

PONTE VEDRA RECORDER

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MOTHER'S DAY!

May 5, 2022
Volume 53, No. 27
75 cents

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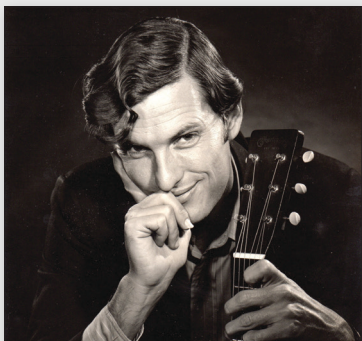
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**Mother's Day
Gift Guide**
Page 18



**Memorial garden
dedication**
Page 9



In the Arts
Page 25

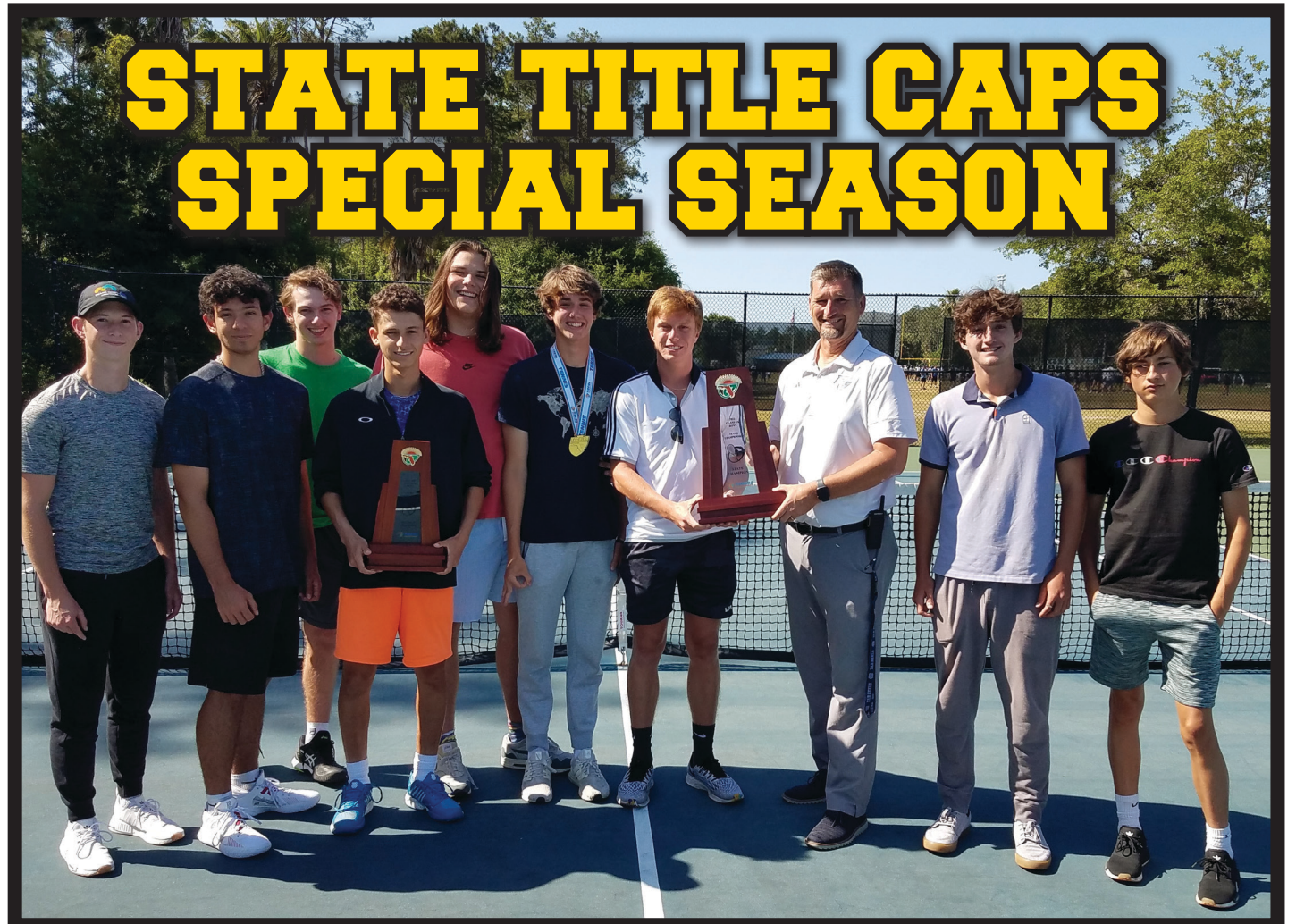


Photo by Anthony Richards

Adam Logan and the rest of the Ponte Vedra High boys tennis team present athletic director Michael Harrison with the Class 3A state championship trophy May 2. Read the story inside on page 29.



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INSIDE

One of Us

Page 6

Business Weekly

Pages 23-24

In the Arts

Pages 25-28

Sports

Pages 29-30

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 news@pontevedrarecorder.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

BRIEFS

St. Augustine Commission recognizes 8 graduating seniors

The St. Augustine City Commission presented eight graduating seniors from St. Johns County high schools with its Citizenship Award on April 25 in recognition of their leadership and service to school, community and other students.

Award recipients were selected by their schools and received a commemorative plaque, a city lapel pin and \$200 to assist with further educational endeavors.

The 2022 Citizenship Award recipients are: Margaret Dykstra, Ponte Vedra High School; Khush Gandhi, Allen D. Nease High School; Leah Crenshaw, Creekside High School; Jose Giron-Reyes, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; Jaycob Jackson, St. Augustine High School; Lauren Jackson, St. Joseph Academy; Emily Martin-Willott, Pedro Menendez High School; and Logan Smith, St. Johns Technical High School.

History of Temple Bet Yam is subject of program

The St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society will explore the history of Temple Bet Yam, with a program at 2 p.m. May 11 in the synagogue's facility at 2055 Wildwood Drive, St. Augustine. The program will include presentations by Temple Bet Yam founders Shelly and Marty Cohen, Carol Gladstone, Joan Guglielmo and Donna and Elliott Palevsky. The program is open to the public; all are welcome. There is no charge. No advance arrangements need be made.

Founded in 1993, the establishment of Bet Yam is a local expression of a seismic shift within the world of American Jewry toward a more liberal understanding and interpretation of Jewish Heritage.

For further information contact the historical society at 804-914-4460 or go to www.sajhs.com.

Attorney general candidate to speak at Democratic Club meeting

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. May 17 at Christ Episcopal Church, Room 106, 400 San Juan Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach. The featured speaker is Aramis Ayala, candidate for state attorney general. For further information, email janetkary@gmail.com.

Novelist to speak at next Sisters in Crime meeting

Award-winning novelist Nancy Quatrano will speak on "Backstory: When, How and How Much?" at the next meeting of the Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime. The presentation will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 7, at the Ponte Vedra Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

For further information, email floridasistersin-crime@gmail.com.

PGA TOUR welcomes Dream Finders Homes as Official Marketing Partner

The PGA TOUR and Dream Finders Homes Inc. have announced a multi-year partnership naming Dream Finders Homes the "Official Home Builder of the PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions" through 2026.

"We are excited to have Dream Finders Homes as the first home builder to be an Official Marketing Partner at the PGA TOUR," said Brian Oliver, PGA TOUR executive vice president marketing and corporate partnerships. "We're confident that the PGA TOUR platform will provide an excellent backdrop to showcase the Dream Finders Homes brand through our players, media and tournaments."

Dream Finders Homes will activate this new relationship by having a presence in programming throughout PGA TOUR social and digital properties, including hosting a "Moving Day" campaign on Instagram. Dream Finders Homes will also organize hospitality events for key constituents and guests at select PGA TOUR events, host corporate golf outings and develop partnerships with TOUR professionals.

Diaz appointed state commissioner of education

The State Board of Education voted unanimously Friday to appoint state Sen. Manny Diaz Jr. as Florida's next commissioner of education, making him the first Hispanic commissioner of education in Florida's history. The vote follows Gov. Ron DeSantis' recommendation.

The appointment is effective June 1. Commissioner Richard Corcoran formally left the state Department of Education on Sunday, May 1. The state board named Senior Chancellor Jacob Oliva to act as interim commissioner from

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Palm Valley boat ramp meeting held

St. Johns County hosted an open house April 21 to give the public information regarding the planned Palm Valley West boat ramp project.

Staff from the county Public Works and Parks and Recreation offices were available to answer questions and share details. The open house was held at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center in Ponte Vedra.

The project will involve construction of a new concrete boat ramp, a new fixed wooden dock, a new floating dock with aluminum gangway, a new sidewalk, relocation of a kayak launch and improvements to parking and maneuvering areas.

The project area is on the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway with parking located under the Palm Valley bridge. The boat ramp and docks will be located adjacent and to the north of the parking area.

Bids will be received in the summer and construction will begin in the fall. Construction is expected to be complete in the spring of 2023.

A total \$1,050,000 has been provided for the project through funding from waterway access and the Florida Inland Navigation District.

For further information, go to sjcfl.us or email sjcpublicaffairs@sjcfl.us.

TV listings coming back

Look for the return of the Entertainment Extra section, featuring TV listings, in next week's issue of The Ponte Vedra Recorder.

The 24-page section is inserted into each week's paper. It's the place to turn for a schedule of all your favorite shows and streaming highlights, as well as articles on movies, sports information and more.

It's also the place to find some of your favorite puzzles.



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Briefs

Continued from 2

May 2 to May 31.

Diaz has served in the Florida Legislature since 2012. He has served as a public-school teacher, coach, assistant principal and school administrator.

He received his bachelor's degree from St. Thomas University, a master's degree in education from Nova Southeastern, and completed a Harvard Graduate School of Education program for principals.

County recognized for financial excellence, transparency

St. Johns County was recently recognized for the 29th consecutive year for its financial reporting excellence and transparency by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The association awarded its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller for its fiscal year 2019-2020 annual comprehensive financial report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Last fall, St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Brandon

J. Patty unveiled a condensed version of the 2020 report, called the Popular Annual Financial Report. The inaugural PAFR booklet features comprehensive report highlights written for the general public and others without a background in public finance and illustrates how county tax dollars are collected and spent. It can be found at stjohnsclerk.com/pafr.

City extends metered parking hours for Castillo lot

The hours of metered parking enforcement have been extended to 9 p.m., seven days a week, for the parking lot at Castillo de San Marcos. Parking enforcement hours had been from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.

City parking meter attendants are responsible for parking enforcement Monday through Saturday and the National Park Service is responsible for parking enforcement on Sundays.

Those with questions may contact the Parking Department at 904-825-1090 or send an email to parking@citystaug.com.

Applications accepted for Independent Agency Funding Program

St. Johns County Health and Human Services is accepting applications for the Independent Agency Funding Program through 3 p.m. June 3. This program aims to provide funding for local nonprofit agencies that provide social services to St. Johns County residents. Three funding

categories are available: community health care (including aging), affordable housing and homelessness, and employment opportunities. The county anticipates approximately \$1.5 million will be awarded to eligible agencies and projects.

Nonprofit agencies applying must complete and submit one electronic application for each proposed project or program, including all required documents, forms, and attachments.

To apply, go to sjcfl.us/hhs. For more information, call 904-209-6143.

Tourism and Hospitality award winners announced

The St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau recently recognized the finalists in the 2021 St. Johns County's hospitality and tourism industry Employee of the Year awards. Each winner was recognized at his or her place of business in a celebration with their co-workers.

Top awards were given in five categories: lodging, attractions, restaurant, retail and government with 24 individuals nominated for their service St. Johns County largest industry: tourism and hospitality. The winners for each category are:

Lodging: Joseph Campbell, housekeeping supervisor, Casa Monica Resort & Spa

Attractions: a three-way tie between Kelcie Lloyd, special projects manager, St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum; Quentin Curtis, tour guide, GhoSt

Augustine; and Niki Kemper, general manager, The Tasting Tours.

Restaurant: Danica Affolter, server at Columbia Restaurant

Retail: Clark Gilmore, spirits educator, St. Augustine Distillery

Government: Suzanna Schuyler-Vetter, information host, City of St. Augustine

Jacksonville company launches apprenticeship program

Snyder Air Conditioning, Plumbing & Electric has announced the launch of its new TradeUp Academy, an HVAC registered apprenticeship program. The goal of the program is to help businesses meet the demand for skilled labor during a shortage, while offering workers higher wages and better employment outcomes.

TradeUp Academy is a paid training/apprentice program that offers participants the opportunity to gain experience, learn new skills and support themselves financially while they study and receive on-the-job training.

For the trainee, an apprenticeship can offer a cost-effective alternative to the college track. Apprentices in the TradeUp Academy are considered full-time employees of Snyder, earning a competitive wage while receiving a minimum of 2,000 hours of firsthand technical training. Participants are also eligible for benefits after an introductory period.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



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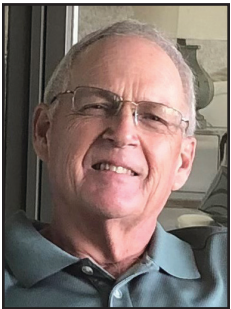
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OBITUARIES

Michael Reed Kelley



Michael Reed Kelley of Lithonia High School. He received his bachelor's degree

Michael Reed Kelley, 71, a native of Lithonia, Georgia, passed away unexpectedly April 28, 2022, at his home in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Mike was a 1969 graduate of Lithonia High School. He received his bachelor's degree

of applied mathematics and a master's degree in engineering science and mechanics from Georgia Tech, where he lettered as an athletic trainer for the football and basketball teams. He was employed by Lockheed Martin in Marietta for 33 years. He relocated to Ponte Vedra Beach in 2020 after residing 33 years in Roswell, Georgia and spent his days playing golf, reading, traveling, and enjoying life. Throughout the years, Mike had been a member of Snapfinger Woods Country Club, Metropolitan Club, East Lake Golf Club, and Rivermont Golf Club, with his

most recent membership being Sawgrass Country Club. He is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Resa Kelley; sisters-in-law, Tina (Johnny) Hamby, and Rosie (Brian) Rausch; nieces, Kelli Crowe, and Katie Rausch; nephews, Nicholas Webb, Mitchell Webb, and Eric Rausch; and several great nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, James William Kelley, his mother, Mary (Mimi) Cordes Kelley, and his sister Margaret (Meg) Kelley Sanderson. Mike will be dearly missed by his family and a host of golf friends. Service arrangements to be

announced at a later time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Tee or GSGA Foundation, two charities Mike supported. Please visit his online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com.

Arrangements by



Vivian Faith Bolling (Holbert, Huff, James)



Vivian Faith Bolling of California, MD, Kay Richardson and Debbie Travers (Ret) of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 4 grandchildren (Stacy Lyons, Jennifer Ford, Amanda Wodehouse and Robert Travers) and 10 great grandchildren. (*Logan Ford, Caleb Patterson; *Ian Lyons, Shelby, John, Blair Travers; *Trent,

Vivian Faith Bolling (Holbert, Huff, James) 97, of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, went home to God on May 1, 2022. She is survived by her children Richard Huff (Carolyn) of California, MD, Kay Richardson and Debbie Travers (Ret) of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 4 grandchildren (Stacy Lyons, Jennifer Ford, Amanda Wodehouse and Robert Travers) and 10 great grandchildren. (*Logan Ford, Caleb Patterson; *Ian Lyons, Shelby, John, Blair Travers; *Trent,

Austin, Hayes and Bo Wodehouse) She was born on April 21, 1925 in Flushing, OH, the daughter of the late William and India Holbert. Her family including 6 siblings moved to Parkersburg, WV. In 1943 she married Gerald Huff and they raised 3 children. After Gerald's death in 1969, she married Jack James in 1972. They moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, FL in 1977. Following his death in 2001, she later married Jack Bolling in 2008. He died in 2018. She worked in a wide variety of positions including the Viscose Plant, Dills Dept Store, Avon sales, Borg Warner Woodmar Plant, and Mary Kay sales. She was a member of the choir at Parkersburg Trinity United Methodist Church (Sunday school teacher and youth leader), Jacksonville Beach United Methodist Church (organized a "Seniors by the Sea"

group) and Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church (designed and managed construction of the Memory Garden). She was a very talented artist, a faithful servant of God, role model and a loving caregiver to many that surrounded her. A Celebration of Life service will be held at the Ponte Vedra United Methodist

church on May 7 at 11 am followed by an interment ceremony in the Memory Garden of the church. A reception will follow in the church. Memorials may be made to the "Memorial Garden Fund" at Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church, 76 S. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

DEATH NOTICES

Edward Braniff
Edward Braniff, 84, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died April 24, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Lena Rose Conte
Lena Rose Conte, 91, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died April 24, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

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Anyone who has attended an event, organized a class or set up a business at the link in Nocatee has worked with Jeff Tawney, the director of operations. He is one of the people who keeps the innovative facility running smoothly.

Jeff Tawney

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me about your role as director of operations for the link. What are some of your responsibilities?

My role as director of operations at the link is very rewarding! I enjoy the interaction with people on a day-to-day basis. Many of our members host private events at the link, and I enjoy working with them to make their vision become reality. I also work with families to secure various classes that we offer at the link.

For example, Mom might be taking a pilates class while the kids could be in a dance or martial arts class. I enjoy working with our staff to create the overall schedule such as our day-to-day classes, as well as our summer camps. I meet with teachers, discuss options and goals and help make them happen.

Young people may wonder how they can establish themselves in a given career. Can you tell me about your background, what you studied and how you established your career?

My father and stepfather were both in the military, so I was raised as an Army brat. At a young age, I moved around a lot — California, Texas, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii and even Panama South America.

I attended high school in a small farming community — New Home, Texas. I was very active with the FFA — Future Farmers of America. I raised and showed pigs all through high school and competed in various local and state shows annually. I was a member of the horse judging team as well as parliamentary procedures team.

I graduated from New Home High with a class of 12 students! After high school, I wanted to travel and pursue a career in the hospitality industry. I was successful for sure as I had some great jobs ... corporate travel agent in Northern California, hub supervisor for an International Charter Airline in Orlando, resort representative for a British holiday company where I worked in Orlando, Breckinridge, Vail, Lake Tahoe and Margarita Venezuela.

A lot of local residents came to Northeast Florida from elsewhere. Have you lived here long? What brought you to the First Coast?

My wife and I moved to Jacksonville, Florida, in 2004 from Atlanta, Georgia. We initially purchased a home in Duval County. We moved to Nocatee, Florida, about five years ago for the St. John's County School system. We love the area and enjoy seeing the growth year after year. Our daughter has thrived in the school system, and we take full advantage of the lifestyle Nocatee offers.

What do you like most about living in this area?

I love that you can drive your car about 10 minutes in each direction and you come to water — lakes, ponds, Intracoastal, beaches. My family enjoys the sights and sounds of the area we live in. We take full advantage of outdoor events, beaches, festivals, etc.

What do you like to do in your free time?

My family and I love to travel. We love to go to different places, see new things. We love to take cruises! It's great that we have so many cruise ports here in Florida — Port Canaveral, Fort Lauderdale, Miami and of course right here in our back doorstep of Jacksonville.



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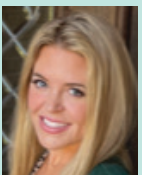
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Local girl builds community around gaming platform

By Shaun Ryan

When Sofia LaBarbera's family moved to Nocatee a year ago, the 11-year-old hoped to befriend others who shared her interest in online gaming — specifically games associated with Roblox, a cloud-based platform that promotes creativity.

Coming from Atlanta, where she became immersed in gaming during the pandemic and regularly interacted with kids from all over the world, Sofia discovered there was no local club devoted to her favorite pastime.

With some help from dad Chris and mom Gina, the homeschooled sixth-grader started her own club. A meet-up was held and the kids in attendance got acquainted. But things really took off when Sofia had an opportunity to speak about her club at the link, a cultural centerpiece, innovation incubator and co-working space located at 425 Town Plaza Ave.

"It was a big hit," Sofia said.

About 40 kids and their parents attended, attesting to the need for real-world friendships even among a generation comfortable with virtual interaction. The club began to meet every second Thursday at the link and membership has grown to about 140, with an average of 30 people attending each meeting.

"I'm trying to get other people in North Florida, in Nocatee, to come play together

so we can all start creating and start building and start brainstorming together," Sofia said.

Roblox has millions of games and allows players to make their own. But it isn't limited to that. In one important component, Bloxburg, players design and "build" their own structures and even towns — right down to the smallest details.

"It's an entire 3-D world down to the door-knob, the light switch, the controls," said Chris LaBarbera.

He estimated that his daughter, now 12, has logged about 9,000 hours of computer-aided design experience.

For kids like Sofia, this could lay the groundwork for a career in engineering, architecture or some related field.

Her dad hopes professionals recognize the potential in this.

"Our goal is to get various homebuilders and major building companies to sponsor some of these kids," he said. Sponsorships could fund hardware or in-game currency that would help the young participants better develop their skills.

At the same time, Chris LaBarbera hopes other communities will be inspired to form their own clubs, and that competitions could then be held.

NOTE: This is an abridged version of the article. To read it in its entirety, go to pontevedrarecorder.com.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Sofia LaBarbera, seen here with dad Chris, has launched a successful Roblox club that meets at the link in Nocatee.



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Photos by Anthony Richards

Several county officials took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the St. Johns County Memorial Garden April 29.

County memorial garden offers ‘peaceful oasis’ for victims

By Anthony Richards

The courtyard at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center will carry special meaning for many moving forward after the St. Johns County Memorial Garden was christened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 29.

The garden sits in the middle of the center’s courtyard and is meant to be a place to honor victims and survivors of violence.

“For the last 20 or 30 years, victim’s rights and the concern and support for victims has grown with both visibility and in their support network,” St. Johns County Clerk of Court and County Comptroller Brandon Patty said. “This is an extension of that.”

According to Patty, the initial victim’s garden was established about a decade ago. It sat outside the courthouse walls in front of the south entrance.

However, the time was right for the garden to be upgraded and the project to move the garden inside the courthouse walls and featured in the courtyard was in the works for the past year.

Patty believes that the move will bring

the proper attention to the garden that he believes it deserves.

“It (initial garden) was in a place that made maintenance fairly difficult, and it was often overlooked,” Patty said. “A victim’s garden should be kept in pristine conditions or as close to it as possible. Within one of my first few months here, one of my clerks mentioned it to me and we looked into it.”

A steering committee was formed to help oversee the process and Patty hopes that the committee will continue to help maintain and upgrade the garden moving forward.

“It’s all about continuing to make sure that those that have suffered at the hands of another have a place and an opportunity to reflect and pause,” Patty said. “The courthouse is inherently a stressful place, but this garden will hopefully provide a peaceful oasis.”

The original garden and monument were created and dedicated to the memory of two members of the St. Johns County community, Stephanie “Theresa” Singleton-Gilliam and Laura Messina, both of whom died as a result of domestic violence.



The garden sits in the middle of the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center courtyard and is meant to be a place to honor victims and survivors of violence.

Singleton-Gilliam worked as a member of the clerk of court’s office.

According to the clerk of court’s office, about 10 million people become victims of domestic violence each year, which equates to around 20 people every minute. Last year, 279 domestic violence injunctions were filed in St. Johns County and nearly 72,000 were processed statewide.

Retired Judge John Alexander spoke about the hard times domestic violence can bring to an entire family and how he has seen such behavior be passed down to the children of the families dealing with such aggression.

“The dysfunction it causes from generation to generation,” Alexander said. “Let us remember the victims and try to make our world a better place.”

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Probate, guardianship meetings benefit stakeholders

Participants keep up with evolving law

By Shaun Ryan

In life, only one thing is certain – aside from taxes, of course.

That’s why, except in rare circumstances, we’ll all have to engage at some point in the probate process.

Less common, though perhaps more often than many would suspect, is the need to become involved in guardianship. It’s something people don’t often see coming and one that can sow division in families and impose burdens on its members.

Inasmuch as the settlement of these two issues is determined in the courts, it is to the benefit of all involved that those charged with ensuring correct outcomes educate themselves on the many parts of the process and keep abreast of changes in the law, whether they come through legislation or judicial precedent.

To that end, Judge Kenneth J. Janesk, county Clerk of Courts and Comptroller Brandon Patty, dozens of attorneys, professional guardians and others have begun to meet quarterly to share information. The effort mirrors what some bar

associations do in larger metropolitan areas.

The idea began with board-certified tax attorney Tance Roberts, widely recognized as an authority on guardianship and probate. Roberts approached Janesk, who began his term in January 2021, and suggested the creation of such a group. Janesk, whose background had been criminal law, saw the wisdom of the proposal.

“I loved the idea,” he said. “I said, ‘Let’s do it. I could be your best student.’ Tance has been doing it for a lifetime; I’ve been doing it for a year. So, why would we not? Definitely her brain-child.”

The initiative has proven to be a success. About 50 to 60 people attend each meeting, some in person, others via Zoom.

At a recent meeting, the guest speaker was an officer with the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps — JAG — who was able to introduce attendees to

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PROBATE continues on Page 13



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Prayers, Parenting and Ponte Vedra Cross Country

By Scott A. Grant

Our son was stillborn. The terror of that day is burnt into my memory like a scar. There were complications and then an emergency c-section. Alexander emerged a sort of greenish blue.

In that moment before the hospital staff flew into a frenzy of action, I said something I have always regretted. “I didn’t expect him to look like that.” Even as the words left my lips, I realized how foolish they sounded and how true they were.

The hospital staff rushed our newborn son out a backdoor into a secret room. Earlier, a young nursing student had taken my phone and promised to take pictures as if that were a normal thing to do. Now, she walked over and slid the phone into the breast pocket of my scrubs and walked away without a word.

I did not know scrubs had breast pockets. I certainly was unaware that mine did until that moment. I even wondered if that was what the pocket was for, to hold the cell phone of grieving fathers.

And then my wife and I were alone in the operating room with our worst fears. We prayed. We prayed for the doctors and nurses, but also very specifically for our son to keep fighting and not quit. A few minutes later someone came in and announced he was alive.

We were not out of the woods, but little by little, day by day, our son got stronger. Fifteen years passed, and Alexander was headed to high school. My wife wanted him to participate in a sport. One day she suggested cross country. Other parents said great things about the coaches, and there were no cuts for freshmen.

The day of the first meet we were uncertain what to expect. We waited at the finish line. The flood of runners slowed to a trickle. And then we were alone again at a different sort of finish line. We prayed. We prayed for our son to keep fighting and not quit.

And then emerging from a haze of dust raised by a thousand pounding feet came Alexander. Most kids acknowledge the



Photos provided by Scott A. Grant

The author’s son, Xander Grant, running for Ponte Vedra.

finish. Some throw their arms up as they cross the line. Some sprint the final yards. Some collapse in a panting heap. Alexander did none of these things. His pace neither quickened as he approached the finish nor slowed once he passed. He just kept plodding along toward the comfort of the team tent.

Little by little, day by day, we watched our son grow stronger and faster. Every morning he went to school early for practice. He seemed to like it.

We started to love getting up early on Saturday morning to head to the meets. Everyone in the PVXC community was so encouraging and positive. It was like a big family built around the idea that the goal was not so much to win as to get better.

Then one day, at a place prophetically called “New World,” something amazing happened. His teammates had gathered to cheer our son on as he finished the race, and as the minutes passed, they sought



The Ponte Vedra Girls 2021 cross country state champions.



The 2021 Ponte Vedra High School cross country team.

me out asking where he was. He had finished several minutes earlier, smashing his personal best. He ran even faster at JV Championships. In all, he would improve his time by 11 minutes over the course of the season.

There is something magical going on at Ponte Vedra High School. The very notion that you can get a busload of over 100 kids, daily assaulted by a plethora of electronic stimuli, to get up before dawn in order run through the reclaimed swamps of Florida is astounding. But getting them to love it? That’s a miracle.

As the season went on, I couldn’t help but think to myself, “This is the stuff that champions are made of. This is the

stuff of legends.” I shared that thought with some of the coaches. I told them there was a state championship in their future. And like that day in the hospital, my words now seem a little foolish. That very year, they won their first. The Ponte Vedra Girls team won the state title. The secret of the girl’s success according to head coach Rob Circelli is that “they work together, for each other.”

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Ponte Vedra Inn & Club appoints Preovolos director of tennis



Aleco Preovolos has been named director of tennis at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

The historic Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, a AAA Five-Diamond Resort, has announced the appointment of Aleco Preovolos as director of tennis at the resort's tennis facility, The Racquet Club.

Preovolos was previously the assistant director of tennis at the resort for the past year and, in addition to being rated as a top coach on the ATP and WTA tours, was director of tennis at the Club at Harbor Point in Mill Valley, California, before coming to Florida in 2017.

"Aleco possesses a great passion and knowledge for the game of tennis," said Michael Gordon, vice president and general manager of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. "He is familiar with our program, and his new role at The Racquet Club

is a perfect fit. As an incredible tennis player and equally impressive coach, he brings a wealth of experience with some of the top names in tennis, even leading his players to Australian Open titles. His skill set and natural leadership will assist the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club team as they enhance their renowned tennis capabilities and experience."

Preovolos is a skilled professional player, Hall of Fame inductee from UC Davis and four-year All American in singles and doubles. He left his professional career to coach other professionals for a 12-year period. Since then, he has attained four Grand Slam titles and mentored tennis prodigies, including Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer, and guided the doubles team of Rick Leach and Ellis Ferreira to an Australian Open doubles title and the world's No. 1 ranking.

"I am excited about the opportunity to continue to be a part of such a prestigious resort as the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club," said Preovolos. "After spending the last year as assistant director of tennis, I am honored to further our team's efforts to make The Racquet Club a place where both professionals and students improve their game."

As director of tennis, Preovolos will oversee The Racquet Club's operations,



Photos provided by the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club has 15 Har-Tru clay courts.

including leading the resort's coaching professionals, instructional programs for members and guests and intensive summer camps.

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club began with a single clay court more than 80 years ago and now with 15 Har-Tru clay courts, is the "Official Tennis Club of the ATP Tour," the Association of Tennis Professionals. It has been heralded as one of America's "top-tier tennis destinations."



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Probate

Continued from 10

an aspect of guardianship they may not have considered.

“If you’re not a veteran, or you don’t know the military, you may not know what services are available for your client,” said Janesk. “I’m not saying everyone left that meeting as a military law expert, but at least everyone left there with the knowledge of: I’d better ask if they’re a veteran. And if they are, I know who I can call with questions now.”

Probate and guardianship are areas of the law that grant judges a degree of discretion, though perhaps less so with the former than the latter.

In probate, the judge normally relies upon the deceased person’s will. Should they die intestate, however, the law determines how assets are handled.

Guardianship can prove more challenging, even though there is a process

for handling these cases, as well.

In a guardianship case, a claim is made that someone is unable to manage their own affairs. The stakes are high because, if the claim is borne out, the person stands to lose his or her civil liberties. It’s a responsibility that Janesk takes seriously.

“They have their right to contract removed from them; they have their right to marry potentially removed from them; the right to even pick who you socialize with can be removed,” said Roberts. “The right to vote, the right to make your health and medical decisions for yourself – that’s a heavy burden.”

A parent may object to their son or daughter limiting their freedom, or they may not even recall designating their child as the guardian should the need arise.

Given what’s at stake, it’s easy to see why a judge would value input from experts in this area of the law, such as Roberts.

A key participant in these meetings is Brandon Patty, clerk of the circuit court and comptroller for the county. His office serves three main functions: it is an independent partner to the judges, the auditor for the county and the custodian of the official county records. It provides a system of checks and balances and ensures that the integrity of information needed to keep everything working is protected.

“Our entire quality of life, way of life, is built upon accurate records,” he said. “If we don’t have accurate records that can actually tell you if you own your home, who you’re married to ... there are a lot of things that potentially are contingent upon accurate records.”

In executing decisions regarding probate or guardianship, such recordkeeping is essential, especially since no one judge could possibly keep tabs on all the details of a given case.

“If I, as an individual, had to watch the timeline of all those cases, as well as all the other cases I have, it would fail,”


said Janesk. “If an attorney doesn’t file a document in the right amount of time, I don’t have the ability to go look at every case every day. Well, they (Patty’s office) make time for it.”

The importance of this is obvious when you know that there are currently more than 600 guardianship cases in St. Johns County, a third of which have a financial component to them. And where finances are involved, such cases must be safeguarded against the possibility of mismanagement and fraud.

Much is required from those who participate in probate and guardianship cases, and the sharing of information is a valuable tool to help ensure the best possible outcomes. Janesk hopes that, as this initiative succeeds in the Seventh Judicial Circuit, other jurisdictions will want to do likewise.


“Information is power,” Janesk said, “and the more we can learn the better.”

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Both hospitals were named Centers of Excellence for anesthesia care, a designa-

tion usually awarded to university-based medical facilities due to the rigor of the application process.

Fewer than 100 health systems worldwide have earned SOAP Center of Excellence designation since 2018. The criteria for the COE designation include personnel and staffing; equipment, protocols, and policies; simulation and team training; obstetric emergency management; cesarean delivery and labor analgesia care; recommendations and guidelines implementation; and quality assurance

and patient follow-up systems.

“This prestigious recognition is a testament to the quality of anesthesia care we provide our maternal patients,” said Sanjeev Patel MD, an anesthesiologist who practices at Baptist Health. “We have an experienced team of OB anesthesiologists and OB anesthetists who care for patients in the Labor & Delivery units 24/7. The team follows established, evidence-based protocols and policies, and have the resources to provide care for obstetric emergencies.”

Baptist Health’s Enhanced Recovery after Delivery program (ERAD) was recognized as one of the reasons for receiving the Center of Excellence designation. The program encourages patients to take an active role in improving their outcomes. ERAD helps reduce anxiety, decrease pain, promotes healing and helps increase energy levels during and after labor. Patients return to normal activities faster and are better able to bond with their babies and go home earlier.

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"Nurses, Nurses and more Nurses"

By Scott A. Grant

At the height of the great pandemic, in cities like Boston and San Francisco the cry went out for more nurses. In Philadelphia, the director of public health announced that what the city needed was "nurses, nurses and more nurses."

Despite sounding familiar, this wasn't a recent event. The call for nurses was issued in 1919 in response to America's most deadly pandemic, the Spanish flu. Nurses have always been the frontline troopers in the war against death and disease.

In 1854, England was embroiled in a futile war in the Crimea. Death rates for the wounded were outrageous. Hospital conditions were atrocious. Into this maelstrom of disease stepped the most unlikely of persons. A frail young woman from England named Florence Nightingale, who led 38 other volunteers to the rescue.

Nightingale, considered the first modern nurse, instituted sanitary reforms that reduced death rates in the hospitals from diseases like typhoid, cholera and dysentery. Her solution included simple measures like washing hands and more complex efforts like prefabricated hospi-

tals and cleaning out the sewers. She was known to make rounds late into the night, long after the doctors had retired for the evening. Some soldiers called her "The Lady with the Lamp."

Less than a decade later, war broke out in America. The Civil War is still one of the bloodiest we have ever fought as a country. Early on, an American woman, a former teacher, arrived at the front lines to nurse the soldiers. Sometimes called the "Florence Nightingale of America," Clara Barton and an organization she founded called the Ladies Aid Society ministered to the wounded on both sides and gathered supplies.

Barton was often near the front. So close, that one day a stray bullet tore through her dress and killed a patient she was tending. Following the battle of Cedar Mountain, Barton arrived at a desperately overwhelmed field hospital after midnight with a mountain of supplies. After that, some called her the "Angel of the Battlefield." After the war, Barton headed up a number of relief efforts, including a team that responded to the Yellow Fever epidemic in Florida that ravaged Jacksonville in the 1880s. She also founded the American Red Cross.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor,



the U.S. military realized they were suffering from a severe lack of nurses. There were under 1,000 in the Army and just over 800 in the Navy. Within six months that number would increase to over 12,000. In all, we would provide free training to 125,000 nurses from 1943 to 1948. Many of those, like Regina Benson, continued their nursing career after the war ended. Later, she would say that

the most rewarding moment of her time as an Army nurse was telling a mother that her son did not die alone.

Nurses' Week runs from May 6th to May 12. The latter date is Florence Nightingale's birthday. She would be 202 years old this year.

Scott A. Grant is a local historian and author.



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The important role of nursing assistants

Health professionals are often unsung heroes. However, since the arrival of COVID-19, millions of people have had their eyes opened to the crucial role medical providers play in regard to helping patients and their families.

Nursing assistants are tireless health care workers who perform their tasks with professionalism and patience. Certified nursing assistants, or CNAs, help patients with their basic daily care, and may assist with:

- Making beds and changing bedding.
- Helping patients use toilets and tending to catheters.
- Helping patients to get dressed.
- Monitoring vital signs and reporting on patients' health.
- Handling feeding and helping the patient drink.
- Turning bedridden patients according to schedule.

CNAs work in various settings, notably long-term care facilities, doctors' offices, hospitals, and rehabilitation clinics. Nursing assistants often are the first responders when a patient calls for help. They

traditionally work under the guidance of registered nurses, and the work of CNAs frees up nurses to provide care that requires a greater level of training, such as administering IV medication or alerting doctors to significant changes in health.

Nursing assistants must possess certain qualities, as the job requires caregiving above all. The nursing resource All Nursing Schools says CNAs must be able to listen to patients' concerns and develop personal relationships. The care CNAs provide requires a certain level of intimacy, and CNAs must have demeanor that help patients feel comfortable. Some tasks may involve lifting or helping to move a patient, so some measure of physical strength also is needed. Most importantly, CNAs often provide companionship and friendship, especially in home care settings. Providing comfort for patients who are scared, lonely or upset also is part of a CNA's job.

Nursing assistants are important health care professionals and often part of a team of caregivers that help patients enjoy improved quality of life.



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The benefits of skilled nursing facilities

Many aging adults reach a point in their lives when they can no longer care for themselves without some help. Some may just need a little help around the house, while others with more extensive needs may choose to relocate to skilled nursing facilities.

Some aging adults may be able to choose living facilities on their own, and many may even dictate their choices as part of their estate planning. In other instances, such as when seniors suddenly become ill and are incapable of caring for themselves, the decision may need to be made by relatives. Families have a variety of options when looking for living facilities for aging men and women, and there are a host of benefits to skilled nursing facilities.

• Professional care: Many facilities offer skilled nursing care. Skilled nursing care is administered by licensed nurses and therapists. Skilled nursing facilities, or SNFs, are designed to tend to the needs of residents who require a level of medical care that goes beyond what assisted living facilities can provide.

• Peace of mind: Medical attention at SNFs is available around the clock. That often provides residents' relatives

substantial peace of mind, as they know licensed professionals will be on hand to address their loved ones' needs at all hours of the day and night.

• Criteria: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will only certify facilities that meet strict criteria. When shopping for an SNF, individuals and families should inquire about certification. CMS-certified facilities are subject to periodic inspections to make sure residents are receiving the highest quality care. That's another factor that should give families some peace of mind.

• Proximity: According to Commonwealth Medicine, there are more than 15,000 SNFs in the United States. These facilities care for nearly 1.5 million people. With so many facilities across the country, families can surely find one for a family member in need that's close to home. Routine visits from friends and family can help seniors make a smooth transition to an SNF and reassure relatives that they won't have to travel far and wide each time they want to see their loved ones.

Skilled nursing facilities can help aging adults navigate daily life when they can no longer take care of themselves.



Mother's Day GIFT GUIDE

Underwood Jewelers, Women's Club partner for trunk show fundraiser



Photos by Anthony Richards

Cristal Doherty and Camilla Doherty discuss jewelry with Kelli Roberts Whitman during the Penny Preville trunk show hosted by Underwood Jewelers at its Ponte Vedra Beach location April 28.

By Anthony Richards

With Mother's Day this weekend, Underwood Jewelers did its part to help the women in the local community give back by partnering with the Ponte Vedra Women's Club to host trunk show fundraiser April 28.

The trunk show featured fine jewelry by Penny Preville and a portion of the proceeds will go toward the charitable organizations that the club supports.

The partnership between the club and the jeweler is nothing new, as it has been going on for years to the point where the event has become the club's marquee fundraiser, and one that members and residents alike look forward to annually.

Several community members attended the event, which filled the Underwood Jewelers Ponte Vedra Beach location nicely and created a very festive atmosphere full of laughter and plenty of sparkling jewelry.

The club usually supports about four or five nonprofits at a time, all of which focus on serving women and children in need across St. Johns County and the Beaches.

The nonprofits are selected through a voting process every two years, except for the club's legacy charity which remains the Florida School for the Deaf and

UNDERWOOD continues on Page 19



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The fundraiser is a marquee event for the Ponte Vedra Women's Club.



Photos by Anthony Richards

Ponte Vedra Women's Club president Lori Gibaldi with Underwood Jewelers owner Clayton Bromberg and Michelle Purdy. A portion of proceeds from the event will go toward the club.

Underwood

Continued from 18

the Blind.

"The club is over 50 years old and started in 1970, and we will always have that charity to support," Gibaldi said.

BEAM, the Betty Griffin Center and Hugs Across the County are some of the nonprofits supported by the club.

"The cool thing about the club is that it is a social nonprofit club," Gibaldi said. "Our mantra is all about connecting women and our community for a cause."

Monthly meetings are held by the club at various venues that rotate with some being during the day for lunch and others at night for dinner.

According to Gibaldi, having differing meetings times is done with every member in mind, so that meetings can be attended regardless of a person's life situation.

"A lot of the women that join the club are new to the area, or they've had a life change, such as kids going away to school or being newly retired," Gibaldi said. "We have members from their late 20s to late 70s."

Well-oiled Events catered the trunk show, which featured an array of hors d'oeuvres that were served to the guests throughout the night.



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Cindey Nordman and Melissa Ford



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Jazz brunch set for Mother's Day

A lively jazz brunch — part of the St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival— falls on Mother's Day this year, Sunday, May 8.

Each special lady will be greeted with a rose to start her day off right, along with a souvenir tasting glass. The jazz brunch is one like no other with an all-inclusive priced ticket featuring local jazz, lavish brunch spread, carving stations, indulgent sides, made-to-order omelet station, seafood station and a wide variety of desserts.

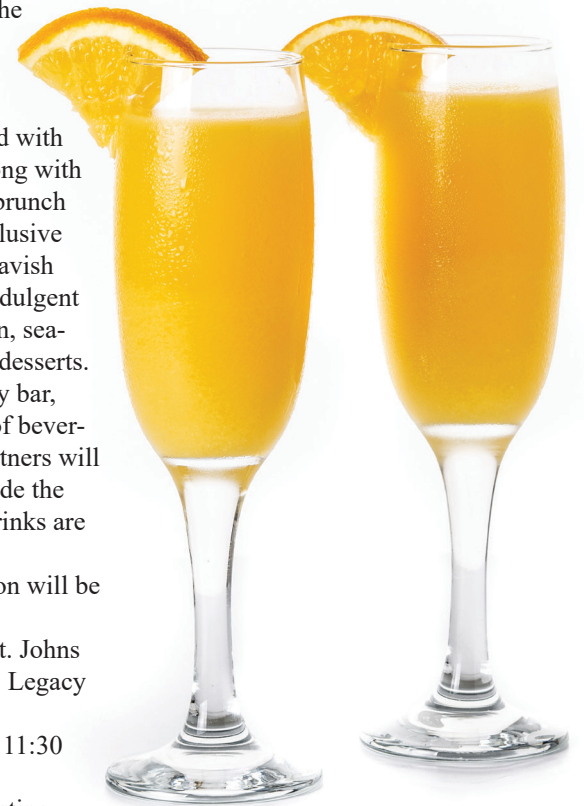
There will also be a bloody mary bar, champagne and mimosas. A host of beverage stations from the festival's partners will include wine, beer and spirits. Inside the brunch, coffee, iced tea and soft drinks are included.

Live music from Jonathan Dotson will be featured.

The brunch will be held at the St. Johns County Convention Center, 500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine.

Seating times are: 10-11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 1-2:30 p.m.

For tickets, go to [/tickets.staugustine-foodandwinefestival.com/p/tickets](http://tickets.staugustine-foodandwinefestival.com/p/tickets)





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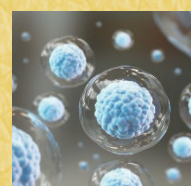
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IDEAS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Looking for a gift or activity for Mother's Day? Here are a few ideas.

Mother's Day Tea Party

The Lightner Museum is offering moms an unforgettable Mother's Day experience in the Hotel Alcazar historic swimming pool.

Enjoy a gourmet selection of tea, sandwiches, scones and desserts made in-house by Chef Natalie. Tea times are at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday, May 8. Admission to the museum is included in the ticket.

Tickets are \$70 per person and must be purchased in advance. Seating is limited. If you are purchasing a single ticket but would like to be seated with a group, email angela@lightnermuseum.org.

To purchase tickets, go to visit lightnermuseum.org/#/SpecialEvents/TEAPGM.

Tea selections and sandwiches can be found at lightnermuseum.org/event/mothers-day-tea-party-2.

The Lightner Museum is located at 75

King St., St. Augustine. The phone number is 904-824-2874. The email address is info@lightnermuseum.org.

Lightner Museum Store offers unique gift ideas

The Lightner Museum Store is filled with fun and creative items that make great Mother's Day gifts. Here are a few ideas:

- Custom tea blends — The store carries a line of custom tea blends in three varieties, each inspired by the history of the Hotel Alcazar and the Lightner Museum collection.

- Handheld folding fans — Handmade in Spain from cotton and polished wood, these beautifully designed fans are the perfect gift to help mom stay cool through the spring and summer months.

- Lightner Museum candles — Crafted by local candlemaker Poured Goods, these candles inspired by the historic building and collection are available in 10 different styles and scents.

- Unique and sophisticated jewelry — Among the offerings here is an exquisite gold-and-glass necklace from the HARIO Lampwork Factory in Japan. The store has an extensive selection of jewelry for all price points.

- Historic and engaging books — Mom will love exploring the history of St. Augustine and Florida with a book or two from the Lightner Museum Store.

For more information, go to lightnermuseum.org/2022/04/26/mothers-day-gift-guide.

The Lightner Museum Store, located at 75 King St., St. Augustine, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.

MOM-osa party planned

Painting with a Twist is planning a Mother's Day MOM-osa party for 1-3 p.m. Sunday, May 8.

Participants will have a great time dancing, laughing and drinking MOMo-

sas. They'll also paint works of art to take home with them.

The instructor will be Amy Dix, and the event is for those age 18 and older. Cost is \$45. For more information or to book a spot, go to paintingwithatwist.com/studio/ponte-vedra-beach/event/3031979.

All refreshments are BYO, and participants must be at least 21 years old to consume alcohol in the studio. Organizers suggest participants arrive at least 15-20 minutes early "to get uncorked, smocked and in your seat."

Masks are optional. Disposable aprons and hand sanitizer will be available upon request.

Painting with a Twist is located at 268 Solana Road, Ponte Vedra, in the Winn-Dixie Shopping Center. The phone number is 904-687-4307. Email: studio105@paintingwithatwist.com.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Great places for Mother's Day brunch, dinner

Mom may have a favorite place to enjoy brunch or dinner on Mother's Day. But if not, there is no shortage of options available. Here are a few ideas:

Vernon's First Coast Kitchen & Bar

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa
1000 TPC Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
Mother's Day Brunch:
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, May 8
Cost: \$74 for adults (13+), \$24 for children (4-12).

Reservations Required

Go to opentable.com/vernon-s-restaurant

Hakka Kitchen

Hakka Kitchen is hosting a Mother's Day Special from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday, May 8. Guests can enjoy a five-course dinner with a wine or tea pairing. Expect fan-favorite dishes like the organic dumplings and new options, such as ginger carrot soup. Reservations strongly encouraged. To make reservations or see the menu, go to lovehakkakitchen.com/events/mothers-day-2022.

Hakka Kitchen is located at 14474 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville.

MOTHER'S DAY continues on Page 22

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Mother's Day

Continued from 21

Nineteen At TPC Sawgrass

110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach
 Sunday Brunch: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Menu at: tpc.com/sawgrass/dining

Reservations: opentable.com

3 Palms Grille

254 Alta Mar Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach
 Menu at: 3palmsgrille.com/menus/brunch
 Reservations: opentable.com

Nona Blue Modern Tavern

Sawgrass Village Shopping Center
 325 Front St., Ponte Vedra Beach

Menu: nonablue.com

Reservations: nonablue.com, opentable.com

Metro Diner

Sawgrass Village Shopping Center
 340 Front St. Suite 700, Ponte Vedra Beach
 Menu: metrodiner.com
 Phone: 904-513-8422

Barbara Jean's On The Water

15 S Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
 Menu: barbarajeansonthewater.com
 Phone: 904-280-7522

Treylor Park

158 Marketside Ave. Unit 10, Ponte Vedra Beach
 Phone: 888-873-9567
 Menu and reservations: treylorpark.com/treylor-park-nocatee-menu

Palm Valley Fish Camp

299 Roscoe Blvd. North, Ponte Vedra Beach
 Menu: palmvalleyfishcamp.com
 Reservations: palmvalleyfishcamp.com, resy.com
 Phone: 904-285-3200

Mulligan's Pub

Sawgrass Village Shopping Center
 45 PGA Tour Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
 Phone: 904-285-1506
 Website: mulliganspubpontevedra.com

Beach Diner Ponte Vedra Beach

880 A1A North No. 2, Ponte Vedra Beach
 Menu: beachdiner.com
 Phone: 904-273-6545

Pusser's Bar & Grille Ponte Vedra Beach Restaurant

816 U.S. A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach
 Menu: pusserspvb.com
 Reservations: pusserspvb.com, resy.com
 Phone: 904-280-7766

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

MOTHER'S DAY

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PAGE 23

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022

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Leadership on full display

Lynch recognized for her work; example set in UF's business program

By Anthony Richards

Ponte Vedra's own Brooke Lynch has not only recently graduated with her master's in international business from the University of Florida, but she was also the recipient of the prestigious Heavener Hall of Fame award.

The award is considered the highest recognition and given to a graduating student from the school's Warrington College of Business.

According to Lynch, the award highlights a student that has exhibited superior leadership and academic achievement and left a legacy within the Warrington community.

"I was thrilled to receive such an honor because I've dedicated a lot of time to making Heavener (UF's School of Busi-

ness) the best it can be for its students," Lynch said.

She demonstrated that dedication by being involved in many leadership opportunities, with one of the highlights being that she helped organize and create the Women of Warrington.

Women of Warrington is an alumni database that was designed to help converge and open streams of communication between old and new alumni.

"The mentorship in college can suddenly stop after college," Lynch said. "We wanted to bridge that gap."

Lynch also took on a role as director of recruitment where she worked on helping recruit freshmen to Heavener.

"I helped revamp the recruitment process, which was all about making Heavener feel like home to these new students," Lynch said.

She also represented her school in the Heavener International Case Competition, which UF hosts annually and featured 14 of the top business schools from

around the world, including five from Europe and one from Asia.

It has been a busy last couple of weeks for Lynch, who received the award during a ceremony April 20 and graduated on April 29.

During that time she has found herself looking back and reflecting on not just her college experience but also her time growing up in Ponte Vedra and attending Ocean Palms Elementary School and Landrum Middle School before moving with her family to Chicago and attending high school there.

However, she and her family have since moved back to Ponte Vedra and her younger sister attends Ponte Vedra High School.

"The community is just so committed to getting stronger, and I appreciate how much they put in," Lynch said.

Lynch's plans now that she has graduated include going to work for Procter and Gamble in a sales position.

Now that she is an alumna of UF, she



Photo courtesy of Brooke Lynch

Brooke Lynch was the recipient of the prestigious Heavener Hall of Fame award, considered the highest recognition a graduating student can receive within the University of Florida's Warrington College of Business.

wants to continue working on the Women of Warrington database, especially with it being such a new organization.

"I've been grateful for all the opportunities I've had, and I want to make sure the school is even better off moving forward," Lynch said.

Benchmarks of Success



Sawgrass Marriott makes key culinary appointments

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa has named Edgar Maldonado its new executive chef.

Maldonado will oversee the culinary operation for all seven of the resort's dining venues as well as banquets. He has more than 27 years of food and beverage experience, including 16 with Marriott International. During his noted hospitality culinary career, he has worked with large convention hotels, luxury brand properties and returns to the Sawgrass Marriott where he previously served as senior sous chef.

He has developed his culinary style under some of the top chefs in the nation, including James Beard award winner Melissa Kelly.

"We are thrilled to welcome Chef Maldonado back to Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Spa," said General Manager Todd Hickey. "He is extremely talented, and

his unique skills will enhance the amazing dining experience of our guests."



Patrick Beach

Patrick Beach will serve as assistant sous chef of Cabana Beach Club at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa.

Beach previously worked at the resort at farm-to-table restaurant Vernon's First Coast Kitchen & Bar and has more than 10 years of experience in the culinary field, with positions at the Deer Creek Country Club, The Lodge and Club at Ponte Vedra Beach and The King & Bear Golf Course at World Golf Village.

As part of his role as assistant sous chef, Beach will assist in culinary operations for Sharkey's beachfront restaurant and other dining at Cabana Beach Club.

Seaside Bank and Trust adds experienced team

Seaside Bank and Trust has announced the addition of an accomplished Jacksonville-based team, strengthening its North

Florida presence. This team provides additional support to the bank's clients by offering customized financial solutions, informed by their many years of experience in the banking and financial industry.

The team includes longtime area bankers Cheryl Stewart, Dawn McGovern, Jami Bucy and Jeff Cates.

"We are excited for this dynamic team to join the Seaside family," said David Davis, market president for North Florida. "They are a talented and experienced group who are strong banking partners for individuals and businesses in the Jacksonville community."

Stewart joins the Seaside team as a commercial lending division manager. A Jacksonville native and industry veteran, Stewart brings over 46 years of banking experience.

With over 20 years of banking experience, McGovern joins the team as a client



Cheryl Stewart



Dawn McGovern



Jami Bucy



Jeff Cates

advisor. She is a Jacksonville native who is well connected and trusted by the community.

Bucy serves as client advisor, where she assists business owners in building strategic plans to help achieve financial goals. Originally from Jacksonville, she has over 30 years of banking experience, spending the last 20 years focusing on serving small community businesses.

Cates served as a business relationship manager and brings more than 10 years of experience in the banking industry. He has been awarded Lender Excellence by previous employers VyStar and Bank of America.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Tea with Marie owner launches ecommerce and catering

Marie Hope, owner of Tea with Marie & Everything British in Atlantic Beach, has launched the company's ecommerce website to feature an online tea shop including podcasts, videos and blogs discussing tea and British culture.

The website store allows visitors to purchase Hope's own exclusively selected products, including a personal brand of premium teas and an array of themed British gifts. She will also expand her business to include catering and coordinating afternoon tea and high tea events, along with tea etiquette as classic British traditions, among others.

"It is my hope that by engaging with an authentic British experience, the practices will be accessible without anyone ever having to cross the Atlantic," she said. "I love to create and build businesses, and expanding our capabilities is an extension of my former experience in the brick-and-mortar restaurant industry. When I feel a passion for something, there is no way but forward."

Hope's lifelong focus on her native culture is a virtual extension of her childhood, adult life, and former tea shop and restaurant.

"We have now created a virtual place to learn, reminisce and connect with like-minded people, and just generally slow down the pace to enjoy the moment," she said.

Hope was born in the small idyllic town of Clitheroe in Lancashire, England. At the age of 11, she and her parents moved three miles outside of Clitheroe to a small village called Barrow where Hope would walk a mile to the telephone box to call her friends. It was then that she realized that there was much more to life, and at that moment, her cravings for travel and new experiences were realized.

Hope attended Thomas Danby College in Leeds, West Yorkshire, England, to study business and hotel and restaurant management. Shortly after she graduated, an opportunity presented itself to manage a small café in Bermuda. Not knowing

where Bermuda was, her wanderlust took over as it sounded exotic and sunny.

In May 1977, she flew to Bermuda where she spent the next seven years building her professional experience and gaining confidence.

She managed a café for three years and then taught culinary arts and restaurant service at the Bermuda Hotel College for the next four years. In 1984, she left Bermuda for a life-changing opportunity in the United States. She continued her passion in the restaurant and culinary industry, this time as the director of the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College in the Philadelphia area.

After many years, Hope opened a space at a small farmers market in the Philadelphia suburbs of Malvern, Pennsylvania, called A Taste of Britain. During this time, she baked and sold homemade British goods as well as sourced a line of British grocery items that were difficult to find in the United States. Her customers expressed a desire for an authentic British tea shop where they could enjoy afternoon tea, scones and British pastries.

Soon after, Hope opened a tea shop on the Main Line of Philadelphia that blossomed into a popular venue. A Taste of Britain served British-style lunches and full afternoon tea events complete with tea sandwiches, scones and petit fours. Special dinners were held to honor various British holidays, such as the Queen's Birthday, Scottish Burns Night and Candlelight Christmas Afternoon teas served during December.

In time, the menu grew to include a full line of homemade British specialties, and the display shelves overflowed with British china teapots, cups, saucers, tea strainers and various British gift items. Catering services were added that focused on afternoon tea events and were well-liked for bridal and baby showers, sweet 16 gatherings and mother-daughter gatherings.

After 15 years, Hope decided to sell A Taste of Britain and eventually relocated



Contributed photo

Marie Hope, owner of Tea with Marie & Everything British in Atlantic Beach, has launched the company's ecommerce website.

to Northeast Florida. However, the love of her British heritage and passion for sharing her knowledge prompted her to start her latest endeavor.

For more information, call 904-372-4458 or email marie@itsteawithmarie.com. The website is itsteawithmarie.com.

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In the Arts



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THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022 · PAGE 25

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Gamble Rogers Music Festival is this weekend

The Gamble Rogers Music Festival will take place Friday through Sunday, May 6-8, at the Colonial Oak Music Park in downtown St. Augustine. The festival celebrates recording artist Gamble Rogers, who died trying to save a drowning swimmer in 1991. His passion for balladry and storytelling shaped American folk music.

The festival has honored that tradition since 1995 by bringing to the stage international and national artists, as well as local and regional performers. This year's event will include more than 30 musical acts, with headliner The Steel Wheels, an Americana band from the Virginia mountains.

Along with three full days of music, the Gamble Rogers Music Festival will offer plenty of food and drink at the Colonial Quarter's restaurants and beverage sales areas, a jam area, merchandise and

more.

New this year is the Riberia Gardens stage, located across the street from Colonial Oak Music Park. It will feature youth-friendly performances and activities, including a ukulele workshop, storytelling, hands-on music making and family-friendly music.

Tickets are \$60 for the entire three-day event; \$20 for Friday, May 6; \$30 for all-day Saturday, May 7; and \$20 for Sunday, May 8. For tickets, go to eventbrite.com/e/gamble-rogers-music-festival-tickets-254945297247 or gamblerogersfest.org.

The event hours are: 5-10:30 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.

Colonial Oak Music Park is located at 21 St. George St., St. Augustine.

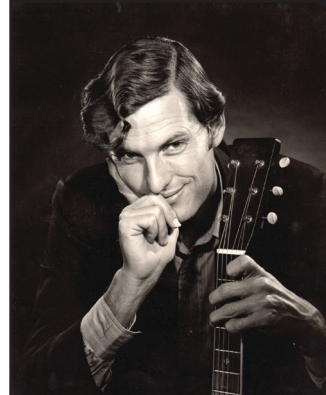


Contributed photos

The late Gamble Rogers performs on an outdoor stage.



The Steel Wheels will headline this year's Gamble Rogers Music Festival.



Recording artist, the late Gamble Rogers



The annual Gamble Rogers Music Festival continues the legacy of the local recording artist.

FESTIVAL continues on Page 26



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BRASS plans its 30th Anniversary Gala & Symphony Concert



By Leigh Cort

One of the highly anticipated fundraisers of the spring season in the Beaches area of Jacksonville is hosted by BRASS

(Beaches Residents Actively Supporting the Symphony) on Sunday, May 15. The entire Jacksonville Symphony will be featured at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club led by conductor Gonzalo Farias. The black-tie (optional) evening includes a cocktail reception, dinner, live auction and musical performance by the Jacksonville Symphony.

For 30 years, BRASS has been a highly recognized organization in the Jacksonville Beaches community that supports the Jacksonville Symphony through financial contributions, promoting concert attendance and fostering orchestral music

appreciation. BRASS is an all-volunteer group represented by Beaches residents who are dedicated to music and the efforts of the Jacksonville Symphony.

Throughout these three decades, BRASS galas have raised amounts ranging from \$75,000 to \$100,000. These donated funds are used to sponsor Jacksonville Symphony concerts and other events at Robert E. Jacoby Symphony Hall and throughout Greater Jacksonville.

This year's 30th Annual Gala honors the memory of Robert E. Jacoby who, with his wife Monica, sponsored many BRASS galas through the years and were generous Jacksonville Symphony patrons season after season. Original BRASS members, the Jacobys moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1986 from New York City and immediately became involved in the Jacksonville community, helping to create this highly respected Beaches-area group "... to bring together music lovers for friendship and

support of the Jacksonville Symphony."

The Jacobys remained supporters of both the Jacksonville Symphony and BRASS ever since.

In 1997, the Jacoby Symphony Hall at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts opened. It is recognized as a world-class symphony hall specifically designed by orchestral performances that seats 1,800 attendees and is included among a narrow list of American orchestras with their own dedicated concert hall.

In addition to generous individual financial contributions, BRASS has supported the Jacksonville Symphony through corporate sponsorships and BRASS special events. Hundreds of BRASS participants, along with BRASS Board of Directors members, have created and supported live concerts in various local venues.

BRASS also helps provide music education through a partnership with OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning institute) at the

University of North Florida and by mentoring young musicians for the BRASS Ring Student Music Competition.

Maestro Gonzalo Farias was born in Santiago de Chile and is an engaging orchestral conductor, award-winning pianist, passionate educator and associate conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony. His ambition is to establish music-making as a way of rethinking our place in society by cultivating respect, trust and cooperation among all people in the community.

The BRASS 30th Annual Gala & Concert will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. May 15 at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

For ticket reservations and BRASS information, contact Nadine Sabatier, chairman, 30th Anniversary BRASS Gala, at nadinesabatier@bellsouth.net or 904-545-0491.

For further information, go to BRASS-Online.org

Festival

Continued from 25

WHO'S PLAYING

Here's a look at the festival's musical lineup.

MAIN STAGE

Friday, May 6:

- 6 p.m. Lonesome Bert's Thick and Thin String Band
- 6:45 p.m. John Dickie and Collapsible B
- 7:30 p.m. Pierce Pettis
- 8:15 p.m. Remedy Tree
- 9 p.m. Grant Peeples

- 9:45 p.m. Wild Shiners

Saturday, May 7:

- 11 a.m. Skin & Bonz
- 11:45 a.m. Madi Carr
- 12:30 p.m. Bad Dog Momma
- 1:15 p.m. Michael Jordan
- 2 p.m. Davis Loose and the Loose Cannons
- 2:45 p.m. Duffy Bishop Band
- 3:30 p.m. Red and Chris Henry's All Star Band
- 4:15 p.m. Passerine
- 5 p.m. Veronika Jackson
- 5:45 p.m. The Driftwoods
- 6:30 p.m. Brian Smalley
- 7:15 p.m. Dewey Via Band
- 8 p.m. The Florida Troubadours
- 9 p.m. The Steel Wheels

Sunday, May 8:

- 11 a.m. The Morrow Family

- Noon: Jamie DeFrates
- 1 p.m. Amy Hendrickson
- 2 p.m. Sam Pacetti
- 3 p.m. Michael Reno Harrel
- 4 p.m. Aslyn and the Naysayers
- 5 p.m. The Carpetbaggers

MULBERRY STAGE

Saturday, May 7:

- 11 a.m. The Dunchoppers
- 11:30 a.m. Joe Mark
- Noon: Lee Hunter and Joey Kerr
- 12:30 p.m. The Skinny
- 1 p.m. Jerry Mincey & Tony Macalusco
- 1:30 p.m. Sugarfoot (Elaine and Sam Mahon)
- 2 p.m. Frankie J and the Chicken Parade
- 2:30 p.m. Fiona Maura
- 3 p.m. Paul Linser
- 3:30 p.m. Better Half
- 4 p.m. The Ashley Gang
- 4:30 p.m. Lauren Heintz
- 5 p.m. Doug Spears
- 5:30 p.m. Cindy Bear and Robert
- 6 p.m. Ron n Bari
- 6:30 p.m. Rob Ellis Peck

Sunday, May 8:

- 11 a.m. The FreeRangers
- Noon: Marianne Lerbs
- 12:30 p.m. Colton McKenna
- 1 p.m. Elizabeth Roth
- 1:30 p.m. Denny Blue
- 2 p.m. Chuck hardwicke's Hart Line
- 2:30 p.m. Chris Kastle
- 3 p.m. Bob Ganley
- 3:30-4:30 p.m. I Remember Gamble

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CANVAS, STAGE AND MORE

Hilarious Shakespeare show at The Amp

Apex Theatre Studio, in partnership with The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, will present the fast-paced and hilarious “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged” at 7:30 p.m. July 15 and 16 on the Backyard Stage at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre.

A small band of madcap performers in Elizabethan dress (and sneakers) weave their way through all 37 of Shakespeare’s tragedies, comedies and histories at a breakneck pace. It’s an irreverent rollercoaster ride through all of the Bard’s plays. The show originally premiered in London and went on to become its longest running comedy.

The show is under the director of AJ Allegra, artistic director for the NOLA Project in New Orleans. It features a mixture of teaching artists and students from North Florida’s premiere theater training studio.

“This show was a hit in our 2017 season,” said Ian Mairs, managing director. “We wanted to bring it back to our audiences during a time when 90 minutes of nonstop laughter is needed.”

General admission tickets can be purchased at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) and at the venue box office.

Gallery 725 welcomes Angelo Moore

Gallery 725 will present “Angelo Moore: AVANT ICONS: The Collected Works” in its limited engagement presentation May 20-29.

Moore is renowned for his work as lead singer and saxophonist for the ska and funk metal band Fishbone as well as his extraordinary works of art. Three not to be missed live appearances by the world-renowned musician, painter and actor are scheduled for 6-9 p.m. May 27 and May 28 and 1-3 p.m. May 29. All artworks will be on exhibition and available for acquisition.

The exhibition as well as the Angelo Moore in-gallery appearances are complimentary and open to the public.

For more information, contact the gallery at 904-345-9320 or gallery725@gmail.com. Go to bit.ly/3MvrARu to RSVP.

Gallery 725 is located at 1250 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

ON STAGE

A roundup of musical acts appearing soon at local venues.

PONTE VEDRA CONCERT HALL

1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach

Purchase tickets at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office or [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com).

For further information about each act, go to [pvconcerthall.com/events](https://www.pvconcerthall.com/events).

- **Madeleine Peyroux** — 8 p.m. May 8.
- **Five For Fighting** — 8 p.m. May 11. With String Quartet.
- **Tommy Emmanuel** — 7:30 p.m. May 15. With special guest Gareth Pearson
- **Dance Gavin Dance** — 6 p.m. May 17. With special guests Memphis May Fire, Volumes and Moontooth.
- **Rob Schneider** — 8 p.m. May 19.
- **Ryan Hamilton** — 7 p.m. May 21. Rescheduled from Feb. 3.
- **Heather Land** — 7:30 p.m. May 22.
- **Robert Earl Keen**: “I’m Comin’ Home: 41 Years On The

Road” — 8 p.m. May 28.

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Box office hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets sold at the box office are available via credit- and debit-card only. A valid ID is required for all box office transactions and ticket purchases must be made in person.

Tickets may also be purchased at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com).

For further information about each act, go to [theamp.com/events](https://www.theamp.com/events).

- **Rex Orange County** — 7 p.m. May 5.
- **Koe Wetzell** — 7:30 p.m. May 6. With special guests Tim Montana & Dylan Wheeler.
- **Primus** — “A Tribute to Kings” — 8 p.m. May 7. With special guest Battles. Primus will perform Rush’s “A Farewell to Kings” in its entirety.
- **John Fogerty** — 7 p.m. May 8
- **Yacht Rock Revue** — 8 p.m.

May 14

• **Leon Bridges** “The Boundless Tour” — 6:30 p.m. May 19. With support from Chiiild.

• **Phoebe Bridgers** — 7 p.m. May 25. Note: Per artist request, proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative COVID-19 test result within 48-hours of event is required for entry. Face masks are encouraged.

• **Wallows** — “Tell Me That It’s Over” Tour — 8 p.m. May 27

• **Bright Eyes** — 7 p.m. May 28. With special guest Hurray for the Riff Raff

• **Bikini Kill** — 8 p.m. May 31.

• **Rebellion Good Vibes Summer Toot 2022** — 5:30 p.m. June 1 and 2. With Steel Pulse, DENM and DJ Mackle

• **Barenaked Ladies** — 6 p.m. June 3. With guests Gin Blossoms and Toad the Wet Sprocket.

• **Fool’s Paradise** — 4 p.m. June 4, 2 p.m. June 5. With Umphrey’s McGee, Lettuce, Andy Frasco & The U.N., Isaiah Sharkey, Flamin-gosis, Jennifer Hartswick & Nick Cassarino

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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ROMANZA FESTIVALE CONTINUES THIS WEEK

St. Augustine's Romanza Festivale of Music and The Arts is two weeks of daily events from April 29 through May 15 featuring dozens of concerts, shows, exhibits and more at locations throughout the city. Most events are free. Here's a look at what's happening this week.

For further information, go to romanza-festivale.com/events/all.

St. Augustine Youth Chorus in Concert

When: Thursday, May 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Where: Ancient City Baptist Church, 27 Sevilla St., St. Augustine

Featuring: music from all over the world with selections from Russia, Sweden, Africa, Brazil and the United States. Admission is free

First Friday Art Walk

When: Friday, May 6, 5-9 p.m.

Where: Various galleries in St. Augustine

What: 30 art galleries welcome visitors to browse their latest exhibits and enjoy refreshments and live entertainment. For details on First Friday Art Walks, go to artgalleriesofstaugustine.com. Free

Kaleidoscope of Dance VII

When: Friday, May 6, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Where: Lewis Auditorium, Flagler College, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine

What: A variety of dance styles performed by dancers who live on the First Coast.

Featuring: Ancient City Sirens, Blue Lotus World Belly Dance, Arthur Murray St. Augustine and Jacksonville, Flamenco Perspective, Florida School of the Arts, Tango Miel – Honey Burton, Perla Ballet and St. Augustine Dance Conservatory, Saltmarsh Dance, Ponte Vedra Ballet, Fusion Performing Arts Academy, St. Augustine Dance Academy and more.

Admission is free.

"The Immigrant"

What: The true story of the playwright's grandfather's experiences in his new home.

Who: A Classic Theatre

When: 7:30-9:30 p.m. May 6, 7, 13, 14; 2 p.m. May 8, 15

Where: The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine

Tickets at: aclassictheatre.org/tickets.

Directed by Margaret Kaler, with Dexter McDaniel, Harolyn Sharpe, Bill White and

Mary Schubert.

"Unidos en la Musica"

What: Latin American Festival

When: Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Where: Francis Field, 25 W. Castillo Drive, St. Augustine

A day full of culture, music, dance, food, workshops, performances, games and more.

The main stage will feature music and dance groups throughout the day with a mixture of styles from across Latin America. A total of 75 vendors and food trucks will be on site to showcase the distinctive style and range of Latin food, crafts and textiles.

Headliner Grupo Niche will be joined by Baba Caiman and Fiusha Funk from Mexico and Los Ineditos del Vallonato on the main stage. Papayera la Arena from Colombia will perform throughout the day in pop-up style performances. World champion salsa dancers Emily and Raul along with Romi and Alex will perform and teach salsa/bachata dance workshops.

The event will be held rain or shine. Tickets are \$10 general admission (early bird online), \$15 at the gate and \$60 VIP.

Plein Air Paint Out Exhibit

When: Saturday, May 7, 1-4 p.m.

Where: St. Augustine Art Association, 22 Marine St., St. Augustine

Admission is free.

A Life in Song: A Cabaret

When: Saturday, May 7, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Where: St. Augustine Art Association, 22 Marine St., St. Augustine

What: A program of songs and stories featuring First Coast Opera Artistic Director Curtis Tucker, soprano Hope Cruse, and pianist Clifford Parrish.

Featuring: Songs from "Oklahoma," "Pippin," "Carnival," "The Pirates of Penzance," "Little Shop of Horrors" and others.

Admission is free. No reservations are required.

"Love Is ..."

What: Concert

When: Saturday, May 7, noon-1 p.m.

Where: Ancient City Baptist Church, 27 Sevilla St., St. Augustine

Featuring: The North Florida Women's Chorus, directed by Kerry Fradley with Kathleen Vande Berg accompanying.

The first half of the program will include settings of familiar love songs and poems.

The second half of the program will feature the chorale singing lighter fare: a medley of songs by ABBA from "Mamma Mia," "Somewhere" and "Sisters" from the movie "White Christmas."

Admission is free.

"Jersey Boys and Girls"

What: A musical extravaganza honoring iconic artists from the Garden State.

When: Saturday, May 7, 8-9:30 p.m.

Where: Lewis Auditorium, Flagler College, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine

Who: The Gainesville Orchestra hosted by The EMMA Concert Association

Featuring: music made famous by Frank Sinatra, Bruce Springsteen, Frankie Valli, Whitney Houston, Dionne Warwick, Lesley Gore and more. Expect such hits as "Fly Me To The Moon," "My Eyes Adored You," "That's Life!," "They Can't Take That Away From Me," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," "I Will Always Love You" and more.

Tickets: \$35. Purchase them at emmaconcerts.com.

Free shuttle service from the parking area to the concert site with tickets that are purchased.

Mama Blue's Concert Special for Moms — and Everyone!

When: Sunday, May 8, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Where: Lewis Auditorium, Flagler College, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine

Admission is free.

The Grass Menagerie

What: Trio of musicians performing bluegrass

When: Monday, May 9, noon-1 p.m.

Where: Ancient City Baptist Church, 27 Sevilla St., St. Augustine

Admission is free.

"1942 – 2022: 80th Anniversary of World War II Arriving in St. Augustine featuring Shortages, Submarines, Saboteurs & War Bonds"

Who: Wayne and Jane Sims

What: Stories told about a big chapter in St. Augustine's not-too-distant past

When: Monday, May 9, 2-3 p.m.

Where: The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine

Tickets: \$10 or two for \$15 at the door or go to eventbrite.com/e/the-storytelling-sims-present-holding-down-the-homefront-ticket

ets-318657431957.

Free off-street parking for The Waterworks is accessed through the St. Johns County Main Library parking area at 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd. There is no entrance for parking at The WaterWorks available via San Marco Avenue.

The Lawson Ensemble

What: Chamber music concert

When: noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, May 10

Where: Ancient City Baptist Church, 27 Sevilla St., St. Augustine

Admission is free.

Members are violinist Aurica Duca, violinist/violist Clinton Dewing and cellist Nick Curry.

The Music of Albert Syeles – an Evening Musicales

What: Concert

When: 7:30-8:45 p.m. Tuesday, May 10

Where: Ancient City Baptist Church, 27 Sevilla St., St. Augustine

Admission is free.

This program will feature the music of Romanza President Albert Syeles and works by composers Faure, Hsiao, Wieniawski, Ravel, Sarasate and Chabrier. This concert will be performed by Duo Beaux Arts: Catherine Lan and Tao Lin; Duo Formosa: Catherine Lan and Huifang Chen; Brittany Maloney, cellist; Caren Umbarger, violist; and Kevin Clasen, clarinetist.

The Gainesville Brass Quintet

When: noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, May 11

Where: Ancient City Baptist Church, 27 Sevilla St., St. Augustine

Admission is free.

The Gainesville Brass Quintet performs the best in light classes, pop, swing, musicals and, for the purist, serious quintet literature from the Baroque through the modern eras.

The St. Augustine Orchestra

When: 8-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 11, and Thursday, May 12.

Where: Lightner Museum, 75 King St., St. Augustine.

Featuring: World premiere of "Diamante," composed by Bob Moore.

Purchase tickets at staugustineorchestra.ticketleap.com.

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— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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Sports



THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022 · PAGE 29

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Sharks secure place in history with tennis state title

By Anthony Richards

Winning a state title is the epitome for every high school athlete, but what makes the title so special is the ride it takes to get to that point.

For the Ponte Vedra High boys tennis team winning a state title was something they felt confident in since the start of the season, and it came to fruition with them handing over the school's first tennis state championship trophy to athletic director Michael Harrison during a presentation May 2.

"You can't script it any better," Coach Fredo Weiland said. "Winning a state title in Florida is not easy. It will be nice to see that banner up (in the gym)."

Senior Adam Logan battled back from trailing two match points early in a tie-breaker to eventually win his match and secure the title for the Sharks.

"It was definitely stressful, knowing that everything was riding on me, but I just went back to everything I've been working on my whole life and just tried to stick with my gameplan and stay aggressive," Logan said.

It was just as nerve-racking for Logan's teammates as they watched him and rooted him on.

According to fellow senior Andrew Kelley, the group got into a prayer circle at one point.

"We believed in Adam the whole way," junior Ofek Blank said. "We just knew he was going to pull it off."

The victory will always hold a special place in Logan's heart, not only because of the magnitude of the win, but also because his dad passed away earlier in the year.

"I've been playing since I was 6 years

old and my dad was my coach," Logan said. "We learned how to play by watching YouTube together and then going on the court and figuring stuff out. He got me to where I am today, and I just devoted this season to him and wanted to do everything I could to honor him. This is the best way to do it."

Logan is one of five seniors on the roster that will end their high school tennis careers as state champions and go down in history as the group that won the school's first in tennis.

"This is the peak of my high school career," senior Callum Searle said. "It's a pretty awesome feeling, and it's something I'll remember for the rest of my life."

Senior Elias Missa was slotted in as the team's No. 6 player for most of the year and had played in seven matches, mostly in the doubles format.

However, he was thrust into a singles role to fill in for an injured player and stepped up in a big way by not losing a match at states after not playing at districts or regionals.

"Coach texted me and said that I might be playing, so initially it was a big surprise, but I knew I had been ready and was prepared," Missa said. "I just tried to treat it like one of the thousands of matches that we've all played."

Coming off the bench when your name is called is one thing but doing it in the most crucial of moments is another thing all together.

It was obvious to each of the Sharks that the intensity of the state tournament is unlike anything they see during the season, even at the district and regional levels.



Photo by Anthony Richards

The Sharks are the 2022 Class 3A tennis state champions.

"It's a lot more intense and everyone has a chip on their shoulders because its win or go home," sophomore Grant Price said.

One match the specifically stands out for Kelley during the Sharks postseason path was during the regional final against Vanguard, when he found himself down early.

"I got beat pretty bad in the first set, and I haven't had an easy season with some tears in my knee and I've been injured a lot, but I thought to myself at the changeover 'playing like this is not going to get us to our final goal and the state championships,' so I slapped myself in the face and said, 'This is going to change right now,' and I came back and won that match," Kelley said.



Photo courtesy of Matt Price

Grant Price and Adam Logan with the state championship trophy.



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File photo
Corey Bloss and the Sharks will face the Winter Park Wildcats in the state semifinals May 5 in Naples.

Ponte Vedra set for high-powered state semifinal

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Sharks are two wins away from a boys lacrosse state championship and will face-off against Winter Park in the state semifinals May 5 at 7 p.m. at Paradise Coast Sports Complex in Naples.

The Sharks (18-3) have taken care of business up to this point and have showed an ability to win with an offensive explosion as they did in victories over Flagler Palm Coast and Nease before leaning on its goaltending and clutch shooting to win an 8-7 barnburner over Lake Mary in the regional final.

Ponte Vedra's semifinal matchup has all the makings of a shootout as both teams have displayed their arsenal of weapons during the postseason.

The Sharks are averaging 15.6 points per game in three games during the state tournament, while the Wildcats (19-2) have averaged 17 points per game.

There was little opposition to the Wildcats in Region 2-2A, and it led to them winning all three of their games by a double-digit margin, including shutting out Windermere to clinch a spot in the final four.

Maddox Johnson leads the Sharks high-powered attack with 56 goals on the season, followed by Will Corbett and Corey Bloss with 30 and 22 goals, respectively.

Corbett has also done an excellent job of facilitating the ball and has a team-high 20 assists.

However, it is the depth of scoring that makes the Sharks so dangerous to defend. That depth is evident with eight players with at least 18 goals on the season.

Nolan Parlette has been a workhorse for the Sharks in net all season and the senior and his defensive mates will surely be up for the challenge once more against the Wildcats' dynamic offense.

The Wildcats use a different approach to the Sharks as they do not have the same depth of scoring production but make up for it by having five players who have scored 30-plus goals.

Of those players, senior Lawton Dowdell leads the way for the Wildcats with 61.

If the Sharks defeat the Wildcats, they will play for the state championship against the winner of the St. Thomas Aquinas vs. Plant matchup May 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Naples.

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THEME: THE 1950s

ACROSS

- 1. a.k.a. vampire
- 6. Asian cuisine pan
- 9. Type of tide
- 13. Make more attractive
- 14. Lawyers' grp.
- 15. China grass
- 16. **"West Side Story's" Tony and _____
- 17. Mourner's acronym
- 18. Utilizing
- 19. *a.k.a. "The King"
- 21. *Kitschy art movement begun in '50s (2 words)
- 23. Mortar carrier
- 24. Back of the neck
- 25. *Kelly or Chanel 2.55, e.g.
- 28. Hurtful remark
- 30. "____ Margery Daw," nursery rhyme
- 35. Paper unit
- 37. Duds
- 39. Eurasian antelope
- 40. Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
- 41. Unaccompanied
- 43. Disgust with sweetness excess
- 44. Brandish
- 46. Track competition, e.g.
- 47. Frustrated driver's recourse
- 48. Legendary King of Pylos
- 50. Tsar, tzar or _____
- 52. Greek letters on campus
- 53. Deprivation
- 55. Greek R
- 57. *A Streetcar Named Desire" star
- 60. *Popular type of 1950s restaurant
- 64. Pro athletes' move
- 65. Sea in Spain
- 67. Narcotics agent
- 68. Stringed instrument of India
- 69. Brewpub offering
- 70. Shakespearean "ergo"
- 71. *Gwendolyn Brooks'"Annie Allen" entry, e.g.
- 72. *Doris of "Que Sera, Sera" fame
- 73. Disinfectant brand

- beside the golden door"
- 2. Sixth month of civil year
- 3. Encore!
- 4. *Like Maureen O'Hara and Samuel Beckett
- 5. Not digital
- 6. On one's guard
- 7. ____-Wan of "Star Wars"
- 8. Fraternity K
- 9. *Space program established in 1958
- 10. Arabian chieftain
- 11. Are not
- 12. Margaret, for short
- 15. Raja's money, pl.
- 20. Changes to a manuscript
- 22. Military moves
- 24. Fail to care
- 25. * ____ v. Board of Education
- 26. Eagle's nest
- 27. Kr and Xe on the periodic table, e.g.
- 29. *Postwar prosperity
- 31. Per person
- 32. Farm structures

- 33. Ancient market
- 34. *"Rio Grande" and "Rio Bravo" star
- 36. Lose skin
- 38. *Egypt's disputed canal
- 42. Sir Richard Starkey of the Beatles
- 45. Like certain Debbie
- 49. Unit of absorbed radiation
- 51. Relating to nose
- 54. Frances McDormand's Oscar-winning 2020 role
- 56. Estrogen producer
- 57. Spiritedness
- 58. Equal to distance divided by time
- 59. Actor Driver
- 60. Squirrel's nest
- 61. Units of work
- 62. International Civil Aviation Org.
- 63. Hall of Fame Steelers coach
- 64. Cooking meas.
- 66. Fla. neighbor

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