

THE RECORDER



March 16, 2023
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\$1.00

Serving Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, The Beaches and Greater St. Johns County

PonteVedraRecorder.com



All About Pets
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entertainment EXTRA!
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Jonathan A. Gibbs
State Farm

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



Photo by Craig O'Neal

Scottie Scheffler grabbed complete control of the 2023 PLAYERS Championship down the stretch and claimed victory by shooting 17-under and winning by five strokes. *Read the full story in Sports on page 52.*

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Hugh Osteen

COO/VP
hugh@osteenmediagroup.com
(904) 285-8831

Susan Griffin

Publisher
susan@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 686-3938

Shaun Ryan

Editor
shaun@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1202

Anthony Richards

Reporter
anthony@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1207

Don Coble

Contributor
don@claytodayonline.com

Amber Anderson

Page/Graphic Designer
amber@pontevedrarecorder.com

April Snyder

Sales Assistant
april@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1204

Kristin Flanagan

Account Executive
kristin@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1206

Adele McGraw

Account Executive
adele@pontevedrarecorder.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1208

Debbie Apple

Account Executive
debbie@osteenmediagroup.com
(904) 285-8831

Joe Wilhelm

Circulation Manager
joe@osteenmediagroup.com
(904) 300-5374

Subscription Rates, Bulk Mail:

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BRIEFS

Cynthia Ware appointed to local board

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted to appoint Cynthia Ware to the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board on Tuesday, March 7. Her term expires March 7, 2027. The appointment was made to fill a vacancy created with the expired term of John Lynch. Lynch had been appointed in December 2018.

The board serves as the local land planning agency for the Ponte Vedra Zoning District. It is an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners.

Literary event planned

The Friends of the Library, Ponte Vedra Beach's Speaker Series continues at 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at Crosswater Hall in Nocatee, 245 Nocatee Center Way. Seven local authors will participate in a symposium where they will present their books and talk about their lives as an author.

The seven authors are Vic DiGenti, Sohrab Homi Fracis, Ed Mickolaus, Nancy Quatrano, Elisabeth Randall, Kate Stollenwerck and Eleanor Tremayne.

Call 904-273-3990 and leave both your name and telephone number to register.

Books will be available for purchase and the program is free and open to the public.

Employers encouraged to host summer interns

CareerSource Northeast Florida is recruiting regional employers to serve as job sites for 16-to-19-year-olds as part of its CHOICES Youth Summer Internship Program.

The CHOICES internship program will take place this summer from June 5 to July 14, and companies can request a single intern or as many

as the company needs. This career exploration program for students is available to any business located in St. Johns, Duval, Baker, Clay, Nassau or Putnam counties.

CareerSource NEFL will pay a stipend to the intern and will pay for the student's transportation, if needed. In addition, CareerSource NEFL will match the interns to worksites throughout Northeast Florida and manage the students and their schedules.

Employers wanting to participate are asked to email youthservices@careersourcenefl.com by Monday, March 20. They can also call 904-356-5627, extension 2240, for more information.

Mutt Market set for April 8

The Jacksonville Humane Society invites pet owners and pet lovers to sip, shop and play at the organization's third annual Mutt Market. There will be a local vendor market, food trucks, a \$10 pet supply fill-a-bag, doggie splash pads, a silent auction, raffle and more. Adoptions will be free all day.

Attendees are welcome to bring their dogs to the event, though all animals must remain on their leashes while on site.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 8 at 8464 Beach Blvd. To register for tickets or to learn more, go to jaxhumane.org/muttmarket.

There is no cost to attend, but donations to support homeless dogs and cats in the community are appreciated. Those who cannot attend in person can still bid on items in the online Mutt Market auction, which is already open to everyone.

To learn more about the Jacksonville Humane Society, go to jaxhumane.org or call 904-725-8766.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Food drive to benefit Feeding Northeast Florida

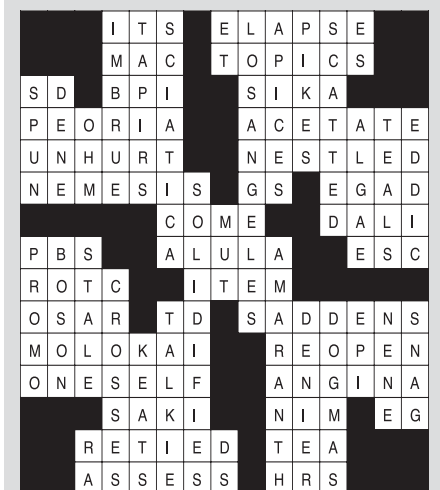
The Northeast Florida Division of PulteGroup in partnership with Innovative Construction Group (ICG) is planning a food drive to benefit Feeding Northeast Florida. Through March 31, PulteGroup and ICG are collecting donations of nonperishable food items at their Northeast Florida offices.

Donations are being accepted at the following Pulte Homes and Del Webb sales offices, and ICG's locations:

- Del Webb Nocatee, 73 Glenhurst Ave., Ponte Vedra
- Del Webb eTown, 11246 Town View Drive, Jacksonville
- Bradley Pond, 4604 Clapboard Crossing Way, Jacksonville
- Preserve at Bannan Lakes, 205 Cedar Preserve Lane, St Augustine
- PulteGroup Division Office, 12724 Gran Bay Pkwy. West, Suite 200, Jacksonville
- ICG Office, 5216 Shad Road, Jacksonville

Food banks often need items like: peanut butter; pancake mix; cereal; granola bars; powdered milk; pasta; rice; nuts; crackers; canned soup/stew; instant mashed potatoes; canned fruit, vegetables and beans; canned fish/meat; formula; diapers/wipes; and baby food/food pouches (check expiration).

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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

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Clerk's office to hold Passport Saturday event on April 1

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller will hold a special Passport Saturday event from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. April 1 at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. The extended business hours make applying for a passport more convenient for those seeking to travel this upcoming season.

"We recognize the challenges of working adults and parents to coordinate schedules for a passport and hope this event makes the process that much more convenient," said Clerk of Courts and Comptroller Brandon J. Patty. "Holding a special Saturday event is an additional offering from us to provide world-class customer service to residents."

The Clerk's Office's recording department will be open on April 1 to accept and review applications for first-time passports or new passports for those whose previous passport was issued more than 15 years ago, minors under age 16, or anyone whose passport was lost, stolen or damaged.

Other passports must be renewed by mail using Form DS-82, which is available at stjohnsclerk.com/passports.

Anyone, including infants, traveling internationally must have a passport

book, and every applicant for a new passport must appear in person, regardless of age.

Adults must bring a valid driver's license or state identification card. If your identification was issued within the last six months, a second form of identification is required. You must also bring an original or certified copy of your birth certificate or consular birth abroad certificate with the name of both parents listed and, if applicable, a previously issued, non-damaged passport or passport card or naturalization certificate.

Children 15 years old or younger must be accompanied by both parents or legal guardians. For 16- or 17-year-olds, one parent or guardian needs to be present.

Two separate forms of payment are needed for each application. A personal check, money order, or cashier's check made payable to the U.S. Department of State for the passport fees, and a separate form of payment for the \$35 execution fee for the St. Johns County Clerk of Court. The Clerk's office accepts cash, money order, check and

credit cards for their fees.

Passport photos will be available to the public for \$10.65. You may use your own photo if it meets U.S. Department of State's guidelines.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the current processing times for routine is between eight and 11 weeks and expedited service is between five and seven weeks.

For more information and details on what is required, go to <https://travel.state.gov> or call the Clerk's Office Recording Department at 904-819-3632.

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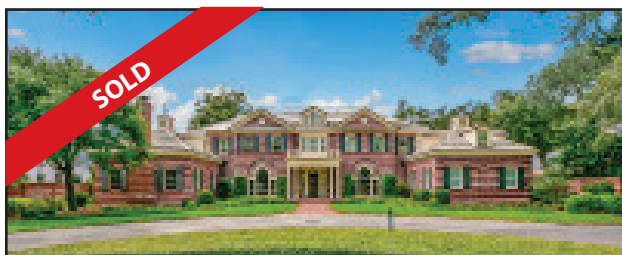


Mandarin Riverfront Estate

Stunning 5.81 acre riverfront estate in Mandarin with 159ft of water frontage offering expansive views of the St Johns River.

The neo-classical designed home, with identical front and rear elevations, offers elegant finishes throughout.

3 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, 2 Half Bathrooms \$2,200,000



San Jose Riverfront Estate

Incredible doesn't begin to describe this gorgeous 3 story all brick riverfront estate home. Current owners custom built in 2003. Designed by well known Architect Richard Skinner. Gorgeous live oaks and lush landscape drape the more than 3 acres situated on a high bluff lot spanning 190' of St. Johns River Frontage

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Oceanfront Home on Ponte Vedra Blvd.

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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Sarah@SarahAlexander.net
beachshomes.com

Elizabeth Hudgins, REALTOR®
904.553.2032 cell
Elizabeth@ElizabethHudgins.com
beachshomes.com



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

Hibiscus

"A flower blossoms for its own joy." — Oscar Wilde

By Kathy Esfahani



The vivid colors of hibiscus blooms add a tropical feel to any landscape! These fast-growing plants are available as shrubs or small trees and produce flowers that range from 2 to 12 inches in diameter. Their trumpet-shaped blooms feature colors of red, pink, orange, yellow, peach and white. Although blooms may only last one to three days, hibiscus plants can flower prolifically throughout a long, spring through fall, growing season.

When considering hibiscus plants for your landscape, look for areas of full sun. These plants can tolerate partial shade as long as they receive at least six hours of direct sunlight. If your hibiscus is not producing many flowers, try relocating it into a sunnier area to encourage blooming. Although hibiscus plants prefer well-drained soil that partially dries out between waterings, be sure to water regularly to help the plant produce as many flowers as possible. It may even be necessary to water a hibiscus daily — or twice a day! — during the hottest



Hibiscus plants in a landscape

summer temperatures.

Hibiscus plants are considered either hardy or tropical. Hardy hibiscus plants can survive in cooler climates where winter temperatures drop below zero. In these areas, the shrub will die back during the cold months but then reappear with warmer spring temperatures. Tropical hibiscus plants prefer climates here in North Florida's planting zone 9 and areas further south. These heat-loving plants thrive in locations with average temperatures over 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

The hibiscus flower is a symbol of beauty, grace, and happiness. The extract made from these blooms is known for therapeutic uses, including reducing blood pressure, detoxifying the body and strengthening healing skin. Tea made from hibiscus flowers can ease a sore throat or cough. Extracts from hibiscus blooms can also increase metabolism and are, therefore, sometimes used to aid weight loss. Finally, hibiscus is found as

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

Flower of the Week



Hibiscus

an ingredient in shampoos and conditioners due to chemicals in the blossoms that support healthy, shiny hair.

The bold colors of hibiscus flowers add interest to any area of a landscape. These plants are useful as a focal point, as background plants or as an informal hedge. They are successful in both garden beds and containers. Add hibiscus plants to your outdoor living area to display an abundance of brightly colored blooms that attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds!

Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Hibiscus

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.



MARCH 30–APRIL 9, 2023

2023 ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

- 3/30 Charlotte Sands, X Ambassadors
- 3/31 Cooper Alan, Niko Moon
- 4/1 Shane Profitt, Chris Janson
- 4/2 Tracy Lawrence, Cumberland
- 4/3 Casting Crowns, We Are Messengers, Ben Fuller
- 4/4 Lily Rose, Ashley McBryde
- 4/5 Concert 2pm: Jimmy Fortune, Bradley Walker, Mike Rogers & Ben Isaacs
- 4/7 Silent Disco Goat Party 8pm
- 4/8 Tractor Pulls 8pm
- 4/9 Tractor Pulls 3pm

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Visit UFHealthJax.org/east to learn more.

After growing up in the area, Linda George was looking for a way to give back to her local community, and as a lover of golf, she turned to THE PLAYERS. She celebrated her 50th anniversary as a volunteer at THE PLAYERS, with 27 years at the hospitality zone located at the famed No. 17 at TPC Sawgrass. Although she now calls the 17th hospitality zone her volunteer home during the championship, she has also worked on several various other committees and roles throughout the years. She enjoys the time she spends each year with her volunteer family at THE PLAYERS.

Linda George

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us about your background and where you are from.

My entire family was born in Jacksonville, and we later moved to St. Augustine.

What led you to get involved with THE PLAYERS?

I wanted to get involved in a community service and as a longtime lover of golf, I just knew THE PLAYERS was a perfect opportunity.

What have your roles as a volunteer been over the years, and have they changed?

I have had the pleasure of serving on several committees over the years from working in leaderboards, the media center, special events, communications and three senior tournaments. I now have 27 years chairing the 17th hospitality zone.

What do you enjoy most about the experience year after year?

What I love the most is seeing returning volunteers and returning clients, many who have become lifetime friends over the years.

I believe you help with hospitality at No. 17. What is the interaction like with those attending during tournament week?

Our interaction is very important to ensure that our clients and their guests have a good time and take back wonderful memories of their week at THE PLAYERS and their stay in our area.

The volunteers at THE PLAYERS seem like a fun group. What is it like working side by side with your fellow volunteers?

We are more than a fun group; we are a Family. We support and respect each committee's duties and when needed are always there to assist others.

What is amazing to me, is living in the same city and rarely seeing each other until tournament week.

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

For me, it's my family! I love our weather, our beautiful beaches and enjoying the Jaguars' experience.

What do you like to do in your free time for fun?

I love to play mahjong, backgammon, and enjoy taking mini travel excursions.



Photo courtesy of THE PLAYERS

Linda George has been a volunteer at THE PLAYERS for 50 years, 27 of those spent at the 17th hospitality zone.

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PARTNERS



Contributed photos



Cindy Cooper and Ron Autrey



Diane Bailey and Andrea Williams



Nicole Thomas and Linda Tuschinski

Celebrity Chefs tasting luncheon and silent auction set for March 23

HIDDEN PLASTIC: SKIP THE DISPOSABLE WIPES



Most wet wipes are cotton woven with plastic resins & can take 100+ years to break up into microplastics!

Flushable wipes have become a huge issue in our city sewers systems with the plastic wipes creating massive blockages.

Plant-based wipes, Baby wipes, Face wipes, Disinfecting wipes, Sanitizing wipes & makeup removing wipes too are likely made with plastic!

What can you do?
Think REUSABLE!
Try washcloths & Rags

What do you get when you mix the culinary talent of local business and community leaders, fold in a fabulous silent auction and sprinkle it with fun, friends and entertainment? You have the perfect recipe for an unforgettable celebration benefiting some of our community's most vulnerable.

"We all have those long-held favorite dishes that make our mouth water," said Celebrity Chef Chair Cindy Cooper. "Whether it is a time-honored family recipe that is the centerpiece of every holiday celebration or that never-fail appetizer or dessert that has your guest raving and asking for your recipe, this year's lineup of Celebrity Chefs have brought a little of both to the culinary table."

This year's Celebrity Chefs include: award-winning chef Virginia Anthony, CEO and founder of Autrey Holdings LLC Ron Autrey, Genesa Reimbursement Group executive Noble Beckwith, Jacksonville City Council President Terrence E. Freeman Sr., Vice President of Hakimian Holdings Paige Hakimian, President and CEO of CSX Corp. Joe Hinrichs, VyStar Credit Union Chief Human Resources Officer Kawanza Humphrey, WJCT producer and talk show host Melissa Ross, Jacksonville Sharks owner Rob Storm, President and CEO Baptist Medical Center Downtown Nicole Thomas and Florida Blue Senior Corporate Social Responsibility Integrator Andrea Williams.

This Jacksonville legacy event benefits



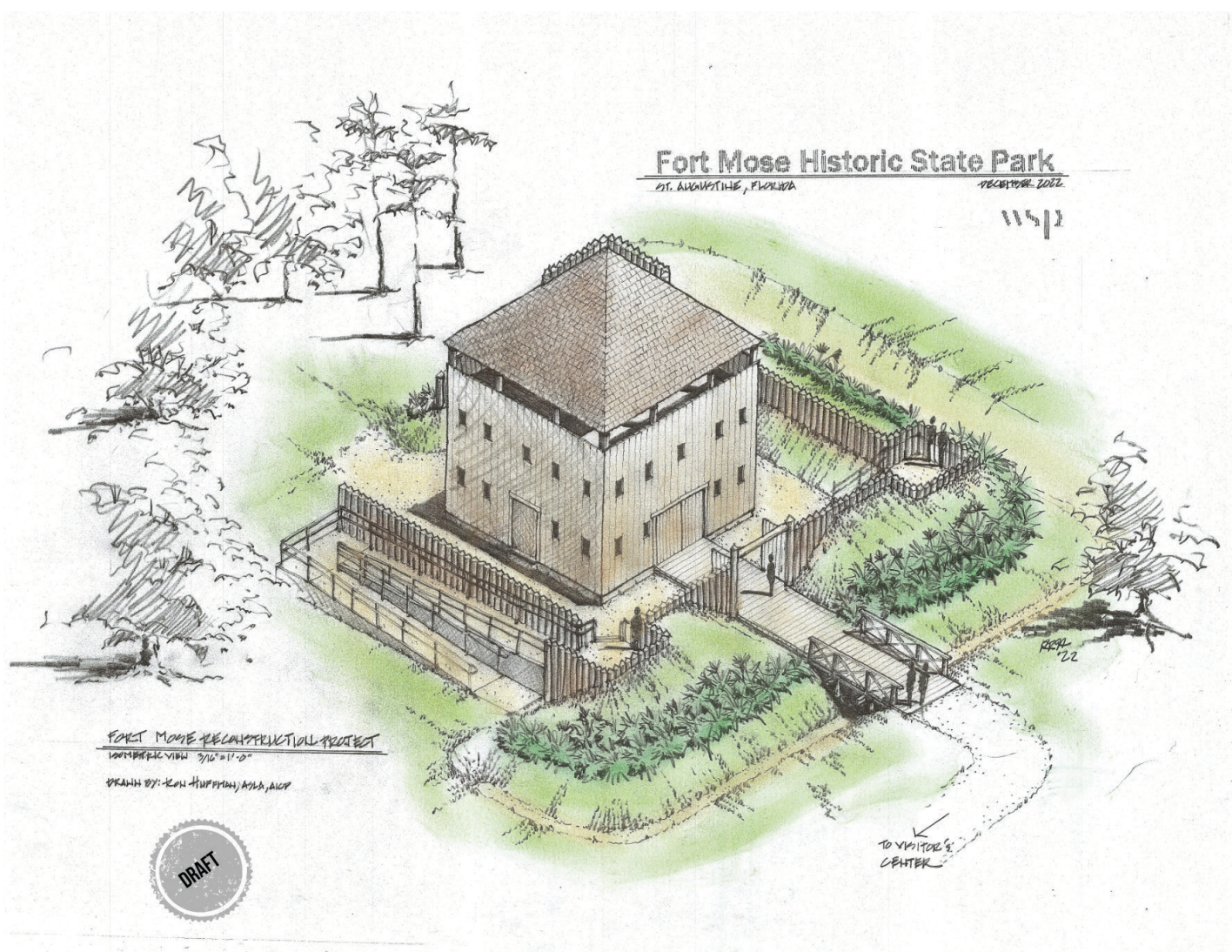
Cindy Cooper, Ron Autrey and NeeCee Lee

the multitude of services and resources. The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida delivers to thousands of families and individuals year-round, including emergency financial assistance, rehabilitation for those suffering with substance abuse issues to clothing, food and shelter and more.

"This event is put together entirely through the efforts of an amazing group of women that are members of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary," Cooper said. "When you attend the event and take in the magnitude of it all — the attention to detail and the flawless execution — you won't believe it is overseen by all volun-

teers, recognized by their red Salvation Army aprons. I have been blessed to have worked alongside a truly talented and dedicated team of volunteers who have given so much of their time and talent to make sure this event is a memorable experience for everyone — chefs and guests alike."

The event will be held on March 23 at the Prime F. Osborn Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Silent auction opens at 10:30 a.m. Sponsorships are still available and tickets can be purchased by calling Darlene Uhler-Batiste, Salvation Army special events coordinator at 904-301-4841. For sponsorship information, contact NeeCee Lee at 904-612-5216.



This rendering was recently released, showing plans for the reconstruction of Fort Mose.

Architectural renderings for 1738 Fort Mose reconstruction unveiled

Fort Mose Historic State Park — America’s first site of freedom — has taken a major step toward realizing the dream of reconstructing the 1738 Fort Mose on park property in St. Augustine.

The Florida State Parks Foundation, in conjunction with partners from the Florida State Parks, the Fort Mose Historical Society and Drs. Kathleen Deagan and Jane Landers, recently unveiled a draft architectural rendering of the 1738 Fort Mose.

Groundbreaking for the life-sized, full-scale reconstruction is scheduled for fall 2023, with completion anticipated in early 2024.

“Seeing this draft rendering for the first time takes your breath away,” said Julia Gill Woodward, CEO of the Florida State Parks Foundation. “This project has been a dream for many years, and it’s incredibly exciting to get the first glimpse of what it will look like when completed.”

Fort Mose was the site of the first legally sanctioned free African settlement in what is now the United States. In 1738, the Spanish governor of Florida chartered the settlement of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, or Fort Mose, as a place for formerly enslaved people fleeing from the English colonies in the Carolinas. Their only stipulations were to declare al-

legiance to the king of Spain and join the Catholic Church.

The Fort Mose Historical Society set a goal to reconstruct a representation of Fort Mose in the mid-1990s. The project accelerated in 2022 when the foundation earned a competitive grant of \$933,500 from the Florida African American Cultural and Historical Grants Program to aid in construction costs.

The foundation also secured \$250,000 in matching funds from Florida State Parks, the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation, Florida Blue, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and St. Johns County.

“We love hosting visitors at Fort Mose Historic State Park, but people are always asking, ‘So, where is the fort?’” said Charles Ellis, president of the Fort Mose Historical Society. “Fort Mose has one of the most inspiring and fascinating stories in our nation’s history, and having this reconstruction on site will help us to share it in a fresh, comprehensive way. We can’t wait to see it finished.”

The Fort Mose site was acquired by the state of Florida in 1989 and was designated a National Historic Landmark and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. In addition to a museum and visitor center, the 41-acre park also

offers opportunities for kayaking and canoeing, wildlife viewing and picnicking.

“Fort Mose is one of our state’s most significant cultural resources, and the fort replica will help us tell the story of this historic place,” said Chuck Hatcher, director of Florida State Parks. “This is all coming together as the result of years of determination from many different people, and we are grateful to see everyone’s hard work and dedication paying off in such an amazing way.”

The Florida State Parks Foundation, founded in 1993 as Friends of Florida State Parks and renamed in 2018, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to support and help sustain the Florida Park Service, its 175 award-winning parks and trails, local Friends groups and more than 20,000 park volunteers.

It does this through programs that preserve and protect state parks, educate visitors about the value of state parks, encourage community engagement and active use of state parks, and advocacy. This project is being completed through the Florida State Parks Foundation Services LLC, which is a limited liability company affiliate of the foundation.

The volunteer board of directors represents private and public sectors as well as local and statewide interests.

Fact Sheet: The History of Fort Mose

Did you know?

- Fort Mose was the first legally sanctioned free Black community within the present boundaries of the United States. Fort Mose Historic State Park is now a National Historic Landmark and a Site of Memory of the UNESCO Slave Route Project.
- Fort Mose (pronounced “Moh- say”) was established in 1738 as a military and residential community, guarding the northern boundary of Spanish St. Augustine.
- Fort Mose men and women escaped enslavement on British plantations. Along their perilous journey to St. Augustine they were often aided by Native peoples, thus forging an early Underground Railroad that ran south.

Background

- St. Augustine was the first permanent Spanish settlement within the present-day United States, established in 1565. Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement, established in 1607.
- The first freedom seekers reached St. Augustine in 1687. This group included eight men, two women and a nursing child, traveling by dugout canoe.
- In 1693, King Charles II of Spain issued a royal proclamation granting liberty to all freedom seekers who would accept the Catholic religion. Spanish Florida would benefit from the specialized skills that freedom seekers had acquired within Africa and while on British plantations. Additionally, a steady loss of enslaved workers weakened the British plantation economy.

Fort Mose History

- **1687:** The first group of freedom seekers arrives in St. Augustine.
- **1738:** Fort Mose is established on St. Augustine’s northern border.
- **1740:** British troops launch a month-long siege of St. Augustine. Allied Spanish and Native forces and Fort Mose free Black militia win the Battle of Bloody Mose, although, during the battle, the fort is destroyed. The siege is lifted after reinforcements arrive from Cuba, and St. Augustine remains under Spanish control.
- **1740:** Fort Mose citizens move into town, living peacefully among local Spanish and Native residents.
- **1752:** Fort Mose is rebuilt, close to the original site.
- **1763:** England gains control of Spanish St. Augustine, upon conclusion of the Seven Years War. Most citizens of Fort Mose and St. Augustine evacuate to Cuba.

OBITUARIES

Sheila Elaine Freeman

Born on December 31, 1954, in Chambersburg, PA, she was the daughter of the late Richard and Gladys Haines Cramer. She was mother to Brandon (Sara) Franco, Joseph Anthony (Ana) Franco III, Benjamin Franco, and Lindsey Franco (Chris) Lockwood. Grandmother to Cody Lockwood, Sebastian Lockwood, Liev Franco, Emma Franco, Julian Franco, Joseph Anthony Franco IV, Will Morgan, Jacob Harmon, and Reese Harmon.

Sheila is also survived by five sisters, Gwenda Rotz, Bonita (John Glass) Nalewak, Beverly Conner, all of Chambersburg; Denise (Robert) Brennan of Saxton, PA, Valerie Singley of N. Charleston, SC, two brothers, Stephen (Mary) Cramer of Chambersburg and Richard Cramer of Anchorage, AK, and several nieces and nephews.

She served in the U.S. Air Force, National Guard, and Reserves for 26 years before going back to earn her bachelor's from UNF and her Masters in Social Work from FSU. She went on to work at the Jacksonville Woman's Center, the VA Center of Jacksonville, and helped countless members of the Northeast Florida community.

She passed away peacefully on December 26th, 2022. There will be a Celebration of Life service on Friday, May 19, 2023, at 10 a.m., in the Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church.

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

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Dina Tressa Franzino

Dina Tressa Franzino, age 62, of Jacksonville, Florida, peacefully departed this life on Friday, November 11th, 2022, after a courageous battle with lung cancer.

Dina worked as a hairdresser for more than forty years in the Beaches & Mandarin area and was cherished by her clientele, many of whom she knew for the entirety of her career. Dina loved to travel, go deep-sea fishing, and spend time with family and friends. She was also an avid and valued member of a number of pool leagues she played in, while winning many tournaments in Jacksonville and in Las Vegas.

As a result of her generous spirit and fun personality, Dina was loved by all. She was spontaneous and bold, and brought others together, while never meeting a stranger. She was also fiercely compassionate about the animals in her care and often fostered pets in need.

Dina was preceded in death by her mother, Patricia "Toni" Harper. She is survived by her beloved father, Peter Franzino (wife, Cheryl); her brother Gino Cannon (wife, Jenny); three nieces, Karigan, Emily, and Jenna-Faith; her nephew, Chad; and several close



friends who were fondly also known as her Sisters!
Her beautiful life will forever be cherished by her family and friends.



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Joseph answers questions pertaining to GATE building projects

By Anthony Richards

St. Johns County commissioner Krista Joseph was on hand at the Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District meeting March 13 to answer questions and concerns residents had.

A large majority of the questions pertained to the recently proposed plans to renovate and expand on the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club property and the property where the new GATE gas station and car wash are being built along State Road A1A and the plans for the property behind it, which had been clear cut.

Joseph encouraged residents to email her concerns they may have so that she can then pass those concerns along to her fellow commissioners and work toward getting necessary changes that may be needed.

“You have to show what you want, and a lot of the times they will listen,” Joseph said. “Right now it’s not coming to a vote, but I know we’re all concerned.”

According to Joseph, the hope is to have a community meeting of some sort

either at the Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library or another large enough space where a public forum could be held to give residents the chance to talk with representatives from the GATE Petroleum Company, who own the land.

Joseph herself believes that a public forum is needed because there are a lot of questions that she has regarding the project that she knows have also been being asked by residents for months now.

“They’re using all these different terms and words, but they did say that they are going to bring the height of the parking garage down and spreading it out more,” Joseph said. “They’re going to try to do an outside that looks more like a building, so that you don’t think it’s a parking garage.”

Joseph has questioned the amount of variances that the current projected plan has against it.

“They have at least 15 or 20 variances, and right now they are testing the waters, so the more you can pass along to me, is the more I can pass along to them, and it might lead to them adjusting more of the

plans,” Joseph said.

According to Joseph, on four of the variances the reasoning behind the requests is “sustainability.”

“They’re finding a new angle and I don’t know what it means,” Joseph said.

One resident asked what is being done to the property behind the new GATE station and car wash?

“They could go into the property behind GATE right now and build 300 apartments, whether that is affordable housing or anything they want,” Joseph said.

MSD trustee Kitty Switkes asked Joseph how property owners are notified

when a building project is planned to be taking place around them.

“Prior to you being voted in, we were in talks with growth management, and we asked that it be 300 feet from every property line (as opposed to measuring from the center of the property),” Switkes said. “That would really help the neighbors what is really going on.”

Joseph believes the current rule leaves too much gray area and residents are not being informed as they should as a result.

“I believe the neighborhoods should be notified and that is something I’m working on,” Joseph said.

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Ocean Palms holds Otterpalooza Event

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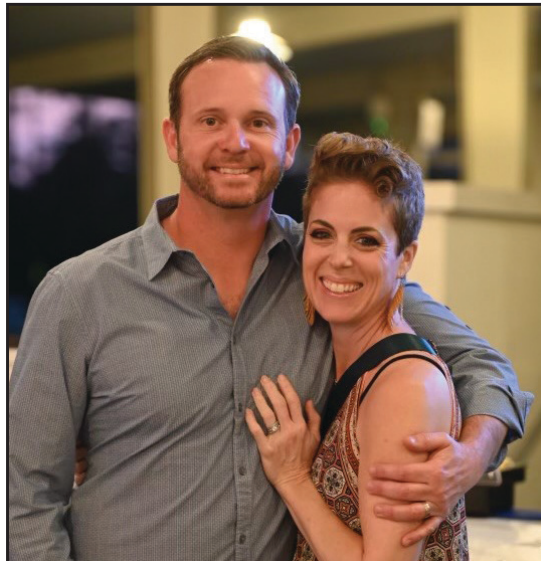


Volunteer event organizer Brittany Darling at Ocean Palms Elementary School's Otterpalooza event.

On March 4, the families of Ocean Palms Elementary enjoyed an evening of glow-in-the-dark miniature golf, a closest-to-the-pin competition and corn hole games, all on a perfect spring night where the notes of the Sada Davidson Band were carried with the evening breeze. At The Yards, parents could relax among the fire pits and catering by 3 Palms Grille, and enjoy the company of fellow Otter families.

Not to mention, the silent auction! From trips to Asheville, to handbags, to teacher experiences and more, parents could bid on various auction items to benefit the school. By the time the last of the desserts were plucked from the tray and the final song was played, the Ocean Palms community raised more than \$50,000 for school improvements, technology and other educational needs.

Sponsors of the event included: The Retreat at Ponte Vedra Beach, SVR Realty, APEX Elite and NRSG.



Parents enjoy a night of camaraderie among fellow OPE families to support the educational needs of the school at The Yards.




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Ponte Vedra library announces programs

The following is a schedule for Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library programming, hosted by the adult services department for adults or all ages. For more details about these programs or to learn more about St. Johns County Public Library services and programming, go to sjcpls.org or call 904-827-6950.

MARCH EVENTS

Women's History Month – March's Book Lovers Book Club meeting: "The Many Daughters of Afong Moy" by Jamie Ford. 11 a.m. March 24 in the FOL Community Room. These in-person meetings are open to all. No RSVPs are needed.

Women's History Month – Conversation with the Artist: 6:30-7:30 p.m. March 27 in the Glass Room. In celebration of Women's History Month, there will be a drop-in chat with local artist Chana Kurinsky. Celebrating themes of womanhood, parenting and family, her art exhibit is featured on our library's corner gallery walls throughout March. No RSVPs are needed. This event is for all ages.

Women's History Month – Movie Matinee: "A League of Their Own" (rated PG). 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 31 in the FOL Community Room.

RSVPs are required. RSVP at sjcpls.org/event/womens-history-month-movie-matinee-a-league-of-their-own.

APRIL EVENTS

National Library Week – Local Author Visit: "Succeeding with Adult ADHD" with Dr. Abigail Levrini.

6-7 p.m. April 24 in the FOL Community Room. RSVPs are required. RSVP at sjcpls.org/event/national-library-week-local-author-visit-succeeding-with-adult-adhd-with-dr-abigail-levrini.

National Library Week – Free Hearing Screenings for Adults: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 26 in the FOL Community Room, with Dr. Christine Kent, Au.D.

RSVPs are required as space is limited. RSVP at sjcpls.org/event/national-library-week-free-hearing-screenings-for-adults-with-dr-christine-kent-au-d.

Musical Madness Concert Series: Jacksonville Symphony's String Quintet performs 4-5 p.m. April 20 in the FOL Community Room.

RSVPs are required as space is limited. RSVP at sjcpls.org/event/musical-madness-concert-series-presents-jacksonville-symphonys-string-quintet.

National Library Week – April's Book Lovers Book Club meeting: "The Book Woman's Daughter" by Kim Michele Richardson. 11 a.m. March 24 in the FOL Community Room. These in-person meetings are open to all. No RSVPs are needed.

Making a difference one birdie at a time



Photo by Anthony Richards

Ponte Vedra Beach resident Billy Horschel raised \$10,000 to go toward Feeding Northeast Florida with his play during the 2023 PLAYERS Championship as part of his #DriveOutHunger campaign.

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FAMOUS PONTE VEDRANS

The Landrums



By Scott A. Grant, J.D.

Once upon a time, Ponte Vedra was known as Mineral City. The name was selected in a contest open to employees of the Buckman Pritchard Corporation. The winner got a prize of \$50. Buckman and Pritchard owned the beach. Their business was mining. The Mineral City beach was rich in rare minerals like rutile and ilmenite. Both are used in the manufacture of titanium.

Around 1908, Buckman and Pritchard

brought in Roy Landrum Sr. to supervise construction of a railway spur that ran along the beach and connected with the Florida East Coast Railway further north. Roy, Sr. had been working as superintendent of a phosphate mine out in Alachua County northwest of Gainesville. He would become the local St. Johns County sheriff. His wife, Ida, opened a general store for the workers and became postmistress of Mineral City.

Later, Buckman and Pritchard sold Mineral City to the National Lead Company. In the late '20s, National Lead decided to build a resort and golf course here. Roy Landrum Sr., was hired to act as superintendent of construction for the golf course. Around that time, Roy, Sr. stepped down as sheriff and was succeeded by his son, Roy Landrum Jr. Roy Junior's wife, Alice, opened a general store, like her mother-in-law and also like her mother-in-law became the postmistress for Palm Valley.

When four Nazi saboteurs landed on Ponte Vedra Beach in June of 1942, one of their stops as they headed into Jacksonville to catch trains heading north was Alice Landrum's general store which also served as a bus stop. Later, she would be

interviewed and claim to have remembered the four spies. She would tell the press that they spoke very good English, but their shoes were odd.

Before becoming the postmistress, Alice was a teacher at the local school. She was a college graduate, a rare thing for a woman at that time. In 1991, they named the new middle school on Landrum Lane in her honor. Her husband Roy never finished high school. In addition to being a deputy sheriff, Roy was an auto mechanic, and he owned a gas station.

Roy was sheriff during the great cattle round-up of 1953. Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley was cattle country at one time. By 1953, the cattle business had moved west, but 300 cows still wandered around freely on the golf course and people's lawns. Roy supervised the round-up and relocation of those cattle out to Ocala.

Eventually, Alice and Roy resided at 562 Ponte Vedra Blvd. The house is small and still stands today. It is one of the oldest, if not the oldest home on the Boulevard. There is a story, that one day, Alice was fishing in the lagoon behind their home. She had the family dog on a leash at her side when an alligator came out of the water and grabbed the pup for lunch.

Roy sent Alice and the neighbors inside and went out in his johnny boat with a rifle. Shots were fired. Roy was a good shot. That gator was not going to eat any more dogs.

One of Roy Landrum's jobs as sheriff was to bust up moonshine stills. Moonshining was big business in old Palm Valley on both sides of the Intracoastal. It seems almost everyone had a still. The practice of making moonshine continued for decades after prohibition ended in 1933. There are pictures of Roy Landrum Jr. sitting next to busted moonshine stills. But old-timers tell me he pretty much turned a blind eye to the moonshine business, not wanting to rile his neighbors. Some even say he had a still of his own. If so, that still was most likely located behind what would become Ponte Vedra Palm Valley School in 1958. Contemporary reports say that during construction a still was found on the property and that the owner was asked to come and remove it.

Scott A Grant is a local author and historian. He hopes you enjoy his current series on famous Ponte Vedrans. Scott welcomes your comments at scottg@standfastic.com

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Jacksonville Cultural Council debuts new brand identity

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville debuted its new brand identity earlier this year, marking an era of renewed energy as the organization entered its 50th year of service to the community in 2023.

The updated visual identity replaces the organization's previous logo, which was introduced in 2012. The new brand utilizes several symbolic visual elements:

- The new logo features concentric "C" shapes, bringing the alliteration of the words "Cultural Council" to life while representing the ripple effect that the arts and culture have throughout the community.

- The logo lockup incorporates the organization's existing "More Art Culture" brand messaging, with flexibility to expand with specific examples of how more art and culture benefit the community — like engaging more people with the arts and culture sector, infusing beauty into more places through public art and attracting more business to Northeast Florida.

- A refreshed color palette primarily uses purple, a color associated with creativity, enlightenment, imagination



and inspiration; secondary colors in complementary shades of teal, green and blue reflect the spirit and natural beauty of Northeast Florida.

- The typefaces used in the Cultural Council's new brand are sleek and modern — emphasizing a bold new direction for the organization.

The Cultural Council developed the new brand in collaboration with Wingard, a Jacksonville-based marketing and communications agency, over a six-month period in 2022.

"Our More Art Culture rebranding stems from an abundance mindset, an outward expression of a renaissance in and through our organization," said Diana Donovan, executive director of the Cultural Council. "We are optimizing our team and our platform to build a brand that instills confidence and collaboration across sectors to ignite Jacksonville's creative economy."

Contributed photos



Timucuan Parks Cleanup Program underway

Timucuan Parks Foundation wants to remind students that they have an opportunity now to earn community service hours by participating in the nonprofit's self-guided volunteer cleanup program. From now through the end of March, students can earn two hours or more of community service by picking up litter at Jacksonville's wilderness parks and preserves and they will have a chance to win a Mayday Ice Cream gift card in the foundation's weekly drawing.

Students can go to timucuanparks.org/parks to choose one of the many parks around Jacksonville to clean up. The foundation encourages students to ask friends and family to join them. Students should dress appropriately in closed-toe

shoes, and bring trash bags, protective gloves and a camera to document the work. Students should also bring insect repellent, sunscreen, water and a snack.

Participants must spend at least 1.5 hours picking up litter around the park to earn the community service hours and must document the work with photos that can include shots of the student's choice but must also include a final picture of the filled trash bags. Pictures can be sent to volunteer@timucuanparks.org and can be shared via social media using the hashtag #tpfcleanup and tag the foundation @timucuanparks.

Students are also required to fill out the parks cleanup form which can be found at timucuanparks.org/self-guided.

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Seafood Festival to feature diverse entertainment line-up

Whether you're looking to rock out to the soulful sounds of local blues group Duffy Bishop, want to take a walk on the human-size hamster water wheel or prefer to peruse the Arts & Crafts village for artisan gifts, the St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival offers a bit of something for everyone.

Now in its 40th year, the Seafood Festival returns to the Nation's Oldest City on Saturday, March 25, and Sunday, March 26, for a two-day extravaganza of food, arts and crafts, live music, rides and fun activities at Francis Field in downtown St. Augustine.

Founded in 1981, this year's festival expects to draw more than 15,000 attendees. New highlights for the 40th Annual Seafood Festival include a Giant Crocodile Slide, Moon Bounce, Kids Obstacle Course, and more.

Returning fan favorites include an Arts & Craft village, Pirate Magic with Captain William Mayhem and daily appearances by famous characters, such as Rapunzel, Mirabel and Superman as well as face painting, balloon sculptures, caricatures and funnel cake.

Live music is another highlight of the festival with a diverse line-up of local and regional acts, including Pyrates of Inequity, Bad Dog Mama, Collapsible B, Slang, Duffy Bishop, The Free Rangers, Thick and Thin String Band, Brothers Futch, and more. For a full schedule and set times, go to lionsfestival.com/entertainment.

"Since life has finally returned to as normal as it can be, we are anticipating seeing old friends and new at this fun event," says Lion Memory Hopkins, festival chairman. "We have varied some of the entertainment with

more pirates and more magic. We have some surprises for the on-stage entertainment as well. Don't miss it!"

Event Information

Francis Field is located at 25 W. Castillo Drive, St. Augustine. Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. March 25, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 26. The Arts & Crafts village closes at sundown. No pets allowed. Shuttles will pick up and drop off visitors on March 25 at three shuttle locations provided by the City of St. Augustine. More information on parking and shuttles will be posted on the websites lionsfestival.com and citystaug.com as well as at Facebook.com/staugustinelionsfestival.

Contributed photos



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Scouts earn Arrow of Light



Emily Pak also earned the Arrow of Light and crossed over to Scout troop 9297.

Cub Scout Pack 277, sponsored by Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, held its annual Blue and Gold Banquet on Feb. 10. The Blue and Gold banquet celebrates the birthday of Scouting and recognizes Scouts for their accomplishments. The Pack celebrated with a pizza party for the Scouts and their families complete with a birthday cake for Scouting. More than 60 Scouts were recognized for their achievements.

Pack 277 recognized 11 fifth-grade Cub Scouts who earned their Arrow of Light, the highest award in Cub Scouts. These Scouts crossed over to Boy Scout troop 277 to continue their fun, adventure and character development.

For more information about Cub Scouts, go to BeAScout.org or email join.cubpack277@gmail.com.

Contributed photos

Pictured from left, front row: Ledger Kwon, Liam Stewart, Richard DePorre, Hunter Dykes, John Stone; back row: Wylan Osgood, Chiston Skeete, Chase Hoenshel, Jacob Schoch, Xander Traveria.



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St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival adds all-inclusive food-and-drink tickets

The third annual St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival, named “One of Florida’s Top 10 Food & Wine Festivals” by USA Today, will take place May 3-7.

The festival, presented by Publix GreenWise Market, will once again be a showcase of culinary, beverage and culture that highlights celebrity guest chefs, local chefs, celebrity winemakers/proprietors, live music, artisans, farmers, local craft spirits and beers, along with renowned wine, spirits and beer brands from around the globe.

New this year, tickets include unlimited beverage and culinary tasting tickets for all events.

According to festival organizers, “Attendees like paying one price for a ticket that includes everything, all culinary and beverage tastings — and access to all the activation areas and stages. Every festival event ticket now includes culinary and beverage tastings.”

Celebrity guest chefs were recently announced for this year’s festival.

Chef Brother Luck, BRAVO TV, Top Chef winner, will participate in several of the festival’s events. He will be the celebrity guest judge for the Harvest Awards event on May 4, and guests will be able

to taste some of his creations from his restaurant, Four by Brother Luck, which showcases seasonal cuisine in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Luck will also host a master class at 10 a.m. May 6 and will do a cooking demonstration on the Publix Cooking Demo Stage on May 6 at the Main Event.

Jernard Wells is an award-winning TV host/celebrity chef/bestselling cookbook author and will participate on the Publix Cooking Demo Stage on May 6. He is the host of “New Soul Kitchen” and “New Soul Kitchen Remix” on CLEO TV. He is a contributor on “The Best Things I Ever Ate” on Cooking Channel and on “Food Fantasies” on Oprah Winfrey Network.

The World Golf Hall of Fame and the official hotel partner, World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort, are the host location sites for the 2023 festival, located 20 minutes north of historic downtown St. Augustine and the beaches. Events in St. Augustine’s historic district will take place at San Sebastian Winery and the Lightner Museum. The festival is being made possible in part by support from St. Johns Cultural Council and a 2023 St. Johns County Tourist Development Grant.

Here’s a look at the St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival schedule of events.

Note that this schedule is subject to change.

Wednesday, May 3

“**River Walk Tastings**” in the historic district at San Sebastian Winery and the Homewood Suites St. Augustine San Sebastian, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., souvenir glass, with trolley shuttle, live music and food and drink tastings at both venues. The progressive tasting tours begin at San Sebastian Winery.

Thursday, May 4

“**Premium Wine Tasting and “Harvest Awards,”** Lightner Museum, 75 King St., St. Augustine. The wine lover’s ultimate tasting event with premium wines and showcase wine pairings, along with the festival’s select official beverages — souvenir crystal wine glass included. The historic Lightner Museum, which is the centerpiece of St. Augustine’s historic district, provides the elegant backdrop to tasting wines from around the world and sampling some of Northeast Florida’s best restaurants.

Friday, May 5

“**Cinco de Mayo Tacos & Tequila,**” 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., presented by Publix and Mijenta Tequila at the World Golf Hall of Fame courtyard patio. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a festive selection of tacos and signature tequila drinks.

“**Smoke on the Walk,**” presented by Sysco, the Florida Times-Union and the St. Augustine Record. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. World Golf Hall of Fame, 1 World Golf Place, St. Augustine. This is a showcase of the Southeast’s most celebrated pit-masters and grill masters with wine, beer and spirits along the Walk of Champions and live music from Remedy Tree. Unlimited beverage tastings in a souvenir glass, along with grilled, smoked and roasted gourmet barbecue bites — all included with ticket price. Free parking. This is a 21-and-older-only event. No pets allowed.

Saturday, May 6

“**Cooking with Brother Luck,** BRAVO TV: 10-11 a.m., Top Chef Master Class, World Golf Hall of Fame Museum Tower.

“**Rioja in the 21st Century,**” with Ana Fabiano, World Golf Hall of Fame Museum Tower. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Rioja is world-class and recognized as

one of the five greatest red wine regions in the world. Travel to Rioja through the glass and guide of Ana Fabiano, noted Rioja wine expert and author of the award-winning book, “The Wine Region of Rioja.” This European wine region embodies ancient, classic and modern grape growing and wine making that is steeped in both heritage, tradition and cutting-edge innovation. This class and tasting will range from whites to aged reds and will educate, entertain and empower your palate and wine experience in life. Tasting bites will be paired these exquisite wines.

“**St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival Main Event,** 2-5 p.m. Walk of Champions, World Golf Hall of Fame, 1 World Golf Place, St. Augustine.

New for 2023 is an all-inclusive food-and-drink tasting ticket.

This is a fun afternoon of culinary and beverage tastings with live music in the beautiful lakefront surroundings of the Walk of Champions, the centerpiece of the World Golf Hall of Fame. Tickets include a souvenir cup for unlimited beverage tastings from hundreds of wine, beer and spirit exhibitors. There will be artisans, the Publix Cooking Demo Stage, the Jacksonville Magazine Music Stage with Chillula, Edible Northeast magazine’s People’s Choice Harvest Awards presented by Sysco and more.

Publix Cooking Demo Stage, presented by The Local Palate magazine schedule:

- 2:15-3 p.m., Ansley Kinchen, senior managing chef, Publix Aprons Cooking School
- 3:15-3:45 p.m., Brother Luck, award-winning chef/author and TV personality
- 4-4:30 p.m., Sysco Team
- 4:30-5 p.m., Jernard Wells, award-winning chef/author and TV personality.

“**The Jazz Brunch,**” 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. St. Johns County Convention Center, 500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine. This is a family-friendly event.

The Jazz Brunch is one like no other with an all-inclusive-priced ticket featuring live music, brunch buffet with carving station, indulgent sides, made-to-order omelet station, seafood station and a variety of desserts. Bloody Mary bar, champagne, mimosas and a host of unlimited beverage stations from the festival’s partners include wine, beer, spirits beverage tasting stations inside the brunch — coffee, iced tea and soft drinks included.

The most up-to-date festival information is available at staugustinefoodandwinefestival.com and the festival’s social media channels: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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Nemours, THE PLAYERS partnership inspires future of hope

By Anthony Richards

Nemours Children’s Health Jacksonville celebrated being charity of the day during the third round of the 2023 PLAYERS Championship by holding a press conference in its sponsored Kids Zone March 11.

Dr. Larry Moss, president and CEO of Nemours Children’s Health spoke during the conference about the continued partnership with THE PLAYERS and how it only continues to strengthen over time.

That partnership was in full effect in October when THE PLAYERS announced its pledge to match up to \$2 million in donations to help the redesign and expansion project in the works at Nemours Children’s Health Jacksonville’s center for cancer and blood disorders.

Nemours focuses on helping children and their families in their fight against cancer.



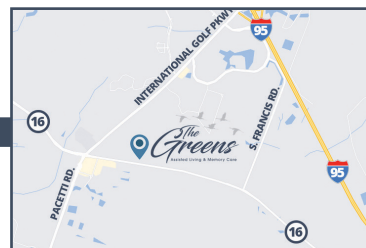
Photo by Anthony Richards

Dr. Larry Moss, president and CEO of Nemours Children’s Health, speaks with the family of Fredrianna Copeland-Webster following the press conference March 11.

NEMOURS continues on Page 24



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Comcast Business named PLAYERS Proud Partner starting 2024

By Shaun Ryan

THE PLAYERS Championship has a new Proud Partner. Comcast Business announced Sunday, March 12, that it will take over the spot currently occupied by Grant Thornton beginning with the 2024 tournament. The arrangement will continue through 2030.

This partnership is actually an expansion of Comcast Business's relationship with the PGA TOUR. It sponsors the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10, which rewards the top players in the FedExCup standings at the end of the FedExCup regular season. A \$20 million bonus is shared among the top 10 finishers. Scottie Scheffler, the winner of this year's PLAYERS, received the \$4 million first-place prize in 2022 after winning four times during last year's season.

Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 was launched in 2020.

"The PGA TOUR has enjoyed work-

ing alongside Comcast Business the last three years, and we are thrilled to now officially welcome them as a Proud Partner of our flagship event, THE PLAYERS Championship," said PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan. "Their goal of helping business leaders achieve maximum business performance while keeping communities connected aligns perfectly with the mission of the PGA TOUR and the local charitable goals of THE PLAYERS Championship."

Comcast Business will join current Proud Partners Optum and Morgan Stanley.

Grant Thornton, which has been a Proud Partner since 2018, is transitioning its sponsorship to the Grant Thornton Invitational. That tournament will debut Dec. 4-10 at Tiburón Golf Club and The Ritz-Carlton Naples, Tiburón in Naples, Florida. That event is co-sanctioned by the PGA TOUR and the LPGA.

"THE PLAYERS Championship is one of the PGA TOUR's premier and most anticipated tournaments," said Eileen Diskin, chief marketing officer, Comcast Business. "Comcast Business is thrilled to expand our partnership with the PGA TOUR to become a Proud Partner of this incredible, flagship event. We're committed to serving business leaders on and off the course, keeping them ready for whatever lies ahead."

Diskin was at THE PLAYERS last week, during which she had an opportunity to tour the facilities. Comcast Business will have hospitality suites at hole numbers 17 and 18.

"Our employees are excited about it," she said. "Our sales teams love it because they get to come to places like this and connect with customers and prospective clients. It's terrific."

Comcast Business is the nation's largest cable provider to small and mid-sized businesses and one of the lead-

ing service providers to the enterprise market. It serves the local market but also has a global footprint in more than 100 countries.

As a Proud Partner, Comcast Business will see its profile elevated.

Diskin said the company was excited that the PGA TOUR would be giving it a "very distinguished platform for us to bring our brand in to create more awareness, create more credibility and create more stature."

"THE PLAYERS Championship is excited to welcome Comcast Business into our Northeast Florida home and Proud Partner family," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "It is because of the backing of these Proud Partners that we can showcase one of the premier events in sports while giving back to the community that supports us. We look forward to connecting even further with Northeast Florida thanks to the efforts of Comcast Business."



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Photos by Anthony Richards



A child celebrates with volunteers after making a putt.



Fun was had throughout the golf clinic.



All-Stars got the chance to test their driving skills.

Tesori All-Star clinics continue to provide 'blessing' through golf

By Anthony Richards

The Tesori Family Foundation packed The Yards for one of its annual All-Star kids clinics for children with special needs held during the week of THE PLAYERS.

Paul and Michelle Tesori began the foundation years ago after their son

Isaiah was diagnosed with Down syndrome, and it remains an initiative close to their hearts.

“The Tesori Family Foundation has been focused on kids for a long time, and it has been a real blessing to kids, especially in this North Florida area,” PGA TOUR golfer Webb Simpson said. “I have five kids of my own so I

love coming and any chance I get to be around kids and see them excited about golf.”

Simpson, who Paul Tesori caddied for during the 2023 PLAYERS Championship, made a guest appearance at the clinic and interacted with the children before they got their own opportunity to hit golf balls like the pros do. He

won the 2012 U.S. Open and the 2018 PLAYERS Championship.

“I remember getting an up-close view of what Paul and Michelle went through when Isaiah was born,” Simpson said. “Life will throw a lot of curveballs at us, but through all of it their anchor was

TESORI continues on Page 22

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Photos by Anthony Richards

PGA Tour golfer Webb Simpson shares a moment with a child at the Tesori Foundation's All-Star golf clinic March 8.

Tesori

Continued from 21

in Jesus. They knew God had a perfect plan for Isaiah's life and their life. It was a blessing as a friend to get to see up close and personal."

He began working with Paul Tesori in 2011 and it has really developed into a lasting friendship over the years.

"It started out with him as essentially my big brother teaching me all that I needed to be taught," Simpson chuckled. "What started out as a professional relationship and really turned into him being one of my best friends in the whole world."

D.J. Gregory was also on hand and spoke with the children about perseverance, having been through his share himself after being born with cerebral palsy and his parents were told he would never walk.

However, Gregory was determined to prove his doubters wrong and has walked more than 14,000 miles at PGA TOUR events since 2008 while raising money for his Walking For Kids Foun-

ation at the same time. He was named a recipient of the PGA TOUR's Courage Award in February 2022.

"Every one of these out here has a goal and a dream, and everybody should be given that rightful chance to achieve their goals and dreams," Gregory said. "Anybody can play golf and it doesn't matter what your skill level is. It really teaches so many life lessons."

One message that Simpson wanted to get across to the children in attendance was that golf is a hard game, but it is also all about having fun.

"I'm one of the best in the world, and I'll be playing over here across the street (at TPC Sawgrass), but I'm still going to hit some really bad shots," Simpson said. "It's important to remember to not get too frustrated and just enjoy it. It's all about getting a little bit better each and every day."

After watching Gregory, Simpson and Paul Tesori each hit a one-handed tee shot, the children got the chance to take part in various drills as part of the clinic that worked on all aspects of their game from putting to chipping and driving, as they enjoyed the entire golf experience.



The All-Stars could not wait to play some golf.

VIP Reception

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa hosted a VIP Reception on Saturday, March 11, on the Lagoon Pool Deck. Guests enjoyed live entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments during the event, which proved to be the perfect way to celebrate THE PLAYERS Championship after departing the golf course for the day.

Photos by Susan Griffin



The VIP Reception featured dining on crab.



Tito's Handmade Vodka was available for making the Sawgrass Splash.



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The Kids Zone presented by Nemours Children's Health at THE PLAYERS was the site of the event.



Photos by Anthony Richards

Fredrianna Copeland-Webster shares her story during the press conference.

Nemours

Continued from 19

There is no better example of that focus in full effect than when it comes to 18-year-old Fredrianna Copeland-Webster who spoke about her journey of receiving both cancer and blood disorder care from Nemours during the press conference, which brought tears to many of the eyes in the room.

"I know I may not look like it at first glance, but I've been through a lot in my 18 years of life," Copeland-Webster said. "Before I was even a year

old, I was diagnosed with stage three neuroblastoma cancer. I was obviously too young to remember it, but my mom tells me that I was treated by the entire oncology team at Nemours, and I'm just so thankful for them."

However, although she reached the point of being cured of cancer by the time she turned a year old, she still to this day has the rare blood disease known as sickle cell disorder.

"It's a disease that many people have never even heard of, but it causes low oxygen, fatigue, debilitating pain, dead bone tissue, and many more complications," Copeland-Webster said. "As

early elementary school, I had to miss weeks of school for something called the sickle cell pain crisis, which is an episode of excruciating pain, and it can appear pretty much anywhere on my body and would end up in me being hospitalized."

The team at Nemours have strived to do what they can to help reduce the amount of pain Copeland-Webster has felt over the years.

Thanks to certain types of medication, she began experiencing fewer pain episodes, but that all changed once again when she began attending Paxon School for Advanced Studies.

"That's a very rigorous college preparatory program, and the result was weeks of pain turning into months of pain," Copeland-Webster said. "I ended up missing more days of school

than I was actually in school. The pain affected me both mentally, physically and socially."

The doctors at Nemours went back to work to find a new solution and devised a treatment plan that just like years before began successfully limiting the number of episodes her body endures.

"It has worked like a miracle, as I haven't been hospitalized since I started taking it," Copeland-Webster said. "I'm just so much more happier, and I was able to graduate from high school on time in 2022 and am currently in college."

She is working toward becoming a clinical researcher after college, in hopes of one day giving back to others and replicating the generous and loving care she received from Nemours.

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TruGreen donates \$10K to First Tee chapter

By Shaun Ryan

On Wednesday, March 8, representatives of First Tee — North Florida and TruGreen joined parents and children in the new TruGreen fan bleachers overlooking the 16th hole at TPC Sawgrass for a major check presentation.

TruGreen donated \$10,000 to First Tee, which will help in the construction of a new learning center at the Jacksonville Beach Golf Club. Groundbreaking is expected to take place this spring.

First Tee — North Florida Executive Director Jeff Willoughby described the expected impact of the new facility.

“Normally, a class size would be around 12 kids,” he said. “With the learning center, we’ll be able to go up to almost 30 kids per class. So, we’re looking at roughly about 500 more kids annually just in that one place.”

The check presentation followed a “behind-the-scenes” tour, presented by TruGreen for kids who participate in local First Tee activities. The kids had a chance to learn about all the work done around THE PLAYERS Championship and the many careers that are involved.

This reflects the deeper goals of the organization. Though First Tee is known as an introduction to the sport of golf, especially for kids who otherwise would



Photo by Shaun Ryan

TruGreen donated \$10,000 to First Tee — North Florida on March 8 to help in the construction of a new learning center in Jacksonville Beach.

not encounter it, the organization seeks to build character and instill life skills and core values.

“We’re really trying to make them better people,” Willoughby said.

First Tee has 150 chapters across the nation that offer programs at more than

1,400 locations. It has impacted 2.2 million youth and has more than 4,200 coaches and 10,000 teachers and youth leaders.

TruGreen, the official lawn care treatment provider of the PGA TOUR and a trustee of First Tee, is the largest lawncare

provider in the United States. It serves more than 2.3 million residential and commercial customers with lawn, tree and shrub care.

The First Tee check was presented by TruGreen Vice President of Marketing Johanna Metz.

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— JOSH WOOLSEY, FIRM PARTNER

Woolsey Morcom Law hires former Sheriff David Shoar as Director of Investigations

PONTE VEDRA, Florida – Former St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar has joined Woolsey Morcom as the law firm’s director of investigations.

Shoar brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the team and will play a key role in helping the firm provide top-quality legal services to its clients.

He served as sheriff of St. Johns County for 16 years, where he was known for his dedication to public service and his commitment to justice.

Over the years, Shoar has a successful track record of investigating and solving complex cases and has received numerous awards and recognition for his work in law enforcement.

“We are thrilled to have David join our team,” said firm partner Josh Woolsey. “His knowledge and experience in law enforcement will be invaluable as we work to provide the best possible legal representation to our clients.”

In addition to his work as an investigator, Shoar is also active in the local community as a member of several professional organizations and is a frequent speaker at law enforcement conferences and seminars.

“I am excited to be joining Woolsey Morcom and to be working with such a talented team of lawyers,” Shoar said. “I look forward to using my experience and skills to help the firm achieve the best possible outcomes for its clients.”

Woolsey Morcom is a full-service law firm with offices throughout Florida and San Antonio, Texas.

The firm provides a wide range of legal services to individuals and businesses, including car accidents, personal injury, family law, commercial litigation, first-party property and criminal defense.

To learn more about Woolsey Morcom and how they might be able to help, go to the firm’s website at woolseymorcom.com.



Nick Morcom (left) and Josh Woolsey (right)

Woolsey Morcom, Attorneys at law, founded in 2016, is St. John’s county’s largest law firm. Their areas of practice include, but are not limited to, car accidents, personal injury, family law, commercial litigation, property damage, and criminal defense. With offices throughout the state of Florida, and in San Antonio, Texas, Woolsey Morcom is committed to fighting for the best legal outcome for every client, regardless of the type or size of their case.

Woolsey Morcom is uniquely positioned to provide you with the excellence associated with a large law firm. Our attorneys have gained experience as former prosecutors, Military Judge Advocates, and state and federal criminal defense attorneys. We have litigated on behalf of some of Florida’s best-known companies and have worked at some of the largest and most prestigious firms in Northeast Florida and beyond. Our team prides itself in offering unparalleled client service and is committed to helping you reach the ultimate and justified legal outcome.



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The unsung heroes of THE PLAYERS

The following are photos of volunteers doing a variety of roles that may not always get attention but were vital in the overall success of the 2023 PLAYERS Championship.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Volunteers make sure the crowd is aware that a player is preparing to hit his next shot.



A volunteer stands behind Jordan Spieth's tee shot and relays to others down the fairway which way it is going.



The younger volunteers are often the ones tasked with following a group and keeping the scoreboard up to date.



A group of volunteers sit up on a hill and help keep track of where shots are going.

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Operation Shower

The following are photos from the Operation Shower event hosted by THE PLAYERS March 5. Forty military mothers attended the event at the Patriot's Outpost near No. 16 tee box at TPC Sawgrass. The mothers and mothers-to-be were surprised with a variety of gifts.

Photos courtesy of PGA Tour



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Lexus Suite

Guests enjoyed refreshments, lunch and snacks during THE PLAYERS Championship at the Lexus Island Suite on the 16th green. Lexus was the tournament vehicle sponsor. Pictured from left are: Brian Zehren, general manager, Lexus of Jacksonville; Gloria Dongara, AAA Travel; and Garry Redig, vice president, Fields Automotive Group.

Photos by Susan Griffin



TOUR Suite

At the TOUR Suite, located in a marquee overlooking the 18th green and featuring premier views, guests enjoyed refreshments, breakfast, brunch and appetizers. Gov. Ron DeSantis was among those visiting the site.

Photos by Susan Griffin



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Childhood hunger addressed at tournament

By Shaun Ryan

An estimated 1 in 6 children on the First Coast suffer from food insecurity or the symptoms of hunger, such as anxiety and depression. And, while free and reduced lunches are often part of the school day for many students, that doesn't cover weekends.

For several years, Blessings in a Backpack has been addressing this need locally. During the 2021-22 school year alone, the nonprofit provided 200,196 hunger-free weekends to 5,561 kids on the First Coast. Essential to this mission are the volunteers and partnerships.

On Wednesday, March 8, Nemours Children's Health and Jim and Tabitha Furyk joined Bless-

ings in a Backpack representatives at THE PLAYERS Championship Nemours Kids Zone to bring attention to this issue.

While there, Nemours President and CEO R. Lawrence Moss M.D. and the Furyks packed food bags for children and wrote inspirational notes to be included in the bags.

Moss said the effort is relevant to Nemours, which takes a holistic approach to children's health and has a long-standing relationship with Blessings in a Backpack.

"Nemours is about the health of all children," he said. "The kids in our clinics and hospitals have very complex problems, like cancer and severe congenital anomalies. We're



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Among those gathered March 8 for a presentation on Blessings in a Backpack were, from left, Blessings in a Backpack First Coast Managing Director Susan Evans, Jim and Tabitha Furyk, Nemours Children's Health President and CEO R. Lawrence Moss and Blessings in a Backpack Orlando Managing Director Sarah Carlson.

HUNGER continues on Page 37



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After Hours at THE PLAYERS

The following are photos from the joint After Hours event hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. The member event was held on THE PLAYERS grounds and took place March 2.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Sheriff Robert Hardwick and Kendell Hardwick



Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa



Rebecca Mason and Kathleen Floryan



Ponte Vedra Wellness Center



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
Susan Griffin and Isabelle Renault



Modern Aesthetic Centers



Jennifer Price and Scott Grant



Live music was the entertainment during the event.



Kim Scott, Jimmy Briggs and Nicole Briggs



The Recorder was a proud sponsor of the After Hours event.
Farris Robinson and Joe Wilhelm at their booth.



Attendees mingle around the big "904" sign at the joint After Hours event.

Big names come out to see THE PLAYERS

Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence and Florida governor Ron DeSantis attended THE PLAYERS this year.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Ron DeSantis walks through the crowd at the famed No. 17 hole at TPC Sawgrass during the final round of THE PLAYERS March 12.



Photos by Craig O'Neal

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UNDER CONTRACT

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Old Ponte Vedra Beach
\$2,100,000 · MLSID 1215688

ACTIVE

113 TEAL POINTE LANE · 32082
Marsh Landing Country Club
\$3,000,000 · MLSID 1212752

COMING SOON

104 BENT PINE CT · 32082
Marsh Landing Country Club
\$1,679,000 · MLSID 1216697

Fans of all ages soak up THE PLAYERS

The following are photos of fans enjoying themselves throughout the week of the 2023 PLAYERS Championship. There were plenty of smiles to be had, as they watched the best golfers in the world take on the TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course.

Photos by Anthony Richards





Grace D'Andrea and Marguerite Keller

ABC Golf Championship Tasting event

The following are photos from the ABC Golf Championship Tasting event hosted by ABC Fine Wine & Spirits March 8. Those in attendance had the opportunity to socialize while sampling a selection of wines, spirits and beer.



Jennifer Ryan and Harah Day

Photos by Susan Griffin



St. Augustine Distillery



Josh Cellars



Hana Hunter

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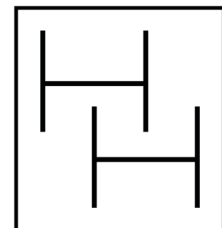
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Celebrate with THE PLAYERS

The following are photos from THE PLAYERS Celebration on March 6. The event was held at the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse and featured food and drinks from renowned chefs.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Pat McManamon, Michele McManamon, Derek Prince and Sharon Prince



An assortment of delicious foods were available for attendees to enjoy.



A chef prepares food during the event.



Madison Hughes provided entertainment.

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Hunger

Continued from 31

here for those kids, but we're just as much about the health of all kids in the population."

He said the evidence shows that medical care only makes up about 15% of children's health. The rest is comprised of a host of factors, with food security being near the top of the list.

Blessings in a Backpack First Coast Managing Director Susan Evans said the local group partners with 46 schools in three counties. The organization provides professionally packaged, balanced meals as determined by a registered dietician.

"It's all low-sugar, low sodium," Evans said. "National brands, which is intentional because we want our Blessings kids to have the same thing we all feed our children."

Every year, Blessings in a Backpack teams up with Nemours for a major packing event.

"They come out from every department and every office, and they stand shoulder to shoulder, and they pack 1,000 bags for kids they'll never meet and never know," Evans said.

Blessings in a Backpack began in Louisville, Kentucky, in 2005. Inspired by its work, local residents launched a chapter here. Initially, the Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation ran the program in Duval and



Tabitha and Jim Furyk pack food bags for area children facing food insecurity.



Tabitha and Jim Furyk and Nemours CEO Lawrence Moss write inspiring notes to be included in food bags for area children in need.

Photos by Shaun Ryan

St. Johns counties.

The value of the program was quickly evident in a rise in test scores and school attendance among students who had previously been food insecure.

Tabitha Furyk, who was instrumental in bringing the chapter here, said they were excited to have a presence at THE PLAYERS.

"Any way we can spread the word about Blessings in a Backpack and all the good they're doing ... is super help-

ful," she said. She added that it costs the program about \$130 to feed a student for an entire school year.

"To visit the schools and see the children, how excited they are about the snacks they take home for the weekend, it's really driving kids to come to school to get an education and learn," said Jim Furyk. "And it's all from the fact that they're being fed. That's humbling, when you think about it."

PLAYERS Championship Executive

Director Jared Rice had praise for the Furyks and Nemours.

"Nemours is an unbelievable partner of ours at THE PLAYERS Championship," he said. "More importantly, they are an unbelievable partner to kids in our community."

To donate, go to blessingsinabackpack.org. Go to jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com to contribute to either the foundation or to Blessings in a Backpack.



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The scene at TPC Sawgrass during THE PLAYERS Championship

Here are some photos from the week of the tournament.

Photos by Craig O'Neal



Baptist Beaches ER physician: 30 years volunteering with THE PLAYERS

Spectators traversing the beautiful greens at THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra aren't likely to think about needing emergency medical care — and they don't have to. Jeffrey Snowton, MD, with Emergency Resources Group and medical director of the Emergency Department at Baptist Medical Center Beaches, has spent three decades providing emergency medical care to tournament guests in need.

It began 30 years ago when Snowton was asked to be a physician volunteer at the tournament. As a golf enthusiast and compassionate physician, he swung into action.

"We had some ace bandages, Band-Aids and a few other first-aid supplies in a small room with two chairs," he said. "We did that for a few years, but I knew we could do much better."

Today, there are five first-aid tents at THE PLAYERS with 75 volunteers comprised of physicians, registered nurses, physician assistants, EMTs and paramedics. The tents are equipped with life-saving devices, such as AEDs — defibrillators that can restore heart rhythm — and intubation tubes in the event a

person's airway is blocked. IV fluids, pain medication, sutures for lacerations and splints are among the many medical services available. The main tent has four treatment bays with patient beds.

"Through the years, our first-aid stations have evolved into mini-emergency rooms," said Snowton. "We basically have what we need to stabilize patients and get them to an ER if needed."

The first-aid tents see an average of 130 people during the tournament week, with 15-20 needing transport to an ER. An ambulance is on standby. Some medical team volunteers are stationed at the tents, while others are considered "rovers" who roam the course to see if anyone needs medical care.

Snowton began his career as a paramedic, where he developed a passion for being "in the field." That's how he became adept at understanding the importance of prehospital care provided by first responders.

"It's gratifying to be there to help someone at the onset of a medical emergency," he said. "The care you provide at that moment can make all the difference."

The most common conditions treated



Dr. Jeffrey Snowton

include heat exhaustion, dehydration, sprained ankles and sunburn.

"Most situations are fairly benign, but we are prepared for most anything," Snowton said.

Like the time a man collapsed.

"We saw him go down in the middle of the crowd, and we were right there,"

Snowton said. "He went into cardiac arrest, and we used a defibrillator to restart his heart. The man was able to speak by the time he arrived at Baptist Beaches' ER and survived."

Some situations have been surprising.

"A woman came to the tent with a large welt on her leg — she had been hit by a golf ball," said Snowton. "I asked her if the player gave her his autograph or a ball as an apology. She said no, and that she'd be giving him a piece of her mind later. It turned out the woman was the player's wife!"

The high level of emergency care at THE PLAYERS has caught the attention of other professional golf tournaments interested in emulating the same model. The head physician of the Olympics visited to replicate the ER system when golf was first introduced to the games in Rio de Janeiro.

For Snowton, he's just doing what he loves most.

"Golf is a great sport, and I get to help people at the same time with a group of amazing medical volunteers — it's everything I enjoy all at once."

Teen enjoys volunteering with THE PLAYERS

Here is a brief interview with Lila Weaver, a teen volunteer at THE PLAYERS Championship.

Share a little bit about yourself.

I've been playing golf as long as I can remember, but started taking it seriously the summer after I turned 9. Now, 15, I'm leading my high school team heading into districts, while also competing in HJGT and NFJG events.

How long have you been a volunteer and in what roles?

I've attended THE PLAYERS every year since I was born, so getting involved as soon as I could was not something I had to think twice about. I started on the range as a runner for a few years, then moved up to standard bearer as soon as I was old enough.

What's your favorite memory as a PLAYERS volunteer?

Although I'm sure the rainy weekend was not enjoyable for most, without that extra Monday added, I would have never been able to have a core memory of standard bearer for Cam Smith to finish his third round on the day he won (2022). And when I walked in from my shift, I was informed one of my best friends won runner-up for standard bearer of the year and I was lucky enough to attend the awards ceremony with her, inside the ropes. It was a surreal experience that I'll treasure forever.



Who's your favorite PLAYERS champion and why?

A lot of my favorite players are those who I have had fun interactions with during practice rounds. In 2021, Justin took some time with my brother and me for pictures and autographs. So, following him for the whole championship and cheering him on was a blast. Practice round days are definitely underrated. It's such a different and fun vibe those days.

What is your favorite thing to do when not volunteering?

At THE PLAYERS when I'm not volunteering, I like to walk around with my family and follow our favorite players, and try to get some autographs, depending on what day it is.

What do you do for a living?

I'm a high school golfer and my dream is to play Division 1 golf. I would love to play for The University of Florida, but playing for a small school like Samford has been something I've wanted to do for a long time.

Hometown?

I've lived in St. Johns, Florida, my whole life.

Interview provided by Miranda Rossum, public relations and outreach, THE PLAYERS Championship.

ALL ABOUT PETS



Furever Vets unveils newest location

Furever Vets Central, Urgent Care & Pet Resort invited the public to celebrate its grand opening on Jan. 28 at its newest location, which features an emergency hospital and a luxury pet resort. The event featured special guest appearances, a variety of food and signature drinks, live music from Who Rescued Who, facility tours and lots of happy pets.

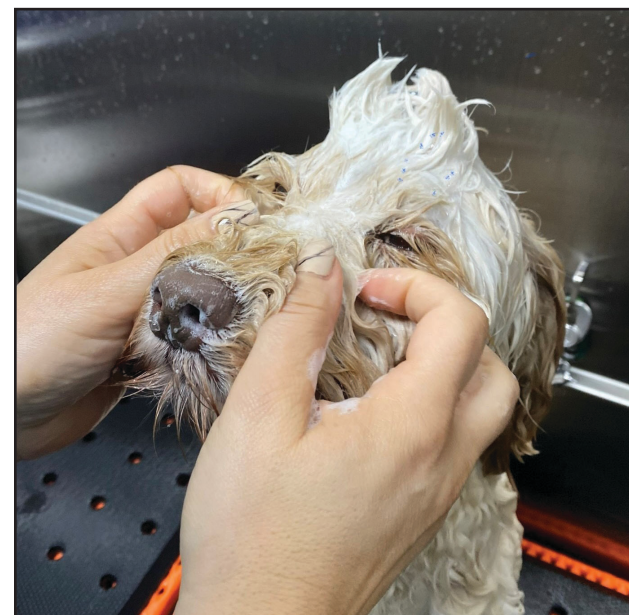
“We owe a huge thank you to our pet families for joining us on this awesome journey, and we hope that you will continue to be a part of our Furever Vets family ‘forever,’” said veterinarian and owner Dr. Shashi Galipalli in a prepared release. “Coming to a veterinarian office or seeing an emergency vet can be stressful for

you and your pet, and this stress can keep you away. That’s why at Furever Vets Animal Hospital, we come to work every day — because we want to make a change in how veterinary medicine is practiced. Our mission is to provide a happy and fun-filled work environment to our associates, making the highest quality pet care affordable and available all the time, strengthening the human-animal bond, helping associates with professional and personal growth, in turn keeping the pets and people happy forever.”

Furever Vets Central, Urgent Care & Pet Resort is located at 11030 Baymeadows Road, Jacksonville. The phone number is 904-375-3995.

The benefits of a blueberry facial

Why is a blueberry facial beneficial to your dog’s grooming regiment? Blueberry facials offer the benefit of antioxidants and vitamins A, D and E for itchy or irritated skin. They also help decrease the appearance of tear stains. Blueberry facials are hypoallergenic, tearless and a lick-safe shampoo that naturally cleans and hydrates skin while brightening the coat. Massaging properly is very relaxing, which adds to your dog’s spa experience. Pawgrass Dog Spa, 50 Solana Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, includes a blueberry facial with every spa package.



Contributed photo
A canine guest of Pawgrass Dog Spa enjoys the relaxing massage of a blueberry facial.

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Finding the 'purr'fect home

The following are photos of cats with their new owners after having been adopted through Love Me True Rescue, Inc., which is a nonprofit cat rescue that rescues and rehabilitates cats before helping them find a good home.

Photos courtesy of Love Me True Rescue, Inc.



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Contributed photos

Fill-a-Truck donation event benefits dogs, cats

The Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) is partnering with Jaguar Moving to collect donations for JHS pets with a fill-a-truck event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 18.

The event's goal is to fill a 26-foot Jaguar Moving truck with donations and supplies for JHS programs. The event will take place on JHS's corner lot on Foster Drive and Beach Boulevard. Chinchilla's Eats on the Streets food truck will be on site, as well as WAPE radio station.

Most-needed items are:

- Cat and kitten food (dry and canned)
- Dog food (dry and canned)
- Kitten milk replacement formula (KMR)
- Paper towels
- Dog treats
- Cat treats

Note: No household items will be accepted.

In addition to this donation drive, Jaguar Moving is sponsoring JHS's "Don't Kitnap" campaign, which shares information with the Jacksonville community about keeping found kittens with their mothers, as well as offering resources to those who find abandoned kittens. Resources for found kittens can be found at jaxhumane.org/



kittenhelp.

"We are so grateful to Jaguar Moving for their partnership in this donation drive and sponsorship of 'Don't Kitnap,'" said JHS CEO Denise Deisler. "The donations gathered during the March 18 event will help us continue to provide compassionate care to animals waiting to be adopted."

For more information about the Fill-a-Truck event, go to jaxhumane.org or call 904-725-8766.



Abby Adkins



Ezra Hartley

Humane society plans day of fun

The St. Augustine Humane Society will present "Hot Diggity Dog Day" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 2.

Tour the surgical center and pet spa and participate in all the family-friendly activities, including face-painting by the artistic Shauna Spillberg Mayer, portraits by a talented caricature artist and a dog agility exhibition. Representatives from Luna's Legacy and Swamp Haven will be there with information about animal adoptions, and there will be hot dogs available through Diggin' It Hot Dogz and Catering.

One of the main attractions of the day is the drawing for a \$300 football prize package, which includes two tickets to the Gators' opening game, and a \$50 gift card to the Gridiron Grille in Gainesville. Get tickets at the St. Augustine Humane Society and the Society Pet Spa, 1665 Old Moultrie Road. Raffle tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased until drawing time on April 2.

For more information, go to staughumane.org and access the Events and Happenings page.

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Things to know about kitten season

The Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS), along with the City of Jacksonville's Animal Care & Protective Service (ACPS) and First Coast No More Homeless Pets (FCNMHP), is seeking the community's support to help save feline lives by sharing information on "what to do" when you find a litter of kittens during kitten season.

Kitten season is the time of year when unfixed cats procreate and give birth to kittens. As weather warms, cats go into heat. According to Best Friends Animal Society, "In most places across America, animals mate and give birth in spring. This phenomenon can be attributed to a variety of factors, such as longer days, better weather and more access to food, which means higher survival rates for the offspring of many species. Unlike other animals, though, cats can keep on reproducing, having litter after litter right up until the weather turns cold again. In many regions, kitten season can last from spring until early winter."

During 2022, JHS and ACPS combined took in 5,352 kittens under the age of five months, and JHS served an additional 726 kittens via its Kitten Crusaders program. Kitten Crusaders encourages community members who find kittens to foster and keep them out of the shelter by connecting finders with no-cost veterinary care.

When people find a litter of kittens outside, it is often instinctual to jump right into "savior mode" and "rescue" these tiny cats. This notion has been given the moniker "kitnapping," and all three agencies ask the public to not act on that instinct. Instead:

- **Watch and wait:** The mother cat is likely nearby. A kitten's best chance at survival is to stay with its mother. It may take a few hours for her to return.

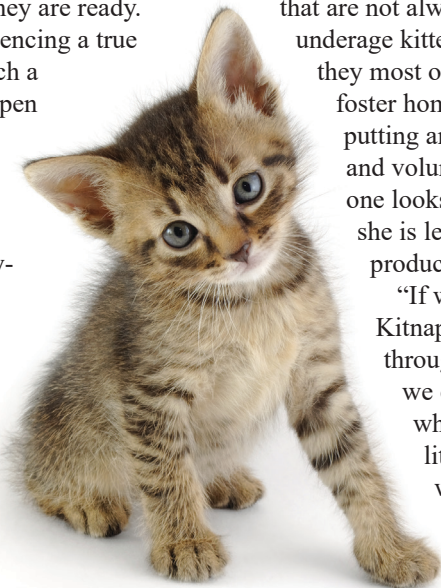
- **If mom returns:** Provide support (food, water, shelter) as needed and when the kittens are 8 weeks old, get mom and kittens spayed/neutered and find them homes.

- **If mom does not return:** A home is a better option than the shelter. JHS can provide coaching on care instructions and help support your efforts to find the kit-

tens new homes once they are ready.

- If kittens are experiencing a true medical emergency, such as struggling to breathe, open wounds or visible ribs/spine, ACPS can be reached via 904-630-2489, myjax.custhelp.com or the My-Jax app.

Kitnapping is not the best option for kittens, mother cats or shelters. Underage kittens are the most fragile population in shelters and require extra time, labor and resources



that are not always available. When underage kittens arrive at the shelter, they most often have to go into a foster home the very same day, putting an extra strain on staff and volunteers. Also, when no one looks for the mother cat, she is left alone to continue reproducing in the community.

"If we can share the 'Don't Kitnap Kittens' message throughout our community, we can collectively do what is best for these little ones and keep them with their mother cat," said Denise Deisler, JHS CEO. "Together, we can conquer

kitten season in Jacksonville."

Community members who want to help with the "Don't Kitnap" initiative can share this messaging on social media, sign-up to foster kittens in their home at JHS or ACPS, and/or donate items via the kitten wish-lists on shelter websites. Volunteers are also needed for all three organizations.

Community members can also contribute by participating in trap-neuter-vaccinate-return programs offered at First Coast No More Homeless pets, which provide free and low-cost spay or neuter surgeries for outdoor community cats.

This year's "Don't Kitnap" campaign is sponsored by Jaguar Moving.

For more information, go to jaxhumane.org/kittenhelp.

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Treating osteoarthritis in dogs and cats

Osteoarthritis, or degenerative joint disease (DJD), is a progressive disease of the joint characterized by loss of cartilage, bone spur formation called osteophytes and scarring of the joint.

Cats more commonly get primary DJD, which is associated with aging. Dogs more commonly get secondary DJD, which is a consequence of trauma, ligament injury or joint dysplasia.

Regardless of primary or secondary disease, DJD is progressive to affect the entire joint structure leading to pain, loss of function, muscle wasting and poor quality of life.

Cartilage is comprised of hyaluronic acids, glycosaminoglycans and water. As this cartilage structure is broken down, inflammation increases, elasticity decreases, and the joint becomes less shock-absorbent. Tiny bone spurs may form, contributing to pain and stiffness. Dogs and cats may exhibit changes in the way they walk, decreased willingness to go on walks, changes in the way they sit or curl up, decreased grooming activity, changes in appetite, loss of muscle mass and difficulty rising.

Cold or wet weather may worsen clinical signs. Unfortunately, there is no cure for DJD, only control of symptoms and progression. Diagnostics may include

a full and thorough physical exam with joint manipulation and gait analysis, x-rays, blood work, joint fluid analysis, and/or CT/MRI. The goal of treatment is a multi-modal approach to relieve pain, increase function and slow progression of disease.

This approach includes weight management, environmental management, nutraceuticals, controlled exercise and medications.

Weight reduction, if indicated, is a major factor in slowing disease, as excessive weight creates a large amount of stress on an animal's joint. Talk with your veterinarian to either start a commercially available weight reduction diet or tailor the current diet to reduce caloric intake.

Healthy snacks for dogs include apple slices, green beans, plain rice cakes, carrots, blueberries, bananas and cooked sweet potato. For most cats, reducing carbohydrate intake helps with weight loss.

Environmental management for an arthritic dog may include non-slip runners in the house, toe grips (Dr. Buzby's toe grips or booties), keeping nails trimmed, raising food bowls to help with neck pain, stairs or a ramp to help access furniture, memory foam bedding or a harness to help with mobility (such as Help Me Up Harness).

Non-drug treatment modalities for arthritis can include a combination of any of the following treatments or supplements:

- **Adequan (PSGAG):** Given via injection either in the muscle or under the skin, Adequan provides faster and longer-lasting responses than oral forms. Adequan prevents cartilage breakdown, increases synovial fluid and blocks inflammatory mediators. Owners can be taught how to give this injection at home.

- **Fish Oil:** Long chain fatty acids provided by fish sources of EPA and DHA are preferred over short chain fatty acids from plant sources. The dose for arthritis is typically higher than other uses of fish oil, so stomach upset can occur.

- **Laser therapy:** A noninvasive and highly effective way to treat pain and inflammation, laser therapy provides targeted super pulsed laser light that stimulates cell regeneration. (multiradiance.com)

- **Acupuncture:** performed by a trained professional, acupuncture provides pain relief, increased mobility and increased blood flow

- **Assisi loop:** Targeted Pulsed Electromagnetic Field therapy delivers a micro-current to damaged tissue that is precisely tuned to trigger an animal's own natural anti-inflammatory process. The electromagnetic signal, which is 1/1,000 the strength of a cell phone, stimulates cellular repair by upregulating the body's own production of endogenous nitric oxide. (assisianimalhealth.com/technology)

- **Joint supplements:** Movoflex, Flexadin, Dasuquin Advance. In some cases, a therapeutic trial of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) may help confirm that pain is responsible for

the patient's clinical signs; however, a positive response alone does not provide a definitive diagnosis of DJD.

Examples of NSAIDs available for dogs and cats include carprofen, meloxicam, deracoxib, grapiprant (Galliprant) and robenacoxib (Onsior for cats). NSAIDs block COX-1 and COX-2 pathways, except Galliprant, which spares the COX pathway and is safer for use in dogs with kidney or liver issues.

All NSAIDs have the potential to cause stomach upset or organ damage. Do not give your dog or cat any human NSAID such as ibuprofen, Aleve or aspirin. Especially avoid Tylenol in cats, as it can cause a severe blood disorder called methemoglobinemia and death.

Other pain modulating drugs which can be combined with NSAIDs include gabapentin, tramadol and Amantadine. Gabapentin specifically targets nerve pain, which in combination with inflammation can be significant in a pet with arthritis. Tramadol, a weak opiate, can also be given in combination to help with more severe pain. Amantadine is a N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) antagonist that in combination with other medications helps relieve pain. It is not used as solo-therapy.

Solensia is the first FDA approved drug to control osteoarthritis pain in cats. A feline anti-nerve growth factor monoclonal antibody drug, Solensia is given via injection by a veterinarian once a month. A total 77% of cats showed an improvement in mobility after three monthly treatments. Read more about Solensia here at zoetispetcare.com/products/solensia.

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Types of fish that can share a tank

The pet experts at PetSmart note that fish can become territorial, so there's no guarantee that typically neighborly species will get along. However, the following are some species that should be able to share the same tank without issue.

- **African cichlids:** PetSmart describes these active fish in a somewhat paradoxical way, noting their territorial and aggressive tendencies while also noting they do better when crowded together. African cichlids should be monitored closely after introducing them to a tank and removed if they become too aggressive. When choosing a tank, pick one that's at least four feet long.

- **South and Central American cichlids:** PetSmart notes larger varieties of these cichlids can be very aggressive and, unlike their African counterparts, do not do well in overcrowded tanks. When picking South and Central American cichlids, ask

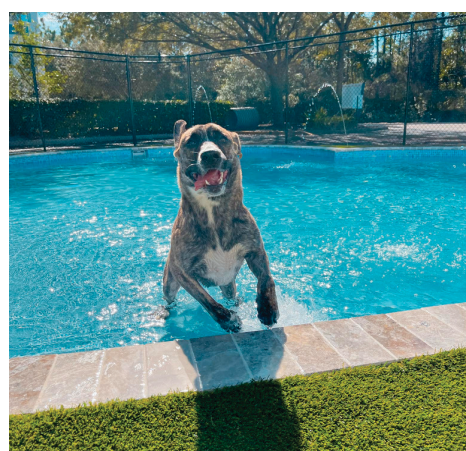
the pet store professional to select fish of similar sizes, diet and temperament. The tank for these fish should be able to accommodate their size as an adult.

- **Community fish:** As their name suggests, community fish are compatible when placed in a tank with other non-aggressive species.

PetSmart notes that schooling species do best in quantities of five or more. Examples of community fish include rasboras, tetra, rainbowfish, danios and cory catfish.

- **Semi-aggressive fish:** Unlike community fish, the name of this category of fish suggests a peaceful tank might be difficult to establish. However, PetSmart notes that semi-aggressive fish can get along with others if all fish are the same size. But PetSmart urges fish owners to avoid pairing semi-aggressive fish with smaller fish, which can bring out their less friendly tendencies.





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St. Patrick Parade brings emerald excitement to Nation's Oldest City



Once again, St. Augustine's time-honored St. Patrick Parade put on a jolly show for local residents. The parade, held Saturday, March 11, featured bagpipers, Irish step dancers, pirates, Darth Vader in a kilt and St. Patrick himself chasing the snakes out of the Nation's Oldest City.

Photos by Shaun Ryan



Tasting Tours expands to offer exclusive event space



Book your next event in the heart of downtown St. Augustine at The Tasting Tours Suite and enjoy breathtaking views of the bayfront and city skyline.

Owned and operated by The Tasting

Upcoming Events at The Tasting Tours Suite

Saturday, March 25th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Byron Capo Art Exhibit — This open house is free and open to the public. RSVP online. Learn more at thetastingtours.com/suite-events.html. RSVP at thetastingtours.com/special-events.html.

Coming Soon

April 1: Sunset and Sangria event

April 8: 9 a.m. Easter Parade and champagne tasting

April 22: Wine & Spice-ology Workshop in collaboration with The Spice and Tea Exchange

Tours, this new space offers a new way to celebrate, providing an intimate space for private events, micro weddings for up to 35 guests, educational workshops, wine tastings and more. Located on the fifth floor of The Treasury building, this exclusive venue offers one-of-a-kind views from Matanzas Bay to Flagler College.

“This space is perfect for anyone looking to host a private celebration or join in on one of our custom events, such as how to build charcuterie boards and educational wine tasting workshops,” explained Andrea Jones, CEO of The Tasting Tours. “My favorite thing about The Tasting Tours is sharing a unique perspective of the city. The Tasting Tours Suite is just another way to share the best parts of our city and invite others to make their own memories, which is incredibly special.”

Located in the city’s one and only “skyscraper,” The Tasting Tours Suite is a private events space and tasting room providing guests with the chance to ex-



Contributed photos

perience the best of what St. Augustine has to offer. This intimate venue is ideal for those looking to celebrate nuptials, an anniversary, birthday party, baby shower or any other event for up to 35 guests. In addition, the venue also offers wine and culinary tasting events for those looking to experience a sprinkling of local flavor.

“This space is where memories are made,” Jones said. “With stunning views of the waterfront to your right and a gor-

geous sight of the Flagler College skyline to your left, I can’t imagine a better place to celebrate. Being in the heart of the city, above the hustle and bustle of downtown, is the perfect chance to step back, slow down and enjoy the moment.”

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to thetastingtours.com or contact Suite Coordinator Niki Kemper at suiteevents@thetastingtours.com or 904-325-3971.

Program helps drivers get back on the road

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller will hold its annual Operation Green Light driver license reinstatement event Monday, March 20, through Friday, March 24.

The event allows everyone with an outstanding fine in St. Johns County to pay overdue court obligations while saving on debt collection fees. The annual event aims to help residents pay their outstanding court-ordered obligations

and restore their driving privileges.

Individuals with outstanding traffic tickets and court fines can pay their overdue fines sent to a debt collection agency and potentially save between 25%–40% of the collection agency surcharge. Payment must be made in full to qualify for the savings.

Operation Green Light will run daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. Johns County courthouse, 4010 Lewis Speed-

way, St. Augustine. In addition to in-person payment at the courthouse, payment can be made online at stjohnsclerk.com or by calling 855-796-5764.

Since its inception, Operation Green Light has helped 824 drivers legally get back on the road. During last year’s event, the office assisted 337 county residents to become eligible for driver license reinstatement and collected \$45,004.

If all requirements are met, an individual whose case has not been sent to a collection agency may be eligible for a payment plan and reinstatement of their suspended driver license. Statutory and late charges will apply, and additional fees may be required for reinstatement with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

To check the status of your driver license, go to services.flhsmv.gov/dlcheck.

Business Weekly

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THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023


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How our current inflationary economy affects divorce



By Lawrence Datz,
Jacksonville Family Law
Attorney

In many cases, divorce can be a very traumatic or unsettling life experience.

But when you add an uncertain economy and inflation to the mix, divorce can be a taxing time, in more ways than one.

In my practice and those of my colleagues, we have seen the effects on divorce in almost every type of economic environment. We have had to adjust our strategies or our compromises accordingly. And the current economy is one of those times that calls for specific actions for specific conditions.

For example, in today's economic condi-

tions, there are several major divorce issues that are related directly to inflation and economic downturns. These include home mortgages, the value of retirement and non-retirement assets, and the cost of living as it relates to child and spousal support.

First, take what is happening in the real estate market. With interest rates up, purchasing, selling or refinancing a home, which is usually one of largest assets in a divorce cases, is much more difficult. If one spouse wants to buy the other's share in the home, issues will rise about a possible fluctuating home value or having to refinance with today's interest rates.

When you look at how the stock market has dropped over the year, the current value of financial assets in regular financial accounts and in retirement vehicles are not

what they were.

Then with the higher cost of living, items like rent, food, clothing, home maintenance, transportation could easily raise the amount for spousal or child support, more so than it would perhaps a year ago.

We have used, or at least seen, a few specific strategies in divorce settlements during times like these. In some cases, couples have delayed divorce, waiting for lower inflation and interest rates, before proceeding with an official split. The problems that arise with this strategy is that it is impossible to time the financial markets, plus the mental and emotional stress of remaining married could be too great.

Another strategy is to sell the home, which again could be difficult, split the proceeds, and divide all of the assets so that

both parties share equally in the market risks.

Finally, there is another strategy used by couples who simply cannot afford to live apart. Obviously, it is more costly to run two households than one. So instead of divorcing, couples can sign a postnuptial agreement or legal separation agreement. The couple figures out a way to live together (upstairs or downstairs or utilizing a small nearby apartment) where they can share childcare and they can also stay on the family health plan.

Every party needs an experienced family law attorney when considering divorce, but when economic times are tough, like today, it really makes sense to hire an attorney who is board certified in marital and family law.

Get the skill and knowledge you need when transitioning through a difficult family conflict or related criminal law issue.

Zisser Family Law, co-founded by Elliot Zisser, one of the first board certified Family Law attorneys in Jacksonville, has been serving the families of Jacksonville for over 40 years. Our highly respected and accomplished Family Law attorneys have the depth and experience to provide expert solutions in the most complex cases. We've honed our skills and have become essential partners with our clients when it comes to custody, alimony, divorce, estate planning and much more. Our firm offers traditional litigation, while taking a more collaborative approach to criminal issues as they relate to family law such

as, domestic violence. We share our experiences with each other – which makes us all better lawyers. Times have changed, but our dedication has not.

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Boeing breaks ground on major new facility

Boeing broke ground Thursday, March 9, on its component operations facility, which will serve U.S. Navy and Air Force aircraft at Cecil Airport in Jacksonville.

The 150,000-square-foot building will be located across from Boeing's 370,000-square-foot maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility, which is under construction.

The component operations team inspects and repairs composite and structural flight control surfaces for military aircraft. The team delivers more than 175 assets each year.

The new facility will increase production capabilities and provide a more efficient workspace.

Boeing has begun recruiting for several positions and anticipates creating more than 300 new job openings as new contracts and aircraft derivatives arrive at the site.

Boeing began a growth plan for the Jacksonville area in October 2021 after signing a 25-year lease agreement with the Jacksonville Aviation Authority.

The MRO facility located on the north-eastern side of Cecil Airport will be ready for full occupancy by the end of the year. It features 270,000 square feet of modern hangar space and more than 100,000 square feet of office and support space.

The component operations facility will be leased from the real estate development firm Scannell Properties for 27 years with an option to extend up to 50 years in total. It is estimated to be ready for occupancy in early 2024.

With the completion of these two facilities, Boeing's footprint at the new complex will reach more than 546,868 square feet.

"Based on the size of these two facilities alone, I can say that Boeing has big plans for Jacksonville," said Rhiannon Sherrard, site senior executive for Boeing Jacksonville.

The Boeing site at Cecil Airport opened its doors in 1999 and has been providing military customers fast and affordable modifications and upgrades for a range of aircraft. Boeing Cecil Field is

home to a flight control repair center that provides structural repairs to F/A-18-G flight control surfaces.

"Boeing's commitment to support U.S. and allied warfighters is unwavering, and these facilities will increase our capacity to provide world-class products and services to men and women in uniform," said Kevin Mitchell, vice president of global technical operations for Boeing. "From the smallest parts to the largest aircraft, our team stands ready to deliver

what our customers need."

"Boeing's continued growth at Cecil is a testament to what an important economic engine the airport has become for Jacksonville and Northeast Florida," Jacksonville Aviation Authority CEO Mark Vanloh said. "As Boeing begins construction on its second campus at Cecil, it is also a testament to Northeast Florida's workforce. Our region provides businesses with the greatest skilled and high-tech workers in the state."



Boeing/Ben Davis photo

Pictured from left are: Ian MacDonald, senior development manager at Scannell; Tim Elam, director of development at Scannell; Rhiannon Sherrard, senior director at Boeing Jacksonville; Mark Vanloh, president and CEO at the Jacksonville Aviation Authority; Kevin Mitchell, vice president of Global Technical Operations (GTO) for Boeing; Warren Helm, GTO sustainment operations transformation leader for Boeing; Ray Alfred, chairman of the board at JAA; Matt Bocchino, director of Cecil Airport.

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In the Arts

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Photo by Mark Weiss, provided by Scott Segelbaum, Rock Art Show

This photograph of Tom Petty by Mark Weiss was taken in 1985.

Gallery 725 features iconic rock & roll photographer

Mark Weiss was a 14-year-old kid from New Jersey when he made a deal with a neighbor to cut his lawn in exchange for a 35mm camera. Thus began a lifelong journey of rock & roll mayhem that continues to this day.

While in high school, Weiss would sneak his camera into concerts, paying off security guards to get him closer to the stage. He developed the prints in his parents' bathroom to sell the next morning out of his school locker and then in front of the concert venue that night.

When KISS came to New York City in 1977 for a three-day stint, Mark was arrested outside of Madison Square Garden for selling his photos for a dollar apiece. After spending the night in jail, his peddling days were over. A week later, Weiss walked into the offices of Circus Magazine, the leading rock publication at the time, with his portfolio.

Circus published a centerfold of Weiss's photo of Steven Tyler of Aerosmith in their October 1978 issue. Within a few months he became a major contributor to the magazine and soon became a staff member, shooting covers and features.

His connections with the bands and their managers led to album cover shoots, including the famous Bon Jovi "Slippery When Wet" cover and more.

In the '90s, Weiss shot album covers

for CMC records that included George Thorogood, Cinderella, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Gwen Stefani and Christina Aguilera to name a few.

Weiss is also credited for introducing Zakk Wylde to Ozzy Osbourne and introducing Sebastian Bach to Skid Row.

In late 2015, Weiss's photos filled Broadway's Helen Hayes Theatre as his photography was showcased on the theater walls during the entire run of the musical "Rock of Ages."

Weiss has also published "The Decade That Rocked," his bestselling book featuring a foreword by Rob Halford of Judas Priest along with an afterword by Sirius/XM DJ Eddie Trunk. Since the release of the book, Mark has been inducted into the Album Cover Hall of Fame as well as the Metal Hall of Fame, where he was inducted by Twisted Sister front man Dee Snider.

Weiss will visit Gallery 725 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 25, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 26, to greet fans and talk about the history behind his classic photographs. He will also team up with artist Michal Pellicone for a live demonstration of embellishing a large photograph on canvas with paints to create a one-of-a-kind collectible.

Gallery 725, is located at 13475 Atlantic Blvd, Ste. 6, Jacksonville. For information, go to Gallery725.com or call 904-345-9320.

Author to discuss creating conflict at writers meeting



Janice Hardy

While we may try to avoid conflict in our everyday lives, conflict is at the heart of good fiction. Award-winning author, educator and speaker Janice Hardy shares the key elements to "Creating Stronger Conflicts in Your Novel" when she speaks at the FWA Ponte Vedra Writers meeting, 11 a.m. Saturday, March 25, at the Ponte

Vedra Beach Branch Library.

"At the heart of every story is conflict," says Hardy. "It's so central to good storytelling, that without it, you have no story. But despite its importance, it's not always easy to find the conflict in an idea."

In her workshop, she'll examine what "conflict" really means and how to find the right conflict for your story.

Hardy is the award-winning author and founder of Fiction University, where she helps writers improve their craft and navigate the world of publishing. She teaches writing workshops across the country, and her blog

has been recognized as a Top Writing Blog by Writer's Digest. When she's not writing about writing, she spins tales of adventure for both teens and adults, and she firmly believes that doing terrible things to her characters makes them more interesting.

The Ponte Vedra Writers group is part of the Florida Writers Association, a statewide membership organization dedicated to the support of both aspiring and published writers in any genre. The March 25 meeting is free and open to members and nonmembers alike.

For information on FWA go to floridawriters.org.

Seven local authors to speak at symposium

The Speaker Series sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Ponte Vedra Beach, will present an author symposium with seven local authors 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at Crosswater Hall, 245 Nocatee Center Way.

The authors presented will be:

Vic DiGenti, an award-winning author of six novels and eight works of nonfiction. His novels include the Windrusher Trilogy of adventure fantasies and the Mitchell Mystery series published under his pen name, Parker Francis.

He also works as a ghost writer, biographer and publisher using his imprint Windrusher Hall Press. He lives with his wife and four cats in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Sohrab Homi Fracis will read from his new book of North Florida stories, "True Fiction," which was a national finalist for the Szanc Books Story Collection Prize. American Book Award winner Rilla Askew says: "'True Fiction' is a tour de force." Fracis is the first Asian-American to win the Iowa

Short Fiction Award, described by the NY Times Book Review as "among the most prestigious literary prizes America offers," for his first book "Ticket to Minto: Stories of India and America." His novel, "Go Home," was shortlisted worldwide by Stanford University Libraries for the William Saroyan International Prize.

Dr. Edward Mickolus, after leaving Yale University with a Ph.D, served in analytical, operational management at CIA for 33 years dealing with collection, counter intelligence and covert action programs against terrorists, drug traffickers and hostile espionage services. In retirement he taught at CIA, the FBI Academy, ODNI and numerous universities. His 50 books include a series on international terrorism. He will discuss his recent books on education, humor and terrorism.

Nancy Quatrano is an award-winning writer, editor, speaker and columnist. The author of more than 50 published short stories of mystery and romance,

her award-winning mystery novels include "Murder in Black and White" and "Still Shot." She is the co-author of the inspirational award-winning books "Merciful Blessings" and "Keeping Faith." "Gone in a Flash" and "Southern Grace" are new titles due out in late 2023 and summer of 2024. Her awards include FAPA, FWA, Indie Books and Book Excellence Award. Her website is NLQuatrano.com.

Elisabeth Randall works with her photographer husband Bob, as half of photojournalistic team, writing nonfiction books about Florida. One of their seven books, "Murder in St. Augustine," won awards from the Florida Authors and Publishers Association and the Royal Palm Literary Awards. It was ranked on the Amazon Bestselling list several times. Randall's first fiction novel, "Fire is the Test of Gold," a psychological thriller with a twist ending, came out last October.

Kate Stollenwerck is an attorney turned author. She graduated from

Northwestern University and the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. Kate resides in Ponte Vedra Beach with her husband and three children. Her debut novel, "Hello, Goodbye," was released in August 2022.

Eleanor Tremayne is a retired high school and college English teacher with an MA in literature and the author of six novels. She owns the Serendipity online bookstore that holds book signing festivals, speaking events, literary tea parties and creative writing workshops. Born and raised in Southern California, Tremayne lives in St. Augustine with her husband, Mark, and her Weimaraner Enya. In 2019 her "Seven Days in Lebanon," an historical novel that retells her grandmother's exile from St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1917 and marriage to the last Prince of Khiva, earned the 2019 Fiction Best Seller Award at the Dayton Book Expo.

Call 904-273-3990 and leave your name and telephone number to register for this program.

Jazz, blues and funk concert planned

On Tuesday, March 21, The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library will present "Now is the Time," with Earnie Ealum, bass; Matt Johns, guitar/sax/vocals; Mike Spottswood, piano; and Rick Kirkland, drums. It promises to be an outstanding evening of jazz, blues and funk.

Ealum has been performing in the Southeast for more than 30 years. He has been teaching upright and electric bass for 25 years and maintains a longtime studio in Jacksonville. He has worked at the Cloisters, Sea Island, and with such groups as The Platters, Michael W. Smith, Percy Sludge and Stanley Jordan. Johns has been performing since childhood. At 19, he was hired to play with the Glenn Miller Orchestra. He has performed with

Tommy Dorsey, Buddy Morrow, Norm Lewis and many local bands. Johns plays with many premier ensembles such as River Town Band and the Bays Kings Band. He also plays trumpet. Kirkland is a consummate drum set artist and has performed around the world. He began his career with the Jacksonville Orchestra. He is a founding faculty member at the UNF Center for America Music.

The 6:30 p.m. concert is free to the public and will be in the FOL room at the library. Doors open at 6 p.m.



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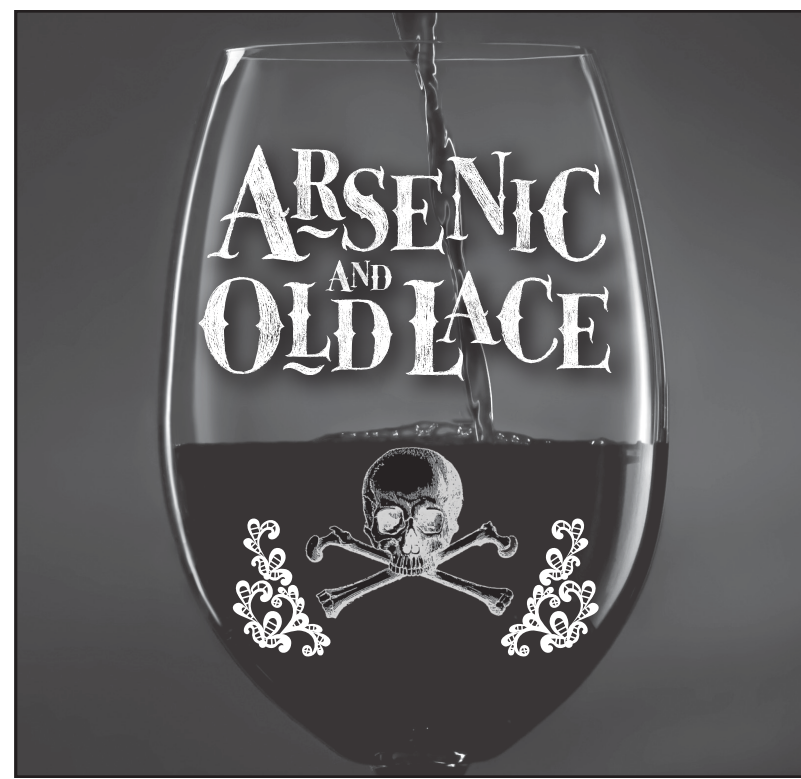
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Sports



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Scottie Scheffler was in command with his shots en route to a five-stroke victory in the 2023 PLAYERS Championship Sunday, March 12.



Fans root on Scottie Scheffler between holes during his final round.

Photos by Anthony Richards

THE PLAYERS gets crowd-pleasing champion: Scottie Scheffler

By Kathlene Bissell

If a guy could play golf in a 10-gallon hat and say, “Yup,” all the time, it would be Scottie Scheffler. You half expect his golf shoes to be shaped like cowboy boots.

Even though he is not a native Texan, he has lived in Dallas for so long it’s almost like he was born there. You get that Big Texan feeling from him when he talks and walks. He’s a big guy, six-foot three without his golf spikes.

He’s a little reminiscent, appearance wise, of another Masters winner, Charlie Coody, but perhaps more good looking, although Coody was quite the heartthrob in his day.

The thing people like about Scheffler is that he’s nice. Polite. The kind of guy you’d like to know, and that’s going to be a problem for the rest of his life. Because he’s those things, people will flock to him. More people than he could ever imagine.

“I’m just hoping to improve. I’m just trying to get a little bit better at a time, not overthink things and fortunately to be able to see some good results and enjoy some wins and I’m very thankful,” he said after winning.

Nobody says bad things about Scottie

Scheffler. Well, maybe some of his opponents whisper a few oaths under their breath, but it’s just because Scheffler is beating them six ways to Sunday. It’s not because he’s a bad guy.

He has now won six tournaments in 13 months, including The Players and the Masters. To say he’s on a roll is an understatement of understatements. He’s bulldozing his way through the PGA Tour. Humbly. Graciously.

His victory at The Players will give him the world No. 1 ranking again, taking it away from Jon Rahm. Rahm, Rory McIlroy and Scheffler have been rotating in and out of the No. 1 position over the last two years.

Scheffler took over the No. 1 from Jon Rahm in March 2022 held it for 31 weeks. Then McIlroy took it from Scheffler last fall, in October. Scheffler took it back on February 12th, but Rahm reclaimed it a week later.

Rahm had to withdraw from The Players due to illness. (One of his children was ill earlier in the week, and he probably caught it.) We will never know how Rahm might have played.

It is likely he will be making a strong effort to reclaim the No. 1 title in upcoming



Photos by Craig O’Neal

The moment it hit Scottie Scheffler that he was a PLAYERS champion.



Scottie Scheffler shares a moment with his wife.



The crowd goes wild after Scottie Scheffler drains his final putt on the 18th green.

CHAMPION continues on Page 54

Photos courtesy of Noc-Pal Area Athletics



Even though football's season is not until the fall, registration is already open.



Lacrosse is one of the next sports right around the corner.

Noc-Pal turns its attention to spring sports registration

NPAA always looking for new sports that have local interest behind

By Anthony Richards

Youth sports organizations are tasked with the mission of creating opportunities for children to play sports and develop the passion within the next generation of athletes.

One of the major organizations in the local area is Noc-Pal Area Athletics, which primarily focuses on serving children 5 to 18 years old in the Nocatee and Palencia areas.

With the spring season upon us a new wave of sports are just beginning or in the midst of getting underway, including travel basketball, track and weightlifting.

According to Sean McClafferty, who heads up the NPAA, registrations are still being taken for the sports and parents can enter their children even after a season starts.

The organization is already asking for tackle football and cheer registrations, even though the seasons are not until the fall.

“Those are definitely sports where it doesn’t hurt to start nice and early to make sure everything is ready and everyone has had a chance to take part,” McClafferty said.

Opening the registration early is done due to all the equipment and preparation that accompanies the game of football compared to other sports.

Registration for lacrosse has also begun with it’s season ready to begin in May.

“A large part of our mission centers a lot around character development and education,” McClafferty said.

The organization’s busiest time on the schedule is typically on Saturdays where NPAA teams play at a variety of fields throughout Northeast Florida.

The NPAA was developed three years ago and McClafferty has continued to see it grow both in the size and amount of the teams and the number of sports offered continues to increase.

“It has just grown every year subsequently,” McClafferty said. “We’ve already added seven to eight sports in only three years. It’s really been neat to see that growth take place.”

McClafferty expressed there is interest to add golf, baseball and softball, all of



Saturdays are the busiest time for the Noc-Pal Area Athletics, when the majority of their sports have games going on.

which he believes would keep and add to the already impressive list of sports.

Finding good officials is another something that is getting harder to find.

“We would also love to get younger parents involved more as coaches or volunteers,” McClafferty said.

More unique ways the NPAA is helping out children in their community is by also offering quarterly self defense classes for the youth of today.

The classes are taught by someone who is retired military, and the focus of the quarterly classes is situational defense.

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CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- 1. Belonging to a thing
- 4. Pass or go by
- 10. Partner to cheese
- 11. Subjects
- 12. U.S. State (abbr.)
- 14. Bits per inch
- 15. Forest-dwelling deer
- 16. Illinois city
- 18. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 22. Wholly unharmed
- 23. Cuddled
- 24. Bane
- 26. Global investment bank (abbr.)
- 27. Oh my gosh!
- 28. Arrive
- 30. Famed Spanish artist
- 31. Home of "Frontline"
- 34. Group of quill feathers
- 36. Keyboard key
- 37. Army training group
- 39. Detail
- 40. Pole with flat blade
- 41. Football play
- 42. Makes unhappy
- 48. Island in Hawaii
- 50. Back in business
- 51. Of an individual
- 52. Painful chest condition
- 53. Tropical American monkey
- 54. Matchstick game
- 55. For instance
- 56. Even again
- 58. Popular beverage
- 59. Evaluate
- 60. Time units (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1. Stain one's hands

- 2. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 3. Back condition
- 4. Popular movie alien
- 5. City of Angels
- 6. Peaks
- 7. Infantry weapons
- 8. Left
- 9. Atomic #99
- 12. Told a good yarn
- 13. Vale
- 17. Resistance unit
- 19. Aquatic plant
- 20. Bluish greens
- 21. About some Norse poems
- 25. Reinforces
- 29. Egyptian mythological goddess
- 31. Supportive material
- 32. Subatomic particle
- 33. Expired bread
- 35. Cereal grain
- 38. Goes against
- 41. Walkie __
- 43. One who does not accept
- 44. Beliefs
- 45. Indicates near
- 46. Brazilian NBA star
- 47. Grab quickly
- 49. Romantic poet
- 56. College dorm worker
- 57. Set of data

SUDOKU

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Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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



Contributed photos

The "Battle of the Beaches" tennis tournament participants featuring the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club versus the Sawgrass Country Club.

Inaugural 'Battle of the Beaches' tennis event held

On Feb. 25, Sawgrass hosted the first "Battle of the Beaches" tennis event. Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and Sawgrass Country Club battled for the championship trophy with five lines of doubles in men's and women's tennis, along with three lines of mixed doubles for a total of 13 matches. Each match win counted as one point for the team total.

It was a great day of tennis competition with many of the matches going into super tie-breaker third sets.

At the end of the tournament, Sawgrass Country Club defeated Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, 8 to 5, to win the "Battle of the



Sawgrass Country Club players take home the win.

Beaches" and bragging rights until next year.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Every club in Scottie Scheffler's bag was on target throughout the tournament.

Champion

Continued from 52

ing weeks. Rahm has already won three tournaments this season, the Sentry Tournament of Champions at Kapalua Resort in Hawaii, the American Express in La Quinta, California, and the Genesis Invitational at Riviera CC in Los Angeles.

This is Scheffler's second victory in 2023.

Several other golfers challenged this week with Min Woo Lee of Australia providing the toughest competition through three rounds.

However, Lee was not able to match Scheffler's level of play at TPC Sawgrass on Sunday.

In the end, Scheffler won by five shots over Tyrrell Hatton, by seven over Viktor Hovland and Tom Hoge, who shot a new course record on Saturday.

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Legals

Notice of Public Meeting Via Zoom I Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council

Notice is hereby given that the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council will meet via Zoom teleconference on **Monday, March 27, 2023**, at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is for the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council to consider and take action on items on its agenda. The meeting agenda and materials can be obtained electronically by emailing lregister@thefirewatch.org.

Interested persons desiring to attend this meeting can do so via **Zoom (including by computer or telephone) using the following meeting access information:**

By Computer
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83817119215?pwd=OTM4VH-Q4MUyZwDVVQZVZMNmVY-U3BSdz09>
Meeting ID: 838 1711 9215
Passcode: 371722

By Phone
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Pursuant to Section 163.01(18), *Florida Statutes*, this meeting is being conducted through the use of communications media technology. Additionally, those who unable to access the call can attend the meeting in a communications media technology facility located in the offices of **Office Evolution, 5011 Gate Parkway, Building 100, Suite 100, Jacksonville, FL 32256.**

Meetings are open to the public. All constituent questions or inquiries will be made a part of the permanent file and all efforts will be made to address the questions during noticed meetings of the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council.

Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council meetings are open to the public. All constituent questions or inquiries will be made a part of the permanent file and all efforts will be made to address the questions during noticed meetings of the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council. Interested persons who cannot attend this Zoom teleconference but who wish to submit public comments to be read during the public comment portion of the meeting regarding any matter on the agenda for consideration at the meeting may do so by emailing **Lilly Register** at lregister@thefirewatch.org up to the start time of the meeting. Public comments submitted by email must be received no later than 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to be read during the public comment portion of the meeting. The meeting agenda and materials can be obtained electronically by emailing lregister@thefirewatch.org.

Please contact **Lilly Register** by email at lregister@thefirewatch.org if you have any questions regarding this notice or if you experience technical difficulties during the meeting. A recording of this meeting will be available upon request by emailing lregister@thefirewatch.org after its conclusion.

St. Johns County serves as the fiscal agent for the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council. Inquiries/questions regarding items on the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council agenda should be emailed to **Lilly Register** at lregister@thefirewatch.org or by phone at 904 834 9420.

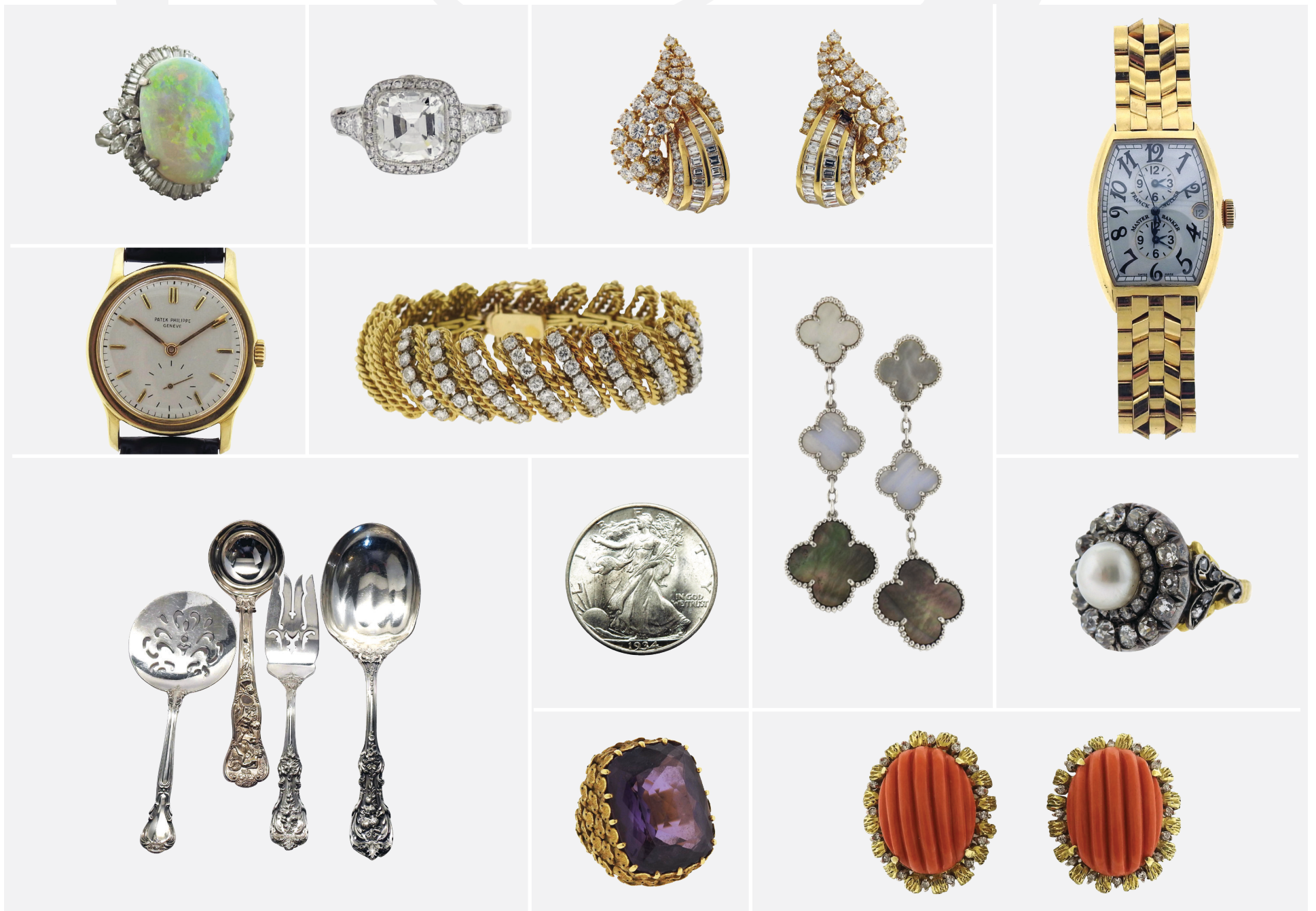
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