary, which is run by a nonprofit organization. The sanctuary is home to tigers, lions, cougars, leopards, bobcats, arctic foxes and coatimundis.

The tour was timed to witness the night feeding, which follows a strict timetable. Background information about the animals was provided by Curt LoGiudice, executive director, while everyone watched the big cats devour 600 pounds of beef and chicken, bone and all.

Catty Shack Ranch's mission is to provide a safe, loving, forever home for endangered big cats, and to educate the public about their plight in the wild and captivity. Their primary focus is the rescue of cats from serious situations. Catty Shack Ranch does not breed, sell or trade any of the animals.

In 2004, Catty Shack became licensed and accredited to be open to the public. The organization strongly believes in educating children and the public about the dangers of owning

these exotic animals as "house pets" and their plight in the wild. School tours are offered year-round, and the ranch is open on selected weekends to the public.

Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary has its own medical facility on the property to care for the animals. It has a group of very dedicated veterinarians and dentists who are committed to giving the animals the best care available.

Catty Shack is completely run by volunteers. They have no paid employees, so 100% of donations go directly to benefit the animals. A thrift store onsite is stocked by generous donations from the supporting community.

This unique attraction is ranked No. 1 on TripAdvisor under the Nature and Wildlife Areas category in Jacksonville.

Newcomers Alumnae is a social group comprised of women who live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville Beach, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

Contact [brookemeister@msn.com](mailto:brookemeister@msn.com) or go to [newcomersalumnae.wildapricot.org](http://newcomersalumnae.wildapricot.org) for more information about the group.

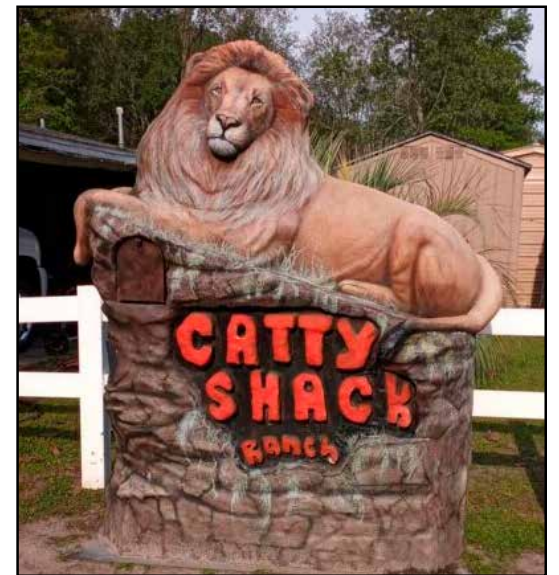


Photo provided by Newcomers Alumnae

**Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary is home to many different species of big cat.**

# The relationship between health, happiness and volunteering

Volunteering is often its own reward. Helping others can be just as beneficial to the people doing the helping as it is for the people being helped.

## Volunteering and happiness

Veteran volunteers may have long suspected they're happier when they volunteer, and research suggests that's true. A study from researchers at the London School of Economics that was published in the journal *Social Science and Medicine* found that the more people volunteered,

the happier they were. The researchers compared people who never volunteered to people who did, finding that the odds of being "very happy" rose by 7% among people who volunteered monthly. Those odds increased by 12% among people who volunteered every two to four weeks.

## Volunteering and mental health

Psychologists have long known that social interaction can improve mental health. *Psychology Today* notes interacting with others decreases feelings of depression

while increasing feelings of well-being. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, exposing volunteers to people with shared interests.

Volunteering that requires social interaction can produce long-term health benefits that can have a profound impact on quality of life as men and women age. A study published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* focused on participants without dementia who were involved in a highly interactive discussion group. Researchers compared those participants

to others who participated in Tai Chi or walking or were part of a control group that did not receive any interventions. The former group exhibited improved cognitive function, and MRIs indicated they increased their brain volumes after being involved in the discussion group. Larger brain volume has been linked to a lower risk of dementia.

While volunteering is a selfless act, volunteers may be benefitting in ways that can improve their lives in both the short- and long-term.



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# Business Weekly

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THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021

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Home decor & remodeling:  
Spruce up this spring with  
these interior design tips

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Photo provided by the Ponte Vedra Inn &amp; Club

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club has expanded its amenities to include a croquet lawn and bocce court.

## Ponte Vedra Inn & Club debuts croquet lawn and bocce court

By Shaun Ryan

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is blending classic European leisure, nostalgia and friendly competition with the debut of the new croquet lawn and bocce court for resort guests and members, among other additions in time for a summer of luxury.

The new facility features a tournament-style lawn with two golf croquet courts, each accommodating up to four players. The immaculately manicured greens bear resemblance to the TifEagle Ultradwarf bermudagrass putting

### MORE PONTE VEDRA INN & CLUB NEWS

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club appoints new director of golf. **Page 29**

greens. Whether electing to don traditional white attire or casual resort wear and soft-soled shoes, the playing experience is bound to draw out the competitive side of both participants and onlookers.

AMENITIES continues on **Page 29**

## Virtual job fair set for May 20

A virtual job fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 20. Hosted by the Career Source Northeast Florida in partnership with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the event will feature hundreds of job opportunities with a “virtual room” dedicated specifically to St. Johns County employers.

Job seekers can register for the free online event at [bit.ly/virtual-job520](http://bit.ly/virtual-job520). The first hour is reserved

for high school seniors, and everyone is welcome from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Employers from across Northeast Florida in a variety of fields with open positions at all levels of experience will participate.

Employers interested in participating can register at [bit.ly/empvirtual520](http://bit.ly/empvirtual520). The registration site provides tips and guidance for success.

“We are proud to partner with

CareerSource Northeast Florida so that job seekers and employers can meet in a safe and effective virtual setting,” said Isabelle Renault, president, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. “Upon registering, job seekers will find the option of entering a St. Johns County ‘room’ to explore opportunities. They will also be able to access virtual booths based on the industry they want to work in.”

## The big disconnect



Harry Pappas  
Columnist

I am guilty of having strong and stubborn convictions, so if you want to hear some truth sprinkled with a little sarcasm about a topic that is often on my heart and regularly on my lips, gather around like a baby pig at the state fair, and let’s roll.

The repeated phrase that makes me want to paint myself with honey and jump in a nest of fire ants is, “Stocks are booming but the economy is so bad. Something is not right.” The only thing that is not right is that you are trying to figure out why (sarcasm). Daaang it, don’t do that to yourself! It’s not worth it.

Instead of getting into the weeds, just remember five words: Stocks are not the economy! Mike Santoli, from CNBC, was spot on when he said, “In 2020, as the virus surged, economic growth crashed, unemployment shot up, poverty spiked, and democracy crumbled, what happened to stock prices? They soared to record highs, of course. Why? As is usually the case in economics, it’s complicated — and everyone has a pet theory.” If you want to nerd out and read some of the pet theories, simply ask Mrs. Google and she will be happy to oblige you with a truckload of articles that will likely satisfy your nerd instincts, albeit at the risk of possibly reading the wrong article that makes you divert from your well-balanced and prudent game plan. Therefore, proceed with caution at your own peril.

There will always be plenty of news stories to support bearishness and bullishness no matter our political viewpoint. Regardless of how we slice it, there are always two sides, so we need to take what we read with the proverbial grain of salt, as most peeps have an agenda.

Nevertheless, I steadfastly argue that we should focus less on the short-term news headlines and market volatility while seeking more wisdom from what history teaches us. For example, as I have questionably preached way too many times, history has clearly shown that the stock market always goes up over time, always has and likely always will, albeit, not in a straight line, of course.

Moreover, since we cannot predict when the stock market will rise or fall, we must toughen up mentally. Yep ... Toto, we are not in Kansas anymore! We are in the big leagues now.

Investing is often a dangerous business, especially for the ones that believe he or she is smarter than Mr. Market. Don’t play that game. Instead, let’s be real pros and handle the wild ride akin to the Oracle of Omaha, Warren Buffet.

The declines in stocks are always painful and are often gut wrenching, but if we focus on history, keep the faith and stay the course while ignoring the pouting pundits of pessimism, we should be just fine, at least that is what history teaches us in spite of talking heads who

PAPPAS continues on **Page 28**



# Teaching children to save for a rainy day during Financial Literacy Month



**Abel Harding**  
Guest Columnist

According to an online survey from D.A. Davidson, more than half of respondents said that having more financial literacy education would have helped them manage their money better through the pandemic. Pandemic or not, the benefits

to teaching children early about money management add up. Equipping our youth with the tools to manage their money early on empowers them to lead more financially secure lives, save for emergencies and create their own wealth.

During April's Financial Literacy Month, IBERIABANK-First Horizon is taking a

proactive approach to educating youth in grades K-8 about the importance of money management through virtual classes designed to teach children to save for a rainy day. But like most life lessons, financial awareness should always begin at home.

Here are five tips to teach your children or grandchildren about finances:

**Be open about money with your kids.** Communicate your values and experiences with money. Encourage them to ask you questions and be prepared to answer them — even the tough ones.

**Budgeting 101.** Teach your kids the basics of budgeting at a young age by using their allowance or birthday and holiday money to track expenses. Whenever they receive money, have them divide it equally into three jars labeled “Saving,” “Spend-

ing” and “Sharing.” They can use the spending money for smaller purchases like candy and the sharing money to give back to others in need or local charities. The savings should be used for more expensive toys or games they want to purchase but need to save up for.

**Need vs. Want.** It is so important for our youth to understand the difference between a need and a want. You can do this at the grocery store by using different foods as an example: Milk for strong bones is a need; soft drinks are a want. Have them identify a new toy or bike and then teach them how to save up for “wants” over time, through chores, good grades, weekly allowance or babysitting a sibling.

**Invest Early.** Open up a savings account at your local bank for your children and

take them with you to make deposits, so children can learn how to be hands-on in their money management.

**Be an example of a responsible money manager.** Involve them in your own journey to pay bills on time, being a conscious spender and an active saver. Children tend to emulate their parents' personal finance habits.

Remember, the best financial lessons are part of everyday experiences. It's never too early to start talking about money with your kids or grandkids. If they are old enough to ask for a toy or bike, they are old enough to start learning money management lessons that will last a lifetime.

**Abel Harding is the North Florida market president for IBERIABANK**

## Pappas

Continued from 27

scream from the rooftops that Armageddon is near. Let's keep our itchy finger off the trigger and just relax. Let's stop overthinking. The stock market is a remarkably powerful wealth-building tool, but far too often, we, as investors, repeatedly mess things up by thinking we can outsmart it. I should know, I have the scars to prove it from back in the day when I was naive,

wet behind the ears and just plain stupid. Please don't be like the younger me!

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## Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

## Criminal Defense Attorney



Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL “Blood, Breath & Tears” annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the AV preeminent rating™ from Martindale-Hubbell® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys. She also appears as a legal commentator on CNN and HLN.

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# Ponte Vedra Inn & Club appoints Jeff Hanson as director of golf

Jeff Hanson has been appointed director of golf at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, a AAA Five-Diamond Resort that features 36-holes of award-winning golf. Hanson comes to the resort from Red Sky Golf Club in Vail, Colo., where he was director of golf.

“Jeff possesses a great passion for the game of golf and is a tremendous addition to the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club team,” said Michael Gordon, vice president and general manager of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. “He brings a wealth

of experience with some of the most renowned country clubs in the United States and will help us continue to advance and improve our already stellar golf operations.”

Hanson began his career as head professional at Glenmoor Country Club before becoming assistant professional at Cherry Hills Country Club, one of the country’s top-ranked clubs. He then was head professional at Beaver Creek Country Club before joining Red Sky Golf Club.

“I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of such

a prestigious resort at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club,” said Hanson, who has been a PGA of America professional since 2001. “It is especially rewarding to come here during a time when the newly renovated Ocean Course has reopened to such positive reviews.”

As director of golf, Hanson will oversee Ponte Vedra Inn & Club’s entire golf operations including the resort’s Ocean and Lagoon courses, as well as at the recently upgraded practice facilities.

## Amenities

Continued from 27

The AAA Five-Diamond seaside resort is an idyllic setting for these two classic and diverting lawn sports. This new resort amenity was part of a recent series of upgrades which saw the renovation of the Ocean Course and golf practice facilities, along with the addition of the Peyton House and Ocean House, oceanfront guest rooms and suites, which opened in the fall of 2020.

The sport of croquet dates to the Middle Ages and was a part of the 1900 and 1904 Summer Olympics, while bocce traces its roots back to the Roman Empire. Since 2020, nostalgic activities and limited contact sports like croquet and bocce have grown in popularity among all age groups.

According to high-end U.K. department store John Lewis & Partners, purchases of garden croquet sets are up by 600%.

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club guests this summer are invited to choose from several special packages, including a romance offering perfect for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day or anytime love calls, as well as daily, summer kid camps for parents looking for a little time to themselves while on vacation.

Spanning more than 300 acres nestled among ocean, lagoon and nature environs, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club provides direct access to seemingly endless exploration, recreation and relaxation.

Recognized by Conde Nast Traveler in 2020 Readers’ Choice Awards as the top resort in Northeast Florida and sixth overall in Florida, Forbes Travel Guide also recommends Ponte Vedra Inn & Club as one the top 15 Newly Renovated Hotels to visit in 2021.

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# Spruce up for spring: Interior design tips and trends

By Holly Tishfield

With stay-at-home orders issued throughout the pandemic and a general suggestion to stay indoors as much as possible, now, more than ever, people are taking long, hard looks at their homes. They are feeling bored of old design features and in the mood for something fresh and exciting.

Laura West, owner of Mineral City in Ponte Vedra Beach, explained the pandemic permanently affected the way designers both design and distribute their products. Sustainability is in, with a strong focus on cutting environmental damage as much as possible.

“It has become evident that purchasing disposable items, like fast fashion, food in unnecessary and non-recyclable packaging and even cheaply made, trendy furniture intended to be used for a few years (maximum) and then thrown away, has caused immense harm to our communal home,” said West.

To combat this, designers are pushing more sustainable options, like using natural materials and offering well-made, domestic heirloom furniture pieces. During the past year, designers have taken to suggesting reusing, reupholstering and repurposing furnishings as opposed to throwing them away and purchasing new ones. West also



A home with re-upholstered fabrics and decor pieces styled by Mineral City.

said that designers are taking into consideration the cost on the planet for long-distance shipping, and the waste it can create, so now designers are more interested in sourcing local and domestic products.

The past year has proved that open-floor plans remain a popular home feature, but now customers are interested in having the ability to close off small areas of the home for activities such as video conference calls and general decompression.

Home expansion projects have begun involving the use of outdoor space as a more resort-like feature, flowering landscaping, water features, piped-in music, sofas, string lights, outdoor kitchens and fire pits are on the rise in popularity.

According to West, practicality and performance fabrics for furniture have become more popular than ever.

“We are all ‘living’ in our homes now more than ever and when ‘life happens’ on your white sofa, you no longer have to panic,” she said. “You can relax and enjoy your home and easily clean off most accidental spills and dirt perhaps from a spilled glass of wine, from your children, grandchildren and pets.”

For kitchens and bathrooms, painted lower cabinets and pieces of furniture in colors such as warm brass or gold color hardware, waterfall marble/granite/quartzite or quartz countertops, and hand painted tiles are in.

To learn more design tips, or learn more about Mineral City, go to [mcpvb.com](http://mcpvb.com).



Zebra Palm dining room designed by Laura West.



Photos by Ed Hall

An ‘Exotica’-styled home, with cheerful, bright Florida colors.

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Photo by Shaun Ryan

Some of the sailboats in the St. Augustine Race Week InShore Races on the Tolomato River start for the first buoy.

# St. Augustine Sailing reflects owners' love of life on the water

Business a major sponsor of Race Week

By Shaun Ryan

St. Augustine has a long sailing tradition going back to the 16th century. So it's no surprise that some of today's sailing enthusiasts have decided to drop anchor here.

Among them: Rose Ann and Chuck Points, owners of St. Augustine Sailing and Yacht Sales by Rose Ann — both sponsors for this year's St. Augustine Race Week.

Rose Ann Points began her boating life cruising Oregon's Columbia River with her family. In 1996, she moved to Florida and lived aboard a ketch with her children for 13 years.

Later, she came to St. Augustine to get certification and met the man who would become her husband.

Chuck Points got his start sailing when he was 15. He lived near a yacht club, the members of which were always looking for crews. Signing on, he began an adventure that would chart his course through life. He went on to sail in Asia, Europe and other places.

He came to St. Augustine in 2004 to rent a boat and, when it was discovered that he had a captain's license, was offered a job. And that's where he was when the future Rose Ann Points walked through the door.

The couple married in 2012 and, in 2017, they purchased St. Augustine Sailing.

## ON THE WATER

St. Augustine Sailing Enterprises has been described as a luxury adventure experience that accommodates different budgets.

Its private charters are a popular choice for family outings and special occasions.

Specialty charters include a brunch sail, sunset sails, full-dinner sails with a chef and more.

Themed sailings add drama to the experience. The Tuxedo Tuesday Cruise features a James Bond impersonator who shakes and stirs drinks. The Thirsty Thursday Sail Away includes a selection of wine and cheese.

Coming up are two months of special events: one for the ladies in May and the other for guys — though women are welcome, too — in June.

The first pairs brunch and mimosas with a sail aboard a yacht. The second allows customers to chart a course, sail it and then sit down with the captain afterward to enjoy a beer and get some professional feedback.

St. Augustine Sailing also offers sailing lessons and membership in SailTime, a sailing club that allows members to rent a boat anywhere there is a franchise.

Rose Ann Points said what she likes best about her business is helping people to fulfill a dream they've had for a long time.



Photo provided by St. Augustine Sailing

Sailing enthusiasts Rose Ann and Chuck Points own St. Augustine Sailing Enterprises, one of the major sponsors for the 2021 St. Augustine Race Week.

## ST AUGUSTINE RACE WEEK TROPHY WINNERS

### YOUTH REGATTA 420 Class – April 17, 18

**First Place:** Thomas Schuerger, Cheyenne Dooley  
**Second Place:** Grace Jones, Jack Allen  
**Third Place:** David Vinogradov, Justin Trebon

### INSHORE SERIES – April 20, 21

**First Place:** Tim Tucker (Fireball)  
**Second Place:** Paul Hellings (Girl Dog)  
**Third Place:** Brett Staples (Easy Button)

### OFFSHORE SERIES - April 22, 23, 24

**Cruiser Non-Spinnaker**  
**First Place:** Brianne Petit-Muller (Veria)  
**Second Place:** David Hightower (Stray Dog)  
**Third Place:** David Locy (Sage)

### Cruiser Spinnaker

**First Place:** Norman Church (Obsession)  
**Second Place:** Carl Kennon (Flamingo 2)  
**Third Place:** Eddie Evans (Naut-on-Call)

### Performance Non-Spinnaker

**First Place:** Mark Dixon (Pura Vida)  
**Second Place:** Robert Newsome (Snowgoose)  
**Third Place:** Henry Korous (Morgana)

### Performance Spinnaker

**First Place:** Tim Tucker (Rockstar)  
**Second Place:** Bradley Stowers (Hillbilly)  
**Third Place:** Bubba Futch (Cheetah)

## Dream Vacations franchise acquires South Florida travel agency

Move means more advisers, options for local travel business

Dream Vacations – Hargarther, Thaler & Associates in Ponte Vedra has acquired South Florida-based travel agency Cruise-Options, which was previously owned by Sheryl Coopersmith and in business for more than 35 years. As a result, six travel advisers with an average of 20 years' experience each will be joining the Dream Vacations team.

"I have known Sheryl for many years and was honored when she approached me about acquiring her business," said Mara Hargarther, franchise owner. "I share her passion and devotion to excellent customer service and pledge to continue to build upon the relationships that she and her staff have cultivated over the years. My sister and business partner Claudia Thaler and I are excited to expand our agency's footprint into South Florida and welcome new advisers from CruiseOptions to our team."

As a result of the merger, Dream Vacations – Hargarther, Thaler & Associates will have twice as many travel advisers and will increase the types of travel they specialize in.

In addition, clients who continue to do business with Dream Vacations will now have access to exclusive offers such as upgrades, discounts and more, because of Dream Vacations' affiliation with World Travel Holdings.

Dream Vacations – Hargarther, Thaler & Associates is family-owned and has been in business for nearly 30 years. The agency

TRAVEL continues on Page 33



Photo provided by Dream Vacations

Claudia Thaler (left) and Mara Hargarther are the owners of Dream Vacations – Hargarther, Thaler & Associates.

SAILING continues on Page 33



# Chappell Schools of Jacksonville names Melanie Williams new CEO

Melanie Williams has been named CEO of Jacksonville-based Chappell Schools. The company has eight locations throughout Duval and St. Johns counties.

Williams took over the position April 1. She will lead the company into its next phase of growth.

She holds the doctorate degree in educational research and evaluation from Virginia Tech and is adept at strategic planning, leadership, organizational growth, operations and financial oversight.

“I am honored to promote the organization’s mission established by Katheryne Chappell Drennon and her mother more than 50 years ago, and to lead Chappell in establishing a strong rapport with Chappell’s school children, parents, teachers, campus directors, support staff and com-

munity partners who support the mission of the organization,” said Williams. “I am very excited to join the Chappell family, and look forward to meeting our parents and children in the very near future.”

“On behalf of the board of directors, the Katheryne Chappell Drennon Trust and the family members, I am pleased to welcome Dr. Williams to lead Chappell Schools in providing educational excellence and professionalism across each Chappell campus,” said Gianni Arcaini, Chappell’s chairman of the board. “In doing so, Dr. Williams will expand Chappell’s premium service in the development of the total child, ensuring wholesome environments that provide continuous learning opportunities for the organization’s multi-sensory developmental approach to early childhood.”

## Travel

Continued from 32

has won numerous awards, including Dream Vacations’ Agency of the Year and the International Franchise Association’s Franchisee of the Year, as well as Travel Agent magazine’s Top 30 Travel Agents in the U.S. and Top 30 Travel Agents Under 30.

Additionally, the travel agency has been recognized as Travel Partner of the Year for numerous cruise lines, including Regent Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises, Royal Caribbean International, Carnival Corporation, Cunard Line and Norwegian Cruise Line.

For more information or to book a dream vacation, call (800) 258-8732 or go to [cruisinglady.com](http://cruisinglady.com).



Photo by Shaun Ryan

One of the sailboats competing in the St. Augustine Race Week InShore Races on the Tolomato River maneuvers into position for the start.

## Sailing

Continued from 32

“For me, it’s all about the experiences,” she said. “It’s about the adventure. So, getting to know (the customers), finding out what it is that they want and then helping them find a path to fulfill that dream and make it a reality for them.”

The fleet of 10 yachts is always kept fresh; none of the boats is older than three years.

Aside from the excursions and other services offered by St. Augustine Sailing, Yacht Sales by Rose Ann handles the sales of these watercraft.

## RACE WEEK

The fifth annual St. Augustine Race Week, hosted by the St. Augustine Yacht Club, was held April 16-25. The event raises funding for a scholarship program, which sends kids to summer sailing camps.

The week kicked off with the Youth Sailing Regatta in Matanzas Bay. Yacht Sales by Rose Ann sponsored the race.

The Inshore Racing Series was held April 20-21 on the Tolomato River north of the bridge near Vilano Beach.

The “big boats” took to the Atlantic on April 22-24 for the Offshore Racing Series.

**NOTE: This is an abridged version. To read the entire article, go to [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com).**

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# In the Arts



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THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021 • PAGE 34 [www.PonteVedraRecorder.com](http://www.PonteVedraRecorder.com)

## 2 British farce operettas take stage May 4-9 at Romanza Festival

First Coast Opera and A Classic Theatre are collaborating to bring Northeast Florida audiences a new production that includes a world premiere.

The two companies will present seven performances of “Cox and Box” and “Penelope Ann’s Revenge,” two British farce operettas, during the Romanza Festival of the Arts in May. Show times are 7:30 p.m. May 4-8 and 2 p.m. May 8-9 at the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center in St. Augustine. Tickets can be purchased online at [aclassictheatre.org/tickets](http://aclassictheatre.org/tickets).

Composed by Arthur Sullivan, of Gilbert and Sullivan fame, “Cox and Box” is a Victorian farce in which two gentlemen unknowingly rent and live in the same apartment. When the landlord’s ruse is uncovered, Mr. Cox and Mr. Box discover that they share other things, including a past fiancée, Penelope Ann.

The story continues, 10 years later, in “Penelope Ann’s Revenge,” a sequel by First Coast Opera Artistic Director Curtis Tucker and Nelson Sheeley, receiving its world premiere.

In the new operetta, Penelope Ann returns to put the two men in their proper places. Apparent conflict turns to happy ending with a few topsy-turvy twists throughout.

The cast consists of Tyler Putnam as Cox, Curtis Tucker as Box, Jason Whitfield as Bouncer, Sarah Nordin as Lydia and Catherine Ortega Spitzer as Penelope.

Tickets \$30 for adults and are available at [aclassictheatre.org/tickets](http://aclassictheatre.org/tickets). The Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center is located at 102 MLK Ave., St. Augustine.

This project is sponsored in part by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the State of Florida and the National Endowment for the Art.

Seating is socially distanced with a limited number of tickets available in advance for each performance. Face coverings are required.



Sarah Nordin



Tyler Putnam



Nelson Sheeley



Catherine Ortega Spitzer



Chris Tucker



Jason Whitfield

**IF YOU GO**

**When:** 7:30 p.m. May 4-8; 2 p.m. matinee on May 8-9

**Where:** The Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center is located at 102 MLK Ave., St. Augustine.

**Tickets:** \$30 for adults; \$10 for students. Tickets are available at [aclassictheatre.org/tickets](http://aclassictheatre.org/tickets)

## Local musician Billy Buchanan releases new album April 30

‘The Big Comeback’ offers encouragement and hope

Persevere Entertainment Group, Inc., recently announced the release of the latest EP from Billy Buchanan, “The Big Comeback”, which will be available everywhere on April 30. The title track, “The Big Comeback,” is the first single and was released April 9.

“The Big Comeback” features original songs written, produced and arranged by The Ambassador of Rock ‘n Soul Billy Buchanan during the pandemic of 2020. The personal and professional trials experienced by Buchanan over the last 12 months has led to an amazing year of renewal, focus, empathy and perseverance. “The Big Comeback” is about the lessons learned when you’ve been counted out, and need hope and encouragement to come back stronger than ever.

Buchanan has opened for legendary artists, such as The Temptations, The Four Tops, Tom Jones, Paul Anka, Harry Connick, Jr., The Jersey Boys on Tour, Tower of Power and many more.

“This last year has been challenging for all of us,” Buchanan said. “We’ve all had to look deep within ourselves to find a way to push forward through the most unforeseen circumstances. My prayer is

BUCHANAN continues on Page 35

### UPCOMING SHOWS

**SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL**  
June 17 - August 1

.....

**THE SOUND OF MUSIC**  
August 12 - September 26

.....

**YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN**  
September 30 - November 7



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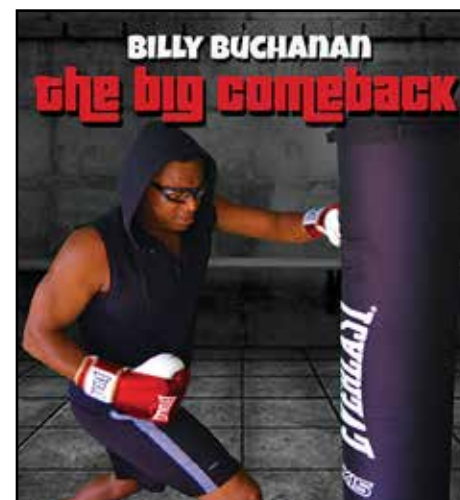


Photo provided by Diamond Sea Production  
“The Big Comeback,” the latest album from St. Augustine-based artist Billy Buchanan, is set to be released April 30.



# Comedian Iliza Shlesinger comes to amphitheatre May 13



Photo provided by St. Augustine Amphitheatre

**Comedian Iliza Shlesinger will perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on May 13.**

The outrageously hilarious Iliza Shlesinger will kick off her “Iliza: Back In Action” tour at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Thursday, May 13, for a limited-capacity show with distanced seating.

Shlesinger’s stop at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre will be the official kick-off the “Back In Action Tour,” and will be her first show since having to postpone her 2020 tour due to the pandemic.

“My team and I worked very hard to reschedule this tour and are excited to see you all,” Shlesinger said. “We are cautiously optimistic for all the dates to play as we head into an environment full of promise. I love you and can’t wait to be back with all of my Party Goblins!”

Shlesinger is one of today’s leading comedians with a fan base who show their loyalty by creating their own Iliza-

inspired swag to wear to her shows. Her fifth Netflix stand up special “UnVeiled” premiered in November 2019 and delves into her journey of getting married. Her past specials include “Confirmed Kills,” “Freezing Hot” and “War Paint.” Her previous Netflix special, 2018’s “Elder Millennial,” is the subject of “Iliza Shlesinger: Over & Over,” her “fan-u-mentary,” which is currently streaming and gives fans an inside look into what goes into the making of one of her specials.

On the acting front, Shlesinger starred in two major films in 2020 — “Spenser Confidential” opposite Mark Wahlberg and directed by Peter Berg, and “Pieces of a Woman” opposite Vanessa Kirby. “The Iliza Shlesinger Sketch Show” premiered on Netflix in early 2020. Her first book “Girl Logic: The Genius and the Absurdity (Hachette Book Group),”

is a subversively funny collection of essays and observations on a confident woman’s approach to friendship, singlehood and relationships. Her new podcast “AIA: Ask Iliza Anything” offers up her unique perspective to listeners, answering their questions on virtually any topic.

Tickets for “Iliza: Back In Action” are on sale at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office and online at Ticketmaster.com. Tickets are sold in preconfigured pods (groupings) ranging from two to eight seats per pod. Each pod is at least six feet from one to the next, and all seats within the pod must be purchased together. Additionally, all tickets are digital. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays, and will only accept payment via debit or credit card.

# Indie-folk duo Indigo Girls to perform at The Amp on May 30

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, in partnership with Flying Saucer Presents, recently announced Grammy-winning indie-folk duo Indigo Girls will perform at The Amp on Sunday, May 30, for a limited-capacity concert.

Never ones to rest on their laurels, Indigo Girls embarked on a bold new chapter in 2012, collaborating with a pair of orchestrators to prepare larger-than-life arrangements of their songs to perform with symphonies around the country. It was a challenging endeavor, but the Grammy-winning duo managed to find that elusive sonic sweet spot with the project, creating a seamless blend of folk, rock, pop and classical that elevated their songs to new emotional heights without sacrificing any of the emotional intimacy and honesty that have defined their music for decades. Now, after more than 50 performances with symphonies across America, the experience has finally been captured in all its grandeur on the band’s stunning new album, “Indigo Girls Live with The University of Colorado Symphony Orchestra”

Recorded in front of a sold-out audience in Boulder, Colorado, and deftly mixed by Grammy winner Trina Shoemaker (Sheryl Crow, Emmylou Harris), the record showcases Indigo Girls at their finest: raw, real and revelatory. Spanning material from throughout the band’s career, the 22-song set features a mix of reimagined classics, unexpected deep cuts, and tracks from their latest studio album, “One Lost Day.” Backed by the symphony, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers’ voices are both powerful and delicate, their intertwined harmonies riding high on the crest of an emotional tidal wave created by Sean O’Loughlin



Photo provided by St. Augustine Amphitheatre

**The Indigo Girls will perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on May 30.**

and Stephen Barber’s dazzling arrangements. The orchestrations are as richly cinematic as a film score, and the 64-piece symphony wrings every ounce of passion from them, helping to bring the band’s evocative storytelling to more vivid life than ever before.

NPR’s Mountain Stage called the group “one of the finest folk duos of all time,” while Rolling Stone said they “personify what happens when two distinct sensibilities, voices and worldviews come together to create something transcendentally its own.” The New York Times raved that “gleeful profanities, righteous protest anthems and impeccable folk songwriting have carried this duo for 30 years.”

Tickets for Indigo Girls are on sale at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office and online at Ticketmaster.com. Tickets are sold in preconfigured pods (groupings) ranging from two to eight seats per pod. All tickets are digital. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays, and will only accept payment via debit or credit card.

# Buchanan


Continued from 34

that my new EP, ‘The Big Comeback.’ in some small way, encourages listeners to keep on fighting, and reminds them that there is hope on the horizon.”


Buchanan currently resides in St.


Augustine as a full-time entertainer and songwriter, performing 250-plus shows a year. Billy also mentors, consults and develops aspiring artists through his music company, Persevere Entertainment Group, Inc.

To order a copy of Buchanan’s new EP or to check out his touring schedule, go to [billybuchanan.org](http://billybuchanan.org).

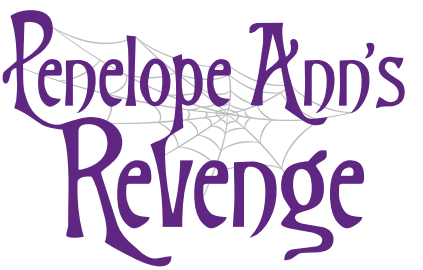


First Coast Opera in collaboration  
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**Cox  
and  
Box**




**Penelope Ann's  
Revenge**

A WORLD PREMIERE!


Act 1 (Cox and Box) brings a classic Victorian farce written by Arthur Sullivan, of Gilbert & Sullivan, in which two gentlemen unknowingly rent and live in the same apartment. When the landlord’s ruse is uncovered, Mr. Cox and Mr. Box discover that they share other things, including a past fiancée, Penelope Ann.

Act 2 is a **World Premiere** written by **First Coast Opera’s Artistic Director Curtis Tucker** and **Nelson Sheeley**. The story continues, ten years later.


In the new operetta, Penelope Ann returns to put the two men in their proper places, with the typical twists, turns, accusations, revelations, and hilarity of the best British farces.




Tyler Putnam




Curtis Tucker



Jason Whitfield



Sarah Nordin



Catherine Ortega  
Spitzer

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# Sports

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Send your sports news to  
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## PVHS girls lacrosse heads to region final

Sharks rout St. Augustine in regional semifinals; will play Gulf Breeze next

By Paris Moulden

The Ponte Vedra girls lacrosse team is headed to the region final after a dominating 18-2 victory over St. Augustine in the 1A Regional semifinal last Thursday.

PVHS rushed out to 12-1 lead by half-time and dominated defensively, throughout. The Sharks will travel to Gulf Breeze to take on the undefeated Dolphins in the regional final at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 29.

The Sharks have been on a roll, winning their last eight games by a combined score of 154-41. PVHS hasn't scored fewer than 14 goals in a game during that run.

Head coach Jennifer Conway said being able to play and be together has been a huge factor this season, especially after not really getting to have a 2020 season because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Most of it is just everybody having fun and happy to be out there," Conway said. "We change it up a lot, so that keeps in interesting."

The tempo and gratification from the team's practices isn't lost on the players, who Conway said usually end up surprised by how fast the time goes and the desire to keep going.

"I think a feeling like that makes for a great season," Conway said.

One of the other major keys to this season's success comes from its experience. Nine seniors make up the PVHS lacrosse team, which has significance in building next year's team, as well as the extra motivation for the seniors to go out on top.

"We have a deep team," Conway said. "I think just for them, they have a lot of emotions and feelings about it. So as a coaching staff, we've agreed not to coach to their emotions because it changes the game, so we try to just coach strategy."

"The girls have enough emotions to cover everybody," Conway added laughing.

The nine graduating seniors are Tori Bray, Sami Lowinger, Trish Balsler, captain Katie Stoudt, Eliza Lewin, captain Taylor Rocha, Megan Rolison, Courtney Rausch and captain Pierson Schuchart. Conway has coached many of those seniors for years, starting with recreational leagues, so that bond is not lost on her.

"I think because of that relationship,



Ponte Vedra girls lacrosse plays St. Augustine in the regional semifinals on Thursday, April 22. The Sharks won 18-2 to advance to the finals.

I just really want to do a great job for them, and they want to do a great job for me," she said. "So that's been a really inspiring balance."

Gulf Breeze (13-0), the top-seeded team in the 1A Region, advanced to the final with a commanding 19-4 win over South Walton. The Dolphins have also been putting up big numbers, outscoring opponents 228-39 in 13 games this season.

"Our main focus is what we do, so we're just going to go out and train hard," Conway said about heading into the regional final. "If you focus on your strengths, I think that will help us."

Regardless of what happens in Thursday's matchup, Conway said seeing the growth of the team this season has been a win already.

"I'm really excited for these girls," she said. "When you watch them work so hard for something and put so much time and effort in, I think that motivates me to put a lot of time and effort in, so we're really excited to hopefully keep going."

As far as beyond the regional final, Conway is trying not to look too far ahead.

"We play one game at a time ... but the [state] finals sure would look nice," she said.



Ponte Vedra scores a goal during the second half of last Thursday's game.



The Ponte Vedra girls lacrosse team celebrates after beating St. Augustine in the regional semis.

Photos by Paris Moulden



# Draft preview: With Lawrence apparently a cinch, where do Jaguars go from there?

By Jeff Moeller

Florida Sports Wire

It's inevitable, and the countdown has begun to Thursday evening when the Jaguars will eventually draft Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence with the first overall pick.

The longtime quarterback quandary is anticipated to be over, and the new face of the franchise will be front and center. Lawrence, who has all the tools, already has established a relationship with the people of Jacksonville.

BYU's Zack Wilson has taken a significant upswing as a potential overall top pick, and the whispers surrounding Ohio State's Justin Fields still linger. However, Lawrence will be the selection that will reignite the impending thought of the postseason in a short span ahead.

But where do the Jaguars go from Lawrence with their remaining nine picks?

New head coach Urban Meyer and GM Trent Baalke have holes to fill on both sides of the ball, and it will be interesting to see if he prioritizes one side over the other. The key may be to combine a balance that could provide the making of a

## NFL DRAFT

**When:** Thursday, April 29, to Saturday, May 1.

**Round 1:** Thursday, April 29 (8 p.m.)

**Rounds 2-3:** Friday, April 30 (7 p.m.)

**Rounds 4-7:** Saturday, May 1 (Noon)

**Where:** Cleveland, Ohio.

**TV:** ABC, ESPN, NFL Network

**Jaguars picks:** First round – 1st, 25th; Second round – 33rd, 45th; Third round – 65th; Fourth round – 106th, 130th; Fifth round – 145th, 170th; Seventh round – 249th

framework on both sides.

Here's one possible version:

**First round, pick 25 (from Los Angeles Rams), Jaelen Phillips, defensive end Miami:** Phillips could be overlooked in the first round. He is regarded as one of the top athletes in the draft and has the skill set to support the claim. Phillips is a sack artist as well as a consistent tackler for losses. He could fill a major void.

**Second round, pick 33, Alex Leatherwood, offensive tackle, Alabama:** Leatherwood should be available here despite an anticipated run on tackles in the opening round and early second. He reportedly has good movement for his 6-6, 310-pound

frame, and could be inserted at left tackle or right guard. Leatherwood easily may be their second first-round pick.

**Second round, pick 45, Trevon Moehrig, safety, TCU:** If he is there, the Jags have to take him. Moehring is among the fastest risers in recent days, and Las Vegas reportedly may trade up to grab him. Jacksonville also could draft him earlier, as the Jim Thorpe Award winner as the top defensive back looks like a winner.

**Third round, pick 65, Milton Williams, defensive tackle, Louisiana Tech:** Williams is another player whose stick is rising. He is a strong interior pass rusher and run stopper. A Texas native, the Cowboys have been his biggest pursuer, but he would look good in teal, black, and gold.

**Fourth round, pick 106, Tommy Tremble, tight end, Notre Dame:** If the Jaguars follow this path, both Kyle Pitts and Pat Freiermuth likely will be gone. Tremble can be a true sleeper in this round. Tremble is known for his physical play and blocking ability. He also can be a valuable contributor.

**Fourth round, pick 130 (from Los Angeles Rams), Travie Etienne, running**

**back, Clemson:** The Jags will do Lawrence a favor and reunite him with Etienne. The Clemson playmaker is known for his speed and ability to break tackles. Etienne also has been regarded as an excellent pass protector and a touchdown maker.

**Fifth round, pick 145, Rondale Moore, wide receiver, Purdue:** Moore is considered to be one of the potential playmakers in the draft. However, he battled injuries the previous two seasons after a banner season in 2018. If he falls this far, Moore will be a steal.

**Fifth round, pick 170 (from Cleveland), Benjamin St-Juste, cornerback, Minnesota:** At 6-3, 200 pounds, St-Juste is recognized for his size and strength. He has a big wingspan and deceptive speed. St-Juste has the potential to be an effective outside corner for the Jags.

**Seventh round, pick 249 (from Tennessee), Trey Smith, offensive guard, Tennessee:** Smith is a highly rated positional blocker who has a solid base. He is known for his quickness and his aggressive nature. The 6-6, 300-pounder also has seen some time at left tackle and can be a versatile performer along the line.

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