# THE RECORDER

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> **August 18, 2022** Volume 53, No. 42 75 cents

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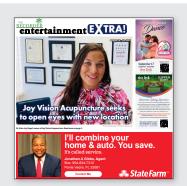
Covering Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, and Greater St. Johns County



First Coast Register



Best of the Best Pages 11-54



#### **INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!**

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





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### **INSIDE**

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## Send us your news

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

# COA presents herbology at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center

COA will offer a four-week course on herbology on Tuesdays in September at COA's THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Led by instructor James Carucci, the course is designed to show participants how herbs can be used to promote health and well-being by looking at specific health concerns and herbal solutions.

Classes will be 3-4 p.m. Sept. 6, 13, 20 and 27. The cost to participate in the four-week session is \$30. Registration is required, and space is limited

To register and for more information, contact COA's Amanda Jones at 904-209-3659 or via email at ajones@stjohnscoa.com. THE PLAY-ERS Community Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.

#### Students share ideas on sustainability

Beaches Go Green (BGG) Student Club members hosted Global Jax's International Youth leadership exchange students from Iraq. The theme of the exchange program for this year was sustainability.

Beaches Go Green presented on plastic pollution and gave ideas that the Iraqis could implement once back home. The ideas included: starting student-led environmental education clubs, implementing reusable bottles for sports programs and creating environmental education videos to share on social media and within the community to spread awareness.

More than 40 students exchanged ideas and cultural experiences with each other. Local schools represented were Ponte Vedra High School, Nease High School, Mandarin High School, Providence High School, Fletcher Middle and Fletcher High School.

#### **Explore the Beach at GTM Research Reserve**

Residents are invited to join volunteers at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve for a beach exploration on Saturday, Aug. 20. Collect seashells, search for shark teeth and learn about coastal wildlife. This is a "Beaches 101" experience the whole family will enjoy.

The beach exploration at GTM Research Reserve will be held 9-11 a.m., starting from the GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Wear comfortable closed-toe shoes. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are recom-

mended. The event is free but online registration is required.

Register online at secure.lglforms.com/ form\_engine/s/IbjZRjVvErdAi4DQL0QNKw ?t=1657721639.

#### Coastal Friends to host September event

Coastal Friends, formerly known as Newcomers Alumnae, has announced that its popular monthly luncheon will be held on Sept. 7 at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This month's guest speaker will be Nicole Woodsmall, donations manager at BEAM Thrift in Jacksonville Beach.

This luncheon is open to all members of Coastal Friends, their guests and anyone interested in joining the ladies' social club, which has been in existence since 1998. Marsh Landing's luncheon will consist of caesar salad, chicken parmesan with linguini and tiramisu for dessert.

The cost to attend the luncheon is \$25 and reservations must be made in advance to reserve a seat by contacting the luncheon chairman (bartshar@comcast.net) as soon as possible since the deadline is Friday morning, Sept. 2.

For details on how to join Coastal Friends, contact brookemeister@msn.com or go to coastalfriends.wildapricot.org.

#### Health screenings coming to Ponte Vedra Beach

Local residents living in and around Ponte Vedra Beach can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with screenings by Life Line Screening. Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church will host this community event on Sept. 9. The site is located at 4510 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.

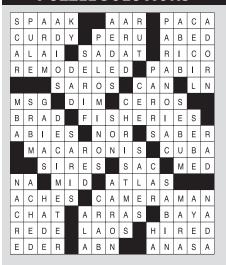
Screenings can check for:

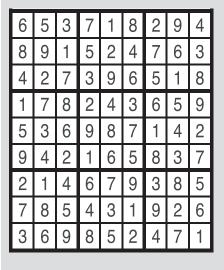
- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health.
  - HDL and LDL cholesterol levels
  - Diabetes risk
- Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis
- Kidney and thyroid function, and more There is a charge of the screenings. Free parking is available.

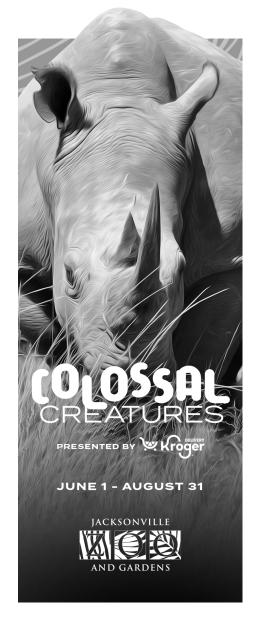
For information, call 1-877-237-1354 or go to lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

#### **PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**







# Coastal Wine tasting series begins Aug. 22



#### **By Anthony Richards**

The Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room will begin featuring a monthly Monday wine tasting series with the first scheduled for Aug. 22 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The series will take place at Coastal Wine located at 641 Crosswater Parkway in Ponte Vedra Beach.

One of the unique features of the series is the ability for attendees to "meet the

winemaker," which for the first tasting of the series will Bill and Roxanne Wolf of Eagle Eye Wines in Napa, California.

Each attendee will be allowed four "generous" pours of four different crafted wines. One will be served during the event's reception and the other three will be served at the designated tables.

An assortment of meats and cheeses will be served as well as a special food dish chef-inspired to be paired with each wine sampled.

Every ticketed guest will be automatically entered into a raffle, where two winners will be drawn with the prize being a magnum of wine.

All wines offered for sampling will also be available for purchase by the bottle at an exclusive price for attendees only.

Tickets to the wine tasting event are \$70 per person and include gratuity.

For more information call 904-395-3520 to reserve a spot at the event.





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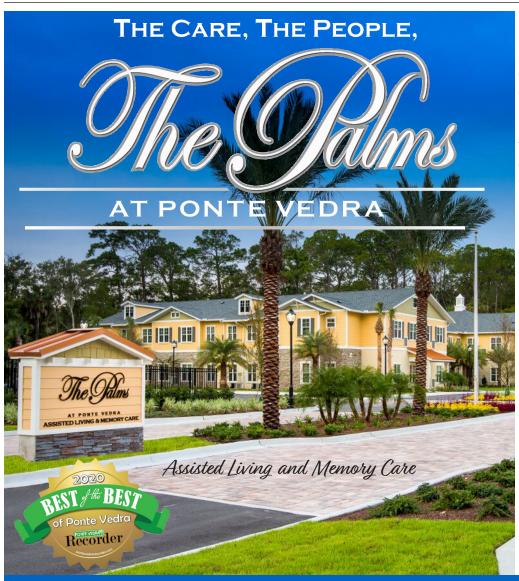
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Office Opening August at Sawgrass Village (904) 388-7521

# The DRIPBaR hosts Chamber Before Hours

The DRIPBaR hosted a "Before Hours" event with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Aug. 10. The morning was full of networking possibilities, as well as food and fun.

Photos provided by the SJC Chamber



Chamber events manager Ericha Gore and president/CEO Isabelle Renault enjoy The DRIPBaR's amenities.



The DRIPBaR hosted the Chamber's Before Hours event Aug. 10.



Attendees network during a Chamber Before Hours event hosted by The DRIPBaR.



Chamber members joined The DRIPBaR ownership in welcoming attendees to the Before Hours event.

#### **OCEANFRONT CONDO IN SPINNAKERS REACH**

A rare find on the ocean in Sawgrass with spacious living in the gated community of Sawgrass Country Club! Spectacular 1st floor condo that has the only elevator in Spinnakers 1 from the garage to the first floor! Completely renovated with stunning details & designer finishes. Magnificent ocean views from every room. Experience a spacious, sophisticated & beautifully designed condo in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach. This first floor condo is warm & inviting with 2523sf, 3BR, 3BA with the upstairs master & ocean views! Offered for \$2,985,100.



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Emma McCabe has turned her passion for reading and writing into a small business that has gained momentum in the last year. It all started with a blog called AGirlWeKnow, and that has now become her brand and includes a website and a merchandise line, as well as a book of poetry she recently published.

# Emma McCabe

#### **As told to Anthony Richards**

## Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I was born and raised in Atlanta but moved to the Ponte Vedra area after I graduated from the University of Mississippi in 2019. I got a degree in print journalism and a minor in English, so I did a lot of writing all throughout college on the print side, as well as the creative writing side.

When I was in college, I started a blog just because I love to write. It started as book reviews and personal-life essays, and a lot of times people would ask me for book recommendations, and it wasn't always for themselves, but sometimes finding something their grandmother would enjoy reading.

# Where did the idea for AGirlWeKnow come from, and when did it get started?

When I was thinking of what to brand by business, "A Girl We Know" just came to mind, because I knew that a book recommendation does not just come from me but can come from anyone you know, and I wanted it to remain more universal.

Since we moved to Ponte Vedra, that blog has really grown and transformed into a brand and a small business. I now have a website and just released a poetry book, as well as having a book club and selling merchandise.

I found that during COVID was when I really took off because people were turning to books for comfort and solace during that time. It has really developed into something much bigger than just book reviews.

My poetry book I just released is called "things I think about while I drive," which was a series that I started this past spring because I realized that so much of what I think about comes to me when I'm driving home from work or just driving to go somewhere.

I've found that you just don't have distractions during that time, and its usually just music and your thoughts. Usually when I'm driving home, the sun will be setting or the moon with be out, and it makes me very introspective.

A lot of what my poetry and writing is about is being in your 20s and how it's very messy and confusing. There's a lot of heartbreak, whether it's romantic or with friends and family or work, but there's also so much joy and success.

## Have you always had a passion for reading and writing?

I've been a reader my whole life and I very strongly believe in the power of literature, and I personally love to read things that I relate to, and that's what I try to capture in my poetry.

I used to feel very embarrassing by how much I liked to read, because back then nobody thought it was cool when I was younger. I'm all about changing that way of thinking.

In my poetry book, there is a poem in there that talks about protecting my 15-year-old self, because that's when I first remember realizing that I was kind of embarrassed by how much I liked to read. My parents have always been the most wonderful people and always encouraged me that I could make it cool.

One of those ways was in the winter when we started making tote bags. The first ones were sold to just family and friends, but then we had a lot of other people wanting to know where they could get one. We sold trucker hats that said "buy me a book" on it, and they completely blew up.

We now have three colors of hats, and they can all be found on my website at agirlweknow.squarespace.com. They are really fun, especially when it comes to living at the beach.

## What do you enjoy most about being an entrepreneur and writing?

People ask all the time about how I'm able to do all that I do with AGirl-WeKnow because it's not my day job but is a small business I do on the side.

Everything is made possible through community. My book club was started through the community, my merchandise sells out because somebody orders it for their best friend and then suddenly five people in Texas are asking me for a hat.

I did a book retreat last year in Asheville, North Carolina and I didn't know probably half of the people who came until I met them that weekend, because it was a friend of a friend. Getting to know new people who share my love of reading is so much fun.

I like to say that AGirlWeKnow is really a two-person process and half of it is my sister Audrey. We're roommates now, and she is just so super trendy, cool and smart

A lot of times I will get this thing in my head about an idea to write about and she is the one to think about the best way to brand it. She really pushes me a lot when it comes to the merchandise perspective.



Photo courtesy of Connor Bowen

Emma McCabe moved to Ponte Vedra a couple of years ago and since then she has seen her hobby turn into a small business.

## What are some of the aspects that are more challenging?

Things have really moved along so rapidly. Last July was when I put my first piece on Instagram, and just a year ago we didn't have the merchandise or the website. The only thing we had was the book club.

It's pretty crazy because it went four or five years of not much happening, but now the momentum has taken hold. Before it was just a fun thing for me to do, but now it's my business.

## What are the primary future goals you have?

My two big goals for this summer were to release the poetry book and have

the website go live, and both of those were able to take place, so I'm still in shock and riding the wave from that.

In the near future, we'll have a sweatshirt drop, and I did write a fiction book so I'm hoping to find an agent to help me get it to a publishing house.

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

When my parents moved here, I was pretty much sold hook, line and sinker. I feel like the community is so strong here and that is what has really drawn me in. As soon as we moved here, there has just been so many people that are looking out for you. That is something that's very important to me.



### NorthEastFloridaCoastHomes.com

# Congratulations to our July Leaders!



Cheryl Gillespie Ponte Vedra Beach



**Meredith Schwarz** Ponte Vedra Beach



Kelly Whitaker, Wanda Petersen, Megan Hulling **Ponte Vedra Beach** 



Sally Harasz **Nocatee** 



Matt & Naomi Wilkinson **Nocatee** 



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# Locals gather for Blocker rally



St. Johns County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker speaks during a rally held for him at the Palm Valley Barn.

Local residents gathered for a rally Tuesday, Aug. 9,

sioner Jeremiah Blocker, who is seeking re-election to the

The rally was hosted by Deb Chapin, Palm Valley Barn owner and event planner. In addition to Blocker, candi-

dates for other races attended, including Kelly Barrera (St.

Johns County School Board, District 4), Martha Gleason

zanne W. Green (St. Augustine-St. Johns County Airport

(Anastasia Mosquito Control District, Seat 2) and Su-

at the Palm Valley Barn for St. Johns County Commis-

**By Shaun Ryan** 

District 4 seat.



Local residents gather at the Palm Valley Barn during a rally for St. Johns County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker.



Deb Chapin, owner and event planner at the Palm Valley Barn, speaks to attendees.

at the top spot in the state, and addressed the population

growth currently under way.

"If you have 100,000 people who want to move somewhere, you're doing something right," he said.

Of course, this growth has impacted the county and its

"Our challenge is how to manage that growth to make sure that we control it effectively," Blocker said. "One of the issues that we brought to the community is that we need to look at how we're growing. For those of you who don't know, in St. Johns County, the current system of growth — of paying for growing — was put in place back in the 1940s. It's not the 1940s anymore."

He said, under the current system, the county gets its revenue only after the house is built. That revenue is needed for roadwork, additional firefighters and more.

He and others have called for an arrangement in which the revenue would be collected up front so that it could better fund things impacted by the growth.

On another matter, Blocker said the county has committed to raising the minimum salary for law enforcement

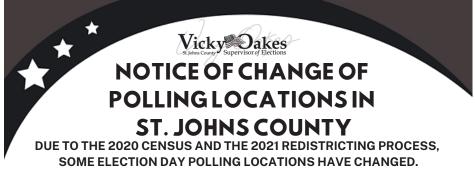
"If you're going to recruit the best and retain the best, you have to pay for that," he said.

Asked by one attendee about the proposed 1-cent sales tax that will appear on the November ballot, Blocker said it would pay for some infrastructure needs, particularly with regard to first responders.

He said there were three ways the county could meet these needs: raise taxes, borrow the money or let the voters decide. The County Commission chose the latter.

Blocker faces Krista Keating-Joseph and write-in candidate Michael C. Lanza in the Aug. 23 primary.

#### Authority, Group 1). Blocker told the assembly that he was excited about the future of the county, which he said was "right at a moment of incredible opportunity." He specifically pointed out the work of the county's Parks and Recreation Department. He praised the school district, which annually finishes "That's not an effective system," Blocker said.



PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 23, 2022 **POLLS OPEN 7 AM TO 7 PM** 

Ponte Vedra Beach 32082

NEW LOCATION	OLD LOCATION
PRECINCT 403	PRECINCT 403
Palm Valley Baptist Church	Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church
4890 Palm Valley Rd	4510 Palm Valley Rd

#### **KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO**



Ponte Vedra Beach 32082

To locate your polling place visit www.votesjc.gov or call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238

For additional information, visit www.votesjc.gov or call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238



# **Politics St. Johns** held in St. Augustine

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its Politics in St. Johns event at Soloman Calhoun Center in St. Augustine Aug. 11. The event was bipartisan and allowed all candidates running a chance to interact with residents prior to the upcoming primary election Aug. 23.





**Casey Woolsey** 



Krista Keating-Joseph



**Paul Renner** 

Photos courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce





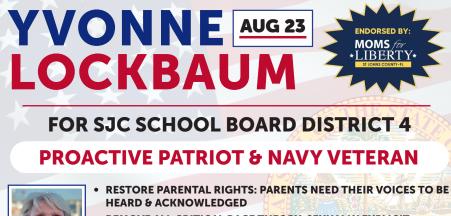
Johnny Coe Counts



Chuck Labanowski



LaShawnda Pinknev





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#### AlyssaForJudge.com Vote on August 23rd



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- **★ Common Sense ★**
- ★ Follow the Law ★

# Vicky Oakes PRIMARY ELECTION **AUGUST 23, 2022**

#### TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO **VOTE EARLY!**

OPEN UNTIL SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 · 9 AM - 6 PM AT ALL LOCATIONS

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#### **REMINDER**

PLEASE HAVE CURRENT AND VALID PHOTO AND SIGNATURE ID READY WHEN VOTING. IF YOU DON'T HAVE PROPER ID, YOU MUST **VOTE A PROVISIONAL BALLOT.** 

**VOTERS MAY CAST THEIR BALLOT AT ANY EARLY VOTING LOCATION!** 



For additional information, visit www.votesjc.gov or call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238





Photo courtesy of Reaches Go Green

Beaches Go Green student club members hosted Global Jax's International Youth Leadership Exchange (IYLEP) students from Iraq recently. The faces of Iraqi students are covered for their privacy per program guidelines.



# Something



is in the cards.



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# WINIER'S CIRCLE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022

# 

Thank you for voting us Best Preschool, Best Day Camp and Dr. Katie Falwell for Best School Administrator!



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#1 Personal Injury Law Firm & #1 Civil Law Firm

# Baggett Law

Although we are new to Nocatee, we have been passionately representing injured clients in the greater Jacksonville community for over 10 years. We are proud of these awards and proud of the work we do for those that need our help.





Once again, The Ponte Vedra Recorder asked readers to tell us which businesses, nonprofits, practices and professionals are the Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra in the 32081 and 32082 ZIP codes. And once again, the readers have weighed in with their preferences.

Between May 20 and June 12, members of the community had the opportu-

nity to nominate their favorites in 245 categories. Beginning June 13, readers were invited to vote on their nominees.

After voting closed on July 27, it was time to find out who won. The votes were counted, and the winners notified. The winners' names are listed in this special section.

Winners will be happy to know that

the people in their community who rely on their goods and services selected them. It is a stamp of approval that recognizes winners' dedication and exceptionalism.

The Ponte Vedra Recorder wants to thank the voters who took the time to participate. The strong response reveals a community of individuals willing to add their voices to the public conversation and reward those who put forth their best efforts every day.

In the coming year, readers will want to keep this section handy. When seeking out a product or service for the first time, it's helpful to know which businesses other members of the community recommend.

#### Best Overall

BEST NEW BUSINESS (OPENED IN 2021)

the link

**BEST LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS**Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room

**BEST BOSS** 

Dr. Erika Hamer, Ponte Vedra Wellness Center

**BEST LOCAL INDUSTRY** 

**PGA Tour** 

**BEST PLACE TO WORK**First Horizon Bank

### Auto & Transportation

**AFTERMARKET AUTO REPAIR**Wilford's Service Center & Jaxtint.net

**OIL CHANGE** Tire Kingdom

TIRE STORE
Tires Plus

#### Business

#### **ALTERATIONS**

**Oceanside Cleaners** 

#### ART FRAMING COMPANY

Village Arts Framing and Gallery

#### BARBER SHOP

**Don's Barber Shop** 

#### **BIKE RENTALS**

Pedego Electric Bikes Ponte Vedra

#### **BUILDING DESIGN COMPANY**

AR Homes® at Quadrille

**CAR WASH**Gate Express Carwash

#### **CELL PHONE REPAIR**

**Tech Hospital** 

#### **CHILD CARE CENTER**

**Christ Episcopal Preschool** 

#### **COPY SHOP**

The UPS Store

#### **DANCE STUDIO**

**Grace Conservatory of Dance** 

#### **DAY SPA**

Spavia Day Spa

#### **DRY CLEANERS**

Solana Cleaners

#### FITNESS CENTER/GYM

Body20, Ponte Vedra Beach

#### **FLORAL COMPANY**

**Kathy's Creative Gardens** 

#### **FUNERAL HOME**

Ponte Vedra Valley

#### **HAIR SALON**

Bellezza Salon & Boutique

#### HOTEL

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

#### **INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER**

AT&T Store

#### **INSURANCE COMPANY**

**Anderson Agency of Northeast Florida** 

#### **JEWELER**

**Underwood Jewelers** 

#### LIMOUSINE COMPANY

**Sawgrass Airport Transportation** 

#### **MARTIAL ARTS**

**Ponte Vedra Martial Arts Academy** 

#### MASSAGE/MASSAGE THERAPIST

Muriel Hattori at Sawgrass Marriott

#### **NAIL SALON**

BellaVi Nail Spa

#### **PEST CONTROL**

**Kingfish Pest Control** 

#### **PILATES STUDIO**

**Transformation Pilates** 

#### PET BOARDING

Sawgrass Pet Resort
Dog Boarding & Daycare

#### **SELF STORAGE FACILITY**

**Compass Self Storage** 

#### **SPRAY TANNING**

Halo Spa

#### TREE SERVICE

Tree Masters Inc.

#### **TRAVEL AGENCY**

**AAA Ponte Vedra** 

#### WEDDING PLANNER

**TPC Sawgrass** 

#### WEDDING VENUE

**TPC Sawgrass** 

#### YOGA STUDIO

**Titanium Yoga** 

## Community

#### **ARTIST**

Ocean Sole Africa

#### ASSISTED LIVING

Starling at Nocatee

#### BEACH CLUB

The Plantation Beach Club

#### **BEST COMMUNITY TO LIVE IN**

Nocatee

CHARITY EVENT
Angelwood Gala at Sawgrass Marriott

#### CHURCH

**Christ Episcopal Church** 

#### **CIVIC CLUB**

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra

## **COMMUNITY EVENT**THE PLAYERS Championship

THE TEATERS Championship

## COUNTRY CLUB Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

**EVENT VENUE** 

#### The Yards

**EVENT ENTERTAINMENT**Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

#### FIREFIGHTER/EMT

**Britnie Strohsahl** 

#### **GOLF COURSE**

The Yards

## **GOLF PROFESSIONAL** Zach Vinal at The Yards

IN-HOME CARE

#### Magnolia Grace Senior Care, LLC

KIDS CAMP

# Collage Day School Summer Camp MEMORY CARE

Ponte Vedra Gardens

#### NETWORKING GROUP

St. Johns County Chamber Ponte Vedra Beach Division

#### NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

**K9s for Warriors** 

#### PARK

**Nocatee Splash Waterpark** 

#### PICKLEBALL

The Yards

WINNERS continues on Page 16







Goodman

Air Conditioning & Heating

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Brands



# What our customers say about us...

Two of my friends recommended Creeks to me and I'm so glad they did. The estimator was friendly, open and honest and gave several options and the installers were courteous, on time and cleaned up the working area. Plus, the system works great. No one likes to have to buy a new AC in the middle of summer, but their price was fair and the work was good. Highly recommend! - Renay T.

From the moment you reach out to Creeks Air Conditioning and Heating you will recognize their professionalism and commitment to service are superior in the industry. The polite voice answering your call will reassure and work proficiently to accommodate answering your questions while placing your needs as their priority. From sales to installation, the representatives of Creeks Air Conditioning and Heating demonstrate their excellence in every aspect of their profession. I have called upon them on two separate occasions in two different homes (never the same unit) over the past 15 years and will continue to use them if I need HVAC repair or replacement. - DC Junior

RECORDER

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# AND THE WINNERS ARE...

#### Community

PLACE FOR KIDS TO HAVE FUN Nocatee Splash Waterpark

PLACE TO VOLUNTEER
the link

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
Vicar's Landing

**SPORTS LEAGUE**Zone Cheer All-Stars, Inc.

**SYNAGOGUE**Chabad at the Beaches

**TENNIS FACILITIES**The Plantation at Ponte Vedra

#### Eat & Drink

#### **AMERICAN**

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room

#### **ASIAN**

Tank's Sushi Bistro

#### **BAKERY**

Le Macaron French Pastries

#### **BARBEQUE**

Woody's BBQ

#### **BREAKFAST**

**Metro Diner** 

#### **BRUNCH**

Nineteen

#### **BURGER**

Mulligan's Pub

#### **BUTCHER**

**New York Butcher Shoppe** 

#### **CAKE & DESSERTS**

Flo's Premium Ice Cream

#### CATERING

Trasca & Co Eatery

#### **CHEF**

Chef Cassandra Cotoia

#### CHOCOLATIER

Peterbrooke Chocolatier Ponte Vedra

#### COCKTAIL

Nona Blue Modern Tavern

#### **COFFEE SHOP**

The Kookaburra Nocatee

#### **COUNTRY CLUB DINING**

Nineteen

#### DELI

Sandwichman Deli

#### FAMILY RESTAURANT

Barbara Jean's on the Water

#### **FAST FOOD**

Trasca & Co Eatery

#### **FROZEN YOGURT**

Christy's Dream Ice Cream

#### **GROCERY STORE**

Publix Super Market at Sawgrass Village

#### **HAPPY HOUR**

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room

#### **HEALTH FOOD**

McFlamingo

#### **ICE CREAM STORE**

Flo's Premium Ice Cream

#### ITALIAN

Poppy's Italiano

#### **LIQUOR STORE**

**ABC Fine Wine & Spirits** 

#### **MEXICAN**

Anejo Cocina Mexicana

#### **PIZZA**

V Pizza & Julep - Palm Valley

#### ROMANTIC RESTAURANT

Seafoam Room -Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

#### SALADS

McFlamingo

#### SANDWICHES

Trasca & Co Eatery

#### **SEAFOOD**

Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill

#### **SPORTS BAR**

Mr. Chubby's Wings

#### STEAK

**Ruth's Chris Steak House** 

#### **UPSCALE DINING**

**Restaurant Medure** 

#### SUSHI

Tank's Sushi Bistro

**SWEET TEA** 

#### Barbara Jean's on the Water

WATERFRONT DINING

Barbara Jean's on the Water

#### WINGS

Mr. Chubby's Wings

#### WINE BAR

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room

#### **WINE LIST**

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room

#### WINE SPECIALTY STORE

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room

WINNERS continues on Page 20



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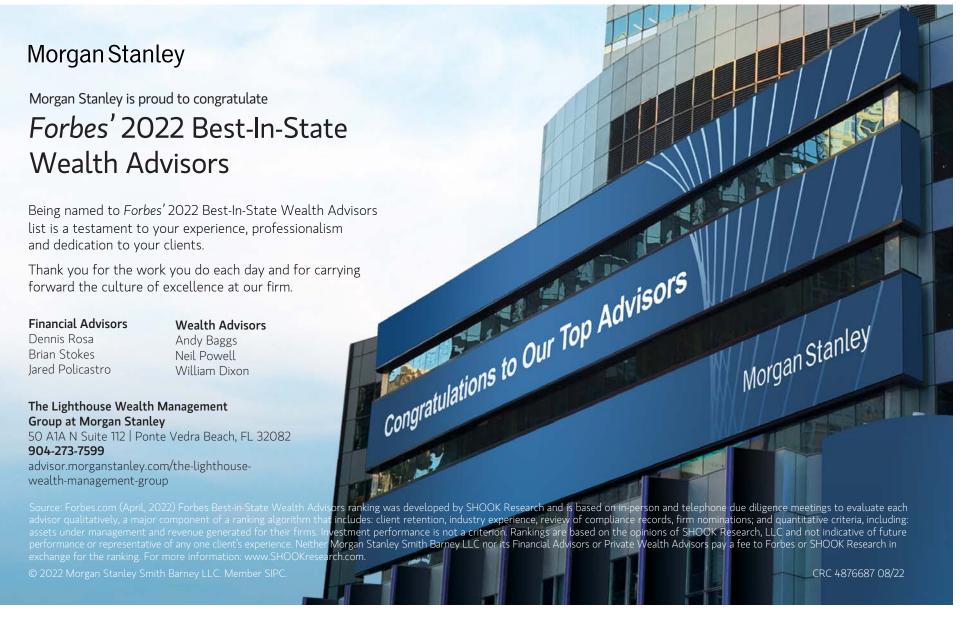


and Saturday!

Leather & Suede

Household Items







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Thank You for Voting Us Best!
Best Chiropractor and Best Boss for 2022.



We have been at the Beach for 18 years and in Nocatee for over six so this recognition is very special to me and my team. To celebrate, we have a

great **New Patient Special Offer** on our website and we look forward to seeing you soon, in Ponte Vedra Beach or in Nocatee! "

Dr. Erika Hamer and the Team at Ponte Vedra Wellness Center

Please check out our website - pontevedrawellnesscenter.com for our Best of the Best New Patient Special Offer! (valid through 9/30/22)

Ponte Vedra Beach/273-2691

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Nocatee Town Center/834-2717

205 Marketside Ave, #200, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081



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2020

2021

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BEST RELOCATION SPECIALIST, BEST ECO-FRIENDLY REALTOR, BEST REAL ESTATE BROKER



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- American Food
- Happy Hour
- Wine List
- Wine Specialty Store
- Wine Bar

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# AND THE WINNERS ARE

#### Education

#### **SUCCESS COACH**

**Trudy Toche** 

#### **DAYCARE**

**Primrose School on Crosswater Parkway** 

#### **DRIVING SCHOOL**

All Florida Safety Institute

#### PRESCHOOL

**Collage Day School** 

#### **PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Ponte Vedra High School

#### **PRIVATE SCHOOL**

The Bolles School Lower School **Ponte Vedra Beach Campus** 

#### **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR**

Dr. Katie Falwell at Collage Day School

#### **SCHOOL TEACHER**

Denise Kelly at **PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School** 

#### **SPECIALTY SCHOOL**

**Code Ninjas** 

#### **TUTORING CENTER**

**GradePower Learning** 

#### **MUSIC LESSONS**

**First Coast School of Music** 

#### Home & Finance

#### **ACCOUNTING**

**Daysi Jacobson Accounting** 

#### **AIR & HEATING SERVICE**

Creeks Air Conditioning & Heating

#### **APARTMENT COMMUNITY**

The Atwater at Nocatee

#### **AUDIO/VIDEO SOLUTIONS**

**Encore** 

#### **BANK**

First Horizon Bank

#### **BOUTIQUE REAL ESTATE FIRM**

Berry & Co. Real Estate

#### **CLEANING COMPANY** (RESIDENTIAL)

**Vie Home Services** 

#### **COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE**

Watson Realty Corp of Ponte Vedra

#### **CONDOMINIUM REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST**

**JAKE BESTIC -**

**COLDWELL BANKER VANGUARD** 

#### CONTRACTOR/REMODELER

**Bluewave Builders** 

#### **CREDIT UNION**

**VyStar Credit Union** 

#### **ECO-FRIENDLY REALTOR**

Clare Berry - Berry & Co. Real Estate

#### **ELECTRIC/GAS PROVIDERS**

**Solar Boss Systems** 

#### **FENCE COMPANY**

**Ponte Vedra Fence Company** 

#### **FINANCIAL ADVISEMENT**

**Brower Financial Group** 

#### **GOLF COURSE REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST**

Clare Berry - Berry & Co. Real Estate

#### **HOME BUILDER**

AR Homes® at Quadrille

#### **INTERIOR DECORATING COMPANY**

**Luxury for Less** 

#### **INTERIOR DESIGN**

Mineral City

#### **LANDSCAPING**

**Ponte Vedra Turf Surfers** 

#### **MILITARY RELOCATION SPECIALIST**

Wendy Patton, Realtor® at **Berkshire Hathaway** 

#### **MORTGAGE LENDER**

Navigator Mortgage, Inc.

#### **MOVING COMPANY**

Ponte Vedra Movers

#### **NEW HOME**

**CONTRUCTION BUILDERS** Del Webb Nocatee by PulteGroup

#### **NEW HOME SPECIALIST**

Clare Berry - Berry & Co. Real Estate

**Better Vision Painting** 

#### **POOL COMPANY**

**Aqua Extreme Pools** 

#### **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

**Watson Realty Corp** of Ponte Vedra

#### **REAL ESTATE CORPORATION**

**ONE Sotheby's International Realty** 

#### **REAL ESTATE AGENT**

Clare Berry - Berry & Co. Real Estate

#### **REAL ESTATE BROKER**

Berry & Co. Real Estate

#### **REAL ESTATE CLOSING ATTORNEY**

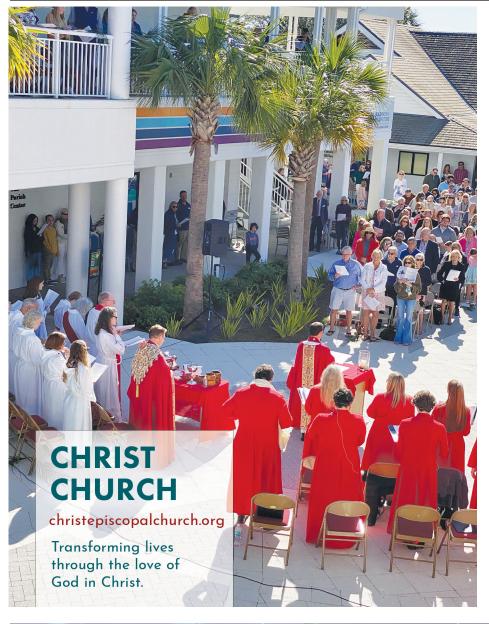
Andrew I. Aleman, Esq -St. Johns Title

WINNERS continues on Page 24

















# Proudly serving the Ponte Vedra community. Today. And always.

Thank you. Ponte Vedra Recorder, for naming us the Best Bank 4 years in a row and Best Place to Work awards. We're honored to serve this vibrant community by supporting and partnering with our local organizations.



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# **AND THE WINNERS ARE**

## Home & Finance

#### **RELOCATION SPECIALIST**

Clare Berry - Berry & Co. Real Estate

#### **ROOFING COMPANY**

McGrath Roofing, LLC

#### **SENIOR CARE**

Vicar's Landing

#### **TAX PREPARATION**

**Pivot CPAs** 

#### **VACATION RENTAL COMPANY**

**Azule Vacation Rentals** 

#### **WATERFRONT**

#### **REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST**

Kathleen Floryan, **Broker Associate, eXp Realty** 

#### **WEALTH MANAGEMENT**

The Lighthouse Wealth Management **Group at Morgan Stanley** 

#### Medical

#### **ACUPUNCTURE**

Sharyl Truty MD -**Balanced Physician Care** 

#### **CHILDREN'S DENTIST**

**Beaches Orthodontics** 

#### **CHIROPRACTOR**

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center

#### **DENTISTRY/COSMETIC DENTISTRY**

J. William Bolton III DDS -Ponte Vedra Dental Group

#### **DERMATOLOGIST**

Coastal Dermatology & MedSpa

#### **FAMILY PRACTICE**

**Balanced Physician Care** 

#### **HEARING AID CENTER**

**Ponte Vedra Hearing Associates** 

#### LASER/SKIN CARE

**Future Aesthetics** 

#### **MEDICAL CENTER**

**Baptist HealthPlace** 

#### **MEDICAL SPA**

**JOVENCIA** 

#### **OPTOMETRIST**

**Barnhorst Eye and Laser Center** 

#### **ORAL SURGERON**

North Florida Oral & Facial Surgery

#### **ORTHODONTIST**

Lazzara Orthodontics

#### **ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON**

**Southeast Orthopedic Specialists** 

**Rainbow Pediatric Center** 

#### **PHYSICAL THERAPIST**

**Premier Physical Therapy** 

#### **PLASTIC SURGEON**

**Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery** 

#### **PODIATRIST**

North Florida Foot & Ankle Center

#### **PSYCHIATRIST**

**Enhance Psych** 

#### **PSYCHOLOGIST**

Dr. Lisa Amato, PHD -Marsh Landing Behavioral Group

#### **EMERGENCY CARE**

**Baptist HealthPlace** 

#### **VEIN SPECIALISTS**

**Ponte Vedra Vein Institute** 

#### **PHARMACY**

A1A Pharmacy

#### Professionals

#### **AESTHETICIAN**

Monica Mia Ketterman

#### **BARTENDER**

**Grey Miller** 

John Miller Rock Solid Law

#### **CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT**

**Debra Smith** 

#### **CIVIL ATTORNEY**

**Baggett Law Personal Injury Lawyers** 

#### **CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY**

Malcolm Anthony, P.A.

#### **ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR**

Lore Flectric

#### **ESTATE ATTORNEY**

Law Offices of Dan W. Armstrong, P.A.

#### **EVENT PLANNER**

Deb Chapin - Palm Valley Barn

#### **FAMILY LAW ATTORNEY**

Suzanne W. Green, P.A.

#### **HAIR COLORIST**

Kristen Doody -

**Trompe Loeil Salon** 

#### **HAIR STYLIST**

Bellezza Salon & Boutique

#### **INSURANCE AGENT**

Edie Williams - State Farm

WINNERS continues on Page 38





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# Our Featured Listings

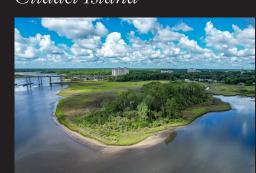
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2022

of Ponte Vedra

RECORDE

# **ONLINE SCHEDULING**

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DRIVE

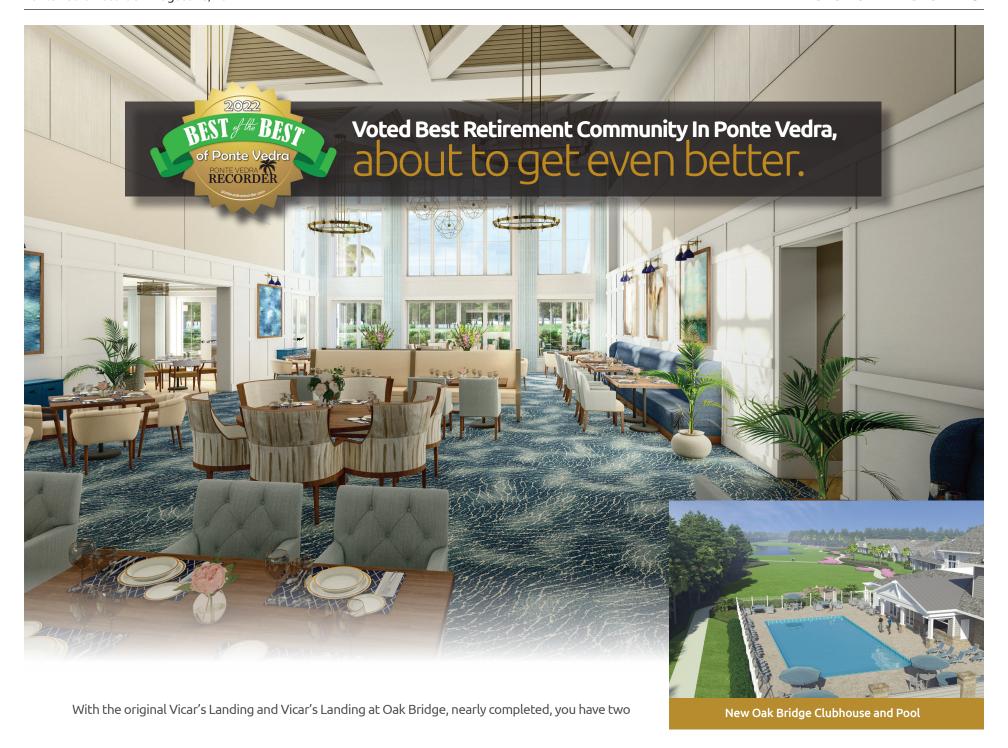
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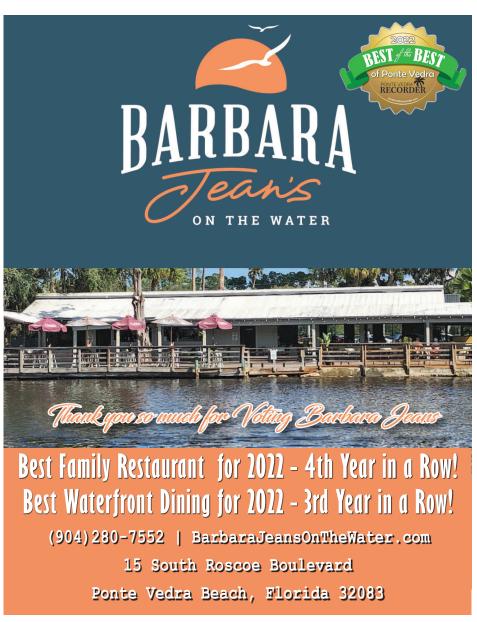
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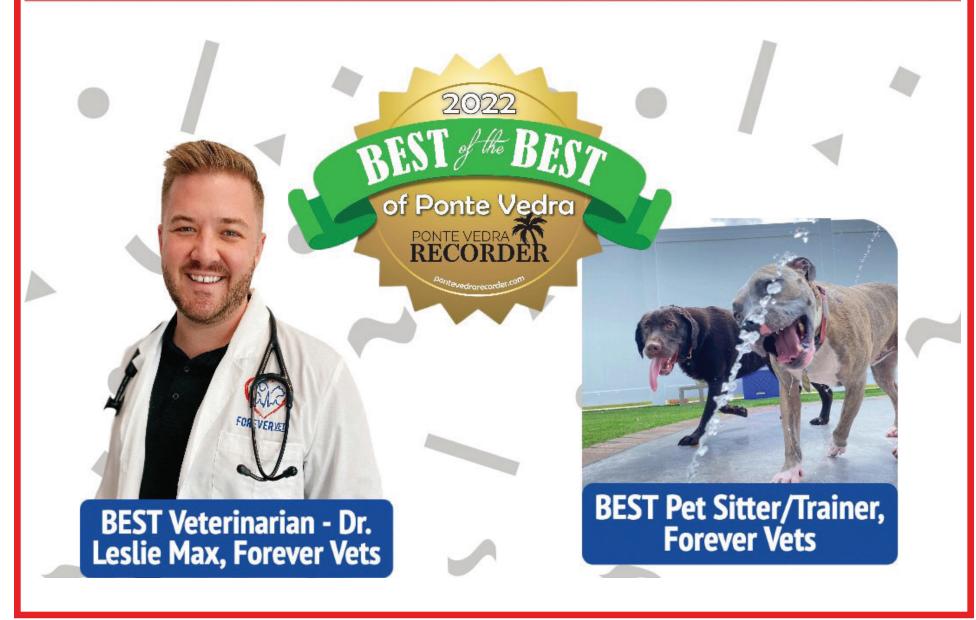


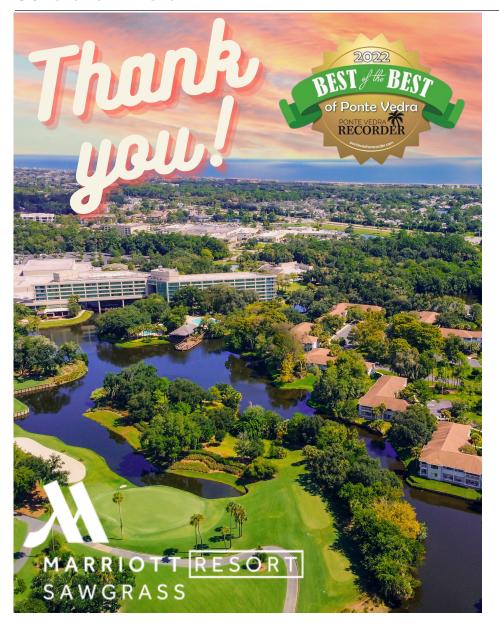
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Ponte Vedra Beach's 2022 Best of the Best Home Builder and Building Design Company

ARHomes.com/Marcus-Allen





### AND THE WINNERS ARE

#### Professionals

#### **INTERIOR DESIGNER**

Laura Howson - Mineral City

#### **IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY**

**Ruiz Law** 

#### **NAIL TECHNICIAN**

Halo Spa

#### **PERSONAL DRIVER**

Sterling Mahan

#### **PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY**

**Baggett Law Personal Injury Lawyers** 

#### **PERSONAL TRAINER**

Marquis Edwards -**Momentum Wellness** 

#### **PET GROOMER**

Pawgrass Mobile Dog Spa

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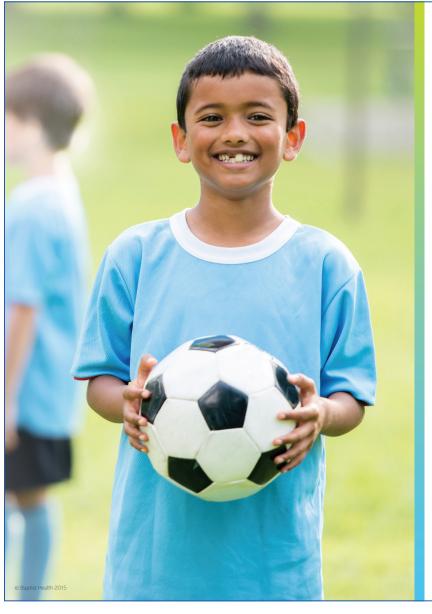












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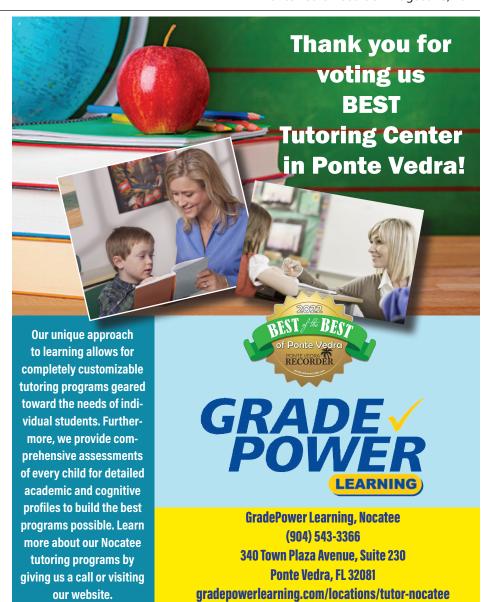
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### Collage Day School students develop foundation for happiness, success

Contributed

Collage Day School is an academically challenging, independent day school in the Palm Valley area of Ponte Vedra Beach designed to educate students from three months through fifth grade. Located at the edge of the Guana Preserve, Collage Day School's campus is an ecological treasure, with three ponds, nature trails with fitness stations, outdoor learning centers, gardens, greenhouse, butterfly house and resident chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs. Since its inaugural year, Collage Day School has been cultivating alliances with regional partners to build a nature-centered, hands-on curriculum for the students with the goal of students sharing this with others in the communitv.

When you step onto the campus, you readily notice the creative and artistic work of the students in the colorful murals that decorate walls and tree trunks. But upon closer inspection, the campus is also a canvas that showcases the scientific exploration of the students. The school is based on best practice and research on the most effective methods in child development and education. Collage focuses on all levels of the learning spectrum, including students who qualify

for the gifted program, to offer your child the best opportunity for success.

Collage Day School provides an integrative curriculum that encourages creative thinking and is tailored to each student. Collage offers personalization at every level permitting students to have the freedom to move ahead in areas they have mastered, allowing for enrichment activities in subjects that need more time and attention.

Collage accommodates students of all levels on the learning spectrum. The staff strives to uncover the unique learning profile of each student and match that knowledge with instruction. They introduce new concepts or skills only when students are ready. The students learn about all subjects through exploration and discovery.

Collage Day School teachers use experiences, discussion and other activities to help students learn concepts. They teach students how to think, not what to think. By allowing students to discover for themselves, the school encourages them to be independent thinkers. Collage blends together a variety of educational approaches to create a program that reflects its commitment to helping children develop a strong foundation for happiness and success.



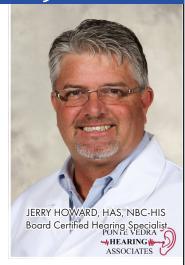


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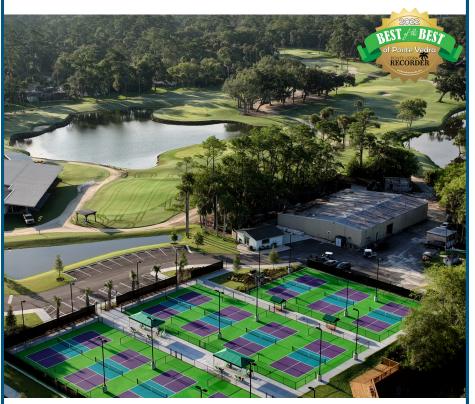
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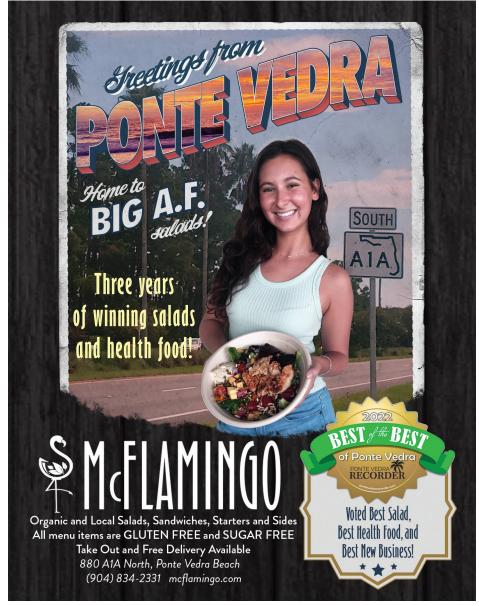


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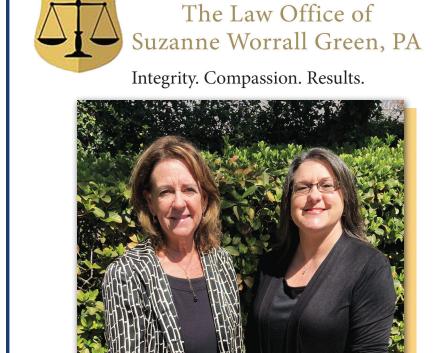
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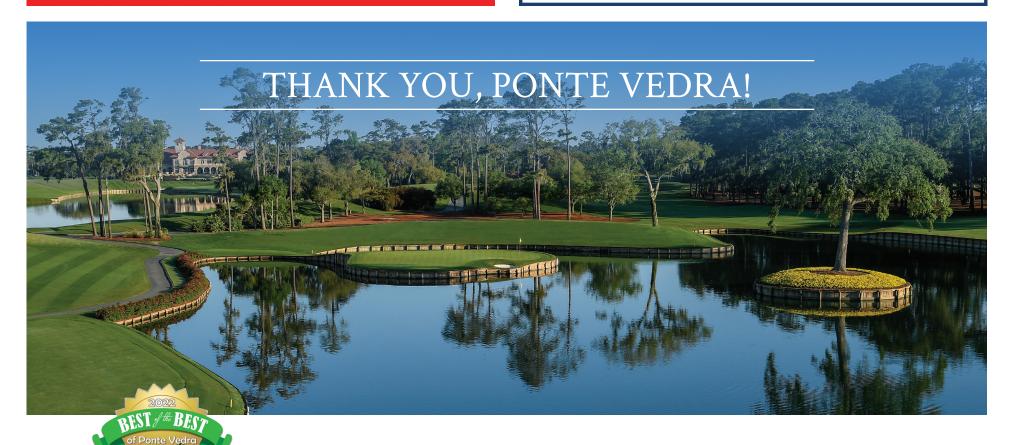
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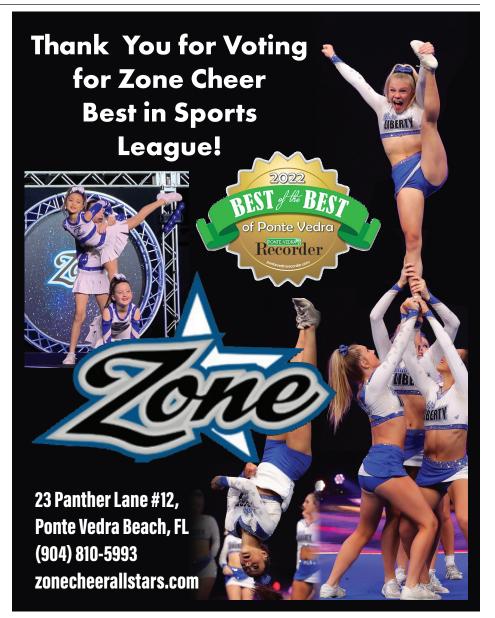


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### Free sessions to focus on understanding grief, caregiving

Community Hospice & Palliative Care is hosting free support and educational sessions during the month of August.

It will be an in-person session located at our Anne and Donald McGraw Center for Caring.

The sessions include "Understanding Grief: A Program for the Newly Bereaved," which will be held August 19 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. and is designed to help people learn that healing is possible after the death of a loved one.

The program will dive into the effective ways to cope with the grief encountered when a loved one is lost. The presentation will last one hour.

It will especially be helpful to those who have experienced a loss within the past 90 days and are at least 18 years old.

Grief can impact people differently depending on their age, which is why the program focuses on the importance of



understanding self-care even throughout the grieving process and how that goes a long way in one's coping skills.

Register for the grief session today by calling 352-204-9876.

A caregiver conference is scheduled for Aug. 20 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Edwards Waters University in the Milne Auditorium in the Lee Cousins Building. It will be a free workshop to discuss

the common struggles caregivers face and what resources are out there to help in those situations.

The event is sponsored by Edward Waters University, UF Health Center for Equity and Engagement Research, New Town Success Zone, Preventing Alzheimer's with Cognitive Training, and Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

Topics covered during the event include caring for the caregiver, how to recognize the signs for more care, preventing Alzheimer's with cognitive training, ACTS2 faith-based caregiver skills-building and support, COVID-19 now, and community and community initiatives.

A free continental breakfast and lunch will be available with breakfast from 8 a.m. to 8:50 a.m.

To register for the caregiver event, go to CaregiverConference.eventbrite.com or call 904-407-6121.

### Special guests announced for Merrill Champions for Children Gala

The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation is hosting its annual Merrill Champions for Children Gala at the Florida Blue Campus in Jacksonville Sept. 29.

A tennis event will take place the

following morning Sept. 30 at San Jose Country Club.

The event will include messages from founder MaliVai Washington, the foundation's student-athlete of the year, testimonials from students and alumni

and a silent and live auction.

Two special guests have been confirmed to participate with Bryan Shelton being the guest speaker and Lindsey Davenport.

Shelton is the head men's tennis coach

at the University of Florida and a former professional tennis player.

He played collegiately at Georgia Tech and then played eight years on the

**MERRILL** continues on **Page 56** 

Tickets on sale now! Call 904.202.2886 or visit thefloridaforum.com

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#### The Salvation Army's newest majors to lead in St. Johns County

Retiring from 42 years of active duty and service to The Salvation Army in 2013, Majors Roger and Joy Ross were called again to "fill in," right here in St. Johns County.

The Majors' lives were forever changed when they were both employed as staff at The Salvation Army summer camp in Madrid, Iowa. The summer romance blossomed, and they were married in 1968.

Roger and Joy felt a distinct call to the ministry in The Salvation Army and entered The Salvation Army College for Officers Training in Chicago and were both ordained in 1971.

As ordained ministers, Roger and Joy have served as pastors and administrators for The Salvation Army in eight communities throughout the Midwest states.

The two have also served in a variety of management positions which included divisional youth work and divisional business/program administration.

In retirement, the two were employed at the West Coast Aids Foundation doing HIV counseling.

Roger was chosen as the executive director of the Citrus County Community Food Bank while Joy was employed by Catholic Charities.

They graduated from The Salvation Army College for Officers Training in 1971 as members of the Victorious Session, and later Roger attended the International College for Officers in London.

In addition, he holds a bachelor of arts degree in behavioral science from the National College of Education, and a master's degree in ministry leadership from Cornerstone University. Joy also earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Cornerstone University.

The couple has been married for 54

years and have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

When they are not serving the community, their hobbies include fishing, woodworking, landscaping, creating stained glass and genealogical research.

When asked what the goals were for St. Johns County, they stated, "Providing the local corps with the best quality leadership while striving to improve attendances, areas of service and making sure the community is understanding our programs and activities. Save souls, grow saints and serve suffering humanity."

#### Merrill

Continued from 55

men's professional tour, winning two singles titles and reaching the finals of the French Open Mixed Doubles competition.

After retiring from the tour, Shelton became a USTA national coach and coached MWYF founder MaliVai Washington.

He subsequently returned to Georgia Tech to coach the women's tennis team

and became the first head coach in Division 1 college tennis to win a women's national title (2007 at Georgia Tech) and a men's national championship with Florida in 2021.

Tennis is a tradition in the Shelton family, as his son Ben recently won the NCAA Division 1 Singles Championship for Florida.

Davenport will serve as a special guest for this year's gala.

She was ranked No. 1 in the world for a total of 98 weeks, joining Chris Evert, Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova and Serena Williams as the only women who have been yearend world #1 singles at least four times.

Davenport also held the world No. 1 doubles rank for a total of 32 weeks, in addition to winning the Australian and U.S. Open's and Wimbledon, as well as bringing home the Gold Medal in the 1996 Olympics.

Previous events have raised more than \$250,000, with funds going to support the foundation's programming and activities during the summer and the following school year.

The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation is an afterschool and summer youth development program in Jacksonville's urban core that promotes academic achievement and positive life skills.

The mission is to develop champions in classrooms, on tennis courts and throughout the community by having young people participate in programs with the resources they need to rise to their full potential and become contributing members of society. To learn more, go to malwashington.com or Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.



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

#### **KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE**

### **Butterfly Gardens**

"Happiness is like a butterfly, the more you chase it, the more it will evade you, but if you notice the other things around you, it will gently come and sit on your shoulder." - Henry David Thoreau



By Kathy Esfahani

It can be captivating to watch a butterfly! We find ourselves taking a moment away from the hectic demands of everyday

life to enjoy the wonder of these delicate creatures. Planting a butterfly garden is a beautiful and colorful way to attract

butterflies into your landscape!

An intentionally planned butterfly

garden provides a safe place for these visitors. They can easily find food and water, take shelter, and reproduce. Strong butterfly populations also support the larger environment by attracting other insects that benefit the garden and providing food for animals, birds, and lizards that help control pests in the garden.

A sustainable butterfly garden should include vegetation that supports both adults and larvae; plants that provide shelter from strong temperatures, heavy rain, and predators; and a water source for the butterflies.

Remember these tips as you design your butterfly garden:

- Garden both in full sun and partial shade.
- Include plants that support larvae and adult butterflies.
- Select a variety of plants that bloom at different times so that the butterflies have a consistent food source.



**Butterfly Garden** 

- Use quality top soil to ensure plants and flowers are enriched.
- Include sweet smelling plants and/or herbs such as sedum and lavender.
- Arrange plants in groups as butterflies are more likely to land in a concentration of color instead of on a single plant.
- Choose plants of varying heights, colors, shapes, and sizes.
- Include a water feature even a simple shallow dish with water and rocks will encourage butterflies to visit!

When planning for your butterfly garden, be sure to include several of the following plants: Black Eyed Susan, Butterfly Bush, Coreopsis, Fennel, Firebush, Gaillardia, Lantana, Milkweed, Pentas, Porterweed, Purple Passion Vine, Sage, and Sunflowers.

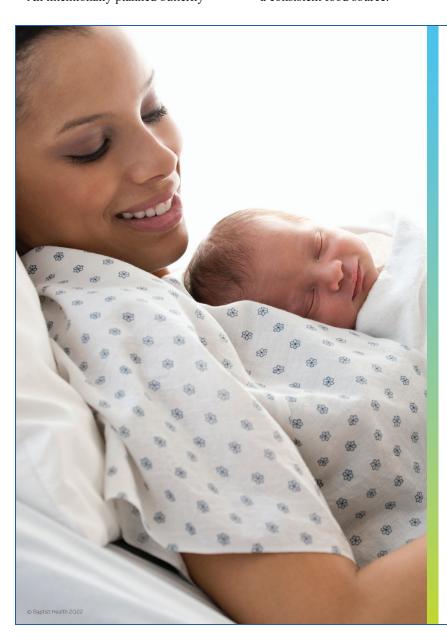
Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Coreopsis



**Coreopsis** 

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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# For MORE business news, go to facebook.com/ ThePVRecorder PAGE 58 THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

### **Grace Conservatory breaks ground for new facility**

**By Shaun Ryan** 

Right now, the plot of land at 445 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra, is a nondescript field across the parking lot from the link. But sometime next May it will be home to Grace Conservatory of Dance's new, 6,000-square-foot studio.

On Tuesday, Aug. 9, Kristina and Vaughn Robison, surrounded by dance students and parents, ceremonially broke ground for the studio.

"We're really excited," said owner Kristina Robison. "We love what we do. This is a gift that I was given. Ever since I was 5 years old, I knew I wanted to own a dance studio."

Grace Conservatory has been operating out of a space across the street since opening in August 2016. But the interest has been so great among current and prospective students that it became necessary to move into a larger space.

The studio has served thousands of young dancers over the past six years. It offers instruction to children and youth between the ages of 2 and 18 in a variety of styles: ballet, hip hop, tap, jazz, contemporary and more.

Currently, 958 positions are filled and

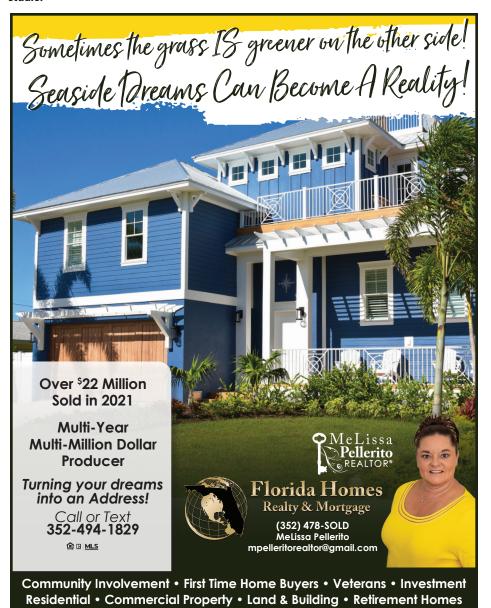
**GRACE** continues on Page 60



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Kristina and Vaughn Robison broke ground Aug. 9 for the Grace Conservatory's new dance





#### Flagler Health+ considers joining with like-minded health system

Flagler Health+ has announced that its board of trustees and leadership team have begun a formal process to explore joining a like-minded health system to help enhance local health care services and expand access to care in the communities it serves.

For more than 130 years, Flagler Health+ has provided high-quality care through countless changes, challenges and innovations. Now, as the health care industry evolves and the community continues to grow, the health system is building upon its legacy by advancing to meet its patients' needs.

"Today, we are making the decision,

for the benefit of our community, to join with a like-minded health system to expand access to care," said Flagler Health+ Board of Trustees Chairman Todd Neville. "Our mission to provide high-quality health care to the communities we serve means we are constantly exploring ways to enhance our services. This ensures we are keeping our commitment to deliver the best care to those who rely on us."

Flagler Health+ is entering this process proactively, which means it can explore options from some of the most respected health care organizations in the country. Specifically, Flagler Health+ is seeking an organization that will be the right fit

for the community and has a shared commitment to:

- · Patient-centric care
- Community-first approach
- Team member support
- Building relationships with providers
- Welcoming environment

"We recognize changes in health care and the growth of our community demand that we do more and be more for the people we serve," said Flagler Health+ CEO Carlton DeVooght. "Our commitment to our community-focused mission remains steadfast. Everything we do is driven by our dedication to our team members, our patients and this community, and we are excited about our future."

Flagler Health+ is in the early stage of a thorough and deliberate exploration that will take several months to complete. It's important for patients and the community to know that no decisions have been made and the organization's priority continues to be providing exceptional care to patients. The exploration process will not impact current daily operations, and patients can continue to see their current doctor and access the services they always have.

Go to FlaglerHealthForward.org to learn more about the possibilities for the future of health care locally.

### **Benchmarks of Success**

#### A look at major career changes in the area.

#### **Gina Mangus named to Wired2Perform**

Wired2Perform, a behavioral sciencebased workforce engagement, analytics and self-awareness software-as-a-service company, has announced the appointment of Gina Mangus to chief strategy officer. In this role, Mangus will work closely with the CEO to guide the organization's strategic direction with an emphasis on growth, innovation and partnerships.

She will also oversee Wired2Perform's marketing, communications and business development programs, advancing Wired2Perform's aim to help individuals, entrepreneurs, corporations, communities and nonprofit organizations achieve their potential.

Mangus previously served as executive vice president of strategy & advancement for Flagler Health+. During her time with the organization, she led the health system's brand transformation, established partnerships with nationally acclaimed companies and collaborated to devise a digital strategy that introduced a commercialized SaaS-based platform to the broader marketplace.

Prior to her work in health care, Mangus

held top-level marketing roles in the laboratory software, wireless communications

BENCHMARKS continues on Page 60

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#### Grace

Continued from 58

there is a wait list for about 900 more. One student may fill more than one position if taking classes in more than one genre. The new facility will allow more positions to be filled.

It will have four studios, a dance store, dressing rooms, an art studio and a lounge for teachers and parents.

The Robisons attribute their success in part to their approach. Though the students are encouraged to excel, they are not nagged about their technique.

"We teach in a very different way to create that love of dance that you can just see pour out of them," said Kristina Robison.

In fact, the lessons learned here

transcend dance to include a degree of personal development.

"We're really hoping that they become well-rounded people when they leave us." Kristina Robison said.

In the decades ahead, the Robisons expect to produce between 10 and 100 professional dancers.

"But," said Vaughn Robison, "we know that we will produce probably tens of thousands of good people."

The Robisons are people of faith and, while they do not require their students to share their beliefs, those beliefs drive the way they conduct their business.

"The truth of this studio is it's a blessing from God," Vaughn Robison said. "We know that we have been the benefactors of His grace and blessing throughout our years. He's walked us through the pandemic. He's made sure that we had the things that we need. And we have been, each day, overflowing with students, overflowing with great, talented dance teachers. And we are so grateful for His provision, guidance and love."

Over the time Grace Conservatory has been in existence, it has given hundreds of thousands of dollars in charitable giving.

Kristina Robison is a graduate of the dance conservatory at Texas Women's University. She taught in San Antonio before moving to New York City to dance professionally. She and her husband moved to Nocatee in 2015. They have four children.

To learn more about Grace Conservatory of Dance, go to graceconservatory.com or call 904-900-0909.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

A student presents a bouquet of flowers to Kristina Robison to congratulate her on the groundbreaking for Grace Conservatory's new dance studio.

#### **Benchmarks**

Continued from 59

and global automotive parts manufacturing industries. She has both a master's and bachelor's degree in communications and recently completed her first year of a doctoral program in business strategy and innovation at University of the Southwest.



**Tiffany Guthrie** 

#### Junior Achievement promotes Tiffany Guthrie

Junior Achievement of North Florida has announced that Tiffany Guthrie has been promoted to vice president,

programs and partnerships. Guthrie has been with the nonprofit organization since

January 2014 and has worked in a variety of roles. She most recently served as the director of development.

In her new role, she will be responsible for leading a team to implement and expand JA programs on the First Coast. She will direct volunteer recruiting, training and program management and will monitor the programs to ensure quality outcomes. She will be responsible for key corporate relationships and will serve as

the primary liaison to the board for topics related to programs and education.

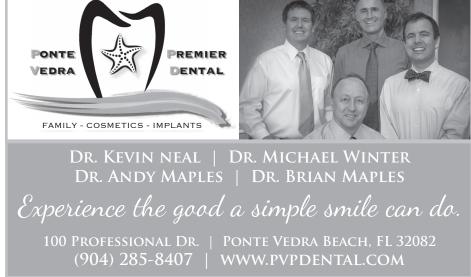
Guthrie has more than 20 years of experience in youth development. She was JA of North Florida's VP of programs from January 2014 to July 2018 when she moved into the director of development position where she led fundraising efforts for the nonprofit.

Guthrie previously worked for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office as the program manager for the Police Athletic League of Jacksonville where she was responsible for managing, supervising and directing the organizations day to day operations.

- Compiled by Shaun Ryan









# In the Arts

Send your arts news to news@pontevedrarecorder.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022 • PAGE 61

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

#### First novel captures grandparent/ grandchild relationship

#### **By Anthony Richards**

For Kate Stollenwerck having her first book published felt like reaching the finish line on a dream she had for some time.

However, now that she has accomplished the dream, she is soaking it in but also thinking of ways she can make the dream last even longer.

Her first book is called "Hello, Goodbye" and was published Aug. 2.

It is a tale told through the eyes of a 15-year-old girl

who spends the summer with her grandmother, and instead of experiencing what she thought would be a "ruined" summer, she not only strengthens her relationship with her grandmother but attempts to solve a family mystery in the process.

Stollenwerck has lived in Ponte Vedra for about 10 years after moving from Chicago where she had a career as a lawver. Prior to that, she was born and raised in Texas.

"I decided to stay home with kids, but had always wanted to be a writer," Stollenwerck said. "When my youngest went to elementary school full time, I had decided I wanted to give it a go once I had all my kids out of the house. I was one of those people that would dabble over the years, and I found an old manuscript in 2019."

She finished the manuscript in about two months and worked with an editor and agent to try and get it published.

However, as she waited for the manuscript to find its way to the public, she began writing once again and this time was determined to see it through without any major pauses in her writing.

"I had always had the idea that I wanted to write a story about a granddaughter getting to know her grandmother as a teenager," Stollenwerck said. "I wrote it really fast in just about two months again."

During that time, her first novel had finally been accepted by a publisher, but she just felt something special about the work she had just wrapped up.

"I told them 'I had actually written another story, and I was thinking I wanted to debut with it instead," Stollenwerck said. "I sent it to them, and they accepted it."

The idea for the granddaughter/grandmother relationship to be the focal point of the novel was something Stollenwerck was able to draw inspiration from thanks to her



**Ponte Vedra resident Kate** Stollenwerck's first novel focuses on the unique relationship between a teenage girl and her grandmother.

own upbringing and family memories.

"I was very close with my grandmothers, and I actual felt like I had three, because I had a great aunt that lived near us in Texas," Stollenwerck said.

Two of her grandmothers died when she was in her 20s, which is when the idea first popped in her head, and she actually wrote a couple of thoughts for the book.

"When I picked it back up, not only was I not 27, but I was 45 (years old), with

children of my own," Stollenwerck said. "I have watched the relationship of my kids and their grandparents and because of COVID we went through a stretch when we didn't see them. That just made me very reflective on what is a very important and generational relationship."

Although the book is categorized as part of the young adult fiction genre, Stollenwerck believes that the book can relate across generations and is something grandparents and grandchildren can both read together.

"It just isn't a relationship explored a lot in young adult fiction," Stollenwerck said. "It is very much a crossover book, because you really have two heroines and stars of the story. It's all about wanting to honor that relationship."



A roundup of musical acts appearing before Sept. 19 at local venues

#### **PONTE VEDRA CONCERT HALL**

1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach Purchase tickets at the St.

Augustine Amphitheatre box office or ticketmaster.com.

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person.

Tickets may also be purchased at ticketmaster.com.

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

- Dispatch & O.A.R. With special guest G. Love. 7 p.m. Sept. 4.
- Matisyahu 7:30 p.m. Sept. 9
- **Billy Currington** With special guests Noah Guthrie and Matt Koziol. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 10.
- Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band
- 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15
- Snail Mail Sing Out Loud free event. 7 p.m. Sept. 16
  - Conan Gray 7 p.m. Sept. 18

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



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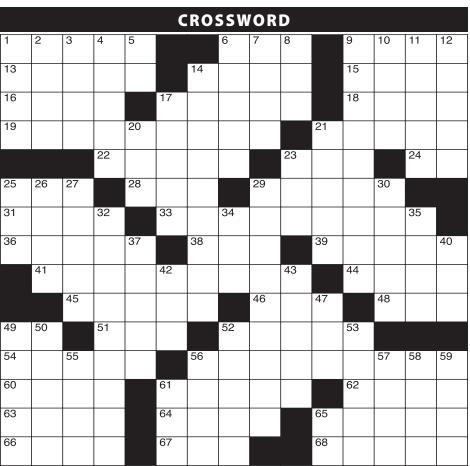


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#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Influential Swedish,
- Belgian clan
- 6. Swiss river
- 9. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 13. Like coagulated milk
- 14. Lima is its capital
- 15. Lying down
- 16. Jai \_\_\_, sport
- 17. Egyptian statesman
- 18. Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
- 19. Renovated
- 21. Chadic language
- 22. 18-year period
- 23. Beverage container
- 24. Natural logarithm
- 25. The "mecca" of basketball
- 28. A way to darken
- 29. Mackerels
- 31. Actor Pitt
- 33. Places to buy seafood
- 36. True firs 38. Neither
- 39. Fencing sword
- 41. Italian pastas
- 44. Island nation close to the U.S.
- 45. Begets
- 46. Resembles a pouch
- 48. \_\_ student, learns healing
- 49. Sodium
- 51. Indicates position
- 52. The world has one
- 54. Partner to pains
- 56. Photographer 60. Chew the fat
- 61. Culture of the British Iron
- 62. Weaverbird
- 63. Advice or counsel
- 64. Asian nation
- 65. Brought on board
- 66. German river
- 67. Airborne (abbr.)
- 68. Leaf-footed bug genus

#### DOWN

- 1. Mark left behind
- 2. Cry weakly

- 3. Ancient region in modern
- Syria
- 4. Farewell
- 5. Blue grass state
- 6. Genus of mosquitoes
- 7. S. Israeli city
- 8. You can get stuck in one
- 9. One who mistrusts others unjustifiably
- 10. First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
- 11. Tigers legend Fielder
- 12. Make more attractive
- 14. Horses
- 17. Slight projection in typefaces
- 20. Male parent
- 21. Jack and Jill are two
- 23. After B
- 25. Licensed for Wall Street 26. Missile with about 600-
- mile range 27. Goddesses

- 29. A day kids love
  - 30. Oily secretion
    - 32. One-tenth of a meter
    - 34. A father's male child
    - 35. One point east of
    - southeast
    - 37. Silk garments
    - 40. Cool!
    - 42. The color of anger 43. Trade profession
    - 47. It can get you around
    - 49. Mother-of-pearl
    - 50. Hurt
    - 52. Legendary slugger Hank
    - 53. Polio vaccine developer
    - 55. Incline from vertical
    - 56. Sea creature
    - 57. Actress Kate
    - 58. Affirmative votes
    - 59. Nothing
    - 61. Pie \_\_\_ mode
    - 65. Expresses surprise
- SUDOKU 2 9 4 2 6 8 5 7 6 8 2 4 6 5 5 8 7 1 4 2 9 5 8 2 1 4 8 7 4 9 2 1 6 5

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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!



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Photos courtesy of Florida Skimboarding Pro/Am Tournament

Skimboarders from 75 beaches across Florida, the nation and the world are expected to compete in the tournament Aug. 19-21.

### Annual skimboarding tradition returns to Vilano Beach

#### **By Anthony Richards**

The Florida Skimboarding Pro/Am Tournament returns to the shores of Vilano Beach for the annual tradition Aug. 19-21.

The competition is the third-longest running pro/am skimboarding tournament in the world, which is a designation that garners competitors from beaches not just across Florida, but throughout the states

The event will take place at the Vilano Beach boat ramp located at 1 Vilano Road in St. Augustine.

One of the things that makes the tournament so unique, is that according to the event's website, it is the only amateur event in the world that allows each competitor two chances to advance before they are eliminated.

The fact that it takes place over three

days makes it one of the longest tournaments in the world, which in turn allows it to run the most heats of any one event on any calendar.

Skimboarders from more than 75 beaches are expected to be represented within the field, making it both deep and strong.

The first tournament was held in October 1990, and over the years it has found its place in late August and the showdown marks the proper end of summer for many skimboarders.

As the years go, the tournament and the pride associated with winning it is not lost among those who compete in it.

It is a treasured victory sought by those competing in each of the 13 amateur and professional divisions slated for the weekend, that will see both men and women compete and of various ages.



The first Florida Skimboarding Pro/Am Tournament was held in 1990, and since then it has become a marquee contest for the best skimboarders.

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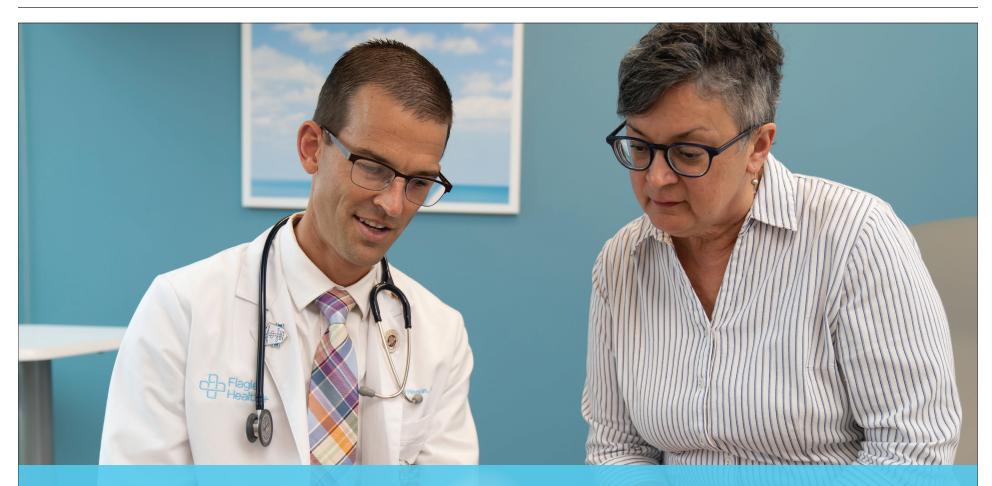






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