THE RECORDER



Fall Home Improvement
Pages 13-20

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

Thursday, September 14, 2023

PonteVedraRecorder.com

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Pair of boards deny PUD, but 29 of 31 waivers approved

By Anthony Richards

Although the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's request for its 30-year proposed renovation project to be rezoned as a planned unit development has been denied by two boards in one week's time, it does not mean that the project is one that even the members of those boards does not think could have a positive impact in the community.

In many ways, the boards have done their job to create further discussion and attempt to fill in the gaps or iron out the confusion that may surround the project as a whole

The Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley Architectural Review Committee did not approve everything that the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club asked for as part of its proposed 30-year development and renova-

PUD continues on Page 4



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

information, puzzles and more!

Blog helps readers better understand autism

Teen opens window into brother's world

By Shaun Ryan

Those who have never known a child with autism but have definite opinions on the subject will happily correct any of their misconceptions after reading a blog created by Nease High School senior Jack Hilbert.

At calderism.com, the Eagle Scout and Peace of Heart volunteer documents the experiences, thoughts and sayings of his 12-year-old brother, Calder, who is nonverbal autistic.

Much of the content is derived from Calder's own words; since he can't communicate verbally, he has spent years learning how to type using his mother's iPad. And what he shares opens a door into his world.

"Just because he can't talk doesn't

Photo by Shaun Ryan

BLOG continues on Page 5

Jack Hilbert, left, and brother Calder sit on the living room sofa in the family's Nocatee home.

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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

Chris Ratliff

Multimedia Specialist chris@osteenmediagroup.com (704) 640-8408

Joe Wilhelm

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

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Send us your news

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



Visit our new website at **www.pontevedrarecorder.com**

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

BRIEFS

Explore the beach at GTM Research Reserve

The public is invited to join volunteers at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM) for a beach exploration from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16. They can collect seashells, search for shark teeth and learn about coastal wildlife at the event.

Meet at the GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

To sign up, go to secure.lglforms.com/ form_engine/s/M8N2h6bauBGLrI0udQ4cF g?t=1666812638

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.

Program to help those grieving after a loss

Understanding Grief: A Program for The Newly Bereaved will be offered from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Stephen R. Chapman Family Community Campus, 1355 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine. Understanding Grief is designed to help people learn that healing is possible after the death of a loved one and there are effective ways to cope with grief and loss.

The presentation will help attendees identify normal responses to loss, identify coping skills that may be helpful and understand the importance of self-care while in the grieving process.

Understanding Grief is designed to be most helpful for those who have experienced a loss within the last 90 days and are at least 18 years old. Register by calling 904-407-7001, or go to communityhospice. com for more information.

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Community Hospice & Palliative Care foundation launches new brand

The Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care has announced the launch of its new brand, name, website, social media channels and the inspiring "#IAmThe-Foundation" campaign.

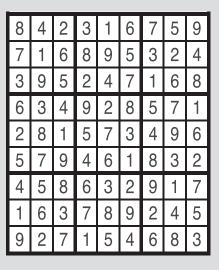
Formerly known as Community Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation, The Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care now embodies its commitment to

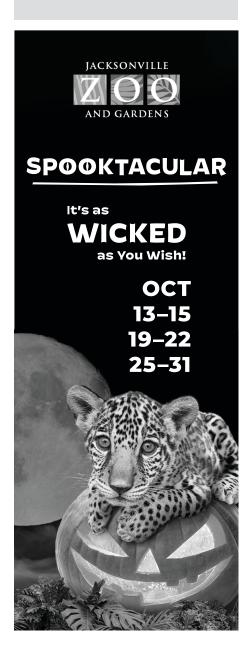
BRIEFS continues on Page 11

Does this describe you? ☑ Innovator ☑ Creator ☑ Disruptor ☑ Entrepreneur ☑ Small Business Owner ☑ Visionary ☑ Community-centered Step into Ponte Vedra's Innovation & Community Hub. the link space that inspires Interested? Scan this code Come see us at 425 Town Plaza Ave, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS







PLAYERS Championship announces open auditions for National Anthem performers

Tournament seeks talented individuals and groups to perform at annual Military Appreciation Ceremony and concert

As THE PLAYERS Championship makes preparations to celebrate its 50th anniversary, the tournament is inviting the talent of Northeast Florida to audition to perform the National Anthem before its annual Military Appreciation Ceremony and concert on March 12.

Local performers of all ages are encouraged to participate and share their rendi-

tion of the National Anthem. Interested musicians are asked to upload a video and submit an application by 5 p.m. Nov. 6. Once submitted, auditions will go through a judging process and, if selected, the winner will be notified by the tournament via email. All questions regarding the application process should be directed to mirandarossum@pgatourhq.com

"With this year being the 50th anniversary of THE PLAYERS, we could not think of a more perfect way to celebrate our championship and its longstanding tradition of honoring the military than inviting our hometown talent to perform

The Star-Spangled Banner," said Lee Smith, executive director of THE PLAY-ERS Championship.

To apply, go to www.theplayers.com/ anthem. Submit the online form found there. Your audition video must be uploaded to the form as well. Requirements include:

- Participants must live in the fivecounty area of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties.
- Individual vocalists, group vocalists and instrumentalists are invited to audition. All vocal auditions must be performed a cappella (no musical accom-

paniment).

- All performances must adhere to the traditional tune of the Star-Spangled Banner and must not exceed two minutes.
- All video auditions must be recorded horizontally and use a video link such as YouTube, Google Drive or DropBox, with public permissions. Audio files, tapes or CDs will not be accepted.
- Must be available on Monday, March 11, for a dress rehearsal at TPC Sawgrass and on Tuesday, March 12, for the live performance at THE PLAYERS. Finalists must also be willing to participate in a second virtual audition date in the fall.







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PUD

Continued from 1

tions plan during its meeting on Sept. 6.

The committee did not approve the proposed planned unit development, but instead chose to opt out of a vote based on the information that was provided. They did approve the architectural style, which includes the design, colors and materials presented as part of the plan.

Although the committee's decision is not the final one that decides whether the PUD is approved or not, their recommendation will be able to be weighed by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners during their decision process.

The commission's ruling will dictate the fate of the project requests.

Six days later, the Ponte Vedra Zoning & Adjustment Board met on Sept. 11 and dissected each of the 31 waivers being asked for as part of the PUD plan request during a marathon meeting that lasted 12 hours.

After the lengthy discussion, the PVZAB denied the PUD request with a vote of 4-3, with Anthony Peduto, Jane Rollinson, Megan McKinley and Richard Ensslen voting against the PUD and Chip Greene, Samuel Crozier and John Patton voting in favor of it.

Despite voting against it in the end, Rollinson was pleased with the Inn & Club's willingness to discuss it in depth and attempt to sort out the questions and concerns



Photo by Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley Architectural Review Committee held its meeting to discuss the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's proposed 30-year development and renovations plan during its meeting on Sept. 6. The meeting was held at the Sawgrass Marriott due to the amount of interest surrounding it among residents.

the board had.

"The Board of County Commissioners needs to resolve these things in question and negotiate over the waivers before any action is taken," Rollinson said.

The PUD factors in two separate properties, with both the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and The Lodge & Club part of the redevelopment plan.

The Inn & Club stated several reasons why redevelopment of the properties is needed, including repeated storm damage and to enhance the experience for its members while updating the facilities to keep pace with its business competition.

Ellen Avery-Smith, an attorney with Rogers Towers and representing the project,

clarified that on the golf course there will be no improvements such as outdoor dining or rooftop bars.

There have been several changes made to the initial PUD proposal, and many of them were due to feedback expressed by residents of the area and after talks the Inn & Club had with them.

"Everything in the building height has to be from the finished floor to the top of the building," Avery-Smith said. "There's no additional 10 feet for mechanical equipment or roof. The building height shall be measured in feet and not stories."

The current proposal states that any new buildings will have at least 20 feet of separation between them, while buildings that are currently in place will remain the same in terms of their proximity.

Buildings that will see no change to their current length include the spa, Atlantic house, the historic inn, conference center, Ocean house and Peyton house, while the surf club will increase from 349 feet to 365 feet and the sports club will be a proposed length of 416 feet.

As a result, there will be an estimated 497,990 square feet added between the two properties at the end of the project.

Some comparative building heights that have been approved in the past around town used by the Inn & Club to state their case are Vicar's Landing at Oakbridge with an approved height of 70 feet, the Sawgrass Mariott hotel at 70 feet and Sawgrass Country Club at 60 feet.

However, the difference in those in-

stances is that they do not share the same proximity to the ocean front that the Inn & Club property does.

Opposition to the matter includes Doug Burnett, an attorney with St. Johns Law Group, who questioned the number of waivers the group is asking for, which is currently in the double digits.

According to Avery-Smith, some of the reasons for the waiver requests include that many of the existing building conditions predate the establishment of the Ponte Vedra overlay regulations and therefore they are seeking waivers that replicate what is already there, as well as the fact that they do not believe the Ponte Vedra code is designed to accommodate mixed-use development, which means adjustments to it would need to be made.

Attorney James Whitehouse has spoken about the project on behalf of the 47 residents that live at the Carlyle Condominium, which is surrounded by the Inn & Club and the properties in question.

He stated the Carlyle's concern that the new 55-foot proposed parking garage would create an eyesore for residents to look at and block the current views they have.

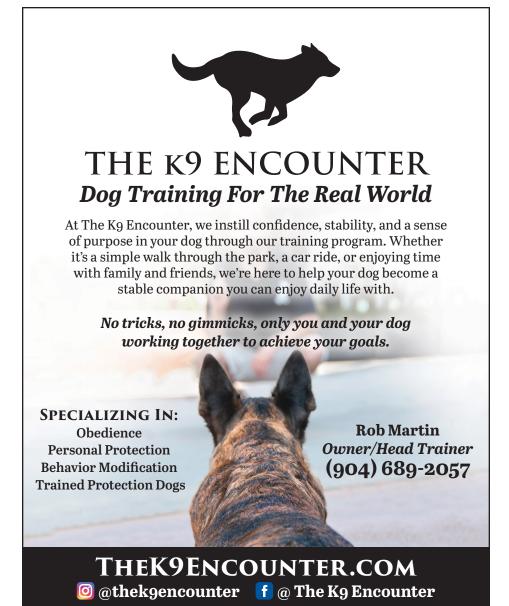
"One of the sticking points that we couldn't agree on was the building heights they are requesting," Rollinson said. "Also, the Palmer House sits right next to residential property."

Many residents that spoke during the public comment sections of the meetings stated how vague the proposal is and how they believe it should have more specifics associated with it.

Several also said that the designs and renderings look top-notch, and they are not against redevelopment, but they just ask that it be done within the regulations in place and without the need for such a long list of waivers.

According to Rollinson, the PVZAB was able to work with those overseeing the proposed project and were able to approve 29 of the 31 waivers, 16 approved as is, 12 approved as amended and one approved after clarification. The two that were denied were both pertained to building heights.

"This is big for our community, but it's also our job to represent what's best for everyone and not everyone in Ponte Vedra are members of the Inn & Club or The Lodge," Rollinson said.





Blog

mean he has nothing to say," Jack writes on his blog site.

The posts reveal a boy who is funny, often stubborn and genuinely caring.

But the blog doesn't sugarcoat reality. It offers an honest look at how autism affects the entire family. And Jack shares both "the good and the bad."

Jack said he hopes the blog will help people better understand his brother and that there are reasons he behaves in a way some might find perplexing.

Dad Ryan Hilbert said he hopes the blog will inspire other families to share their own experiences with autism by contacting Jack.

"This would be great if it evolved into an online community," he said, "not only talking about Calder, but everyone sharing their own photos and stories about their kids. The more that we do that, the more that we realize we're all in this together."

Blog visitors will discover Calder's sense of humor, as when he typed: "You need to respect our freedom to snack." In the companion blog, Jack calls his brother's "insatiable hunger" one of the best and worst things about him and explains why.

In another post, Jack describes how Calder's compassion for characters in some of his favorite books — which he listens to on audio recordings — reveals his capacity for empathy.

"There's a stereotype that people with autism aren't empathetic and caring," Jack said. "I don't know where that came from, but that is very far from the truth. That's part of why he likes stories so much, because a lot of the characters, he empathizes with them." Jack's father said he was proud of his son's efforts.

"Jack's a very good writer," he said.
"The more Jack uses his skills as a writer to share these stories and let people know what it is we're experiencing, I'm all for it."

The blog was actually the idea of Jack's mother, Suzanne Turner. Once Jack began to post regularly, he began to hear from his readers.

"I started getting feedback from family members and their friends, and they were like, 'Jack, we love this. This is awesome," he said.

Jack and Calder have one other brother, Dashiell, 15.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an abridged version. To read the entire article, please go to pontevedrarecorder.com.

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Shelly Lenhart is director of lower school admission at The Bolles School. She is responsible for introducing families to the Bolles "All Things Possible" approach to education and walking them through the entire admission process on both the Ponte Vedra Beach and Whitehurst campuses.



As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me about your work, what kinds of things you oversee or do.

As the director of lower school admission, I am responsible for managing the entire admission process, starting from the first inquiry to the smooth integration of students into the school. This includes organizing admission events and working closely with the administrative team to effectively promote the school and attract new families while ensuring the satisfaction and retention of current ones.

Additionally, I provide campus tours to interested families, arrange shadow days for prospective students, coordinate admission testing and serve as an adviser to our student admission ambassadors.

When speaking with families about the school, what kinds of things do you try to emphasize?

At The Bolles School, we strive to support every aspect of our students' development. Our commitment to excellence is reflected in our exceptional curriculum, which is enhanced by our diverse and dynamic community that values and celebrates all cultures and beliefs.

As a true independent school, we have the flexibility to provide a stimulating academic program that prepares our students for success in both college and life. Our values of courage, integrity and compassion are woven into the fabric of our school culture.

In addition to our noteworthy academics, Bolles offers a wide range of opportunities for students to explore their passions and interests. We have top-rated athletic programs, a thriving performing and visual arts department and a variety of clubs and student-led initiatives. At Bolles, we believe in nurturing the whole student, and we are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all learners.

Do you have a philosophy about education you'd like to share?

I strongly believe that every child should receive an interesting and thought-provoking education. Bolles is committed to providing a dynamic and forwardthinking learning experience that stimulates curiosity and enthusiasm in our students. It is crucial to nurture this eagerness to learn so that students can continue to learn throughout their lives and feel a sense of accomplishment and happiness every day at school.

I prioritize high standards in teaching and learning and encourage students to take an active role in their education. Learning how to learn is just as important as acquiring knowledge and skills.

Bolles celebrates all forms of achievement and has high expectations for every student. While we strive for academic excellence, we also understand the importance of supporting our students' spiritual, emotional and physical development, which all contribute to their positive mental health and overall well-being.

Tell me a little about your background, your education and your career benchmarks and how they perhaps prepared you for the work you currently do.

I followed an unconventional path to education, graduating with a dual degree in marketing and management from the Coggin College of Business at the



Contributed photo

Shelly Lenhart is director of lower school admission at The Bolles School.

University of North Florida. I started my professional journey as the director of internal marketing for The Orthodontic Centers of America, based in Ponte Vedra. Later, I worked for the Florida House of Representatives as a district legislative secretary, where I worked closely with school districts and discovered my passion for

This led me to make the decision to pursue a career in teaching, which I have never regretted. I taught in Duval County for several years before being offered a teaching position at Bolles, where my life took a new turn. I spent a decade working as a classroom teacher at Bolles before being appointed as the director of lower school admission. Looking back, I feel that everything I have done professionally has led me to my current role, and I am grateful for the journey.

What do you like best about your job?

The best part of my job is being able to combine my passion for education with my love for Bolles. I enjoy meeting new families every day and sharing the value of an independent school education.

What do you like best about living here on the First

I am a resident of the First Coast and am proud to call it my home. This place has everything one could ever need, from the breathtaking beaches to the magnificent oaks that surround the St. Johns River. There are numerous museums to visit, restaurants to dine at, shopping centers to explore and recreational activities to partake in. I consider myself fortunate to have been born and raised here and to have raised my family in this beautiful part of

How do you like to spend your free time?

Currently, my husband, Brett, and I are relishing our empty nest stage of life after 33 years of marriage. We reside in Nocatee and cherish the many offerings of our community, along with spending quality time with our first grandchild. We share a passion for sports and love to attend concerts whenever possible.

OBITUARIES



Evan Robert Policastro

Evan Robert Policastro passed away at age 10 on September 6, 2023, while innocently riding his bicycle home from the bus stop, a daily routine he cherished. His loving parents, Jared and Jenifer, were by his side at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Evan was born on May 23, 2013, and spent his entire life in St. Johns County. He was a fifth-grade student at PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School, where he excelled academically. Evan was a young Renaissance man with a wide range of interests, including sports, reading, chess, and holding the distinction of a 1st Degree Black Belt. He was a passionate Jacksonville Jaguars

and Florida State Seminoles fan. Evan loved playing in the many flag football seasons over the years and just started playing basketball. Evan's enthusiasm extended to helping his football coach (his father!) diagram plays.

In addition to his parents, Evan leaves behind his heartbroken family: sisters, Sophie (12) and Lena (8), brother, James (5), paternal grandparents, Mary and Jerry Policastro, maternal grandfather, Donny Rainey, as well as aunts and uncles, Marcy and Tom Frick, Eric and Abby Policastro, and cousins, Lucy and Asher. Evan was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Laurie Rainey.

A memorial service will be held at the Sawgrass Marriott Hotel on September 16, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. A private graveside service will be held for immediate family.

With Evan's passion for reading, the family is asking for donations in his memory be made to the library at PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School, https://bit.ly/Evansbooks or located at 610 A1A N, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.

Although Evan's absence will be deeply felt every day, his zest for life, cheerful smile, heartwarming laughter, and the ability to make others laugh, along with his gentle and kind heart, remain alive and well with the many families, friends, and loved ones with whom he shared his life.



"A Family Owned Funeral Home with On-site Cremation Center and Cemetery" 904-285-1130 www.pontevedravalley.com



William (Bill) Karol

William (Bill) Karol, 94, passed away on September 11, 2023, from pneumonia and Covid in Jacksonville Beach, FL. He was an exceptionally loving husband, father and grandfather. He served in the US army as a Military Policeman in Germany.

Bill grew up in Brooklyn where he met his future wife, Rhoda, then had a son, Robert. They moved to Freehold, New Jersey, to a chicken farm where they lived with his father-in-law, Gus Fisher, mother-in-law, Minnie, and nephew, Barry, where they sold eggs

from their chickens. They then had a daughter, Marcia, and moved into a new home.

Bill started a business called Ace Aluminum with Gus and Rhoda. It has since grown into a full family business that once also included Bill's brotherin-law, Irving Stein, and nephew, Barry Fisher, who took it over along with his son, David. Barry and David have grown the business from what was once a small back alley store in 1953 to an over 10,000 square foot store on Highway 9 in Freehold, New Jersey.

After retirement, Bill and Rhoda moved to Wellington, FL, where they lived for 25 years. In 2021, they moved to Ponte Vedra, FL, to be closer to their son, daughter and grandchildren.

What people will remember most about Bill is his amazing sense of humor, friendships with all that knew him and his love of golf.

He leaves behind his wife of 73 years, Rhoda, daughter, Marcia Karol, son-in-law, Michael O'Reilly, and two grandchildren, Brittany and Chelsea Karol. His beloved son, Robert, passed in 2022.

There will be a viewing at Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home on Monday, September 18 from 10-11am with funeral services at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to B'nai B'rith International (202-857-6600).



DEATH NOTICES

Lilliam Kathleen Drexler

Lilliam Kathleen Drexler, 94, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 1, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www. quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Carmen Ledo

Carmen Ledo, 87, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 8, 2023. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www. pontevedravalley.com

Anca "Daniela" Nicolaescu

Anca "Daniela" Nicolaescu, 63, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died Sept. 2, 2023. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Howard Pratt

Howard Pratt, 96, of Ponte Vedra Beach,

Florida, died Sept. 8, 2023. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www. pontevedravalley.com

Lindley S. Rhodes

Lindley S. Rhodes, 88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Sept. 6, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www. quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Kathleen P. Riley

Kathleen P. Riley, 84, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Sept. 2, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Elsa R. Rojas

Elsa R. Rojas, 97, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 2, 2023. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www. pontevedravalley.com

Patricia Louise Ryscamp

Patricia Louise Ryscamp, 83, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 3, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www. quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Leonard Smollen

Leonard Smollen, 95, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died Sept. 3, 2023. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www. pontevedravalley.com

Tracey Vandroff

Tracey Vandroff, 62, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 2, 2023. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www. pontevedravalley.com



MSD tables voting on PUD until October meeting

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District discussed whether it should vote in favor or against the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club proposed its 30-year for development and renovations and planned unit development request.

However, at the time of the meeting, the 12-hour Ponte Vedra Zoning & Ad-

justment Board meeting was still taking place, so they decided to table voting on the matter until the October 9 meeting.

The proposal was initially unveiled to the public during a Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District meeting on May 8, but there have been many committees it has gone in front of since and the plan and waiver requests continue to change. There was some debate of whether or not the MSD should even be voting on the issue in the first place, such as trustee Charles Callaghan who stated that either way voting on it was not something he believed they should get involved with either way because they are not legally bound to as part of the PUD's overall approval process.

Trustees Mickey White, Brad Wester and Kitty Switkes all agreed and stated that the MSD voting for or against it may just add to the confusion already surrounding the situation for many residents in the community.

However, trustee John Cellucci was for putting the matter to a vote and believed that the MSD should take a stance on the issue either way as an elected board.

"If we don't vote on it, then what are we all doing here," Cellucci said.

When asked, MSD attorney Wayne Flowers informed the board that he had not seen the MSD take a position on a zoning issue in his more than two decades as the group's attorney.

"But that doesn't mean that it can't," Flowers said.

In other news from the meeting, Chairman Al Hollon informed the board that the reason Republic was late picking up some yard waste in the MSD area was

due to volume and not staffing issues.

According to Hollon, he believes that in the next contract worked out between Republic and St. Johns County will most likely state a limit on the amount of yard waste that can be put out to the street at one time.

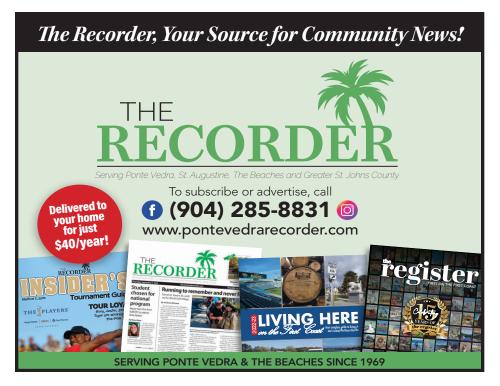
The MSD board also unanimously approved hiring Lewis, Longman & Walker at a cap of \$43,000 to serve as a lobbyist firm to help present their changes to their charter to the state legislature for approval.

The MSD discussed hiring a lobbyist one year ago but missed its window last fall to hire one before the legislative session got underway.

"You need a lobbyist if you want this to move through the legislature," Flowers said.

Scott Pearson spoke during the public comments portion of the meeting and requested that the MSD consider posting the monthly treasury report on its website or pass out to those in attendance at its meetings, so that residents will not have to request it because he didn't know he could do that, and others may be in the same position.

The board agreed that it will look into posting the financial reports at pvmsd.org moving forward.



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Beach renourishment project moves forward

By Shaun Ryan

By a vote of 4-1, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, Sept. 5, approved measures necessary to advance a planned beach renourishment along the entire length of Ponte Vedra Beach. Commissioner Krista Joseph was the lone dissenting vote.

Joseph had proposed that property owners along the entire 8.9-mile stretch be assessed equally at a tax rate of \$15.42 per foot, with condominium owners sharing that cost along the length of their shared property.

That would have changed the current arrangement, based on a 2021 decision to split the municipal service taxing unit (MSTU) — established two years prior — into two unequal segments: a three-mile stretch to the north and a six-mile stretch to the south. The MSTU would ensure a measure of cost-sharing for project area property owners.

Under the plan ultimately approved by the board, a millage of up to 0.39 would be levied on property owners in the north, and 0.75 would be levied on those to the south. Taxes would be collected in fiscal year 2025-26.

Several property owners living along the southern segment questioned the division of the MSTU into two unequal parts



and wanted a uniform tax rate.

The northern segment would receive about 300,000 cubic yards of sand, while the southern portion would receive 1.7 million cubic yards.

The board also voted to support the pursuit of easements in the project area and the survey of residents to determine whether they want the project. Currently,

the county has been granted 218 of the 272 easements along the entire length of the proposed project area.

According to county Emergency Management Director Joseph Giammanco, about 97% of the project is already funded. The total cost is estimated at \$40 million, though that is subject to change.

The state has earmarked \$30.2 mil-

lion for the project and the county, \$8.2 million.

In order to qualify for FEMA assistance, the county must perform monitoring and maintenance, which will cost an estimated \$700,000 annually.

Once begun, 2 million cubic yards of sand would be dredged from an offshore borrow area for deposit on the beach.

One dredge load would equal 2,500 cubic yards, or 166 truckloads.

"So, it's a huge amount or trucks that we're not going to be putting on the beach by doing a dredge project," Giammanco said.

Work would be conducted around the clock, and construction activity would take place in front of any individual property for about two to four days.

Total construction would take five to six months following seven to 10 months of pre-construction activity.

Giammanco cited a study finding that the beach has sustained an estimated loss of 2.4 million cubic yards of sand since 1986. Hurricanes Matthew and Irma were responsible for a loss of 620,000 cubic yards. About 380,000 cubic yards were placed on the beach following those storms, but Tropical Storms Ian and Nicole and various nor'easters damaged that restoration.



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Jacksonville Humane Society crowns alum 'cutest pet' winner

By Anthony Richards

The Jacksonville Humane Society held its annual cutest pet contest, and this year's winner was Charlotte.

The contest was held during the month of August and raised \$51,725 that will go toward the compassion and care of dogs and cats that the Jacksonville Humane Society has been proud of for years.

This year's winner seems even more fitting because she was once a member of the Humane Society and was adopted in June 2023 by Cici Anderson, who is also a board member for the Jacksonville Humane Society and a proponent of everything they do to help local animals.

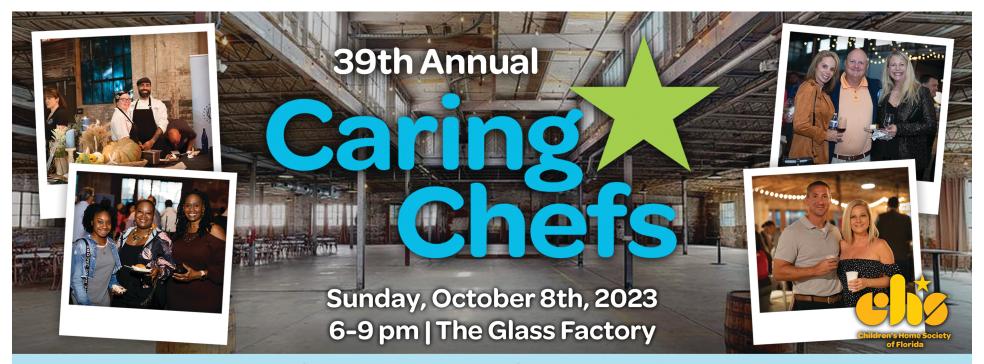
"I've been a supporter of the Humane Society ever since I moved back to the area in 2001," Anderson said. "So much of an event like this is growing awareness. It's a win-win event for all those involved."

Since adopting Charlotte, Anderson has gotten to know her and experience



Charlotte was adopted by Cici Anderson in June 2023 and is now the winner of the Jacksonville Humane Society's annual cutest pet contest.

CUTEST PET continues on **Page 22**



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Replace rubber ducks to protect environment

To the Editor:

Congratulations to Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra's new president, Josh Hull. (Aug. 24). His desire for more fundraising is commendable. Rotary's members give generously of their time for so many worthy causes.

Environmental sustainability is a national goal of Rotary Clubs, and to that end, I propose that Mr. Hull replace the "Rubber Ducky Regatta" fundraiser with an equally successful initiative that does not involve dumping 3,000 toxic and non-biodegradable plastic ducks (not rubber) into a major public waterway.

This fundraiser originated at a water park. Now, a dump truck empties the ducks from the Palm Valley Bridge into the Intracoastal. Although we're assured that kayakers retrieve every duck, the dumping of a large quantity of plastic into the ICW does not send the right message to a population in the midst of a plastic pollution crisis of staggering proportions.

The event puts wildlife at risk if tide and wind work against the volunteers and even one plastic duck escapes. Studies show that 39% of manatees and 52% of sea turtles had consumed plastic. Both exist in the ICW and are threatened or endangered. Also of concern is the message that is sent to young people witnessing thousands of plastic ducks dumped

into our waterway. What if very young children think this spectacle makes it okay to put plastic toys in the waterway or any body of water? Children learn by example.

It's time to create a new tradition. Since the Ducky Regatta was originally promoted for the Learn To Read program, how about a fundraiser that celebrates children's books and the characters in them? Imagine one day a year where everyone in our county — young and old dresses up as their favorite character in children's literature? County commissioners, teachers, everyone! THAT would grab attention for Learn To Read and get young people excited about reading. Volunteers could sell ballots for people to cast as many votes as they're willing to buy for best costume. From what I've

read, it's the honor student volunteers who have made the Ducky Regatta event such a success. They could be equally successful selling something other than plastic ducks.

As the president of a nonprofit myself, I know that every fundraising dollar is hard-earned. Nevertheless, I ask Mr. Hull to please consider the world our children will inherit. With Rotary's exceptional organization and passionate volunteers and partners, I believe they can top their fundraising record without putting wildlife at risk and sending the wrong message to young people about plastics in our environment.

Nicole Crosby

President, Save Guana Now Soil and Water Conservation District representative

Briefs

fostering a sense of community, compassion, and empowerment through its new brand.

With a renewed focus on delivering exceptional care, the foundation aims to positively impact the lives of those in need. Its new website, the foundationcares.org, was designed to provide visitors an informative and user-friendly experience. It serves as a comprehensive resource, offering valuable insights into the foundation's programs, services and impact stories.

The foundation raises funds to sup-

port the mission of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. With a focus on enhancing the quality of life for patients, Community Hospice & Palliative Care offers a wide range of programs and services to address the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those

For more information about The

Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care, its new brand, website, social media channels and the "#IAmTheFoundation" campaign, go to thefoundationcares.org or contact the foundation at Foundation@communityhospice.com.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



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Former employee files suit against Clerk's office

A former employee of the St. Johns County Clerk of Circuit Court has filed suit against her former employer claiming that her termination was unlawful. She is seeking damages in excess of \$50,000, reinstatement and compensation for lost wages and benefits, among other things.

Nilsa Arissa had worked in the Clerk's office from Aug. 17, 2020, until her termination on March 2, 2023, according to the civil complaint filed Aug. 25 in the Circuit Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit. At the time of her termination, she served in the role of inspector general.

In the complaint, Arissa alleges that she was terminated as retaliation for refusing to disclose the identity of another employee who spoke to her about an issue within the office.

Florida Statutes do grant confidentiality for information given to an agency inspector general except

where disclosure is found to be "absolutely necessary" under specific conditions.

According to the complaint, Arissa was given several reasons for her termination, which she claims were "false and pretextual." She is seeking a jury trial.

In response to a request for comment, the Clerk's office issued the following statement:

"The St. Johns County Clerk of the Courts and Comptroller's Office will vigorously defend against the allegations of unlawful conduct claimed by former Inspector General Arissa. Her employment was terminated after our office lost confidence in her following a number of performance incidents. The clerk's office looks forward to the conclusion of this matter and will continue to focus on operating at the highest standards of transparency and integrity."

Lawsuits filed against beach club

Two foreclosure lawsuits are currently active against Serenata Beach Club and its owners, according to documents filed in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial District. The club remains open.

World Business Lenders (WBL) of Elmsford, New York, filed suit on June 30 against Serenata, Bernoulli Growth Capital, Molly Ann Butler and Jeffrey Byron Butler.

WBL claims it made a \$1,320,000 loan to the borrower on Aug. 9, 2022, and that repayment was guaranteed by the defendants. The complaint alleges that payments were not made on the loan by the due date beginning in December and that the parties entered into a settlement agreement, but that only one payment was made in the amount of \$125,000.

WBL claims that, as of June 28, it is

owed \$2,068,576, which is the sum of the principal, interest and prepayment premium. In addition, WBL claims it is owed a daily accrual of \$1,612 and other fees and costs.

According to the complaint, WBL is requesting the court foreclose on the mortgage and direct the Clerk of the Court to sell the property in a foreclosure sale.

DLP Lending Fund of Delaware with a branch in St. Augustine filed suit against the same three defendants on July 6. claiming that Serenata Beach Club executed a promissory note on April 20, 2022, in the amount of \$8,586,000. DLP claims Serenata failed to pay all amounts that were due by May 1, 2023.

The Serenata Beach Club did not immediately respond to a request for

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Family business has been covering floors since 1966

By Shaun Ryan

At some point, it just becomes impossible to get that carpet clean. Or it develops wrinkles. Or maybe the homeowner just gets tired of the same

Generally, a carpet that is more than 10 or 15 years old is probably a good candidate for replacement.

That's when homeowners (or businesses or even the owners of boats) pay a visit to Carpet Concepts, which has two locations: 1421 3rd St. South in Jacksonville Beach and 4144 Herschel St., Jacksonville.

John and Alva Stone opened the business in 1966, arguably making it the oldest flooring company in Northeast Florida. Today, it's still family-owned and -operated, which appeals to many local residents.

"I was 5 years old when my parents started our business," said current owner Mark Stone. "Now, my kids are in it, too, so the third generation is here."

Even much of the customer base is multigenerational.

"I've got third- and fourth-generation customers," said Stone.

In fact, about 90% of the company's business is repeat, and the other 10% is often due to referrals from repeat customers. This, and the fact that Northeast Florida is a growth market, may account for some of Carpet Concepts' continued success, but its products and services probably have a lot to do with it, as well.

"We have a really good reputation, and we do everything we can to maintain that," said Stone.

Carpet Concepts specializes in wallto-wall carpet, pre-made area rugs and custom area rugs.

"You can come in and pick out any piece of carpet that you like, and then we can make it any size that you would like," Stone explained.

The business has a workroom, which means the cutting is done onsite, and it also delivers. As a result, customers only have to work with one company.

"You don't have to arrange to get somebody to come and lay it for you," Stone said. "You don't have to send it to some workroom somewhere to have it finished. We're doing all this ourselves."

Carpet Concepts stocks about 800 to 1,000 rugs at any given time, and thousands of carpets. It carries everything from low-end, inexpensive carpets to high-end, very expensive carpets.

"We have carpets imported from all over the world, from all the major hand-weaving rug centers of the world," Stone said. "We get machine-made rugs from domestic and international manufacturers."

Most of its inventory is wool, though Carpet Concepts also does a lot of busi-



Mark Stone

ness in sisal, seagrass and jute. Natural fibers are popular with customers who prefer environmentally friendly options.

Generally, depending upon the demands of the individual project, most carpet jobs take about two to three weeks to complete. For custom work, it tends toward two to four weeks.

For the most part, Carpet Concepts serves customers in the Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra and the Beaches areas, though it frequently does work as far south as St. Augustine and as far north as Amelia Island.

To learn more about Carpet Concepts, call 904-388-4110 or go to carpetconceptsinc.com.



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Landscape designer shares benefits of native plants

County offers hands-on gardening workshop

By Jennie Flinn

Studies show that our physical and mental well-being is increased with as little as two hours a week spent in a natural environment. But not all of us were born with a green thumb. Thankfully, with a few pro tips it's possible to have a beautiful, flower-filled yard that attracts birds and butterflies, and even saves money.

This September, St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department is offering two dates for people to attend a new workshop that will help residents learn how to use native plants to connect with nature in their very own backyards.

The presenter will be Kelly Tesiero, a landscape designer and owner of The Elegant Garden LLC, who will share information through a new educational series she calls Nurture Nature Workshops.

During the two-hour workshop, Tesiero will provide insider tips, techniques and short-cuts. She will also conduct a hands-on pruning session. The series aims to teach people how to transform any backyard into a beautiful space that



Kelly Tesiero of The Elegant Garden LLC will present "Nurture Nature with Natives" on Sept. 16

encourages birds, butterflies and a host of other pollinators.

As someone who began designing gardens before she could drive, Tesiero is eager to get residents excited about possibilities in their own backyards. Tesiero holds a degree in landscape architecture from University of Florida, studied design in Europe, and managed a family nursery,

all before starting her own design business

"The workshop is geared toward anyone green thumb or not — who wants less stress and more butterflies and flowers,' said Tesiero. "Native flowers attract native pollinators, which are fun to watch and are

PLANTS continues on Page 16

Company works with clients to realize high-end projects

By Shaun Ryan

Mike Wagner had been working in the high-end building industry for the majority of his 20-year career when he found that he missed interacting with clients, so in 2021 he launched his own company, M.J. Wagner Construction.

This interaction is more than simply a personal preference, however; it's a critical component of what the company does, particularly with regards to larger projects.

"We'll spend time with the clients trying to understand their needs and goals," Wagner said. That's important, because sometimes even the customer doesn't have a fully formed vision of what will satisfy his objectives.

M.J. Wagner Construction will typically produce some preliminary drawings for the client to examine.

"Once we have the concept down, then we can take it to the next step, which is: define the actual budget, the scope of the work," Wagner said.

This process is especially effective because the company specializes in projects of a unique nature — "projects that generally have some degree of really, really high-end finishes and complex challenges or projects that really have



a lot of structural components that kind of set them apart from something your typical remodeler might do," according to Wagner.

M.J. Wagner Construction has built elevated viewing platforms overlooking the marsh and large-scale additions; remodeled eclectic, high-end bathrooms; created media rooms and more. It both builds homes and remodels existing ones.

"We really have done just about everything," Wagner said.

Remodeling projects also require keeping abreast of evolving styles.

"A lot of design concepts have changed over the last 20, 25 years," Wagner said. "The open concept of kitchens and baths really didn't exist back in the '90s and early 2000s."

Kitchens tended to be separate units. Interior soffits marked boundaries.

"Kitchens are gathering places now," Wagner continued. "Living areas are more opened up to the outside."

Remodeling to reflect this shift might mean moving walls or transferring structural loads.

Another important reason to communicate with the client early on is possible challenges in sourcing materials. Though the supply chain issues of a few years ago have largely improved, some items can still require a bit of time to get. In some cases, it may be agreeable to switch to materials and products that are a little more readily available.

"We really try to have those conversations early with our clients," said Wagner. His company sources materials from all over the world.

Wagner is very hands-on with these projects.

"You may not see me out there actually swinging a hammer, bit I'm involved every step of the way from the design all the way through the execution of the project," he said.

The company also maintains a network of reliable subcontractors.

M.J. Wagner Construction's primary service area is Ponte Vedra Beach, Sawgrass, the Beaches, etc.

Learn more at facebook.com/MJWagnerConstruction. The company can be contacted by email at info@BuildMJW. com and by phone at 239-825-6820.



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Photos provided by Kelly Tesiero





also an important food source for birds." Kelly Ussia is Parks and Rec's supervisor of outdoor recreation, and she knows the importance of planting natives. One of her responsibilities is promoting a healthy, natural ecosystem, and she has been involved in updating several county



properties with native and Florida-friendly plants.

"I'm always looking for new ideas to encourage residents to connect with the outdoors, protect our natural resources and help improve our environment," said

The county's new workshop, appropriately titled "Nurture Nature with Natives," will help people understand why making better plant choices for their yards has so



many benefits.

"When residents choose better plants for their yards, they give local wildlife a boost and can even help save our local conservation areas from problematic invasive species that get spread from yards by birds and other means," Ussia said. "If you put the right plant in the right place and learn some of our state's best practices, your yard will be easier to maintain, and you will save a considerable amount of money in the long run."

Planting natives also conserves water because many of these plants are drought tolerant. Once they are established, they often have the ability to survive on rainwater alone. Reducing irrigation requirements helps conserve Florida's important aquifers, the source of water for residents of the Sunshine State. Floridafriendly plants also need less fertilizer and pesticide; less chemical runoff into the St. Johns River means better water quality.

Those who attend one of the "Nurture Nature with Natives" workshops can expect to receive information to give them confidence in making good plant selections at nurseries. There will also be a brief walk to identify native and Floridafriendly plants around the Solomon Cal-



houn Community Center, which Tesiero designed. She says it has received very little irrigation over the last three years yet is thriving.

Tesiero hinted at giving out plant prizes for thoughtful questions. She advises people to bring clippers if they have them for the hands-on, professional pruning lesson, which may include a take-home cutting of a native plant! Workshop space is limited, so register on the Parks and Rec website soon.

Go to www.co.st-johns.fl.us/Recreation, click on "Register For Our Programs" in the top paragraph, then the "Nature Programs" tab at the top. Under "Classes/ Workshops" find "Native Landscaping."

NURTURE NATURE WITH NATIVES

Date: Saturday, Sept. 16, and Friday,

Sept. 29

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Location: Solomon Calhoun Community

Center, 1300 Duval St., St. Augustine

Cost: \$25

Register: www.co.st-johns.fl.us/ Recreation. For more information or for help registering, call 904-209-0335 or email kussia@sicfl.us.





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Ramp-O-Rama provides mobility access for local families

Chances are, many people began their day bounding out their doors and walking to their cars, bikes or commuter rails with little thought given to the task. For a growing number of residents in Northeast Florida, just getting out of the house is no easy task.

Many need to use mobility devices, like wheelchairs or walkers, and those require a safe and reliable ramp to allow them to leave the home. With more than one-third of local residents struggling to make ends meet, those ramps aren't always affordable.

That's where Builders Care and their third annual Ramp-O-Rama comes in building ramps for those in need.

"This year, we are continuing with last year's success of at least 20 ramps in eight weeks, which will put Builders Care at building 52 ramps this year," said Krissy Barkas, executive director of Northeast Florida Builders Association (NEFBA). "Writing that out and saying it aloud gives me chills. So many people are unaware of just how life-changing a ramp is for someone unable to leave their home. We have encountered several recipients who have not left his or her home in months or even more than a year — something most of us take for granted."

Ramp-O-Rama began in 2021 with a



modest goal that would deliver a major impact.

Builders Care, the philanthropic arm of NEFBA, would construct 10 wheelchair ramps in one day, using multiple teams of volunteers, throughout St. Johns and Duval counties. They did it. The following year saw a sharp increase, with the group building 20 planned and two emergency ramps over eight weeks throughout Northeast Florida.

These ramps are all a part of Builders Care's mission of providing services to the elderly, disabled and veterans needing home repairs and improvements.

"I'm so proud of the work Builders Care continues to accomplish, especially as it relates to building accessibility ramps for those in need," said Chris Shee, CEO and owner of MasterCraft Builder Group,



member of NEFBA, and Builders Group board chairperson. "It's heartwarming to see folks' faces, the true joy when they finally gain the freedom to do something so simple as going outside. Ramp-O-Rama

will help Builders Care reach a goal of 52 ramps for 2023, which is a huge accomplishment and an amazing blessing to all those that have been graced by the efforts of Builders Care and its volunteers and supporters."

Builders Care has many opportunities for individuals and organizations to support their work. They are seeking donations of auction items for the 2023 NEFBA Gala Auction on Sept. 29. Builders Care is also accepting candidates to serve as board members. For more information on sponsorships, donations and board service, email Krissy Barkas at kbarkas@nefba.

Builders Care is a faith-based nonprofit construction contractor whose mission is to provide affordable to no-cost construction services to the elderly, the disabled and other nonprofits in Northeast Florida to build a better habitat for all.

For more information on Builders Care, go to builderscare.org.





Five model homes opened at Summer Bay at Grand Oaks

Home builder PulteGroup has announced the opening of five new decorated model homes at Summer Bay at Grand Oaks, a Pulte Homes Active Adult 55+ community.

"Summer Bay at Grand Oaks offers homebuyers enhanced amenities, a sought-after location and a wonderful selection of Pulte's flexible, openconcept floor plans," said Justin Cook, president of PulteGroup's Northeast Florida Division. "Our collection of new construction, one- and two-story single-family homes are designed to fit your lifestyle and budget."

Located within the Grand Oaks master-planned community, Summer Bay at Grand Oaks features 40-foot, 50-foot and 65-foot homesites with water, conservation and park views. Pulte Homes Active Adult offers 15 single-family open concept home designs ranging in size from 1,343 square feet to more than 3,300 square feet with luxurious upgrades starting in the low \$300,000s.

The gated, 55+ neighborhood will be home to the exclusive Summer Bay Amenity Center with a resortstyle pool, state-of-the art pickleball and bocce ball sports courts, a fitness center, an outdoor firepit and fireplace, a community garden and more.

Summer Bay at Grand Oaks is 2.5



Contributed photo

PulteGroup has five new decorated model homes at Summer Bay at Grand Oaks, a Pulte Homes Active Adult 55+ community.

miles from I-95 and a short drive from shopping, dining, entertainment and historic downtown St. Augustine.

Summer Bay at Grand Oaks is located at 41 Hickory Pine Drive, St. Augustine. Models are open daily. To

schedule an appointment or for more information, call 904-604-6880 or go to pultehomes.com/summerbay.

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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

Hurricane preparation for your landscape

"Faith is the virtue of the storm, just as happiness is the virtue of sunshine." — Ruth Fulton Benedict



Kathy Esfahani

By Kathy Esfahani

The Ponte Vedra area luckily seems to have fared well during Hurricane Idalia. But it is important to be prepared during this time of year! Hurricane

season in Florida begins June 1st and runs through November 30th; the hurricane "peak" is September 10th.

Though we hope for a quiet season each year, it is important to take steps to prepare your home and yard for a hurricane. Good preparation can help minimize damage in the event that a storm does arrive! Keep these tips in mind as you prepare for possible hurricanes:

• Prune shrubs and bushes away from the house. Branches that are too long can damage siding.



Hurricane clouds

- Make sure all tree limbs and palm fronds are trimmed high and away from the house. Prune low hanging limbs that could damage shingles or siding and remove any dead limbs that could fly off in heavy wind.
- Mow the lawn! Shorter grass will not accumulate as much debris as longer, more overgrown yards.
- Clean up debris or miscellaneous items from the yard. When winds begin to pick up, this will help minimize flying objects that could hit your home.
- Stake any plants or trees that are top heavy such as standard bottle brush or standard cassia as well as any topiaries.

- Remove yard decor such as pottery, trellises, yard art, swings, and lawn furniture if possible. Otherwise, secure or anchor down these items with sandbags, bungee cords, etc. in preparation for high
- Wait until after storm season to replace mulch as it can wash away with heavy rains. Pine straw can be placed around the beds to help keep bark mulch in place as much as possible.
- Make sure all drainage lines are clear. Clean out gutters and storm drains so that they are able to work properly. Check gutters to ensure that they are securely attached to the house and can direct water away from the foundation.
- If there is a hurricane near, turn off all irrigation systems. Although most systems have a rain shut-off device, do not depend on this trigger during/after a hurricane. This shut-off device will dry out more quickly than the soil and allow irrigation to resume when the soil is still saturated. Heavy rains can bring significant amounts of water, causing roots to loosen and trees

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery



Baby Sun Rose

to fall. Too much water can also lead to disease problems for grass, plants, and trees. After the storm, allow your yard to dry out for 3-4 days before turning on the irrigation system.

• Always know where your water main is located and how to turn it off in an emergency. If there is a special tool needed to turn off, be sure to pick up that item now.

Happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Baby Sun Rose

Please email Kathy at 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 and ideas, visit Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. The phone number is 904-655-7373.



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Sheriff Robert Hardwick, right, speaks at department's the first graduation for K9s For Warriors. Pictured from left are: Deputy Laura Welty, Lt. Keith Melton, Sgt. Michael Clark and



Anthony Godby describes his participation in the Paws for Change program.

Deputies, inmates train 2 dogs for K9s for Warriors

By Shaun Ryan

On Thursday, Sept. 7, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office held its first Paws For Change graduation ceremony recognizing completion of general training for two service dogs that will ultimately be paired with eligible veterans by K9s For Warriors. The dogs were trained by inmates at the county jail.

The program is a win-win-win.

"It helps the inmates, it helps the veterans and it also helps the dogs," said Sgt. Michael Clark.

The dogs, which are procured from shelters, play a major role in transforming — and potentially saving — the lives of veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury or military sexual trauma.

Participating inmates learn new life skills that will help them after they complete their period of incarceration.

"It helps them reach inside themselves and say, 'Hey, I've got some responsibility for doing something good for the community," Clark said.

Anthony Godby, who with fellow inmate Wyatt Jensen trained Daisy, a yellow Lab, said he hopes to apply for a job with K9s For Warriors after this



Photos by Shaun Ryan

Wyatt Jensen talks about training Daisy to help a veteran.

experience.

The program came along at just the right time for him.

"It kind of opened my eyes," he said. He said having something like this to do helped the time go a lot faster.

Jensen, who was mauled by a German shepherd when he was 13, had to overcome his aversion to dogs before

"I'm glad they're going to help veter-

ans," he said.

Two other inmates, Brad Claypool and Tim Heritage, trained Parker, a black

Deputy Laura Welty oversees the program for the Sheriff's Office.

Thursday, April Johnson, director of K9 training for K9s For Warriors, and Andrew Lovizio, manager of K9 training, presented the four men with certificates recognizing their achievement.

The dogs were trained over 12 weeks. Following graduation, they went to the K9s For Warriors facility for three weeks of additional training in public settings. Then, they will go to the veterans.

The Sheriff's Office was inspired by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, which had been doing this for a couple of

"We decided to step up and say, 'Hey, let us do our part and try to help," said

Adding more trained dogs to the program will shorten the wait time for eligible veterans.

"These two canines are going to save lives," said St. Johns County Sheriff Robert Hardwick. He cited statistics that say about 17 veterans commit suicide each day in America.

He said this program is also part of his efforts to curb recidivism. Three years ago, recidivism in St. Johns County was 25%. Today, that has been reduced to

For more information about K9s For Warriors, go to k9sforwarriors.org.





DeSantis' answer to new COVID mandates: 'No'

By Shaun Ryan

Gov. Ron DeSantis left no doubt where his administration stands on mask and vaccine mandates and related issues during a press conference Thursday, Sept. 7, at Culhane's Irish Pub & Restaurant in Jacksonville.

Citing examples elsewhere country where such measures are being reintroduced in anticipation of a projected resurgence of COVID-19, the governor and presidential candidate leveled criticism at authorities and like-minded allies supporting the actions.

"They are trying to do this again, and what we in the state of Florida will say is: "No," he said.

He singled out "bureaucrats, both White Houses of the last two administrations, the media."

DeSantis pointed out a revisionism among some, unnamed, persons who had supported school closures but are now denying their original positions.

"People act like, 'On, no, we didn't oppose the kids being in school,' even though they sued me to try to close the schools." DeSantis said.

Florida did close schools in March 2020, but allowed them to reopen for the 2020-21 academic year. The Florida Education Association filed suit against DeSantis and others on July 20, 2020, in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent that. In 2022, a study by the National Center for Education Statistics attributed a decline in reading and math scores to the impact of the pandemic, though the reasons were multifaceted.

Some have claimed that masking small children in school inhibits learning because it inhibits communication.

"If you give these people and inch, they will take a mile," DeSantis said. "And so, in Florida, not only did we stand in the fight when it was happening, but we've enacted permanent protections against these policies now and in the future for Floridians ... So, you as a parent can send your kid to school, and the school can't force them to wear a muzzle all day ... You also have a right as a Floridian to earn a living regardless of whether you want to take the latest COVID-19 booster shot

In May, DeSantis signed legislation that addresses a host of policies associated with COVID-19. That follows legislation passed in November 2021 addressing similar issues.

A look at Florida's COVID-19 legislation

Legislation signed on May 11, 2023:

SENATE BILL 252

- Prohibits business and governmental entities from requiring proof of vaccination or post-infection recovery from any disease to gain access to, entry upon or service.
- Prohibits employers from refusing employment to or discharging, disciplining, demoting or discriminating against an individual solely on the basis of vaccination or immunity status.
- Prevents discrimination against Floridians related to COVID-19 vaccination or immunity status.

HOUSE BILL 1387

Prohibits "gain of function" research in Florida.

SENATE BILL 1580

- Provides that health care providers and health care payors have the right to opt out of participation in or payment for certain health care services on the basis of conscience-based objections.
- Provides requirements for a health care provider's notice and documentation of such objection.
- Provides whistle-blower protections for health care providers and health care payors that take certain actions or disclose certain information relating to the reporting of certain violations.
- Prohibits boards, or the Department

of Health if there is no board, from taking disciplinary action against or denying a license to an individual based solely on specified conduct.

SENATE BILL 238

Provides an exemption from public records requirements for certain information relating to complaints or investigations regarding violations of provisions protecting from discrimination based on health care choices.

Legislation signed on Nov. 18, 2021:

- Prohibits private employer CO-VID-19 vaccine mandates.
- Establishes fines for employers violating these employee health protections. Fines are set at \$10,000 for businesses with 99 or fewer employees, \$50,000 for larger businesses per viola-
- Establishes that government entities may not require COVID-19 vaccinations of anyone, including employees.
- Establishes that educational institutions may not require students to be COVID-19 vaccinated.
- Establishes that school districts may not have school face mask policies.
- Establishes that school districts may not quarantine healthy students.
- Allows students and parents to sue school districts in violation of these laws and recover costs and attorney's fees.





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Cutest pet

her personality firsthand on several occasions, as she has become a loving part of their family, including becoming instant friends with her new brother Cash the cat.

"She is a foodie, loves to ride in the car and enjoys playing with her feline brother," Anderson said. "She's a real lover and a jumper."

Charlotte is two years old and although she is a mix, she has a lot of Yorkshire terrier in her.

"We always love when alums win our contests," said Lindsay Layendecker, director of community partnerships.

According to Layendecker, the cutest pet contest is in its fourth year after it was created in 2020 as just another unique way to get the local community of animal lovers involved.

"We saw how the contest was so uplifting and such a fun-loving way for people to interact, which was really needed during the pandemic, so we decided to keep it going," Layendecker said.

The funds raised from the contest will go a long way in helping the Jacksonville Humane Society achieve its goals, because they do not receive any funding from the government as the result of being a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

As the grand prize winner, Charlotte will be featured on digital billboards across Jacksonville thanks to Clear Channel Outdoor.

"It came down to the wire, and Charlotte and I were watching the computer together as we watched the last-minute votes come in," Anderson said. "I can't explain how special it will be to be driving down the road and all of a sudden see her face on a giant billboard."

She will also receive a prize pack from the Jacksonville Humane Society and Subaru of Jacksonville, as well as a one-hour professional photoshoot and be featured on the front page of the society's website throughout the year.

"Her (Charlotte's) calendar is getting quite full ever since she won," Anderson

Charlotte was one of 12 finalists after an initial 430 entrants were narrowed down through voting at jaxhumane.org.

"The cutest pet contest is an amazing and fun way to bring our community together all while helping pets and people who love them," Jacksonville Humane Society CEO Denise Deisler said. "Congratulations Charlotte and thank you to everyone who participated."



Coleman Talley adds Jacksonville office

Coleman Talley LLP, one of the Southeast's leading mid-sized law firms, has announced the opening of its newest office in Jacksonville. This expansion reflects the firm's dedication to better serving its clients and its communities.

Conveniently located in the Deerwood Park area of Jacksonville's Southside, the new office occupies suite 310 on the third floor of 10161 Centurion Parkway.

With this additional office location, Coleman Talley LLP said it aims to strengthen its commitment to delivering first-class legal solutions across practice areas such as affordable and university housing, corporate and finance, real estate, litigation, private wealth and advisory and more.

Coleman Talley LLP continues to operate its existing office location on the 31st floor of the Wells Fargo Center in Downtown Jacksonville. The Wells Fargo Center recently underwent renovations and expansion to provide additional offices and meeting space to support the firm's growth. The dual presence underscores Coleman Talley's dedication to providing accessible legal services to clients in various loca-

The further expansion into Jacksonville marks a significant milestone for Coleman Talley LLP, which has worked with numerous businesses individuals, and governments across the Southeast for more than 85 years.

"We are excited to establish a strong presence in Jacksonville, Florida, and we look forward to becoming an integral part of the vibrant business community here," said Justin Scott, managing partner of Coleman Talley LLP.

For more information about Coleman Talley LLP, go to colemantalley.com.



Coleman Talley has opened an additional office in Deerwood Park.

Adventure Landing Jacksonville Beach to remain open through September 2024

Adventure Landing reported this week that a new agreement with the landlord of its Jacksonville Beach location has allowed it to extend operations through September 2024.

That means birthday party celebrations, water park fun and more will continue for its 29th season.

Adventure Landing attracts an average

of 500,000 guests per year and serves as the largest youth employer in Duval County year after year.

2024 season passes are available for purchase with the remainder of 2023 for free. Adventure Landing is now booking birthday parties and group outings.

The park is hiring to fill more than 300

Adventure Landing's owners and employees say they are proud to have been a part of hosting thousands of nonprofit organizations, birthday party celebrations, children of all ages through school programs and summer camps, military events, corporate gatherings, team building programs, Winterfest, Easter Egg Hunts, Haunt Nights and much more.

The owners are in the process of exploring other locations in the Jacksonville area to build another water park.

Adventure Landing will remain a positive fixture in the Jacksonville community and is looking forward to carrying out the traditions of providing family entertainment in a safe, clean and fun environment for generations to come, they say.







General Manager Scott Dailey and owner Brian Packer from Outer Banks Boil Company.

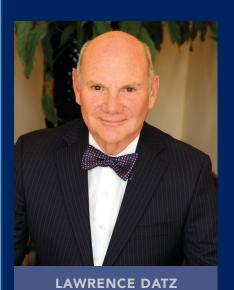


Outer Banks Boil Company is an experience-driven seafood takeout and catering company.

East Coast seafood concept comes to St. Augustine Beach

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Brian and Dara Packer knew they had found something special when they walked into Outer Banks Boil Company during a beach vacation in Delaware.

They loved the concept of being able to pick up a pot full of fresh, tasty seafood to boil at home. Even more, they loved that they could hire the professional staff to come to them to cater for a large group. It wasn't until they relocated from Maryland to St. Augustine that they knew they had found the perfect place to open their own location.

They were quickly joined by General Manager Scott Dailey, who cut his teeth at the Outer Banks locations in North Carolina. And voilà, Outer Banks Boil Company is now open at 711 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach.

"It's such a fun concept," said Brian Packer, co-owner with wife Dara. "We obviously love the food — it's delicious. But the real bonus is the connections we make with our customers. When we steam your boil for you, whether it's a wedding, rehearsal dinner, bachelorette party, family reunion, football tailgate you name it — we do all of the work while showing you and your guests how

Outer Banks Boil Company offers boils for in-house catering or pick-up to steam

With the catering service, staff arrives an hour before it's time to eat. They handle the cooking, serving and clean-up and can bring tablecloths, utensils and



Seafood boils are a dining tradition that are laid back and fun.

With the takeout option, diners can select a boil and schedule a convenient time to pick it up. The traditional boil is jumbo shrimp, red bliss potatoes, andouille sausage, corn and onions and is served with lemon, butter and Matt's cocktail sauce. Variations feature clams, crab legs, lobster tails and more. They offer sides and dessert to round out the meal.

"Seafood boils are a dining tradition that is as relaxed, laid back and fun as the beach communities we serve," said Packer. "Whether it's your home, office or vacation rental, we bring everything you need — leaving only full bellies and smiles."

Outer Banks Boil Company is open seven days a week from noon to 7 p.m. For more information, go to staugustine. outerbanksboilcompany.com.

The top 4 health benefits of having a primary care physician

A trusted family medicine doctor is important even when you aren't sick

If you go to the doctor only when you are sick, you are missing out on countless health benefits, according to Shalaka Ghate, M.D., a family physician for Baptist Primary Care, who recently opened a new office on Marsh Landing Parkway in Jacksonville Beach.

"Studies show better health outcomes and lower incidences of serious issues, such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes, in patients who have a consistent primary care physician," said Ghate.

Here are Ghate's top four reasons for developing a partnership with a primary care physician.

Prevention.

A primary care doctor can help you prevent serious health conditions through regular checkups and screenings.



Dr. Shalaka Ghate

"Prevention is key," said Ghate. "We can detect conditions, such as high cholesterol, hypertension or asthma, in the early stages, when intervention can often halt the progression of disease."

Identifying risk factors.

Annual wellness visits are vital to

maintaining and improving your health. Your primary care physician can help you manage your risk factors, like family health history, weight gain or high stress, and make recommendations for a healthier lifestyle.

Improved mental health.

"Many people don't realize we can offer mental and behavioral evaluations and treatments," Ghate said. "Just like with other disorders, we can be a stepping stone for patients to get the right evaluation and appropriate treatment. We help treat common issues like depression and anxiety on a regular basis."

Quick care when you need it.

When you are sick, being able to get an appointment with your primary care physician, go right into an exam room, and bypass paperwork because you're already in the system is priceless. A doctor who understands your full health story can get you feeling better fast,

while offering other benefits for years to come.

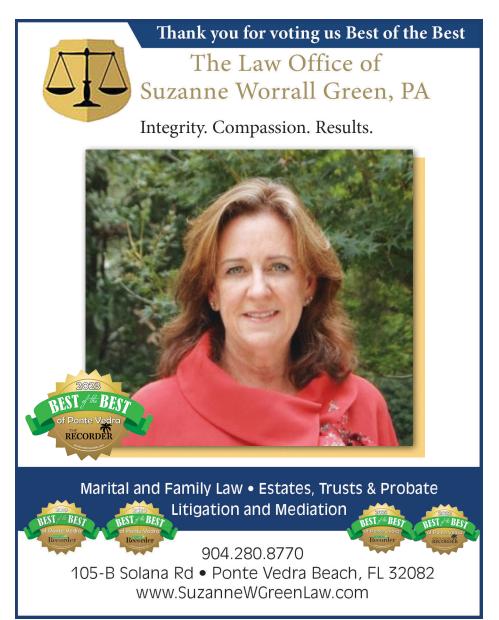
Ghate stressed the need for younger adults, who often don't think they need primary care, to find a physician.

We can definitely help younger adults with a lot of needs that start to emerge in their 20s and 30s, such as birth control, attention deficit disorders and sexual health," she said. "We can also help with substance abuse issues."

Ghate recommends being proactive.

"Your health is in your hands, so I encourage people to find a primary care doctor they trust," she said. "Together, you and your doctor can develop a partnership to improve your overall health and well-being."

Ghate's new office is located at 950 Marsh Landing Parkway, Unit 105B, in Jacksonville Beach. The office accepts most major health insurance plans and can often accommodate same- or nextday appointments. To schedule a visit, call 904-376-4900 or go to baptistjax. com/marshlanding.





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PAStA Fine Art Gallery hosts First Coast Plein Air Painters exhibit

The Professional Artists of St. Augustine (PAStA) Fine Art Gallery, of 214 Charlotte St., St. Augustine, recently announced that the First Coast Plein Air Painters (FCPAP) are exhibiting of their members' works at the gallery for the entire month of September.

A reception for the award-winning group was held on First Friday Artwalk on Sept. 1. The members' works will not only be shown, but are also available for sale throughout the month.

"We are incredibly honored to have as our first hosted exhibition, the First Coast Plein Air Painters," said Valarie Pothier-Forrester, PAStA president, artist member and member of FCPAP. "Many of the regional artists that are members of FCPAP, can often be found downtown St. Augustine, busily capturing the beauty of this unique city and the surrounding areas."

The First Coast Plein Air Painters is a group of enthusiastic and dedicated plein air painters based in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. They maintain a strong membership that paints outdoors together regularly, provides exhibition opportunities and supports the community with demonstrations and fundraising.



Contributed photo

The First Coast Plein Air Painters is a group of enthusiastic and dedicated plein air painters based in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia.

Professional Artists of St. Augustine was founded in 1982 by Jean Wagner Troemel, a champion of the art and founder of the Winter Haven Ridge Art Association who served on the Florida Arts Group Board. She spearheaded St. Augustine's First Friday Art Walks.

The gallery has served an international

clientele a wealth of local talent and award-winning artists. The gallery's mission is to showcase local and regional art and to educate and encourage area artists.

Gratitude shown to Jacksonville Beach first responders on 9/11



Ocean Beaches American Legion Auxiliary Unit 129 and American Legion Post 129 of Jacksonville Beach were happy to take the pledge on 911day.org to give to their community in remembrance of the tragic events on Sept. 11, 2001.

Ponte Vedra Tropical Smoothie donated 14 box lunches for Engine 71 and Engine 60. The family



of 129 also made 90 box lunches for the Jacksonville Beach Police Department. Volunteers from 129 included Commander Joe Maichle, President Cindy Jordan, Wanda Brandt, with membership and Candace Mabry, community service chairman.

Contributed photos



Artist Jenny Keyser exhibits work in 'Threading the Margins'

The Professional Artists of St. Augustine (PAStA) Fine Art Gallery, of 214 Charlotte St., St. Augustine, has announced that member artist Jenny Keyser was chosen to participate in the St. John's County Cultural Council's salute to the textile arts, "Threading the Margins."

The event will continue until Nov. 30 in the rotunda of the St. John's County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastion View, St. Augustine.

Keyser is an award-winning, multidisciplinary artist whose work has been shown internationally in galleries and museums. Her work in accessories and wearable art has been sold nationally at Barney's of New York and was included in publications such as Lark Books' "1,000 Beads," InStyle Magazine and Women's Wear Daily.

She received a B.S. in biology from Vanderbilt University, a certificate in museum studies from Northwestern University and an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has been a member since May 2022 of the PAStA Fine Art Gallery, where her acrylic paintings and custom-made jewelry are featured.

Keyser was one of 17 local artists chosen to participate in the "Threading the Margins" exhibit, following an open call for artists. The exhibit includes unique works by the artists, plus antique garments and samplers from the Peña-Peck house and Ximenez-Fatio house museum collections.

The piece Keyser is exhibiting is a hand-pieced, size 6 dress constructed of nylon netting that has been hand-painted with industrial rubber and includes crocheted wire details.

"Storytelling is an art itself," Keyser said. "If you look and listen, my art tells a story. It reflects my philosophy and passions, places I have been and things I have seen."

Here is the narrative description of her "Survivor Dress":





Contributed photo

"Survivor Dress" by artist Jenny Keyser

"She wore her resilience on her body like some kind of badge of honor. Instead of crumbling under the weight of her experiences, she transformed them into something beautiful that emanated from within. She is a survivor."

For further information, go to pastagalleryart.com.

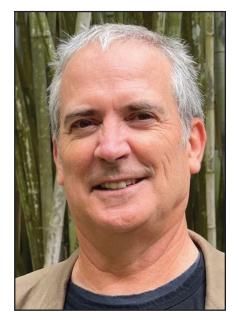
Mystery novelist to speak at library

Readers of mysteries and thrillers, particularly darker noir novels, will find "The Long Way Out," Michael Wiley's gritty page-turner, hard to put down. Wiley will discuss his novel at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, as part of the Friends of the Library's speaker series.

"The Long Way Out" is the second in Wiley's new thriller series set in Northeast Florida and has been praised by Publisher's Weekly as offering "a searing portrait" ... and "gripping plot" involving a wrongfully convicted and later exonerated ex-con, Franky Dast, investigating a series of murders.

Michael Wiley grew up in Chicago and lived and worked in the neighborhoods and on the streets where he set his first two detective series, the Shamus Award-winning Joe Kozmarski books and the Daniel Turner thrillers. He teaches creative writing and literature at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

The author will have books avail-



Michael Wiley

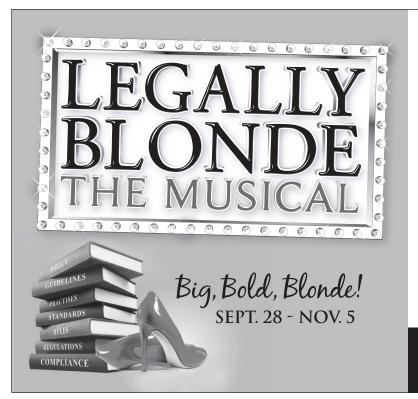
able for purchase and a portion of every sale benefits the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. The Sept. 19 event will be held in the FOL Community Room of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library and is free and open to the public.



Darline Braz



Exhibit 9/29 6:00 - 7:30 pm Light Refreshments



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WEEK 4 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Sharks, Panthers look to establish season's groove

By Anthony Richards

Both the Ponte Vedra Sharks and Nease Panthers appear to be carrying some momentum heading into week four of the season.

The Panthers (2-1) bounced back in a big way after a tough loss to Creekside with a dominant 48-6 win on the road against Davenport Ridge Community a week ago.

The 48 points is by far the most the Panthers have scored during the first three games of the season and could be the signs of the offense coming together.

Nate Harry connected with a handful of different receivers on the night, which is one of the most important takeaways from the game, because its to the point where Maddux Spencer can be expected to get his catches and yards, but consistent production from the depth out wide is a vital part of success.

The growth of the passing game will be put to the test in the coming weeks, and it starts when the Panthers travel to Neptune Beach to take on the Fletcher Senators.

One thing that was also clear in the previous win was the fact that the Panthers were firing on all cylinders in all three facets of the game.

The defense has allowed fewer than 10 points in two of the three games this season and they continue to have multiple players be magnets to the football, including now three interceptions in as many games for senior defensive back Careal Carter.

Sophomore Jacob Curry also continues to shine and has shown a knack for making plays in a variety of ways both in the backfield and in coverage.

The Senators have played a brutal schedule to open the 2023 season, with losses to Mandarin, 43-21, and Tallahassee Chiles, 31-0.

However, the Senators held their first home con-



Nate Harry (No. 15) leads the offensive attack against Fletcher on Sept. 15.

test of the year and defeated Jackson 7-0 on Sept. 8. Jackson is a common opponent both teams have

faced, with the games both being defensive slugfests until the very end.

It is unclear whether Senators' senior quarterback Marcelis Tate will be able to play as he is battling an injury, which will make a difference in the Senators' approach if he is on the sideline.

Either way, this game can be expected to be one that has the potential to be a close contest all the way to the end, and the team with the last possession could decide it.

For the Sharks, they enjoyed an early season bye week, and it came at a good time because it allowed them to decompress and re-focus following their long bus trip to Tallahassee and emotional victory on Sept. 1.

The Sharks welcome the Middleburg Broncos to the "Shark Tank" on Sept. 15, as they look to get a winning streak going.

The Broncos (0-2) have been known throughout



The Sharks' defense looks to force a lot of fourth downs against Middleburg on Sept. 15.

the years as a gritty squad and one that can make life difficult for opponents by playing a methodical style dependent on lengthy drives and time of possession.

However, after going 5-5 and making the playoffs one season ago, the Broncos have started out the year slow with consecutive losses to Hawthorne and Bradford

A major aspect that has plagued the Broncos in the opening weeks has been the play of its offense, which has only produced seven points in both contests.

A struggling offense like that against a stingy defense like the Sharks is not a good matchup, especially with the Sharks being rested and having two weeks to scheme towards it.

Look for Maddux Babin and company to present several problems for a Broncos' offense still trying to find its way a couple of weeks in.

The Panthers against the Senators starts at 6 p.m. at Fletcher High, while kickoff for the Sharks and Broncos is set for 7 p.m.







DREAMING OF FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS



The Ponte Vedra varsity football team may have had their bye week, but that did not mean there was not football going on in the "Shark Tank," as the junior varsity squads took to the field Sept. 7 against Creekside. The photos below are of players who will find themselves suiting up on Friday nights in the fall in the next couple of years.















Plaintiff/Wife.

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PUBLICATION ORDER

Public Notice IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

WILSON COUNTY TENNESSEE

SITTING IN LEBANON

CRYSTAL DAWN SMITH,

FILE NO.: 2023-DC-205

This case came to be heard on the 25th day of August 2023 before the Honorable Clara W. Byrd, Judge of the Circuit Court of Wilson County, Tennessee, upon sworn Motion to Allow Service by Publication and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED ADJUDGED and DE-CREED that:

- 1. MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER BLAKE SMITH's (hereinafter "Husband"):
- That CRYSTAL DAWN SMITH's (hereinafter "Wife") sworn testimony was that Husband's location is unknown
- That Wife attempted to serve 3. Husband via the Secretary of State at two (2) separate addresses: however, said attempts were unsuccessful;
- That counsel for Wife has attempted to reach out to Husband via Facebook, but said attempt was unsuccessful;
- 5 That Husband's last known address to Wife's knowledge was 446 Ocean Vista Avenue St. Augustine, St. John's County, Florida 32080:
- 6. That pursuant to the background check ran by counsel for Wife, Husband's last known address is 851 Bulkhead Road, Green Cove Springs, Clay County, Florida 32043-8304.
- That Wife's testimony was that she knows of no other location in which Husband may be found;
- 8. That the best possible notice under the circumstances and notice reasonably calculated to give reasonable actual notice is publication in a newspaper which circulates in St. John's County, Florida:
- 9. As such, the publication notice shall be posted with the Ponte Vedra Recorder which circulates weekly in St. John's County which is Husband's last known address.

So ORDERED this the 5 day of September 2023.

CLARA W. BYRD, JUDGE APPROVED FOR ENTRY: KANE & CROWELL, PLLC

LINDSEY W. JOHNSON, # 36839

Attorney for Wife
133 South College Street Lebanon, Tennessee 37087 (615) 784-4802 Liohnson@kane-law.com

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER BLAKE 1.5 x 6 \$149.52/month SMITH. Defendant/Husband.

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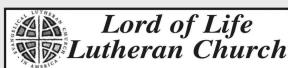
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Public Notice

NOTICE OF 9/18 FINAL BUDGET HEARING RESCHEDULING &
9/25 FINAL BUDGET MEETING/ **REGULAR MEETING OF THE** ST. JOHNS COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY
The St. Johns County Airport Author-

ity will reschedule the Final Budget Hearing that was originally sched-uled on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 5:01pm. The Final Budget Hearing will instead take place on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 5:01 pm. It will take place directly following an Airport Authority Board Meeting on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 4:00 pm. This combined Board Meeting/Final Budget Hearing will take place in the meeting room at the Airport's Conference Center -2nd floor, located at 4730 Casa Cola Way, St. Augustine, Florida 32095

Notice to persons needing special accommodations and to all hearing-impaired persons: In accordance with the American Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact (904) 209-0090 or Florida Relay Service: 1-800-955-8770, no later than five (5) days prior to the date of the

JOHNS COUNTY AIRPORT **AUTHORITY**

By: <u>Jaime R. Topp</u> Interim Executive Director

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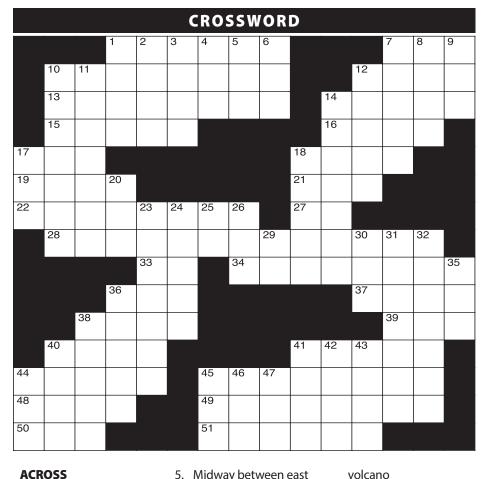
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ACROSS

- 1. Type of crayon
- 7. Fashion accessory
- 10. Most cerebral
- 12. Incline from vertical
- 13. Dependent on
- 14. Broken in
- 15. Strongly desires
- 16. Mounted soldier
- 17. Ad __: when necessary
- 18. Cattle
- 19. Ottoman military commanders
- 21. student, learns healing
- 22. Composed in poetic meter
- 27. Promotional material
- 28. Where people live
- 33. Sodium
- 34. Embarrassing
- 36. Medical man
- 37. Mother of Hermes
- 38. One who saves the day
- 39. Tooth caregiver
- 40. Not clothed
- 41. Slope covered with loose stones
- 44. Used to cook
- 45. Praises enthusiastically
- 48. Rooney is a famous one
- 49. Beekeeper
- 50. Pigpen
- 51. Potato chip brand

DOWN

- 1. Living quarters
- Horizontal passage
- Attacks
- Vietnamese offensive

- 5. Midway between east and southeast
- 6. Confined (abbr.)
- 7. Book of Esther antagonist
- 8. Port in Yemen
- 9. CNN's founder
- 10. Type of bulb
- 11. Prepare
- 12. Promoted
- 14. Dinner jackets
- 17. Partner to cheese
- 18. Nebraska city
- 20. Human gene
- 23. Pays no attention to
- 24. Lowland South American plain
- 25. Blood group
- 26. Mauna ___, Hawaiian

- 29. Atomic #37
- 30. Unit of electrical resistance
- 31. Jeweled crowns
- 32. Nastiest
- 35. Traditional cars need it 36. Bowler hat
- 38. Robust
- 40. Not straight
- 41. Stony waste matter 42. Have an interest in
- 43. Jacob ___, journalist
- 44. Maintains
- possession of
- 45. Swiss river
- 46. Average cost of market goods
- 47. Spanish soldier: El

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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



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