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



## TOE MEETS LEATHER

The Ponte Vedra Sharks held their annual youth football camp June 5-8 at the high school. All aspects of the game were taught during the week, including kicking field goals. See photos from the youth football camp in "Sports" on page 20.

Photo by Anthony Richards

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# Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to [news@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:news@pontevedrarecorder.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder](http://www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

## BRIEFS

### Ponte Vedra Democratic Club to meet

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will meet Monday, June 19, at the Ponte Vedra branch library, 101 Library Road. Chat and chew at 5:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 6 p.m.

The featured speaker is UNF Professor Elizabeth Brown addressing challenges facing higher education. For further information, email [ed.warren152@gmail.com](mailto:ed.warren152@gmail.com).

### Republican Party dinner event June 9

The St. Johns County Republican Party fundraising dinner will be held at 5 p.m. June 9.

U.S. Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL), Florida House Speaker Paul Renner (FL-19), St. Johns County Commissioner Krista Joseph (District 4) and Moms for America parent advocate Quisha King will be featured guests.

The event will be held at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive, St. Augustine. Tickets can be purchased online at [StJohns.GOP](http://StJohns.GOP).

### Palm Valley Market every Tuesday

The Palm Valley Market is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday inside the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Road. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, local honey, tea, seasonal treats, soap, jewelry, plants and more.

### Grief support group to meet

A grief support group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Room 107 of the Family Life Center, 578 First Ave. North, Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 21. For information, call Kathy at 553-8933.

### Flagler Health+, UF Health presidents to speak

Carlton DeVooght, president and CEO of Flagler Health+, and David Nelson M.D., president of UF Health, will be guest speakers at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's June 16 Economic Development Quarterly Breakfast. This will be their first public discussion since announcing they have agreed to move forward with the merger of Flagler Health+ becoming a part of UF Health.

The meeting is for Chamber members only. Members can register at [sjcchamber.com](http://sjcchamber.com). Nonmembers interested in attending can join the Chamber by contacting Sam Ruiz at [sam.ruiz@sjcchamber.com](mailto:sam.ruiz@sjcchamber.com) and purchasing a breakfast ticket.

[sjcchamber.com](http://sjcchamber.com) and purchasing a breakfast ticket.

### Ponte Vedra Library plans programs

Here's the adult services department programming at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library for June.

- Free Tech Help with David: Drop in for tech assistance with your Android, Apple, and Reader devices – no RSVPs required. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 8. For more details, go to [sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch](http://sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch).

- Book Lovers Book Club: 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. June 9. Join the discussion on "Symphony of Secrets" by Brendan Slocumb. For more details, go to [sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-](http://sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-)


BRIEFS continues on Page 3

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS




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


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AND GARDENS



# Arrest warrant issued in stabbing case

By Shaun Ryan

An arrest warrant was issued Monday for a Ponte Vedra Beach man in relation to multiple stabbings on Saturday, June 3, in the parking lot of Mr. Chubby's Wings, 150 Valley Circle, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Spencer Ross Pearson, 18, is facing charges of two counts of attempted murder and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon causing permanent disability. Pearson is currently hospitalized with injuries sustained in the incident.

According to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, a 17-year-old girl and her mother had met friends at the restaurant but left once they saw Pearson seated at a nearby table. As they were walking toward their vehicle about 20 seconds after they had left, Pearson was seen charging them.

In a sworn, recorded statement, one of the victims told authorities that Pearson held the girl down with one arm and stabbed her about 15 times. The girl's mother tried to intervene and was stabbed by the defendant in her forehead and leg, according to the Sheriff's Office report.

A bystander ran to assist and dislodged the defendant but was also stabbed.

According to the report, Pearson then sliced his own throat several times while telling witnesses he was attempting to kill himself.

Authorities began receiving numerous 911 calls at about 4:30 p.m. Sheriff's deputies and St. Johns County Fire Rescue responded.

Two of the victims and the defendant remain hospitalized.



# Rotary Club of Palm Valley names new president

Outgoing Rotary Club of Palm Valley president Zeke Paxton passes the gavel to incoming president Walter Vliegen.

Photo by Susan Griffin

## Briefs

Continued from 2

beach-branch.

• Conversations with Authors: Brendan Slocumb, "Symphony of Secrets," 3-4 p.m. June 15 via Zoom. To RSVP for a Zoom link and for more details, go to [sjcpls.org/](http://sjcpls.org/)

event/zoom-conversations-with-authors-brendan-slocumb-symphony-of-secrets.

• Literary Movie Matinee: "A Man Called Otto" (PG-13), 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 16. Adults are invited to the summer movie fest of movies based on popular adult books. For more details, go to [sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch](http://sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch).

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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## OBITUARIES

**Jane Love Hughes-Burton**

Jane Love Hughes-Burton, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, passed away peacefully on May 27th, 2023. Jane was born on July 20th, 1936, to Thaddeus and Louise Love in Wilmington, North Carolina. Jane graduated from New Hanover High School and attended Greensboro College. She moved to New York City and was the youngest stewardess for Trans World Airlines, which she enjoyed immensely. She married J. Winder Hughes, Jr. and moved to Jacksonville, Florida. Jane became very active in the community with volunteer work associated with the Junior League. She was chairman of the American Red Cross Nurse's Aides, and helped start the greater Jacksonville Golf Open, which is now the Tournament Players Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. She also enjoyed her docent work at the Cummer Museum, the Jacksonville Art Museum and

the Saint Augustine Historical Association. Jane was instrumental in founding the Northeast Florida Junior Tennis Association and was on the board of USTA for junior tennis. Jane was captain of the women's tennis team at the Ponte Vedra Club, and especially loved watching her children and grandchildren play in tournaments throughout the state of Florida and nationally. Jane loved walking on the beach and swimming in the ocean for 60 wonderful years in Ponte Vedra Beach. She was a faithful communicant at Christ Episcopal Church. She returned to Wilmington in 2005 and married her high school sweetheart, Paul Burton. Jane had a wonderful and lively life with Paul traveling and attending North Carolina State football games. She is survived by her children, John Winder Hughes III, Thaddeus Love Hughes, Thomas Nelson Hughes Sr. (Leigh Hollman), and Jane Love Hughes. Jane has nine grandchildren, Thaddeus Love Hughes Jr., Charles Karel Hughes (Carly Pelle), Thomas Nelson Hughes Jr., Holleman Walsh Hughes, Madison Hanna Hughes, Halle Tate Hughes, Patricia Grace Hughes, Hannah Jane Ellisen, and Louise Love Ellisen. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, North Carolina, Thalian Hall in Wilmington, North Carolina, or the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation in Jacksonville, Florida. The service will be held at Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, North Carolina. Please visit her online Tribute at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

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## DEATH NOTICES

**Amanda Louise Stratmann Griffin**

Amanda Louise Stratmann Griffin, 45, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died June 1, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

**Betty Sue Heindel**

Betty Sue Heindel, 82, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died May 27, 2023. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com)

**Edward Leroy Korunes**

Edward Leroy Korunes, 83, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died May 29, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

**Robert Rogers**

Robert Rogers, 80, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died June 2, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

**Harry David Schaller**

Harry David Schaller, 97, of Jacksonville, Florida, died June 2, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com)

**Peter Frederick Wiggins**

Peter Frederick Wiggins, 87, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died May 26, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100



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# Nease NJROTC seeks funds with car show July 22

By Anthony Richards

Nease High's NJROTC program is considered among the nation's best and has the accolades to back that up throughout the years.

However, there is a lot that goes into that success and part of maintaining it includes fundraising efforts, and they have thought of a new one to raise the money needed to help the program provide the opportunities it has for the students moving forward.

Nease NJROTC will hold its inaugural car show fundraiser July 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the high school's parking lot located at 10550 Ray Road in Ponte Vedra.

Admission to the event will be free, but \$20 is required for anyone looking to enter a car to showcase.

There will be vendors from local businesses on hand as well as food trucks and live music provided by DJ Chris.

There will be prizes given out for the top finishers in a couple of categories, including the top three voted as "best in show" and the top 15 cars chosen by those in attendance as the "people's choice"



Contributed photo

Nease NJROTC will host its inaugural car show fundraiser July 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the school.

award for the event.

To find out more information or to enter a car go to [nease-njrotc-car-show.square.site](http://nease-njrotc-car-show.square.site) or email [carshow@neaseenjrotc.com](mailto:carshow@neaseenjrotc.com)

According to Natalie Page, who is helping out with the car show, the need for fundraising has always existed but now it becomes even more important because there will be less funding available for the program from the national level.

Nease NJROTC cadets participate in local, regional and national competitions

for drill teams, air rifle/marksmanship, CyberPatriot, drone and orienteering.

"Many of the costs associated with these competitions are paid for or reimbursed by the United States Navy, but there are other costs that are the responsibility of the cadet and/or cadet's family," Page said. "Our mission is to provide supplemental resources to allow every cadet to be able to participate in NJROTC programs regardless of the family's financial means."

Help is provided to cover costs associated with travel expenses for specific competitions, uniforms and equipment needed for these events.

"We also have three amazing instructors who give up mornings, evenings, weekends, holidays, spring break, summer and whatever is needed to get our teams to the competitions or getting them training to succeed," Page said. "We support every effort to help the unit in any way we can."

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Kaye D. Schmitz is an award-winning author of four published novels, the first being “The Consort Conspiracy, A Covington Family Mystery,” published in 2017. To that, she has added three more and has become a popular writer among book clubs.

## Kaye D. Schmitz

### As told to Shaun Ryan

#### Tell me about your most recent books.

Since “The Consort Conspiracy,” I’ve had three more books. The second one turned out to be “On Deadly Grounds.” The first two were murder mysteries.

The third one, “The Road Remembered,” is a story of how love and humanity triumphed amid the atrocities of World War II. We all know the stories of World War II; in this book, you will meet the people who lived them.

#### That book was based in part on your father’s experiences, but also the lives of other real people.

My dad had been a part of the 89th Infantry Division. I thought: I have so many questions, but he’s gone. So, I did research on the internet about the 89th Infantry Division to see if I could find any other soldiers who were still alive. And I found one on Austin, Texas — then I found his obituary.

But in the obituary, they mentioned a surviving twin brother. I looked him up and found a name and phone number.

#### What happened then?

We had a wonderful conversation. We communicated several times. I was able to actually fly out to Austin, and I spent a day talking to him. I got his story and his twin brother’s story.

So, I incorporated my dad’s story. I incorporated the twins’ story. Then, people started sending me names of World War II veterans. I ended up interviewing about eight of them.

I included all of that in the third book, which I called “The Road Remembered.”

My main character, Sam, who had a lot of the experiences my dad had, is telling all of these stories to his daughter, who accompanies him to the 70th anniversary of the war. That’s how I did the modern day part of the story — and the one that was 70 years old.

#### Tell me about the book that followed.

In the latest book called “The Road Renounced,” I explore a lot more of Sam’s family and early life. That takes place primarily during World War I, so it’s actually a prequel to book number three.

“The Road Renounced” is a World War I tale of one soldier’s triumphs and tragedies as told by the woman who loves him.

Sam shows up in the book but as a child. His father is Buzz. The story is Buzz’s story and Sam’s mother Maude’s story.

That one came out in December/January.

#### How long does it take to write a book?

That depends. I worked on my first book for 20 years before it was actually published. “The Road Remembered” probably took about two years. “The Road Renounced” was under a year, because I already knew the whole story.

#### How can people get a copy of your books?

I always invite people to come to my website: [www.kayedschmitzauthor.com](http://www.kayedschmitzauthor.com). I have a store on my website, so I can personalize the books to them or to someone they choose to order for.

The other thing I’ve done recently is bundle the four



Photo courtesy of Kaye D. Schmitz

Author Kaye D. Schmitz with her latest novel, “The Road Renounced.”

books. To buy each book separately, it would be \$85. But I am bundling all four for \$70.

However, if people don’t care to have them personalized, they’re available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

#### How do you develop story ideas?

The way I see it is: anything can be a storyline.

My husband and I will be watching television, and I’ll say, “What if this happened?” And it will go from there. The ideas normally come in quicker than I can even write them down.

For my first book, I got the idea from an old cemetery, reading an epitaph on an above-the-ground crypt from the 1700s.

For the second book, I had visited this huge mansion just outside Los Angeles where a murder took place six months after the family had moved in. I took that story and moved it to North Carolina.

For the third book, I had my dad’s map [following his travels in the war], and that gave me the idea for the story.

The fourth book just kind of came as the result of things I felt I had left unfinished in the third book.

#### Who are some of your favorite authors?

I adore Kristin Hannah. I also really love Steve Berry. ... As a matter of fact, he spent three hours with me at his dining room table showing me how I could make my writing stronger, use fewer words and other things that I’ve incorporated into everything I do.

I also love Karen White, who writes paranormal and ghost stories. I really like Dorothea Benton Frank. She wrote a series of what she called “low-country” stories that took place in South Carolina close to the ocean.

#### Would you say these authors had an influence on your writing?

Absolutely. Dorothea had an influence on my ability to write some of my characters almost girlfriend-style. Steve had an influence with helping me to build suspense and keep suspense going. Kristin Hannah, from her I got the idea that I needed to have a parallel character or parallel story that I would eventually bring together at the end.

**EDITOR’S NOTE: This is an abridged version of the interview. To read the entire piece and find a link to synopses for all four novels, go to [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com).**



# New facility offers jiu jitsu lessons

By Shaun Ryan

With the opening Monday of PRO-TACTX Brazilian Jiu Jitsu at 200 Sterling Plaza Drive, Suite 204, Ponte Vedra, Danny Yakel's lifelong dream has come true.

"I always wanted to start my own gym, my own school," said Yakel, who is co-instructor with Mark Czarnecki.

Yakel is a retired Green Beret with black belts in both Japanese and Brazilian jiu jitsu and proficiency in other combat forms. He has trained members of the U.S. Army Special Forces, U.S. Army Rangers, U.S. Navy SEALs, U.S. Air Force Special Operations and U.S. Marine Corps Force Recon, as well as others.

He said his goal is to share his love of jiu jitsu, help people become more physically fit and give people more self-confidence. He also hopes to help kids grow in self-esteem.

Previously, Yakel taught classes at the link in Nocatee.

"Raghu and Gurpreet [Misra] were very, very welcoming," he said, "very awesome to work with."

The Misras are the founders of the

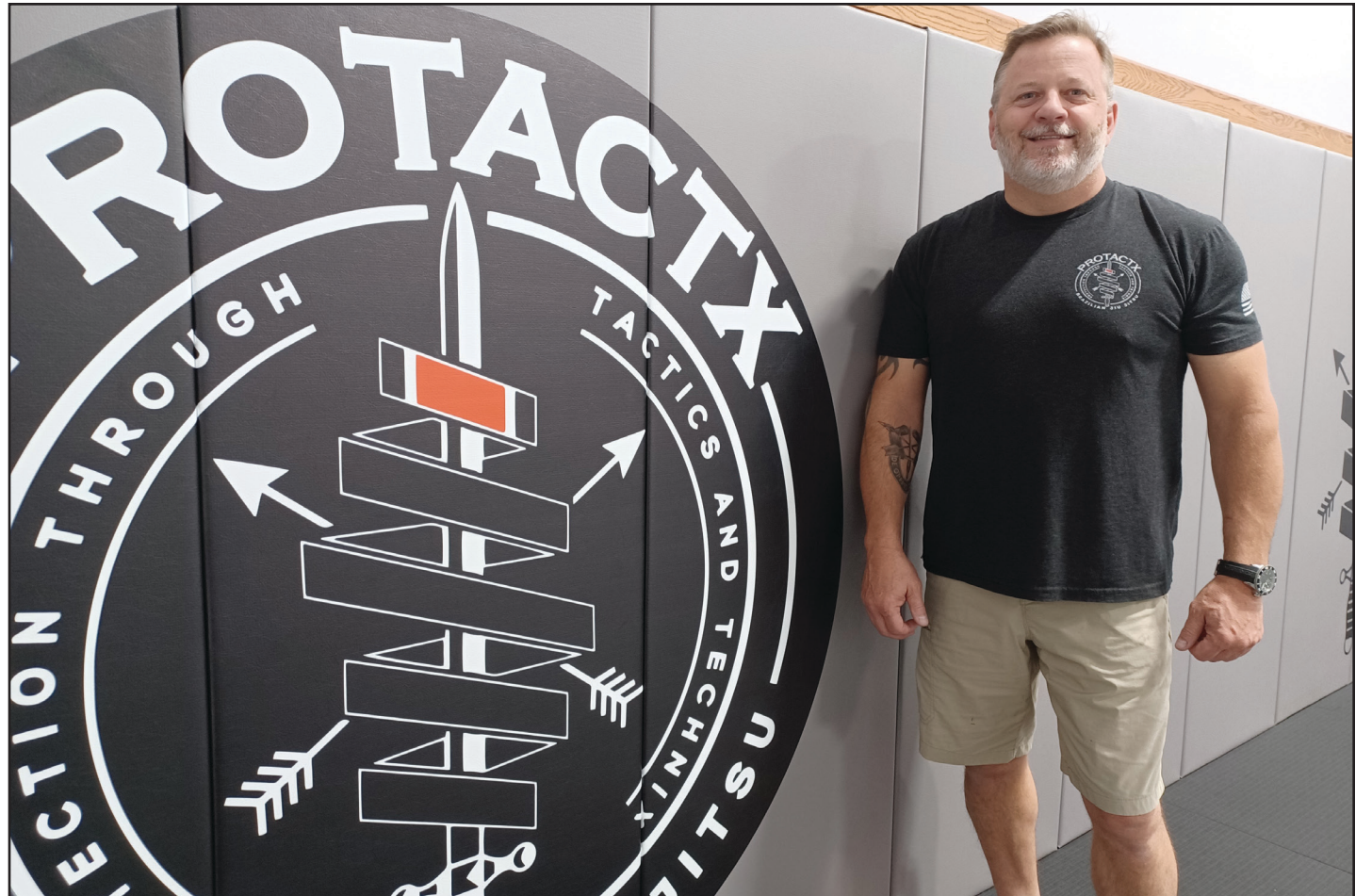


Photo by Shaun Ryan

**JIU JITSU** continues on **Page 9** **Danny Yakel is seen next to an emblem for his new business.**

PONTE VEDRA CLUB REALTY

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GUEST COLUMN

# Investing: The importance of planning

In its 2019 Retirement Study, Wells Fargo found that investors with a planning mindset felt they had greater personal control over matters such as personal debt, investment performance, career, and their overall financial life. The planning mindset was defined according to four key components:

1. "I am able to work diligently toward a long-term goal."
2. "In the last six months, I have set and achieved a goal or set of goals to support my financial life."
3. "I prefer saving for retirement now to ensure I have a better life in retirement."
4. "It makes me feel better to have my finances planned out in the next 1-2

years."

According to the study\*, approximately one-third of workers have the planning mindset. Those workers are nearly twice as satisfied with their overall financial life as those without a planning mindset, nearly twice as confident that they'll have enough money saved for retirement, and five times more likely to have a plan for dealing with the unexpected.

### Steps to becoming a better planner

The good news is that all investors have the ability to develop or strengthen planning skills that can help them improve their financial outlook.

The first step is to obtain general financial education, which could include

reading books or listening to podcasts on personal investment planning, taking a course online or at a local college, or talking with a financial advisor.

Next come the simple (although not always easy) steps to spend less and save more. Financial apps can help with tasks such as budgeting and tracking spending. Automated nudges — such as a yearly increase in the 401(k) savings rate — can help keep savings plans on track. Just remember that it can take time and practice to change financial habits. Beginning with smaller steps can reinforce the new habits and build confidence to move to the next level.

Then focus on developing a long-term investment plan, including contingency

plans to help deal with the unexpected. Tools such as vision boards — a collage of images that represent future desires — can help investors flesh out goals such as home ownership or retirement preferences. Once the basic plan is in place, continual updates allow investors to adapt to changes in the economy and their own circumstances. A plan should be documented and should be living and breathing — not something you create and forget. Life changes and your plan should keep pace.

With education and effort, investors can use a planning mindset to help achieve long-term financial health and the

INVESTING continues on Page 9

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# Investing

Continued from 8

life that they desire the most. Now is the time to review your plan and make necessary adjustments to help strengthen your efforts toward achieving your ultimate goal.

\* Workers refers to working adults who participated in the survey. On behalf of Wells Fargo, The Harris Poll conducted 3,918 online interviews of 2,708 working Americans 18-75 or older and 1,004 retired Americans, surveying attitudes and behaviors around planning, saving and investing for retirement. Working Americans are age 18-75 or older and working

full-time (or at least 20 hours if they are working part-time) or are self-employed. Retired Americans self-identified as retired regardless of age.

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# Jiu jitsu

Continued from 7

link, an award-winning smart building at the forefront of embracing technology for smart workspaces, event spaces and experiences located at 425 Town Plaza Ave. in Nocatee.

When Yakel announced that he intended to launch his own shop, Raghu Misra was very pleased.

“He said, ‘That’s what the link is for,’”

said Yakel.

Yakel encourages kids and adults to sign up for classes at the new facility, regardless of background and experience.

“It doesn’t matter your age; It doesn’t matter your background; It doesn’t matter your experience; It doesn’t matter your physical fitness level,” he said. “Just come and train and have fun.”

He said learning jiu jitsu is not like anything most people have done before.

“Over time, you’re going to get in better shape,” he said. “You’re going to

learn more techniques. You’re going to become more advanced. You’ll become more comfortable.”

For kids, the focus will lean in the direction of anti-bullying, though this won’t specifically be an anti-bullying class.

The new facility features about 1,200 square feet of mat space, cubbyholes for students to store their things, two restrooms and an area with tables, chairs and Wi-Fi for parents who are waiting for their children to finish their class.

To that will soon be added exercise equipment and two showers.

Classes are as follows:

- Monday through Thursday: kids ages 6-9 from 5 to 5:45 p.m., kids ages 10-13 from 6 to 7 p.m., and adults from 7 to 8 p.m.
- Saturday: Kids of all ages from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and adults from 10:30 to 11:30 p.m.

For further information or to sign up, go to [protractxbjj.com](http://protractxbjj.com). The business phone is 904-944-7449.



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# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2033

## What graduating seniors say about next decade

By Jada Montesione

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The Recorder's intern Jada Montesione spoke with several members of the 2023 graduating class about their senior year and what they believe the world will be like in a decade. Here are their responses.*

### ELLIE PINNAR



Ellie Pinnar

#### What was your favorite memory of senior year?

My favorite memory of senior year was definitely going to see Lewis Capaldi in D.C. I went with my best friend and my mom and we met my cousin there — it was a surprise — and it was just a really nice break from all my school work. I've always loved him and

it was just an amazing experience hands down. Totally recommend!

#### Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In 10 years, I see myself practicing physical therapy. I don't want to have my own practice at that point, but I want to be part of a practice and have patients and have connections with my coworkers and all that stuff. I got into physical therapy after getting injured so much in cross country and I found myself liking the ability to help other people be active. I just think that it's a really important profession.

#### What issues do you believe will be important 10 years from now?

I think the most important issues of 2033 will probably be resource issues and pollution because right now we're using fossil fuels, which are quickly running out. I think that the pollution that has been caused by that will eventually catch up to us, which will be an increasing problem in our future.

### AVA POOLE



Ava Poole

#### What was your favorite memory of senior year?

My favorite memory from this year would be launching a startup that I created and attending the New York Times Climate Forward as a delegate. That really opened my eyes to a whole new world of academia and innovation to explore, and because of

that event I was inspired to launch a startup and it's been such a journey that has really made me passionate and

excited about where the next few years will take me!

#### Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In 10 years, hopefully I will have a company of my own and it will probably be in the green tech field. I want to do something with applying AI to business processes and sustainable methods of conducting the world around us. I want to see how I can apply technology to business to create something that I am proud of. Owning a company and building it up ... let's say, Forbes 30 under 30!

#### What issues do you believe will be important 10 years from now?

There are so many! I think the acceleration of AI. I feel like technology is developing so fast that there can be more discrepancies between the people who have the most access to it and people who have the least. With AI and this more next generation of digital reform, it's company-based so that will likely drive the gap more. So, I feel like as we move into the next 10 years, we have to be diligent about not leaving people behind because that will create political issues and divide people more. We have to try and uplift everyone at the same time, or as much as we can.

### SOFIA TREJO



Sofia Trejo

#### What was your favorite memory of senior year?

My favorite memory was prom night and getting together with friends afterwards. A big group of us were talking around the fireplace and got to catch up on a lot of stuff like college, our futures, and just reflecting on our high school memories and funny moments.

#### Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In 10 years, I hope to have a good stable job doing something that I'm passionate about and enjoy doing, and I'd like to be traveling, hopefully. I want to explore Europe. Right now, I would love to work in some sort of industry relating to electric vehicles, and I think the construction of those is cool. I'm kinda environmentally conscious, so that's an appealing thing to me that I might want to look into.



CONGRATS  
to the Class of  
2023

We wish you all the best!



#### What issues do you believe will be important 10 years from now?

In 10 years, I think AI security will be on the rise, especially with the recent events of ChatGPT. I think anything related to the internet and security has been pretty prominent recently and all the misinformation on social media.

### PATRICK LYDON



Patrick Lydon

#### What was your favorite memory of senior year?

I really enjoyed the out-of-school events like prom and grad bash.

#### Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Hopefully out of college. I think I would like to work in the health care system, probably in the hospital. I just want to be helping people

in some way. I definitely want to go down some sort of medical route, but I'm not sure if med school is right for me, though. I was looking at other things like pharmacy.

#### What issues do you believe will be important 10 years from now?

I think the climate is an important issue. We have to make sure we are dealing with that. Also, we should try to settle global tensions.

### FABRIZIO LIJERON HERRERA



Fabrizio Lijeron Herrera

#### What was your favorite memory of senior year?

My favorite memory of senior year was Swim States. I have swum for two years now.

#### Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Probably still in school because I want to do a Ph.D. I want to go into medical research. We don't have that program where I'm from in Bolivia, and I want to go back there and get into that there.

#### What issues do you believe will be important 10 years from now?

I think health care will get more expensive and that's what I want to do. Everything in health care is overpriced by at least 2,000% and so if there's a company — because everything is in big pharma — outside of that that can make medicine for the same price but sell it cheaper, that will fix that.



# A time to celebrate and look back

Graduations for both Ponte Vedra and Nease High Schools have taken place and another class of seniors have graduated from the schools. Graduation day is a time to reflect and share memories with family and friends as they prepare for the next step in their life's journey. The Recorder congratulates all 2023 graduates!

Contributed photos



SEE MORE GRADUATION PHOTOS ON PAGE 12



## Congratulations


# Class of 2023

As your School Board member, your graduation is one of my favorite celebrations. I am so proud of you and enjoy seeing you and your many accomplishments. My wish for you is that success keeps following you in everything you do, and that you continue to follow your dreams.



*Kelly Barrera*

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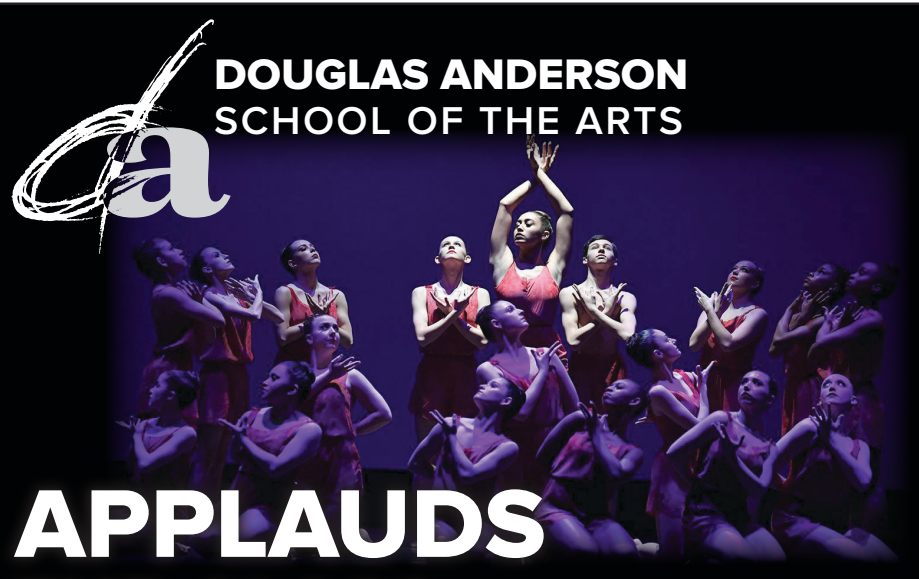
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\$21 Million Total Scholarships Offered Graduates  
59% Of Seniors Offered Academic & Arts Scholarships  
47% Of Graduates Will Pursue College Degrees In The Arts

**Douglas Anderson 2023 Graduates**

Alexander Eugene Agalotis  
Christopher James Agalotis  
Tywan Jaleel Takye Allen  
Helena Naomi Mishima Almeida  
Portia Fern Apostol  
Azyria Monet Artis  
Valeria Marie Aviles  
Lucija Ryan Antonia Bacon  
Mason Douglas Balcarek  
Jessica Shay Barone HHB  
Samantha Kathleen Beane  
Zoe Dee Beard  
Lachey Ann Marie Benson  
Naomi Dayne Bierowski  
Lillian Jewel Blanco  
Lilliana Mary Bella Braddock  
Jordan Marie Bradford  
Benjamin Daniel Bravo  
Graham O'Neil Briggs  
Ella Grace Brisson  
Lydia Frances Bautista Broward  
Emerson Hill Brown  
Chloe Krisha Browne  
Kennedi Amara Brush  
Jayci Evelyn Bryant  
Janai Trinity Burton  
Erinne Adrianna Butler  
Aiden Alexander Camp  
Rosaleen Lyndale Carr  
Bailey Anna Carson  
Claudia Gwyneth Cassaro  
Maurice Chakour  
Alisa Gwendolyn Chamberlain  
Neveah Ceri Chamberlin  
Te'Avion Nicole Champion  
Caiden Madison Church  
Hazelanne Doreen Claudio  
Emily Nicole Collins  
Melody Claire Combs  
Aiden Jason Coots  
Liliana Copeland  
Shaira Jada Corbitt  
Maeve Edna Coughlin  
Jill Meredith Crews  
Aidan Robert Curran  
Ariyana Zana'e Davis  
Brian Jordan Davis III  
Sarah Riley Dickey  
Nicolas Jacob Dobleo  
Jessie-Ellen Doherty  
Abigail Anne Douglas  
Innselena Lunise Dufrene  
Samia Nelda Dumesle  
Dakota Jeanette DuPree  
Christina James Dyches  
Taylor Strever Ekern  
Amelia Claire Elder  
Lauren Alexandria Emerson  
Bethany Grace Farris  
Davin Gianni Fasci  
Babafemi Oluwasubomi Fatoki  
Camille Jordan Faustino

**2** Graduates National Merit Finalists  
**8** Graduates Presidential Arts Merit Finalists  
**2** Graduates National Reflections Winners  
**7** Graduates National Scholastic Arts & Writing Award  
Winners In Visual Arts, Creative Writing & Cinematic Arts  
**2** Graduates Florida Arts For Life Winners  
**18** National Theatre Applause Awards

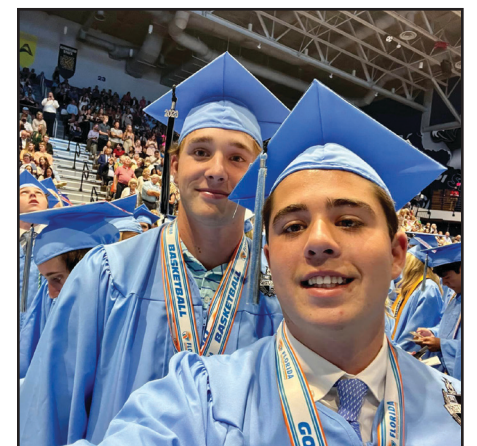
Jace Patrick Felix  
Ka'Layla Unique Fells  
Katrina Dahl Fluker  
Emily Mae Folsom  
Brenna Danae Fox  
Jahquez Wesley Fudge  
Anissa Dahlia Galagarza  
Jacquelyn Garcia  
Lauren Elizabeth Bato Garcia  
Juliana Kaleigh Gates  
Grant Jonathon Gatto  
Leeyah Dior Genavargas  
Emily Grace Giacchetto  
Amaya Dava Gray  
Carter Jacob Gray  
Elias Mahan Greene  
Taylor Marie Griffith  
Jadalyne Darlene Gubat  
Lily Anna Guerrant  
Meghan Brooke Haile  
Bryce Alexander Hamilton  
Tatyana Katherine Hardnett  
Audrey Brooke Harrell  
Michael Annice Harrell Henry  
Thalia Ilyana Hart  
Julie Ann Hathaway  
Sophia Alannah Henry  
Padm'e Amidalá Henshaw  
John Richard Herrmann  
Lanina Faith Herndon  
Natalie Elise Holden  
Rodney Eugene Holmes Jr.  
Reagan Maree Hoogesteger  
Mallory Elizabeth Howard  
Sarah Jade Hunn  
Denver Dawn Hunt  
Kaley Adelaide Hylton  
Eric Lawrence Impey  
Giovanni Jacques  
Ryan Michael James  
Ella Tova Todd Jenkins  
Gabriella Maria-Rosa Johnson  
Gracie Jayne Johnson  
Kaelyn Tiara Johnson  
Hayden Reese Johnston  
Zachary Holden Kaiser  
Aniyah Denae' Umi Kargbo  
Ta'Nivea Syaughn Kinchen  
Ethan Jeremy King  
Aria Simone Kirkpatrick  
Bethany Ann Klimchak  
Eileen Sarah Kohner  
Alexandria Joy Leilani Kollmann

Kayla Marie Lapaugh  
Charlee Stafford Lawrence  
Allison Harper Lee  
Erica Gabrielle Lehosky  
William John Letscher  
Alexander Stephen Leuschen  
Samuel Wayne Lewis  
Brooke Eileen Little  
Mattelyn Elizabeth Locklear  
Lucas Michael Lowery  
Savanna Nicole Lyles  
Isabel Ramos Magpusao  
Alexandra Nicole Manaois  
Jack Simon Martin  
Giovanni Jacob Martinez  
Isabela Sofia Martinez-Rivera  
Samira Hope Mashburn  
Ciara Marie McCarthy  
Bria Hailey McClary  
Aurielle Paris McCoy  
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Kyro Brianna McMahon  
Jaslyn Marie Medina  
Rae Allison Merrifield  
Kiana Nadayla Michel  
Anthony John Mikus Jr.  
Beckett Peter Miles  
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Mackenzie Elizabeth Moore  
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Jackson Patrick Moser  
Diana Rose Murrey-Settle  
Ian Anthony Navaille  
Charlie Dean Nelson  
Kaitlyn Renee Nelson  
Samantha Allison Nelson  
Brendan Joseph Nurczyk  
Jackson Guy Owen  
Alana Sue-Ann Pablo  
Katherine Monica Page  
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Ahvaney Shari Porter-Cook  
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Lavari-Ay Gabriel Ray  
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Ansey Elizabeth Taylor  
Brayden Cortland Tebbe  
Emma Jean Terrill  
Aidan Henry Carswell Thomas  
Zayne Xavier Thomie  
Aniya Nicole Thompson  
Mikayla Murphy Titus  
Tru Elise Kiryn Truelove  
Lan Ngoc Turner  
Terri Anne Umberger  
Kathryn Lane Underwood  
Rhiannon Arianna Valdez  
Maya Maitee Vazquez  
Elanee Kristen Gacala Viray  
Brynn Ashlee Von Seggern  
Taylor Jenette Wade  
Emma Grace Waidner  
Kylea Danielle Watson  
Benjamin Robert Wells  
Luke Vincent Whipple  
Jah'mia Annette Lashaye Williams  
Rhea Sarah Williams  
Alexandra Grace Willis  
Iputu Andrew Wiranata  
Trinity Elizabeth Wirth  
Ivy Marie Woodman  
Leilani Patrice Wright  
Gianna Maria Tra'Yaccino  
Shamar Josiah Zimmerman  
Catherine Emily Zurcher  
Jacob Benjamin Zussy

**Graduation**

Continued from 11

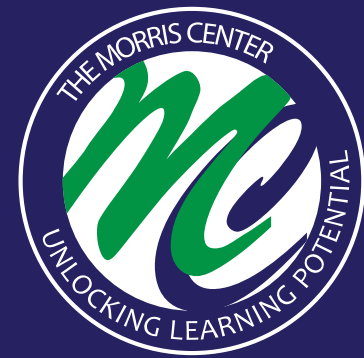




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The Recorder's garden columnist Kathy Esfahani of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery shares her tips for growing gorgeous gardens in Northeast Florida.

**KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE**

# Succulents

"A cactus is a desert's rose." —  
Matshona Dhliwayo



**By Kathy Esfahani**

Summer is almost here, and it's getting hot! Succulents are a great choice for the warmest areas of your landscape. Now is a perfect time to create a succulent garden or planter that needs minimal attention!

Succulents love dry heat and very little water. Sounds like the perfect plants, right?

These plants have evolved in climates that are almost unbearable, with rocky terrain and desert landscapes. They retain water in their leaves and stems and, therefore, only need to be watered occasionally. Due to their unique nature, they also can survive in winter single digit temperatures.

You can create a succulent garden in the ground, in a planter or even in a rock garden.

Some of the most popular varieties are cactus, sedum, purslane, agave, aloe, echeveria, and crassula.

Tips on creating a succulent planter:



**Succulent Planter**

- Choose a shallow, wide planter with a drainage system. These plants do not like sitting in water.
- Look for a potting soil designed for succulents.
- When purchasing succulents, remember that some

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

**Flower of the Week**



**Agave**

varieties need more sun than others. Try to group similar plants together for appropriate care.

- Space succulents 1-2 inches apart in the planter; they don't need much room to grow!
  - Add fun finishing touches such as marbles, sea glass or rocks around the succulent planter.
- Stay cool and happy planting!

*Flower of the Week: Agave*

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

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# Liberty Landscape Supply opens St. Johns County location



Mike Zaffaroni

Liberty Landscape Supply has announced the opening of its fourth retail store.

The store is located at 5825 State Road 16, St. Augustine. Liberty Landscape Supply operates three additional retail locations, including two in Jacksonville and its flagship store in Fernandina Beach.

At 13 acres, the new location is more than double the size of Liberty Landscape Supply's other three retail locations and is positioned to serve the growing communities of St. Johns County.

Liberty Landscape Supply provides the materials that make residential and commercial landscape projects beautiful. Everything the company does is focused on making the project as easy as possible

for the customer. With more than 100 employees and extensive experience in landscape design, build and installation, Liberty Landscape Supply has been the premier partner for residential and commercial projects of Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia since 2007.

Expanding into St. Johns County is an important milestone for owner Mike Zaffaroni, a past recipient of the JAX Chamber Small Business Leader of the Year award and the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2018 Florida Small Business Person of the Year.

"Watching this business grow has been an extremely rewarding experience," said Zaffaroni. "With this next expansion, we are able to bring new job opportunities to

St. Johns County and serve a community that is experiencing a tremendous amount of growth and development. At Liberty Landscape Supply, we are passionate about serving our clients and customers — and look forward to growing our team and customer family in St. Johns County."

Liberty Landscape Supply plans to add more than 20 positions to support the addition of the St. Johns County location.

Liberty Landscape Supply is dedicated to making landscape projects easy, according to the company. It is the company's vision to create an engaged company culture that will contribute to a better community and planet, in addition to encouraging people to spend more time outdoors.

# Golf Course named a Development of the Year

Stillwater Golf and Country Club, the hallmark of Lennar's 549-home active adult gated community in St. Johns was named a 2023 Development of the Year by Golf Inc. Magazine. Recognized with an "Honorable Mention" for best private/semi-private course, Stillwater is the first new 18-hole layout in Northeast Florida in 20 years.

"Being recognized by Golf Inc. is a testament to the exceptional experience we provide at Stillwater," said Matt Devereaux, Lennar regional vice president. "It's a distinctive course design that comes with world-class amenities, and we're proud to have built so much value for our homeowners."

Designed by architect Bobby Weed, Stillwater's 18-hole routing includes "loops" of three, six, nine and 12 holes that start and finish near the clubhouse, giving members the freedom to play as their time allows. Players can also en-

joy Stillwater's 16-acre practice facility year-round, with a lighted driving range and covered hitting bays equipped with Toptracer Range.

Stillwater home prices start from the low \$400,000s, with six model homes to tour. Community amenities include a clubhouse with onsite restaurant and pro shop, resort-style swimming pool, fitness center, pickleball and tennis courts. The community caters to active adult residents with weekly featured events.

The yearly Golf Inc. award recognizes the courses and private clubs with the best new traditional and non-traditional golf courses opened during the past year. A total of 10 courses were honored from around the globe.

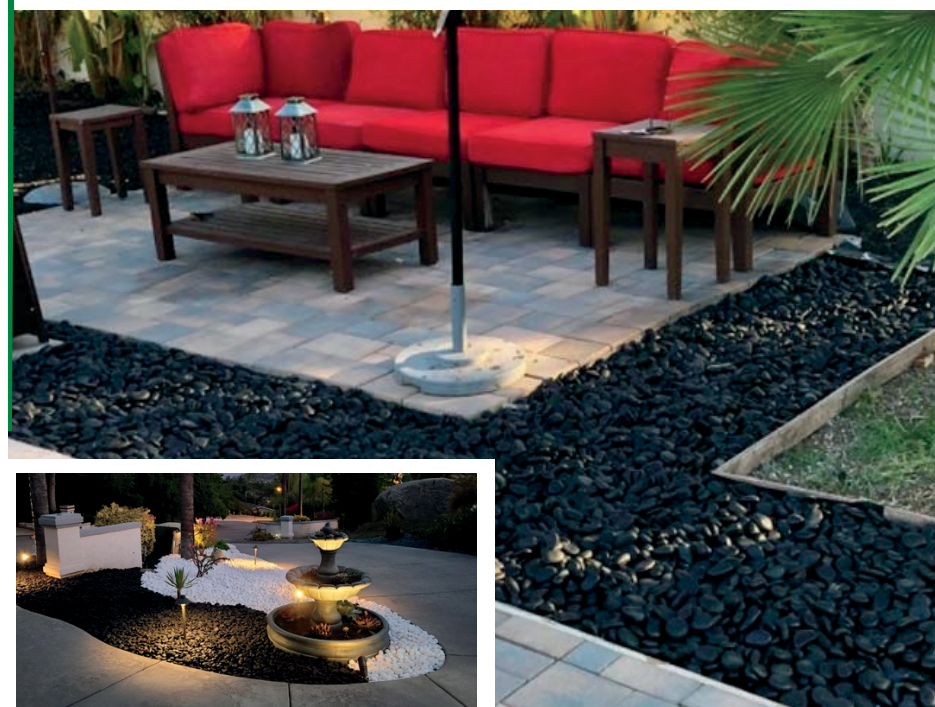
Judging was based on how well the project realized the vision of the development team, course aesthetics, environmental and economic sustain-

ability, course routing, land use and improved playability. Winners were chosen through blind judging.

Stillwater golf club membership comes with home purchase. To learn more, go to Lennar.com.

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Photos by Anthony Richards



Families sat at tables and honored their family members who were World War II veterans during a D-Day remembrance banquet hosted by the We Can Be Heroes Foundation.



A member of the Atlantic Coast Young Marines serves fried chicken to a veteran during the event.

# Veterans, unsung heroes recognized during D-Day remembrance

By Anthony Richards

The We Can Be Heroes Foundation honored the veterans who served and sacrificed their lives during D-Day with its annual remembrance June 6 with a presentation at the Salem Centre Auditorium in Jacksonville.

John Connelly was one of the many veterans who attended the event on the night. He served during World War II as a pilot and was a prisoner of war, having spent time in two German prison camps after being captured during the war.

Also in attendance was Capt. Gregory Streeter who retired from the U.S. Navy and was the past commander general of the Naval Order of the United States.

Streeter has become a regular over the years at the D-Day banquet, and it's only fitting because not only is he a veteran, but he also was instrumental in helping get a monument built on the beaches of Normandy, France, that honors the heroic acts of the U.S. Navy on that fateful day.

According to Streeter, at the time when the monument was erected, there were various D-Day monuments around the area, but none commemorating the U.S. Navy.

There were many veterans that had hoped to make it on the night but were unable to due to health-related issues they are dealing with.

Beth Heath asked the audience to remember to pray



Eadie Dumm was one of three "unsung heroes" recognized for their service and help offered to veterans in need in the community.

for those veterans who continue to battle the ailments they are going through.

"Our veterans have set such a high bar for us to follow," Heath said. "Please include them in your daily prayers. They will appreciate your support and thoughts."

Tables throughout the auditorium had family members of World War II veterans who had passed away but continue to be honored by placing a photo of them in the middle of the table, often in their military uniform.

"Nine out of 10 times they've got the cutest and big-

gest smiles you'll ever see in those photos," Heath said. "There are some sweet memories at those tables."

Three members of the community were on hand and called up on stage to receive certificates and a special yard sign announcing that they were named as an "Unsung Hero" within the community.

Eadie Dumm is a member of VFW Post 7909 and recently set up a donation table to sell homemade goods to help raise donations for the Atlantic Coast Young Marines to go on a trip to Normandy to learn about World War II history firsthand this summer.

With the help of Dumm, We Can Be Heroes Foundation and other veteran-supported groups, the Young Marines are sending 21 members to Normandy and will leave Jacksonville and fly to France on June 8.

Dianne Lavelle was honored for her countless hours both nights and weekends as a volunteer and helping to fill bags of food for homeless veterans.

Russell Greaney was the last person recognized as an "unsung hero" for his role as a member, mentor and inspiration for homeless veterans at the Clara White Mission in Jacksonville.

One of the last surprises of the night included Heath getting recognized and presented with a plaque by Jacksonville City Council member Al Ferraro for her continued dedication and work to help veterans in the local area.

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# Business Weekly

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## NEFAR donation to support 'Living Shoreline Oyster Bar'

The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) Charitable Foundation joined the Northeast Florida Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) in donating more than \$27,000 to the University of North Florida Coastal and Marine Biology program to develop an experimental "Living Shoreline — Oyster Reef" project in the St. Johns River.

NEFAR donated \$17,568 to the project, which is designed to rebuild historic oyster populations, increase the habitat for oyster spat, reduce wave energy and shoreline erosion, improve water quality and increase local opportunities for fishing. CCA donated \$10,000.

"Realtors are committed to the sustainability of our natural resources," said 2023 NEFAR President Diana Galavis. "Improved water quality and protecting our waterways has been a NEFAR priority for many years. NEFAR is honored to partner on the living shoreline and oyster reef."

The project is intended to rebuild historic populations of Eastern oysters by providing a suitable habitat for oyster spat to settle and grow. The re-establishment of oyster reefs is expected to have a positive influence on reducing wave energy and associated shoreline erosion, which will

provide a greater protection to coastal properties.

Reef building is also predicted to have a positive effect on water quality because of the pollution-filtering capabilities of oysters. It is also anticipated to have a beneficial effect on local shellfish and fish populations by providing increased habitat, which in turn can improve local opportunities for recreation, such as fishing.

NEFAR's funds were in part generated from sponsorship proceeds derived from its annual Waterway's Clean-up Event that will take place this year from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. July 8. NEFAR's annual Waterways Clean-up is part of Florida Realtors' monthlong, statewide Clean-up Florida Waters Initiative. It will be organized this year by the NEFAR Community Affairs Task Force under the direction of Margarita Diaz Cavanagh, Rae Laws and Mark Feagle.

Named the "NEFAR Oyster Bar," the project will consist of the construction and field deployment of 18-24 cement-based substrates known as "POSH" – pervious oyster shell habitat units – that are constructed of concrete and include small amounts of embedded oysters. NEFAR Realtors will assist with the construction of the POSH units later this year.



Contributed photo

Joining together during a check presentation at UNF on May 5 were Realtor Amanda Feagle; President of CCA Mark Feagle, also a Realtor; CCA Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration Frank Gidus; UNF Associate Professor of Biology Kelly Smith; NEFAR CEO William Glenn East; UNF Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Jim Gelsiechler; and 2023 NEFAR Past President Mark Rosener.

The POSH units will be placed at sites where historic oyster beds once were found within UNF's 1,050-acre property in the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (ICW), known as the William C. Webb Coastal Research Station.

## Nominations Now Open!



The Ponte Vedra Recorder, celebrating 54 years of community news excellence, will launch our fifth annual **BEST OF THE BEST of Ponte Vedra, 32081 & 32082.**

YOU, our valued readers, now have the chance to nominate your favorite businesses in various categories online. Online voting begins June 12th after nominations are complete. **HURRY, last day to nominate is June 11th!**

[www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2023/index.html#//](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2023/index.html#/)

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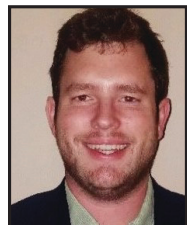
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# Benchmarks of Success

*A look at major career developments in the area*



## Mission House executive director named

The executive committee of the Mission House Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Lucas Seilhymer as executive director.

Seilhymer will assume the role on July 17 after relocating from Danville, Illinois, where he was CEO of Project Success of Vermilion County, a nonprofit organization that empowers children and families to achieve their highest potential.

Seilhymer will work closely with Michael McAvoy who has served as interim director for the past year and will resume her duties as associate director. She will continue to be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of Mission House, including the Crisis Care and Clinic programs, while also overseeing the grant process.

Mission House is the only day facility in Jacksonville Beach working to end homelessness in Northeast Florida by providing health care and supportive services, including food, clothing and case management, to inspire hope and rebuild lives. For more information regarding Mission House, go to [missionhousejax.org](http://missionhousejax.org).

## PulteGroup names Cook division president

PulteGroup has named Justin Cook president of the company's Northeast Florida division. With more than 17 years of experience in the industry, Cook will lead all aspects of the division's homebuilding



Justin Cook

operations in the greater Jacksonville area.

"Justin brings a wealth of leadership and industry experience to our Northeast Florida division, and we are thrilled to welcome him to the PulteGroup team," said Rich McCormick, PulteGroup Florida area president. "His strategic vision, operational expertise and ability to inspire others will allow us to continue to grow and deliver outstanding results in the Jacksonville market."

Prior to joining PulteGroup, Cook most recently held the position of division president at Meritage Homes in South Florida. He earned both a master's in business administration and a bachelor's in business administration in finance from the University of Central Florida.

PulteGroup's Northeast Florida division builds new construction homes and communities in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra, Middleburg, Wildlight and Green Cove Springs.



Alicia Anderson

## Anderson joins real estate company

Alicia Anderson has joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty in its Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office.

Anderson comes to the real estate firm from Hospital Corporation of America (HCA Florida Orange Park) where she works as a labor and delivery nurse. She attended Chamberlain University in Jacksonville where she earned her BSN. She is also a proud veteran, as she spent time in the Army as a health inspector.

Anderson has lived in Northeast Florida for 11 years.

For more information, she can be reached at 318-540-3927, [Alicia.Anderson@FloridaNetworkRealty.com](mailto:Alicia.Anderson@FloridaNetworkRealty.com) and [AAnderson.FloridaNetworkRealty.com](http://AAnderson.FloridaNetworkRealty.com).

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



Krista Petty

## Petty joins real estate firm

Krista Petty has joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty in its Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office.

Petty was previously with RoundPoint Mortgage Services, where she worked as a closing manager for more than 10 years. Her 20 years of experience dealing with loans, titles and mortgage closing procedures brings a wealth of knowledge to her growing real estate business.

She has lived in Northeast Florida for the past three years.

For more information, Petty can be reached at 631-894-6480, [Krista.Petty@FloridaNetworkRealty.com](mailto:Krista.Petty@FloridaNetworkRealty.com) and [KPetty.FloridaNetworkRealty.com](http://KPetty.FloridaNetworkRealty.com).

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

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

# Terry Heart Institute welcomes two pediatric cardiologists

Wolfson Children's Hospital and the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Heart Institute continue to expand children's heart services across Northeast Florida and the region with the addition of two new pediatric cardiologists, Prerna Bansal, M.D., and Khushboo Parikh, M.D.

Bansal is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in general pediatrics and has experience in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Along with pediatric cardiology, her areas of expertise include congenital heart disease, fetal echocardiology and pediatric transthoracic echocardiography.

Prior to joining Terry Heart Institute and the Wolfson Children's Hospital medical staff Bansal earned her bachelor of medicine, bachelor of surgery degree from Government Medical College in Akola, India. She completed her residency at Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, New Jersey, and her pediatric cardiology fellowship at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York City.

Parikh is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in both pediatric cardiology and general pediatrics. Her areas of expertise include general cardiology, hyperlipidemia and hypertension management in children, fetal echocardiography and transesophageal echocardiography.

She brings more than a decade of experience and earned her bachelor of medicine, bachelor of surgery degree from Topiwala National Medical College and Bai Yamunabai Laxman Nair Charitable Hospital, Mumbai, India.

Parikh completed her pediatric residency at the University of Arizona, Tucson and her pediatric cardiology fellowship at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Bansal and Parikh began seeing patients in April.

Physicians providing care at Wolfson Children's Hospital are not employees nor agents of the hospital. Services at Wolfson Children's Hospital are provided primarily by pediatric physician specialists employed by Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville; University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville; UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (for cardiac surgery services); Baptist Specialty Physicians, Inc.; and Emergency Resources Group.

# Jon Smith Subs ribbon-cutting June 26

Jon Smith Subs is planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the grand opening of the franchise's first Jacksonville location. The ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. June 26 at 4765 Hodges Blvd. Unit B, Jacksonville.

In addition to the ribbon-cutting, there will be live entertainment, free 12-inch sub

combos for the first 26 people who attend and a drawing to win free subs for a year.

For nearly four decades, Jon Smith Subs has been committed to serving premium subs with the freshest ingredients, with all meats butchered and all bread baked in-house. It is also one of the most diverse minority-owned businesses in the country,

with more than 25% of the locations being Black-owned, Indian-owned or woman-owned.

For more information, go to [www.jonsmithsubs.com](http://www.jonsmithsubs.com). Or if you'd like to serve as an event sponsor, contact Jeff at 856-873-7525.

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# In the Arts



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## Canvas, Stage and More

*Here's a look at what's happening in the arts locally*

### Alhambra plans Ronstadt, Lightfoot tributes

The Alhambra Dinner Theater will present "Get Closer! A Tribute to Linda Ronstadt" starring Debbie Rider and "Lightfoot of the Rockies" starring Eric Elison on Monday, July 10.

"Get Closer!" creates the unmistakable rock-and-country Ronstadt sound and includes hit songs like "Blue Bayou," "Tracks of My Tears," "You're No Good," "Desperado" and "Love Is A Rose."

"Lightfoot of the Rockies," a Gordon Lightfoot tribute, features songs like "If You Could Read My Mind," "Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" and "Early Morning Rain."

Tickets include parking, a three-course dinner and the tribute show for \$76. For more information, call the box office at 904-641-1212 or go to [alhambrajax.com](http://alhambrajax.com).

The Alhambra Dinner Theater is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville.

### Cummer Museum presents works from DeMell Jacobsen Collection

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is presenting Jacksonville-area selections from the American art collection of Diane DeMell Jacobsen, a Ponte Vedra resident and life-long art enthusiast.

On view at the museum from June 9 through Sept. 24, "American Made: Paintings and Sculpture from the DeMell Jacobsen Collection" features 100 objects showcasing American creativity spanning the last two centuries. Visitors will see landscape paintings depicting the United States from coast to coast, as well as still lifes and scenes that tell stories of American life.

Though many objects from the collection have been on view at other museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, "American Made" is the first exhibition featuring a comprehensive collection of the works.

Related Programming and Events are planned:

- "The Red-Haired Beauty: Private Art, Public Art and Access to Beauty in American Society" with Scott Brown, professor of art history, UNF. 7-8 p.m. June 13. Free. Registration required.

- Lecture with Diane Jacobsen, Ph.D.: An American Made Collector's Story. 7-8 p.m. June 20. Free. Registration required.

- Artist meet-and-greet and demonstration with Gail Beverage. 5-7:30 p.m. June 23. Free. Registration required.

- Afternoon Tea, American-Style. Sept. 17. Paid ticket and pre-registration required.

To register for programming or events, go to [cummuseum.org/events](http://cummuseum.org/events). For more information about the museum's permanent collection and special exhibitions, go to [cummuseum.org/visit/art](http://cummuseum.org/visit/art).

### "Written Word" exhibit at Jacksonville library

"The Written Word" art exhibit is on display now through July 31 at the Jacksonville Main Library through the sponsorship of Chamblin's Uptown.

Twenty-six local artists have created works that depict their most memorable written word, whether a book, quote, poem, historic love letters or song lyrics. Fifty-two works will be exhibited in the main gallery with information cards about the work and where the inspirational words can be found in the library.

The library is located at 303 N. Laura St, Jacksonville.

Grant to support local artists, cultural organizations

The St. Johns Cultural Council has been approved for a \$60,000 Grants for Arts Projects award from the National Endowment for the Arts to support a new local program, Arts for All. The program will provide funding for individual artists and cultural organizations in the county to create new works of



Photo courtesy of the Thomas H. and Diane DeMell Jacobsen PhD Foundation and the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

**"Summer Morning, New York Bay" by Edward Moran (English-born American, 1829-1901), 1873, oil on canvas. This is one of the pieces on exhibit at the Cummer Museum of Art.**

art and expand programming to reach new audiences. The Cultural Council is among 1,130 project organizations nationwide that have received more than \$31 million during a second round of Grants for Arts Projects assistance in fiscal year 2023.

Arts for All will provide grants of up to \$10,000 for organizations with revenues of less than \$200,000 per year and up to \$5,000 for individual artists to fund art projects of

any discipline. The goal of the program is to improve funding for arts programming that will primarily benefit St. Johns County residents. Additional information about the Arts for All grants will be available through the Cultural Council website and its weekly Local Arts newsletter. Go to [stjohnsculture.com](http://stjohnsculture.com) to subscribe.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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# Sports



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## TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FOOTBALLERS

The following are photos from the youth football camp hosted by Ponte Vedra High School June 5-8. The camp featured children 6 to 13 years old and current coaches and former players taught a variety of techniques involved with the game of football.

Photos by Anthony Richards





Contributed photos



The Landrum Softball Team, from left: back row, Coach Heather Wiggins, Charlotte Rogers, Brenna Webb, Abby Shin, Camryn Straub, Taylor Fillmore, Peyton Garrett, and Coach Bob Straub; front row, Amelia Fitzpatrick, Addison Siebenaler, Natasha Deutch, Karly Farese, and Reese Griffin.



The Landrum Baseball Team, from left: back row, Coach Angel Ortiz, Grady Harris, Matthew Gasperich-Morris, Jack Sproull, Evan Long, Max Hydell, Jackson Miller, JT Campbell, and Assistant Coach Erik Oertli; front row, Logan Hunt, Carlos Willis, Michael Perez, Patrick Oertli, Will Arndt.

# Landrum wins softball, baseball championships

The Landrum Middle School softball and baseball teams both took home the 2023 SJMSAA championship titles this May against 11 other softball teams and nine other baseball teams in the district.

The Lions softball team, with a season record of 11-2 and a team batting average of .373, faced off against Pacetti Bay at Beachside High School on May 18. The Lions took a formable lead, scoring five runs in the second inning, never relenting behind a strong defense that committed zero errors and a lineup that delivered six hits and 10 runs.

All told, Landrum won with a final score of 10-2. Led by coaches Heather Wiggins and Bob Straub, who coached the team for three years, it was truly a team effort.

It was the first trip to the championship game for the Lions since 2018.

The Landrum baseball team also took home the championship title on May 16 at Flagler College against Pacetti Bay. This team, with a season record of 11-2 and team batting average of .323, is no stranger to the championship game. In fact, they have played in the

championship game for the past four years, finishing as runners-up in previous appearances.

The Lions changed their destiny, however, by scoring five runs in the third inning. Landrum had nine hits in the game and didn't commit any errors in the field to hold strong and bring home a win of 10-4 for the championship title.

Coach Angel Ortiz led the team for the past nine years. Additionally, Will Arndt, Grady Harris, Patrick Oertli, Michael Perez, Jack Sproull and Carlos Willis were selected from the team to play on the all-star team.

## 79th TaxSlayer Gator Bowl set for Dec. 29

The 79th Annual TaxSlayer Gator Bowl will be played on Bill Gay Grounds at TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville on Friday, December 29, at noon and will be televised nationally on ESPN.

“The TaxSlayer Gator Bowl is an exciting showcase of two exceptional teams and a unique opportunity to share the TaxSlayer brand with millions of football fans nationwide,” said Jamie Saxe, CEO of TaxSlayer. “This marks another year in a long-standing partnership between our organizations, and we couldn't be prouder to carry on the tradition.”

The 79th annual game will feature a team from the Southeastern Conference that will serve as the anchor team and will face an opponent from the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC).

“I can't think of a better way for fans to ring in 2024 than spending New Year's Eve weekend in Jackson-

ville, Florida. Downtown Jacksonville and the Sports Complex will be electric with the 79th annual TaxSlayer Gator Bowl game on Friday, Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday and fireworks to celebrate the New Year,” TaxSlayer Gator Bowl chairman Alan Worley said. “The TaxSlayer Gator Bowl staff and green jacket committee are working closely with the City of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Jaguars and ASM Global to plan a full slate of activities in support of the weekend's events and festivities.”

Tickets for the 79th annual TaxSlayer Gator Bowl will go on sale to the public on Sept. 19 through Ticketmaster.

The renewal process for annual ticket holders began on June 1.

Prospective buyers who purchase tickets from a TaxSlayer Gator Bowl “green jacket member” prior to



Photo by Anthony Richards

South Carolina and Notre Dame played in last year's TaxSlayer Gator Bowl and produced an instant classic.

December 1 will receive preferred pricing.

Teams participating in the 79th TaxSlayer Gator Bowl game will be announced on Sunday, December 3. For more information about the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl including stadium policies, our philanthropic efforts or to become a member, go to [www.taxslayergatorbowl.com](http://www.taxslayergatorbowl.com).

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