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PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

September 23, 2021
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PonteVedraRecorder.com

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

K9s For Warriors Receive \$10K from The Boeing Company



Ponte Vedra-based nonprofit K9s For Warriors received a check donation for \$10,000 from The Boeing Company Thursday, Sept. 16. It is the start of what the two organizations hope to be a lasting partnership moving forward.

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One of the largest injury judgments in Florida's history: \$225 million.

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

FIRST COAST NON-PROFITS AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

ON A MISSION

Recorder

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Football Preview INSIDE



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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. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



Visit our new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

Plus, 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

I'm a 6 year old male shepherd mix. My previous family could no longer care for me so now I'm at the pet center looking for a new family to love. I'm house and crate trained and love to be around children. I am not fond of cats, so

my new family needs to be dog people, but isn't everyone? If you are interested in meeting me please contact the pet center to schedule an appointment for a meet and greet.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center 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 Rd., off US 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

Estuary Fest 2021 is Saturday

The Friends of the GTM Reserve invites the public to celebrate National Estuaries Week with Estuary Fest 2021 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, at the GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center located at 505 Guana River Road, off State Road A1A in Ponte Vedra Beach.

"National Estuaries Week is a nationwide celebration of our bays and estuaries and the many benefits they provide to local communities," said Ellen Leroy-Reed, executive director of Friends of the GTM Reserve. "The goal is to increase public awareness of estuaries and to encourage people to become involved in the protection of these important natural resources."

Estuary Fest will include fun-filled events for people of all ages. There will be arts and crafts, food trucks and live music. The first 50 families may participate in a scavenger hunt and receive a bag of goodies. Attendees should bring some cash for the food trucks, raffles and special activities. The event and parking are free. For more information, contact the Friends of the GTM Reserve at gtm_friends@gtmnerr.org, call 904-823-4527, or go to gtmnerr.org/support/estuary-fest-2021.

friends@gtmnerr.org, call 904-823-4527, or go to gtmnerr.org/support/estuary-fest-2021.

Local project benefits from Wells Fargo, Florida Education Foundations grant

Wells Fargo and Consortium of Florida Education Foundations recently announced a \$100,000 grant in support of the consortium's "Investing in Florida's Future: Financial Health and Sustainability" initiative. The consortium received \$100,000 from the Wells Fargo Foundation, \$95,000 to be distributed through sub-grants, which will help local education foundations fund a range of financial literacy and environmental sustainability projects at 18 public school districts throughout the state during the 2021-22 academic year.

Locally, Investing In Kids received a grant for its "Wacky Watershed Conservation along the St. Johns River" project.

Briefs continues on Page 3

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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North Beach 4x4 permit driving program reinstated

The North Beach 4x4 permit driving program will be reinstated beginning Monday, Sept. 27, after being temporarily suspended during the renourishment project in the Vilano Beach area.

This program grants permitted vehicles beach access between Surfside Park and the Usina access ramp.

North Beach drivers must obtain a permit by completing protected species training, have a current annual pass affixed to the passenger side of windshield and ensure their vehicle is 4x4 or all-wheel drive (no ATVs or motorcycles).

For further information on the program and requirements, go to <http://www.sjcf.us/HCP/Driving.aspx> or call 904-209-0619.



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Briefs

Continued from 2

Partial closures at St. Augustine parking garage expected during project

A construction rehabilitation project is under way at St. Augustine's downtown parking garage. It is expected to continue through the next couple of weeks. During this time, only the first and second floors will be available for use on weekday mornings. On Friday mornings and throughout the weekend, the upper portion of the garage will be open for use. For further information, call 904-484-5160.

Boat ramps to remain accessible to public during derelict vessel removal

Beginning Monday, Sept. 27, the City of St. Augustine will be removing several derelict vessels from the Intracoastal Wa-

terway. The contractor will be using St. Johns County's Doug Crane Boat Ramp and Lighthouse Boat Ramp; however, the boat ramps will remain open and accessible to the public.

Boaters are asked to use caution in this area during this time.

For more information, call Denise Radvich, grant administration coordinator at 904-209-4302.

Chair appointed for Statewide Task Force on Holocaust Education

Florida Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran announced Friday, Sept. 17, the appointment of Michael A. Igel as the new chairman of the commissioner's Task Force on Holocaust Education. Igel will advise the commissioner on key issues pertaining to Holocaust education.

Igel has served on the board of the Florida Holocaust Museum for the past

seven years and as board chair since 2018. He frequently speaks in schools about his personal experience as the grandson of Holocaust survivors and on the importance of telling the stories of the Holocaust.

Florida Statutes require that schools teach the history of the Holocaust and in a manner that leads to an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism and stereotyping.

In May 2019, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a law that prohibits discrimination in Florida's public education system based on religion, and specifically targets antisemitism.

On July 14, 2021, the State Board of

Education approved new Holocaust Education standards. The standards will be fully implemented in the 2023-24 school year.

Rutherford, Lawson reintroduce POW/MIA memorial bill

On Friday, Sept. 17, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, U.S. reps. John Rutherford (R-04) and Al Lawson (D-05) reintroduced the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum Act of 2021. This legislation would designate the POW/MIA Memorial and Museum at Cecil Field as the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum to honor all former prisoners of war and those still missing in action.



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ELIZABETH HUDGINS

Forson gives overview of St. Johns County Schools during Chamber event

Superintendent describes how district meets challenges

By Shaun Ryan

In many ways, it is a new era for Florida schools – and nowhere is it more apparent than in St. Johns County, where district officials are working to address challenges in the aftermath of COVID-19, security following the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and elimination of the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA).

Tim Forson, superintendent of St. Johns County Schools, spoke about these and other issues Sept. 15 during the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Veda Beach Division's Chamber at Noon event. The luncheon and presentation were held at the link, a new facility in Nocatee.

The coronavirus pandemic may have had more impact on the schools than any other issue in the last couple of years. It has affected the district's ability to find qualified applicants for jobs, acquisi-

tion of supplies needed to construct new schools and classroom attendance.

"Last year, we never had more than 200 students (test) positive at any given time," Forson said. But on a single day in the first week of this month, 846 students tested positive.

That resulted in a lot of absences – not only those who had contracted COVID, but also anyone who needed to be quarantined due to proximity. However, the district has found that the need for such quarantining is reduced from 2020. In part this is due to older students receiving the vaccine, but also due to a shortening of the necessary quarantine period and a reduction of social distancing and quarantine period requirements.

Pine Island Academy, the new K-8 school in Nocatee, experienced a shortage of flooring materials due to COVID-impacted supply-line disruptions. As a result, incoming students and staff found some floors to be exposed concrete.

It has also been difficult to fill many positions, as there are more jobs than available workers.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

St. Johns County Schools Superintendent Tim Forson addresses members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Veda Beach Division.

This has impacted the transportation and food services departments, as well as instruction.

At the same time, enrollment is up 8% over last year. Currently, it stands at 43,293.

Forson said enrollment rose this academic year equal to the student population of two entire schools.

Because the district has only one school planned to open next year, rising enrollment continues to be a concern.

Forson expressed optimism at the announcement on Sept. 14 by Gov. Ron DeSantis that Florida would be replacing the FSA with progress monitoring.

"We want the students to perform well," Forson said, "but I think we lost instructional time faced with the depth and

the magnitude of some of the standardized tests."

Still, he expressed some concern for accountability in education.

"When we lose something that everybody sees as a measuring tool, we just have to be prepared to replace it with something else that gives us confidence with what we're doing, that we're doing the right thing," he said.

St. Johns County students have performed well on the assessments. In 2019, the last year they were administered, district students finished first in the state for reading in grades three through 10, science in grades five and eight, math in grades six through eight and in end-of-course exams in algebra I, biology, civics, geometry and U.S. history.



St. Johns County Schools Superintendent Tim Forson speaks about the school district at the link in Nocatee during a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Veda Beach Division event.

St. Johns County school tax rate lower than last year

By Shaun Ryan

School district taxes are going down in 2022 for St. Johns County homeowners.

On Sept. 14, the School Board unanimously voted to adopt a rate of \$5.81 per \$1,000 of a property's assessed taxable value, a 14-cent reduction from last year when the rate was \$5.95.

The board also unanimously voted to adopt the budget for fiscal year 2021-22. The total budget is \$1,013,657,451. Of that, the general operating fund is \$443,185,221.

The approved rate is the lowest in more than a decade, made possible in part due to the increase in property values. Countywide, the assessed property value stands at \$37,077,961,902, an 8.68% increase over last year's figure of \$34,114,092,651.

Of each \$5.81, the district keeps 75 cents for discretionary funding and \$1.50 for capital projects. The rest, called the required local effort, is turned over to the state for redistribution. This ensures that poorer districts receive equitable funding.

Due to rising property values, actual

dollars collected will increase next year – even though the tax rate will be reduced. The 2021-22 rate is expected to bring in \$215,497,115. Last year's rate brought in \$203,089,368.

Had the board been able to reduce the rate further to match the rolled-back rate, it would have generated the same amount of money as last year. The current rolled-back rate is \$5.69 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

The rolled-back rate is the tax rate that would generate the same amount of revenue as the previous year should it be

applied to the district's current property value. However, the state determines the required local effort, which the board cannot change.

Under the approved rate, the owner of a \$400,000 home with a \$25,000 homestead exemption would pay \$2,179.50 in school taxes next year. This is a reduction of about 2% from what the same property owner paid last year.

The budget includes a 6% increase in capital outlay funds for motor vehicles. The district intends to purchase 41 new school buses this year.

Commission chairman speaks to Beaches Coalition

County growth, clear cutting among talking points

By Anthony Richards

St. Johns County Commission Chairman Jeremiah Ray Blocker answered questions by the public as the guest speaker at the Beaches Coalition Sept. 20 meeting.

According to Blocker, the county population has grown 44% over the past 10 years, which is second in the state behind only Osceola County.

“Those people came here because they wanted the best schools and best way of life,” Blocker said. “The pandemic accelerated residential growth, because everyone is wanting to move here.”

However, with growth also comes challenges, especially when it comes to infrastructure and public safety.

“When you add 100,000 people, you’re going to have some problems and you have to have the law enforcement in place to handle that,” Blocker said.

Blocker stated that he believed recently elected sheriff has been doing a great job, and he believes Hardwick should be given the substantial increase to the Sheriff department’s budget he is asking for.

“We don’t want to be an overgrown community,” Blocker said. “We can’t stop them from moving here, but we can be

organized and ready for what’s coming.”

One question asked was whether there could be a moratorium placed on county growth.

“Legally, it’s very difficult to do that,” Blocker said. “We can address it in a different way by scrutinizing developments that are not right for St. Johns County.”

Blocker responded to a question about JEA and their provided service areas in St. Johns County by informing the crowd that the county’s franchise agreement with JEA is up for review in 2024.

He also thinks it could be worth looking into implementing a new form of government structure in the county moving forward.

Currently, the county has five commissioners that rotate an elected chairman.

“The issue is that one or two commissioners can derail a whole project,” Blocker said.

According to Blocker, Orange County and Volusia County each have a county mayor in place that can help outline the future vision of those counties.

An example he gave against the current structure is the fact that it took years before a bed tax was passed.

“We missed a lot of revenue when The



Photos by Anthony Richards

Left: St. Johns County Commission Chairman Jeremiah Ray Blocker was a guest speaker at the Beaches Coalition Sept. 20 meeting. Right: County transportation development manager Phong Nguyen updated those in attendance about road and intersection projects coming up.

Players rolled through for years,” Blocker said. “I don’t agree with every decision made on the board, but that’s just government.”

County transportation development manager Phong Nguyen gave an update to the Coalition about the plan to relieve the congestion at the “choke points” at Marsh

Landing and Mickler’s Landing along A1A.

The Marsh Landing project will be about \$1.5 million and the Mickler Landing project is about \$3.1 million.

“We have sufficient dollars and a design concept to make that happen,” Nguyen said.

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Angie Clark is co-director of HUGS St. Johns along with her friend Rachel Erickson. She has been in that role with the nonprofit organization for a couple of months now, and she looks forward to the future and carrying on the legacy established by founder Brette Reiman.

Angie Clark

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I am originally from American Fork, Utah, and my family moved here after my husband was offered a job as a professor in Jacksonville. We absolutely love living here in Florida and hope to never leave.

I have always enjoyed working with children and after my own two kids were old enough to be in school, I became a substitute teacher for the St. Johns County School District.

I love getting involved in the community and previously helped lead the service group Helping Hands of St. Johns County.

How did you get involved with Hugs Across the County and how long have you been a part of it?

I heard about HUGS from my friend, Rachel Erickson, who had volunteered in their clothing warehouse several times last year.

She knew they were looking for a new director as Brette, the founder and director, was in a new stage of life and hoping to retire.

Rachel and I have been friends for several years and supported each other in different community service activities, so when she asked me if I would like to co-direct the organization with her, I was happy to accept.

Rachel and I have been co-directors of HUGS now for about two months and learning about this organization and all the good they have done, and continue to do, has only strengthened my excitement to be a part of it.

“Rachel and I have been friends for several years and supported each other in different community service activities, so when she asked me if I would like to co-direct the organization with her, I was happy to accept.”

What do you enjoy most about it?

Volunteering with the best people and making a difference in the lives of children.

We are an all-volunteer team and the time and effort that our program coordinators put into making sure that children in St. Johns County have the necessities they need is incredible.

I love spending time with the volunteers at our warehouse as they help us pack bags of clothing for children. I love people who love helping others.

What are the primary goals of the organization?

Hugs Across the County was created to help provide necessities for children in need in St. Johns County.

School counselors, social workers and other organizations send us referrals and we provide clothing, shoes, food, books and other items.

We also have a Girls Empowerment Program at Murray Middle School that pairs lunch with lessons and



Photo courtesy of Angie Clark

Angie Clark One of Us.jpg: Angie Clark is co-director at HUGS St. Johns, formerly Hugs Across the County, along with her friend Rachel Erickson.

covers topics such as positivity, cooperation and good communication skills.

We have recently changed the name of the organization from Hugs Across the County to HUGS St. Johns to better represent our area focus.

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

I appreciate that there are so many things to do here. Some of my favorites include kayaking at Silver

Springs State Park, visiting the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, Dark of the Moon tour at the St. Augustine Lighthouse, shopping at the Riverside Arts Market and time at the beach with my family. (Our favorite is River to the Sea Preserve.)

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to read and host an online book club, cook new recipes, spend time with girlfriends and go on adventures with my husband and two kids.

Ocean Palms Elementary School Embraces the New School Year

The new school year is in full swing, and Ocean Palms Elementary School has embraced it with a back-to-school staff appreciation breakfast and lunch, a “Meet the Teacher event” and a “Tea and Tissues” gathering.

Teachers and staff were welcomed back to school on Aug. 9 with a buffet breakfast of muffins, donuts, scones, fruit, bagels and yogurt, followed by lunch from Zoës Kitchen. Additionally, their welcome back included stepping back in time, with an ’80s-themed first day. In fact, they were “walking on sunshine.”

Next, students and families embarked on the back-to-school season with the “Meet the Teacher” event on Aug. 13.

Students and families could meet their new teachers in their classrooms throughout the morning, as well as shop at the school’s Scholastic book fair, purchase apparel and learn about the school at this kick-off event.

Finally, Aug. 20 marked the school’s “Tea and Tissues” gathering for kindergarten parents.

Here, parents could mingle with other kindergarten parents, the PTO and the principal and assistant principal, while munching on bagels and sipping coffee. It was a back-to-school series of events for all, because, as staff and students at Ocean Palms Elementary say, “Every day, everyone, everything matters!”



Photos provided by Ocean Palms Elementary Teachers and staff enjoy a buffet breakfast at their ’80s-themed return-to-school celebration at Ocean Palms Elementary on Aug. 9.



Kindergarten parents mingle at Ocean Palms Elementary’s ‘Tea and Tissues’ event on Aug. 20.



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FARMER'S MARKET

Pirate Invasion

The Fernandina Pirates Club invaded the Nocatee Farmers Market on Saturday, Sept. 18, but no one was intimidated. Instead, the kids in attendance had a great time. In fact, the pirates taught three special, interactive "pirate schools" for the children. The club brought along its "pirate ship," the Miss Amelia's Pearl II. In addition to the pirate invasion, the Farmers Market at Nocatee Station Field offered shopping from more than 60 local vendors. Herbs, spices, foods, crafts and more were on sale. Also, Blue Water Bar was open for beer and wine purchases. The event sponsor was Barnhorst Eye & Laser Center.



Photos by Susan Griffin

OBITUARIES

Wayne Melvin Cohen

Wayne Melvin Cohen, 76, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 15, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, (904) 249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com.

Viola DiGiambattista

Viola DiGiambattista, 91, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 15, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Thomas W. Heal

Thomas W. Heal, 77, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 13, 2021. Arrange-

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

Mary A. Linger

Mary A. Linger, 67, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died Sept. 18, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904)249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

William "Jack" Mathis III

William "Jack" Mathis III, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 13, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

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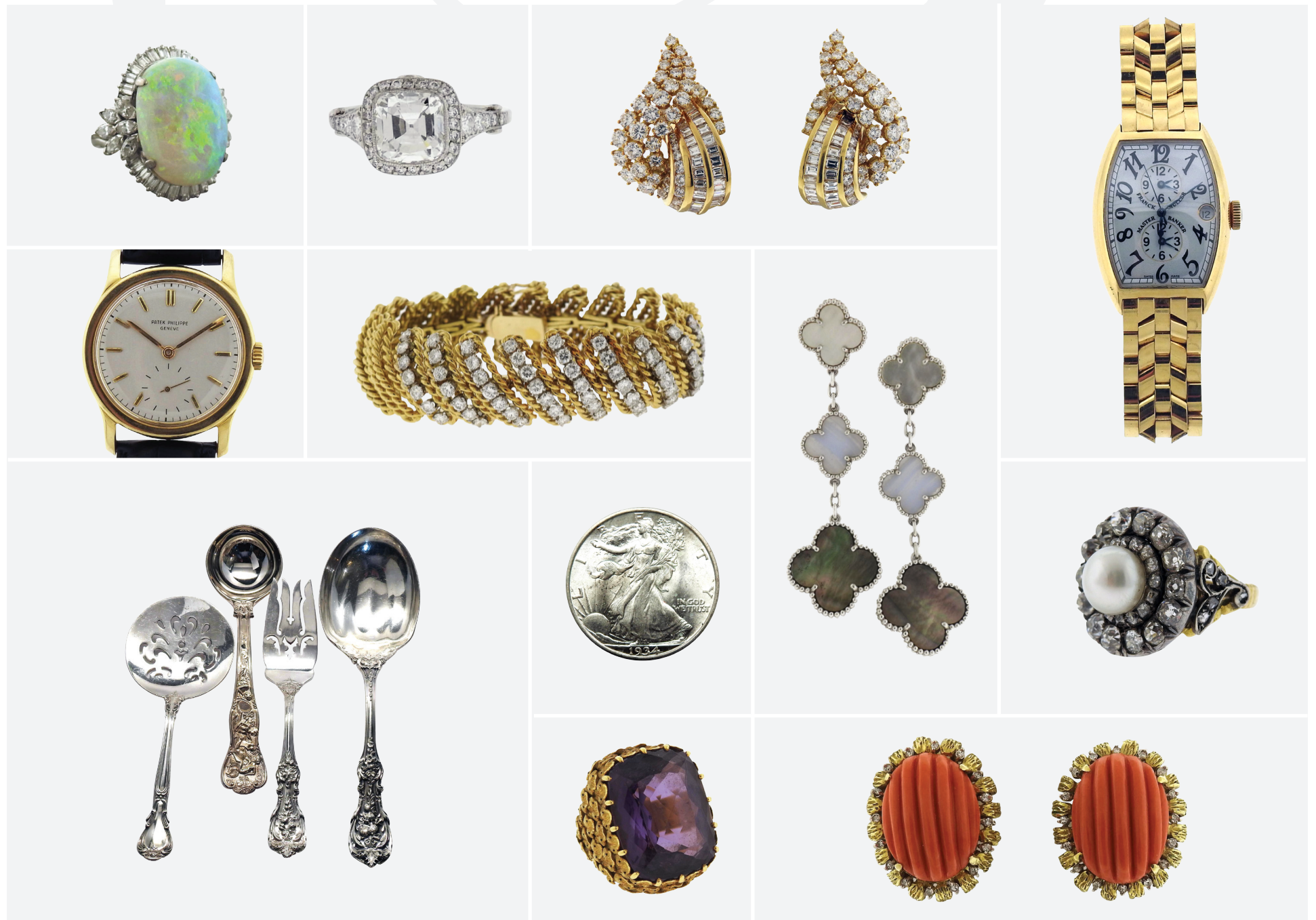
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Business Weekly

For MORE business news, go to [facebook.com/ThePVRecorder](https://www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

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Ponte Vedra Wellness Center welcomes new doctor

Dr. Erika Hamer, chiropractic neurologist and owner of Ponte Vedra Wellness Center, has announced that Dr. Chitra Rajendran has joined the practice and will be treating patients at both the Ponte Vedra Beach and Nocatee offices as a chiropractic physician.

Rajendran received her doctor of chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Florida. She also holds advanced certifications in interactive metronome and Webster Technique.

Interactive metronome allows her to help patients with ADHD, Autism, Parkinson's, CVA and many other disorders to improve focus, cognition, attention and speech, along with motor and sensory

skills.

Her Webster certification allows her to make a difference in the lives of pregnant patients helping to ensure a safe, efficient and easy labor. She is a member of International Chiropractic Pediatric Association and



Dr. Chitra Rajendran



Photos provided by Ponte Vedra Wellness Center. The team at Ponte Vedra Wellness Center welcomes Dr. Chitra Rajendran, second from left.



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Florida Chiropractic Association.

Rajendran has experienced first-hand the many benefits of chiropractic care. She strongly believes many diseases today can be prevented with appropriate work-life balance and nutritional changes.

Her goal is to help bring awareness to prevention by eliminating nerve interference in the spine so the organs these nerves supply are able to function at optimal level. She believes wellness is more than just physical health and that physical, emotional, spiritual and social aspects of wellness all work together to help a person achieve the best quality of life. Neglecting one over the other would have a negative impact on ones' overall health.

Her best health advice during this time of pandemic: Include plenty of fruits and vegetables into every meal – busy, stressful lives may make fast food seem like a good option, but this choice often lacks many essential nutrients that are vital to continued good health and wellbeing.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Rajendran to the practice,” Hamer said. “Her philosophy of wellness aligns perfectly with our goals at Ponte Vedra Wellness Center, and we know that patients will greatly benefit from her experience. This comes on the heels of our 17th year in Ponte Vedra Beach and our recent recog-

nitions as the Best of the Best for 2021. Adding Dr. Rajendran to the team puts us in a great position to continue to serve the needs of our expanding communities at the Beach and in Nocatee while maintaining the level of excellence our patients have come to expect.”

To learn more about the services offered at Ponte Vedra Wellness Center, go to pontevedrawellnesscenter.com.

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center, which opened in 2004, is a traditional chiropractic for adults, children, infants and pregnant women. Owner and founder, Dr. Erika Hamer is also a board-certified chiropractic neurologist and holds the special post-graduate designation of Diplomate in Chiropractic Neurology and treats patients with a variety of neurological dysfunction.

With offices in Ponte Vedra Beach and Nocatee Town Center, they offer traditional chiropractic adjustments as well as the activator technique, neuromuscular massage, physical therapy, spinal decompression, cold laser therapy, weight loss, nutritional supplements and more. In addition, they provide personal training in their state-of-the-art workout facility. Their goals are to recognize patients' individual needs and promote overall wellness by stimulating the body's recuperative power to heal itself without drugs or surgery.

New Geico in St. Augustine joins Chamber of Commerce

By Anthony Richards

For Christopher Brown opening a Geico location in St. Augustine was too much to pass up for the Georgia-native and his family.

Brown's family was on hand when the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the business on Friday, Sept. 17.

"Florida is where I want to be at, and I can see raising my family and living my life here," Brown said. "My family has

been extremely supportive, from my parents to my wife and my children Striker and Tatum. They are all really excited for a new adventure."

The business is located at 224 Florida 312, St. Augustine, 32086 and had not even been open for a week when the ribbon was cut.

The shopping center the business is in has several other stores, and Brown has already reached out in many cases to build the foundation for relation-



Photos by Anthony Richards

Above: Christopher Brown (with scissors) was joined by his family and members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce during a ribbon cutting ceremony Friday, Sept. 17.

Left: Brown and his family moved down from Georgia to open the new Geico location in St. Augustine.



ships with his neighboring business owners.

"The people in this shopping center are really friendly and accepting, which makes a big difference," Brown said.

Brown is very familiar with Geico, having worked at the corporate office for nine years prior to making the move.

"I got this amazing opportunity, and I couldn't think of a better place to be than in St. Augustine and St. Johns County," Brown said. "Geico saw the potential and I jumped on it. We don't just want to be a

company, but we want to be a pillar in the community."

According to Brown they are already partnering with Habitat for Humanity and other nonprofits in the area.

"Where Geico is a little different than other insurance companies is that we're open pretty much six to seven days a week," Geico said. "If something happens and you need insurance, your local agent may not be open, but Geico will be, and that's the one thing that we pride ourselves on."



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Hugo's Interiors celebrates 100 years in North Florida

Hugo's Interiors is celebrating its 100-year (1921-2021) family tradition of providing quality services and selection to generations in the Southeast.

Famous for North Florida's largest selection of fine furnishings and accessories, the Hugo family and its extension of more than 55 talented artisan craftspeople are proud to continue a family tradition. Their American-made business resonates with quality and style with their finely crafted home furnishings, including their signature brand (Crosby Designs) of fine upholstered furniture, along with accessories for homes and businesses.

The family takes pride in knowing the Hugo brand is distinguished in the furniture and accessory industry and stands for exquisite craftsmanship by artisans and innovative interior decorators for residential and commercial clients.

The Hugo family also gives back to the community with volunteer participation in The American Cancer Society, The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, The Rotary Club, Community Hospice and Palliative Care and other organizations.

As a one-stop for quality, the 18,000-square-foot furniture gallery is part of the 43,000 square-foot facility, bringing all services under one roof.



Services include:

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In 1921, Albert Hugo, a German-trained "tapeazier" or decorator skilled at paper hanging, cabinet making, upholstery and other crafts, came by train to Jacksonville.

Albert and Euna set up shop in the dock

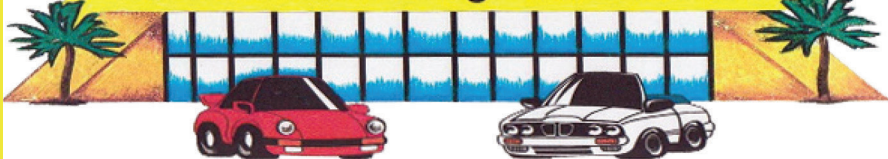
house of Arthur and Ninah Cummer's English Tudor Revival mansion on Riverside Avenue. He traded their furnishings expertise for workspace to begin Albert Hugo and Associates. Hugo's clients have grown to include other internationally known families such as Alfred and Jessie DuPont. The Hugo family continues to meet the DuPonts' furnishings and fabric needs inside their remarkable 58-acre mansion, Epping Forest, now Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club. As Albert Hugo Associates expanded, they moved to the present Philips Highway site in 1947. Following in their footsteps at Albert Hugo Associates were sons Edward and Charles. Grandson Richard, trained in furniture styles, periods and the use of color and textiles, took over. Then came his children, Mathew, Jennie, John and Paul – the fourth generation.

Today, Hugo's Interiors maintains its leadership role in providing fine design in home furnishings and accessories for people with discerning tastes interested in new trends in furniture, fabric and accessories. The Hugo Family looks forward to its young fifth generation continuing as purveyors of taste, quality furnishings and beautiful accessories. As part of the celebration of "A Century of Style," The Hugo Family offers hundreds of items 50% off starting Thursday, Sept. 23, through Friday, Oct. 8.

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Baptist Beaches nationally recognized for stroke care

Baptist Medical Center Beaches received the American Heart Association's GoldPlus Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Quality Achievement Award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines.

Stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the U.S. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds, and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

Early stroke detection and treatment are

key to improving survival, minimizing disability and speeding recovery times.

To qualify for Target: Stroke GoldPlus recognition hospitals must meet quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA, the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat ischemic stroke.

"Seconds matter when it comes to treating a stroke," said Joe Mitrick, FACHE, hospital president of Baptist Beaches.

"Baptist Health Beaches is passionate about providing excellence in stroke care in

our community, and we are honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association for our dedication to helping patients."

Receiving such honors does not come without a dedication and focus-driven approach that allows for such success and research to cultivate.

Baptist Beaches has made the study of strokes an emphasis, and it reflects in the resources they offer.

"Not all hospitals are equal when it comes to stroke treatment," said Eric Sauvageau MD, neurosurgeon and co-medical director at Baptist Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center. "As an acute-stroke-ready

hospital we have protocols in place for rapid and effective care for patients, and excellent surgical and post-operative care. We have neurologists on call 24/7 and telestroke doctors available for immediate consult. If needed, we are able to transfer patients to Baptist Health's Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center at Baptist Jacksonville. All of this helps patients experience better long-term outcomes."

Baptist Health's Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center in Jacksonville is the regional epicenter for advanced diagnostics and treatments for strokes, brain aneurysms and other cerebrovascular conditions.



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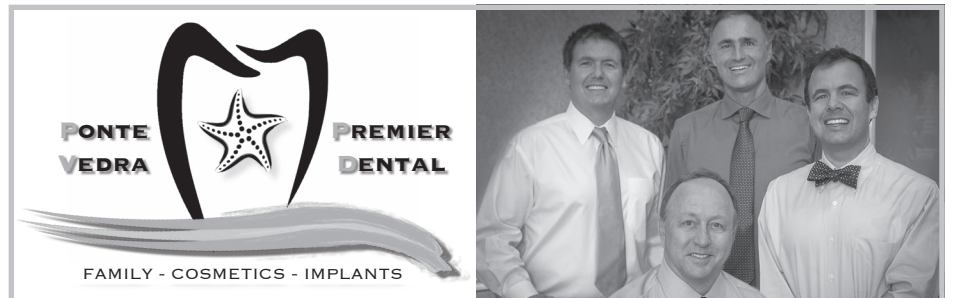
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Sports



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Barned, Cox place among top 3 at Jax Beach Invitational

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra girls golf team had a successful event with several names near the top of the leaderboard during the Second Annual Jax Beach Invitational held at Jax Beach Golf Course Saturday, Sept. 18.

The Sharks finished third in the team competition with a score of 345, which was seven shots behind runner-up and host Providence (338) and 11 shots behind tournament winner Bolles (334.)

Leading the way towards the Sharks' impressive result was a pair of individual performances by sophomore Tory Barned and junior Nancy Cox.

Barned shot a 75, just one shot back of champion Tori Mouton of Bolles, while Cox finished two back after shooting 76.

Cox wrapped up her third-place finish by winning a scorecard playoff over Providence senior Annabelle Mazingo, who also shot 76.



Photo provided by JAGA president Jeff Adams

PV girls golf Jax Beach.jpg: From left, Tori Mouton of Bolles, 74; Tory Barned of Ponte Vedra, 75 and Nancy Cox of Ponte Vedra, 76 were the top three individual finishers at the Second Annual Jax Beach Invitational.

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Photos by Anthony Richards

Trooper Price and the Ponte Vedra defense go on the road to face county-foe Menendez.

Week 5 Preview

Sharks, Panthers continue as road warriors

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra and Nease football squads will both be hitting the road for the second straight week.

The Sharks (2-2) have the shorter of the two trips Friday, Sept. 24, as they stay in county to take on Menendez (2-2) at 7 p.m., while the Panthers (3-1) make the near hour drive to the north to take on Yulee at 7 p.m. Neither matchup will count toward the district standings.

Both teams are coming off an impressive victory but went about getting to those results in much different ways.

The Panthers spread the ball around through the air and Marcus Stokes had another efficient game throwing four touchdowns and hitting several different receivers in the process.

The Sharks are looking to establish a physical nature and produce most of their yards and points with a strong rushing attack, which last week was led by Mikey Stephens, who scored two touchdowns.

Stephens has shared the backfield this season primarily with fellow senior Bobby Kegley. Together, the two present quite the dynamic duo for opposing defenses to stop.

This week they will face a Menendez defense that is giving up an average of 17 points per game and has a shutout on the season.

The Falcons lost three fumbles last week in a 41-7 win against Eastside. If they continue to be careless with the ball, the stingy Sharks defense will be



Photos by Anthony Richards

Nease will make the near hour-long trip north to take on Yulee.

sure to capitalize on any possible opportunities for turnovers.

For the Panthers, everything has seemed to come together over the past couple of weeks and they are a very confident team heading up to Yulee.

The key to the game is how the Hornets' secondary will handle the Panthers' high-flying approach, which will likely not wait long to test the back end of the defense.

Dom Henry is making big play after big play of late and he leads the team by having caught 366 of 802 passing yards this season.

He also has four touchdown receptions.

Look for even more explosive plays from the speedy senior this week.



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HARBOUR ISLAND HOME

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Judit Khor (904) 535-6593



OUTLOOK AT TWENTY MILE

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In the Arts



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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Sing Out Loud Festival ends this week

By Shaun Ryan

The Sing Out Loud Festival that began Sept. 10 concludes this week.

Some of the concerts require tickets, but admission to most events is free.

For its fifth year, the festival lineup includes heavy hitters like TLC & Bone Thugs-N-Harmony.

Also, this Thursday, Sept. 23, the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host music business and singer songwriter panels. This is a must-see for anyone with an interest in the music business.

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.

Panelists include:

Luke Pierce, a music executive and general manager of the Nashville office at WORKS Entertainment.

Rodney Hall, co-owner and president of Fame Publishing and House of Fame

Steve Markland, vice president of artists and repertoire at Downtown Music Publishing Group Andy Albert, a singer and songwriter who has written songs for Tim McGraw, Carrie Underwood, Kid

Rock and more. Justin Wilson, a singer and songwriter who has written or co-written songs recorded by Luke Bryan, Blake Shelton, Dustin Lynch and more.

Mark Irwin, a singer and songwriter who has written songs recorded by George Jones, Faith Hill and more.

Here's a look at the schedule of this week's acts:

Sept. 23

Music Business & Singer Songwriter Panel: 5-10:30 p.m., Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. Free

Sept. 24

Gamble Rogers Festival Showcase: 6-10 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Live music from Folk is People, Alex Peramas and Andy Zipf. Free

Friends of Friends Recording: 7:15-11 p.m., Dog Rose Brewing Co. Live music from Sailor G00n, Che, HUAN and Erica Reese. Free

Nobby's Showcase: 7:15-11:59 p.m., Shanghai Nobby's. Featuring Whiskey Face, Friendly Fire, So Over It and So Impossible. Free

Underwire Showcase: 8-11:59 p.m., Planet Sarbez! Curated by Underwire Collective, featuring Wet Nurse, Niki Dawson, Annie Dukes and K.UTIE. Free

Sept. 25

Gamble Rogers Festival Showcase: 2:45-10 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Featuring Lonesome Bert's Thick & Thin String Band, Dewey Via & Unkl Ray Nutter, Sam Pacetti, Bob Patterson, Colton McKenna and Three Dimensional. Free

Steve Easter Showcase: 7:15-11:45 p.m., Shanghai Nobby's. Featuring Half My Home, Stone Circle, Garrett Oliver and Taylor Olin. Free

TLC and Bone Thugs-N-Harmony: 7:30 p.m., St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Tickets: \$49-\$69.



Contributed photo
TLC and Bone Thugs-N-Harmony will perform Saturday, Sept. 25, at The Amp.

Porch Fest Showcase: 7:30-11 p.m., Dog Rose Brewing Co. Featuring Ghost Tropic, Chemtrails, No PDA and Jory Lyle.

Underwire Showcase: 8-11:59 p.m., Planet Sarbez! Curated by Underwire Collective, featuring Geexella, Bruvvy, Palomino Blond and Seafoam Walls. Free

Sept. 26

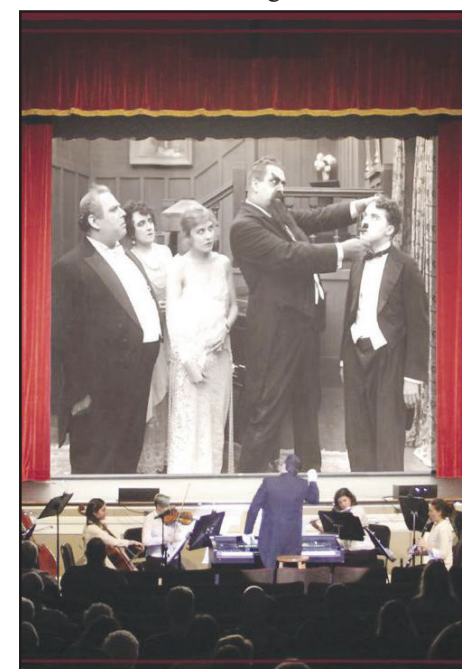
St. Augustine Record Fair presented by ToneVendor: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Augustine Amphitheatre. St. Augustine Record Fair is back! There will be shopping, music from DJ Papa Disco and a live performance from Bears and Lions. Free admission

Sing Out Loud Festival Showcase: 2:45-10 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Live music from Cindy Bear and Robert, Hart Line, The Dunehoppers, Carpetbaggers, Matthew Fowler and Amy Hendrickson. Free

Concert Association to feature American Ragtime, silent films Oct. 2

The EMMA Concert Association announced Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra will be the second concert of its 43rd season.

The concert will be 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, October 2, in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, located at 14 Granada St. in downtown St. Augustine.



The Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra is "the premier American ragtime ensemble," recreating the syncopated stylings of a bygone era that included ragtime, theater and dance music, along with underscoring classic silent films.

The orchestra's programs highlight the music of the late 1800s and early 1900s, with selections by composers such as Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, W.C. Handy, Eubie Blake, George M. Cohan, and of course, the King of Ragtime, Scott Joplin.

Silent film programs will feature the biggest names of the day (Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd, Laurel & Hardy, Douglas Fairbanks and more), and have earned them worldwide recognition and fame.

"We are excited to bring beautiful live music back to our beautiful city," said Joanne Everett, president of EMMA Board of Directors.

Tickets are \$50 per guest and include parking and a shuttle to and from the venue. They can be purchased by going to www.emmaconcerts.com or call 904-797-2800.

Parking will not be available at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College for this concert. Instead, parking will take place at the St. Johns County Council on Aging

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St. Augustine Ballet to perform annual Nutcracker

The Sugar Plum Fairy, the Mouse King, Clara, Uncle Drosselmeyer and all the Nutcracker characters will return to the St. Augustine stage this holiday season.

Saint Augustine Ballet presents the 13th Annual Nutcracker to the community, as the timeless classic will feature professional ballet dancers and dance students from St. Augustine and surrounding areas.

This holiday favorite will be staged December 18-19 in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College located at 14 Granada St. in downtown St. Augustine.

Show times are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19. Tickets range from \$35 to \$50 and are available at www.saintaugustineballet.com or by calling 855-222-2849.

“We are so excited to be able to present the Nutcracker to the community during St. Augustine’s popular Nights of Lights event,” said Luis Abella, executive director and founder of St. Augustine Ballet. “Artistic expression is so incredibly important, and we are thrilled to share these performances with our audiences from near and far.”

Event Details

WHAT: St. Augustine Nutcracker Ballet
WHEN: 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19
WHERE: Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St., downtown St. Augustine
TICKETS: \$35, \$40 and \$50 per seat
RESERVATIONS:
www.saintaugustineballet.com or by calling 855-222-2849

Community sponsors are needed to help support the Saint Augustine Ballet, a nonprofit organization.

To become a sponsor of the Nutcracker and the spring show, please contact Meghan Deputy at MeghanDeputy@sjrstate.edu or call 386-538-0464.

Saint Augustine Ballet offers performance opportunities to dancers from St. Augustine, St. Johns County and the surrounding area. It was founded as a performing arts organization in 2010.



Photos courtesy of Julie Abella Photography

St. Augustine Ballet will hold its 13th Annual Nutcracker Dec. 18-19.



The Nutcracker will coincide with St. Augustine’s popular Nights of Lights event.



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First Coast Opera opens new season with October and New Year's events

The enjoyment of food and entertainment has long been an important social ritual. The tradition of the Roman banquet is often described as a feast for the senses and was an opportunity for a host to impress his guests not just with the bounty of his larder, but with extravagant entertainment. First Coast Opera opens the 2021-22 season in October with "An Operatic Feast," a celebration of fine dining and operatic excerpts. Local performing artists Lisa Lockhart, Brittany Fouche, Regina Torres and John Daughtery will be featured. The first event will take place Oct. 8 at Jax Beach Brunch Haus, 610 3rd St. South, Jacksonville Beach. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the event includes dinner, performance and general seating. Cost is \$75 per guest. Tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com

The second night of the event will take place Oct. 9 at St. Anastasia Catholic Church, 5205 A1A South, St. Augustine. Doors open at 6 p.m. with catered dinner by La Cucina, the performance and general seating. Tickets are \$75 per guest. A VIP option includes a pre-show reception at 5:30 p.m. with an artist meet-and-greet, preferred seating, dinner and performance. Tickets are \$125. All tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com

Composers in the 16th century developed works specifically for their wealthy



Lisa Lockhart



Brittany Fouche



Johns Daughtery



Regina Torres

patron's feasts. In European cities, restaurants and cafes began to provide music for their diners. In his "A Tribute To Vienna With The Philharmonics," Joseph Joachim cheekily wrote, "a more unintellectual, eating and drinking, dancing and music-loving people do not exist than the good people of Vienna. As long as they can eat gebackene Hendel at the Sperl, or dance in the Augarten, and listen to the immortal Strauss as he stamps and fiddles before the best waltz band in Europe."

Verdi's 'La Traviata'

Plan now to raise a glass to toast "La Traviata" on New Year's Eve in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College. Guests will ring in the new year with this classic Verdi masterpiece, fully staged with orchestra. This opera will be offered again on Jan 2. Details and tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com

Ragtime

Continued from 16

at 180 Marine St. in St. Augustine.

Guests will then be transported to and from the concert venue by a complimentary shuttle service. Flagler College requires that all concert attendees wear masks in the auditorium.

Upcoming concerts during EMMA's 43rd season include Holiday Pops by The Gainesville Orchestra on December 15; the world-renowned Vienna Boys Choir on February 5, 2022; the Russian National Orchestra on February 12, 2022; and Siberian Virtuosi on March 19, 2022.

The EMMA Concert Association started as a nonprofit by a small group of music lovers in April 1979. The organization was named after a famous Spanish cellist, Emil Maestre, who retired to St. Augustine.

Information can be found on the EMMA Concert Association Facebook page on and Instagram at [emma_concerts](https://www.instagram.com/emma_concerts).

Event Details

WHAT: Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra featured by EMMA Concert Association

WHEN: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2

WHERE: Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St., downtown St. Augustine

TICKETS: \$50 and \$10 for students and children, parking and shuttle service included

RESERVATIONS: www.emmaconcerts.com or call 904-797-2800

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Jim Messina to perform at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Oct. 15

Legendary singer-songwriter Jim Messina will return to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Oct. 15.

An undisputed expert in the fine art of making hit music, Messina's legacy of musical genius spans five decades, three super groups, a vibrant solo career and scores of producing and engineering credits.

While acting as producer and audio engineer for future Rock & Roll Hall of Famers Buffalo Springfield, Messina ultimately joined the band as its bass player. When "the Springfield" disbanded in 1968, Messina and fellow bandmate Richie Furay formed Poco. With Messina on lead guitar, Poco defined a new musical genre, country rock. After three successful albums, Messina was ready for a change and left to return to his passion for producing music. He signed as an independent producer with Columbia Records.

In November 1970, the Columbia asked Messina to work with an unknown, Kenny Loggins. While helping Loggins get ready for a record and touring, the two discovered that they worked well together, and Messina agreed to sit in on Loggins' first album.

"Sittin' In" was released in November

1971, and an accidental duo was formed.

Over the next seven years, Loggins & Messina released eight hit albums, had scores of hit songs and sold more than 16 million albums.

They had become one of rock's most successful recording duos ever, but it was time for the duo to go their separate ways.

After a series of celebrated solo acoustic tours, Messina formed a band made of acclaimed musicians who have played with him at various points in his career. His latest release, "In the Groove," includes selected hits from all three of Messina's previous bands, as well as several of his solo works.

Touring the country and playing sold-out shows, Messina says that he's enjoying discovering who he is, where he's been and, most significantly, where he's going.

Tickets for Jim Messina are on sale now at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office and online at Ticketmaster.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office remains closed at this time. All tickets are now digital.

Attendees can avoid ticket fees by purchasing tickets in person at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office.



Photo provided by The St. Augustine Amphitheatre

Jim Messina will return to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Oct. 15.



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September 23, 2021
Special Section to



Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

Boeing gives \$10k to K9s For Warriors

Donation will help future graduates with their needs

By Anthony Richards

The relationships developed within a community are vital to the success of non-profits, and Ponte Vedra-based K9s For Warriors is excited to start what they hope is a lasting partnership with The Boeing Company.

And what a start it was, as the The Boeing Company presented K9s For Warriors with a \$10,000 donation during its monthly graduation ceremony, where five veterans and their dogs graduated from the program, at K9s' national headquarters in Ponte Vedra.

"To be recognized by Boeing is a big deal," K9s For Warriors Director of Development Lindsay Snyder said. "It's almost as if Boeing is leading the way to show other organizations that K9s is where you want to be. It can only go up from here."

The K9s For Warriors program takes 21 days to complete, as both the warrior and their assigned dog get to know each other and create a lasting bond during that time.

"On that 21st day, they graduate with their dog and start their new life," Snyder said. "This donation right here, will help us put a warrior through the program. They (Boeing) just saved somebody's life with this one check."

It is fitting that Boeing's check presentation coincided with the graduation because the funds will go toward helping future graduates with the needs they have.

"Our hope is that people in the community will recognize the work that they are doing," said Ingrid Piedrahita Morales,

community investor with The Boeing Company. "The warriors in our community have sacrificed so much for us, this is just one way that we can give back to them."

Boeing has supported various organizations throughout the country, but this is the first time they have worked closely with K9s For Warriors.

"Some of Boeing's charitable pillars are supporting our heroes and our veterans that are returning," Morales said. "We provide support for workforce preparation but also recovery and rehabilitation."

Partnering with Boeing has been a goal of K9s For Warriors for some time, and they have been on the company's waiting list for some time.

"Boeing is hard to break into, because for obvious reasons they want to vet each organization they associate with," Snyder said.

According to Snyder, there is also plans down the line to expand the reach and partner with Boeing's San Antonio location as well. Organized leadership events are also being looked at along with future volunteer opportunities by both outfits.

"This is the beginning of a relationship, and we know that our employees would love to give back and continue to support the mission," Morales said. "We're going to find ways to volunteer because we don't just want to give money but support the cause by really being engaged."

A typical class of graduates includes eight to 12 warriors and their dogs. However, the pandemic forced the process of receiving dogs and getting them trained



Photos by Anthony Richards

Boeing's \$10,000 donation will go towards helping graduates of the K9s For Warriors program.

slowed down, and they have been unable to train the dogs at the same rate.

Snyder believes that next month will begin to get back to pre-pandemic numbers with about 10 graduates expected.

At the end of the day, building a strong relationship between a warrior and his dog is the program's main goal, and it is something always on the mind of everyone at K9s For Warriors.

"Ideally, we would want eight to 10 graduates, but we also want to put out

quality dogs so we're not going to rush it," Snyder said.

K9s For Warriors was created in 2011 by Shari Duval with the goal of training shelter dogs to service veterans battling traumas from their years in the military.

The graduation ceremony and check presentation was held at the Shari Duval K9s For Warriors National Headquarters in Ponte Vedra, which was named in honor of her after she died from cancer in February.



Five graduates took part in the monthly ceremony Thursday, Sept. 16 at the K9s For Warriors National Headquarters in Ponte Vedra.

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Woody's Bar-B-Q teams up with Tim Tebow Foundation to battle human trafficking

In celebration of its 40th anniversary last year, Florida-based Woody's Bar-B-Q hosted an event to raise funds and awareness for Tim Tebow Foundation's anti-human-trafficking ministry. Within a couple of hours, Woody's raised \$6,000 and helped bring the matter of human trafficking to the forefront for everyone in attendance.

One year later, the classic Southern BBQ chain will host a repeat of the event with the hope of doubling the amount of funds raised. This year's event will be hosted at Woody's Bar-B-Q of Ponte Vedra Beach, 226 Solana Road, from 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 2.

The event will include an art show featuring the works of Diana Patterson, as well as a silent auction, entertainment and food, which has been the hallmark of the company for 41 years.

"Even for those who can't be in attendance at the event, they can still help us make an impact on this very serious issue in our country," said Yolanda Mills-Mawman, president, COO and co-founder of Woody's Bar-B-Q. "A portion of the proceeds from all dine-in and take-out orders that day at all four corporate locations – Ponte Vedra Beach, University Boulevard in Jacksonville, Green Cove Springs and Fernandina Beach – will benefit the Tim Tebow Foundation's anti-human-traffick-



Photos provided by Woody's Bar-B-Q Artist Diana Patterson is seen with Woody's Bar-B-Q cofounder Yolanda Mills-Mawman.

ing ministry. With thousands of victims of human trafficking in the U.S. alone each year, my co-founder, Woody Mills, and I believe this is not only a very worthy cause, but also an incredibly serious matter that so few people truly know about. We hope to help the Tim Tebow Foundation change that."

In addition to funds raised through dine-in and takeout orders, the event will raise funds through its silent auction, featuring the donation of goods and services from other local businesses and corporations. Included among those auction items are a 16-person suite at 121 Financial Ballpark during a future Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp game, a foursome at Marsh Landing Country Club, tickets for four for a Jacksonville Jaguars game, family photo shoot with



Woody Mills, co-founder and namesake of Woody's Bar-B-Q stands next to his wife, Ellen, at the 2020 Tim Tebow Foundation fundraiser.

Steph Owens Photography, one-year family membership at Basics Range & Gun, a beautifully crafted bracelet from Pavlos Jewelry Design and more. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of artwork by St. Augustine-based artist, Diana Patterson – which will be on display throughout the event – will also benefit the cause. The Tim Tebow Foundation's anti-human-trafficking ministry website indicates that human trafficking generates \$150 billion worldwide, with the United States leading all other countries in consumption. Roughly 70% of victims are female and 25% are children. It is estimated that as many as 40 million people in the world today are being bought and sold as modern-day slaves,

and victims of human trafficking have been identified in every single state in the U.S. The foundation believes in taking action to confront this global atrocity – to rescue victims and provide a way out of a life of violence and exploitation to a new life of freedom found in Christ.

To learn more about the impactful ministries of the Tim Tebow Foundation and make a donation directly to the cause, go to www.timtebowfoundation.org.

For more information about Woody's Bar-B-Q, go to www.woodys.com. If you would like to donate an item to be featured during the 41st Anniversary Celebration silent auction, email your information to admin@woodys.com.

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MDM Commercial provides tech update for Ronald McDonald House Charities

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville is proud to partner with Ponte Vedra-based MDM Commercial, a renowned leader in technology solutions for lodging, health care, sports and fitness facilities and LG's largest re-seller of commercial-grade televisions and displays in North America.

MDM Commercial CEO Steve Austin and his team of engineers and graphic designers creatively worked with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville staff to elevate families' experience through the implementation of a user friendly Pro:Centric software.

The Pro:Centric software is a digitally customized software that mirrors Ronald McDonald House Charities' branding, enabling families to easily navigate through RMHC's amenities, employee roster, family activities and local attractions directly from their LG Electronics Pro:Centric Hospitality Smart TV within private suites.

"Steve Austin and his entire team at MDM Commercial continue to serve as tremendous supporters of our mission," RMHC of Jacksonville Executive Director Diane Boyle said. "The time and work



everyone has put in to complete this project is truly invaluable to our staff and the more than 1,500 families we serve each year. Being able to have important information at our families' fingertips is just another way we can better serve children and their families who are seeking medical treatment here in Jacksonville."

Austin was honored to supply the necessary equipment and staff expertise for the Pro:Centric software installation.

"MDM Commercial is honored to support the RMHC of Jacksonville mission," Austin said. "I am proud of the great

work our team has done to help provide the RMHC children and families with a first-class guest experience. Thank you to Diane Boyle and her amazing staff for allowing us to be part of such a wonderful initiative. The work they do to comfort so many is so important, and we will continue to contribute to that effort."

The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville is to support the health and well-being of area children by helping any way they can.

That includes providing lodging, meals, transportation and showing critically ill

"MDM Commercial is honored to support the RMHC of Jacksonville mission. I am proud of the great work our team has done to help provide the RMHC children and families with a first-class guest experience. Thank you to Diane Boyle and her amazing staff for allowing us to be part of such a wonderful initiative. The work they do to comfort so many is so important, and we will continue to contribute to that effort."

– Steve Austin

children that they have a community of care that is supporting them and their families as they fight in the hospital.

Supporting five local hospitals, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville serves more than 1,500 families of critically ill children each year. To learn more, go to www.rmhcjacksonville.org or call 904-807-4663.

MDM Commercial Enterprises Inc. was founded in 1990 and is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach and has been a leader in technology solutions for more than 30 years. Go to www.mdmcommercial.com or call 800-359-6741 for more information.

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THE PLAYERS Championship launches 2021 Red Coat Grants program

Grant awards range from \$2,000 to \$12,500

THE PLAYERS Championship is currently accepting applications for its Red Coat Grants, a program that awards funding to local nonprofit organizations that lead programs and initiatives focused on improving the quality of life for Northeast Florida's residents. Grant awards for the 2021 program will range from \$2,000 to \$12,500.

Applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. Oct. 15. To apply, go to <https://www.theplayers.com/charity/info/red-coat-grants.html>.

To be eligible, the applicant must have a nonprofit, tax-exempt classification under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; have broad community support and address specific community needs; expend funds and provide services in the Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties; and practice and provide services without discrimination as protected by law.

For complete guidelines, go to <https://www.theplayers.com/charity/info/red-coat-grants.html>. The Red Coats is a committee of past tournament chairs who served on THE PLAYERS' volunteer leadership team and oversaw the entire volunteer team and program. Each year, nearly 2,000 volunteers support all facets

of the championship. The Red Coats are responsible for leading all volunteer divisions and committees, working closely with the tournament team on a year-round basis to prepare and deliver a successful championship.

"The entire team of past volunteer chairpersons always looks forward to distributing these grant awards," said Murray Beard, chairman of the 2000 PLAYERS Championship and captain of the Red Coats. "Being able to positively impact lives in our hometown is a core part of why we all chose to volunteer at THE PLAYERS. It's about being a part of something bigger than yourself and making a difference in our hometown. We are eager to review the applications and learn more about how we can support the needs of our community."

"The Red Coat Grants program is central to THE PLAYERS Championship's mission to be year-round stewards in our community," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "Our Red Coats are not only dedicated volunteers and ambassadors of this championship, but they are also active civic and corporate leaders in Northeast Florida who have tremendous pride and passion for this region and an unwavering commitment to help strengthen this championship's charitable impact each year."

THE PLAYERS 2022 will be held March 8-13. Registration for returning volunteers began on Sept. 15, and registration for new volunteers begins on Nov. 3. More information about the

volunteer experience can be found at THEPLAYERS.com/volunteer.html.

More information about THE PLAYERS' charitable efforts can be found at THEPLAYERS.com/charity.html.

Salvation Army holiday assistance applications to be accepted

The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida will accept applications for Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance Oct. 4-22 for Jacksonville residents.

Applications will be conducted online, and families are required to provide documentation about their household to qualify.

Thanksgiving assistance includes groceries for a Thanksgiving meal. This will be distributed Nov. 23 at 900 W. Adams St., Jacksonville.

Christmas assistance includes a new toy, new outfit and a stocking for children 12 and younger.

Angel Tree gift bags will be distributed by appointment Dec. 15.

To apply for holiday assistance, go to salvationarmynefl.org and click the tab 'Holiday Assistance.'



St. Johns County

Angel Tree applications for children 12 and under and Thanksgiving assistance for St. Johns County residents will be accepted Sept. 28 to Oct. 8. Call 904-824-6956 to make an appointment for in-person applications at 1425 Old Dixie Highway, St. Augustine.

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A Classic Theatre to kick off new season

“Lullaby of Broadway,” a celebration of Broadway musicals, will be the season opener for A Classic Theatre as the company returns to the stage following a COVID-forced disruption in 2020.

The musical revue will feature an ensemble of performers singing memorable songs by Stephen Sondheim, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Lowe, John Kander and Fred Ebb and others.

Performers include David Abraham, Nancy Grote, Haley Kirk, Trudye Lutton, Dirk Gavin McCoy, Susan Nowell, Catherine Swann and Jason Whitfield. Cliff Parrish directs.

Performances will be 7:30 p.m. Oct. 9 and 2 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center, 102 ML King Ave., St. Augustine. Tickets are \$26.50 for adults, \$16.50 for students. They can be purchased at the box office on performance dates or online at aclassictheatre.org/tickets.

A Classic Theatre made its debut in May 2005 with a staged reading, followed the next year by three productions – including “Working” by Studs Turkel – directed by founder Jean Rahner. Since then, the nonprofit theater company has produced full productions with large and



Cindy Alexander, artistic director for A Classic Theatre

small casts. It has staged “Inherit the Wind,” an adaptation of “A Christmas Carol” and a live broadcast of “It’s A Wonderful Life” and “War of the Worlds.”

In addition to well-established plays, A Classic Theatre stages original works by local playwrights. Some examples have been: “Darwin’s Babies” by Bob Feldheim, “The Women Rebel” by Dee Lovell, “Henry Flagler Remembers” by

Filling out the 2021-22 season, the company will present:

The Dining Room

“The Dining Room” by A.R. Gurney. A humorous and touching look at changes in American society through the lens of the dining room and how it has declined in importance. Directed by Harolyn Sharpe. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Oct. 29 and 30 and Nov. 5 and 6; 2 p.m. Oct. 31 and Nov. 7. Admission: \$22 adults, \$12 students.

The Sisters O’Toole

“The Sisters O’Toole” by Amy Lauer Goldin. A story about growing up in a complicated Irish Catholic family presented with dark Irish humor. January 2022.

No Exit

“No Exit” by Jean Paul Sartre. A dark comedy that follows three strangers locked in a room for eternity and their realizations about hell. March 2022.

The Immigrant

“The Immigrant” by Mark Harelik. This is a true story about the author’s grandfather and his life after arriving in America in the early 1900s.

Thomas Rahner, “The Imperative” by Roger Rueff, “My Friend Zelma: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings on Trial” by Dr. Michael Gannon and “Cross Roads: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Norton S. Baskin in Unguarded Moments” by Deborah B. Dickey.

“We’re back, we’re ready and we’re

excited with productions, plans for readings and workshops and a commitment to engage our audiences with entertaining, thought-provoking and relevant theatre for a new age,” said Cindy Alexander, artistic director for A Classic Theatre.

For further information about the 2021-22 season, go to aclassictheatre.org.



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We are following COVID guidelines and are currently by appointment only.

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THEME: WORLD SERIES

ACROSS

- Locker room infection?
- Vow at #41 Across
- Smoke plus fog
- Veranda in Honolulu
- Salmon on a bagel
- Hindu religious teacher
- To the left, on a boat
- Hula dancer's necklace
- Cheryl Strayed on the Pacific Crest Trail, e.g.
- *Winningest World Series team
- *Infield shape
- Acronym, abbr.
- Make or break, e.g.
- Repellent brand
- Minimal distortion
- Loathes
- Make children
- Low-___ diet
- Cry of the Alps
- Swarm like bees
- Location of #6 Across vow
- Tiny piece
- Lack of intestinal movement
- Siren's song
- Buffalo lake
- Makes sense, 2 words
- "Aid and ___"
- "Game, ___, match"
- Like time with Bill Maher
- Road, in Rome
- *Current baseball champions
- *Won in NLCS or ALCS
- Mode of communication
- "___ Now or Never"
- Styluses
- *___ Martin, 5-time World Series champion
- Bad-mouth
- Upright in position
- Let it stand, to proofreader
- Is, in Paris
- Rodeo rope

DOWN

- Kill
- Spanish appetizer
- Any minute, arch.
- Winter cover
- Of advanced technology, colloquially
- Bad wishes
- Buck's partner
- Nitrous ___, a.k.a. laughing gas
- Sink or this?
- Type of shark
- Damien's prediction
- To put a girdle on
- Showing signs of wear and tear

- Writer ___ Jong
- Retirement plan acronym
- Like a Zoom session
- Port of old Rome
- *___ of dreams?
- Let out of jail
- *___ Classic
- *Runner's destination
- Frankincense and myrrh, but not gold
- Adjust, as laces
- Between rain and snow
- Outback birds
- Prickle on a wire
- "Super" Christopher
- Definitely
- p in mpg
- Glittery decoration
- Digression
- Bone hollows
- Young female socialites, for short
- Fail to mention
- Earnhardt of racing fame
- Coating of aurum
- Attention-getting sound
- Pirates' affirmatives
- *ALCS counterpart
- *Nickname of Red Sox manager who won two World Series
- "___ the season ..."

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Golf tournament to fund child safety programs

By Shaun Ryan

An annual golf tournament that will help fund prevention education programs to keep children safe will return Dec. 6.

The Dream Finders Homes MBF Champions for Child Safety Pro-Am Golf Tournament (Presented by Lennar) is accepting sponsorships now. MBF stands for Monique Burr Foundation for Children, which offers programs to protect children from bullying, digital dangers, abuse and exploitation.

Sponsorships include name recognition on the tournament's promotional communications, including the event banner, website and email communications; tickets to the 2021 Pairings Party; and more.

The pairings party will be held on Dec. 5, the day prior to the tournament. Both will be held at The Palencia Club: St. Augustine Golf Course & Country Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive, St. Augustine.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, go to championsforchildsafety.org.

Those interested in playing in the tournament can fill out the form at mbf-preventioneducation.org/mbf-cfcs-form. Professional golfers Fred Funk, Jim Furyk and Mark McCumber will serve as honorary chairmen. Due to COVID restrictions, all participating pros have not been confirmed at this time.



Proceeds from the tournament help educate and empower children and teens with strategies to prevent, recognize and respond to all types of child abuse, bullying and victimization.

According to The Monique Burr Foundation for Children's website, one in four children will be victimized in their lifetime; however, 95% of child sexual abuse is preventable through education.

The foundation addresses these issues through various programs, including MBF Child Safety Matters for elementary schools, MBF Teen Safety Matters for middle and high schools, MBF Athlete Safety Matters for youth athletes and MBF After-School Safety Matters for afterschool and youth-serving organizations. Its programs are comprehensive and evidence-based.



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Race, fun run to help address gaps in services in foster care

By Shaun Ryan

An upcoming 5K and fun run will help a local nonprofit organization provide needed essentials and educational programs for children and youth in foster care.

The inaugural Foster Friends 5K, planned for Nov. 6 in Nocatee, will help Fostering Connections St. Johns to fill gaps in services.

This fun family event will begin at 8 a.m. at Nocatee Station Field, 400 Nocatee Center Way. The fun run begins at 9:30 a.m.

Packet pick-up on race day begins at 7 a.m. Packet pick-up on Nov. 5 will be at Anderson Realty, 185 Murabella Parkway, Suite 5, St. Augustine.

Participants are encouraged to don their favorite '90s gear (in keeping with the "F•R•I•E•N•D•S" theme) and run, jog or walk through the trails of the Nocatee community. Registration is \$30 until Nov. 5 and \$35 on race day. Registration for the fun run is \$10. Fees can be



paid online or by check to 100 Southpark Blvd., Suite 405, St. Augustine, FL 32086

Foster Friends 5K T-shirts will be given to everyone who registers by Oct. 23.

Go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/PonteVedra/FosteringFriends5K> to register.

Fostering Connections St. Johns lifts up children and youth ages birth through 23 who live in St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler and Volusia counties and have been impacted by foster care or childhood trauma.





Photos provided by Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida

Shown from left, Jacksonville Beach Mayor Christine Hoffman, Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown and Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser spoke to young people at McKenzie's Beaches Boys & Girls Club, inspiring club members to dream big, believe in themselves and work hard toward their goals.



Jacksonville Beach Mayor Christine Hoffman speaks with kids and teens from McKenzie's Beaches Boys & Girls Club during the Inspiring Future Local Leaders Mayoral Panel.

Area mayors inspire future leaders at Boys & Girls Club

At the recent Inspiring Future Local Leaders Mayoral Panel, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida hosted all three mayors from the beaches communities who inspired club members to dream big, believe in themselves and work hard toward their goals.

Ellen Glasser, mayor of Atlantic Beach; Elaine Brown, mayor of Neptune Beach; and Christine Hoffman, mayor of Jacksonville Beach shared how they came to their positions as mayor and fielded questions from the kids and teens who attend McKenzie's Beaches Boys & Girls Club.

One curious club member surprised the mayors by asking how old a person must be to run for mayor. This sparked a lesson on civics and democracy as the mayors discussed the electoral system and the process for ascending to this leadership position.

"Our Inspiring Future Local Leaders event aligns perfectly with our daily mission at Boys & Girls Clubs: to enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens," said Paul Martinez, president and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida. "We were honored to host these mayors at our McKenzie's Beaches Club to encourage and inspire our next generation of leaders."

Brown shared a story with the kids and teens about a young man she knew who grew up going to the Beaches Boys & Girls Club and now credits his success to being part of the club.

This event was made possible by Presenting Sponsor Legacy Trust Family Wealth Offices and also with support from Women of Pivot CPAs.

McKenzie's Beaches Boys & Girls



Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser poses with McKenzie's Beaches Boys & Girls Club member Brianna C. during the Inspiring Future Local Leaders Mayoral Panel.

Club, located at 820 Seagate Ave. in Jacksonville Beach, provides local young people ages 6-18 with a safe place to go after school and during the summer to receive academic tutoring, enrichment programs, mentorship, meals and snacks, and so much more.

With more than 50 years serving the Jacksonville Community, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida was chartered on July 23, 1962. Today, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida has expanded to 38 clubs across Northeast Florida, serving nearly 3,000 club members every weekday in Duval, St. Johns and Alachua counties. For more information about Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida, go to bgcnf.org.



Representatives from the event's Presenting Sponsor Legacy Trust Family Wealth Offices showed their support by attending the Inspiring Future Local Leaders Mayoral Panel.



Representatives from supporting sponsor Women of Pivot CPAs were also in attendance to show their support for the Inspiring Future Local Leaders Mayoral Panel at McKenzie's Boys & Girls Club.

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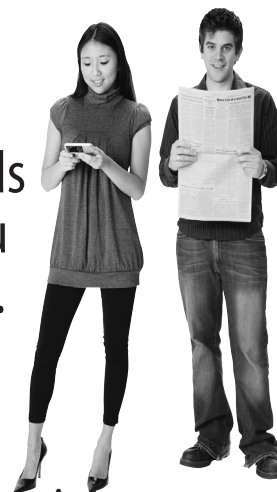
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