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PONTE VEDRA



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RING THE BELL WORKING



At the conclusion of St. Augustine's 9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance, Fire Department Prevention Chief and Fire Marshal Bob Growick rings the department's historic 1900 fire bell in four intervals of five rings each. The tradition of "Striking the Four 5's" signifies the last alarm of a firefighter. For coverage of local Sept. 11 observances, see page 4.



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!

Healthcare Profiles

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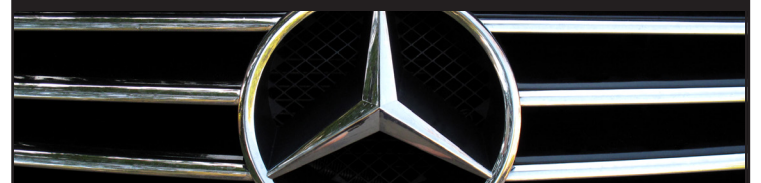
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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. Email submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com 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.

Visit our website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com



Find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi, I'm Gypsy. I am a 3-year-old female domestic shorthaired Manx mix. A very kind park ranger at Anastasia State



Park happened by me and rescued me! I was all alone out there, and while it was beautiful, I am enjoying the safe life here at the Pet Center. Now that I am feeling secure, I am ready to find my new family, one that will keep me indoors. I am fine just looking through the windows at nature after my adventure at the state park.



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi, I'm Karma. I'm a 4½-year-old female German shepherd mix. My previous family could no longer care for me, so I ended up here at the Pet Center until I find my new "forever" family. I am super sweet, love to take walks

and just want to be near you. I'm house-trained, crate-trained, love kids, cats and other dogs. If you are interested in a loyal, loving friend, stop by the Pet Center for a meet-and-greet.

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



Photo provided by The North Florida Women's Chorale

The North Florida Women's Chorale will soon begin rehearsals for its upcoming December performance. The Chorale is open for new members.

Women's Chorale to begin rehearsals for 'Jubilate!'

The North Florida Women's Chorale is open for new members. Call 904-806-7781 or go to womenschorale.org to set up an audition. Rehearsals are 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. Mondays at Palms Church, 3410 3rd St. South, Jacksonville Beach. Performances are in December and in the spring. Kerry Fradley is the director.

The Chorale will resume regular rehearsals at 6:45 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, at Palms Church. A performance, "Jubilate!" is set for Dec. 5. The

Gainesville Brass Quintet will join the Chorale for the performance.

Betty Griffin Center postpones 5K race fundraiser

Due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases, the Betty Griffin Center made the decision to postpone the Run for Peace 5K, originally scheduled for Sept. 25. It has been moved to April 9.

"Since other races leading up to our 5K have also made this decision, we felt the date change was the best choice we could make for the safety of our staff, vendors, volunteers, sponsors and runners," said Betty Griffin Center CEO Joyce Mahr.

Sponsorships will be carried over to the April 2022 date, and all runners' registrations will be deferred to the new event date. Volunteer signups will be re-issued at a later date. Run-

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

M	O	W	E	R	C	F	C	K	U	D	U		
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7	3	8	9	5	6	2	1	4
6	4	9	2	7	1	8	3	5
1	5	4	6	8	7	3	2	9
2	7	3	1	9	5	4	8	6
9	8	6	4	2	3	5	7	1
8	9	7	5	6	2	1	4	3
4	6	5	3	1	8	7	9	2
3	2	1	7	4	9	6	5	8

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Briefs

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ners and walkers can still register at www.runforpeace5k.org.

Angelwood celebration raises funds to help those with intellectual and developmental differences

The Angelwood Annual Celebration: Soaring Possibilities took place Aug. 21 at the Sawgrass Marriott. It was also streamed live via Facebook.

The event had a beach theme with casual attire, games inside and outside and a strolling dinner at four food stations. The program included a welcome from presenting sponsor Rachel DuBois and Robin Wahby of Wahby Financial Group, a live and silent auction and a standing ovation for the Angelwood Staff that were watching from Angelwood's six group homes.

Firehouse Subs was awarded Corporate

Sponsor of the Year and Michelle Mollenhour was the Soaring Possibilities Award winner.

Funds raised from this event will help support children, adults and families living with intellectual and developmental differences in the greater Jacksonville area.

Since 1993, Jacksonville-based nonprofit Angelwood has been serving children, adults, seniors and families living with intellectual and developmental differences such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and spina bifida.

For more information, go to angelwood-jax.org.

AIT Environmental Technology names new CEO

AIT Environmental Technology President and Founder Jim Thomas recently announced that Chris Eckols has been named CEO of the Ponte Vedra-based company.

Eckols served in the United States Navy in a variety of operational and leadership roles, including a diplomatic assignment to U.S. Central Command in Baghdad, Iraq. He holds a master's of business administration degree from the Naval Postgraduate School. His private sector



Chris Eckols

experience includes operations, marketing, distribution and strategic sourcing for national multi-billion-dollar companies.

Eckols takes the helm of the service-disabled, veteran-owned small business that specializes in mold remediation, water extraction and emergency restoration. AIT has technicians fulfilling contracts across the southeastern states for residential, commercial and government customers, including Dollar General and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Using his experience and broad leadership skills, Eckols will lead the strategic direction for the company.

"Chris is exceptionally well adapted to lead AIT into a dynamic transition and expansion phase of our company," Thomas



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Photos by Shaun Ryan

St. Augustine Fire Chief Carlos Aviles speaks during the Ceremony of Remembrance on Saturday, Sept. 11.

St. Augustine marks 20th anniversary of 9/11

By Shaun Ryan

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, New York City firefighter Lt. Robert Aponte was in the fire station in Queens and heard a voice come over the intercom with news that today sounds understated.

“A member of our house watch who was watching TV said, ‘Put the TV on. We’ve got a problem at the World Trade Center,’” Aponte recalled.

The broadcast showed a small hole in the North Tower. Aponte thought maybe a wayward pilot had crashed into it.

But then, the firefighters gathered around the TV watched as a commercial airliner struck the South Tower. They switched the firehouse radio to the Manhattan frequency.

“One of the first transmissions that I heard – that I’ll remember forever – was a member who got on the radio and said, ‘Manhattan, we have jumpers down,’” Aponte said.

The retired firefighter gave his account of that day 20 years ago during St. Augustine’s Ceremony of Remembrance,

held Saturday, Sept. 11, at the city’s main fire station.

Hundreds attended the ceremony, which included remarks by St. Augustine Fire Chief Carlos Aviles and an invocation by the Rev. Matt Marino of Trinity Parish. A minute of silence was timed to coincide with the exact moment the first plane hit the first tower.

In addition, a “Survivor Tree” sapling planted in front of the fire station was dedicated. It is a descendent of a tree discovered at Ground Zero in October 2001. The tree was severely damaged but was rehabilitated.

Also dedicated was a piece of steel recovered from the World Trade Center site. It was donated by retired New York City firefighters James Svendsen and John Westfield.

The ceremony concluded with “Striking the Four 5’s.” Prevention Chief and Fire Marshal Bob Growick rang the local department’s 1900 fire bell in four intervals of five rings each. This tradition signifies the last alarm of a firefighter.

In his presentation, Aponte recalled how he was told to take a bus downtown. There was a lot of chatter among those on the bus, which abruptly fell silent.

“From the Triborough Bridge, you normally could see the whole New York City skyline,” Aponte said. “We realized at that point the second tower was down. The Trade Center was gone.”

Downtown, Aponte encountered a firefighter he knew who was returning

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An enormous U.S. flag hangs over the gathering Saturday, Sept. 11, at the St. Augustine Fire Department’s main station for the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



Nephew of 9/11 firefighter continues tradition of remembrance

By Anthony Richards

Throughout the weekend remembering the 20th anniversary of the events of 9/11, there were many tributes, but one held locally at Veterans Park had an extra sense of emotion tied to it.

Steve Helewa recently moved to St. Johns County from New York in July and was 12 years old when his uncle Paul Pansini died as a firefighter responding to scene at the Twin Towers that day.

“I had 12 years with him, and I feel like I remember every one of them,” Helewa said. “His impact lasted because that’s where I get my love of the outdoors. Every time I go fishing, I think about him, and it feels like he’s right there with me even all these years later.”

It is a tradition of Helewa’s family to have a gathering to raise and lower his uncle’s casket flag each year on Sept. 11 in Cape May, New Jersey, in honor of his uncle.

“Unfortunately, with relocating I knew that I wasn’t going to be there this year,” Helewa said.

He reached out to St. Johns County Parks and Recreation and asked if he could continue the tradition in his new Florida home.

“Their response was overwhelming, and they figured something out in 48 hours,” Helewa said. “They asked if I would continue to do this for years on. I look forward to working with the parks department, Sheriff’s Department and the county to put together a nice ceremony every year.”

Pansini worked at FDNY Ten House, which was the closest responding firehouse to the World Trade Center on 9/11, assigned to the engine.

According to Helewa, his uncle was



Paul Pansini and all those that died on 9/11 were remembered during the 20th anniversary of the tragic day.

working that day, but there was a firehouse up town that was a man short, so he volunteered to go and fill that spot. While he was on his way, the first plane crashed.

“By the time he made it to the firehouse that was in need, they had left, so he grabbed some gear and went down by himself,” Helewa said. “For a long time, we didn’t know where he was. We just knew that he wasn’t with Ten House and he wasn’t with the firehouse he was

REMEMBRANCE continues on Page 5



Steve Helewa (next to pole) lowers an American flag at Veterans Park in honor of his uncle, Paul Pansini, who died as a firefighter on the scene at the World Trade Center on 9/11.

DeSantis thanks first responders, military on eve of 9/11 anniversary

Governor also criticizes Biden administration

By Shaun Ryan

Gov. Ron DeSantis visited Palm Valley American Legion Post 233 on Friday, Sept. 10, to thank first responders and military personnel on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

He also took the opportunity to address recent mandates announced by President Joe Biden regarding coronavirus vaccinations.

“When you have a president like Biden issuing unconstitutional edicts against the American people, we have a responsibility to stand up for the Constitution and to fight back,” DeSantis said. “This is a president who has acknowledged in the past he does not have the authority to force this on anybody. This order would result, potentially, in millions of Americans losing their jobs. I think we should be protecting people’s jobs, not trying to kick people out of work right now.”

On Thursday, Sept. 9, Biden announced that all employers with more than 100 workers would have to require vaccinations or weekly testing of employees. That mandate would come in the form of a rule by OSHA.

In addition, Biden is issuing an executive order requiring vaccination for federal employees and contractors who do busi-

ness with the U.S. government.

DeSantis noted that these actions failed to recognize people who have immunity through infection.

“We will be acting in the state of Florida to provide protections for people,” he said. “People should not be cast aside because they make a medical decision for themselves. They should not lose their jobs. They should not be unable to put food on their table just because they made a different decision than the powers that be are demanding that they make.”

On Monday, Sept. 13, media outlets reported that DeSantis warned local governments in the state that they would face a \$5,000 fine per violation if they required employees to get vaccinated.

Remembering 9/11

In his remarks concerning the Sept. 11 anniversary, DeSantis also took the Biden administration to task for the manner in which it vacated Afghanistan, calling it “a total fiasco.”

“As we look to the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we do that with an even heavier heart than we have over the previous anniversaries in light of the service members that were tragically killed in Afghanistan very recently,” he said.

On Aug. 26, suicide bombers and gunmen attacked people outside the airport



Photos by Shaun Ryan

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks to a group assembled at the Palm Valley American Legion Post on Friday, Sept. 10.

in Kabul. Officials reported that 13 U.S. troops and 60 Afghans were killed.

DeSantis asked those gathered at the post to remember the families suffering from these losses.

“I can only imagine the Americans that have been left behind,” he added. “What may be happening, and what may happen over the coming days, weeks and months.”

A veteran of the U.S. Navy who served in Iraq during The Surge, DeSantis thanked members of the U.S. military for their service in the War on Terror and the first responders who put their lives on the line to rescue victims of the 9/11 attacks.

“All the people in uniform who were running into those buildings,” he said,

“climbing up all those stairs, trying to usher people to safety, knowing full well that they would likely never see the great, blue skies again because of what was happening. The chance of them making it out alive was virtually zero at that point, and yet they went in and were able to save hundreds, if not thousands, of people.”

DeSantis praised K9s for Warriors, which helps veterans facing certain hardships as a result of their service, and thanked the families of active military personnel who are also asked to make sacrifices.

Anniversary

Continued from 4

from the World Trade Center site. The man described seeing people jumping to their deaths. He couldn’t see the faces of the women, because their dresses blew across their faces. But the men were another matter.

“Bob,” he said to Aponte, “the men, they stared at me the whole way down.”

Soon, the firefighters in the staging area knew they would be needed – they’d seen Building 7 collapse.

For the next eight hours, Aponte worked with a team to collect all the spare air canisters they could find from every apparatus that wasn’t buried. These canisters would be an improvement over the thin paper masks worn by firefighters working the scene.

Finally, he was able to go home to his wife and children. And there, he cried uncontrollably.

In the ensuing days, he was assigned to work The Pile, searching for survivors.

After then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani announced the end of the rescue mission and declared the site a salvage mission, the fire department faced another challenge: funerals for the 343 firefighters.

Fortunately, fire departments from all over the country had reached out and asked how they could help.

“What they did for us, they came and attended our funerals in their full-dress uniforms,” Aponte said. “The funerals I went to, I saw patches from all over the world: Spain, Portugal, Finland, Switzerland, San Francisco, Oregon – you name it, they were there. Because us New York City firefighters, we just couldn’t do them all.”

When the list of all the deceased firefighters was published, Aponte knew 50 of them.

“I was one of the lucky ones that day,” he said.

This is an abridged version. For the full article, please go to pontevedrarecorder.com.

Remembrance

Continued from 4

going to. It was nerve-racking.”

In October 2001 a memorial was held with an empty casket, because Pansini’s body had not been found.

“They did find his body in April of 2002, and we were able to hold a proper burial and he was laid to rest,” Helewa said.

At the time of Pansini’s death he had three children, and his son has followed in his father’s footsteps of public service as an environmental conservation officer in the state of New York. Helewa’s father and brother are both members of the New York Police Department and he spent time as an EMT.

“The day before, I was walking home from school and it was pouring rain, and

I was about three-quarters of the way home when my uncle pulled up with my aunt,” Helewa said. “She said, ‘Get in,’ and he said, ‘Janice, he’s almost home and he’s soaked, why are you going to make him get in our dry car?’ She said, ‘shut up, Paul. Let him get in the car,’ but that was just his sense of humor. He was the funniest man I’ve ever met in my life.”

Helewa now has children of his own and he wants to make sure that the future generations who weren’t alive to experience 9/11 firsthand always remember the heroic sacrifices and emotions tied to that fateful day.

“Sometimes I hear my kids tell stories about him, and it’s like they were there even though they never met,” Helewa said. “I just want to continue to let their legacies live on.”

“Sometimes I hear my kids tell stories about him, and it’s like they were there, even though they never met...I just want to continue to let their legacies live on.”

After serving as the tournament director for the Web.com Tour Championship from 2016 to 2018, Adam Renfroe is now directing the Inaugural Furyk & Friends PGA TOUR Champions event. The tournament will take place Oct. 8-10 at Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville.

Adam Renfroe

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background?

I am one of three boys in our family and was raised in Perry, Georgia. I went to The University of Georgia (GO DAWGS!) where I met my wife, Jessica. Shortly after college, I was hired by the PGA TOUR, which brought my wife and I to Jacksonville. We have been in Jacksonville six years now and have truly found our home.

What led to you getting involved and becoming director of the Constellation Furyk & Friends tournament?

I was the tournament director for the Web.com Tour Championship from 2016 to 2018 and after nearly 10 years working for the PGA TOUR, I was approached with an opportunity to join Jim and Tabitha Furyk as they launched their very first PGA TOUR Champions event. I, of course, jumped on the opportunity and have been a part of this great team ever since.

What are the goals in the first year of the tournament?

There are certainly many goals we have in mind while trying to execute a great event, but they are all centered on our charitable impact. As many people know, PGA TOUR events benefit charities in the markets they play, and our event is no exception. With the support of our partners, we intend to donate more than \$1 million this year to local charities and will grow our impact year after year.

What do you enjoy most about the work you do?

I absolutely love what I do! What I enjoy the most is that I get to chase my passion, working with a great team, and the net result is impacting so many lives. Whether you are a fan attending the tournament or a recipient of the charitable distributions, our tournament has a positive impact on so many lives. It's a privilege to be a part of a team that works so hard for others.

How has the community support been?

The community support has been overwhelming! Both from our corporate community and our philanthropic community. So many people have contributed to our success so far and with their help, we are poised to have a great year and will build on our success in future years.

What have been some of the challenges faced with starting a new tournament?

The majority of the challenges in starting a new event at Timuquana Country Club are simply the logistics. Very few golf courses are built to host a major professional event, so the first



Photo courtesy of Adam Renfroe

Adam Renfroe is the tournament director of the Constellation Furyk & Friends golf tournament scheduled for Oct. 8-10 at Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville.

question you ask is, where is everyone going to park? Thanks to the support from NAS JAX, Baptist Health, JTA and others, we have solved this challenge and have many arrival options for all of our fans.

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

My wife and I really enjoy the cultural diversity of North Florida and the countless outdoor activities that are available year-round. Whether you want to go to the beaches, Riverside, St. Augustine or Town

Center, each area has a different vibe and plenty of outdoor recreations. The weather, the bountiful supply of golf courses and the different bodies of water have convinced us that North Florida will be our forever-home.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I'm a true golf enthusiast and, when I'm not working in golf, I'm playing it! In addition to golf, my wife and I really enjoy paddle boarding, going to the beach or grabbing a nice dinner with friends.

Brophy awarded STEM Scholarship from Jaguars, Florida Tech

Jack Brophy, who plans to study chemical engineering when he starts at Florida Tech this fall, is the 2021 recipient of the Florida Tech/Jacksonville Jaguars STEM Scholarship.

The \$5,000 award is funded by the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation.

"It's our honor for the Jaguars Foundation to support homegrown talent like Jack as he begins his college career at Florida Tech," said Peter Racine, senior vice president, Jaguars Foundation – Community Impact. "His passion for STEM academics is evident in his high

school accomplishments, and we'll be cheering from the sidelines as he takes this next step in his education. We can't wait to see what innovations he brings back for the benefit of the First Coast community."

Beginning with the 2019 football season, Florida Tech became the official STEM education sponsor of the Jacksonville Jaguars. Among their recent collaborations was a STEM lab that opened recently at Andrew Jackson High School of Advanced Technology in Jacksonville.

The scholarship will help Brophy, a Jacksonville native and recent graduate of Bishop Kenny High School,

pursue his chosen major: chemical engineering.

"I have always been interested in science, and when I took my first chemistry class, I knew I found something I loved," he said. "I chose to major in chemical engineering because I like the fact that chemical engineers get to work with cutting-edge technologies to improve the quality of people's lives in areas such as the environment, energy, health and food production. I hope to eventually have a career that will allow me to better people's lives through chemistry."

OBITUARIES

Constance Ann Foster



Constance Ann Foster

Constance Ann Foster, 74, passed away August 26, 2021. Born in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico to Luis Salazar and Consuelo Aranda, her family eventually settled in Chicago, Illinois. Connie attended school and worked in Chicago where she met and married Seaman Patrick M. Foster. Their union was strong for nearly 50 years.

Connie battled an array of medical conditions for 20 years. Her grace through adversity during this time was admirable. She never surrendered until the end. Connie will always be remembered for her contagious smile that would warm up the room, as anyone who had the chance to meet her would agree. She is survived by her loving husband (Patrick), her son Patrick, granddaughter Milana, brother Carlos, and sisters Mary, Alice, and Judy.

A Memorial Service will be held at the Jacksonville National Cemetery on September 17, 2021 from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Please visit her Tributer online at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
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Samuel Gilbert Brown

Samuel Gilbert Brown

Samuel Gilbert Brown, 67, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 6, 2021.

Sam was born on February 2, 1954, in Jacksonville Beach, Florida to the late Dr. Gilbert L. Brown and

Patricia Ann Brown.

He graduated from Fletcher High School and excelled in basketball and tennis. Sam enjoyed surfing, riding his motorcycles, long walks on the beach and holidays with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Rocke Brown, 64. His memory will forever be treasured by his 2 sisters Janette E. Baysore (Tim Baysore) and CynDee B. Fekula (Patrick Fekula).

He is survived by his nephew, Eric Brown (Lisa; daughter, Jessica); nephew, Keith Showalter (Elena Showalter, children: Phoebe, Willow and River); nephew, Benjamin Fekula (Phyllis Fekula, children: Lyliana, Loralinda, Elliott, Orin, Daniel and Laelia); niece, Genevieve Miranda (Vincent Miranda, child: Reid); nephew, Christopher Baysore (Beverly

Baysore, children: Zachary and Evan); niece, Mindy Gibson (Casey Gibson, child: Christopher).

There will be a private family service at a future date to be determined. Please visit the online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

Katheryne (Susie) Rowe

Katheryne (Susie) Rowe, 79, passed away on September 2, 2021. She was born in Tampa, FL, on August 4, 1942, to Arthur & Margret Ortiz. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Lee Rowe.

Susie grew up in Tavernier in the Florida Keys where she met Lee, the love of her life. They later moved and started their family in Jacksonville Beach and then relocated to Palm Valley which was home for more than forty-five years.

Whether you know her as Katheryne, Susie, Mom, Nana, or friend, you knew her as smart, compassionate, witty, giving, trustworthy, independent, and strong. We will all truly miss her laughter and smile and everything that made her who she was and the many lives she touched over the years.

Susie is survived by her sons, Louis Rowe of Hastings, FL, Michael Rowe (Sarah) Charlotte, NC, Scott Rowe (Brooke) Ponte Vedra Beach, FL; daughter, Kathleen Weeks (Mark) Ponte Vedra Beach, FL; grandchildren, Kimberlee Rowe, Colby Weeks, Casey Weeks, Logan Rowe, Mallory Rowe, Kate Rowe, Ian Rowe, Jordan Rowe, Asher Rowe; great-grandchildren, Kenzlee & Paisley.

Services to be held at Palm Valley Baptist Church, 4890 Palm Valley Road, in Ponte Vedra Beach on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 11 a.m. Services will be live streamed through the church website.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that donations be made to B.E.A.M. Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry, 850 6th Avenue South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250, 904-241-2326

Please sign the online guestbook at www.pontevedravally.com

Janet Bonaventure

Janet Bonaventure, 57, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died Sept. 12, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Glenn A. Bryant

Glenn A. Bryant, 81, of Atlantic Beach, died Sept. 8, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, (904) 249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com.

Barbara Carey

Barbara Carey, 89, of Jacksonville

Obituaries continues on Page 8



Photos by Anthony Richards

The St. Johns County Public Library System's bookmobile hosted an outreach event at the Council on Aging at Flagler Health+ at Nocatee Sept. 14.

More than books County bookmobile hosts outreach in Nocatee

By Anthony Richards

The St. Johns County Public Library System's bookmobile hosted a special outreach event Sept. 14 as part of September being National Library Card Sign-up Month.

The event was free and open to the public and took place at the new Council on Aging offices at Flagler Health+ at Nocatee.

Presentations were given on how to use the library catalog online, access downloadable materials, utilize databases and place requests for physical and downloadable materials, details about in-person and virtual library events for all ages and many more topics.

Anne Crawford, in charge of adult services at the Ponte Vedra Beach branch, gave a tutorial on how to navigate some of the online services available once a person signs up for a library card.

These services include an app called Hoopla where members can select up to seven materials to check out at a time. It allows them to browse a collection of videos, music, eBooks, comics, graphic novels and digital audiobooks.

She explained how to check out books online and talked about the various online databases that can be accessed.

"Part of what we are doing today is letting the community know how we can help them," said Leslie Goode, with the library staff's outreach program. "Hoopla is like our Netflix."

Goode offered an opportunity to tour of the county's bookmobile and ask questions about future stops planned.

According to Goode, the bookmobile spans generations of readers.

"People in their 30s and 40s come on board and talk about how they grew up with the bookmobile and they have that nostalgia," Goode said. "But then you have the young ones that will plop on the floor and just start looking at books. It's great to be able to provide that."

Those in attendance were able to apply for a library card on site during the event, if they did not have one already, and check out any materials found in the bookmobile.

According to the schedule of upcoming stops on the library system's website, popular destinations to find the bookmobile throughout September will be at various Publix locations across the county.

"We're not back to our full schedule at this point, but we're pretty much just doing our larger community stops," Goode said. "We're so grateful that we've got a good relationship with Publix."

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Photos courtesy of the Ponte Vedra High Splashette Dance Team

Of the 23 girls that make up this year's Splashette Dance Team, many attended the camp growing up over the years.

Feeling the rhythm Splashette Camp fosters future dancers

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra High School Splash Dance Team will host its annual Splashette Camp fundraiser for aspiring dancers in kindergarten to eighth grade.

"Hopefully it peaks their interest in the dance world," PVHS dance coach Brandi Ahmad said. "This is our way of showing our gratitude for the continued support the community shows toward the team."

The camp will be a two-day series where participants will learn choreography and technique from Splash Dance Team members from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 18 in the PVHS gymnasium.

Something new from last year that will continue this year is teaching basic dance skills along with the choreographed routine.

Once the choreography is taught, the real fun will begin, as the campers will have the opportunity to perform their routine during halftime of the Sharks' junior varsity football game Sept. 23 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

"The parents are just as excited to watch their kids perform," Ahmad said.

According to Ahmad, not only do the youngsters gain something from the

camp, but she has seen over the years that the high school students enjoy the experience of being a teacher and a role model to others.

"It's a pretty humbling experience for a high school kid," Ahmad said.

A \$75 registration fee is required and will include a Splashette jersey, poms and a hair bow. A \$10 discount will be provided for each additional sibling that joins.

This year's camp is on pace to be the largest ever with 80 participants already having signed up.

"A lot of folks in the county wonder how our program here at the high school is so strong, and this camp is a big reason for that," Ahmad said.

Of the 23 girls currently on the dance squad, many took part in the camp when they were growing up and then continued it once they got to high school.

Campers are asked to bring a packed lunch and water bottle. However, light snacks will be provided. Dancers will wear their Splashette jersey and sneakers on both days.

For more information contact Jen Geric at jhgeric@yahoo.com.

Super Girl Surf Pro contest and festival coming to Jacksonville Beach

A major women's professional surfing competition is coming to Jacksonville Beach.

On Sept. 1, Mayor Chris Hoffman announced that Jacksonville Beach will host the Super Girl Surf Pro in November. This is the first women's professional surfing competition of its caliber to come to Northeast Florida. The event, organized by ASA Entertainment, is in its 15th year in San Diego, California, and is expanding to the East Coast.

The Super Girl Surf Pro is a celebration of female strength and empowerment. It draws women's surf competitors from around the world, including the United States' 2021 Olympic Gold Medalist Carissa Moore.

"The community of Jacksonville Beach is proud to showcase our beautiful coastline as well as welcome visitors from around the country," said Hoffman. "We are excited about the athletes competing and the variety of events planned throughout the weekend that empower girls and women. This event will have a significant economic impact for our area as the expected attendance is 20,000 per day."

Some of the biggest names in women's surfing are expected to compete. The event is a World Surf League Qualifying Series competition that will include a field of recognizable, decorated women surfing competitors from around the world, including several from Jacksonville Beach.

The event kicks-off Nov. 12 with a mentorship program hosted by Moore. Her charitable foundation, Moore Aloha, will host 24 young women from the local community for a mentorship program where girls ages 10-16 spend a day surfing and learning from Moore. For information about the application process, go to www.supergirljax.com/moorealoha.

In addition to world-class surfing, the event features an action-packed Festival Village, headquartered at the Sea Walk Pavilion, with 12 live concerts; family-friendly activities; a military appreciation component; an esports video game competition; an all-female DJ competi-

tion; women's beach soccer and beach volleyball competitions; free classes in fitness, yoga, Zumba, wellness, yoga and Pilates; autographs from the pros; celebrity speakers; several panel discussions promoting female leadership; a beer-and-wine garden and food court.

"When Super Girl was ready to grow and add an East Coast event, we couldn't think of a better location for incredible surfing and a cool, welcoming vibe than Jacksonville Beach," said Rick Bratman, CEO of ASA Entertainment. "The Super Girl Surf Pro has made a long-term commitment to hosting a stellar event that will empower young women, as well as showcase successful women in professional surfing and from many other walks of life."

Each Super Girl event is centered around providing social, athletic, cultural, educational, business and entertainment opportunities for young women in areas where they are traditionally underrepresented.

The Jacksonville Beach Super Girl Surf Pro is supported by founding partners Florida Blue, CSI Companies, Atlantic Self Storage, the U.S. Air Force, Jeep, CELSIUS and the City of Jacksonville's Tourist Development Council.

The surf portion of the event will run daily, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 12-14, at the Jacksonville Beach Pier.

The Festival Village at Sea Walk Pavilion will run from noon to 10 p.m. Nov. 13 and noon to 6 p.m. Nov. 14.

Access to the surfing, concerts, esports, panels, classes, beach volleyball, beach soccer and all elements are free to attend.

The event will be televised on FOX Sports and ROOT Sports / AT&T SportsNet RSN's in January and February. There will also be a two-day live webcast with 16 hours of coverage on several sites, including Twitch, YouTube, World Surf League, Surfline, The Inertia and Facebook.

For further information, go to www.supergirljax.com. To connect via social media, follow @SuperGirlPro on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

Obituaries

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Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

David James Coulter

David James Coulter, 74, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 11, 2021. Ponte

Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

David Elash

David Elash, 75, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Sept. 2, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Cherie Higgins

Cherie Higgins, 60, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 4, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

Michael Augustine Intemann

Michael Augustine Intemann, 57, of Atlantic Beach, died Sept. 12, 2021.

Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, (904) 249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com.

Ryszard Kozyra

Ryszard Kozyra, 87, of St. Augustine, Florida, died Sept. 9, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

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LeadingAge Florida announces Vicar's Landing CEO as board chair

By Anthony Richards

Vicar's Landing CEO Bruce Jones was recently named the board chair of LeadingAge Florida during the association's convention in Orlando Aug. 31 to Sept. 2.

LeadingAge Florida has been the state's leading advocate for high-quality senior living, aging services and care for more than 58 years.

Jones has a deep history with the organization, having served in multiple leadership roles over the years.

He is also on the St. Johns County Council on Aging board of directors and is chair-elect of the Brooks College of Health Dean's Council at the University of North Florida.

Jones is a fellow with the American College of Health Care Administrators and the LeadingAge National Leadership Academy.

"Bruce's influence and leadership in serving older adults extend across Florida and nationwide," LeadingAge Florida President and CEO Steve Bahmer said in a press release. "He has been an engaged, committed leader in our association, and LeadingAge Florida is fortunate to benefit

from his vision for aging services for the next two years."

The organization's board of trustees was also elected during the convention.

The duties of the board are to make sure the LeadingAge Florida mission and objectives are being achieved by the premier senior living organizations across the state.

According to a press release, those organizations have combined to serve more than 80,000 older adults that call Florida home.

The elected board of trustees include:

- Terry Rogers, CEO of Westminster Communities of Florida in Orlando
- Andrew Dujon, president and CEO of Waterman Village in Mount Dora
- Alex Maliwacki, health center administrator at Sunnyside Village in Sarasota
- Angela Rohr, executive director at Freedom Plaza in Sun City Center
- Jennifer Stevens, executive director of Abbey Delray South in Delray Beach

"LeadingAge Florida's position as a highly respected and effective association is in excellent hands due to the hard work and dedication of our board members," Bahmer said.

Palencia Dental founder named director on board



Photo courtesy of Palencia Dental

Palencia Dental.jpg: Dr. Stephanie Kinsey studied with Dr. Ara Nazarian to receive advanced certification in guided full-arch dental implant reconstruction.

Stephanie Kinsey, DDS, and owner and founder of Palencia Dental has been named as the dental director on the board of directors for Wildflower Healthcare, a nonprofit in St. Augustine established in 1995.

Good Samaritan Health Centers Inc., the 501(c)3 parent organization of Wildflower Healthcare, has continuously responded to the changing health care needs of St. Johns County adults and children with no-cost medical and dental services for low-income community members.

According to Kinsey, she and fellow board members help to ensure the organization's mission is met and are active participants who guide the nonprofit in sustainable programs and services through health care governance, fundraising and financial management.

As dental director for the board, Kinsey is responsible for overseeing the organization's planning and direction in

PALENCIA continues on Page 11

Brain Tumor Network receives \$100k grant from Rosen Foundation

By Anthony Richards

The Brain Tumor Network, a national nonprofit organization based in Ponte Vedra Beach, received a \$100,000 grant from the Adam Michael Rosen Foundation.

The Orlando charity's grant will specifically support BTN's social services, which provide personalized nurse and social work navigation for brain tumor patients and their families and caregivers.

The grant was made in honor of Adam Michael Rosen, whom the foundation is named after.

According to a press release, Rosen had a short life due to a brain tumor, but he made

sure to dedicate the time he had to improving the world around him. Rosen's family created the foundation to carry on his legacy.

BTN's offers these services under the mission of providing patients and families with unobstructed access to the care and treatment they need.

The services focus on assisting patients in finding second opinions from highly respected medical institutions, administering psychosocial support and providing up-to-date education about brain tumors and the treatments that exist.

"We are extremely excited and very honored to partner with Adam Michael Rosen Foundation," BTN President Rick Sontag said in a press release. "The Rosens know firsthand the impact

that a brain tumor diagnosis has on a family. Their incredible generosity will help thousands of families receive the support and services they need to get the best care possible."

Every service offered by BTN is free and it does not accept funding from medical institutions or pharmaceutical companies, with the hope of providing unbiased services as a result.

BTN was created in 2011 and since then, more than 1,500 patients, families and caregivers have received free and personalized services.

Go to www.braintumor.org

for more information about BTN and the services it provides or to donate toward the cause.



Brain Tumor Network

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The Brain Tumor Network was founded by Rick and Susan Sontag after Susan was diagnosed with a grade three astrocytoma in 1994.

She survived her battle with cancer, but never forgot the experience and the frustration it had on not just her, but her entire family as they realized how poorly understood brain tumors were by the public and the medical community.

As a result, in 2002 the Sontag Foundation was created with the mission of helping support those fighting brain tumors.

According to the BTN website, the Sontag Foundation has become one of the largest private funders towards brain cancer research, and BTN started in 2014.



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Palencia

Continued from 10

all facets of clinical dentistry, staff training and the practice and patient care.

To further serve the community and dental patients, Kinsey recent completed training, continuing education credits and advanced certification with Dr. Ara Nazarian in Roseville, Michigan in guided full-arch dental implant reconstruction.

Nazarian is renowned for providing a proven step-by-step approach on life-altering treatment options for dental patients using full-arch guided surgery.

The new technology and procedure is available at the local practice with digital diagnostics, onsite surgical and laboratory procedures for professionally engineered full-mouth dental implants.

According to a press release, the latest

dental implants include artificial tooth roots shaped like screws implanted in healthy bone.

Kinsey ensures the health and safety of her patients and staff with a medical team that cleans and disinfects the dental operatories between interactions with patients, and Palencia Dental maintains the highest level of sanitation practices for employees and patients.

Kinsey is an American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine qualified dentist and has been practicing dentistry for more than 20 years.

Her St. Augustine and Northwest St. Johns County dentistry practices are dedicated to restoring and enhancing the natural beauty of one's smile combining conservative and state-of-the-art procedures along with advanced dental medicine and aesthetics.

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Wekiva Springs strives to raise suicide awareness

September is suicide prevention awareness month, and the Wekiva Springs Center in Jacksonville is doing its part to make sure that the public knows help is available.

According to a press release, the Wekiva Springs mission is to change the national narrative surrounding suicide by promoting hope through mental health services that utilize proven evidence-based treatments and support.

“It’s time to stop thinking certain people in our lives are above this epidemic and time to start seeing everyone around us for what they are... humans,” Wekiva Springs CEO Sheila Carr said.

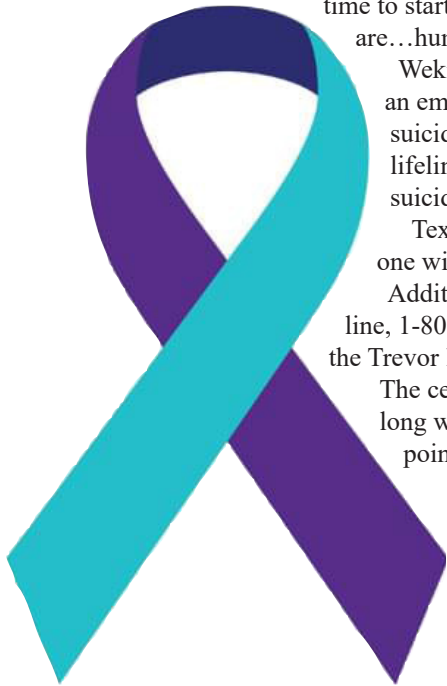
Wekiva Springs encourages anyone going through an emotional crisis and dealing with thoughts of suicide to call the national suicide prevention lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or create a chat at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Texting “HELLO” to 741741 will connect anyone with a crisis counselor on the crisis text line.

Additional resources include the veterans crisis line, 1-800-273-8255, for U.S. military veterans; and the Trevor lifeline, 1-866-488-7386, for LGBTQ youth.

The center believes simple conversations can go a long way in helping people from ever getting to the point where they want to take their own life.

“We all need to join together to educate ourselves,” Carr said. “Take the suicide prevention fight beyond September and into our everyday lives.”



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Cypress Village shares a slice with Fire Station 59

The past year has been a difficult one for everyone, but no one has been more affected by the stress from the COVID-19 pandemic than first responders and health care workers.

In a show of solidarity between essential personnel, Cypress Village shared a slice of their custom-made pizzas from the Loon's Nest Bar & Grill with the firefighters at their local fire station. The community is located less than two miles away from the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, as well as Jacksonville Fire Station 59.

Cypress Village's new assisted living and memory care sales manager, Jennifer Rapp, wanted to reach out to the local team at Station 59 and thank them for all they do for the community, and how they work tirelessly to keep the neighborhood safe. She stopped by the station with homemade Cypress Cookies (a secret recipe of the community and a resident favorite) and met the team, before deciding to bring homemade pizzas the next week for the whole crew.

Cypress Village has a state-of-the-art kitchen as a part of their Loon's Nest Bar & Grill, and was recently renovated to include a pizza oven, so it was the perfect thing to share with the crew at Station 59.

The Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department serves about 950,000 residents in an area covering 840 square miles. The department employs approximately 1,600 personnel, and Fire Station 59 is one of 73 locations in the Jacksonville area.

The team serves both the Mayo Clinic and Cypress Village area, making them an essential part of the health care and first responders' effort in the area.

When asked why she felt driven to bring by the pizzas unprompted, Rapp said, "It feels right to support the team that works so hard in our backyard, and they are always available at the shortest notice" and the whole team at Cypress Village wanted to express their appreciation for what the crew at Station 59 does on a daily basis.

Cypress Village is a continuing care retirement care community in Jacksonville that offers residents an outstanding standard of living with all the services, amenities and multiple levels of care. Located adjacent to the Mayo Clinic, Cypress Village and its homes and apartments are on a 120-acre campus.

For further information, call (904) 223-6100.



Photos provided by Cypress Village

The crew at Firestation 59.



LEFT: Jennifer Rapp with Cypress Village Loon's Nest Pizzas, ready to make deliveries to local first responders. ABOVE: The Loon's Nest Bar and Grill at Cypress Village

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Pulte opens two model homes at The Trails at Grand Oaks

PulteGroup has announced that two new model homes are open, and sales are under way at The Trails at Grand Oaks, a new master-planned community located west of the St. Augustine Premium Outlets less than 2½ miles from Interstate 95.

“The Trails at Grand Oaks present the opportunity for our customers to purchase a new home in an appealing location at an incredible value,” said Tony Nason, division president of PulteGroup’s Northeast Florida Division. “In addition to easy access to shopping and business centers, homeowners at The Trails at Grand Oaks will enjoy consumer-inspired, single-family home designs and family-friendly amenities at a price that suits their budget.”

Pulte Homes is offering six open-concept

home designs with craftsman, coastal and traditional exteriors at The Trails at Grand Oaks.

Homebuyers may choose from both water and preserve homesites and personalize their homes at Pulte’s design studio. Single-family homes at The Trails at Grand Oaks by Pulte Homes are priced from the mid-\$300,000s. The Trails at Grand Oaks is a natural gas community.

Amenities include a resort-style pool, fitness center, sports courts and more. Retail, dining, grocery and medical facilities are all within four miles of the community.

The Trails at Grand Oaks is located at 23 Myrtle Oak Court, St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 644-1920 or go to www.pulte.com.



The Trails at Grand Oaks Phase II site map

Local metals distribution company makes ‘Inc. 5000 List’ for third year in a row



For the third year in a row, Vested Metals International, a St. Augustine-based company focused on raw material specialty metals and steel distribution, value-add processing and metallurgical consulting, has been named one of the

fastest-growing privately held companies in America.

Spearheaded by president and founder Viv Helwig, Vested Metals is currently listed at 1,361 on the 2021 Inc. 5000 list, the nation’s most prestigious ranking for

independent businesses.

“We have had a 350 percent three-year growth rate since we were added to Inc. 5000’s list of fastest growing businesses,” said Helwig. “We also went from No. 58 in 2000 to No. 35 in 2021 for the State of

Florida. This is a testament to our hard-working team, many of whom are Flagler College graduates, as well as the growth in the industries we serve: medical, aerospace, defense and industrial markets.”

Helwig, himself, was named as a finalist of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2021 Florida award.

“Building one of the fastest-growing companies in America is not a straightforward journey, and reaching that goal during a global pandemic demonstrates that,” said Isabelle Renault, president & CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. “Viv’s agile leadership, clear vision and talented team led Vested Metals to reach that remarkable milestone. As a graduate of St. Augustine’s own Flagler College, Viv has opened a clear path for homegrown entrepreneurial talent to follow his lead.”

Founded in 2014, Vested Metals International procures hard-to-find metals like titanium, cobalt alloys, copper, brass and bronze used to manufacture everything from the fan blades of Rolls-Royce airplane engines to implant prosthesis used in spinal fusion surgery.

The company has also expanded its specialty stainless steel bar offerings and added titanium plate to its portfolio as well as machinery such as a waterjet machine and a fully-automated production saw in its recently expanded facility.

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Photo provided by Winn-Dixie

WDs Taproom gives customers an opportunity to “sip and shop.”

Winn-Dixie remodels, adds taproom and enhancements

By Shaun Ryan

Winn-Dixie unveiled its newly remodeled Ponte Veda store and WDs Taproom during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 8. It was followed on Friday, Sept. 10, and Sunday, Sept. 12, by community celebrations with entertainment and giveaways.

The concept of the store’s remodeling is to provide an enhanced shopping experience. A big part of that is the addition of WDs Taproom, which offers customers a variety of beer and wines to sip as they shop.

“You have the ability to come in and have a beer or have a wine and walk the store and sip and shop and enjoy yourself,” said Winn-Dixie Regional Vice President Shawn Sloan, “basically slow down a little bit and kind of enjoy the shopping

experience.”

He said customer shopping trends are changing. “They’re looking for newer and unique environments,” he said.

So far, eight Winn-Dixie stores have added taprooms.

A few of the store’s enhancements include: an updated farm-fresh produce department, an expanded deli with café-style seating, an expanded full-service seafood department, an expanded selection of international wines, a new sand-and-surf section and an in-store pharmacy. Several other areas have been upgraded, as well.



TAPROOM continues on Page 19



Photo by Susan Griffin

A customer orders from the selection at WDS Taproom, a new addition to the Winn-Dixie store in Ponte Vedra Beach.



Customers have told Winn-Dixie that wines are very important to this community, so the store has added an expanded selection of international wines.

The Winn-Dixie open house included entertainment and giveaways for customers as they took in the store's new look and expanded offerings.



Taproom

Continued from 18

“Making sure the deli, the bakery, the produce, the meat department and even the new seafood open-air case really bring freshness to life in the store was a big deal,” Sloan said.

Ideas for these enhancements came from customers themselves.

“They told us, obviously, in this area that wines are very important to this community, organics are important to this community and service and variety are very important to this area,” Sloan said.

To mark the occasion, the store presented a \$1,000 donation to PVPV Rawlings Elementary School to support the teachers, staff and school programs.

The Ponte Vedra Winn-Dixie store is located at 290 Solana Road.

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Sing Out Loud Festival continues this week

By Shaun Ryan

The Sing Out Loud Festival offers the community more free entertainment as the event goes into its second week.

St. Johns County will host several days of music and more at a variety of venues through Sept. 26. Many of the concerts and other events are free to attend. The festival began on Sept. 10.

Sing Out Loud is a major attraction that draws music lovers from around Florida and the Southeast.

For its fifth year, the festival lineup includes heavy hitters The Disco Biscuits and Parquet Courts at The Amp. Local venues are featuring resident musicians.

Two events will be of special interest to Ponte Vedra audiences.

On Saturday, Sept. 18, Flagler Health+ Village Pavilion at Nocatee will host Yael & Gabriel, who will perform “Gypsy Kings and Flamenco.” Yael (vocalist, musician and composer) and Gabriel (guitar, bass player, composer and arranger) have developed original arrangements for two acoustic Spanish guitars and vocals in seven languages. Their arrangements are influenced by Flamenco and Gypsy jazz rhythms.

Then, on Thursday, Sept. 23, the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host music business and singer songwriter panels.

Musicians, industry professionals and members of the public will have an

opportunity to engage in these talks focused on the music industry. The idea is to bring together local music stakeholders with national music industry professionals for an exchange in knowledge and networking. The event is curated and presented by the St. Augustine Songwriters Festival.

The business panel will be held 5-6:30 p.m., and the singer/songwriter panel will be held 7-8:30 p.m. Songwriters will perform beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Sept. 17

Gamble Rogers Festival Showcase: 5:30-10 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Live music from The Skinny, Michael Jordan and The Morrow Family Band. Free

The Disco Biscuits: 6:30 p.m., The St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Tickets: \$39.50-\$69.50.

Café Eleven Comedy Showcase: 7-10:15 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Café Eleven. Featuring Chris Buck, Christina Schriver, Will Blaylock and Marcus Crespo. Free

Dog Rose Showcase: 7-11 p.m., Dog Rose Brewing Co. Live music from DL is OK, Salt and Pine, Claire Vandiver and Brandon Lucas. Free

Puddled Booking Showcase: 7-11:59 p.m., Shanghai Nobby's. Featuring Puddled, Farseek, Glazed and AC Deathstrike. Free

Ben Sollee: 8-11 p.m., St. Augustine Distillery. Free
LAPÉCHE: 8-11:45 p.m., Planet Sarbez! With special guests Reels, Bobby Kidd and Uncle Marty. Free

Sept. 18

Gamble Rogers Festival Showcase: 3-10 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Featuring Aslyn & The Naysayers, Jamie Defrates, Madi Carr, Grant Peebles, Katherine Archer and Bad Dog Mama. Free

Yael & Gabriel: 5:30-8 p.m., Flagler Health+ Village Pavilion at Nocatee. Free

Parquet Courts: 6:30 p.m., The St. Augustine Amphitheatre. With special guests Dehd and flipturn. Tickets \$20-\$25

Bakery Outlet Records Showcase: 6:30-10 p.m., Outside at Shanghai Nobby's. Telepathic Lines, Burl, Evening Standards and Woodpecker Paradise. Free

Scrapple Showcase: 8-11:45 p.m., Planet Sarbez! Featuring Zeta, Chew, The Holy Ghost Tabernacle Choir and Lethe. Free

Sept. 19

Cedric Burnside: 2:30-10 p.m. Colonial Oak Music Park. With special guests Danger Bird, Strayin' Anchors, Sugar Beats and ZF Lively. Free

Sept. 23

Music Business and Singer Songwriter Panel: 5-10:30 p.m., Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Free

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Tennis tournament to raise funds for cancer research

By Shaun Ryan

The largest charity tennis event in the greater Jacksonville area is back.

SenioRITAs at Sawgrass Women's Tennis Tournament returns in October after a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the RITA Foundation – of which SenioRITAs is a part – chose not to actively seek donations. Still, friends, family and corporations helped to raise \$208,104.

“Our sponsors contributed anyway,” said Beverly Roman, a member of the tournament committee. “And we had a wine raffle, which made \$5,000.”

Donations allow the foundation to contribute toward Mayo Clinic cancer research, Baptist Medical Center patient programs and “The Buddy Bus,” a mobile mammogram unit for the underserved.

This year, the foundation has added a grant for the DigniCap system, which helps prevent hair loss during chemotherapy.

RITA stands for Research Is The Answer. It is a Jacksonville-based volunteer nonprofit organization, and its mission is to raise awareness and money to help in the fight against all cancers, with emphasis on breast cancer.

The tournament is a three-day event and will be held Oct. 15-17 at the Sawgrass Racquet Club, 9175 Preston Trail East, Ponte Vedra Beach. Its popularity is manifest as nearly 300 women typically participate.

“They come from not just Jacksonville,” said Roman. “They come from Georgia, Tennessee and other states. We’ve had quite a following.”

The women's doubles tournament is played in divisions by age and level of play. The age groups are 40-54 and 55-plus.

A signature feature of the tournament is the array of pink flags along the tennis walkway, each of which represents a loved one who has been hit by cancer and includes a personal message to that person. This year marks the tournament's 22nd anniversary.

A kickoff party is planned for 5:30 p.m. Oct. 5 at Pusser's Bar & Grille, 816 State Road A1A North.

This will be followed by a live and silent auction dinner party from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 11 at the new Sawgrass Country Club Golf Clubhouse with a “SenioRITAs in Wonderland” theme.

“There will be seating for everyone,

which we haven't had in the past,” said Roman. “It should be a really nice event.”

There will be a tennis exhibition from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 15 at the Sawgrass Racquet Club.

Each year in the United States, 222,000 women and men are diagnosed with breast cancer, and 45,000 die from it. To date, the RITA Foundation has raised more than \$5.7 million for local cancer research and patient care. Of that, the tournament – one of three RITA fundraising events – has raised more than \$2 million.

“It's all donated,” said Roman. “Nobody takes a penny. Everybody on the committee is very committed to help eradicate this awful disease.”

To register for the tournament, buy tickets or learn more, go to www.the-rita-foundation.org/senioritas.

Week 4 Football Preview

Nease, Ponte Vedra resume district play

By Anthony Richards

Nease football is flying high following a 49-6 route of Orange Park last week, but now they must quickly shift the focus as they re-enter district play at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 17 on the road against Atlantic Coast.

There is not much to critique about the Panthers' (2-1, 1-0) performance against the Raiders, as they played about as flawless as a high school team can play.

The Stingrays (2-1, 0-0) are coming off a dominant win of their own, 39-21 over Sandalwood, and have showed signs of being a very dangerous team with a 27-24 win against Mandarin to open the season.

However, sandwiched between the wins is a 40-7 loss to Riverside. The Stingrays have shown a tendency to surrender points defensively, having allowed an average of 29.3 points per game through the first three weeks.

Meanwhile, the Panthers have shown an ability to frustrate opposing offenses and have surrendered an average of 16.6 points per game.

Because of this, the Panthers have

the defensive edge going in, but do not be surprised if it turns out to be a high-scoring affair.

The Stingrays offense revolves around senior running back Arthur Walker, who ran for 196 yards and 268 yards in the wins over Mandarin and Sandalwood, respectively.

The key to the Panthers' success in the game is slowing down Walker and putting the pressure on sophomore quarterback Baylor Hayes and the passing game to win the game for the Stingrays.

Striking first and establishing an early lead is also a recipe for success for the Panthers, as it may force the Stingrays to get out of their comfort zone and away from pounding the ball on the ground.

Ponte Vedra also goes on the road to face district opponent First Coast at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 17, as they make the trip up to the northside of Jacksonville.

It has been an up-and-down season for the Sharks (1-2, 0-1) offense, which has had both a highly productive outing and ones where it is a battle to pick up first downs and maintain

possession.

The consistent presence every week for the Sharks is its defense, which has been reliable, but has been put in tough spots at times having to deal with short fields following turnovers.

They have demonstrated a knack for creating turnovers of their own, especially in the secondary, which has six interceptions on the young season, three by junior Nathan Bunkosky.

Buccaneers (0-3, 0-0) senior Larry Edwards is a dual-threat quarterback that can make plays with his arm and his legs.

Edwards has thrown for 497 yards and four touchdowns with no interceptions, something the Sharks will be hungry to change. He also leads the team with 84 rushing yards on 12 carries.

Edwards' favorite target is shifty wideout and fellow senior Van Adams Jr., who has hauled in 297 yards and three touchdowns on 12 catches.

Despite the rapport between Edwards and Adams Jr., the Buccaneers have only scored a combined seven points in their last two games.



Photo courtesy of Sheri McGough

Dom Henry and Da'Von Patterson (No. 14) will go up against an Atlantic Coast defense that is allowing 29.3 points per game.

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ACROSS

- Ridden or pushed around yard
- Chlorofluorocarbon
- Spiral-horned antelope
- Make a canyon, e.g.
- Much of this about nothing?
- Forest destroyers
- Basic belief
- Popular pickup
- Lake scum
- *Popular email service eventually bought by Microsoft
- *CD "maker"
- FEMA's assistance
- Musician's time to shine
- Stephen King's Christine, e.g.
- Plural of locus
- Mongolian monetary unit
- Wraths
- Jar covers
- Like yellow polka dot bikini?
- Desert in China and Mongolia
- Knight's mount
- Cogito ____ sum
- Change the Constitution, e.g.
- Ready and eager
- Table mineral
- *Jennifer Aniston-inspired haircut, with "the"
- Bank on
- Modern prefix
- Beacon light
- Oolong, e.g.
- * ____ Sese Seko, overthrown Zairian dictator
- *African National Congress leader released from prison
- Like a candle?
- *1997's "Fly" by Sugar ____
- Lowest point
- Smart ____
- Marching insect
- Opposite of digest
- *Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan's domain
- Employer Assisted Housing, acr.
- Fender bender consequences

DOWN

- Crystalline hydrochloride, colloquially
- Nabisco top best-seller
- Refuses to
- Bodily swelling
- Not wholesale
- Lewis of sprinting and long jumping fame
- Vaccine-approving agency, acr.
- Burger, fries and soda
- Brick-drying oven
- It's hard to resist
- Precedes Abby drugs
- Consume, as in
- Slang for radical or cool, 2 words
- America's singer choices
- Last, abbr.
- Weapon in a holster
- Fidel Castro's smoke
- Pleasant odor
- Renaissance instrument resembling a violin
- *TV hit "Sex and the ____"
- "Bee ____"
- What many TV hits have done
- Fireplace
- * ____ Protocol, climate change-related international treaty
- Hyperbolic sine
- Withered
- COVID-19 variant
- Expose the falsehood
- " ____ the Games Begin!"
- Pined
- Sign of a saint, pl.
- "Bad news travels fast," e.g.
- Algeria's neighbor
- Plow-pulling duo
- *"Where It's At" singer
- Urban story
- Adam and Eve's garden
- *Oscar winner "Schindler's ____"
- A in BA
- *Gulf ____ or Bosnian ____
- American Nurses Association

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