

THE RECORDER



Not your average newspaper, not your average reader.

July 14, 2022
Volume 53, No. 37
75 cents

Covering Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, and Greater St. Johns County

PonteVedraRecorder.com



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Business Weekly
featuring First Coast
Legal Eagles
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INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!
The Recorder's Entertainment
EXTRA featuring TV listings,
streaming information,
puzzles and more!



Photo by Anthony Richards

Scotie Cousin of Atlantic Beach is surrounded by various creatures that he has created through his creative artwork. He seeks to inspire and bring the community together with his art. See story on page 28.

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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to 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

Program helps newly bereaved

Community Hospice & Palliative Care will host a free support and educational session titled "Understanding Grief" from 11 a.m. to noon July 19. This program for the newly bereaved will be a virtual event.

A goal of the session is to help attendees realize that healing is possible after the death of a loved one and review effective methods to cope with grief.

Other session topics include:

- Identifying normal responses to loss
- Identifying helpful coping skills
- Understanding the importance of self-care in the grieving process

Space is limited, so call 904-407-7001 to register and receive the meeting link. "Understanding Grief" is designed to be most helpful for those who have experienced a loss within the last 90 days and are at least 18 years old.

St. Johns Democratic Party plans Meet the Candidates event

The St. Johns Democratic Party will host a free Meet The Candidates event from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 30, at the Willie Galimore Center, 399 Riberia St., St. Augustine. Space is limited, so register to attend at mobilize.us/mobilize/event/475060, or search mobilize.us for this event.

This will be a fun and informative evening

of music, refreshments and opportunities to meet directly with local and state candidates running in this year's election and get to know their platforms. More than 12 candidates are expected to take part.

This event meets ADA standards and COVID-19 safety protocols.

Savvy Job Hunters announces workshop

Dr. Priscilla Berry, owner and president of Berry & Associates Consulting Firm, will present an in-person workshop on Aug. 25 titled "Style, Presence, and Power: Know and understand your purpose, find your path, and formulate your plan." This is part of the Savvy Job Hunters Ministry.

Sign-in and networking begin at 9:45 a.m., with the program scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon in room 204 (second floor), Formation + Arts Building, Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Those attending should park on the upper level of the parking garage and walk across to the Formation + Arts Building.

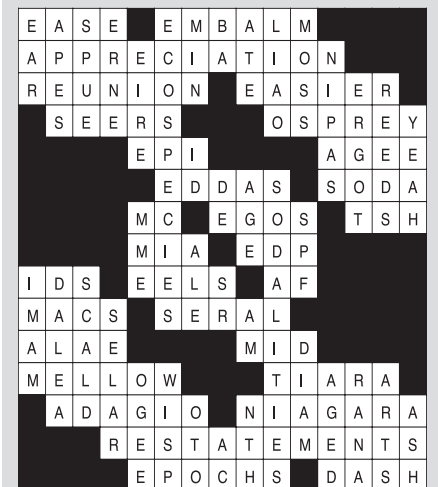
To reserve a seat, email Pam Ottesen at pottesen66@gmail.com.

Watch for new voter information cards

The St. Johns County Supervisor of Elec-

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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9	7	2	5	8	1	4	6	3
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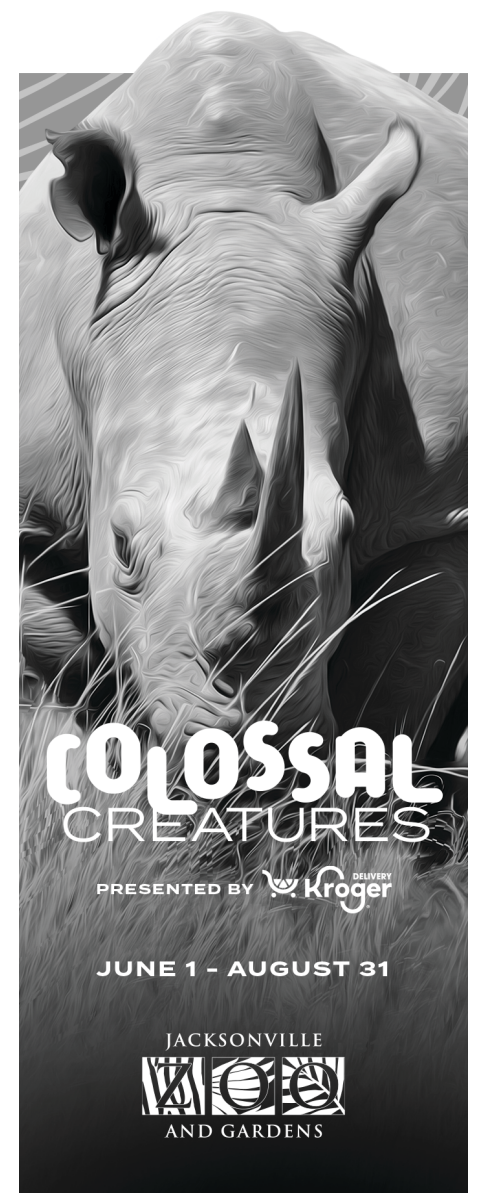


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Briefs

Continued from 2

tions is advising all St. Johns County voters to watch their mailboxes for new voter information cards as the Aug. 23 primary election approaches.

The cards contain important election information, including a voter's districts, precinct, polling location, and the voter's name and address on file with the Elections Office.

Due to the 2020 census and the 2021 redistricting process, voting districts, precinct lines and some Election Day polling

locations have changed. As a result, the new cards replace any other cards voters have received in the past.

All voters are encouraged to review the cards and contact the Office of the Supervisor of Elections if any discrepancies are identified.

When voting in person, registered voters do not need to bring their information card. Current and valid photo and signature ID must be presented when voting in person, or a provisional ballot must be utilized.

The phone number for the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections is 904-823-2238.

Volunteer opportunities available on boards and committees

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners provides residents interested in serving their community and participating in local government with a variety of board and committee opportunities.

The volunteer positions consider and make recommendations regarding various topics, including planning and zoning issues, development projects, libraries, parks and recreation facilities and programs, arts, culture and tourism.

The following boards and committees are currently accepting applications:

- Contractors Review Board (application deadline Aug. 8)
- Library Advisory Board (application deadline Aug. 1)
- Northwest Communication Tower Advisory Board (application deadline Aug. 5)
- South Anastasia Design Review Board (application deadline until filled)

Go to sjcfl.us/Boards to view the requirements and duties of each board and committee or download an application. Contact the Board of County Commissioners office at 904-209-0300 or jspencer@sjcfl.us for more information.





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ELIZABETH HUDGINS

St. Johns County school district earns an A grade again

By Shaun Ryan

Once again, the St. Johns County School District has earned an A grade. Going back as far as 2010, the district has never earned anything less.

Thursday, July 7, the Florida Department of Education released school grades for the 2021-22 academic year. The grades revealed that, statewide, schools exceeded expectations. This was the first year that full grade data was released since 2019 due to the lack of assessments in the 2019-20 academic year and the opt-in nature of the 2020-21 grades.

Also, the graduation rate for St. Johns County public school students in the 2020-21 year was 95%. The highest graduation rate in the state was Lafayette County School District with 98%. Three districts finished with 96% and two tied with St. Johns.

Duval County earned a B grade this year and had a graduation rate of 90% in 2020-21.

Twenty-nine schools in St. Johns County earned an A grade. Seven earned a B grade. Three earned a C grade. There were no D's or F's.

St. Johns County elementary schools earning an A grade were: Ponte Vedra Palm Valley-Rawlings, Ocean Palms, Ketterlinus, R.B. Hunt, Julington Creek,

Hartley, Osceola, Otis Mason, Cunningham Creek, Durbin Creek, Timberlin Creek, Hickory Creek and Palencia.

St. Johns County middle schools earning an A grade were: Landrum, Switzerland Point, Pacetti Bay and Fruit Cove.

Other schools earning an A grade were: Palm Valley Academy, Pine Island Academy, Valley Ridge Academy, Freedom Crossing Academy, Mill Creek Academy, Patriot Oaks Academy and Liberty Pines Academy.

St. Johns County high schools earning an A grade were: Nease, Ponte Vedra, Bartram Trail, Creekside and Toco Creek.

Schools in St. Johns County earning a B grade were: Crookshank Elementary, Picolata Crossing Elementary, Wards Creek Elementary, Sebastian Middle School, Gamble Rogers Middle School, Pedro Menendez High School and St. Augustine High School.

St. Johns County schools earning a C grade were: South Woods Elementary School, Murray Middle School and The Webster School.

Graduation rates for the 2020-21 year were: Nease High School, 97%; Ponte Vedra, 98%; Creekside, 98%; Bartram Trail, 99%; St. Augustine, 89%; and Pedro Menendez, 88%.

There were no graduating seniors



at Toco Creek High School, as it just opened for the 2021-22 academic year.

Statewide, 53 schools exited the School Improvement Support list in 2022. Also, all schools earning an F grade in 2019 improved their grades in 2022, including one that earned a B and six that earned a C.

A total 469 schools increased their grades in 2022, with 825 maintaining an A grade and 348 maintaining a B grade when compared with 2019.

“From spring 2021 to spring 2022, it’s clear that our teachers and school leaders used every resource at their disposal

to lift Florida’s students well beyond expectations,” said state Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz Jr. “We know that these results are thanks to policies that kept schools open and kept kids in the classroom, which has been widely recognized as critical to student achievement. Today, we can celebrate these incredible results, while continuing to support the schools that are struggling. With Gov. DeSantis’ leadership, Florida will continue to support our great teachers and implement world-class instructional and educational supports to uplift Florida’s education family.”

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The Ponte Vedra Recorder, celebrating 53 years of community news excellence, will launch our fourth annual **BEST OF THE BEST of Ponte Vedra, 32081 and 32082.**

Readers have nominated their favorite businesses, organizations, professionals and more in over 250 categories online.

Vote now through July 25th. Readers can vote for their favorite business in each category once per day.

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Photo by Anthony Richards

Krista Keating-Joseph (middle), running for St. Johns County Commission in district 4, and Johnny Coe Counts and Charles Labanowski, both running for Commission in district 2 participated in a forum held by the Beaches Coalition July 11.

Commission candidates open up to residents during forum

By Anthony Richards

Residents in Ponte Vedra Beach got to know and hear from some of the candidates that are running for the pair of St. Johns County Commission seats up for grabs during the primary election in August thanks to a forum held by the Beaches Coalition July 11.

All candidates running were invited to attend the forum, but only three showed up to take part.

Krista Keating-Joseph running for Commission in District 4 and Johnny Coe Counts and Charles Labanowski, both running for Commission in District 2 were the others present.

The term “smart growth” was something that each candidate took time to talk about and agreed that the county needs to do a better job of managing its growth moving forward.

According to Keating-Joseph, unfortu-

nately, she believes the current residents have been overlooked with all the talk centered around the potential of people moving to the county.

“We have to remember to think and care about those who are already here and not as much about those that are coming,” Keating-Joseph said.

Labanowski stated that the improper use of impact fees has helped lead to much of the mismanaged growth in his eyes.

“Impact fees are not being paid by the developers,” Labanowski said.

Remembering to preserve the county’s agriculture was also something raised by Counts, who has a family farm himself and has seen the continued loss of land in the county with the ever-growing development projects taking place to keep up with the growth.

“Agriculture still produces 25% of the jobs in St. Johns County,” Counts said.

“We need to think about that when we’re making our decisions.”

None of the three were in favor of the sales tax expected to be on the upcoming ballot.

Keating-Joseph questioned Jerimiah Blocker, who she is running against and the incumbent in the district 4 seat, and the way he has handled the sales tax increase proposal.

“I know we have extra money,” Keating-Joseph said.

Labanowski agreed and did not even understand how it even made it to the point of getting placed on the ballot to begin with.

According to Labanowski, the county’s tax base grew from \$1 billion last year to \$1.3 billion, so any tax on the residents was puzzling to him.

“They want you to vote on taxing yourself, essentially,” Labanowski said. “You

should not be put in the position to have to even vote on that.”

Counts pointed to the U.S. Constitution as to what he uses as a model when making his decisions.

“If we do what government is meant to do, and protect those rights, everything will work out. Unfortunately, bureaucracy feeds on bureaucracy,” Counts said.

Keating-Joseph said that if she is elected, one of the things she would do first is move to put general comments from the residents at the front end of the commission meetings, as opposed to towards the end as it is now.

“We work for you, and you are the ones we need to be hearing from,” Keating-Joseph said.

Labanowski promised that if elected, he would have a “true open-door policy,” where any resident would be able to reach out to him at any time.

Rachel DuBois works at Wahby Financial Group but is invested in helping the local community through Angelwood. She was first introduced to the nonprofit in 2014 and has been involved ever since.

Rachel DuBois

As told to Anthony Richards

Can you tell us a little about your background?

I grew up in North Florida and came to Ponte Vedra to attend the University of North Florida where I majored in finance and business management.

I am a partner at Wahby Financial Group, and we are a full-service wealth management firm that helps clients with protection planning, retirement planning, estate and legacy planning.

What led you to get involved and what are your roles with Angelwood?

My mentor, Robin Wahby, first introduced me to Angelwood when I was a college intern.

Attending the “Angelwood Fashion Show” in 2014 for the first time, I saw the Angelwood models strut down the runway and heard the parents speak about how Angelwood has helped them. I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of.

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

As a new member of the community and volunteer at Angelwood, I was introduced to many of the people I consider my close friends and family now. The past two years my fiancé, Kevin Padgett, and I have helped co-chair the “Angelwood Annual Celebration: Soaring Possibilities,” which is now a night event at the Sawgrass Marriott.

It takes place this year on August 20. I am also a member of Angelwood’s development committee, where we are unveiling a new corporate sponsorship program.

What are the most rewarding parts of your involvement with Angelwood?

One of my favorite memories of Angelwood was getting the opportunity to be a guest at some of the Angelwood group homes in our community.

Children, adults and their families living with special needs face many hardships and challenges many of us could not even begin to imagine. The members of the house welcomed me, showed me their “house rules,” and even let me help make breakfast with them. It was there I learned how important community integration was to the members of the house and how essential the employees are to the success of these people and the organization.

I have also enjoyed giving financial workshops to help educate some of these employees on their benefits. When you are in a group home or at the campus, you can really feel the love from the employees and the reciprocation back from the clients.

How have you seen Angelwood make a difference over the years?

One thing that sets Angelwood apart is that they assist families in caring for the special needs of their loved ones across their lifespan.

They help support more than 300 individuals and families with their residential group homes, respite services, adult day training program, supported employment and behavior services.

Their summer day camp is a job-saver for more than



Photo courtesy of Rachel DuBois

Rachel DuBois One of Us.jpg: Rachel DuBois and fiancé Kevin Padgett have helped co-chair the “Angelwood Annual Celebration: Soaring Possibilities,” the past two years.

100 local families and enables children to flourish in a fun environment while their special needs are met with constant supervision and trained staff to handle medical situations.

They also welcome their siblings, where they can all interact with each other and see that other kids are experiencing similar feelings they are.

Within the past six years, I have been given the opportunity to hear stories from parents and families that Angelwood has helped. One story that I will always remember is a couple telling me that Angelwood allowed them to go on their first date in 15 years.

I have witnessed the adult day training and supported employment programs help participants develop skills, which really empowers them and helps them gain more independence.

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

When I first moved here from South Florida, I noticed that people hold open the door for you.

I love the Southern hospitality and closeness of our small community. Most people genuinely want to help others and will welcome you with open arms.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy going to concerts and attending sporting events; TPC is always one of my favorite times of the year.

On the weekends, you can catch my fiancé and I walking our dogs around our neighborhood and bass fishing.

My best friend of 20 years, Karly, and I, also have a business on Etsy called Soulfriend Customs, where we make custom signage and wedding products.

MSD residents raise parking project concerns

By Anthony Richards

Officials with St. Johns County presented a plan for overflow parking at the Mickler’s Landing beach access point along Ponte Vedra Boulevard during the July 11 Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District meeting.

The plan features adding 14 spots across from the current parking lot on the boulevard. The spaces are expected to serve as overflow when the main parking lot fills up.

However, it brought about several concerns raised by multiple residents in attendance at the meeting.

Their primary concerns included the increased traffic and safety issues it may create as a result and the impact the project could have on the designated wetlands on that side of the road.

“We are keeping environmental impacts to a minimum,” said Brian Kelsay, environmental engineer with the county.

Not only did residents fear increased traffic on an already hectic stretch of road, but they also raised safety concerns with the new spots being on a curve of Ponte Vedra Boulevard, which already poses limited visibility for drivers along the route.

Trustee Kitty Switkes asked if there

would be crosswalks added, but Greg Caldwell, St. Johns County director of public works, informed her that the current crosswalk in place was all that had been discussed in the initial plan.

According to Kelsay, the site has been staked out but is still just vegetation at this point.

The permit for the project has yet to be signed off on, as the county first wanted to present it to the MSD and its residents.

The project plan will be presented to the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board during its August 1 meeting at 3 p.m. at the county auditorium located at 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine.

Although the resounding sentiment was against the project, Caldwell thanked the residents for coming out and stating their viewpoints, because it gives the county important things to think about surrounding the project moving forward.

MSD trustees stated that they are all for improving the parking situation but agreed that there are better ways to go about doing so by using the parking areas and resources already existing.

Trustee Brad Wester said that even restriping the current parking lot can create additional spaces just by adjusting the size of the spots.



In other news from the meeting, the board approved continuing to use off-duty MSD officers for additional patrol in lieu of taking steps to create their own police force.

The idea of creating an MSD police department was first proposed several months ago by treasurer Gary Jurenovich.

After weeks of discussion, chairman Al Hollon motioned that the use of off-duty Sheriff’s Office deputies continues for the next fiscal year at a rate of \$55 per hour per officer for 17 hours a week.

Hollon’s motion passed with a 5-2 vote, where Jurenovich and trustee John Cellucci voted against as they were in favor of the police department formation.

Budget talks for the 2022-2023 fiscal year began as the MSD approved a tentative millage rate of 0.375 following a 6-1 vote with Jurenovich opposing after suggesting a rate of 0.1 as a starting point.

He stated that he opposed it because he could not approve a rate of 0.375 in good conscience as the treasurer.



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Ponte Vedra Library aims to reopen July 18

Roof, electrical repairs ongoing after fire

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Public Library has a tentative reopening date of July 18 as repairs are ongoing to fix damage to the building's roof and electrical system after a lightning strike resulted in a fire July 1.

The library has been closed since the event took place.

After investigating the incident, county officials found that none of the library's collections were damaged during the incident.

While the library is hopeful to open its doors once again July 18, Kathleen Cohen, Friends of the Library of Ponte Vedra Beach co-president, believes programming at the facility will begin to be scheduled again in August.

According to John Cellucci, Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District trustee, because the fire was more of a "smoldering" one it was not enough to set off the sprinklers inside the library.

However, St. Johns County fire and rescue crews were able to extinguish the fire once arriving on scene and received help from Duval County fire stations as well.

According to the St. Johns County Public Library System, all items currently checked out



will not be due or accrue fines during the closure period and all holds will be delayed.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of online options and databases while the library remains closed, including checking out e-books.

The bookmobile also makes stops throughout the county. A list of those upcoming stops and hours of each branch can be found by going to sjcpls.org.



File photos

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File photo

The link marks its first anniversary on Friday, July 15.

Link to mark first anniversary

Business Expo, Family Olympics are Friday

By Shaun Ryan

In 2018, Raghu Misra had an idea that — within a few years — would result in a kind of professional, educational and culture epicenter for Nocatee.

The founder and CEO of Wired2Perform and his wife, Gurpreet, were driving their son to taekwondo lessons a half hour from their home. During the hour-long class, the Misras waited in the car.

Raghu Misra began to ponder a building where people could work in close proximity to family activities. It would cut down on unnecessary commuting. The idea needed a lot of formation. And a lot of funding — when the project was completed in 2021, the price tag came to \$7 million.

Funding was difficult to find. The concept was unusual, and lenders could not easily categorize it. Fortunately, 121 Financial Credit Union of Jacksonville saw the possibilities and made the funding available.

Misra and several dignitaries broke ground for the link at 425 Town Plaza Ave. on June 25, 2020. By then, the concept had solidified. It would be a 22,500-square-foot hub for tech entrepreneurs — and others — to launch and grow their companies. It was to be a co-working space and innovation incubator that allowed members to balance career, family and recreation, a place to “learn, play, think and do.”

It would be a smart building with cutting edge technology, low-voltage lighting and innovative fire suppression and security systems. Amenities would include audio and podcast recording stu-

dios, free highspeed WiFi and the Costa Coffee Smart Café, capable of vending more than 200 flavors of coffee drinks.

For professionals, the link would offer office-space solutions, including desks, meeting rooms, virtual office space and a mail service. For all members, there would be a variety of activities, classes and entertaining events. For kids, there would be camps.

Inside, visitors would find Ocean Sole sculptures, paintings by Susanne Schuenke and the Flagler Health+ Immersive Studio, a 360-degree experience.

The Misras cut the ribbon on the link on July 14, 2021, kicking off a multi-day Grand Opening celebration.

In the following months, Sapna Academy was added, and an entrepreneurial summit was held. There was a Hispanic Festival, a series of Kids’ Nights Out, a robotics competition, the Future In ___ Series and new multi-tier membership options.

Friday, on the link’s first anniversary, the community is invited to a Business Expo and Family Olympics.

The expo will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Visitors will have an opportunity to learn more about local businesses that so frequently have no storefront and therefore may go unnoticed by the community. Business owners and staff will be on hand to meet the public and chat about their products and services.

Meanwhile, from 6 to 8 p.m., the Family Olympics will be going on outside. This will offer families quality time together while taking part in some timeless outdoor games.

Both events are free to attend, though attendees are asked to register in advance. Go to thelink.zone/events-1 and click on the link at the top left titled “Join Us in Commemorating Our 1st Year Anniversary.”

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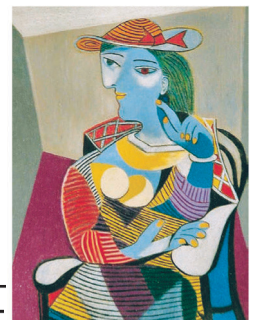
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Community invited to help clean up waterways

For the entire month of July, Realtors from throughout Northeast Florida and their community partners will be working to make sure Florida's waterways remain in pristine condition. They have been cleaning up the region's lakes, rivers, streams, bays and beaches as part of a month-long Florida Realtors Clean Up Florida Waters initiative.

On July 23, the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) is inviting everyone in the community to join in the effort.

Between 8 and 11 a.m., association members will man clean-up sites at nine different locations, including Beaches Town Center in Neptune/Atlantic Beach, SeaWalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach, Mickler's Landing in Ponte Vedra and the St. Augustine Beach Pier.

Sites that are located away from the beaches include Wayne Stevens Boat

Ramp, 4555 Ortega Farms Blvd., Jacksonville; Bert Maxwell Boat Ramp, 500 Maxwell Road; Sidney J. Gefen Riverwalk Park, 505 Alfred duPont Place; Main Street Boat Ramp, 3788 Main St., Middleburg; and Old Ferry Boat Ramp, 2231 Old Ferry Road. NEFAR flags will be posted at the sites.

NEFAR will supply volunteers with T-shirts, trash bags, grabbers, gloves, water and snacks.

In addition, two boat convoys will gather the trash from hard-to-reach places along the shoreline. One will leave from Crystal Cove Marina, 131 Crystal Cove Drive, Palatka, at 8 a.m.; and the other will leave from Lions Club Boat Ramp, 4322 Richard Denby Gatlin Road, Arlington, at 10 a.m.

Both convoys will return to their points of entry at 2 p.m. Boaters are invited to show up at those locations and join in.



All who volunteer are invited to an after-party from 1 to 6 p.m. at Veterans United Craft Brewery, 8999 Western Way, Jacksonville. One free drink ticket will be given to volunteers who have participated in the event.

Last year, NEFAR collected more than 1,500 pounds of trash from several clean-up sites along the St. Johns River between Mayport and Palatka.

To sign up for this event, register at bit.ly/3bZDohD.

Palm Valley Road sidewalk funding approved

The Palm Valley Community Association has announced that the state and county have included funding in their 2023 budgets to fill the sidewalk gaps along the west side of Palm Valley Road to the State Road A1A intersection from Landrum Road.

"When completed, the sidewalk will connect the community from the east side of the Palm Valley Bridge to the S.R. A1A intersection and north through Ponte Vedra Beach," said Garry Phillips,

association president. "People can enjoy walking to school, church, work, or run errands."

In April, the Board of County Commissioners reached a consensus that, contingent upon the sidewalk project being in legislation approved on July 1, they would finance the remainder of the project and move forward without delay. The sidewalk project has now been approved.

"It has taken the PVCA about 10 years

of community engagement working with the BCC and staff to bring this crucial road safety project to fruition," said Jayne Evans, the association's sidewalk committee chair. "We appreciate the work of many neighbors and elected officials who recognized the need and supported this project."

State Rep. Cyndi Stevenson helped secure the \$800,000 in the Florida House appropriations bill for the Palm Valley Road Sidewalk Project.

"I am delighted that we were able to get state funding for this sidewalk for Palm Valley, and for the community and county support that made the project possible," said Stevenson.

"We are one step closer to making a continuous sidewalk on the west side of Palm Valley Road a reality," said County Commission Chair Henry Dean. "I appreciate the governor's commitment to funding a portion of this project. Now,

the Board of County Commissioners and staff can work on bringing it to the finish line. This project is about improving road safety for an important community connector, and I'm thrilled to get it started."

"I commend the residents who live near Palm Valley Road for their years of dedication and advocacy throughout this project," said District 4 County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker. "I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with our citizens to fulfill this critical infrastructure project for our community. I look forward to working with my fellow board members and county staff to fully fund the remainder of the Palm Valley Road Sidewalk Project."

"The PVCA looks forward to celebrating the project's groundbreaking and, finally, the sidewalk's completion with a Palm Valley Road Community Walk," said Evans.



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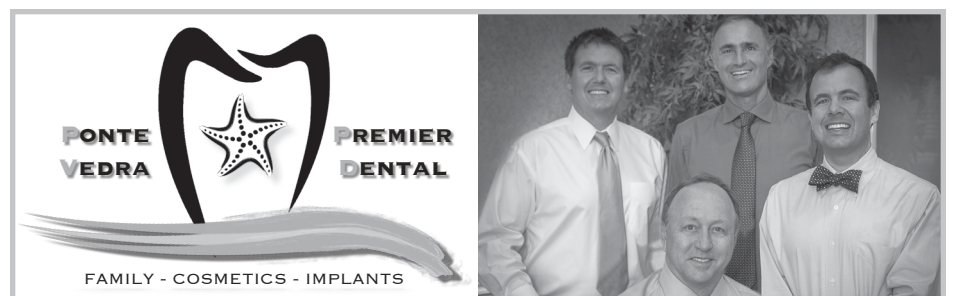
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Beaches Community Fund delivers \$260K to nonprofits

*A total \$1.8M
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Beaches families*

The Beaches Community Fund, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, recently made more than \$260,000 in grants to 14 Beaches-serving nonprofits. These latest grants bring the fund's Beaches-area investments to more than \$1.8 million since the fund was established in 2015.

The Beaches Community Fund continued to prioritize direct financial aid and food assistance, while also funding needs for additional educational supports for students and people with special needs. Through the grants, fund members also invested in the long-term sustainability of Beaches nonprofits by funding capacity-building strategies provided in partnership with the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida.

"We appreciate hearing first-hand how these organizations bring expertise and a servant's heart to help those in need at the Beaches," said Melissa Roland, a member of the Beaches Community Fund. "The Beaches Community Fund shares their desire to create long-term impact in the area and improve the quality of life for its citizens."

In 2023, fund members will be involved in learning opportunities around affordable housing and health disparities to better understand how these issues affect life for Beaches residents.

Agencies that received grants to improve the lives of those living between Mayport and Guana include:

- **Baptist Health Foundation** (\$25,000) for a third year of 'Tipping the Scales,' a mentoring and employment program at Baptist Beaches.
- **Beaches Habitat** (\$15,000) to assist low-income seniors with home repair and rehabilitation.
- **BEAM** (\$40,000) for food assistance, emergency financial assistance and case

management programs.

- **Communities in Schools** (\$18,000) to continue the Student Enrichment Program at Mayport Middle School.
- **Feeding Northeast Florida** (\$30,000) to support food distribution at the Beaches.
- **Ferst Readers of Duval County** (\$5,000) to send age-appropriate books and monthly parent engagement newsletters to children from birth to age 5 (already awarded).
- **First Coast Blessings in a Backpack** (\$15,000) to provide weekend food packs for students at Beaches schools who rely on free and reduced-price lunch during the school week.
- **Fitness and Character Education** (\$5,000) to support the FACE4Kids program at two Beaches-area elementary schools in the 2022-23 school year.
- **Mission House** (\$22,000) to expand its crisis care case management team to enhance staff capacity in Mission House's Crisis Care team.
- **Nonprofit Center for Northeast Florida** (\$17,000) for the Eleanor Ashby Beaches Leadership Series and customized consulting services for Beaches nonprofits.
- **PossAbilities Plus** (\$5,000) to begin a drama program for teens and adults with developmental disabilities and autism to build and practice verbal and nonverbal communication and social skills.
- **St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Emergency Assistance Ministry** (\$15,000) to provide emergency financial assistance to residents during times of need in the West Atlantic Beach/Mayport area.
- **I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless** (\$33,000) to add a dental assistant to provide dental care services for uninsured and underinsured patients at the Sulzbacher Beaches Clinic.
- **We Care Jacksonville, Inc.** (\$18,000) to provide a Community Health Worker who will support patients with chronic diseases through the Beaches Health & Wellness Collaboration.



Photo credit: laird/blac palm, inc.

Joanne E. Cohen, VP, philanthropic services at The Community Foundation, addresses members of the Beaches Community Fund during their recent ratification of the 2022 grants to Beaches-area nonprofit organizations.

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Dreams Come True surprises girl with new bike

Presentation marks organization's 100th dream granted in 2022

Dreams Come True, a local wish-granting organization for children battling life-threatening illnesses, surprised 11-year-old Amaya Harken of Ponte Vedra with a new Freedom Concept tricycle during a special June 4 gathering at Twenty Mile Post in Nocatee.

Amaya is the 100th child whose dream has been granted in 2022 through the organization.

Before COVID-19, Dreams Come True fulfilled approximately 175 dreams per year. The organization is projecting to fulfill more than 200 dreams before the end of 2022, which will be the highest year of dream fulfillment in the organization's 38-year history.

Joining Dreams Come True for the celebration were several dream families and community partner Ainsley's Angels, a nonprofit whose mission is focused on building awareness about the importance of inclusion, through action, while transforming populations into all-inclusive communities.

Together, everyone walked and rolled around Twenty Mile Post with Amaya leading the way in her new dream bike. The special celebration ended with a doughnut cake from Cinotti's Bakery and medals for all the finishers.

"I never thought it would be possible for her to ride," said Michelle Harken, Amaya's mom. "I did not think they would have a bike that would be adaptable for her. For me, this is just eye open-



Contributed photos

Dream families and representatives of Ainsley's Angels joined the celebration.

ing for her to have this experience and have this piece to help her grow and get stronger. We are so appreciative for all Dreams Come True has done for us to get Amaya this bike and be with us through this journey. This will truly last for a very long time."

Amaya was referred to Dreams Come True after being diagnosed with a rare, gene-linked brain malformation, called lissencephaly. Amaya also suffers from additional conditions, such as cerebral palsy and a seizure disorder. She is wheelchair dependent, so mobility has always been something that has eluded Amaya. Her new Freedom Concept tricycle will give Amaya a sense of freedom and fill her summer days with long strolls in the park and neighborhood.

The celebration for Amaya also served as a kickoff to Dreams Come True's 5K and one-mile fun run on Sept. 24 at the University of North Florida's Coxwell Amphitheatre. Her ride around Twenty Mile Post in Nocatee was an example of how the organization is encouraging everyone to come walk, run or roll with



Amaya Harken rides her new bike.

them at UNF to raise money for the more than 600 children currently dreaming in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia.

Since 1984, Dreams Come True has been using the power of a dream to bring hope and joy to local children in

Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia battling life-threatening illnesses. To date, more than 4,300 children have seen their dreams turned into realities.

To learn more, go to DreamsComeTrue.org.

Wolfson Children's Christmas in July now under way

The Wolfson Children's Christmas in July, presented by Subaru of Jacksonville, is online again this year, giving people the ability to spread joy with just a few clicks.

The annual month-long, toy-and-donation drive ensures all patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital have the comfort of toys and a reason to smile.

Now through July 31, Members of the

community can browse Wolfson Children's Amazon wish list for toys specially selected by the Wolfson Children's Child Life team or make a financial gift at ChristmasJuly.com.

Community members can also drop off new, unwrapped toys at Subaru of Jacksonville, 10800 Atlantic Blvd., until 4 p.m. July 24.

Toys are an integral part of the healing process for patients of all ages at Wolfson Children's Hospital. Children learn through play, so toys not only instill a sense of normalcy and comfort, but also help babies and younger children continue to develop on track during hospital stays.

At Wolfson Children's, Child Life specialists and music therapists use instruments and toys as tools to help children understand their conditions and prepare for medical procedures, like blood draws and MRIs. The toys and donations from Christmas in July help keep the toy shelves full, giving the Child Life and music therapy teams the supplies they need to support, comfort and care for every patient.

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Junior Achievement hosts hundreds for Day of the Girl

Junior Achievement of North Florida hosted nearly 200 girls in grades three through nine for its annual Day of the Girl event. The girls participated in a series of hands-on workshops taught by corporate volunteers to learn a variety of lessons that will help prepare them for economic success.

The Day of the Girl, a JA Girl\$ event, took place at the University of North Florida's Adam W. Herbert University Center. The girls moved through the four categories of workshops: STEM, motivation, financial literacy and healthy mind and body.

"The Day of the Girl is a chance for these young ladies to learn some important skills that will help them grow into successful women," said Shannon Italia, president of JA of North Florida. "I am so proud of our team who put together a great program that was both informative and fun for these girls and a great way to spend the day. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who took time out of their day to join us to help lead the girls through these lessons. We could not do it without them and our wonderful sponsors."

Mercedes-Benz USA was the title sponsor for the day, which started with a message from featured speaker Lakeisha Burton, who told the girls, "You can be

anything you want to be no matter what happens in your life. Work hard, be kind, associate with people that have similar life goals, and you will be able to fulfill your dreams."

Volunteers from Johnson & Johnson taught the "Our Future STEMInists" lesson, which focused on science and engineering. Mayo Clinic volunteers led a lesson on how to identify stroke symptoms. The older groups learned how to be a financial success from the volunteers from Citizens Bank, the presenting sponsor of the event. The financial literacy lesson for elementary students on how to earn, spend, save and donate was taught by volunteers from SouthState, the day's workshop sponsor.

"As a mother of four, I see the benefits that JA gives to our kids," said Maria McDaniels, event volunteer and vice president consumer bank market manager for SouthState. "It is beneficial to all and teaches a lot of great life lessons."

The girls were taught how to build their self-confidence by volunteers from the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center's "See the Girl," and At the Table Coaching led the "Girl Power: Free to Be Me" session.

The girls also participated in healthy mind and body lessons including a yoga session led by John Brent and Mary



Contributed photos

Junior Achievement of North Florida hosted nearly 200 girls for its annual Day of the Girl event. The girls participated in a series of workshops taught by corporate volunteers.



Airheart and inspirational word bracelet making led by PNC Bank volunteers.

"One of my favorite workshops was the budgeting class, because it helped me

learn more about real-world expenses," seventh-grader Ava Saman said. "This class is something that will help my future."

Volunteer Life Saving Corps launches voter referendum campaign

The Volunteer Life Saving Corps (VLSC) of Jacksonville Beach has launched a voter referendum campaign to compel the City of Jacksonville Beach to place an amendment to the Jacksonville Beach Charter on the Nov. 8 general election ballot.

The amendment, if approved, would require the city to preserve the corps' historical operations at the American Red Cross Volunteer Life Saving Corps Station and execute a deed of conveyance permitting the American Red Cross to convey the station to the corps, for whom it was originally constructed 75 years ago.

The American Red Cross currently

owns the station building, and it sits on land deeded to the Red Cross by the city. That deed states that if the station is not being used by the corps for more than one year, then the land reverts back to the city.

To get the proposed amendment on the November ballot, the corps will need to collect signatures from at least 10% of the city's 18,000-plus registered voters by Aug. 9. To reach its goal, the corps is activating a sign-up campaign taking place daily at various locations around the beaches area.

"Over the past months, we have seen unequivocally strong public support for the VLSC to continue our 110 years of

volunteer service in our community," said Jim Emery, VLS Board of Directors president. "We have tried earnestly to negotiate with the City of Jacksonville Beach to no avail and believe that this is best option to remain operational. We hope the public will continue to make their voices heard and support the VLSC by taking this most important step and signing our petition by Aug. 9."

The charter amendment petition follows the city's lockout of the corps from American Red Cross Volunteer Life Saving Corps Station and the delivery of a notice of contract termination on April 5. For decades, the corps has worked alongside guards employed by the city's Jacksonville Beach Ocean Rescue at the station,

CORPS continues on Page 15

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Photos courtesy of John Cellucci

Tom Jenkins with the Exchange Club of Jacksonville Beaches presented Patriotic Ponte Vedra founders John Cellucci and Belk Ingram with awards recognizing the program's good will in the community.

PATRIOTIC PONTE VEDRA WINS AWARD

By Anthony Richards

Local volunteer project “Patriotic Ponte Vedra” was named the recipient of the Exchange Club of Jacksonville Beaches’ Proudly We Hail Award during its July 8 meeting.

The Exchange Club promotes the prevention of child abuse, and seeks to recognize youth, service to seniors and patriotism.

The project places American flags on the light poles along Ponte Vedra Boulevard, Solana Road and Corona Road in Ponte Vedra Beach, which according to John Cellucci, a founder of the project, is the current route because that was where most of the initial funding and support was raised when the initiative started two years ago.

However, there has been increased interest of late to branch the project farther south.

“My nephew and I have been the ones doing the actual installations, but we understand that a lot of ROTC groups and high school kids are interested in helping as a way to get service hours,” Cellucci said. “We can do it pretty quickly with a lot of volunteers.”

He was present during the meeting to accept the award along with fellow founder Belk Ingram.

Flags have been put up five times since its inception, doing so on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Veterans Day.

“It’s one of the best projects anybody has ever done in the MSD,” said Gary Jurenovich, MSD treasurer.

According to Cellucci, the initiative was created as a strictly grassroots effort as a group of residents wanting to do something to stand out and show their love for their country and their local community.

Which is why the growing interest does not surprise

Cellucci, who is also a trustee with the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District, because he believes something as patriotic as the project is something most people should be able to get behind.

“One of the biggest rewards from doing it is the amount of people that stop or beep their horns as they go by while we’re out there putting them up,” Cellucci said. “We never look for recognition, but it’s always nice to just talk to people about what it means to them.”



Jacob Mancino (on ladder) and John Cellucci take down flags following this year's Fourth of July holiday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Writer supports Keating-Joseph for commissioner

To the Editor:

Krista Keating-Joseph has been my friend for several years. We both at one time lived in Citrus County, Florida, and together along with a couple of additional Citrus County Hospital Board Trustees ensured that our local hospital Citrus Memorial would remain as an acute-care hospital. The hospital was reportedly “near bankruptcy.” Our board made it our mission to salvage the institution. Through perseverance and strong conservative-valued mission, we were able to secure a long-term lease with Hospital Corporation of America.

We spent many, many hours in meetings and discussions. Our board faced an uphill climb within the community “system” since many involved in the prior hospital management were all linked within the community and did not want much needed change.

Conservative values, honesty, and integrity prevailed. During this time, up until the lease in 2014, Krista demonstrated her strength in a focused mindset and did not succumb to outside pressures.

Krista, during this ordeal and shortly thereafter, not only demonstrated conservative strength but also the strength of motherhood. She lost one of her sons, Charlie, in the national conflicts of war. Charlie, as is his brother, was a Navy SEAL. His death added to her resume, that of a Gold Star mother. Fortunately, not many have this title, but she like many of them has remained devoted to America and American values. Krista is guided by her faith and general caring for her family, community and country.

Krista will serve St. John County with integrity, compassion and insistence on actions that will benefit the majority of the community — unlike others who seem to act on behalf of a few. She has, to me and others, demonstrated she can be polite but firm.

Debbie Ressler

EDITOR'S NOTE: Krista Keating-Joseph is a candidate for St. Johns County Commissioner.

Community praised for generosity at MS silent auction

To the Editor:

When it comes to supporting charities and the Beaches community, local retailers, business owners, service providers and residents score an A+. This year's 10th annual National Multiple Sclerosis Society Awareness Silent Auction is a perfect example.

Nearly 300 items valued at more than \$39,000 were donated for this year's event. A record \$27,000 was raised to help provide programs and services for those impacted by MS in Northeast Florida.

Many of the local businesses have suffered the past 18 to 24 months with inventory, staffing issues and drop offs in customers. Some were even forced to close temporarily. You wouldn't have known it by their generosity.

Special kudos to Will Rodgers and his team at Mr. Chubby's Wings, host of the silent auction. And many thanks to the 150-plus area residents who turned out to bid.

Since 2013, the event has raised more than \$190,000, a portion of the \$1.4 million fundraised in total by the sponsoring 25-person Big Banana cycling team.

Bruce Reid, Linda Bushong-Reid and Elaine Wright
10th annual MS Awareness Silent Auction tri-chairs

OBITUARIES

Blanche Christman

In loving memory of Blanche Christman, who passed away June 26, 2022. Blanche was born on April 22, 1927, in Philadelphia, PA and moved to West Palm Beach, FL as a child. She married William S Christman on June 28, 1947. They made their home for their six children in Jenkintown, PA. She was very active in her church, Bethel Chapel, teaching the truths of God's Word in children's church, CEF, and Release time of the local school. After Bill's retirement, Blanche and Bill traveled our beautiful nation visiting family and friends in their RV, the "ark," as they did volunteer work with Servants On Wheels Ever Ready (SOWER ministry), of which they were some of the founding members.

Beloved Mother of Diane (Bill) Shields, Lynn (Rob) Vaccaro, Dean (Kathleen) Christman, Kent (Cindi) Christman, and Brett Christman, and beloved Nona to Rebecca Tay, Joanna Shields, Ayla Christman, Giles Christman, Anna Vezina, Brian Vaccaro, Maria Tavani, Dave Christman, Ethan Christman, John Christman, Haylee Muller, Taylor Christman, and Josh Christman and 24 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Christman, her son Glenn Christman, her grandson Michael Shields.

A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Blanche Christman will be held on July 16, 2022, at 10 a.m. at Quinn-Shalz Funeral Home. 3600 3rd St. S., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation. To donate to Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), <https://www.cefonline.com/donate/>. Or Servants On Wheels Ever Ready. <https://www.sowerministry.org/>. To donate to SOWER ministry, please send a check to SOWER ministry with their names noted on the lower left-hand corner. SOWER ministry, 14771 County Road 424, Lindale, TX 75771-7825.

This fall the family plans to bury Blanche's ashes alongside her family in Bala Cynwyd, PA and have a reunion for family and friends. Please visit her online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com.

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Mary Marcia Sullivan



Mary Marcia Sullivan of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, passed away Monday, July 4, 2022, to be with the Lord she so loved. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 21, 1938, to Charles and Margaret Trautmann, she graduated from The Summit Country Day School in 1956 and from Our Lady of Cincinnati College (now Xavier University) in 1960.

Marcia is survived by her loving husband of 59 years, Jack; son, John II and his daughter; daughter, Jennifer and her husband, Atty. John C. McMullan II and their six children; daughter, Julie and her husband, Dr. James J. Guerra and their three daughters.

She also leaves three brothers

Charles, Christopher and Nicholas, and a sister, Nancy.

Marcia was a prominent Cincinnati interior designer. She was a model and was selected by the Junior Chamber of Commerce to represent them as Miss Cincinnati. She married John (Jack) Sullivan and moved to Houston, Texas, where their son John II was born.

They subsequently lived in Evanston, IL.; Greenwich, CT. (where daughters Jennifer and Julie were born), Cos Cob, CT.; Sudbury, MA.; Wayne, IL.; and Devon, PA. where they lived for 15 years after Jack became Director of Sales, Transportation, Distribution, Engineering Services and Customer Service for the Industrial Chemical operations of the FMC Corp. They were formerly active golf and social members of the Nashawtuc Country Club of Concord, MA.; St. Charles Country Club of St. Charles, IL.; Overbrook Golf Club of Bryn Mawr, PA. and Sawgrass Country Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.

Marcia was a very active leader in

the Pro-Life movement in the Philadelphia area. She was a great wife and mother and was well liked by everyone. She and Jack moved to the Sawgrass Country Club in 1993 where they were golf and social members for several years. Marcia was a lifelong devout Catholic and was involved in many church activities at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church where she was a Eucharistic Minister, Nocturnal Adorer, Lector and Usher.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, July 9, 2022, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, with burial in San Lorenzo Cemetery following the service.

Please visit her Tribute online at www.quinn-shalz.com.

Arrangements by



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

DEATH NOTICES

Joanne Salzberg Adams

Joanne Salzberg Adams, 66, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died July 9, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Carlos Simon Berrocal

Carlos Simon Berrocal, 100, of Jacksonville, Florida, died July 6, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Linda Kay Cunningham

Linda Kay Cunningham, 79, of Jacksonville, Florida, died July 2, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Thomas M. Gorman

Thomas M. Gorman, 88, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died July 8, 2022.

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

Neil Hughes

Neil Hughes, 76, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died July 1, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Catherine McCann

Catherine McCann, 96, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died July 2, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Sandra Nolan

Sandra Nolan, 63, of Jacksonville, Florida, died July 7, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Elmer Gray Potter

Elmer Gray Potter, 89, of Jacksonville, Florida, died July 11, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Christopher Thomas Richardson

Christopher Thomas Richardson, 23, of St. Johns, Florida, died July 1, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Steven Woodard

Steven Woodard, 64, of Jacksonville, Florida, died June 29, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Corps

Continued from 13

with the corps guarding the beaches on Sundays and holidays.

In December 2021, the Department of Labor noted an issue with some Jacksonville Beach Ocean Rescue lifeguards being members of the corps, resulting in a determination that a lifeguard working for the city on a paid basis Monday-Saturday could not also be used as a volunteer on Sunday and holidays.

The city subsequently decided to assume fulltime responsibility for guarding the beaches, eliminating volunteer guard service in Jacksonville Beach entirely, effectively setting the stage for the dissolution of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps, which was established in 1912.

According to the corps, employment law experts have advised it that as long as Jacksonville Beach Ocean Rescue employees are not corps members and each organization conducts its own training, all parties will be compliant with the Department of Labor wage-and-hour laws.

The Volunteer Life Saving Corps contends that the city, by locking corps members out of the station, terminated its current 10-year agreement unilaterally with no required advance notice and that the contract is unenforceable.

The corps estimates that the additional staffing to replace the volunteer guards will cost Jacksonville Beach taxpayers an additional \$125,000 per year.

The corps' 4,000 members have provided the city with more than 1,606,000 volunteer service hours over its existence, said Emery.

"In addition to performing thousands of life-saving rescues, assists to swimmers in distress and administering nearly 27,000 first-aid cases, our organization has produced a multitude of community leaders in every field imaginable, teaching them the importance of volunteerism and self-sacrifice," he said.

For further information about the Jacksonville Beach Volunteer Life Saving Corps, go to jaxbeachlifeguard.org or contact Emery at jim.emery@comcast.net or 904-307-9530.

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

The Recorder's garden columnist Kathy Esfahani of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery shares her tips for growing gorgeous gardens in Northeast Florida.

Palm Tree Planting and Trimming

"Advice from a palm tree. Reach high. Stand tall and proud. Soak up the sun. Be flexible. Find your oasis. Weather life's storms." — Unknown

By Kathy Esfahani



Kathy Esfahani

Palm trees are a wonderful part of the northern Florida landscape! Although an established palm requires little attention, it is important to trim these trees as needed.

Palm trees should not be pruned during the dormant months of late fall through winter. Now is the time to schedule trimming in preparation for the cooler months! It is important to properly remove any fronds that are entirely brown and dry. They are weighing down the tree and should be cut at the base of the branch, close to the trunk or the soil depending on the type of palm. Be careful not to pull on branches as this can damage healthy parts of the tree.

If you are missing out on this great addition to your landscape, the warm rainy months of summer are a great time to plant palm trees! Be sure to consider the space you have available, proximity to structures, and the amount of sun and water in your desired area.

Some palms remain small enough to be closer to a house while others will

grow very large over time and need more space.

We have several varieties of palms currently available at the nursery:

• Sylvester Palms (Phoenix Sylvestris):

The Sylvester Palm will be a large tree and, therefore, needs space to grow! They grow approximately 1.5 feet per year and can reach a maximum height of 40-50 feet. These palms are cold hardy, drought tolerant, and moderately salt tolerant. Sylvester Palms are one of the most popular palms in this area and easily recognizable by their diamond cut trunk!



The Sylvester palm is one of the most popular palms in this area.

• Queen Palms: Queen palms have cascading fronds that blow beautifully in the wind. They can reach a height of 50 feet but fit in somewhat tight spaces because they grow tall and skinny. These palms feature bright glossy leaves and clusters of orange dates. Queen Palms create a tropical feeling and are, therefore, popular around patios, pools, and other relaxing areas.

• Robellini Palms (Pygmy Date Palms):

Because of its size, this miniature palm tree is well suited to be planted closer to your home. Robellini Palms are slow growers with a maximum height of only 10-11 feet. They are popular at the end of driveways, outside front doors, or as the centerpiece to a garden bed.



Robellini palms are slow growers with a maximum height of only 10-11 feet.

• Majestic Palms: This palm loves the humidity of our Floridian climate! The fronds of a Majestic Palm can fan out to 15 feet wide. They are slow growers that tolerate some shade and thrive in naturally wet areas.

• European Fan Palms: These palms are slow growing trees that can reach 8-15 feet tall. European Fan Palms are hardier than most palm trees and can handle partial shade, colder temperatures, and dry periods. They have finely textured fronds with colors ranging from green to silver.

• Bismarck Palms: These silvery blue-green palms can serve as a centerpiece for your landscape! Bismarck Palms have

a thick trunk and fronds that can reach a span up to 16 feet wide. Although this palm only grows 1-2 feet per year, it has the potential to eventually reach 60 feet tall.

• Sago Palms: These wide trunk palms are dark green and lush, remaining relatively close to the ground even after several years. It would take 50 years for a Sago Palm to reach 10 feet tall! They have a large cone of seeds growing out of the middle of the tree. Because these seeds are poisonous to pets, we tend to avoid using them in fur-friendly yards. Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Blue Daze

Flower of the Week



Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery
Blue Daze

Please email Kathy at kcg.pvr@gmail.com for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future. For more information & ideas, visit Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. The phone number is 904-655-7373.



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THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022



Precision critical to recording the official record

By Shaun Ryan

Whether it's a deposition for a court case or the transcription of a government meeting, the official record's accuracy must be flawless. Memories fade. People change their stories. But the speaker's original words, rendered precisely, will preserve the integrity of the proceeding.

That's why the expertise of the stenographer is critical.

It's an expertise Marguerite D'Andrea Keller, owner/stenographer of the aptly named Precise Reporting Services, and her network of independent stenographers have demonstrated for several years.

"Our stuff is so critical," said Keller. "It's the record. It's the official record."

Keller offers stenography for depositions, trials, hearings, meetings, interviews and more. She offers in-house videography — her son is her primary videographer, Realtime reporting (whereby spoken words are instantly entered into a feed that can be streamed or broadcast) and computer-aided real-time translation (CART) for the hearing-impaired.

Due in part to cooperative arrangements with other stenographers, some of whom she has worked with for many years, she can offer services nationwide and even in Europe. However, most of her business is concentrated in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia and Florida.

And, unlike some of the bigger companies where attempts to reach a live person by phone can prove elusive and frustrating, Keller is accessible. That's especially important if her services are needed immediately.

"I have my phone with me 24/7," she said. "My clients reach me at night, on the weekends."

And once, in fact, when she

PRECISION continues on Page 27



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Marguerite D'Andrea Keller, stenographer and owner of Precise Reporting Services, is seen at her stenograph machine.

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ALL ABOUT PETS



PAGES 18-23

Finding the “purr”fect home

Murphy’s kittens strives to grow to combat need

By Anthony Richards

Casey Joseph had always been involved with cat rescue in some form or another, but she had just never ventured out on her own until she decided to open Murphy’s Kittens, Inc. two years ago.

“We took in our first cat two weeks before the (COVID-19 pandemic) lockdown in 2020,” Joseph said. “We started out kind of small, but it has really begun to grow over the years.”

The 501(c)(3) nonprofit stray cat sanctuary and adoption program currently has 70 cats and only has a max capacity of 75. The facility is located at 2600 U.S. 1 S., Suite 3 in St. Augustine.

According to Joseph, getting close to capacity is not ideal because the cat population has grown locally since the pandemic ended.

To combat the need to find homes for the growing number of stray cats, she is currently working on a couple of projects.

The first of which is the search to find and lease a larger space than what they have now, so that more cats can be housed without issues.

“We are working on getting a bigger space, with the hopes that it will double or even triple the number of cats we can take in,” Joseph said.

According to Joseph, educating the public is one of the best ways to help reduce the number of stray cats.

“If we can get a bigger space, there would be more space to teach people how to trap and give them the necessary knowledge and tools needed to make an impact,” she said.

The other project she is working on is getting a mobile unit that can spay or neuter cats to help control the rapid popu-

lation growth.

She is in the process of raising funds for both the new space and a work van that can be fitted with a proper surgical operating space.

Although Joseph is aware that it will likely take some time to raise the needed amount of funding for both projects, she also understands that a dream cannot become a reality until you aim for it, and she believes there are many in the community that share her passion to help animals in need.

“When I was a kid, all I ever wanted to do was go to veterinary school,” Joseph said. “Every job or volunteer opportunity I ever had dealt with animals in some way.”

Murphy’s Kittens does receive some help with housing an additional 25 cats thanks to partnerships with two Petco locations at 675 Durbin Pavilion Drive, Suite 101 in St. Johns and 430 Cbl Drive in St. Augustine.

Through the partnership Petco has weekly adoption days where the public can come in and meet and greet with the cats.

The St. Johns location’s weekly period is Sundays noon to 1 p.m., while the St. Augustine location has meet and greets Thursdays 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays noon to 1 p.m.

They also work closely with the St. Augustine Humane Society and other cat rescues.

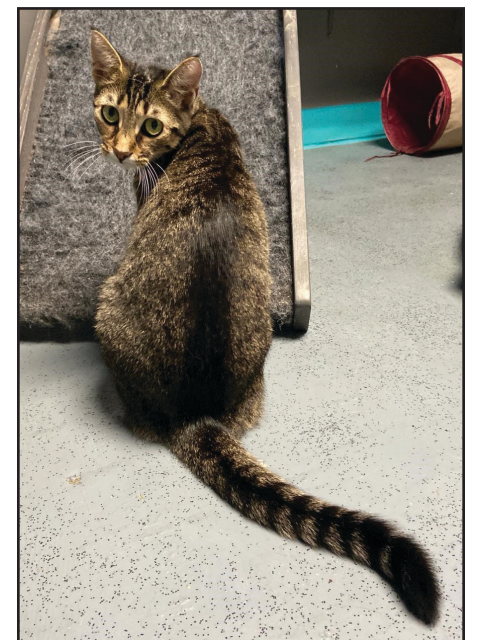
There is a sanctuary room at the main facility where cats that have been long-term residents, cats that have been up for adoption for a while but not received much interest, are housed. There are currently 26 cats in the sanctuary.

“It’s just not a healthy atmosphere for them to be in a cage for that long of time, so that’s when we move them over,” Joseph said.

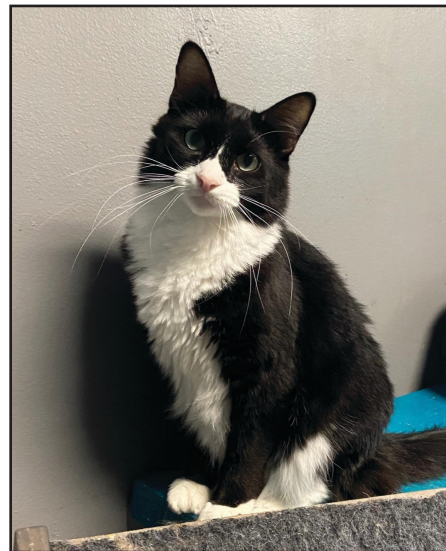
However, the mission always remains to continue striving to get each sheltered cat a permanent home.

As a result, during the month of July all long-term sheltered cats are available for adoption for \$30, which is half price from the usual \$60 fee.

Photos and profiles of cats available for adoption are listed to be viewed at murphyskittens.org.



Sully



Charlie



Robin



Jackson



Mike and Homie

GUEST COLUMN

Make sure that Fido is cared for with pet planning

By Mark Moss, Esq.,
Law Offices of Mark Moss



Have you thought about what would happen to your fur baby if you were incapacitated or you died? With an estimated 68% of households owning a pet, chances

are high that your family or someone you know has a pet at home.

Without considering your pet in your life planning, your pet could go days without food and water, and could feel panicked, distressed or abandoned. In the long term, your pet could end up with someone you don't want caring for them or could end up in a shelter where they could be euthanized. Including your beloved pets in your life planning is imperative to ensure that they are properly cared for, both in the short- and long-term.

To properly consider your pets in your life planning, at a minimum, we recommend including a durable power of attorney

for pet care, detailed pet care instructions and a pet owner's wallet card.

For many people, simply adding a line in your last will and testament is sufficient to identify who will care for your pet. (We do not often recommend this for numerous reasons.) For others, it may be a good idea to set up a pet trust, which makes certain that your pet is properly cared for when you are no longer able to do so. Trust provisions include details like the type of pet, specific caretaker, guidelines for specific care, provision for funds for related expenses, a specific trustee to manage the funds and what conditions result in termination of the trust.

The bottom line is that we have many people in our busy lives; however, our pets only have us. Everyone needs a life plan, and no pet owner's planning is completed without ensuring that their beloved companion is provided for.

Adding pet planning services to your life plan is a very easy process and adds to your peace of mind knowing that your furry companion will be properly cared for. To get started, please contact us to speak with a life planning attorney.

What to do when your pet is lost

Pets are beloved members of the family. Pets provide unconditional love and companionship to their owners. When a pet goes missing, it can be devastating for their owners, who want to bring their companion animals home to safety as soon as possible.

Lost Pet Research & Recovery and PurringPal indicate at least 14 percent of dog owners lose their pets in a five-year period, while 15 percent of cat owners lose their pets. The ASPCA indicates that around one in three pets will go missing in their lifetimes. While Lost Pet Research & Recovery says only 6 percent of dogs are not recovered, a much larger percentage of cats (34) are never found. Therefore, pet owners should take certain steps to prevent lost pets and to help recover them quickly.

Train your dog

Well-trained dogs who respond well to basic commands like "sit," "stay" and "come" may be recovered more easily. That's because you can call for your dog - who may not have ventured too far - and have him or her return to you, according to Pasadena Humane. Also, people who come across your dog can offer simple commands to sit and stay, and then the dog can be safely leashed.

Update identification

The more forms of identification a pet has, the better the chances for recovery. While a collar with ID tags is essential, microchipping is an additional safeguard. Be sure to routinely update

the microchip database with your current phone number and address for all pets.

Act quickly

Don't waste hours or days waiting for a pet to return home. The sooner you begin searching the area, the better the odds of finding the pet. Start with the immediate area right outside your home and branch out from there.

Check nooks and crannies

Pets may become frightened of noises or escape homes to chase other animals. American Humane urges owners to look for places the pet may become trapped, such as in basements or garages. Other places to look include under vehicles. Pets may hide during the day, so return to areas at night. Bring along a toy or treat that may lure the pet out of hiding.

Check with shelters

Pets can be picked up and brought to animal welfare organizations or even law enforcement agencies. Pets that are wearing tags or are microchipped may have their owners notified. Animals without identification will sit unless the owner comes to recover the pet. Check shelters every two days.

Notify locals

Place ads in local newspapers and offer a reward. Also check found animal ads that may be close to your pet's description.

Pets can go missing, but with fast action and advanced planning, they can be recovered.

Selecting an easier-to-train dog breed

Training is one of the most effective ways to keep companion animals safe and secure. When prospective pet owners begin looking for a new dog, one of the first thoughts that may come to mind is trainability and whether certain breeds are more readily trainable than others. The pet food manufacturers at Honest Kitchen indicate that many factors can make a difference in how easily a dog will train, and breed is just one of them. Certain traits can suggest trainability, but how the animal was bred, raised and socialized can affect how well a dog takes to training as well. The American Kennel Club reports that certain dogs are more willing to comply with owner requests, while others are bred to work independently and may be less likely to immediately respond to commands from their owners. Certain traits can make some dogs a little easier to train than others. For example, dogs

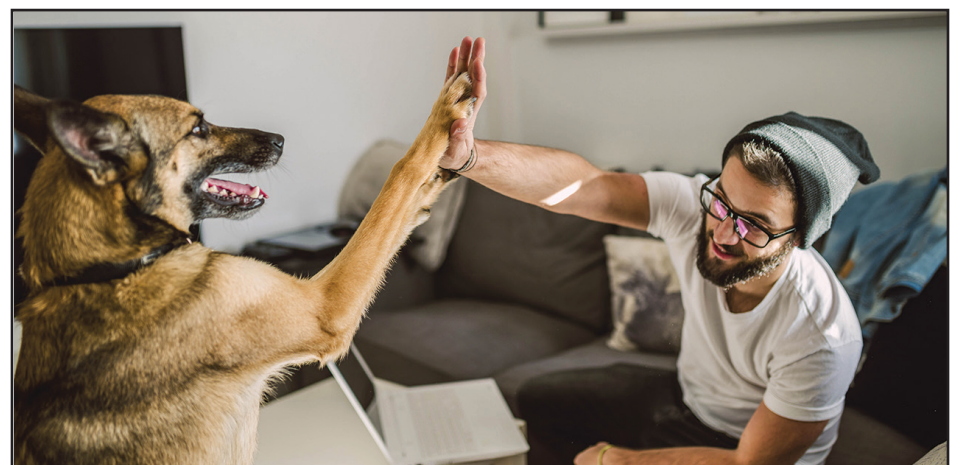
that are food-motivated and enjoy being around people may be more easily trained than those without such traits. Though there's no guarantee any dog will take to training, the following are some breeds that are generally considered training-friendly.

- **Border collies:** Collies are bright and energetic dogs that like to herd with their agility and intelligence.

- **Australian shepherd:** Another herding dog, Aussies have a natural focus on their owners and are bred to work with those owners in challenging environments.

- **Doberman pinchers:** Dobermans are smart and attentive to their owners. They have traditionally been employed as guard dogs and require careful training and socialization to be tolerant of strangers.

- **German shepherds:** These work-horses serve many different roles because



Contributed photo

German shepherds are among the breeds considered training-friendly.

of their affinity for learning tasks. Like Dobermans, look for a well-socialized German shepherd to avoid anxiety and wariness with people.

- **Poodles:** Poodles are popular because they don't shed much, but also because they are an intelligent, obedient and versatile breed.

- **Golden retrievers:** Golden retrievers are not the No. 1 family dog for nothing. Goldens are very intelligent and amiable. They often will do anything to please their owners. Labrador retrievers also take

to training well and are very affectionate.

- **Papillon:** Smaller dogs are often dubbed "stubborn" or "independent." But papillons are incredibly smart and trainable and are naturally focused.

The pet advisement site K9 of Mine warns that some of the smartest, most easily trained dogs may not necessarily be the easiest to live with. They can get bored easily and destroy things around the house if they can't keep their minds occupied. This is a factor to consider when selecting a breed as well.

Dog Training: Board and Train Camps

By Julie Marco,

Jet Set Pets

Dogs — like most creatures — need consistency in order to form habits and learn behaviors. Yet, as busy humans, consistency is something that doesn't always come easily to their owners.

And even if owners are diligent ... their canine pals may have instincts that resist all best efforts!

Board and train, also known as boot camp, is often the ideal solution, relieving stress for you and your dog.

Board and train is a specialized, intensive residence program designed to transform your four-footed friend into the well-mannered family member you dream of. It starts with a several-week stay away from home, and it generally extends to weeks of less-intensive distraction and related training through in-person sessions with the owner.

While any dog is likely to respond well to a board and train program, those who benefit most tend to be families that are having trouble getting the results they want, and those whose dogs are, in a nutshell, too much.

Some situations that may signal a good candidate for a boarding program:

- You don't have much time for regular

training practice at home.

- You're feeling worn down by the training process and both of you are frustrated.

- Your puppy has grown into a pulling and jumping machine you can't handle.

- You're going on vacation and would love to return home to a well-mannered dog.

- There's too much chewing, digging and scraping, and it's disturbing your home and life.

- Your dog won't come when called — and even thinks it's a game to run off.

- Your efforts to train your dog against excessive barking are getting nowhere.

- There's trembling, peeing and/or signs of high anxiety you can't seem to soothe.

- Your dog is aggressive or snapping at family members and/or while out on walks.

One of the reasons dogs who attend board and train are able to have such success is that they are able to receive consistent, clear instruction over a key time block.

Board and train programs are effective because, over the course of 3-5 weeks, dogs are:

- trained multiple times per day — with plenty of opportunities to learn and practice,



Photo provided by Jet Set Pets

Chanin Malle, head trainer, works with dogs at Jet Set Pets.

- tested by many more distractions than they'll typically face at home,

- coached into correct behaviors with consistent, yet loving, discipline and attention by multiple trainers and pet care employees.

They also have access to proper spaces and equipment to help shape and provide the right environment for the stages of training being worked on. And they have

great socialization opportunities, ensuring your dog can behave safely and reliably around other dogs and humans is an important part of proofing their behavior.

If your dog attends a board and train camp, there is no need to worry about keeping up with weekly training "homework" in between appointments; the trainer takes care of all the hard work for you.

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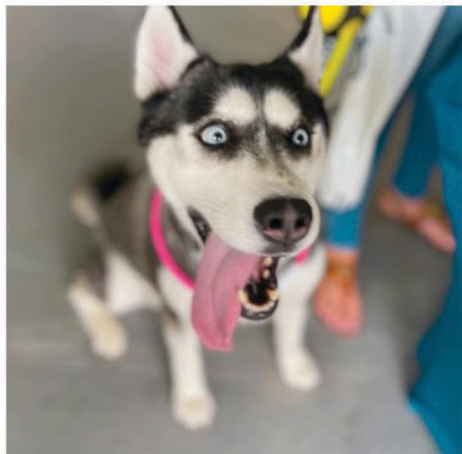
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'Stroke Protocol' — A plan for catastrophe!

By Joseph L. Boles, Jr.

My grandfather had a stroke when I was about 11 or 12 years old. When we visited him in the nursing home, my grandmother said, "Go ahead and talk to him. He understands what you are saying. He just can't speak or move!" I was horrified that it was possible to be trapped inside your body. I know that is the worst-case scenario for stroke victims and their families, but any type of impact that leaves you unable to recall, remember or communicate effectively is disastrous. So that's why we all need a "Stroke Protocol."

With that memory of my grandfather, my wife and I sat down one day and had the not-so-pleasant discussion about what needed to happen in the event that something should happen to one of us that left us unable to communicate or

incapacitated.

In a nutshell here, are the core steps we took:

- **Step 1** — Execute durable powers of attorney for each other. Even if I am incompetent, she can act on our behalf without going through a costly and time-consuming guardianship proceeding in the court, (thousands of dollars and several months). We also have health care surrogate designations and living wills.

- **Step 2** — Establish a revocable living trust with both of us as trustees. After putting our assets into our trust, (including out-of-state property), if I "stroke out" she is still a trustee and has access to all the "stuff." They are great asset protection devices and will avoid probate proceedings for their contents. (Think of cookies in a cookie jar versus cookies sitting on the counter. Trust "cookies" avoid probate court the others usually don't.)



- **Step 3** — Know the law or have your attorney on speed dial. Remember, spouses are not liable for the separate debts of the other so my wife knows not to get too worried about paying things like my separately issued credit cards.

With a little bit of preparation, you can take a lot of fear out of the future,

and God knows life can be scary enough without the shock of losing your spouse.

If you have any questions (and there are no bad questions!) feel free to give my office a call (904-824-4278) for a free consultation or contact any attorney you feel comfortable with discussing the plan for your own "Stroke Protocol."

McCarthy stepping down as North Florida Land Trust president

North Florida Land Trust has announced that Jim McCarthy will be stepping down as its president after eight years of service.

"Finishing law school this year caused me to look at things a bit differently,"

McCarthy said. "While it was directly applicable to my role at the land trust, this is the time for me to step away and take on some different challenges."

McCarthy's last day will be Aug. 31, but he will continue to consult for North

Florida Land Trust for an additional six months after that date.

"I have had the chance to build and work with two incredible teams: one pre-pandemic and one post," he said.

"We have accomplished much and there

is much more to be done. It has truly been the highlight of my career."

Since joining the land trust in 2014, McCarthy has grown the organization from 2.5 employees to 14 and boosted

MCCARTHY continues on Page 26

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Benchmarks of Success



Kimberly Elliott, DO, joins Flagler Health+ Primary Care

Dr. Kimberly Elliott, a board-certified family medicine physician, has joined Flagler Health+'s rapidly growing network of primary care providers. She is now scheduling appointments for new patients at the Flagler Health+ Primary Care office at Whetstone Place, 201 Health Park Place, Suite 215 on the campus of Flagler Hospital.

Elliott joins the Flagler Health+ team after working as a primary care geriatric and family medicine physician for Providence Medical Group in Lacey, Washington. She also served as specialty clinic lead there since 2019.

"Dr. Elliott is an important addition to our team here at Flagler Health+ as we expand our primary care practice at Whetstone Place," said Dr. David Rice, chief physician executive. "Her experience in family medicine and background of community care will be of great benefit to our community here in St. Johns

County."

Elliott has experience in geriatric medicine, management of endocrine disorders and obesity, women's health and preventative care including cancer and genetic screening. She also has special interests in dermatological procedures for skin cancer, anti-aging medicine and nutrition.

She will see patients 18 years and older.

For further information, go to flaglerhealth.org/whetstoneplace or call 904-824-3777.

Symphony CEO's contract extended

The Jacksonville Symphony has announced that Steven Libman, president and CEO, and the Board of Directors have agreed to extend his contract through June 30, 2028.

Libman has served as president and CEO since January 2020 and has made strides in cementing the symphony as one of Northeast Florida's most important cultural institutions.

"The board is thrilled that Steven has agreed to extend his leadership role with the Jacksonville Symphony," said

Donald Baldwin, chair of the Jacksonville Symphony's Board of Directors. "Over the last few years, Steven has formed strong relationships with the administrative team as well as with our music director, Courtney Lewis, to help lead every aspect of the organization with excellence. The stability of having Steven serve as president and CEO for the coming years is vital to achieving our mission of serving the community with positive growth and enhancement in the arts and culture."

Libman is nationally recognized

for developing an entrepreneurial and creative approach to strategic planning, fundraising, programming, branding, marketing initiatives, institutional growth and problem solving. Previously, Libman has served as the chief advancement officer for the Atlanta Ballet, president and CEO of the Center for the Performing Arts located in Indiana, managing director of the Tony Award-winning La Jolla Playhouse and managing director of the Pittsburgh Ballet.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Things you should know about wills

Estate planning can be tricky, which is why many people turn to attorneys to get the job done right. Attorneys who specialize in estate planning will no doubt discuss the following topics with their clients.

• **Assets owned:** Make a list of known assets and figure out which assets are covered by the will and which will have to be passed on according to other estate laws, such as through joint tenancy on a deed or a living trust. A will also can cover other assets, such as photographs, clothing, cars, and jewelry.

• **Guardianship:** Parents' wills should include a declaration of who they want to become guardians their underage children or dependents.

• **Funeral instructions:** Settling probate will not happen until after the

funeral. Therefore, funeral wishes in a will often go unnoticed, states the legal advisement resource Find Law.

• **Executor:** An executor is a trusted person who will carry out the terms of the will. This person should be willing to serve and be capable of executing the will.

People who die without a valid will become intestate. This means the estate will be settled based on the laws of where that person lived, and a court-appointed administrator will serve in the capacity to transfer property. This administrator will be bound by laws and may make decisions that go against the decedent's wishes. To avoid this outcome, a will and other estate planning documents are crucial.

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Contributed photo

North Florida Land Trust President Jim McCarthy will step down from his position Aug. 31.

McCarthy

Continued from 24

its operating budget from \$233,000 to \$2.5 million in 2022. In addition, during that time, the land trust has secured \$46,442,131 in federal, state, foundation and individual funding to protect property through conservation. Each year, the organization has increased its net worth, growing from \$8.8 million in 2014 to

\$17.9 million through 2021.

“We are very grateful to Jim for his leadership,” said North Florida Land Trust Board Chair John Delaney. “Our growth can be directly attributed to his relationships with key decision and policy makers. He has been the face of NFLT for the past eight years. We look forward to continuing to work with him through the transition and wish him all the best in his next venture.”

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Precision

Continued from 17

was vacationing in Italy.

In addition, Keller said she does not have the higher page rates, higher attendance fees, higher cancellation fees and added administration fee that some large companies have.

Not all of her clients, however, are high-profile professionals. When her son was young, he wanted to learn the words to a fast-paced song he'd heard on the radio. Knowing it was his mother's area of expertise, he asked her to listen to it and write it down for him, which she happily did.

Keller's love of stenography began with a recommendation by her own mother. At the time, Keller was a high-school majorette, a role that requires a good degree of ambidexterity. Her mother had taken some court-reporting classes but had to stop when Keller's sister was born.

But, seeing how well her daughter manipulated her baton, Keller's mother recognized the kind of manual dexterity necessary for using a stenograph machine. At her mother's suggestion, Keller went to school for stenography.

"I loved it," she said. "I absolutely loved it."

She worked for someone else for a year before starting her own business. In the

1990s, she moved to Washington, where there was a lot of work for someone with her skills. For a couple of years, she worked for storied attorney F. Lee Bailey.

In 2008, she relocated to Northeast Florida. Five years ago, she moved her business into its current location, 820 A1A North, Suite W14, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Her office includes conference rooms with complimentary WiFi and refreshments.

Though she does a lot of work via Zoom, she prefers in-person stenography because it better allows her to read the lips of the speaker, which aids comprehension.

Unlike typing, stenography is based on phonetics. The highest typing speed ever recorded is 216 words per minute. Using a stenograph machine, Keller can do 265 words per minute. That kind of speed allows her to offer CART and Realtime.

She can also offer interpretation, because she has a broad range of interpreters in her network.

"I have people I can call on for everything you can imagine," she said.

Keller is a Registered Professional Reporter, a Certified LiveNote Reporter and a Florida Professional Reporter. She can be contacted by phone at 904-373-0175, 877-4-A-STENO or 301-210-5092 or by email at precisereporting@comcast.net. Her website is precisereportingservices.net.

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RezLegal welcomes seasoned Mergers & Acquisitions attorney Lauren Weisman. With a passion for her hometown of Jacksonville, Lauren focuses her practice on providing local entrepreneurs strategic counsel through all stages of their business. Lauren has been an integral part of numerous mergers and acquisitions, including the sale of multiple businesses ranging in value from \$1 million to \$200 million. Welcome to RezLegal Lauren! We are thrilled to have you on our team!

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In the Arts



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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Community gets behind artist's 'whimsical' work



Photos by Anthony Richards

Scotie Cousin's creativity is on display in a variety of ways, including the artwork he customized to go around his bikes.

By Anthony Richards

For Scotie Cousin art is one of the best ways he connects with the world, and more recently he has been using it to connect with his local community in Atlantic Beach.

Cousin does not contain his artwork to just one form or style, but lately it has been the art that he calls "whimsical" that has been popping up around the Atlantic Beach area and capturing the imagination of its residents.

"It really all started coming up on three years ago, right when the political races were heating up, COVID was rearing its head and the race stuff was getting really bad," Cousin said. "I'm a master of reading people's eyes and body language, and you could just tell people were stressed out and taking it out on others."

Finally, one day while standing in line at the grocery store, he was seeing how people were treating each other and had enough.

"We just weren't taking care of each other as people, and it was a really depressing time," Cousin said.

However, being the artist that he is, he decided he might be able to help take the burdens of the world off of people's shoulders, even if only for a short time.

He decided to begin constructing birds and various other cartoonish animals and began placing them in trees or on the ground throughout his neighborhood.

"I just knew it would make people



Scotie Cousin got the idea to create artwork of animals while coming home from the grocery store one day in an attempt to help cheer up the world.

smile and be such a surprise," Cousin said.

He was so passionate about the idea that he began creating his first piece in his garage as soon as he got home, while the groceries still sat in the back of the car in the driveway.

"It just hit me all of a sudden on the ride home from that store," Cousin said. "I took some political signs and just started cutting them up into various shapes."

According to Cousin, knowing that people are taking time out of their hectic schedules to ponder the artwork in front of them is something that gives him great joy, to know that he has done his part to help touch their lives.


"It's so cool to see how one little action can have an effect on so many people, and do it in such a positive manner," Cousin said. "After I saw the reaction, I knew I had to make some more."

Before long, his neighborhood was full of the colorful creatures and after initially being anonymous, people began to figure out he was the one behind it and began wanting to have some for their yard.

It is not the first time Cousin had come up with an idea of how to cheer people up through his artwork, as he became known for making elaborate drawings with chalk on public streets while living in downtown Chicago.

"People just go by in awe and wonder

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CANVAS, STAGE AND MORE

Tour focus is Alcazar history

Explore the history of the iconic Alcazar Hotel on an intimate after-hours tour of the Lightner Museum, 6-8 p.m. July 21. The tour will focus on Henry Flagler, the history of the Alcazar and the luxurious guest experience at this grand Gilded Age resort hotel.

Guests will meet tour leaders in the front lobby of the museum at 6 p.m. Wine will be served in the lobby upon arrival. The tour will conclude in the Radzinski Family Garden where guests will be invited to enjoy wine and light hors d'oeuvres.

The cost is \$55 for nonmembers, \$45 for members. This excludes St. Johns County Passholders.

The number of tickets is limited. To purchase them, go to visit.lightnermuseum.org/#/SpecialEvents/Programs.

For further information, call 904-824-2874 or email info@lightnermuseum.org.

'Summer at the Cummer' to be offered through Sept. 2

The Cummer Museum of Art

& Gardens is conducting its annual "Summer at the Cummer" 10-week series, now through Sept. 2, presented by PNC Bank.

The museum will offer free admission during its extended hours, 4 to 9 p.m. each Friday, and the event will include live music, art experiences, lawn games, storytellers and more. Attendees will have full access to the museum's historic riverfront gardens, galleries and exhibitions, including "Buddha and Shiva, Lotus and Dragon: Masterworks" from the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection at Asia Society.

During each event, attendees can order food and beverages from the Cummer Café, including beer, wine and cocktails. Picnic baskets will also be available for pre-order via the Cummer Museum website. Additional programming and art-making activities will also be available for purchase throughout the series.

For further information, go to cummuseum.org.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

ON STAGE

A roundup of musical acts appearing before Aug. 15 at local venues

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Tickets may also be purchased at ticketmaster.com.

For further information about each act, go to theamp.com/events.

• **"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged"** — 7:30 p.m. July 15-16. Presented by APEX.

• **Whiskey Myers** — With special guests Shane Smith & The Saints and 49 Winchester. 6 p.m. July 17.

• **Iration and Atmosphere** — 5 p.m. July 21.

• **Shine A Light Concert & 5K for Ukraine** — With Bold City Classics on the Backyard Stage. 4 p.m. July 24.

• **Slightly Stoopid** — With special guests Pepper, Common Kings, Fortunate Youth. 5 p.m. Aug. 4.

• **Rick Springfield and Men At Work** — With special guest John Waite. 7 p.m. Aug. 5.

• **Buddy Guy and John Hiatt & The Goners featuring Sonny Landreth** — 7:30 p.m. Aug. 6.

• **Lee Brice** — With special guests Michael Ray and Jackson Dean. 7 p.m. Aug. 12.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



Image from The Amp
Buddy Guy and John Hiatt & The Goners will perform at the amphitheater on Aug. 6.

Whimsical

Continued from 28

asking first, who is doing this?" Cousin said. "Followed by why are they doing it? Young and old, it doesn't matter."

The City of Atlantic Beach eventually got word of what he was doing and created an approval process but wanted to do everything they could to let the positive community vibes continue.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Scotie Cousin's creations can be found throughout the Atlantic Beach area and beyond.

"They have been so great and supportive to work with," Cousin said.

As time has gone, word of his artwork has spread and with the interest has increased to beyond just his neighborhood and Atlantic Beach, but he hopes it can find a place in the other beach towns.

"I've had message after message from

people, some who were going through chemo, and they say how 'it just made them smile, and it was exactly what they needed,'" Cousin said. "It's not about just making the art itself, but it's more about fusing it with the things that people see every day."

He hopes that his work continues to not

only inspire them in life, but also encourage people to discover their own creative passion that they can share with their fellow communities.

"You have to take chances in life, because without a chance, you don't stand a chance," Cousin said. "I cannot preach that enough."

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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10			
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42			43		44			45					
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49				50	51				52		53	54	55
	56					57		58					59
				60				61					
					62						63		

ACROSS

- 1. Absence of difficulty
- 5. Preserve a dead body
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. The act of coming together again
- 15. More cushy
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Large, fish-eating bird
- 21. Indicates near
- 23. NY Mets legend Tommie
- 24. Icelandic books
- 28. Pop
- 29. Hammer is one
- 30. Sense of self-importance
- 32. Thyrotrophic hormone
- 33. Can't be found
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Passports and licenses are two
- 39. Snake-like fishes
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Popular computers
- 44. Intermediate ecological stage
- 46. Wings
- 47. Used in combination
- 49. Laid back
- 52. Jewelled headdress
- 56. Slow
- 58. Famous Falls
- 60. Reassertions
- 62. Periods of time
- 63. Hyphen

- 5. Genetically distinct varieties
- 6. Dialect of Chinese
- 7. Famous Mr. T character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. Menace to yards
- 12. Ireland
- 13. Palm trees
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Willis and Robert are two
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. It shows who you are
- 25. The First State (abbr.)
- 26. Get older
- 27. Associations
- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew

- 36. Leader
- 37. Plants in the legume family
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Junior's father
- 43. Scads
- 45. Morning
- 48. Length of a line (abbr.)
- 50. Double curve
- 51. Small, thin person
- 53. Worn by exposure to the weather
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Word element meaning ear
- 58. To the ___ degree
- 59. Residue of something burned
- 61. It cools your home

DOWN

- 1. Body part
- 2. Mimics
- 3. Expel large quantities
- 4. Sea eagle

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Sports

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022 · PAGE 30 www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Stokes flips commitment to Gators

Nease quarterback Marcus Stokes recently switched his commitment from Pennsylvania State University to the University of Florida. The four-star quarterback made his announcement via Twitter. He will begin his senior season with the Panthers this fall.

Photo courtesy of Marcus Stokes



Furyk & Friends program to benefit area youth

The Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS presented by Circle K is preparing to return for a second year to Timuquana Country Club on Oct. 3-9. The 2022 PGA TOUR Champions event will once again include the Community Champions program, which gives MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation supporters the opportunity to designate 100% of the proceeds from their general admission ticket purchase to the nonprofit.

"We've had a longstanding friendship and partnership with Jim and Tab and the Constellation Furyk & Friends Foundation," said MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation founder MaliVai Washington. "Their support has been immeasurable, providing additional resources for our families and supporting our STEM program, among other things."

To support MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation through the Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS presented by Circle K Community Champions program, fans can purchase general admission tickets by going to am.ticketmaster.com/pgafuryk/buytickets and entering the code "MWYF" when prompted during the purchasing process.

The tournament is once again preparing to bring exciting fan experiences with music, food, family experiences, business networking, social interactions and, of course, golf for the 2022 event.

For further information, stay connected to the tournament website at constellation-furykandfriends.com. In 2021, the Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS presented by Circle K generated more than \$1.17 million for local charities and with support of this program, the tournament will look to grow that number in the future.

The tournament will feature a 78-player field competing for a \$2 million purse. The no-cut event will include pro-ams on Oct.

3, 5 and 6, followed by three rounds of tournament play October 7-9.

All three rounds of the tournament will be broadcast live on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable provider of PGA TOUR Champions.

The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation is a comprehensive youth development program in Jacksonville's urban core that provides youth with valuable opportunities to rise to their potential through academic assistance, life skills, enrichment activities, counseling, mentoring, college and career preparation, tennis lessons and more.

For more information, go to malwashington.com or find it on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation was created in 2010 to help children and families in need. This Jacksonville based nonprofit partners with charities across North Florida to provide project-specific funding and essential programming.

The annual Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS presented by Circle K was created to raise charity dollars to support these partnerships and brings the community together to increase awareness and funding for programs that support education, health care, nutrition and safety for at-risk children and families.

Programs created from the support of the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation in the Jacksonville Community include: Hope for the Holidays, which packs more than 5,000 bags filled with a holiday meal for at-risk families; Operation Shower, which provides car seats, strollers and baby essentials to active military families; Blessings in a Backpack, which feeds thousands of food-insecure children each week of the school year; and Childcare specialists and services to provide medically complex children's care through Wolfson's and Community PedsCare.

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