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January 26, 2023
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INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!
The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!



Mark Gabrynowicz, chair of the Atlantic Beach Environmental Stewardship Committee (green shirt) and Atlantic Beach Mayor Curtis Ford speak to Atlantic Beach Elementary School students during an Arbor Day celebration Jan. 20. *Read the full story surrounding the celebration and the meaning of Arbor Day on page 5.*

Photo by Anthony Richards

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Visit our new website at

www.pontevedrarecorder.com

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

BRIEFS

'Color My Estuary' contest accepting artwork now

The Friends of the GTM Reserve have announced the "Color My Estuary" calendar contest for students in grades K-12. Eligible students must live in one of six counties: St. Johns, Duval, Clay, Flagler, Nassau or Putnam.

"A lot of students enjoy hiking, biking and exploring the estuary," said Ellen Leroy-Reed, executive director of the Friends of the GTM Reserve. "We are looking for bright-colored artwork showing a world that is enjoyed outdoors in the estuary, including a few words about what the estuary means to them."

The contest is open now, and entries are due by April 4. Thirteen artwork submissions will be selected for the Friends of the GTM Reserve's 2024 calendar. Artwork will be chosen for the cover and for each month of the year.

The entry form and the rules are available on the Friends website, gtmnerr.org, and at the GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center in Ponte Vedra Beach and at the GTM Marineland office.

For more information, contact the Friends at 904-380-8600 or email GTM_Friends@GTM-NERR.org.

Pickleball tournament to help victims of human trafficking

The Villages of Hope will host its inaugural charity pickleball tournament from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, January 28 and 29, at the Yards in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Spectators are welcome and encouraged to attend the event. There will be food trucks and a silent auction on site at the event. All proceeds will go directly to support The Villages of Hope's mission.

To learn more about the event, go to thevillagesofhope.org/event-details/charity-pickleball-tournament.

The Villages of Hope is a nonprofit organization in Jacksonville dedicated to providing a safe place for women seeking a life free from human trafficking, to live, to connect with a community of care and receive unconditional love. In early 2023, The Villages of Hope will have 14 tiny homes on a 1.3-acre lot.

To learn more, go to TheVillagesofHope.org.

Palm Valley Market every Tuesday

The Palm Valley Market is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday inside the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Road. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, local

honey, tea, seasonal treats, soap, jewelry, plants and more.

Experts offering hurricane rebuilding advice

As part of a continuing effort to help Floridians rebuild from hurricanes Nicole and Ian, FEMA is offering free advice on how to rebuild stronger and safer against storms. The rebuilding advice will be offered 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at The Home Depot, 1750 U.S. 1, St. Augustine.

FEMA mitigation specialists will answer questions and offer free home improvement tips and proven methods to prevent and lessen damage from future disasters. Mitigation is an effort to reduce the loss of life and property damage by lessening the impact of a disaster. The information is geared for do-it-yourself work and general contractors.

In addition to receiving in-person advice, survivors of hurricanes Nicole and Ian can call the FEMA mitigation line to speak with specialists. The number is 833-336-2487 and is available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Learn more at fema.gov.

For the latest information on Florida's recovery from Hurricane Ian, go to floridadisaster.org/info and fema.gov/disaster/4673. For Hurricane Nicole, go to fema.gov/disaster/4680. Follow FEMA Region 4 (@femaregion4)/Twitter and facebook.com/fema.

Donations sought for homeless veteran luncheons

Donations are being accepted for the Luncheons for Homeless Veterans program hosted by the We Can Be Heroes Foundation.

What to donate: Nonperishable, individual servings of prepackaged or canned items with pop-top tabs, such as Vienna sausage, Beanie-Weenies, beef jerky, sardines, tuna, granola, cereal and power bars, fruit cups, cheese and peanut butter crackers, cookies, snack packs, peanuts or similar items and \$15 gift cards from local stores. Bottled water or beverages are always a necessity.

Donors may email beth@wecanbeheroes-foundation.org to arrange pick-up. Information is available at wecanbeheroesfoundation.org/ways-to-donate.

Luncheons are scheduled for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, and on Feb. 24 and March 24 at Clara White Mission Veterans Unit, 613 W. Ashley St., Jacksonville.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Lighthouse 5K & Fun Run, Night Fest set for Feb. 18

Presented by Florida Power & Light (FPL) and The Junior Service League of St. Augustine (JSL), the 39th annual Lighthouse 5K Run/Walk & Fun Run will be held on Feb. 18. Registration for the event is available at jslofstaugustine.org.

In an effort to continue support for the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, along with other area nonprofits, the League hosts the event each year.

“We are thrilled to offer this annual race, starting and finishing at the beautiful St. Augustine Lighthouse on Anastasia Island,” said Carice Schuster,



president of The Junior Service League of St. Augustine. “We are fortunate to host one of St. Augustine's oldest 5Ks at this

important landmark.”

The inaugural race in 1983 was originally titled the “Bud Light Twilight Lighthouse Run.” The Lighthouse 5K is a chipped race that serves as a qualifier for the Gate River Run.

Proceeds from the Lighthouse 5K Run/Walk & Fun Run benefit numerous JSL service projects and provide financial support for local nonprofit organizations in St. Augustine and the St. Johns County community.

In addition to the race, Night Fest will be held 3-7 p.m. Feb. 18. The free event

includes children’s activities, museum exhibits and a chance to climb the lighthouse in the evening.

Activities for children will include face painting, arts and crafts, STEAM projects and photos with pirates. The event will also include live music, pizza, wine and beer.

Race registration is available at runsignup.com/race/fl/staugustine/lighthouse5krunwalkandfunrun

For information about The Junior Service League of St. Augustine, go to jslofstaugustine.org.

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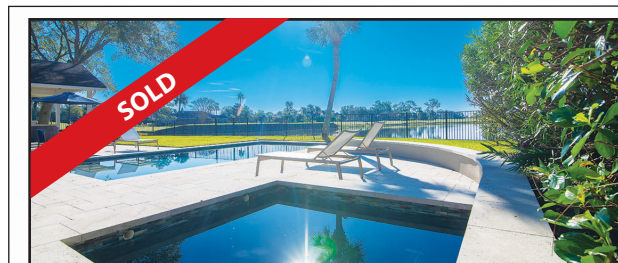
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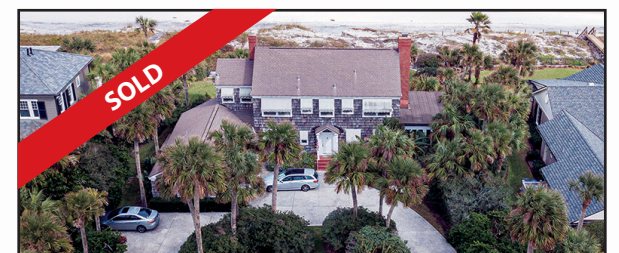
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This oceanfront home on Ponte Vedra Blvd. with 110 ft. of ocean frontage sold for lot value only at \$10,500,000.



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Spacious living with pool/spa and lake-to-preserve views in Deercreek CC, making it ideal for easy commutes. Owner's suite is located on 1st floor along with living room, dining room, kitchen, butler's pantry, powder room, family room and office. Upstairs are 3 additional and spacious bedrooms, 2 full baths plus a flex space/theatre room. Sellers have many updates including fully renovated kitchen and bathrooms. Don't miss this one!!

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ELIZABETH HUDGINS

OBITUARIES

Cassandra W. Ahrens

Cassandra W. Ahrens died on January 15, 2023, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, at age 90 after her bout with cancer. Born on June 21, 1932 (near the bottom of the Great Depression), she was very brave and possessed exceptional charisma. When a mean classmate in grammar school didn't invite her to an elaborate party, Sandra simply organized her own party and competed for guests. She was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1955. Shortly after graduation, Sandra was wed to Robert J. Gilliland, first Mach 3 SR-71 Blackbird test pilot, from Memphis, Tennessee. Following their divorce, Sandra was determined to spread her own wings and make her mark on the world. She moved to New York City to become a world-class fashion model for Bergdorf Goodman and designer, Ben Zukerman. Later in life she worked as a Real Estate Agent for Douglas Elliman. Hers was a high society life in Manhattan. She was particularly proud of her membership in the Colony Club, a women-only club that has included members from the oldest New York families. Her modeling training brought with her an almost magical presence. People would virtually jump to attention when she entered the room. She remarried in 1990 to Conrad F. Ahrens, then President of the Depository

Trust Corporation. He was the love of her life. After he retired, they moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Conrad predeceased her in 2017.

Sandra is survived by her sister, Mary Lu Whaling, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; her brother, Forrest J. Wright (wife Sharon) of Farmington, Connecticut; nieces, Sandy (husband Mark) Whaling Wierman of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Julie P. Wright of Farmington, Connecticut; nephews, Robert (wife Betsy) Whaling and Alexander Whaling of Winston-Salem, North Carolina and Forrest D. Wright (wife Rachel Lopez) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

No services are scheduled at Sandra's request. She will reside alongside her husband, Conrad, at Palms Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville Beach, Florida. Donations in her name are welcome at Palms Presbyterian (<https://onrealm.org/Palms/-/form/give/now>) and Community Hospice (<https://www.communityhospice.com/give/>).

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

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Check out our expanded tap list!

St. Augustine to be featured in PBS travel show

St. Augustine is the focus of the next episode of the Emmy-award-winning PBS travel show “Samantha Brown’s Places to Love.”

In early 2022 Christina Parrish Stone, executive director of the St. Johns Cultural Council, began work with producer Sylvia Caminer to scout locations for a show that would feature some of the fascinating people and places that make America’s oldest city one of the most culturally important places in the world.

The episode includes a visit with ranger Jill Leverett at the Castillo de San Marcos, a national monument and the oldest masonry fort in the continental United States; a walk with author and historian Leslee Keys through the Hotel Ponce de Leon (now Flagler College), a Gilded Age marvel designed by architects Carrere and Hastings for Henry Flagler, the father of Florida tourism; a catamaran tour of the ecologically diverse Matanzas River with Capt. Zach McKenna of St. Augustine Eco Tours; fine dining at Llama, a Peruvian restaurant owned by innovative chef Marcel Vizcarra; a conversation about African-American history and the civil rights movement in St. Augustine with fine art photographer Lenny Foster; shark tooth hunting with bloggers Chris and Rob Taylor of 2TravelDads near the Guana Tolomato Matanzas Estuarine Research Reserve; and a waterfront celebration at Nick and Christy Carrera’s Urban Asado, where guests enjoy live fire grilling on the banks of the Sebastian River.

Learn more about this episode and season six of “Samantha Brown’s Places to Love” at samantha-brown.com.



Contributed photos

Samantha Brown and Leslee Keys at Flagler College and the Hotel Ponce de Leon.



Chef Marcel Vizcarra of Llama Restaurant.

Viewers in Northeast Florida can tune in to local PBS affiliate WJCT to see the show at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28.

Funding for this episode of “Samantha Brown’s Places to Love” was provided, in part, by the St. Johns Cultural Council and the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

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Planting seeds for future generations

Atlantic Beach celebrates Arbor Day with ceremony, tree planting

By Anthony Richards

The City of Atlantic Beach held its annual Arbor Day celebration Jan. 20 in front of the city's police station.

A bald cypress tree was planted at Atlantic Beach Elementary School the day before the ceremony and a group of students who are part of the school's Going Green Club were on hand.

"Bald cypress is one of three trees that we recognize as potential heritage trees with live oaks and magnolias being the others," said Mark Gabrynowicz, chair of the Atlantic Beach Environmental Stewardship Committee.

According to Gabrynowicz, having the students take part in the celebration is vital to making sure the city's environmental culture is maintained moving forward into the next generations.

"We're not just here today to plant seeds in the ground, but it's also about planting seeds in these kids' minds and hearts moving forward," Gabrynowicz said.

Part of that culture includes the City of Atlantic Beach having the designation of a Tree City USA.

"One of our main missions is outreach," Gabrynowicz said. "These kids are part of Beaches Go Green, which started a chapter at Atlantic Beach Elementary, and we recommended that they expand to all the schools, because again outreach is about everybody."

Although Arbor Day is observed nationally on the last Friday in April, each state's start of the celebration can vary depending on the various growing seasons.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Students in the Going Green Club at Atlantic Beach Elementary School raised the Arbor Day flag in front of the City of Atlantic Beach police station.

Because the growing season for Southern states begins earlier due to the warmer weather, Arbor Day therefore begins earlier than states farther north.

Atlantic Beach Mayor Curtis Ford stated in a proclamation that some of the many benefits communities receive from trees include cooler temperatures,

cleaner air, higher property values and healthier residents as a whole.

"We're a bridge to the community and are just trying to get everybody involved with the beautification and the pride and respect for our neighborhoods," said Anastasia Houston, who helps handle outreach for the committee. "It's what makes Atlantic Beach so unique."

An example of that community pride is the fact that the city has a law stating that every residence must have a tree in its front yard.

To help with this the City of Atlantic Beach has an adopt-a-tree program where they will give residents a free tree to plant.

"It's something that is very distinguishing for our neighborhood, and you can notice the difference when you enter our (tree) canopy, which is what we're really trying to preserve," Houston said.

Gabrynowicz explained to the students that the legend of Johnny Appleseed that they may read about growing up is based on a man who in real life was a horticulturalist and apple tree farmer.

According to Houston, one of the fun ways the students in the Going Green Club at Atlantic Beach Elementary got involved and learned about trees was by measuring the size of the trees in their front yards.

"We have Earth Day coming up, so we're already starting to plan for that," Gabrynowicz said. "There are a lot of people calling wanting to know what they can do and how they can get involved."

Sometimes people want to get involved but they are not sure how to get started.

"We, as a committee, give them that entry point," Houston said.

Any residents interested in getting a free tree for their front yard can go to coab.us/adoptatree.

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Edwards & Ragatz, P.A.

Jacqueline Headrick is one of the owners of Ponte Vedra Valley, a local funeral home with onsite cremation center and cemetery. Hers is a profession that intersects with one of the most personal moments in people's lives. Today, she tells us a little bit about what her role entails.

Jacqueline Headrick

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me a little about Ponte Vedra Valley and the services it offers.

Ponte Vedra Valley is a family-owned and -operated funeral home with onsite cremation center and cemetery. We are available 24 hours a day to help families in their time of need and to assist with preplanning. Ponte Vedra Valley is also a licensed monument dealer here to assist with creating a lasting tribute to loved ones.

What is your role there?

I am one of the owners, along with my husband, Brent Headrick. I have the pleasure of helping families pre-plan services and cemetery property, working with families when selecting a headstone and assisting with funeral services.

Can you tell me about the importance of having a place like Ponte Vedra Valley here in the community?

We are the only funeral home and cremation center in Ponte Vedra Beach and Ponte Vedra, and our cemetery is the only cemetery for several miles to serve the growth in our community. I feel it's extremely important for families and provides incredible peace of mind, knowing in their own neighborhood our family-owned business is here to help guide them through a difficult process.

It must be difficult to guide a grieving family in making all the arrangements after the passing of a loved one. How do you help survivors through that process? Many people struggle even to find the right words to say.

It's always hard to find the right words, and I have been serving families for 18 years. I feel the most important thing anyone can do is make time to be there and listen, both at the time of need and as time passes.

In our office, we walk families through each step of the process and do our best to provide aftercare in the days, weeks, months and years after their loss. One way we help remember and honor loved ones is during the month of December when we have Memory Trees on our front porch with an angel for everyone buried in the cemetery. We see new families visit and many of the first families we served when we opened in 1998.

What are some of the benefits of pre-planning?

Pre-planning your funeral home and cemetery services can save your loved ones from having to make choices while they're bereaved. One major conversation to start with is whether you would like traditional burial services or if your final arrangements are ultimately for cremation.

When you pre-plan, you can provide our funeral home all the necessary information they will need at the time of your passing: Social Security, birth certificate information, and veterans records are a great place to start. Having this information ahead of time alleviates the stress of your family needing to gather this data at the time of passing.



On a completely different topic, have you lived in this area long? What do you like best about it?

Our family of four moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 2004 from South Dakota, right after Brent and I graduated from college. Our girls were still very young, so Florida has always been home to them. Brent began working in the cemetery that summer while also starting classes to become a licensed funeral director, and I taught first grade that year before starting in the office

at Ponte Vedra Valley in the summer of 2005. We love it here — the people, the weather, being able to go to the ocean any day after work!

How do you like to spend your free time?

Most of my free time is spent with my family and our dog, Dudley — watching movies, playing games, hanging out by the pool and going to the beach are some of our favorites.



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Photos courtesy of the Nease High band

Members of the Nease High marching band created a gofundme account in an attempt to raise money so they can make the trip to perform at the Daytona 500 Feb. 19.

Nease band looking for help to perform at Daytona 500

By Anthony Richards

Creating memories that will last forever is a big part of what the high school experience is all about and the Nease High marching band has created an account at gofundme.com in an attempt to

raise money to do just that.

The group is trying to raise money so that it can fulfill its invitation to perform during the Daytona 500's pre-race ceremony Feb. 19.

"When opportunity comes a knock-

ing, you have to answer the door," Nease band director Spencer Oyster said. "It speaks to all the hard work these kids and band parents have put in."

According to Oyster, this has been something that has been in the works since early December when he received a call from NASCAR and they informed him of the proposition.

He has been the school's director since March of last year and he stated that it was the past relationship NASCAR and Nease had that led them to high on their list of possible performers.

"I grew up with my family always having NASCAR on the TV growing up, so I know all about it," Oyster chuckled. "My mom was a Tony Stewart fan, and I was more of a Ryan Newman fan myself."

Even those students who may not be fans of NASCAR understood what an opportunity they have in front of them, and excitement quickly spread throughout the group following the invitation.

The Daytona 500 is a marquee sporting event that captures audiences worldwide and easily more than 100,000 are expected to converge upon Daytona International Speedway on race day.

Oyster has seen the diligent work the group has put in and believes they deserve the chance to bask in the glory of a showcase like the Daytona 500.

"Moments like this are where the nine hours a week after school and the individual work and practice put in really makes a difference," Oyster said. "Our seniors are all hard workers and have put in their time, and for the younger ones it shows them where the hard work can get you. I remember that's how I was when I was in high school band and it's still that way years later."

However, the reason for the creation



The Nease band has been presented the opportunity of a lifetime thanks to an official invite from NASCAR.

of the gofundme account is that because NASCAR's invitation did not come until December, it was not factored into the band's budget at the start of the school year.

According to Oyster, it comes out to be about a \$10,000 trip once each of the band members and equipment is factored in. Plus, the transport needed to get all of it down to Daytona.

All of the moving parts that go into making it happen is why the band has decided to reach out to the community to help them meet what they need to cover the cost and create a memory they will never forget.

"For those students who have been through COVID, they have not had the typical number of opportunities during their high school years," Oyster said. "Opportunities like this do not come around very often. It is once-in-a-lifetime."

Any businesses in the community looking to sponsor the band's trip can connect with Oyster by sending an email to spencer.oyster@stjohns.k12.fl.us, and anyone wanting to help can donate by searching for the "Sponsor a student at the Daytona 500!" page. About \$75 to \$100 is enough to sponsor one student's trip.

THE PROS RETURN TO PONTE VEDRA BEACH IN MARCH 2023 *ARE YOU READY?*

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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

Gardening Trivia

"In winter, I plot and plan. In spring, I move." — Henry Rollins

By Kathy Esfahani



Kathy Esfahani

There is so much to learn about flowers and gardening! Test your knowledge with these fun trivia questions (answers below):



Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

1. Which of these flowers is native to North America? A) chrysanthemum; B) lotus; C) marigold
2. Which of these insects is not considered beneficial to a garden? A) spiders; B) grasshoppers; C) ladybugs
3. How long can seeds remain dormant in the earth? A) years; B) one season; C) months
4. What parts of plants are used to produce essential oils? A) seeds and petals; B) roots and leaves; C) all of the above
5. What kind of plant is a flowering

6. Which process describes growing plants in partial light? A) etiolation; B) phototropism; C) photosynthesis
7. In what Florida city can you see a "love tree," where two different species of trees grow in, on and through one another? A) Cape Coral; B) St. Augustine; C) Melbourne
8. How do you protect plants from frost? A) Cover them with a plastic tarp; B) Cover them with frost cloth; C) Put a space heater next to them
9. What is another name for geraniums? A) cranesbills; B) cuttlefish;

10. Daisies grow natively on which continents? A) Africa, North America and South America; B) Africa, Asia and Europe; C) all continents except Antarctica
 11. How much of the blades of grass should you cut off in a single mowing? A) one half; B) one third; C) three quarters
 12. What kind of tree loses its leaves in fall? A) deciduous; B) annual; C) evergreen
 13. What type of garden do elephant ears and caladiums prefer? A) tropical garden; B) water garden; C) rock garden
 14. What combination makes a natural weed killer? A) iron sulfate and baking soda; B) epsom salts and lavender oil; C) white vinegar and dish soap
 15. When is the best time of day to water a lawn? A) afternoon; B) early morning; C) evening
- Happy gardening!

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery



Flower of the Week

Gold dust

Flower of the Week: Gold dust

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.

- Answers**
1. C) marigold
 2. B) grasshoppers
 3. A) years
 4. C) all of the above
 5. C) deciduous
 6. A) etiolation
 7. B) St. Augustine
 8. B) Cover them with frost cloth
 9. A) cranesbills
 10. C) all continents except Antarctica
 11. B) one third
 12. A) deciduous
 13. A) tropical garden
 14. C) white vinegar and dish soap
 15. B) early morning

Cuddlegram up for bid

Did you know that snuggling up to a pet can ease loneliness and anxiety and elevate serotonin and dopamine levels?

Now the St. Augustine Humane Society is making it easy for people to gift those snuggles to someone they care about, just in time for Valentine's Day. Simply visit the St. Augustine Humane Society's Share the Love online auction and bid on the Cuddlegram. The highest bid wins a surprise 30-minute office visit from a member of the outreach team, accompanied by an adoptable shelter puppy or kitten bearing candy, flowers, a plush toy and a collectable 2023 Pin Up Paws Calendar. (The inanimate items are the recipient's to keep but, unfortunately, the pup or kitty can't stay.)

People may also bid on other items like gift certificates, sweet treats, unique bath baskets and more. The auction runs now through Feb. 9 with all items available for pick-up in time for Valentine's Day. Go to sahsauction.org. Note that the Cuddlegram must be sent to a business address located in St. Johns County.

Because February is National Pet Dental Health Month, Share the Love proceeds will benefit the St. Augus-



Contributed photo

Valentino would like to visit the winner of a Cuddlegram.

tine Humane Society's Dental Health Program, an outreach arm that detects and addresses dental problems before they can seriously impact a pet's health. Left untreated, dental issues can cause critical organ disease and shorten the life of a beloved pet. Unfortunately, not everyone can afford lifesaving dental care for their furry friends, which is where the public and the St. Augustine Humane Society come in.

For further information, call 904-829-2737.

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Retiring president reflects on years with Baptist Beaches

By Shaun Ryan

After 28 years with Baptist Health and more than a decade as president for Baptist Beaches, Joe Mitrick, FACHE, retired on Jan. 9. He departs a highly respected hospital that during his tenure earned recognition from several notable sources.

Baptist Beaches was named a World's Best Hospital by Newsweek, received a 5-star rating from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Pinnacle of Excellence award for patient satisfaction from Press Ganey, and earned an A in patient safety for at least eight consecutive years from the Leapfrog Group.

But what Mitrick is most proud of is the dedication of the hospital's team to serve the community well and provide the best possible care.

"It takes every employee, it takes every physician, doing their job," he said. "Everyone has an important role."

He credits the hospital's culture, its mission and values, as well as the leadership demonstrated by the board of directors and the Baptist Health administration.



Joe Mitrick

Mitrick brought his family to Jacksonville in 1993 after earning undergraduate degrees from Kent State and his Master's from Ohio State and then holding executive positions at a hospital in Canton, Ohio, and then Fairview General Hospital, which was affiliated with the Cleveland Clinic.

These experiences laid the foundation for his career.

"I think what I learned early on is that hospitals are like miniature cities," he said. "Every position in the hospital is an important role to its success. Success is really measured by how well patients are taken care of. Teamwork is really the key to that success."

Mitrick joined Baptist in 1995 and spent 20 of the next 28 years at Baptist Beaches. From 2011 on he served as president of transitional care for Baptist Health. In this role, he helped to ensure that patients requiring ongoing care or assistance following discharge got the support they needed. He and his team worked with post-acute-care providers to ensure continuity of care.

Mitrick has seen the advance of technology — such as robotics — and increased specialization over his career.

"I guess probably the biggest advance in surgery that I've seen is so much of it is done laparoscopically," he said.

This approach involves minimally invasive procedures that don't disrupt other organs or tissues.

"Patients recover faster," said Mitrick.

He has also witnessed Baptist Health's growth over the years. It now has six hospitals, a cancer center, four satellite emergency departments and 50 primary care offices.

Mitrick cited the importance of donors to the success of the hospital, and said a \$33 million surgery department opened three years ago would not have been achievable without the generosity of donors.

He also expressed admiration for the hard work of health care workers and support of local clergy, restaurants and the community during the pandemic.

Mitrick, who has been involved with local nonprofits during his career, said he will continue to be involved following his retirement.

It's clear that, looking back over his years with Baptist, he is satisfied by what he sees.

"It's great to work at a place that you love," he said. "That organization is really special to me. We just have the most dedicated team members and physicians and members of the auxiliary. They all work together well and made my job as the hospital president a joy."

Another Girl Scouts cookie season is upon us



A nurdle is very small pellet of plastic which serves as a raw material in the manufacturing of plastic products.

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Girl Scouts of Gateway Council kicked off the 2023 Girl Scout Cookie season in North Florida recently, as Girl Scouts and their troops get set to rally their communities to support the world's largest entrepreneurial program for girls.

And soon the cookies will be available to the public.

Every box of cookies sold provides invaluable experiences for Girl Scouts such as service projects, troop travel, and summer camp for girls across the country.

If you know a Girl Scout, ask where they are selling cookies via in-person booth sales starting February 10. Girls will sell and take orders in person, and can also receive cookie orders via Digital Cookie, to personally deliver cookies to their local customers.

Beginning February 27, consumers can order their favorite cookies for shipment, directly to their front door, including the new Raspberry Rally cookie.

In addition to online ordering, consumers can use the cookie finder to locate a booth near them and purchase cookies in person from girls at the iconic cookie booths.

Girl Scouts is excited to welcome Planet Oat Oatmilk as a national sponsor of the 2023 Girl Scout Cookie Program. Girl Scouts champion millions of girls as they learn, grow and thrive through adventure, and Planet Oat Oatmilk is proud to support these efforts as a na-

tional sponsor of the Girl Scout Cookie Program.

Consumers can learn more about product pairings and how Girl Scouts and Planet Oat are partnering to build girls of courage, confidence and character.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the world's largest entrepreneurial program for girls. Girl Scouts' newly updated Financial Literacy badges offer entrepreneurial playbooks for every age level.

From the Cookie Goal Setter badge earned as a Daisy to the Entrepreneur Accelerator for girls in high school, the Girl Scout Cookie Program teaches girls financial literacy, planning, budgeting, teamwork, innovative thinking and confident decision making.

New this year, Raspberry Rally is exclusively offered through digital channels for direct shipment only, enhancing girls' e-commerce sales and entrepreneurial skills.

This latest approach will help to guide the evolution of the cookie program for the digital future.

The following is a recap of how to purchase Girl Scout Cookies this year:

- If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to her to find out how she's selling cookies in ways that meet local and state safety protocols.

- You can also text COOKIES to 59618 to stay informed about how to purchase Girl Scout Cookies and other Girl Scout news. Learn more about the



Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of Gateway Council
Girl Scout cookie season is set to begin in early February.

terms and conditions and the SMS Privacy Policy.

- Beginning February 27, cookie lovers will be able to purchase cookies to be shipped directly to their homes, by entering their ZIP code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder. This link can also be used to find a local booth, to purchase cookies and/or to donate cookies for local community causes.

Girl Scouts in grades K–12 can start their journey to fun, friendship and new experiences by joining the world's largest entrepreneurial organization for girls at any point in the year. Girls can join and adults can become volunteers at www.girlscouts.org/join. For more information about the Girl Scout program in North Florida, go to www.girlscouts-gateway.org.

Sand Castles

LUXURY * LIFESTYLE * REAL ESTATE

Custom-designed home is the picture of elegance

See page 30



IN THIS SECTION:

- ◆ Interested in interest rates? *Page 12*
- ◆ The before and after of a home remodeling project *Page 14*
- ◆ No need to travel to St. Croix — try this recipe at home! *Page 18*
- ◆ Visit to Greece an adventure *Page 20*
- ◆ Beach access and so much more *Page 26*
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- ◆ Life is great on Le Master Drive *Page 34*
- ◆ ...AND MORE!

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Welcome to Sand Castles



Janet Westling
Contributing Editor

By Janet Westling

Happy new year and welcome to the ninth anniversary of our Before and After Issue of Sand Castles!

Our Before and After issue is one of my favorite issues of Sand Castles. I love the start of the new year where we set goals that range from organizing your home, getting fit and healthy to creating new designs for your home and embarking on renovations. We cover all these topics and I think this issue lives up to our goal to deliver interesting stories from our beaches and beyond!

This new year celebrated the inauguration of our Governor, Ron DeSantis, on Jan. 3 and included a private luncheon honoring the Mamas for DeSantis at the Governor's Mansion.

We start our new year off with travel tales from Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Broker Holly Hayes and her husband, Robert, who traveled across the pond and share their story and adventures in Greece.

Our renovation issue features a major renovation on a home renovated by Tom

Trout. He transformed a Cypress Bridge home, taking it apart and rebuilding a spectacular new design that creates more living space, opens up views of the water, bringing the outdoors in!

Architect and interior designer Julia Sanford of Starr Sanford Design offers readers a look inside how Florida vernacular is changing — and Ponte Vedra Beach is center stage.

Florida House on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., is a nonprofit and America's only state embassy in Washington, D.C., and it celebrates 50 years and is a champion of education and the arts.

Every issue of Sand Castles features our Market Watch. David Johnson with Ameris Bank, answers the question: How's the market, and what is happening with the rates? And what can we expect in 2023?

Seven of our local Realtors contribute stories from Old Ponte Vedra Beach to Sawgrass and Marsh landing. Touring these stunning homes through the Realtors' eyes, words and photos spotlights the wonderful properties on the market today on Florida's First Coast!

The Jacksonville Jewish Federation foundation shares a recent major donation to the community to address antisemitism and bias in the community.

Brian Sexton of the Jaguars gives his analysis on the team titled: Ahead of Schedule. It is a fascinating look at the journey this team continues to take.

Chef Shane Cheshire and Taste Catering returns with a plan of healthy eating we all can adopt this year and features an island favorite, Fresh Island Mackerel Tacos.

Our local School board member Kelly Barrera shares her insights on the Programs of Choice, which are available for students to participate in.

Our home is our castle and at the beaches it is our castle in the sand. From palm trees to sand dunes, golf courses to resort living, Ponte Vedra Beach and the beaches communities offer the most desirable real estate in Northeast Florida!

Janet Westling, Realtor, CIPS, GRI, Luxury Collection Specialist, Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR, Sand Castles creator and contributing editor. www.janetwestling.com

MARKET WATCH

Interested in interest rates?

By David Johnson

For those of us watching mortgage interest rates, 2022 couldn't end soon enough.

Last year, saw a steady progression of rising interest rates in response to the pandemic economy. The Federal Reserve raised the Federal Funds rate seven times. The funds rate is what banks charge one another to borrow money overnight. Banks lend each other money to maintain reserves. This rate affects consumers because banks have to charge a margin over and above the Federal Funds rate.

Mortgage interest rates on home equity lines of credit (HELOC), refinances and purchases increase with the funds rate. We saw the dramatic increase in residential mortgage interest rates last year because the Federal Reserve began aggressively raising the funds rate.

Before going any further, I need to stress individual interest rates for residential mortgages vary depending on several factors. Among them are the property type, whether a stick- or block-built single-family residence or high-rise condominium, for instance. Additional factors are the proposed

residency of the property, either primary, second home or investment. Credit score, loan amount, loan to value are also factors. This article does not address a particular mortgage situation. Instead, it relays the recent Federal Funds rate history and speculates on the 2023 interest rate activity. I can be contacted about your particular interest rate situation by using the phone number or email in the accompanying display ad.

The current 4.5% Federal Funds rate resulted from several rate increases by the Federal Board of Governors in 2022. It's hard to believe as recently as March of last year the funds rate was 0%. Two previous years of extraordinarily low rates orchestrated by the Fed's reaction to the pandemic came to a screeching halt less than 12 months ago.

The question everyone is asking is whether Jerome Powell and the Federal Reserve will continue raising the rate this year, and how much? It's impossible to predict interest rates, but I will do my best to explain how the Fed affects them, and that effect on the Ponte Vedra Beach and St. John's County housing market.

There was a 16% decrease in St.



John's County home sales between 2021 and 2022. Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) reports 7,424 residential sales between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2022. In the same 2021 period, 8,750 sold, a 1,326 year-over-year decline*. I will update this data in a future Sand Castles Market Report for 2023. The reduction in local sales is evidence of the negative impact of rising mortgage interest rates.

The Federal Reserve is mandated by Congress to keep prices stable and maximize employment. Their reasoning

behind raising rates last year was to reduce the inflation created by the accelerated printing of money and 0% Federal Funds rate during the pandemic.

Economic analysts argue the 2.5% Federal Funds rate from 2018 is "normal." With the prediction of the current 4.5% increasing to 5% early this year we can expect to see the Fed begin the correction down to a normal rate later this year either in the third or fourth quarter.

Programs of Choice a highlight of St. Johns County public school experience



By Kelly Barrera,
District 4 School Board Representative

Last month, the St. Johns County School District hosted more than 1,000 students, parents and business partners at our High School Showcase held at World Golf Village. The event was an opportunity for students and parents to learn more about one of the truly outstanding aspects of our highly rated public school district: the opportunity to participate in one of our many Programs of Choice.

From aerospace and biotechnology to JROTC and arts academies, the St. Johns County School District offers more than two dozen special programs of choice that provide our students with rigorous academic and engaging cultural enrichment opportunities. Together, these programs provide a well-rounded academic experience that enables students to pursue

their individual interests at a deeper level.

Academics

The St. Johns County School District has long been recognized for its academically rigorous curriculum. St. Johns County was the second school district in the nation, in fact, to adopt the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) — a program that emphasizes the value of broad and balanced study for academically advanced students. As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of this program at St. Augustine High School, we are also offering AICE at our newly opened Beachside High School.

We also offer the International Baccalaureate diploma program, which provides highly motivated students with an internationally recognized college-level curriculum during their last two years of high school. This program graduated its first class from Nease High School in 1998 and is also available at Pedro Menendez High School.

Career Academies

The St. Johns County School District boasts nearly 30 different career academies, including such diverse offerings as aviation/aerospace, aquaculture, culinary arts, communications, engineering, environmental sciences, law/homeland security, logistics/supply chain management, information technology, business, marketing, design, future teachers, biotech, health care, veterinary, biomedical, biotech and architectural/building.

Designed to align with the workforce needs of our region, these career academies help students explore and engage in industry or career fields of interest prior to high school graduation. Each academy has an advisory board comprised of business and community partners who assist in overseeing industry-specific curriculum, trends, hands-on projects, competitions, case studies, student internships, professional education opportunities for instructors, guest speakers and support.

Career academy students have an opportunity not only to earn high school credit, but also industry certification and college credit while still in high school. What's more, each career academy provides students with a direct route to enter the workforce and post-secondary education.

Our early college program, meanwhile, provides a pathway for students to complete an associate's degree. We also have the early career program, offering students certain workforce industry certifications in areas such as HVAC, welding, automotive service technology and medical assisting, concurrent with their high school diploma.

Arts

For students who are interested in the arts, the St. Johns County Center for the Arts offers a preprofessional program of study in the performing and visual arts. These programs are offered in both middle and high school at RJ Murray Middle School and St. Augustine High School.

JROTC

In St. Johns County, we are so very fortunate to have Navy, Air Force and Army ROTC programs. These are highly regarded JROTC units: Our Navy JROTC unit at Allen D. Nease High School, in fact, was named the 2022 Most Outstanding Unit in the Nation.

The enrollment application process for these Programs of Choice begins each January. If your child is interested in participating in one of these stellar opportunities, watch for school notices about Academy Night, when each school showcases the programs offered at their school.



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The before and after of a home remodeling project

At Tom Trout Inc., performing home remodeling projects is especially rewarding when working with great clients with vision, taste and the ability to make timely decisions. This is the case with this family's home project, which we are currently wrapping up.

We were hired to perform the project, and the design was a collaborative effort between architect Dennis Williams and the Trout in-house design team. The scope of work included additions and extensive remodeling to replace and expand the kitchen, add a family room with beverage station, add a porch with summer kitchen, update bathrooms, flooring, stairs, fireplace, etc.

Kitchen and Great Room — The old skinny shotgun kitchen was separated from the great room by a solid wall, which was removed. The kitchen was also expanded beyond the original footprint of the home, which required extensive structural reengineering. The great room fireplace wall was also completely updated.

Family Room and Beverage Station — The original family room was demolished, replaced and expanded to include a new beverage station with bar seating.

Covered Porch and Summer Kitchen — A new covered porch with summer kitchen and bar seating was added beyond the family room, overlooking the pool area and lake.

Stairs — The stairs were upgraded to include new iron railings, wood stair treads and accent lighting.

Photos provided by Tom Trout Inc.

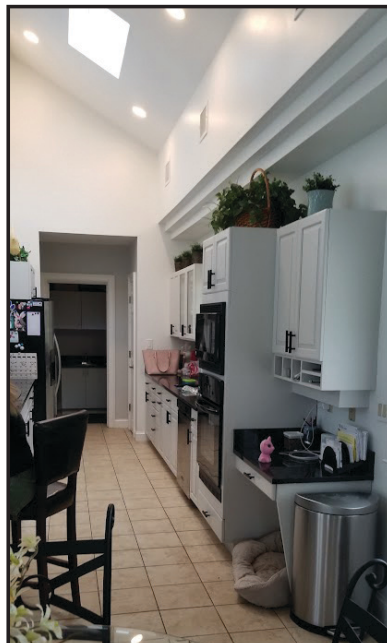
Compare these projects, before and after remodeling:



Great Room Before



Great Room After



Kitchen Before



Kitchen After



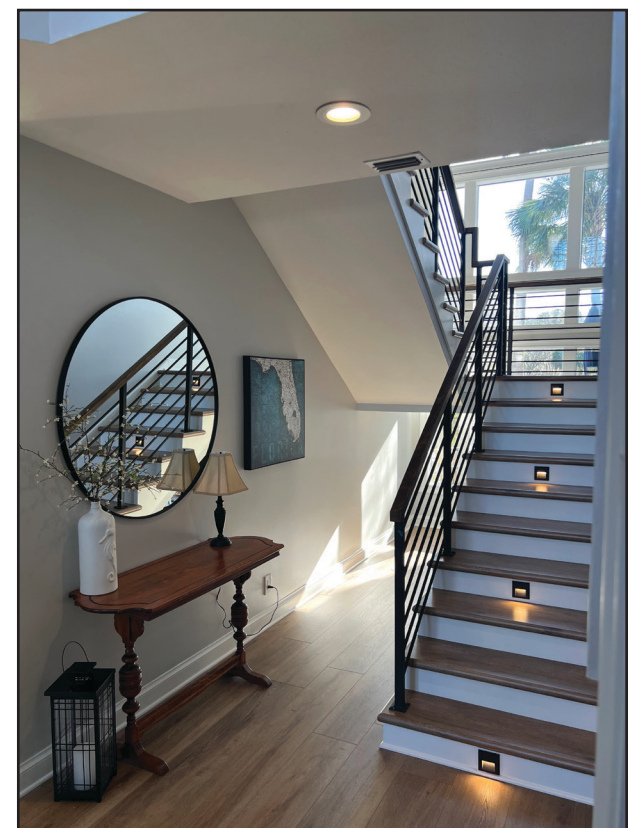
Family Room Before



Family Room After



Stairs Before



Stairs After

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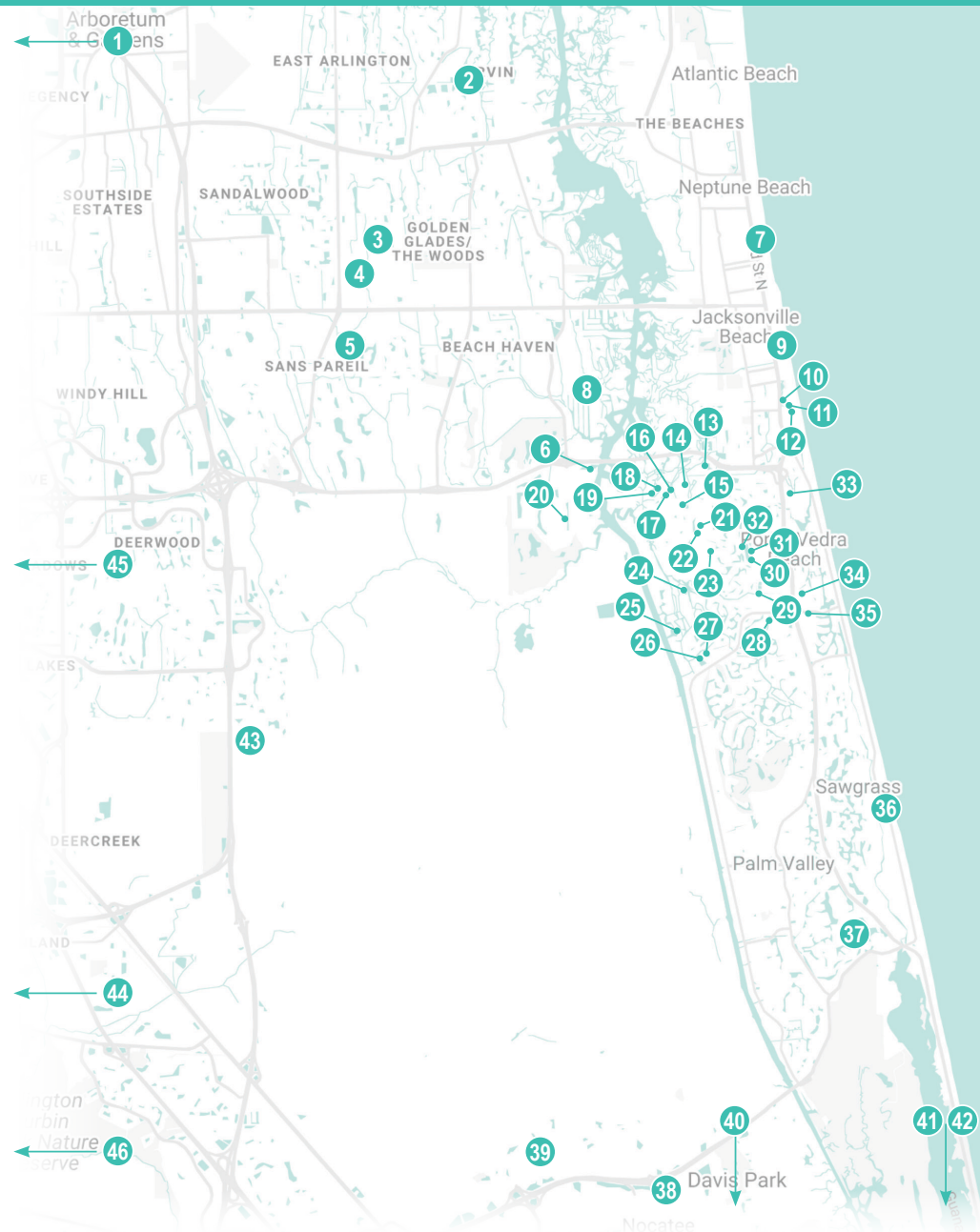


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|--|--|---|---|
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| 2. 767 Providence Island Ct. Jacksonville | 108 Laguna Villas, D13 | 20. 5355 Chandler Bend Rd. Jacksonville | 35. 44 Solana Rd. Ponte Vedra Beach |
| 3. 2877 Cassia Ln. Jacksonville | 108 Laguna Villas, D32 | 21. 200 Deer Colony Ln. Ponte Vedra Beach | 36. 915 Ponte Vedra Blvd. Ponte Vedra Beach |
| 4. 12776 Josslyn Ln. Jacksonville | 108 Laguna Villas, D33 | 22. 101 Club Forest Ln. Ponte Vedra Beach | 37. 114 Hollyhock Ln. Ponte Vedra Beach |
| 5. 3818 Brampton Island Ct. N. Jacksonville | 202 Laguna Villas, B23 | 23. 108 Palm Forest Pl. Ponte Vedra Beach | 38. 88 Paradise Valley Dr. Ponte Vedra Beach |
| 6. Marina San Pablo Jacksonville
14402 Marina San Pablo Pl., #704
14402 Marina San Pablo Pl., #406
14402 Marina San Pablo Pl., #202
14415 Marina San Pablo Pl.
Boat Slip #33
Boat Slip #38 | 200 Laguna Villas, C33 | 24. 240 Deer Haven Dr. Ponte Vedra Beach | 39. 70 Vestavia Ct. Ponte Vedra Beach |
| 7. 1126 1st St. N., #304 Jacksonville Beach | 11. 201 25th Ave. S., N24 Jacksonville Beach | 25. 112 Harbourmaster Ct. Ponte Vedra Beach | 40. 139 Sawyer Bridge Trl. Ponte Vedra Beach |
| 8. 4122 Seabreeze Dr. Jacksonville | 12. 101 25th Ave. S., J34 Jacksonville Beach | 26. 177 Clearlake Dr. Ponte Vedra Beach | 41. 130 S. Serenata Dr., #221 Ponte Vedra Beach |
| 9. 1221 1st St. S. Jacksonville Beach | 13. 1655 The Greens Way, 2911 Ponte Vedra Beach | 27. 136 Clearlake Dr. Ponte Vedra Beach | 42. 4 Evansville Pl. Palm Coast |
| | 14. 233 Royal Tern Rd. N. Ponte Vedra Beach | 28. 400 Sandiron Cir., #436 Ponte Vedra Beach | 43. 9840 Intellect Trail Jacksonville |
| | 15. 317 Royal Tern Rd. S. Ponte Vedra Beach | 29. 112 Bent Pine Ct. Ponte Vedra Beach | 44. 2199 Astor St., #204 Orange Park |
| | 16. 713 Great Egret Way Ponte Vedra Beach | 30. 2 Turnberry Pointe Way Ponte Vedra Beach | 45. 7405 Carriage Side Ct. Jacksonville |
| | 17. 701 Great Egret Way Ponte Vedra Beach | 31. 169 Linkside Cir. Ponte Vedra Beach | 46. 1208 Althaea Pl. St Johns |
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The Cici Anderson Team



The Cici Anderson Team

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Ahead of schedule

Photo provided by Brian Sexton



Brian Sexton

By Brian Sexton

The Jaguars weren't supposed to win the AFC South and host a playoff game this season, which was good news for the folks at TIAA Bank Field at the end of October when their 2-6 record made them a candidate for a top five pick in April's NFL Draft.

But on a partly sunny Sunday in early November the story began to change. Trevor Lawrence brought the Jaguars back from down 17 points to beat the Las Vegas Raiders in front of a stadium focused on the future, yet again.

Suddenly a team that couldn't win a close game in October had found a way to get it, and it started a fire. They were down seven points to the Ravens late in the fourth quarter and with two minutes to play, the second-year quarterback led a dramatic charge down the field resulting in a touchdown and the game-winning, two-point conversion with

seconds left on the clock.

Two weeks later, they trailed the Tennessee Titans 14-7 midway through the first quarter, but by halftime Lawrence staked his team to a 20-14 advantage and never let the Titans catch their breath in a 36-22 win in Nashville, the club's first since 2013.

You know how the Dallas game ended, with safety Rayshawn Jenkins interception return for a touchdown in overtime, but can you forget the way the quarterback put the team on his shoulders down 21-7 in the first half and how he marched them to a game-tying field goal to force overtime with a "you have to see it to believe it" type of throw to Zay Jones?

Lawrence was widely believed to be a generational talent at the game's most critical position after a championship career at Clemson, and thanks to a disastrous connection to the worst head coach in recent NFL history, we found ourselves simply holding out hope that he would be pretty good midway through his first season with Doug Pederson.

Then, it all changed. Credit Pederson with a "Coach of the Year" season in which he corrected the mistakes of that lost season and coaxed Lawrence to return to his confident ways.

As Lawrence was finding his footing so too were the trio of free agent receivers brought to Jacksonville last spring. Christian Kirk, Zay Jones and tight end Evan Engram all posted career best seasons and all three contributed to the development of the quarterback and the offense. Who will forget Engram's 162-yard, two-touchdown day in Nashville as he befuddled the Titans or Jones' three touchdowns against the Cowboys or Kirk's crucial touchdown catch in the season finale against Tennessee?

Running back Travis Etienne, who missed all of 2021, posted 1,108 yards



Photo by Susan Griffin

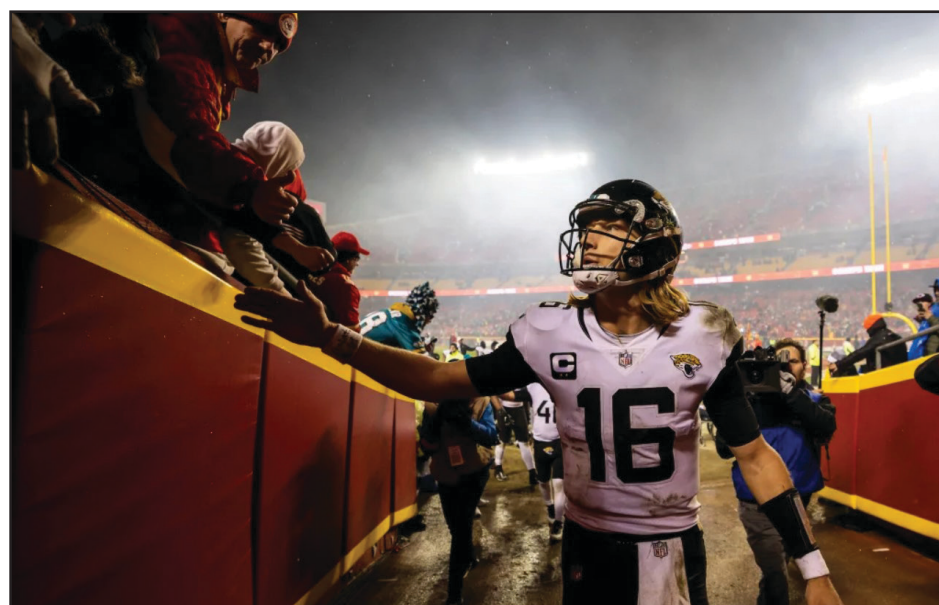


Photo by James Gilbert/Jacksonville Jaguars

Trevor Lawrence walks off the field after losing in the divisional round to the Kansas City Chiefs. The future looks bright with the young quarterback at the helm for the Jaguars.

and five touchdowns on the strength of five 100-yard games and a 5.2-yard per-carry average. He became a multi-purpose threat every time he was on the field, and we wondered if he would make it all the way back in 2022 — if at all — after the broken foot.

The offensive line allowed only 26 sacks, and that's playing with a backup left tackle in Walker Little after Cam Robinson went down, backup left guard in Tyler Shatley after Ben Bartch was injured, rookie Luke Fortner at center, a free agent in Brandon Schereff who had struggled to stay on the field in Washington at right guard and a previously underwhelming right tackle in Juwaan Taylor. Taylor is now in line for a rich contract extension and a unit long criticized as thin in numbers and talent is the strength of the team.

The offense gets most of the attention, and with hopes riding on Lawrence's development this season it was always going to be that way. But what about a defense, which posted a league low nine takeaways in 2021, tripling that to 27 in 2022? That number is tied for the third most in the NFL this sea-

son and, most importantly, 11 of those came against the Titans, Cowboys, Jets, Texans and Titans, and three of those were returned for touchdowns, powering the five-game winning streak that turned the season around.

Pederson was telling people as he prepared his team for the wild card game against the Chargers that this still isn't a one-year fix. There are holes to fill in the secondary, they need a disruptive defensive tackle and a change of pace running back to mix in with Etienne.

I admire Doug and the job he did this season. He was so calm and steady during the five-game losing streak and equally calm and steady during the five-game winning streak. He was the perfect coach to connect with the locker room as a former player and to inspire them as a Super-Bowl-winning coach.

But it is fixed. He'll get to tinker with it and make it stronger and better. But if you were there when the Jaguars beat the Titans on the final weekend of the season, you know. Duuuval is back and believing in its team, and that wasn't necessarily supposed to happen in 2022.

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River Oaks Cottage offers escape

If you are looking for the perfect local getaway, River Oaks Cottage situated on the St. Johns River in St. Augustine is only 50 minutes from Ponte Vedra Beach. It is a quick and peaceful drive along the rural farms of St. Johns County until arriving at this quiet stretch along the river. For the anglers in your group, this area of the river is known as “The Fishing Capitol of the World.” Downtown St. Augustine is an easy 25-minute drive away.

This adorable cottage is set under sweeping live oak trees with several outdoor spaces designed to capture the expansive river views. There are many

places to sit and relax on the large deck, including the wooden swing. The two lower fishing decks attached to the main deck allow for all day and night fishing. A walkway to the covered dock is illuminated at night and the dock is softly lit under strings of Edison lights. The paved side patio is perfect for stargazing and a firepit. Bring your boat, as the you can drop your boat into the river at the Riverdale boat ramp two miles away and tie up to our bottom dock. Fishing from the dock or bottom deck area is so much fun!

Picturesque windows afford expansive views from all living spaces with the vast

river showcasing incredible sunsets and the water illuminating the colors of the sky. The home is a one-level cottage with two spacious bedrooms, two updated bathrooms, two large living spaces, an office and a fully equipped kitchen. All walls and ceilings have recently been painted a coastal white and many walls are accented by shiplap. The home is fully equipped with all the comforts of home and is decorated with charming coastal accents. The master bedroom has a king-size bed with the most incredible Dream Cloud mattress. There is an updated ensuite master bathroom with a

large shower. In the master bedroom is a 35-inch LED TV. A large closet with California closet system is adjacent to the master bathroom. The secondary bedroom has twin bunk beds and a full-size bed, two large closets and a TV. The second bathroom was recently updated with a large tub and rainhead-style showerhead. There is a Pottery Barn foldable, full-sized, wooden crib that can be used in either bedroom. The family room has a pullout sofa and a large 75-inch LED TV.

This home away from home is awaiting your next “staycation.” Call today for rental information 904-237-6083.

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No need to travel to St. Croix — try this recipe at home!

By Chef Shane Cheshire

Taste Catering: Barn Yard Farms

My wife and I recently decided to escape the grueling Florida weather, so we took out on a Caribbean excursion. St. Croix, to be exact. Ah, what better way to flee the harshness of these Florida winters! I'm a Florida native, and when it drops below 60 degrees, I become as cold as a brass toilet seat in the Yukon.

We departed the airport on an old yellow aircraft; I laughed and nicknamed it Old Yeller. As we flew over the blue waters of the Atlantic, I began to dream of all the mouthwatering Caribbean treats I would consume upon arrival in St. Croix. The following week would not disap-

point! Point Udall had much to offer us as we meandered the bustling little port. Warm bright yellow sun, a salty breeze from crystal clear seas and the smell of delicious Caribbean fare permeated around the bayside docks. From breakfast grub to five-star dinners to late-night appetizers with cocktails. The cuisine of St. Croix wooed me in ways I cannot put into words!

When my career began some time ago at AIA Ale Works in St. Augustine, I became fascinated by Caribbean food and its culture. All the different textures, flavors and colors — wow, I thought to myself, these folks really know and love their cuisine. After years of study and endless encounters with great chefs

worldwide, the Caribbean fare has yet to elude my pallet or my heart. What seduces me the most is the passion and love Caribbean inhabitants have for preparing their exquisite dishes. I will always be inspired to recreate the majestic indigenous dishes of the Caribbean, and I hope you will join me in this adventure.

After dining around the beautiful island of St. Croix, we decided to take a break from the tourist life and spent the day fishing with some newly found friends on the magnificent Caribbean Sea. We returned to the docks with most of the fun and exciting day behind us. The captain's mate filleted our catch as we played with the massive school of tarpon that followed us into port. At last, we said our

farewells and were off to our humble seaside VRBO abode.

My wife and I had a dinner reservation that evening but felt too tired from all the action earlier in the day. She suggested I prepare something with the day's catch, and I concurred. What's better than fresh island mackerel tacos on roti bread, rum-filled cocktails and an astounding sunset to finish off an already perfect day!

Now, I know some of you think: Oh no, not another taco recipe. Still, with this fantastic Caribbean spin on it, I promise it will not disappoint! Bon Appetite! And, as always from Taste Catering and BarnYard Farms, I wish you well and God bless!

FRESH ISLAND MACKEREL TACOS

Key lime datil pepper pan-seared island mackerel, rum-pickled red cabbage, mango relish, sweet rainbow radish, sofrito, micro purple basil and fresh roti bread. (Serves 4)

Ingredients:

- 8 oz fresh Island mackerel (*substitute your favorite white fish*)
- 2 Tbsp olive oil divided
- 1 tsp DeaKen Datil (*keylime-datil pepper seasoning*) *
- 1/4 head medium red cabbage
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 small rainbow sweet radish
- 1 medium mango
- 1/2 cup of sugar + 2 Tbsp sugar
- 1 large pinch micro white scallions*
- 1/4 cup spiced rum
- 1/4 cup passion fruit juice
- 1/4 cup sofrito divided
- 4 each roti bread (*We like to make our own but you can find roti at your local Island or Indian market.*)
- 1 large pinch + some for garnish micro basil*
- Salt and pepper to your liking

Preparation:

- 1) Get your mise en place together.
- 2) Pat dry the fish fillet, rub the top side with key lime datil pepper and set aside.
- 3) Prepare mango relish, small dice mango and micro white scallion, add 1 Tbsp sofrito, 2 Tbsp sugar, 1/4 cup rum and 1/4 cup passion fruit juice. Toss to combine and set aside.
- 4) Prepare the red cabbage, put oil in a nonstick pan over medium heat, thin slice the cabbage, add to pan, turn heat to high and sautee the cabbage for two minutes. Deglaze with 1/4 cup rum, add 1/4 cup water, 1/4 cup juice, 1/2 cup sugar and vinegar, bring to a boil until all the liquid is gone, remove from heat and set aside to cool.
- 5) Slice radish, set aside.
- 6) Pan sear fish, heat oil in pan over medium heat, add fish and sear until a nice crust has formed, flip the fish and reduce heat, cook all the way through. While the fish is cooking heat the roti bread in a nonstick pan to your liking. Remove fish and divide into equal portions.
- 7) Assemble, place roti on a plate, spoon on sofrito, place fish over sofrito, top with pickled cabbage, mango relish, radish and micro basil. Serve with your favorite Caribbean cocktail and enjoy this little piece of the islands!



Photo provided by Chef Shane Cheshire

Fresh island mackerel tacos — ready to eat!

* Available at www.barnyardfarms.com



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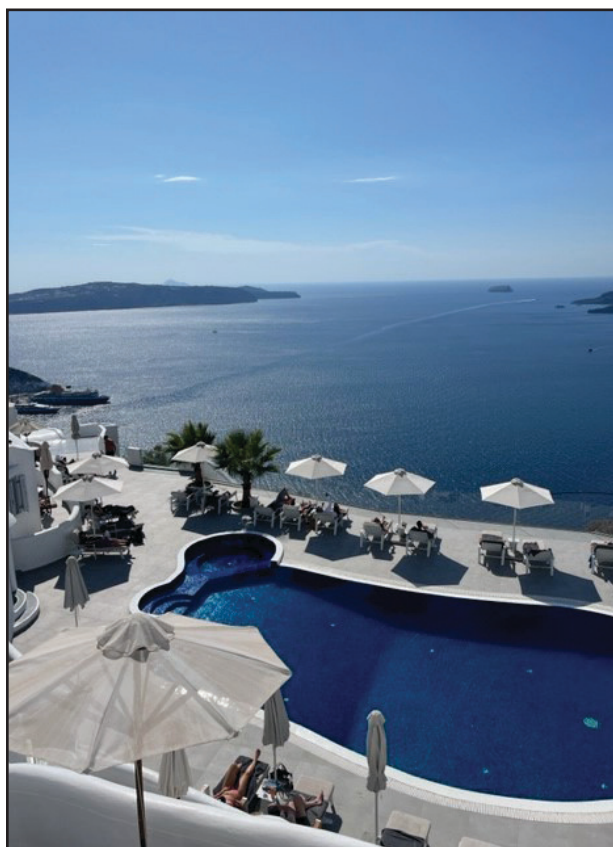
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The caldera view in Santorini.



An unusual sight in the Mykonos Little Venice area.

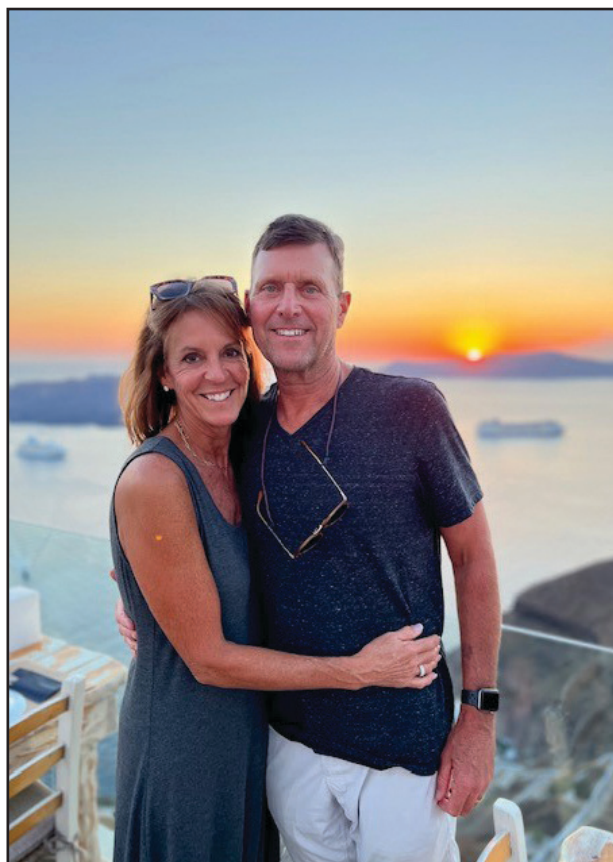


White-washed buildings with blue roofs as seen in Santorini.

Visit to Greece an adventure

By Holly Hayes

Opa! The Greek word that encompasses any special event or celebration! On a recent trip in late September 2022 to Santorini, Mykonos and Athens, Greece, my husband, Robert, and I heard the word daily, wafting from seaside restaurants, from beautiful sun-washed white balconies and blue roofs with magnificent views, shouts from local restaurants and taverns from revelers enjoying a well-deserved vacation or celebrating a wedding or other personal event.



The trip to Greece left the author and her husband, Robert, with cherished memories.

It was a sound that lifted our spirits and under our breath each time, we said back “Opa!” much like we use the term “Cheers!” in the United States.

We began our first ever trip to Greece in the beautiful town of Santorini. It was our favorite of the three we visited and just its history alone is amazing.

The island is actually a remnant of a volcanic caldera which is essentially a crater formed after a volcanic eruption. Our hotel, the Volcano View Hotel, was a quaint, beautiful series of rooms seemingly built into the side of a mountain overlooking the Aegean and the center of the caldera.

Nearly all of the buildings along this semicircular coast are painted white, so the views and the sunsets are absolutely stunning to behold. We spent time shopping and dining and visiting several beautiful churches in the main city of Fira. Our favorite restaurant was family-owned for more than 50 years.

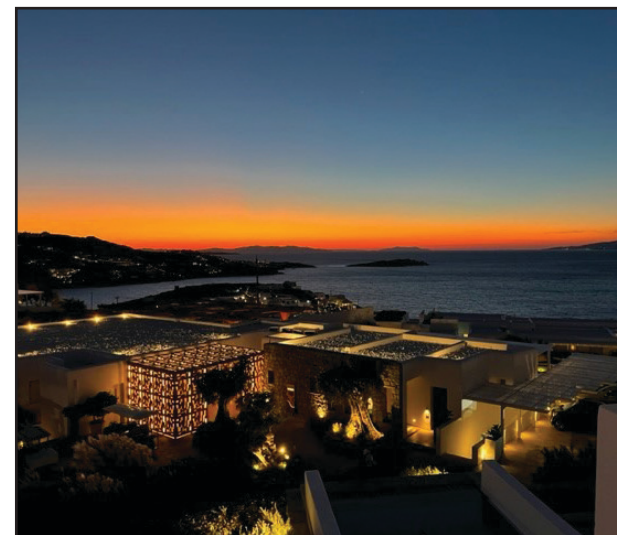
The island is easy to get around with local buses, but we walked much of the time. We hiked from Fira to the most picturesque (but VERY busy!) town of Oia, and the views on that seven-mile hike were equally amazing. We had one of the best pizzas at a little local restaurant in Oia (Skiza Pizza) and a very cold beer, which was refreshing after the long hike.

Several small churches along the way allowed us to stop and enjoy the views, as well as grab some shade when needed. There are some famous landmarks worth visiting and several tour companies that provide all-day and half-day tours to make sure you see it all. We were blessed with amazing weather and I highly recommend a visit to the island if you can!

Opa!

After three full days in Santorini, we traveled by high-speed ferry to Mykonos. The approximately two-hour trip was comfortable. I was a tad disappointed thinking that I would be able to sit outside on an open and sunny deck and enjoy the views of the sea, but when they say high-speed, they mean it and no one is allowed to be on the deck during travel.

We checked into our stunning hotel the Mykonian



Sunset in Mykonos.

Kyma hotel. This was the nicest hotel we stayed in with amazing concierge service, the most amazing breakfast buffet each day, a spa and fabulous pool and bar area. It was located about a mile from the capital town and port of Chora.

Mykonos has long been known for its parties, beaches and nightlife. The port city is sometimes called Little Venice as it is similar in the confusing layout of tiny pedestrian-only streets, crowded with high-end boutiques, restaurants, bars, tourist shopping and more. It is easy to get lost and turned around in this area, but it was fun making new discoveries at each turn.

The views along the water were stunning, and we enjoyed a fabulous Italian meal twice at a wonderful little spot called Pasta Fresca Barkia. There is much to see and some fabulous landmarks to take in, such as the Wind Mills and the Church of the Panagia Paraportiani (one of the most photographed churches in Greece and oldest structure on the island). We are told the beaches are stunning, but being from Florida, we

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Step inside 213 Sea Island Drive and come home to a spacious and completely updated Sawgrass CC pool home east of A1A with beach access. This spectacular home sits on a large lot on a quiet street in gated community. This home is convenient to the beach, golf course & Sawgrass Village for shopping & dining. Sold for \$2,100,000.



3253 Old Barn Rd West ~ a home designed for entertaining. Grand foyer, stunning dining room, living room that exposes the Pete Dye designed golf course & waterfront views. 4094 sf, this 4BR/4BA coastal contemporary has an open floor plan, large kitchen & great room, spacious living room, foyer & dining room. Water to golf views of the 3rd hole of the Sawgrass South Course. Offered for \$2,349,000



826 Ponte Vedra Blvd. - French colonial beauty in PVB with deeded beach access on the Boulevard! Designed to capture the ocean breezes with French doors in every room that open to the ocean in the front & Guana preserve & Sawgrass Golf course in the back. 4260sf, the kitchen, living areas & master suite upstairs all open to verandas. Sold for \$2,935,000.



2375 Ponte Vedra Blvd - This oceanfront beauty could grace the cover of Coastal Living magazine! Perfectly located along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean this 4BR/3.5BA coastal contemporary features two sweeping oceanfront porches, private beach walkover and a 21' x 21' rooftop deck with panoramic water and preserve views. Sold for \$3,600,000



188 Sea Hammock Way - Stunning oceanfront condo located in the gated seaside community of Sea Hammock in Ponte Vedra Beach. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo is completely updated and furnished with designer finishes and details. Sold for \$1,404,000.



962 Ponte Vedra Blvd. - Exquisite estate home located on a waterfront lot that measures greater than a half-acre. This 6 bedroom, 5 full and one-half bath home offers stunning sunset and nature views as well as private, deeded beach access across the street. Sold for \$2,400,000.



405 Ponte Vedra Blvd. - 100 ft' lot is situated on sought-after oceanfront of Ponte Vedra Blvd. just 2 blocks south of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and 2 blocks from The Lodge & Club. Offering 4 BR's, and 4 BA's, this charming seaside home is perfectly laid out in over 2800sf & offers the best of Ponte Vedra Beach living. Sold for \$6,500,000



A superior location, The Colony at Ponte Vedra is 2 blocks to the public beach and this 1,000 sq. ft. first-floor unit is in the building closest to the beach. Unit 104 features an open floor plan with 2 BR/2BA that is a great investment or home. The living room opens to the kitchen and is flanked by built-in shelving and French doors. Offered for \$340,000.



719 Spinnakers Reach - Spectacular 1st floor condo has the only elevator in Spinnakers 1 from the garage to the first floor! Completely renovated with stunning details & designer finishes. Oceanfront views from every room. 2523sf, 3 BR, 3BA with the upstairs master & ocean views! Spectacular Okitchen overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Sold for \$2,500,000.



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Artwork by Florida's Highwaymen is featured at Florida House.



Florida House is seen from across the street.

Florida House is the only state embassy in Washington, D.C.

By Sue Molm

Washington, D.C., is known for many things — the seat of power for the United States, amazing museums and monuments, and embassies representing nearly every country in the world. But did you know that Florida is the only state in America to have an embassy in our nation's capital?

Florida House on Capitol Hill is proud to connect, celebrate and champion Florida to the world. As a 501c3, non-partisan, nonprofit organization, Florida House is a beautiful Victorian townhouse on Capitol Hill, located just one block from the U.S. Capitol and across the street from the Supreme Court and Library of Congress. Governed by trustees from across the state, Florida House is owned by the people of Florida, not the state, and does not accept any state tax dollars. The organization operates every year with the contributions of Floridians and Floridians-at-heart.

When former Senator and Governor Lawton Chiles and his wife, Rhea, were visiting Washington, D.C., with their

children in the late 1960s and were lost on Embassy Row, the legend goes one of the children said, "Let's go to Florida's embassy and get directions." Mrs. Chiles said only foreign countries have embassies, but an idea was born.

In the early 1970s, Mrs. Chiles saw a townhouse that had been neglected, almost needing demolition. Most of the windows were boarded up and the second floor had fallen. The house was built in 1891 by an architect of the Library of Congress, Edwin Manning. There was a "For Sale" sign in the window.

Mrs. Chiles' said she could just see Florida's flag flying outside that house. With \$5,000 of her own money and \$120,000 raised from friends in Florida, she purchased the property, then raised the money to renovate the historic building.

In October 1973, Florida House opened and has been in service to Floridians ever since.

Every day at Florida House is different ... a Chamber of Commerce from a Florida city may bring members to D.C. to meet with congressional representa-

tives; a university alumni group may gather; or there could be a cocktail party, dinner, press conference, a student group, educational seminar or even a wedding.

Florida House is a champion of education and the arts. Each spring, summer and fall, interns from Florida universities and colleges arrive at Florida House. Not only do they give tours and work on special projects, but host visiting school groups, discussing the two branches of government easily seen from the embassy windows — the judiciary and the legislative branches.

No visit to Florida House is complete without seeing the stunning artwork by Florida's Highwaymen, Beanie Backus, Jackie Brice, Romero Britto and Jackson Walker. Special exhibitions are hosted each year.

The building itself features beautiful stained-glass original to the house. And the mirror on the main level was a gift from Evalyn Walsh McLean to former owners of the house, Sen. Rice Reynolds and his fifth wife and her daughter, Evalyn Washington McLean. Mrs. McLean is best known as the last private owner of

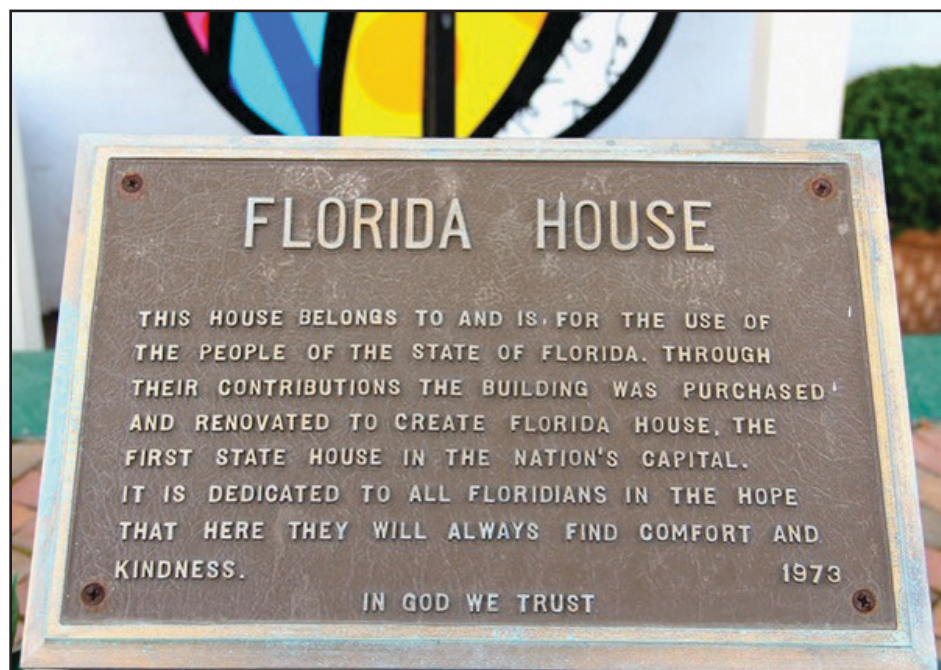
the Hope Diamond.

Tours are conducted for visitors from Florida, other states, and around the world, offering respite from the heat or cold with a glass of cold Florida orange juice and a chance to relax before resuming their exploration of our nation's capital. Our signature green awning with the words "Florida House on Capitol Hill" on the side has people pause to come inside and learn more. Florida House loves to celebrate with these visitors and you will see many pictures and events chronicled on the embassy's Facebook and Instagram pages.

As a Floridian, you are a part of the history of Florida House and as of today, part of the future. Florida's embassy plans to be here for future generations of Floridians, serving as the bridge between Washington and Florida. On behalf of the staff and trustees, including those in the Jacksonville Chapter, you are invited to join the 50th anniversary celebration in October 2023. Plan a visit to Florida House soon, as together, Floridians will connect, celebrate and champion Florida to the world.



A U.S. flag, a state flag and seals for each level of government are seen on the side of Florida House.



A bronze sign stands outside Florida House.



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120 OLD PONTE VEDRA DR.
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112 OCEAN'S EDGE DR.
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 Absolutely gorgeous end unit condo located a short walk from The Lodge & Club. An oceanfront sunroom showcases sliding doors with spectacular ocean views! Fully renovated in 2019, this beauty features four bedrooms, three full bathrooms and stunning open floor plan with plenty of natural light throughout. Sold for \$2,500,000.
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 Designer touches everywhere: gourmet kitchen, quartz countertops, built-in KitchenAid refrigerator, double ovens, Bosch dishwasher, walk-in pantry, and wet bar. 4BR, 4 BA with 4086 sq. feet. Backyard is majestic with a Saltwater Heated Pool, built-in BBQ Hestan grill, spacious screen enclosure and pergola.
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 Live the beach life in this 3 BR 2 BA 1667 SF patio home located in L'Atrium. New flooring, interior paint, and epoxy floor in 2 car garage, this home is a short bike ride to the beach or easy walk to shopping, dining, and community pool and tennis courts. 2453 Lorraine Ct. S., Ponte Vedra Beach.
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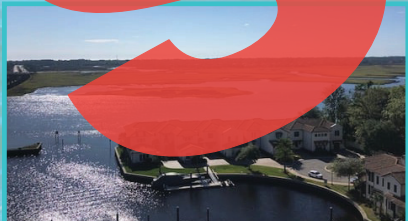
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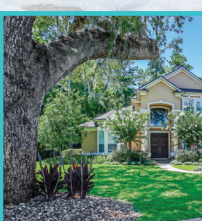
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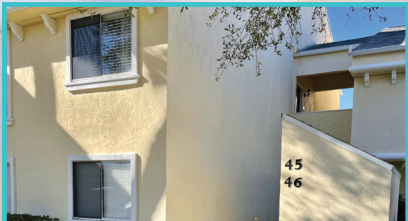
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PLANTATION OAKS



PLANTATION



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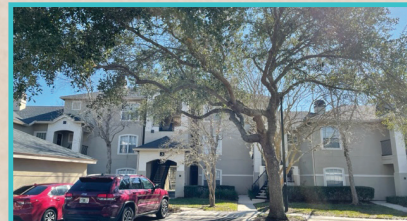
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Contributed photos



120 Old Ponte Vedra Drive is located in the small "pocket" neighborhood of Marshside.



The interior of 120 Old Ponte Vedra Drive.

Beach access and so much more

By Wally Sears

When you need beach access this is it.

Oftentimes, when you live on the west side of Ponte Vedra Boulevard/State Road A1A, you require beach access.

Beach access can be "down the road" or a big public parking lot like Mickler's or a drive to Jax Beach or South Ponte Vedra. So, when the beach access is directly across the street and your community is gated, private and comes with a pool and club house with an oceanfront gym, now you have something special.

120 Old Ponte Vedra Drive, located in the small "pocket" neighborhood of Marshside, is such a home. Marshside has only 13 homes. Quite well-kept homes line the small cul-de-sac. The private beach access is directly across the street. You can walk to the beach or

drive across the street with all your beach gear to park. You can enjoy the pool beachside or walk back to the house and enjoy your own pool.

So, you really have the best of both worlds. The community also has two hard tennis courts that really complete the picture of a great little resort-style enclave.

The home built in 1999 is very well maintained with four bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths, 3,168 square feet of space. The updated kitchen opens up to a large family and dining room. Hardwood floors give the home a warm rich feel. The private living room is the perfect place to escape behind glass French doors to read or watch a movie.

A great place to enjoy your morning coffee is on the screened porch looking out to the pool in the back yard. Upstairs, you will find the owners' suite with a nice



The kitchen of 120 Old Ponte Vedra Drive.

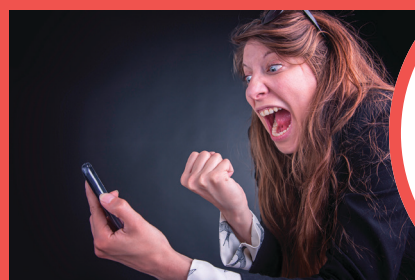
office/studio connected to it, as well as an owners' bath complete with steam shower and garden tub.

The other three bedrooms and baths are down the hall. This charming home really gives the owner a unique beach lifestyle with resort amenities.

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Contributed photos



The interior of 804 Marina San Pablo.



An aerial view of the condominium property.

Living life where natural wonders never cease to amaze

By Cici Anderson

Your waterfront paradise where your playground awaits ... Marina San Pablo and Aphora at Marina San Pablo.

This is maintenance-free living whether you select a two-story coach home or a high-rise condominium. With a highly desired location along the banks of Northern Florida's lush Intracoastal landscape; a natural wonder is waiting to be discovered.

Marina San Pablo is more than an elegant high-rise condominium with 56 residences and 25 coach homes. This is the lock-and-leave lifestyle that everyone dreams of — from the gated entrance, the

exquisitely landscaped grounds and the private marina to the luxurious open floor plans with designer finishes.

And the views cannot be surpassed with panoramic views of the marina and Intracoastal Waterway.

At every turn, Marina San Pablo is a destination, where natural wonders never cease to amaze. There's even a community fishing pier where the fish are jumping as the dolphins and manatees pass by. The Yacht Club houses the fitness center, a beautiful gathering room, a catering kitchen with sitting area, bar and TV. And outside is the sparkling pool, hot tub, grilling area, marina and walking promenade.

Optional 50-foot boat slips are right in your backyard for all your water sports: boating, jet skiing, kayaking or paddle boarding — this is the easy lifestyle you have been dreaming about and searching for.

Marina San Pablo is located off of San Pablo Road just south of J. Turner Butler Boulevard. It is only a short drive to the many beautiful beaches in Ponte Vedra Beach and Jacksonville Beach, close to St. John's Town Center and the world-renowned TPC at Sawgrass Stadium Course, and next door to the prestigious Mayo Clinic and Hospital.

What's being offered: An incredible two-story coach home with tranquil

marina views and a boat slip right in your back yard. This 2,363 square foot, three-bedroom two-and-a-half bath is offered for \$1,175,000.

There is also a second-floor condominium with marina views: No. 203, a 2,420 square foot, three bedroom, three-and-a-half bath with office for \$999,000; and a recently renovated eighth floor, three bedroom, three-and-a-half bath with office and panoramic ICW views for \$1,195,000.

All of these residences also include a social membership to Marsh Landing Country Club if so desired. (It is a short drive away.) These properties are represented by MLCC Realty and listed by Cici Anderson & Jenna Fisher.

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Citadel Island

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MINUTES TO OCEAN
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Gov. Ron DeSantis inaugurated

On Jan. 3, Gov. Ron DeSantis took the oath of office on the Capitol steps in Tallahassee before a receptive audience of friends, family and supporters.

DeSantis cruised to re-election with almost 20 points, winning his second term while raising \$217 million in campaign contributions.

Mammas for DeSantis, launched by First Lady Casey DeSantis during the

campaign, organized more than 1.1 million women in support of Gov. DeSantis' parental rights agenda.

A luncheon was held for the Mammas for DeSantis on Jan. 3 after the inauguration at the Governor's Mansion where the governor toasted First Lady Casey DeSantis and the women who attended the celebration.

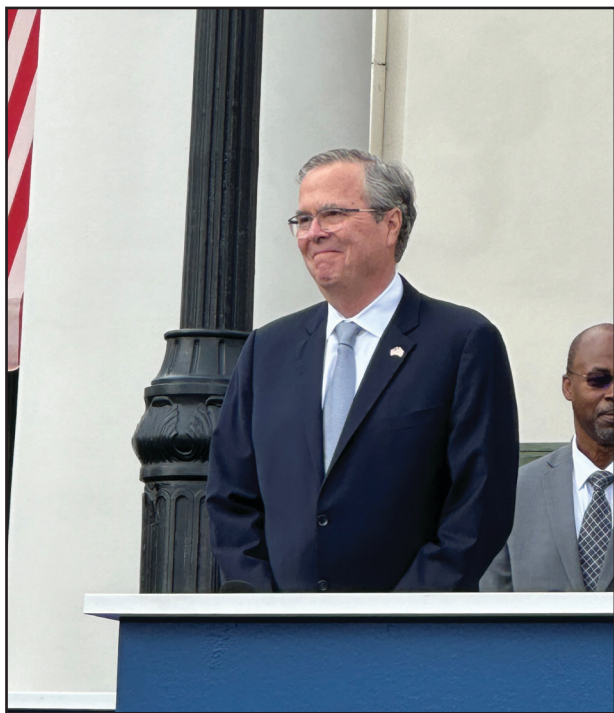
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First Lady Casey DeSantis, Mason, Madison and Gov. Ron DeSantis at the inauguration.



Gov. Ron DeSantis waves to the crowd.



Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush



Lt. Gov. Jeannette Nunez's mother and sister.



Gov. DeSantis toasting Casey DeSantis at the reception at the Governor's mansion.



John Browning and Sheila Holloway at the Mansion reception.



Sue Molm, Janet Westling and Martha Gleason



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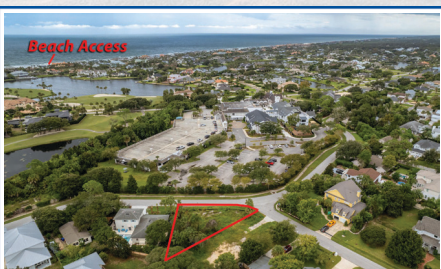


533 RUTILE DRIVE

Amazing estate with endless possibilities. Perfect for a large family, multi-generational living, aging parents, Au pair and/or home healthcare suite or even a home office. Located in the heart of Old Ponte Vedra Beach and just one block from the ocean! Offered for \$4,197,000.



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282 FOREST SPRING DR.

Look no further, this 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home is perfect for enjoyment & entertaining! Located in Riverwood by Del Webb, this home features many quality upgrades (over \$55,000 to be exact!) Come live your best life! Offered for \$485,000.



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EXQUISITE estate home situated on almost 3/4 acres on desirable Roscoe Blvd. Custom built in 2016 with concrete block 1st level, impact glass windows & doors, aluminum roof. Over 5,000 sf, 5 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms, office & large bonus room. Elegantly designed for entertaining. Offered at \$6,900,000.

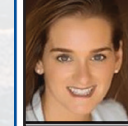


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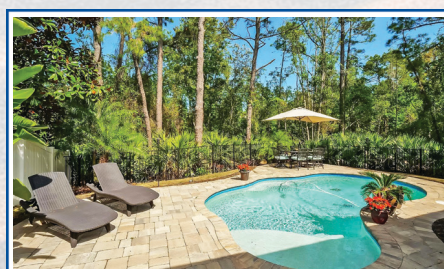


886 PONTE VEDRA BLVD.

Welcome home to easterly ocean breezes & perfection! This custom-built home features 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, a 5-car garage, indoor/outdoor living spaces, designer finishes with warm & inviting porches will take your breath away! Radiates warmth, charm and class! Offered for \$3,998,000.



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PALENCIA POOL HOME

PRIVACY ABOUND on this quiet cul-de-sac home with preserve views. Incredible outdoor oasis with newer pool installed in 2017. Palencia's world-class amenities are all within walking distance including Har-Tru tennis courts, pickleball, three pools, fitness center and clubhouse. Offered at \$599,000.



Call Kelley Cressman
(904) 553-8405



27 LITTLE BAY HARBOR

What a view! 27 Little Bay Harbor has a rare combination of water, golf and privacy! These 3 bedroom, 3 bath, one story end units don't come online often, especially with this view. Condo is updated with wood-look tile floors in main areas and new designer carpet in bedrooms. Offered for \$957,000.



Call Jennifer White
(904) 446-0495



MARSH VIEW 1 ACRE LOT

READY TO BUILD, 1+ acre of land in Marsh Point, a 27 lot gated neighborhood in desirable St. Augustine and conveniently located off US1 in between Jacksonville and St. Augustine. Nestled under a canopy of oak trees along 100 ft of marsh views - perfect for your dream home. Offered for \$299,900.



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Contributed photos



The home at 191 N. Roscoe Blvd. is elegant and romantic in the evening.



The oversized four-car garage was designed to accommodate full size SUVs and large trucks.

Custom-designed home is the picture of elegance

By Katie Hughes Johnson

The exquisite estate home at 191 N. Roscoe Blvd. along the Intracoastal Waterway is situated on almost 3/4 acres in prestigious Ponte Vedra Beach.

The custom-designed home was built in 2016 and finished with elegant coastal selections. Enter the property through the iron gates and onto the inviting front porch that is designed for relaxation with a large hanging swing and gas lanterns.

At more than 5,000 square feet, with five bedrooms, five-and-a-half bathrooms, an office and large bonus room, the home is designed for entertaining guests while comfortably accommodating family.

Step inside to reclaimed heart pine floors and be greeted by elegant lighting and barrel foyer ceiling draped

in silk wallpaper. The adjacent dining room boasts hand-painted Gracie wallpaper and the calming office features grass cloth paper walls. The custom-designed kitchen and bathrooms all feature marble countertops. Most walls in the home are appointed with woodwork, including shiplap, board and batten, and cypress ceilings in several locations.

The oversized four-car garage was designed to accommodate full size SUVs and large trucks.

The property was developed with substantial infrastructure in mind and features an active French drain system, a deep well for irrigation and whole home generator and is tied into the city sewer.

Solid construction details include cell-poured concrete block on the first level, 2-by-6 framing on the second

floor, commercial grade footers, impact glass windows/doors/sliders and garage doors. It has an aluminum roof.

In addition, the home was built almost 40 inches above grade.

The custom backyard was recently completed by the Pratt Guys with an infinity pool and spa, Inlaid Turf grass, Zoysia grass backyard, new landscaped planters, a marine-grade concrete seawall and dock with a 13,000-pound boat lift and a platform lift.

The cabana with summer kitchen is equipped with a Twin Eagles grill, True Keg, fridge, ice maker, gas lanterns and commercial-grade speakers. This backyard Oasis is magazine worthy and is sure to impress.

The property is being offered by Katie Hughes Johnson at RE/MAX Specialists PV for \$6,900,000.



The home's family room is a great place to relax.



The custom-designed kitchen features marble countertops.



The home's exquisite back yard.



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Private oasis in a country club setting

Contributed photos

By Janet Westling

Step inside 3253 Old Barn Road West and experience a unique custom-designed home that is perfect for entertaining family and friends.

The grand foyer welcomes you to a stunning and sophisticated dining room, revealing a living room that exposes one of Ponte Vedra's best kept treasures, the Pete Dye-designed golf course and waterfront views.

This home is simply gorgeous! With 4,094 square feet of design, this four-bedroom, four-bath coastal contemporary is light and spacious, with an open floor plan that connects the large kitchen and great room to a spacious living room, foyer and dining room.

Spectacular water-to-golf views of the third hole of the Sawgrass South Course await you from your private oasis in a country club setting.

This exceptional Arthur Rutenberg-designed home has warm wood floors, high ceilings, stunning views and light-filled rooms. The fabulous chef's kitchen has stainless steel appliances, granite counters and a large prep island and a spacious breakfast room overlooking the screened-in patio and lanai.

The first-floor owner's suite features a beautifully designed spa bathroom with



The custom-designed home at 3253 Old Barn Road West, as seen from the front.

custom cabinetry and a soaking tub. The grand great room with floor-to-ceiling picture windows includes state-of-the-art cabinetry and walls of French doors that overlook the lake, golf course and covered lanai.

There is an entrance to the lanai from the master suite that overlooks terraced private lawn with sweeping vistas. A special feature is a private nanny suite with separate entrance and privacy.

The peaceful backyard setting connects one of the largest lots in Sawgrass with the most spectacular sunsets, sounds of the ocean and soothing ocean breezes. Sawgrass Country Club and Beach Club, an internationally recognized resort community, continually strives to update and improve the Sawgrass experience. The 27-hole golf course was the first home of the TPC. In 2010, the tennis



The home is situated near the water.

complex was completely renovated to accommodate the Women's Tennis Invitational. The new golf clubhouse was built in 2021. With fine dining in the golf club, beach club and outdoor dining by the sea, Sawgrass offers its members and guests a wonderful variety of superb dining.

The unique neighborhood of Old Barn Island is a short distance to the beach club by bicycle, golf cart or a leisurely walk. The land was developed in the late 1980s by Arvida Corp. Old Barn Island homes were privately built with custom designs that offer a rare opportunity to purchase distinctive designs that will never date a community. No two homes are alike! The neighborhood of Old Barn Island is experiencing a transformation as the new owners are renovating kitchens and bathrooms and landscaping to reflect



The home has water-to-golf views.

current trends in design.

Sawgrass Country Club, a private member owned club, is uniquely situated in an oceanfront gated community in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach. Walk to the beach, watch waves roll in across the shore and enjoy the beauty and mystique of the charming seaside neighborhood of Old Barn Island in Sawgrass.

Ponte Vedra beach, a community on the Atlantic Ocean, is convenient to Jacksonville, Florida, close to the Mayo Clinic hospital and the University of North Florida. Just minutes to the beach, golf, tennis and fitness center, experience Old Barn Island and enjoy vacation living year-round.

Represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, listed by Janet Westling and offered for \$2,349,000.



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The arrow indicates the location of the home, showing its proximity to the beach.



The elegant family room offers a gas fireplace for chilly winter evenings.



The house at 249 Gull Circle.

Home offers great sunset views

By Marsha Keller

Now is your chance to live the beach life in this Tides Edge home, just steps from the beach.

The neighborhood of Tides Edge is ideally located between the Atlantic Ocean and the Tolomato River, just north of St. Augustine. The home is nestled on a large corner lot with three covered porches, one on each floor, where you can enjoy the ocean breezes while watching boats cruise down the river.

The owners custom-built this home with the views in mind. They wanted to wake to the beautiful sunrise, so the windows were ideally placed to see the sun break the horizon. This is the perfect place for a primary residence or vacation home.

Upstairs, you'll find the private owner's retreat, which

provides a large sitting area, west-facing balcony and an elegant bathroom with a jetted tub. The fabulous walk-in closet has a convenient laundry location with custom built-in drawers and shelving for lots of storage. The owners have cherished many evenings watching the amazing sunsets from the privacy of the owner's retreat deck.

The second floor features a beautiful kitchen with granite counters and a large pantry. The SubZero refrigerator and five-burner gas cooktop are ideal for the home chef. You can enjoy your coffee at the breakfast bar and have lovely dinners in the stylish dining room. The elegant family room offers a gas fireplace for chilly winter evenings.

This home is perfect for entertaining guests who will love dining on the second-floor balcony while watching

the sunset behind the gnarled oaks. The beautiful tropical foliage complements the home while providing privacy.

The unique floor plan offers two oversized guest bedrooms with a Jack-n-Jill bath on the first floor. The ground-floor screened lanai is perfect for relaxing after a day at the beach or catching up on the latest novel.

This home's superior construction includes a concrete block first floor, a metal roof, hurricane-rated Anderson doors and windows. There's plenty of room for a workshop, storage and all your beach toys in the spacious garage. Residents of Tides Edge enjoy private access to miles of sandy beach. This is the beach home you have been waiting for.

Listed by: The Lisa Barton Team, Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners

Listing Price: \$899,000



Client Testimonial Lisa C.

We had the best experience working with Sharon and would highly recommend her! After working with Sharon over a period of about a month, both in person and remotely, she provided great insight and advice into the Jacksonville communities. She spent the time to understand our wants and needs and directed us to a neighborhood we previously knew nothing about and ultimately ended up purchasing a home there. Sharon goes above and beyond from a service perspective for her "out of town" clients. She was so helpful setting up zoom calls, video property tours and video walk throughs - she made the whole process a pleasure!



Sharon Dennis

*Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty*

Sharon.dennis@floridanetworkrealty.com

www.sharondennisrealtor.com

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1415 1st St N #602,
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Contributed photos



The home at 89 Dewees Ave., Atlantic Beach, has a unique design that preserves its integrity.



The features have a Modern vibe.

Atlantic Beach home has ingenious design

By Jennifer Sexton

Far from being “cookie-cutter,” this William Morgan home is one of his most modest — yet most ingenious — designs.

Located 200 steps from the ocean in Atlantic Beach, the home at 89 Dewees Ave. was built in 1961 and owned by the original residents until 2020. When the new owner purchased this home in 2020, it underwent an extensive renovation. It was important to keep the integrity of the home but modernize it to be more functional and updated.

Now, it’s a three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home boasting 2,100 square feet and overlooking an outdoor oasis with a heated pool and spa. The home is two-

story stacked concrete masonry. There are wood beams, tongue-and-groove ceilings, the original wood-burning fireplace and clerestory windows set into the structural depth of the beams to let in massive amounts of sunlight.

The front part of the home has a one-bedroom apartment ideal for an in-law, or friends when they come to visit. It can be closed off or added to the main house.

All of the features keep the mid-century Modern vibe in mind, boasting a two-story great room, a downstairs suite, along with an upstairs suite and loft. Features include a two-story great room, terrazzo floors, soaring ceilings, Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances with a beautiful kitchen and elegant white baths.

This unique property is worth the look. It is the perfect



A view of the pool in the backyard.

second home, dual living or primary residence. You will fall in love with the serenity, and the waves of Atlantic Beach are beckoning your name.



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This home on Le Master Drive is in Old Ponte Vedra Beach.



The pool is situated to appreciate the surrounding view.

Life is great on Le Master Drive

By Tina Webster

Living in Ponte Vedra Beach is truly fantastic, but living in “Old Ponte Vedra Beach” close to pristine beaches and the fantastic oceanfront clubs is something that dreams are made of.

As you drive down the wonderful street of Le Master Drive you feel the ocean calling. Once you pull into the circular drive with plenty of parking for guests and see this exquisite beach house, you know you are at home. Walk through the front door and, wow, those lagoon views are a showstopper in the back yard. Not to mention the gorgeous pool overlook-

ing the amazing views. Don't forget your canoe or kayak, because there is a newly refurbished dock also in this back yard.

This home has been completely renovated and is an entertainer's delight with high ceilings and an open floor plan with the main spaces all taking advantage of views of the gorgeous backyard. Enjoy your morning coffee on your covered patio as you watch the sunrise over the lagoon. The large, open kitchen layout includes a lovely dining area. The open family room also takes advantage of the views. The magnificent owner's suite and three additional bedrooms make this



The home is completely renovated.

home the perfect family home or ideal for empty nesters.

If you ever want to leave this wonderful setting, grab your bike and ride to the beach or to one of the surrounding clubs

to play tennis or a round of golf. Ponte Vedra Beach is also home to THE PLAYERS Championship, which is only a few miles away. Enjoy the many great dining spots and shopping that Ponte Vedra has to offer. For all you boaters out there, the Intercoastal Waterway is just minutes away and the St. Johns River close by in Jacksonville.

If you are looking for a renovated home in Old Ponte Vedra with a pool and magnificent views, please call me today.

Represented by Berkshire Hathaway, listed by Tina Webster for \$3,785,000.

Together Strong Community Fund: Join us to combat bias against all

By Zahni Thuzar,
Marketing Manager

In response to the recent upsurge in hate speech, the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida is honored to announce that David Miller, on behalf of the Miller families, has established the Together Strong Community Fund with \$1 million to address antisemitism and to help bring the community together.

The new fund will ignite a community-wide endeavor to use education, conversation and interaction to combat the root causes of bias. The contribution will also provide a matching challenge to the community so others may join as stakeholders in this effort. The Together Strong Community Fund is in addition to the Miller families' recent \$1 million gift to the Jewish Community Alliance's (JCA) upcoming capital campaign, which will allow the JCA to enhance their work and reach.

“My family is fiercely devoted to the greater Jacksonville community, and we see this as an opportunity to show each

other and the world that Jacksonville is better than the rogue comments of a misguided few,” said Miller, Brightway Insurance co-founder. “The time is now to forge alliances and promote education so everyone in our community can reach their personal potential in a just and equitable society that we are proud to call our home.”

The fund will also augment short-term local security initiatives that are already underway in the Jewish community. This generous gift will also support the ongoing work of local organizations, as well as new projects and programs of impact — specifically, completing the funding needed for the Community Security Initiative (CSI), supporting the creation of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), and contributing to the work of OneJax.

The collaboration will engage the



David Miller



broader community of business leaders, local nonprofits and government officials to support this community-wide initiative. Miller feels strongly that these collaborations will cultivate a culture of inclusiveness.

The Together Strong Community Fund will be under the management of the Jewish Foundation and is the largest charitable gift in the Jewish Federation & Foundation's history.

“We are exceptionally grateful to David and the Miller families for this powerful commitment to the protection of the Jewish community, and we are deeply

moved by their desire to bring their message of hope and opportunity to the wider community so that we may all benefit from greater tolerance and understanding,” said Mariam Feist, CEO, Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida.

If you would like more information on how to participate in the \$1 million match, contact Feist at mariamf@jewishjacksonville.org, or 904-224-1410, or Kellie Smith, foundation director, at kelliiek@jewishjacksonville.org, or 904-512-3796.

Rates

Continued from 12

When this begins happening there will be a positive impact on the local housing market for two reasons. The first because sellers who have been sitting on the sidelines to sell will list their properties, and secondly because buyers will feel confident they are getting a better rate than 2022 and early 2023.

More buyers will be able to qualify because lower interest rates result in lower monthly principal and interest mortgages payments. As sellers finally sell their current homes, it will create a new set of buyers looking to buy their next home.

Second-home and investment-property interest rates, which are normally higher than primary-residence rates, will become more appealing to people looking to have a Florida dream second home in addition to their primary residence. Investors will be able to capitalize on their more affordable investment carrying costs. Declining interest rates will have a positive impact, and it can't happen soon enough for the local housing market industry — which, by the way, is such an important U.S. industry to our economy that the Federal Reserve are involved to begin with.

One indication of declining rates is the Consumer Price Index (CPI) falling into negative territory last December for the first time in 2022. This was an encouraging development because inflation is closely related to CPI. Conventional wisdom is if inflation shows signs of decreasing, the Fed will begin lowering the funds rate. The next CPI data released is Feb. 14. Before this, the Federal Board of Governors will meet Jan. 31-Feb. 1. I do not expect the Fed to increase the funds rate more than 0.25% or 0.5% in February based on their apparent successful taming of CPI in December.

Also, worth noting when one considers how much more the Fed will raise rates is the increased political scrutiny of the Federal Reserve by both Democrats and Republicans.

Neither party wants to see its constituents' households suffer any more than absolutely necessary to control inflation. If it appears the Fed is overreaching you can expect to see heated responses from the House, Senate and President Biden.

The following quote from UBS sheds light on the political tightrope Jerome Powell walks:

"The Federal Reserve is also under scrutiny from both sides of the aisle. Senator Warren released a statement critical of the Fed's rate hikes on December 19, saying, 'Fed Chair

Powell's extreme interest rate hikes risk pushing our economy into a recession that costs millions of Americans their jobs. The Fed needs to remember it has a dual mandate: fight inflation and protect jobs." Republican Senator Toomey and Democratic Senator Warren joined forces to introduce legislation this month that would subject the regional Federal Reserve banks to more oversight**."

Chairman Powell and the Board of Governors will find it increasingly challenging to pursue hawkish interest rate increases if job growth continues to decline due to the U.S. economy contracting.

Economists at UBS predict a total of 0.5% increase to the Federal Funds rate by mid-2023, and for reductions to begin as early as third quarter of 2023 as the labor market continues to decline with rising unemployment ***.

In conclusion, if the labor market weakens, and CPI date continues to decline, we will see mortgage interest rates begin improving later this year.

The Fed probably has another 0.5% increase to go before reaching 5%. It might happen in two 0.25% increases or one 0.5% increase. Then we can expect to see a steady decline back to the normal 2.5% from 2018. Creating the potential for refinances as people were forced to take a higher rate in 2022 and 2023 rush to the relief of lower rates

and resulting mortgage payments.

In my opinion, as this happens the real estate market in Ponte Vedra Beach and greater St. Johns County will heat up again as pent up demand for people to sell their homes is released, and buyers are encouraged by improving interest rates.

Our county is a very desirable destination for retirees and remote employees looking for the enviable Ponte Vedra public school system and beautiful beaches and weather.

The housing market will improve after residential mortgage interest rates stabilize in conjunction with the Federal Funds rate. Until then as real estate professionals, we continue encouraging clients that it's not a bad time to buy because of the ability to negotiate with sellers, stabilized sales prices compared to the previous two years, and increased inventory. For those who want to wait until the market improves because of lower rates I believe they won't have to wait much longer. Either way, this is still an amazing place to own a home.

David Johnson is a Mortgage Banker with Ameris Bank, NMLS #1446956.

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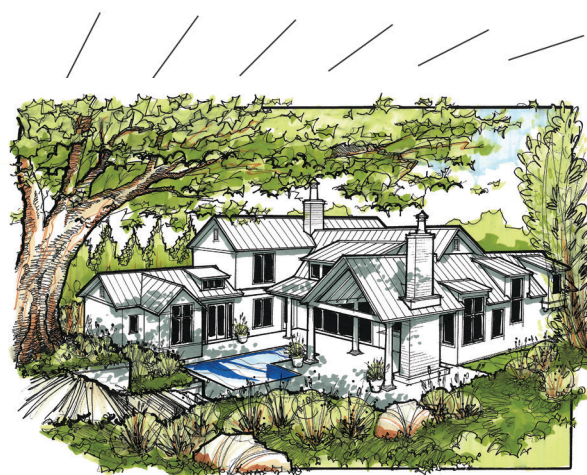
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Call today for more details!

Photos provided by Starr Sanford Design



Atlantic Beach design



Jax Beach design

Starr Sanford Design is defining a new Florida vernacular

By Christi Bowler Elflein

Borrowed from the past, steeped in tradition, but clearly from the present, the Florida vernacular is evolving, and Ponte Vedra is center stage. The new homes along our coastline depict a coastal modern vernacular with a decidedly old Florida style.

Local architect Julia Starr Sanford with Starr Sanford Design (SSD) is leading this evolution with nearly a dozen homes designed by SSD along the Boulevard. SSD is an architecture and interiors firm excelling in coastal vernaculars and versed in a range of aesthetic traditions. The practice encompasses custom home design, historic renovation and restoration, boutique commercial design and full interior design, including the furniture and home accessories line, Sublime Original.

The homes that SSD designs sit at the intersection of sustainability and beauty, engaging all the senses while achieving environmental excellence through permanence and material choice. SSD emphasizes fine craftsmanship to promote sustainability, as building well leads ultimately to building less, diminishing

environmental impact.

Five signature elements define SSD's new Florida vernacular. The first of these is the color white. Sun bleached variations of white reflect the sun's light, naturally cooling the home and providing a backdrop to enjoy the afternoon's shadows cast by a home's western trees.

The second element is held in the massing of the home, terracing the homes into the dunes to capture the earth's steady thermal temperatures and limiting each portion of the building to one room wide. This is accomplished by carving courtyards and gardens into the core. The courtyards in turn facilitate cross breezes through the home allowing the fragrances of the gardens and the healing benefits of the salty ocean air to travel through the living spaces. And the courtyard gardens provide outside spaces protected from harsh winds, capturing solar gains and providing comfortable outdoor seating.

Orientation is another key element. A home's eastern exposure is best open for the breezes and views but needs protection from the sun and wind with the use of overhangs. Courtyards are designed to be open to the south and east to capture

the sun's light. And western exposures are equipped with Bahama shutters to protect the home from the harsh afternoon sun.

Solid masonry is the fourth element. Building with concrete is lasting and appropriate for an oceanfront environment. It is used for its energy savings and its permanence.

The final element is the preferred natural wood materials of cypress and cedar. Pecky cypress ceilings bring an element of the outside in. And cedar roofs with overhangs protect the homes from rain and heat. These natural woods smell good and weather naturally. Cedar shingles, unlike asphalt shingles, are not made from petroleum-based products and can last 30 to 50 years with proper drainage

and air flow. Additionally, it insulates up to twice as effectively as other roofing materials.

Each custom home is designed with its own personality and characteristics. These common sustainable and sensual elements create the new Florida vernacular. Engaging all of the senses, SSD creates spaces for a life well-lived.

SSD currently has 32 projects on the boards in various stages of design and construction along the Eastern Seaboard from Ponte Vedra to Windsor, Florida, from Sea Island, Georgia to Charleston and Kiawah, South Carolina. Several homes are also being designed in the Bahamas. SSD is expanding its interiors division, with a second location and interiors gallery soon to be announced.



Ponte Vedra W design



Sea Island design

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Photos by Holly Hayes



Owner of the Nikolas Restaurant in Santorini.



Views of the caldera in Santorini on the way to Oia.

Greece

Continued from 20

wanted to experience other areas, and we made other choices rather than to party on the beach.

We took a half-day tour to the nearby island of Delos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Besides the rich history and amazing ruins of architectural brilliance, it is said to be the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis. In the third to fifth centuries B.C., it was a hugely successful and active trade port in the Aegean. Being a bit of an archaeology geek, this was an amazing side trip for me, and my husband, Robert, enjoyed it as well!

Opa!

Our last leg of the trip was Athens, the capital of Greece. We traveled by air from Mykonos to Athens. In Athens, we checked into our hotel at the Electra Palace.

Athens is one of the most scenic places in the world — at the center lies the Acropolis, the great ancient city, which in the evening is a beacon lighting up the night for all and just a stunning sight to see. With countless museums, universities, shopping, restaurants, neighborhoods ... where old meets new.

We did a half-day tour taking in all of the Acropolis and a visit to the Acropolis museum — a DO NOT MISS item if you ever go. The architecture of the museum is amazing, built over an archaeological site with transparent floors so that you can see the site below!

It was amazing, and the artifacts held there are priceless. We spent much of our time walking the tourist area near our hotel, called Plaka. This area was originally settled by the people who were building the Acropolis and all of its many structures and has a rich history. It is filled with cafes, boutiques,

bakeries and shopping.

We loved daily lunches and dinners in this area. We did also visit the Pantheon Stadium — which opened in 556 B.C. and held the first-ever Olympic games in 1896 — and also climbed Lycabettus Hill, one of the highest spots in the city. A bit of an arduous climb but with an amazing story linked to the goddess Athena, and what made it so special was not the story or the church at the top but the breathtaking panoramic view of the Acropolis and the entire city! Opa!

What can I say about the food in every city we ventured to except “Opa!” and that everything we had was amazing! From the honey-topped Greek yogurt with fruit each morning, the baklava and many pastries to the Mous-



A nighttime view of the Acropolis.

saka, Gyros, Tirokafteri (which is a feta cheese dip), Greek pizza, falafel — and the list goes on. The food in every place was a highlight, and we literally ate our way through the towns. It’s a good thing we walked a lot!

Perhaps we will return to Greece again one day and visit other islands

and areas, but we definitely brought back great memories, a few good shopping finds, some new recipes and our love and appreciation of the adventure of learning about another amazing part of our world.

Opa!



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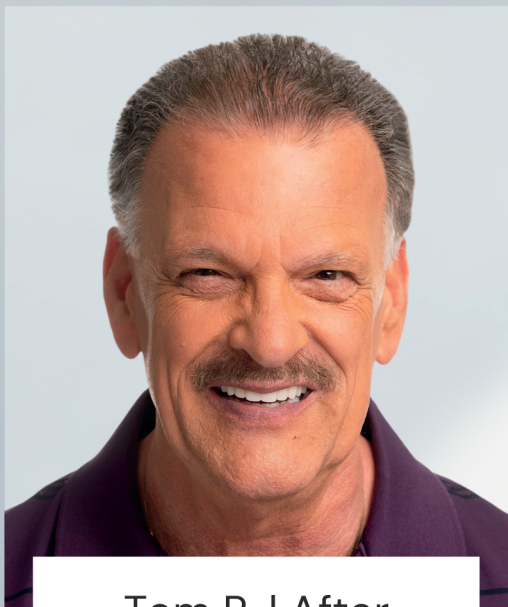
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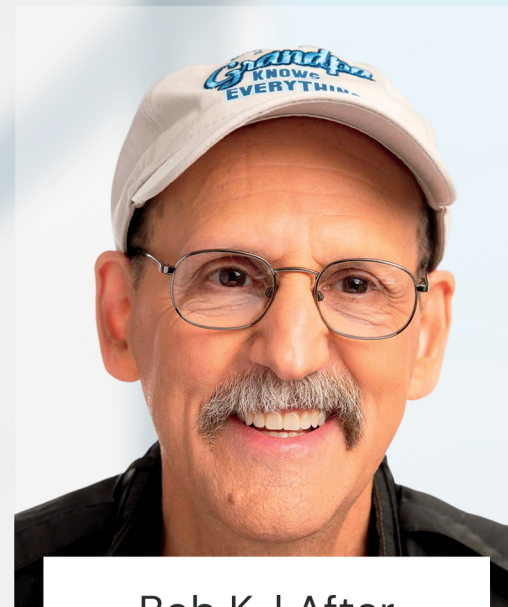
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Brain Balance moves location to St. Johns

By Anthony Richards

The new year has brought a new location for the Brain Balance Center, which made the move from Bartram Park to its current location at 155 Fountains Way, Suite 13 in St. Johns in late December.

According to franchise owner Jessica Wick, ever since she took over ownership of the center in 2020 she had hopes of making the move to St. Johns. However, because she took over right before the COVID-19 pandemic took full effect the timing was not right until now.

“I definitely feel like it’s more centrally located,” Wick said. “I live in Nocatee, and we’ll have a lot of families coming from there to take advantage of our services.”

RiverTown and Durbin Crossing are two areas that Wick has interest in tapping into next, which includes the possibility of opening satellite centers around the area in the next handful of years.

She also owns another location in South Carolina.

Brain Balance is the leading drug-free program designed to help kids improve focus, behavior, social skills, anxiety and academic performance. The comprehensive programming incorporates learnings from cognitive, behavioral and nutrition fields — an integrated approach that is literally redefining what’s possible.

Brain Balance picks up where conventional approaches leave off, going beyond the treatment of symptoms to address root causes. At Brain Balance, it’s not about coping

with barriers. It’s about knocking them down, one small breakthrough at a time.

“I’ve seen a huge shift in the mentality over the years,” Wick said. “The parents that come into Brain Balance are knowledgeable and ready to find answers. It’s a movement.”

Wick became a believer in the Brain Balance program after watching her son go through it in 2016 and seeing the visible strides he made as a result.

“We’re a place where people can feel comforted just walking through the door,” Wick said. “For families to have a place like that when going through something like this makes a huge difference.”

According to Wick, one of the toughest things parents encounter is the seemingly endless search for answers that she had experienced firsthand.

“It’s very disheartening when you’re going around in circles to different doctors and no one can tell you a real solution,” Wick said.

One of the ways Brain Balance attempts to eliminate that situation is by making each program designed to be specialized to a certain child’s needs.

Following a two-hour assessment with the child and parents, the staff at Brain Balance is able to figure out the best approach necessary to help that child.

“We’re really assessing what stages of neuro development have been missed and the best way to fill those gaps,”



Photo courtesy of Brain Balance Centers

Brain Balance recently moved its Bartram Park location in Jacksonville to The Fountains in St. Johns.

Wick said. “Knowing where to start is so important.”

The average program is about six months long with about three one-hour-long sessions each week.

The adult programs are for those 18 to 65 years old and are only available virtually in one-on-one sessions.

According to Wick, the majority of the adults in the program deal with some form of ADHD.

It was Wick’s personal experiences that led her to the field she is in, and she is thankful that she can now provide the assistance and relief to families that she once sought herself.

“I’m so lucky to be able to do this with my life,” Wick said.

Benchmarks of Success

A look at major career changes in the area.



Robby Hayes

Hayes joins Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Robby Hayes has joined the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty.

He has a strong background in marketing, finance and social media. Having attended The Bolles School and graduating from Florida State University, he has built strong connections within the Jacksonville community. He has worked on promotions for the Jaguars, coordinating marketing for local events. When he is not working, Hayes loves spending time with his family and enjoying the weather of Northeast Florida.

For more information, he can be reached at 678-481-7264, Robby.Hayes@FloridaNetworkRealty.com and

RHayes.FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office, located at 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach, is managed by Holly Hayes, who can be reached at 904.802.0432, Holly.Hayes@FloridaNetworkRealty.com, and floridanetworkrealtycareers.com.



Nikki Sabol

Sabol named to Community Foundation post

Nikki Sabol has joined the staff of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida as director of the Women’s Giving Alliance, a group of dynamic, diverse women who pool their philanthropic giving to make a lasting impact on the lives of women and girls in Northeast Florida.

As the staff lead for the Women’s Giving Alliance, Sabol will partner with the member-elected volunteer leadership and manage all operational aspects of the more-than-400-member organiza-

tion, including membership, communications and grantmaking. She will work with the Vice President of Civic Leadership Wanda Willis.

Previously, Sabol served at UF Health Jacksonville as the director of Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. In that role, she helped manage a portfolio of corporate partners and managed several annual fundraising events. She holds a Bachelor of science in communication from the University of North Florida, and she serves as the communication co-chair of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, First Coast Chapter, as well as the Junior League of Jacksonville.



Megan Hosch

Hosch joins Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Megan Hosch has joined the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty.

Living in Northeast Florida for more than 25 years, Hosch is knowledgeable on the various communities and what makes each one unique. She has more than 20 years as an award-winning sales executive with extensive success in new business development in both national and global markets.

When she is not working, Hosch loves travelling with her husband and three adult children, working as a youth group leader at her church and enjoying the outdoors.

For more information, she can be reached at 904-465-0587, Megan.Hosch@FloridaNetworkRealty.com and MHosch.FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office, located at 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach, is managed by Holly Hayes, who can be reached at 904-802-0432, Holly.Hayes@FloridaNetworkRealty.com, and floridanetworkrealtycareers.com.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

In the Arts

Send your arts news to
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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Gallery 725 exhibits work by artistic prodigy

Now through Sunday, Jan. 29, Gallery 725 is exhibiting the work of Advait Kolarkar, a renowned 9-year-old contemporary artist.

Advait began painting at only 8 months of age, held his first solo exhibition at age 2 and by age 8 he had won the Global Child Prodigy Award.

His work has been exhibited in London and New York alongside modern masters, including Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and Joan Miro. He also has the distinction of being the youngest TEDx speaker from India, as of November of 2022.

These major milestones have earned him the “prodigy artist” tag by the BBC and other international media outlets, thus making him one of the youngest artists ever to achieve this worldwide recognition.

Meet-the-artist receptions are planned for 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29. The receptions are complimentary and open to the public, but RSVPs are highly recommended. They may be made at gallery725@gmail.com or by calling 904-345-9320.

For further information, go to gallery725.com. The

gallery is located at 13475 Atlantic Blvd. Suite 6 in Jacksonville. The artwork is available for acquisition at the gallery.

In addition to the aforementioned shows, Advait had a significant show in Italy and at the London Art Biennale, New York’s ArtExpo, a solo stint in Canada and India. His story is featured in the launch of Disney’s largest digital destination “Reimagine Tomorrow” and his artwork was painted by a robot on a car, making history.

Advait’s work ethic and wondrous imagination have caught art lovers’ attention internationally.

His abstractions are raw and spontaneous action paintings that span varied subjects. Advait takes pleasure in branching out, evolving his art to continually find new challenges and techniques to achieve his vision on canvas. His art is organic, born from various tools, brushes and occasionally even with painted fingers, as it weaves his inspirations and thoughts in a conversational tone.

The narrative of this exhibition takes the viewer on a journey of personal growth, inspiration and the intense creativity of a prodigious artist.



Photo courtesy of Relevant Communications, RCPR, Inc.
Advait Kolarkar displays some of his artwork.

John Beard Gallery provides artistic Chamber ‘After Hours’

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and the John Beard Art Gallery partnered to host an “After Hours” event. Several Chamber members attended the event and enjoyed a night of networking, food and drinks.



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division

A great crowd was on hand at the John Beard Art Gallery, which hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division “After Hours” event on Jan. 18.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Kathleen Floryan is surrounded by artwork as she speaks to those in attendance during the “After Hours” event hosted by John Beard Art Gallery.



Kathleen Floryan, chair of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division, and Chamber Ambassador Karina Coryell.



John Beard, Rachel Farmer and Molly Beard.

First Coast Cultural Center receives a total of \$292,000 in grants



Donna Guzzo

Donna Guzzo, president and CEO of the First Coast Cultural Center recently announced a grant award in the amount of \$102,000 from the United Way of St. Johns County and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support its adult and youth arts programs and Kick StART, the nonprofit's afterschool art enrichment program for elementary grade students in the St. Johns County Public School District.

"ARPA funding will help us to make needed adjustments and implement strategies necessary to ensure our post-COVID-19 success and maintain the sustainability of the Cultural Center as a valuable arts education resource in St. Johns County," said Guzzo.

Additionally, First Coast Cultural Center was awarded a Google grant for \$100,000 in marketing dollars to support advertising going forward.

"The Google Ad Grant will help us share our programs and services, raise awareness, attract donors and recruit new volunteers when people are searching for

nonprofits like ours," said Guzzo.

The arts organization also received funding from Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Arts, for general program support in 2022 through 2023 with \$90,000 for the nonprofit.

"These funds are crucial to our ability to offer multi-disciplinary arts programming for adults and youth," said Guzzo. "We will continue to offer local, national and international exhibitions, arts workshops, youth arts camps and other community-oriented events."

"As we wrap up the year, I am so grateful for the generosity of our grantors,

donors and members, along with adult and young students who place great importance on a place to create, understand and experience the arts."

First Coast Cultural Center is located at 3972 3rd St. South in Jacksonville Beach and in Nocatee at Care Connect+, located inside the Flagler Health+ Village at 351 Town Center Plaza, Suite 205 in Ponte Vedra.

Studio hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, with after-hour appointments available.

For further information, go to firstcoast-culturalcenter.org.

First Coast Opera to present 'Opéra Mystique' at Waterworks

"Opéra Mystique" is First Coast Opera's inaugural production at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., in uptown St. Augustine. This otherworldly program features staged performances of two short operas written and performed in English — Gustav Holst's "Sāvītri" and Gian Carlo Menotti's "The Medium," both offering poignant glimpses into how people confront and react to death. Tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com.

"Opéra Mystique" invokes mysticism and the afterlife to explore the idea that people believe what they want to believe. Small casts and a small orchestra will offer uniquely intimate experiences, both thought-provoking and dramatic.

"We are thrilled to produce this production in The Waterworks, an intimate venue for these short opera programs," said Curtis Tucker, First Coast Opera artistic director, and orchestra conductor for "Opéra Mystique."

Returning stage director Helena Binder ("Madama Butterfly," "La Traviata") leads this production.

In "Sāvītri," Holst, composer of the popular orchestral suite "The Planets," combines Eastern culture and Western musical elements to tell an ancient story about Death's claim upon a young man's soul and his wife's attempt to delay the inevitable. Holst uses strings and woodwinds to create an ethereal sound that



Contributed photos

The "The Medium" portion of "Opéra Mystique" features seances.

transports the audience to another realm.

Soprano Lisa Lockhart, tenor Eric Botto, bass-baritone Lloyd Reshard Jr. and dancer Christina Santos all return to First Coast Opera for this production.

"The Medium" by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Menotti recalls film noir in this tragic drama of seances and unexplained phenomena.

The work was performed on Broadway in 1947, representing the first major and international success for the composer best known for the Christmas opera

"Amahl and the Night Visitors." The story revolves around Madame Flora. Does she really help others communicate with departed loved ones or is she merely a shyster taking their money?

Former Metropolitan Opera singer Heidi Skok makes her FCO debut as Madame Flora, joined by Eric Botto as Toby and other FCO newcomers Kyaunnee Richardson as Monica, Cass Panuska and Torlef Borsting as Mr. and Mrs. Gobineau, and Laura Kimmel as Mrs. Nolan.

Tickets are \$40 for general admission;



"Opéra Mystique" explores otherworldly narratives.

and \$10 for students and children. Tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com or by calling 905-417-5555.

The Waterworks is available through the generosity of the City of St. Augustine and the St. Johns Cultural Council. This event is sponsored in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council and the St. Johns Cultural Council.

"Opéra Mystique"

Show dates and time:

- 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, and Saturday, Feb. 4
- 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5
- 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, and Saturday, Feb. 11
- 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12

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OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW

Watercolor artist Teresa Cook to be featured in exhibit

Historian to speak on Key West's Black history

First Coast Cultural Center and Florida Humanities will partner in an art exhibit and reception with Teresa Cook, a watercolor artist, as part of the Florida Talks program.

In commemoration of Black History Month, the event will be held 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, at Pawsitive Healing Mobility Center, 1617 Thacker Ave., Jacksonville. The event is free and open to the public. For more information and to RSVP, go to tinyurl.com/2reh8s6t.

The show theme, "Figuratively Seen," will feature Cook's watercolors and a talk by curator and historian Cori Convertito, Ph.D., titled "Shaping an Island: Key West's Black History." Convertito will discuss how Black settlers shaped the

island of Key West into what it is today, and what that has meant for the state of Florida. Convertito is lead historian at the Florida Keys History Center, and her presentation is made possible through Florida Talks.

The art exhibit will continue Feb. 10-28 at First Coast Cultural Center, 3972 3rd St. South in Jacksonville Beach.

Award-winning abstract architectural watercolor artist Teresa Cook was born and raised in Jacksonville and obtained her Bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. Her watercolor and ink paintings, often mini abstractions, are created on a smooth paper called "YUPO."

During the past decade, Cook has traveled to different countries, attending the 2019 Urban Sketchers Symposium in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and explor-

ing her native city. She finds pleasure in landscapes and buildings that have been created over time. Cook is an art instructor at multiple locations in the Jacksonville area, including First Coast Cultural Center, and her workshops are currently in session.

According to Cook, "Figuratively Seen" displays her unique form of self-expression, capturing the quick lines and loose watercolor style gained through her artistic journey.

"This show is meant to display artistic multi-dimensionality by portraying my style, growth and the path leading to now," she said. Cook owns Teresa Cook Art, which focuses on her watercolors, fabrics and clothing designs.

Convertito's presentation at the event on Feb. 3 will explore the contributions of Black Bahamians and Black Cubans

to the maritime industries of Key West. The influences of these skilled workers, including sailors, spongers, boat builders, cigar rollers and fishermen, have been marginalized, when their contributions were vital, valuable and integral.

The presentation looks at the diverse industries that the Black population impacted, and how these settlers shaped the island of Key West into what it is today and what that means for the state of Florida.

The Florida Talks program is a partnership between Florida Humanities and First Coast Cultural Center. Funding for this program was provided by Florida Humanities and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

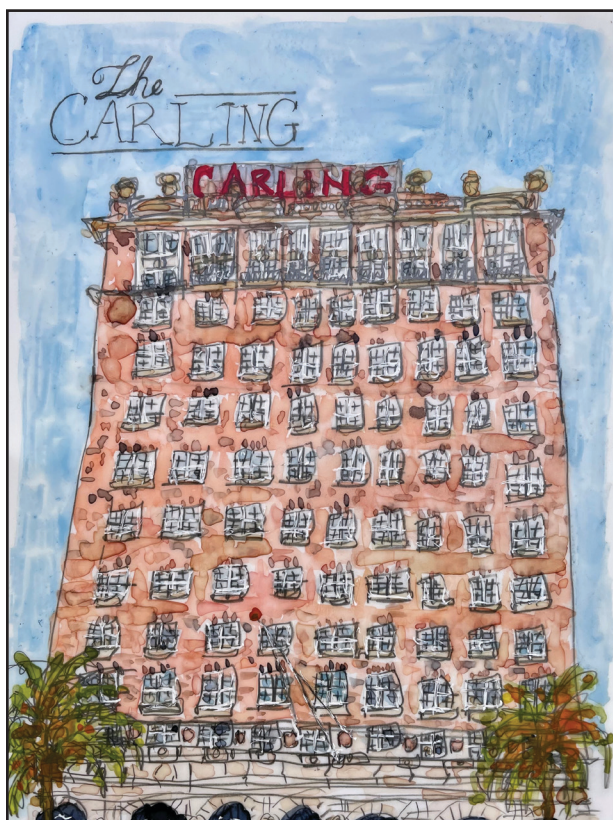


"St. Augustine Carousel," 2-by-3 feet, watercolor and ink on YUPO paper, 2022 by Teresa Cook



Artist Teresa Cook works in her studio.

Photos provided by First Coast Cultural Center



"The Carling," 5-by-7 inches, watercolor and pencil on YUPO paper, 2022 by Teresa Cook



"My Eli," 22-by-30 inches, watercolor, pencil and gold leaf, 2022 by Teresa Cook



Teresa Cook's work will be featured in "Figuratively Seen."



Iris DeMent



Bill and the Belles

Contributed photos



Robin and Linda Williams

Gamble Rogers headliners announced

The Gamble Rogers Folk Festival and the St. Johns Cultural Council have announced the headliners and ticket sales for the 27th annual festival celebrating the legacy of legendary troubadour Gamble Rogers, whose balladry and storytelling helped shape American folk music.

This year's event returns to the St. Johns County Fairgrounds on April 14-16 with four stages featuring performers including Iris DeMent, Bill and the Belles, Robin and Linda Williams, Richard Smith, Annie & the Hot Club, and Red and Chris Henry and Their All-Star Band.

Festival and camping passes may be purchased at gamblerogersfest.org.

The Gamble Rogers Folk Festival annually draws thousands of spectators

to hear singers, songwriters, storytellers and Americana acts who were influenced by Rogers' music. The music festival showcases dozens of national, regional and local musicians and storytellers. Food trucks and arts-and-crafts vendors will be available all weekend. Festival attendees have the option to stay and camp at the venue with advance reservations. Camping reservations must be made in advance and day-of festival tickets will be available at the gate.

Proceeds of the Gamble Rogers Folk Festival provide funds for youth music programs for school-aged children.

The 2023 Festival is funded in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.



Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts
Award Nominations are OPEN!

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6 - 8pm



For more information, visit:
www.firstcoastculturalcenter.org

ON STAGE

A roundup of musical acts appearing before Feb. 27 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.

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

- **Leo Kottke** — 8 p.m. Jan. 27
- **An Evening with Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra** — 8 p.m. Jan. 28
- **The Brit Pack** — 8 p.m. Jan. 29
- **Warren Zeiders** — With special guest Austin Snell. 8 p.m. Feb. 3
- **Tom Rush** — 8 p.m. Feb. 5
- **Dave Mason** — Endangered Species Tour 2023 — With special guest Thunderstorm Artis, 7 p.m. Feb. 6
- **Neko Case** — With special guest Indigo Sparke. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 7
- **Patty Griffin** — 8 p.m. Feb. 8
- **Jesse Dayton** — 8 p.m. Feb. 17
- **Jorma Kaukonen** — With David Bromberg. 7 p.m. Feb. 19
- **The Weight Band** — Featuring members of The Band and the Levon Helm Band. 8 p.m. Feb. 25
- **Man In Black** — Tribute to Johnny Cash — 8 p.m. Feb. 26

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1340C A1A South, St. Augustine

Box office hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays

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

Tickets may also be purchased at ticketmaster.com.

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

- **Willie Nelson & Family** — 8 p.m. Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26
- **The Beach Boys** — 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25

FORT MOSE HISTORICAL STATE PARK

15 Fort Mose Trail, St. Augustine

Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series. Tickets may be purchased at ticketmaster.com.

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

- **Mavis Staples** — 7 p.m. Feb. 10
- **Christian McBride's "New Jawn"** — 7 p.m. Feb. 11
- **Valerie June** — 3:25 p.m. Feb. 16
- **Gladys Knight** — 7 p.m. Feb. 17
- **Rhiannon Giddens** — 7 p.m. Feb. 18
- **Christone "Kingfish" Ingram** — With special guest Tinsley Ellis. 7 p.m. Feb. 19

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

the Weight Band
Shines Like Gold

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CONCERT HALL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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AT ST. AUGUSTINE AMPHITHEATRE BOX OFFICE OR ONLINE AT
WWW.PVCONCERTHALL.COM

Gospel Music legend Bill Gaither to perform in Jacksonville

Multi-Grammy Award winning recording artist Bill Gaither will present the Brighter The Light Tour to 20 cities this spring, bringing The Gaither Vocal Band to a dozen states throughout February, March, April and May. One of those stops will take place Feb. 10 at the Westside Baptist Church, 7775 Herlong Road, Jacksonville.

For nearly half a century, Gaither has been a musical trailblazer. His reputation as a performer, songwriter and mentor for newly discovered artists is known worldwide.

Taking the stage with Gaither and the Gaither Vocal Band, featuring Wes Hampton, Adam Crabb, Todd Suttles and Reggie Smith, will be popular female vocalist Ladye Love Smith and talented male vocalist Gene McDonald, as well as Gaither's musical entourage, comprised of Kevin Williams, Matthew Holt and Michael Rowsey.

The tour affords Gaither the opportunity

continue to share the message he has been proclaiming for more than six decades.

"You know this world has never been very stable," Gaither said, "and according to God's Word, it's not going to be stable. We are called to be God's people in the midst of an unstable culture. So the question is, how do we live out the power of love and grace? Do we really believe that love is the most powerful force on earth? Can we trust that the darker the night, the brighter the light? Our call is just simply to shine. The little song we learned in Sunday School was so, so true. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. I believe that message can change the world. The darker the night, the brighter the light."

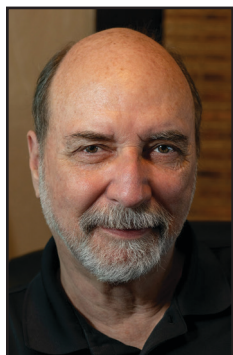
Tickets for the performance are on sale now. To purchase tickets or obtain additional details, go to gaither.com.



Contributed photo

The Gaither Vocal Band will perform Feb. 10 at Westside Baptist Church.

Romanza founder Albert Syeles wins international awards for original music



Albert Syeles

Albert Syeles, local entrepreneur, businessman and non-profit leader has been recognized for his original music and orchestration among a variety of international art and film festivals.

Syeles is the president and co-founder of Romanza — St. Augustine Inc., a nonprofit which produces St. Augustine's Romanza Festival of Music and The Arts, Celtic Music

& Heritage Festival and Highland games and the St. Patrick Parade. He is also president of St. Augustine's EpiCentre Alliance Inc., a nonprofit coalition that is preparing to build a performing arts center in the St. Augustine area.

Through his online and in-person collaborations with composers and musicians from around the world, Syeles was recently invited to enter his original compositions in a variety of festival competitions.

"With the unexpected and numerous successes, maybe my style is so old fashioned that current festival judges haven't heard anything like it," said Syeles.

Syeles and his composition, "Christa-

bel Rhapsody for Violin and Orchestra," won top honors at seven 2022 international festivals, including Toronto's Fusion Awards, International Art Festival of Future as Best Music Composer; the Las Vegas International Film & Screenwriting Festival for Best Film and Musical Score in the Stand-Alone category; Dreamz Catcher International Film Festival for Best Film Score Soundtrack; the International Motion Picture Festival of India for Best Original Score; Indo French International Film Festival for Best Original Score; Munich New Wave Short Film Festival for Best Film Score; and Roma Short Film Festival for Best Film Score, as well as an honorable men-

tion, second place, for Best Film Score at 2022 competitions in Tokyo, Zagreb and Rome.

Most recently, "Christabel" is an official selection at the New York Tri-State International Film Festival. To hear it, go to kompoz.com/music/listen/release/1235011.

Syeles was also awarded Honorable Mention Best Score in Seoul for his

piece, "Quietude, Jazz Rondo for Orchestra." To hear it, go to kompoz.com/music/collaboration/1238840

According to Syeles, his long-standing business and cultural relationship with St. Augustine

resident and music professional Kathleen Vande Berg helped to generate invitations to the various 2022 international festivals. In 2021, Vande Berg arranged for Syeles to present his music through visiting international concert pianists Catherine Lan and Tao Lin of Duo Beaux Arts and other chamber musicians during the 17-day Romanza Festival in May 2022.

"I am delighted about the recent musical score awards," said Syeles. "I believe my association with Duo Beaux Arts and the other Romanza Festival performers has created a viral interest in my music among young musicians. That's another example of Romanza's goal to showcase the talent of the local arts community."



Kathy Vande Berg

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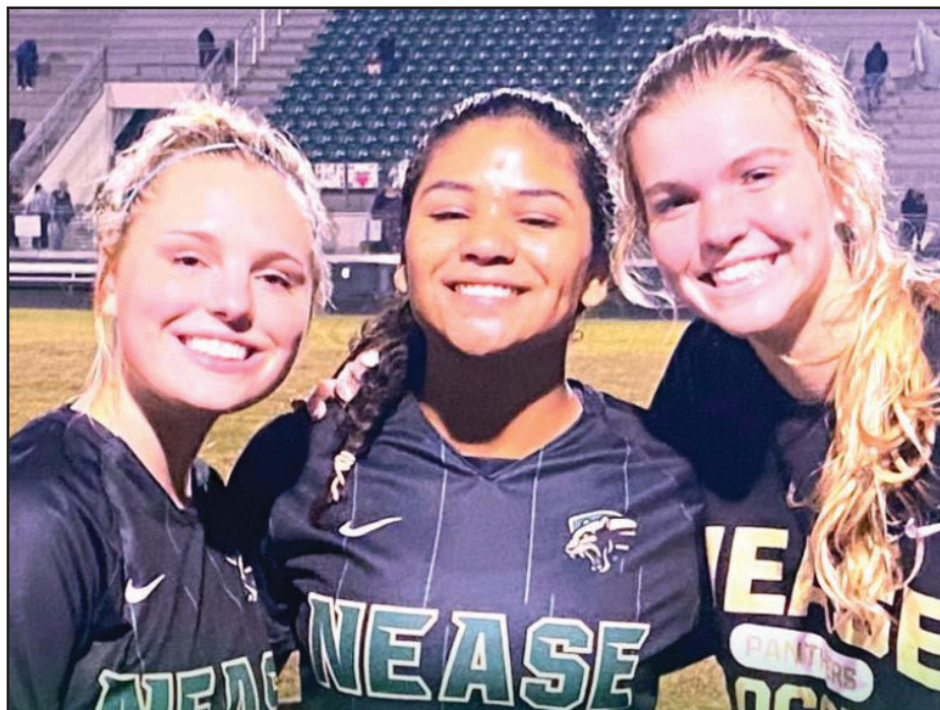


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The Nease girls soccer team was all smiles following a 5-0 win against Providence School on senior night.



Photos courtesy of Nease Athletics

Brogan Donnelly has been a senior leader all season for the Panthers.

Scoring senior night style

Nease soccer sweeps senior nights with combined 10 goals

By Anthony Richards

The Nease girls and boys soccer teams both continued their successful seasons and did so by capturing a pair of wins on senior night.

The girls squad finished off a commanding 5-0 victory against Providence School Jan. 18, while the boys scored five goals of their own and defeated Fernan-

dina Beach High 5-1 a night earlier.

Three players netted the five goals for the girls (10-4-2), including seniors Ava Surae and Caitlynn Shonk both adding to the already memorable night with goals.

Shonk found the back of the net twice and Surae added one, while junior Kate Perry put in a pair of goals as well.

The shutout was the fifth of the season for the Panthers and the first since a Dec. 8 contest against Middleburg.

For the boys (8-3-4), they grabbed an early 3-1 lead at halftime and never looked back with two more goals in the second half en route to a comfortable



senior night victory of their own.

Senior Arijan Batovac made the most of his night with two goals and an assist in the game.

Helping in the offensive onslaught were fellow seniors Brogan Donnelly and Charn Letbetter, who each had a goal apiece, while Donnelly also provided an assist.

Letbetter and Batovac each led the team with five shots on goal against the Pirates, and junior Ryan Chacon also put the ball in the net.

The Panthers excelled defensively as well, only letting one goal slip through on the night.

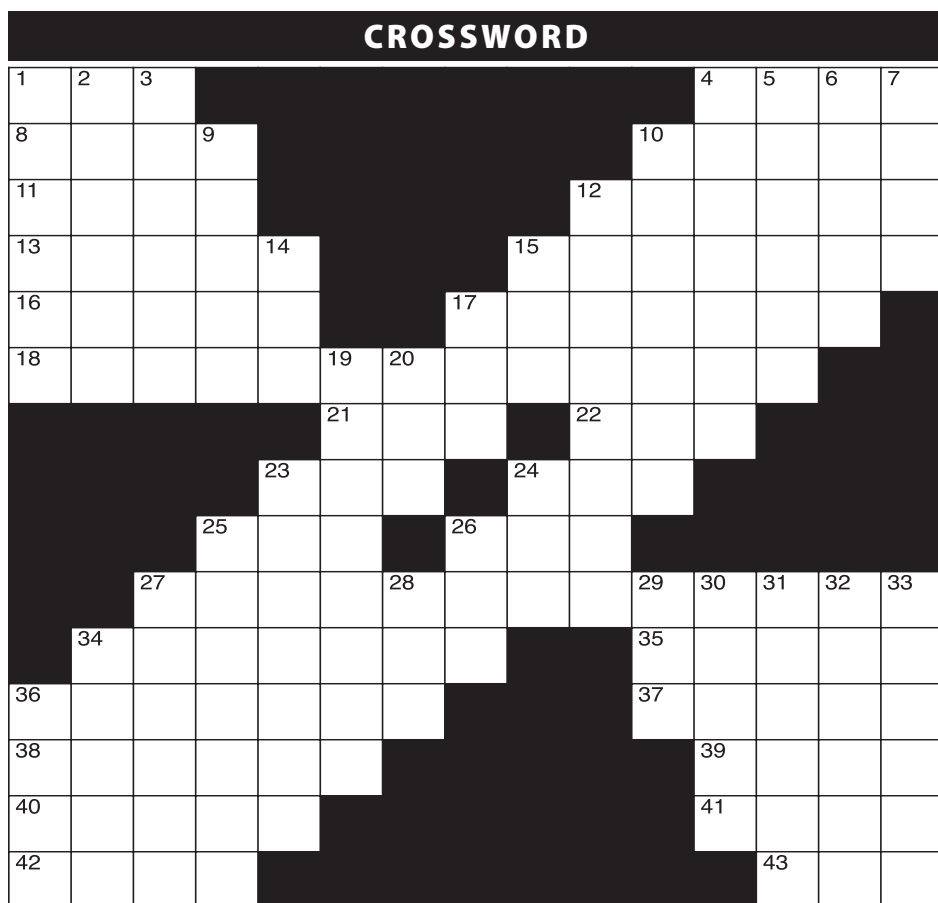
Senior Santiago Garcia led the way for the Panthers with 20 steals, while fellow senior Jacob True was right there with him and finished with 19 steals.



Jacob True had a memorable senior night with 19 steals in the game.



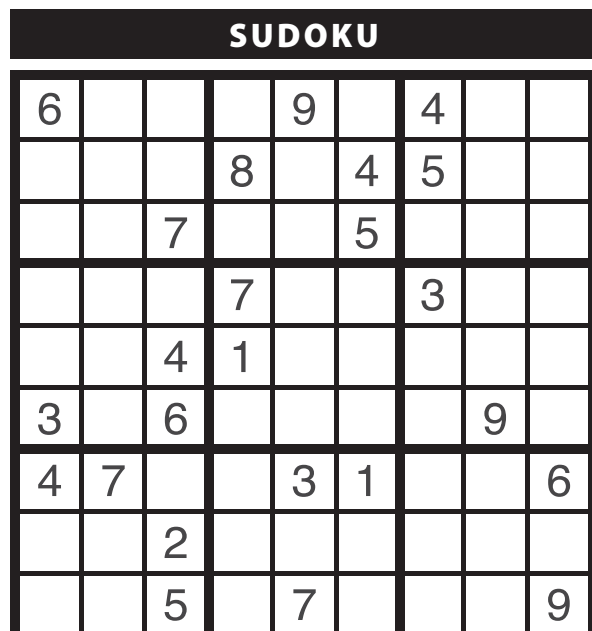
The shutout was the fifth of the season for the Nease girls soccer team.



- ACROSS**
- Tax collector
 - It's at the back of the eyeball
 - Where things stand
 - Fishes without the line touching water
 - Offered
 - Brooklyn hoopsters
 - Contains pollen
 - Actress Lathan
 - Boisterous get-together
 - A metric for athletes
 - Asserts out loud
 - They're in the sky
 - Food storage location
 - Canonized
 - Colossus
 - A politician's official stances
 - Accustom to something unpleasant
 - It can catch fish
 - ___ Kubrick, filmmaker
 - British thermal unit
 - You might ask this at Thanksgiving
 - Helps little firms
 - Arkansas city
 - Where patients go for treatment
 - Gave food to
 - Request
 - V-shaped open trough
 - Make lively
 - Blonde bombshell
 - It accompanies feather
 - One who revolves
 - Bluish greens
 - Charity
 - Having the shape of a cube
 - Unwind
 - Believed by some to be the supreme being
 - Checks or guides
 - Leak slowly through
 - Top-quality
 - Midway between south and southeast

- Large red deer
- Pokes holes in
- "Star Wars" hero Solo
- One in a hospital
- Scandinavian god of battle
- Famous cat
- ___ Angeles: City of Angels
- Type of drug (abbr.)
- City along the Rhine
- Animal disease
- Martini ingredients
- Get away
- Rare species of rodent
- Suppress

- DOWN**
- Part of your foot



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!



Photo courtesy of JAGA

Brock Healy won the 2023 JAGA First Coast Amateur by one shot.

Clutch putting helps Healy win 2023 First Coast Amateur

Kennesaw State University graduate student Brock Healy birdied three of the last five holes to overtake Norway's Mats Ege (pronounced "egg") and claim the seventh edition of the Jacksonville Amateur Golf Association's First Coast Amateur by one shot at Hidden Hills Golf Club in Jacksonville on Jan. 16.

The Norcross, Georgia, resident and sports management major posted the tournament's lowest score of 65 to take the title. He began the final round one back of Ege, who shot 67 on the day.

Healy's five-foot birdie putt on No. 17 put him in the lead by one after Ege came up short from 20 feet on his birdie attempt. The Norwegian had one more attempt to tie Healy with a 12-footer for birdie on No. 18 but missed, and Healy tapped in for par and the win.

Ege, a redshirt sophomore at East Tennessee State University, opened with rounds of 70 and 69 to Healy's 71 and 69 to grab a one-shot lead.

Despite back-and-forth swings over the final 18 holes, the lead was never more than one in either player's favor. The duo was tied at 7-under at the turn. Healy finished 11-under and Ege at 10-under.

Ege was seeking to join Trevor Hulbert (2021) as the second ETSU golfer to capture the First Coast Amateur. He came to Jacksonville 157th in the World Amateur Golf Ranking. Two weeks ago, he finished T15 in the Jones Cup at Sea Island, Georgia.

Making a very strong defense of his 2022 First Coast Amateur title was Ty Gingerich of the University of Cincinnati, who posted rounds of 74-70-68—212 (4-under) to finish third. The junior finance major has now played in all seven First Coast Amateur tournaments.

Healy's 205 total (11-under) was two shots shy of the tournament record of 13-under-par set by the event's first winner Brandon Mancheno at Amelia National Golf and Country Club.

The winning scores for the first two events played at Hidden Hills were 220 (4-over) by Cole Bradley in 2018 and 218 (2-over) by Stephen Shephard in 2019.

A pair of Jacksonville-area high school seniors, Carson Brewer (Ponte Vedra High/FSU commit) and Chase Carroll (Middleburg High/UNF commit), had impressive T13 showings.

With final round 67s, Sam Nicholson of Atlantic Beach (T8) and 16-year-old Nolan Harper of St. Augustine and Beachside High School (T16) joined Ege in posting the second-lowest score of the tournament.

Competitors dealt with cold temperatures barely reaching 50 degrees during the first round that were accompanied by winds of 15 to 20 mph.

The temperature rose and the winds subsided the last two days making things relatively comfortable for the players. The average score per round was 80.73 in the first round; 76.13 in the second round; and 73.51 in the final round.

Players from 23 states and 39 colleges/universities were entered, with 13 countries represented. Purdue University topped the field with 10 players.

Top finishers in the JAGA First Coast Amateur receive World Amateur Golf Ranking points for the seventh year.

With the First Coast Amateur's return to Jacksonville after three years at The Conservatory in Palm Coast, the City of Jacksonville's sports and entertainment division came on board as the tournament sponsor.

The First Coast Amateur was sponsored and conducted by JAGA, which annually promotes Jacksonville's top-level amateur competitions and has since 1954. It is the only JAGA-run event that is promoted nationally and features multiple state and national participants.

Complete tournament results and other information can be found by going to jax-areagolf.org.

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Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
IN RE: ESTATE OF DONALD ARTHUR RAHLFS, Deceased.
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 2022 CP 802A
Division:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of Donald Arthur Rahlfs, deceased, whose date of death was August 23, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for St. Johns County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 2022 CP 802A. The names and addresses of the personal representatives and the personal representatives' attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is January 26, 2023.

Attorney for Personal Representatives: Personal Representatives:

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 Florida Bar No. 0044582
 WALDOCH & MCCONNAUGHAY, P.A.
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 Tallahassee, FL 32308
 Telephone: 850-385-1246
 E-Mail: amy@mclawgroup.com
 Secondary Email: lori@mclawgroup.com

Jeff Rahlfs
 1543 Frankfort Street
 San Diego, CA 92110

Stacey Ferguson
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