

THE RECORDER



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

Ponte Vedra Auto Show
Page 13

Thursday, November 9, 2023

PonteVedraRecorder.com

VOLUME 55, NO. 2 \$1.00

Venues offer best ticket deals

By Shaun Ryan

It's no secret that purchasing event tickets from a reseller probably means spending more. Obviously, "middle-men" want to make a profit just like anyone else.

But how much profit is too much? After all, the customer can always walk away if the price is deemed too great. Caveat emptor, as they say.

Alas, it's not that simple. In today's point-and-click culture, it's very easy

TICKET continues on Page 7



NOMINATIONS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED!



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

'LOCKED-IN' PANTHERS WIN FIRST DISTRICT TITLE SINCE 2015

By Anthony Richards

This year's Nease Panthers football team accomplished something it had not done in eight years, after defeating the Toco Creek Toros 47-21 to win their first district title since 2015.

The district title clinched a playoff spot for the Panthers (7-3, 3-0) and it was a special way to end one memorable senior night on Nov. 3.

"In the beginning of the year we had a lot of injuries and we battled through that for a couple weeks there," senior quarterback Bryce Frick said.

According to Frick, the turning point for the team and for himself was during the Fletcher game, when his number was called, and the offense responded with a productive second half despite the loss.

When he transferred from Ponte Vedra to Nease this year, he had hoped for the opportunity, and once it came he continued to grow with each week and was a major reason why the Panthers ended the year with a district title for the trophy case.

"I just kind of ran with my opportunity



Photo by Anthony Richards

Members of the defensive line wear special hats commemorating the district championship.

and the team just rallied behind me as well, and we've really been on a roll," Frick said.

It helps that Frick has plenty of play-makers surrounding him as well, including fellow senior Cam Smith, who is one

of the players who battled injury earlier this season but had stood out on senior night with five touchdowns, including four on the ground against the Toros.

PANTHERS continues on Page 37

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INSIDE

One of Us

Page 6

Business Weekly

Pages 32-33

In the Arts

Pages 34-35

Sports

Pages 36-37

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

Family seining event set for Nov. 11

GTM Research Reserve will offer a program on family seining from 9 to 11 a.m. Nov. 11 at GTM Research Reserve Guana Dam, 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. Learn about the animals and their roles in Guana Lake by pulling a seine net and collecting species of fish, crabs and other marine life.

The event is free, but parking is \$3 per vehicle. All necessary gear (waders and boots) will be provided. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are recommended.

Register online at gtmnerr.org/visit/events.

Lisa Kelly/JB Scott Jazz Quartet to perform

The Lisa Kelly/JB Scott Jazz Quartet returns on Tuesday, Nov. 14, to the Ponte Vedra Beach Library with their highly musical and entertaining show of classics to modern jazz and songs from New Orleans.

Presented by the Friends of the Library, award winning jazz artists, vocalist Lisa Kelly and trumpeter JB Scott co-lead the group featuring Jeff Phillips on piano, Dennis Marks on bass and Rick Kirkland on drums.

All are Florida-based musicians whose illustrious careers have included intimate jazz clubs to major festival stages around the county and throughout the world. The group will be joined by Jeff Phillips, based near Orlando, known for his vast knowledge of tunes from the great American Songbook and beyond.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Learn about natural bug repellents

Ribault Garden Club invites the community to its Garden Center Day from 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 16 at 705 Second Ave. North, Jacksonville Beach. The topic will be natural bug repellents. The speaker is Jack Ward, Jack's GNAT Attack. This is open to the public. Admission is free. There will be refreshments, door prizes and a raffle.

Beaches Community Fund accepting grant applications

The Beaches Community Fund, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, is accepting applications for grant funding available in 2024. The Fund makes grants to nonprofit organizations serving the Beaches communities from Mayport to Guana, east of the Intracoastal Waterway. Last year, the Fund granted \$270,000 to Beaches nonprofits.

In the 2023-24 grant cycle, priority will be given to support K-12 students; early learning

opportunities for low-income children; and meeting the basic needs of Beaches residents (food, emergency financial assistance, housing, shelter, health care and mental health care.)

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. Jan. 12. To learn more and to apply, go to jaxcf.org/beaches.

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.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Rollinson resigns from PVZAB after Commission's PUD approval

By Anthony Richards

Immediately following the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners decision to vote 4-1 in favor of the approved the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's planned unit development application, Jane Rollinson informed the Commissioners that she resigned from her seat on the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment

Board.

"When appointed in 2021, I was hopeful to be a valued adviser to the BoCC on matters related to Ponte Vedra Beach as it applies to the land development code, Ponte Vedra zoning district regulations and the overlay district regulations contained therein. And as important, to the intentions of our zoning code as a historic

beachfront community," Rollinson said.

However, the hope she had to help the community stay true to itself and its regulations was not being fulfilled and it felt like the Commission was not taking the advice from their local boards seriously on too many occasions.

"During my term I have spent countless hours reviewing, visiting property

in, understanding and having hearings on various applications," Rollinson said. "As a board we have both approved and denied many applications before us. Four of these applications have either been appealed to you or sent to you for final approval. There were three significant ap-

PUD continues on Page 9

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EnterCircle summit kicks off Tuesday

Five-day event helps make entrepreneurship a reality

EnterCircle 2023 is approaching quickly. The five-day summit will take place on Nov. 14-18 at the link in the Nocatee Town Center. This year's theme aims to inspire attendees to "Thrive with Purpose" in their professional and personal endeavors.

The summit is organized by Sapna Foundation, whose mission is to propel entrepreneurship by building innovative solutions for alleviating poverty.

The content of the summit will be delivered through talks, hands-on workshops, breakout rooms, panel discussions and networking. Attendees are encouraged to connect, collaborate with others and share their businesses with the Ponte Vedra community.

This year, two additional days have been added to the usual three-day schedule. Day one is the JVC Showdown, hosted by the Jacksonville Venture Competition network. This pitch competition will allow startup founders to pitch their businesses to a panel of experienced judges who will give live feedback on the pitches.

Registration is free for the JVC Showdown. Those interested can register at www.entercircle.zone/jvc-showdown.

Day two is the Premier Business Showcase and Awards Night. This event includes a pitch competition, business expo, keynote speakers from St. Johns County and Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub, a presentation of awards to local businesses who are inspiring growth in the community and Cocktails for a Cause Charity Networking.

All proceeds from Cocktails for a Cause will benefit STEM2 Hub, whose mission is to grow STEM education programs in Florida schools.

Attendance is free to the business expo, and attendees can enter a raffle to win either a link family membership, a \$100 credit for an activity or event at the link or tickets to the Jacksonville Zoo. Admission for Cocktails for a Cause is \$75. You can register for these events at www.entercircle.zone/business-showcase.

Day three is a Youth Symposium. Students from four St. Johns County high school career academies will attend thanks to the Career and Technical Education department at St. Johns County School District.

Students will learn from experienced entrepreneurs who will share knowledge on finding employment in St. Johns County, design thinking, how to fund their business goals and more.



Raghu Misra, co-founder of the link, addresses attendees at the 2022 EnterCircle summit.

File photos



The link is a unique facility in Nocatee.

You can register for the student pitch competition at www.entercircle.zone/youth-symposium.

Day four is dedicated to inspiring women. The Women's Day program welcomes speakers from industries like tech, finance and real estate who will share their stories on how they were able to thrive in their fields despite the odds.

This day is for women starting their

entrepreneurial journey, seasoned professionals, students and women looking to be inspired. Topics for Women's Day include women in tech, women in business, financial growth strategies, finding happiness and more.

Attendees can purchase tickets for \$55 and woman-owned businesses can purchase an expo table for \$150. You can register and buy an expo table at www.entercircle.zone/womens-day, and

registrants can receive 20% off tickets by using code WOMENSDAY20.

Day five is the Jr. Business Fair. This collaboration between Sapna Foundation and Acton Academy Ponte Vedra aims to give children under 15 the experience of launching their own startups in a supportive environment. Parents can cultivate entrepreneurship in their children by registering for \$25 at www.entercircle.zone/jr-business-fair.

EnterCircle: What's happening and when



The EnterCircle agenda is as follows:

Tuesday, Nov. 14

6-8 p.m. JVC Showdown

Wednesday, Nov. 15

Premier Business Showcase and Awards Night

4-5 p.m. Startup Pitch Competition

5-8 p.m. Business Expo

6-6:30 p.m. Keynote speakers: Joy Andrews, county administrator, St. Johns County; representative from Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub

6:30-7 p.m. Presentation of Community Growth Awards

7-8 p.m. Cocktails for a Cause Charity Networking Night

Thursday, Nov. 16 Youth Symposium

9:30 to 10 a.m. Arrival and registration

10 to 10:20 a.m. "How to Find Purpose as a Teen" — Father Rich Pagano, St. John Paul II

10:30 to 10:50 a.m. "Why I Became the Largest Tropical Smoothie Cafe Franchise Owner in the USA" — Nick Crouch, DYNE Hospitality Group

11 to 11:20 a.m. Frank Benedetto, The HoneyBadger Project

11:20 to 12:30 p.m. Lunch

12:30 to 12:40 p.m. "Finding your Career in St. Johns County" — Scott Maynard, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

12:40 to 12:50 p.m. Representative from St. Johns County School District Department of Career and Technical Education

1 to 1:20 p.m. "Charting Your Own Course: Finding Purpose in Business and Life" — Jay Owen, Business Builders

1:30 to 2 p.m. "SpaceX Launch and Recovery Operations" — Marc

Montemerlo, SpaceX

4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Student Pitch Competition

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Networking and refreshments

Breakout sessions

10 to 11:30 a.m. "Healthcare Problems: It's Not Complicated. But it Should Be." — Maarten Rotman, Mayo Clinic

10 to 11:30 a.m. "Design Thinking for Rapid Innovation" — Emily Skywark, CVS Health

10 to 11:30 a.m. "Dollars and Dreams Masterclass: Designing Your Ultimate Financial Game Plan" — Adam Lowe, Adam Lowe

12:30 to 2 p.m. "Design Thinking for Rapid Innovation" — Emily Skywark, CVS Health

Friday, Nov. 17: Women's Day

8:30 to 9 a.m. Arrival and registration

9 to 9:03 a.m. Welcome and introduction by emcee Marithza Ross, meteorologist at Action News Jax

9 to 9:30 a.m. "It's Game Time!"

Leadership Lessons from a Former Female Football Player" — Jan Spence, CEO, CSP, Jan Spence and Associates

9:30 to 9:50 a.m. "Leading Best" — Neera Shetty, PGA Tour

10 to 10:20 a.m. "Biblical & Experiential Perspective on Purpose" — Father Rich Pagano, St. John Paul II

10:30 to noon: Women in Business — Sonya Morales-Marchisillo, Pinnacle Communications Group; Tillery Durbin, 121 Financial; Tina Bodnar, First Horizon Private Bank

Noon to 12:30 p.m. Lunch

12:30 to 1 p.m. Women in Business Panel — Jessica Funke Ho, Urban Youth Park; Pauline Sevigny, Grace Aerospace; Dr. Prasanthi Reddy, Rainbow Pediatric Center

1 to 1:30 p.m. "The Art and Science of Happiness" — Amy Dix, Authority Speakers Agency

1:30 to 1:50 p.m. "Dream it! Plan it! Do it!" — Carolynn Castillo, Absolute Top Dollar

Saturday, Nov. 18

10 to 2 p.m. Jr. Business Fair

EnterCircle 2023 Women's Day

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Tina Bodnar
First Horizon Private Bank



Carolynn Castillo
Absolute Top Dollar



Tillery Durbin
121 Financial



Amy Dix
Authority Speakers
Agency & Choose Happy



Jessica Funke Ho
Urban Youth Park



Sonya Morales-Marchisillo
Pinnacle Communications Group



Fr. Rich Pagano
St. John Paul II



Dr. Prasanthi Reddy
Rainbow Pediatric Center



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Action News Jax



Neera Shetty
PGA Tour



Pauline Sivegny
Grace Aerospace



Jan Spence
Jan Spence & Associates



Join us to connect, grow, and get inspired with enterprising women on Nov. 17!

Sign up now for 20% off Women's Day Tickets. Offer valid until Nov. 12.

Registration closes on Nov. 15 at NOON!

Scan to Register



www.entercircle.zone



Felicia Cox is vice president, banking center manager for First Horizon Bank in Ponte Vedra Beach. She has worked in banking since beginning her career as a teenager. A longtime active member of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, she is also a big fan of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Felicia Cox



Photo provided by Felicia Cox

Felicia Cox

As told to Shaun Ryan

Please tell me a little about your background, especially with regards to your career.

I am a native of the First Coast. I started my banking career while in high school, which gave me the opportunity to develop the skills needed to begin my career in banking. I attended college locally and earned my degree while working full time. I have been in banking my entire working life and have been in the Ponte Vedra community for over 25 years.

As vice president, banking center manager for First Horizon Bank, what are some of your responsibilities?

My responsibility is to ensure my team and I provide excellent service and the best solutions for our clients'

needs. When you choose to bank with First Horizon, you can be assured that our team will provide an array of banking services such as: Private Banking, Commercial Lending, Consumer Services, Mortgage Lending, Business Banking, Wealth and Trust Management and Brokerage Services.

What do you like most about what you do?

Developing long-lasting client relationships by helping our clients with the right solutions for their various banking needs. A satisfied client will refer you to their friends, family and business associates. I also enjoy developing my team to help them advance in their careers. I am so proud of my team's hard work and dedication that has allowed us to be named "Best Bank in Ponte Vedra" for five consecutive years and "Best Place to Work" two consecutive years by the

readers of the Ponte Vedra Recorder.

Do you have any advice for young people who are looking for a great career — especially if they have an interest in banking?

Try to focus on a job field that you are interested in. Be passionate and look for ways to get experience in that field. Never give up on your dreams. You can volunteer, look for internships or partner with a mentor.

Are you involved in any organizations in the community?

I have been actively involved in the Ponte Vedra community for many years. I'm currently serving as a board member of the Baptist Medical Center — Beaches. I am also a two-term past chairman of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Beaches Division and currently serving as secretary.

What do you like best about living here on the First Coast?

Living at the beach, beautiful weather and diverse activities is why I love to call the First Coast my home. I love seeing the increased passion and energy of our community that is helping the First Coast grow and prosper.

How do you like to spend your free time?

Being season ticket holders since day one, my husband and I enjoy attending Jaguars games and cheering on the team.

Dining out and discovering new restaurants.

Traveling both domestically and internationally with my husband.

Bike riding on the beach.

Spending time with friends and family.

Ticket

Continued from 1

to make a poor choice. And the ramifications may go beyond simply getting a bad deal.

Recently, the administrative team for the Jacksonville Symphony found that some online searches for its concerts actually directed potential customers away from the best ticket source: the Symphony itself.

The team Googled “Jacksonville Sym-

phony Organ Concert” to locate tickets for one of its upcoming events. What came up in a box titled “Events” was a list of potential options for that search criteria. The applicable one selected, several ticket sources appeared.

Not one of them was the Symphony itself.

This may be a consequence of Google’s search engine optimization process and how various sites use it. The Symphony may be able to arrange that its posts be promoted in the Google results, but that could require a significant

financial expenditure.

For the organ concert in question, one of the sites offered a range of prices — depending upon the desired seating section — of between \$44 and \$202 per ticket. Another offered a range of \$45 and \$206. A third ranged from \$54 to \$247.

Compare that to the price range offered by the Symphony: \$27 to \$57.

A quick search of other events, some presented by the Symphony, others by different local venues, turned up similar results.

One can easily imagine that the consumer, either in a hurry or being unfamiliar with online ticket purchasing, might become confused and miss out on the actual, far-more-affordable price.

But cost is not the only consideration. In the case of the Symphony at least, purchasing tickets from a third party means cutting oneself off from communications important to concertgoers.

“We do our best at the Symphony to try to give our patrons a comprehensive set of communications before they come to the concert,” said Nichole Rivera, marketing and public relations manager for the Jacksonville Symphony.

These communications, normally in the form of “Know Before You Go” emails, tell patrons where they can park, what to do if running late, directions to the venue.

But resellers don’t provide that service. Once the transaction is complete, the relationship ends.

In addition, the Symphony remains attentive to the concerns of its patrons.

“If you purchase a ticket through our website and you need help with anything — or, if you don’t want to purchase it on the website, and you’d rather speak to somebody — we have comprehensive services from the box office that can help you navigate everything,” said Rivera.

For instance, a patron may not want to put a credit card number online. Or there may be a question about seating.

In fact, the Symphony maintains a physical box office at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts. It’s open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and also 90 minutes prior to each of the concerts.

For those wishing to buy online, the best place to go is: jaxsymphony.org. The Symphony also maintains an arrangement with TicketMaster.

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First Coast Cultural Center purchases building for future home

Donna Guzzo, president and CEO of First Coast Cultural Center has announced the purchase of the non-profit's new location. The two-story, 6,000-square-foot building is located at 6000B Sawgrass Village Circle in Ponte Vedra Beach and currently serves as the Ponte Vedra Plastic and Cosmetic Surgery Center location owned and operated by Daniel M. Calloway, M.D.

The property was purchased for \$2.2 million with a capital campaign currently in place called First Coast Cultural Center Cares About Culture, and a multiyear financial drive for \$3.7 million.

The center requires an immedi-

ate need of \$500,000 to remodel the existing medical venue and architectural buildout of the internal space. The property purchase was funded by individuals and funds from a former building sale.

According to Guzzo, Calloway will stay in the space through Nov. 23 to continue his practice.

Currently, First Coast Cultural Center is located at 3972 3rd St. South, Jacksonville Beach. The recent purchase is the center's second real estate acquisition since its opening more than 28 years ago at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach, which was originally the U.S. Post Office in Ponte Vedra for

many years.

"We are excited to expand our space to better serve the community with more programs, services, classes, events, studio space and rehearsal, exhibit and performance areas, among others," said Guzzo. "Our next steps include securing funds for customizing the new location. The goal is to make the most fiscally responsible decision which will benefit our members, children and adult students, children with disabilities, contributors, partners and the community. We are excited about the opportunity to expand access to the arts among all populations and diverse groups in Northeast Florida."

Guzzo initially became aware of the available real estate from her business and civic work with Tyler Saldutti, founder and CEO of Prime Realty Inc. in Jacksonville. Saldutti and Matthew Lehman from Prime Realty served as the commercial real estate agents and brokers on the property transaction. The closing was held on Aug. 23 at St. Johns Title in Ponte Vedra Beach with Guzzo; Dr. Carla Rodrigues, chair of



Donna Guzzo

the Board of Directors for First Coast Cultural Center and a local veterinarian; Kevin Russell, chief operating officer for Marks Gray, Lawyers for En-

BUILDING continues on Page 12

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PUD

Continued from 3

lications which had egregious violations to our zoning code.”

Below are two of the three applications Rollinson referenced:

- The self-storage building on AIA abuts residential property, has three stories and more than 100,000 square feet on two acres where only 20,000 is permitted.
- The to-be-built hotel complex to its south, which also abuts residential property and is approved at nearly a football field in length and towers over the homes adjacent to it.

The third application in which the

Commission overturned or approved an applicant’s existing conditions despite the local zoning board having recommended to deny due to further discussion and plan changes being needed to meet code.

According to Rollinson, the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club application had building height definition, building heights, setbacks and a parking garage location all unaligned with the Ponte Vedra zoning codes in place.

“Protecting our beachfront community from overdevelopment will only occur when county commissioners are elected who are willing to enforce zoning codes that benefit our community,” Rollinson said.



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Thanksgiving: A time to be grateful

By Soleil Shah

Thanksgiving, celebrated on the fourth Thursday of every November, is a wonderful time of year to relax and make memories. During this time millions of Americans travel to visit family. Last Thanksgiving, around 54 million people traveled to spend time with friends and family. This year, a similar number is expected.

Here in Florida, a large number of our residents migrate from Northern states such as New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. This means Jacksonville International Airport will be bustling with people heading back up north for the holidays, as well as Northerners excited to visit their families in the Sunshine State.

Jean H., a Florida resident since 1990, said she is preparing to host Thanksgiving for her daughter and grandchildren this holiday season.

"I'll have a lot of cooking to do this year; it's usually just me and my husband," she said.

The Thanksgiving meal is often the star of the show, but many families have their own traditions. Families with kids often watch the animated "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving." It is almost always put on for children in school as a fun festive activity. Millions also watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade as they prepare Thanksgiving dishes. And of course, one of the most American things to do is watch and play football on the special day!



Reflecting on what we are given and the opportunities we are privileged to have during Thanksgiving dates back hundreds of years. It is important to not lose sight of the true meaning of Thanksgiving, giving thanks and appreciating what we have.

Bill A. says he is thankful that he lives so close to the beautiful beaches. Anne M. said, "I'm thankful for my family and home." Tyler P. said, "Despite the poor economy, I'm thankful I can still purchase a turkey for my family."

We all have things to be thankful for and, as we prepare for the upcoming busy holiday season, we should all be thankful for our Ponte Vedra Community!

HUGS lists urgent needs

HUGS St. Johns volunteers pack emergency clothing bags for 600-plus St. Johns County kids every year. Its duffel bags are filled with gently used and new clothing, new undies, new socks, sneakers, full-size toiletries and school supplies for kids in need who are referred by their school counselors and partner nonprofit agencies.

You can help:

- Check your closets and consider donating clean, gently used, school-appropriate children's clothing. Especially needed: boys and girls sizes 6-12 pants, shorts, long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts. Teenage sizes also appreciated. Email HUGS to arrange a drop-off or pickup at info@stjohnshugs.org

- Consider hosting a neighborhood or school clothing drive. Email HUGS and they can help. Service hours are available to students who coordinate a community clothing drive. Email: info@stjohnshugs.org

- Check out HUGS' Amazon wish list of new items that will ship directly to the UPS Store mailbox. Go to: <https://a.co/i6ZTkBm>

- Volunteers are always appreciated. HUGS especially needs drivers any Tuesday or Thursday to help deliver clothing bags to school counselors. Go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B44ACA829A0F85-clothing2>

Questions? Email HUGS or call 904-580-4847.



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County Commission approves PUD application for Inn & Club

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's application for its 30-year proposed renovation project to be rezoned as a planned unit development was approved by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners during its monthly meeting on Nov. 7.

The application passed by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Krista Joseph as the lone opposition to the approval.

Joseph's concerns were similar to those during the public comments section, which were that she was not against voting for the project, but there was still some discussion and work that she believed needed to be worked out between the sides involved.

Commissioners Christian Whitehurst, Sarah Arnold, Roy Alaimo and Henry Dean all stated that they were satisfied with the way the project staff went about getting out in the community and taking the time to speak with residents to help work out any issues or questions

that arose during the process.

The large crowd on hand that spoke during the public comments section of the meeting was mixed with views from both sides and at times the lines even became very blurred, with some against it stating that they believe renovation was necessary and they had respect for the integrity of the Peyton family, which owns GATE Petroleum and the property being discussed, but they would like to see it be accomplished by following the regulations in place without so many stipulations being asked for the project.

According to John Peyton, president of GATE Petroleum Company and owner of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club property, he was looking back the other day and determined he had met with about 143 people within the past year to talk about the project.

"It's not a perfect plan, but there is no perfect plan," Peyton said.

Peyton continued to reassure the residents in attendance and the Commis-

sion that he and his family's company are proud of being part of the area and have acknowledged the concerns of the public and the boards they have met with to revise the plan several times.

However, one who did not believe they followed through with what they said they would after leaving the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board was Jane Rollinson, who has been a member of the board for three years and is a Ponte Vedra Beach resident.

"On Sept. 11, the PVZAB met for 11 hours to review the then filed application for a PUD with 31 waivers," Rollinson said. "Twelve of the waivers were approved as written, 17 waivers were approved with amendments and two waivers were denied. The PVZAB also recommended that the application for rezoning into a PUD be denied until substantial issues with the application were resolved. Of the 17 waivers which were approved with amendments, the applicant did not follow through on four of them."

Because they had not yet finished the completion of the request, Rollinson stated on behalf of the PVZAB that their request of denial to the Commission for review remains in place.

"The applicant should abide by the same height definition as all others in all places in St Johns County," Rollinson said. "Additionally, there are no existing conditions; I would not call 2% of a building at 56 feet built before the zoning code changed, justification, that merit approving a waiver to build on the PVIC campus over 43 feet and the Lodge campus over 35 feet, except for the existing resort space on the east side of PVB."

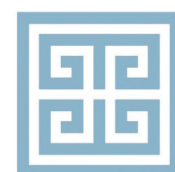
After gathering all the information available and hearing all the comments on the topic, including hours of meetings spent with the party behind the project gathering a better understanding of it, it passed with the majority vote and now the project is officially a planned unit development.

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Building

Continued from 8

terprise, who was serving as treasurer on the center's board of directors at the time of closing; and John Keeley, the commercial lending officer for Community First Credit Union who helped Guzzo secure the building loan.

Mike Koppenhafer, owner of Fisher Koppenhafer, is named as architect on the project going forward.

"We are fortunate to have a building in the bustling and desirable Sawgrass area of Ponte Vedra Beach with proximity to shopping centers, numerous neighborhoods and minutes from leading medical facilities, retirement communities, renowned golf courses and more," said Guzzo. "Our service is geared to residents and visitors throughout St. Johns County and the Beaches area, including Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach and Atlantic Beach."

All interior and exterior areas of the new building will be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved and accessible. Visual arts and music classrooms will be designed to teach music therapy to children with disabilities, plus there will be a pottery room with multiple wheels and kilns, a culinary studio and expanded spaces for exhibits along with a gift shop, to name a few.

The center's Kick StART after school enrichment program and classes will continue to reach several Title I schools in the south of the county.

A free and open-to-the-public event with ribbon cutting and formal, grand opening to commemorate the official ownership is slated for 4:30 p.m. Dec. 14 with light refreshments, music and a fun photo booth. To RSVP for the event, contact Charlotte Chastain at cchastain@firstcoastculturalcenter.org.

"We needed a newly upgraded space that could be designed specifically for our purposes," said Guzzo. "The shopping center storefront and post office space served us well. However, we must grow to support the sophisticated market. Ponte Vedra Beach is a premier destination for tourism, and we're excited to offer a leading location for our visiting guests and our locals, plus many fine artists from the region. The community will be able to connect and engage with our artists in residence, experience the arts, take a class or

workshop with a master artist, enjoy exquisite events and enjoy the local surroundings. With more than 8,000 constituents, we look forward to having our own home where we can double and, in some instances, triple the number of programs we offer."

First Coast Cultural Center's fall and spring 2024 classes, programs and workshops are currently available for registration. Adult classes will include Gold Leaf Mini Painting Workshop; Seascapes and Landscapes Acrylic Painting; How to Watercolor; Abstract Human Painting; Watercolor with Six Tubes; Pen and Ink Drawing and Watercolor Painting; Sumi Painting and Drawing a Realistic Portrait from a Photo.

Additional classes and workshops will include Nature Journaling Outdoors with watercolor and mixed media, Experimental Photo Transfer Workshop, and Meditative Chakra Painting.

First Coast Cultural Center will continue to hold classes at 3972 Third St. South in Jacksonville Beach through the end of the year. Studio hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, with after-hours appointments available.

Weekly drama classes will continue in Nocatee at Care Connect+, located inside the Flagler Health+ Village at 351 Town Center Plaza, Suite 205 in Ponte Vedra.



PONTE VEDRA AUTO SHOW



OFFICIAL PROGRAM GUIDE

Sunday, November 12th
10 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Nocatee Station Field

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PHOTO BY ANTHONY RICHARDS

**The 2022 Winner of BEST IN SHOW IN HONOR OF LARRY WEISMAN:
Bobby Rahal - 1965 AC Cobra**



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THE RECORDER



Welcome to the 2023 Ponte Vedra Auto Show

The 2023 Ponte Vedra Auto Show is being presented by TopCoat Products LLC and Art 'n Motion in association with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and Nocatee.

This year, the Porsche Club of America, Florida Crown Region, is celebrating the 75th anniversary of Porsche and two of this year's trophies reflect that.

The show is open and free to spectators. It will feature hundreds of classic and collector automobiles, all vying for the show's awards. Parking at the event is free.

The field is located at 400 Nocatee Center Way, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Only registered service animals are permitted on the show field. Guest tents are not permitted on the show field.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, Nov. 12

10 a.m. Show opens to public

3 p.m. Awards

3:30 p.m. Show concludes

2023 TROPHIES AND SPONSORS

The Larry Weisman Best In Show Award

Sponsor: 2023 Ponte Vedra Auto Show

Best American Classic

Sponsor: Art 'n Motion

Best Modern Porsche

Sponsor: Brumos Collection

Fantastic 50s

Sponsor: ICON Epic Golf Cars

Euro Excellence Award

Sponsor: Euro Spec

Exceptional Exotic

Sponsor: Tint World - Jax Beach

Best Contemporary Corvette

Sponsor: Florida Blue

Most Original "Survivor"

Sponsor: Hagerty Insurance

Best Classic Japanese

Sponsor: House of Assembly Events

Most Outstanding Truck or SUV

Sponsor: Ponte Vedra Recorder

Best of the UK

Sponsor: Tom Bush Family of Dealerships

People's Choice Award

Sponsor: Nocatee

Most Outstanding Classic Muscle Car

Sponsor: Fibrenew

Best Pre-War Vintage

Sponsor: Renewal by Anderson

Best Contemporary Muscle Car

Sponsor: St Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Most Outstanding Corvette

Sponsor: TopCoat

Outstanding Classic Porsche

Sponsor: VyStar Credit Union

Best Classic European

Sponsor: Wheel House

Best Custom Paint Job

Sponsor: Dent Out PDR

Magnificent Resto Mod

Sponsor: Shark Coating

Best Hot Rod

Sponsor: Gate Express Car Wash

Modern Asian Excellence

Sponsor: Zisser Family Law

Best Early Porsche Pre 1969

Sponsor: PCA Florida Crown Region

PCA Florida Crown Region Judges Choice

Sponsor: PCA Florida Crown Region

EVENT MAP



2023 AUTO SHOW JUDGES

- Mike Ferran**
- Jonathan Chadwick**
- Jimmy Britts**
- Hans-Dieter Mandt**
- Steve Boyle**
- Dan Scanlan**
- Dr. Andy Cannestra**
- Brian Williams**
- Chris Brewer**
- Ken Perry**
- Christopher Hoyt**
- Joshua D Hull**
- Vito Vacca**
- Bob Barren**
- Ed Lustgarten**
- Sidney Raper**
- Bruce Dufresne**
- Barb Dufrense**
- John Trainer**
- Steve Palmer**



A variety of foreign and domestic cars will be on display at Nocatee Station Field from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12. Roughly 175 cars filled Nocatee Station Field for the 20th Annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show, shown above.

File photo



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Larry Weisman (second from right) served as a head judge and was involved with the Ponte Vedra Auto Show for more than a decade.



Weisman's passion for cars was evident in the Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

Photos by Susan Griffin

Weisman's legacy lives on with each auto show trophy presentation

By Anthony Richards

Larry Weisman was someone who so many people within the local car enthusiast and car show community knew after his involvement in helping construct the Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

According to Jake Weisman, Larry's son, those early years played crucial parts in whether it was a success or not and have helped make it the tradition it is today.

"My dad was involved with Rotary at the time, and they were looking for some unique ways to get out in the community," Weisman said. "So, they were just tossing ideas around and my dad mentioned an auto show."

From there, the idea grew into a grand venture that the local Rotary Club would oversee for more than a decade.

Jake remembers as a child growing up and how it was tagging alongside his dad and soaking everything in with much fascination.

"I just remember how passionate my dad was about it, and you could see it in how much he cared about it and the people involved in it," Weisman said.

Those memories will always be a part of Weisman, who became a car-lover himself.

"I've carried on that appreciation that he felt toward and now my kids are starting to get fascinated by cars and all that they have to offer as well," he said.

According to Jake, family ties, and the generational aspects of it is one of the many special things about car shows that make them even more significant than they already are.

After all, the car enthusiast world is rare, but then you add all the different cultures within it, and each with its own rare history.

"Car shows will always be for anyone who loves their cars and wants to show them off with others who appreciate the same," Weisman said. "And it doesn't matter what you like, because I'm a Corvette guy, but there are all kinds of makes throughout the world and you'll find a little bit of everything at a show. But through it all, we're just a bunch of guys talking about cars."

He understands that concept and it was something his dad appreciated as well, and the way in which an auto show can bring people together.

After being such a major focal point of the event for 14 years, including the many years the show was held at TPC Sawgrass, Larry Weisman passed away in 2019.

It did not take long after that for new owner Justin Felker and his family to tell Jake that they were thinking about honoring his dad by naming the overall "best in show" trophy after him.

"I remember first meeting Justin and his family when my dad and I got to take a tour of the inside of Art n' Motion," Weisman said. "My dad went on and on about how much he loved that place."

After his dad served for years as the head judge for the competition, so in many ways gracing the trophy with the name of Larry Weisman is a fitting approach, especially since he was the primary one handing out the award to the winner each year.

Jake has also spent time as the show's head judge in the past, which is just another way he has been able to follow in his father's footsteps and carry on his legacy.

"I still remember the last show we did together," Weisman said. "I'll never forget it."



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The early days of the Ponte Vedra Auto Show helped make it the tradition it is today.



Following his passing in 2019, the Ponte Vedra Auto Show honored Larry Weisman by naming the overall "best in show" trophy after him.



Photo provided by TopCoat

TopCoat's products provide a protective coating that is safe on older vehicles.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Attendees stop by the TopCoat display at the 2023 Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

TopCoat returns for 2023 Ponte Vedra Auto Show

By Shaun Ryan

TopCoat Products returns this year as presenting partner for the Ponte Vedra Auto Show, which will be held Sunday, Nov. 12, at Nocatee Station Field.

Last year, the Green Cove Springs-based manufacturer of several detailing products had a booth at the show, where it gave demonstrations and handed out free samples.

Scott Smith, TopCoat's founder and CEO, said he enjoyed the show and even made a surprising discovery.

"It's amazing how many people were already using our product!" he said.

In fact, the company made some converts, as well. Some visitors who stopped by to learn more have become diehard customers. TopCoat inspires strong brand loyalty.

This year, the TopCoat booth will be

back and the company will have giveaways and goodie bags for its visitors.

TopCoat's origins go back to 2002 when Smith, who had decades of experience in the automotive detailing industry, had an idea to create a single multi-use, multi-surface coating that would replace the eight to 12 traditional detailing products many people used.

The result was TopCoat F11, which could be used on both the interior and

exterior of an automobile, including paint protection films, isinglass and matte finishes.

The product quickly earned a following, especially among those who wanted something they could use on classic cars.

"We are water based, so we're safe on these older vehicles," Smith said. "We have a ton of car collectors and exotics

TOPCOAT continues on Page 20

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File photos

Porsche celebrates 75th anniversary

Local enthusiasts to feature brand at auto show

By Shaun Ryan

In 1948, the Porsche 356 was road-certified, launching one of the most popular and resilient automobile brands the world over. Seventy-five years later, brand loyalty remains very strong and Porsche owner affiliations — such as the First Coast's own Porsche Club of America, Florida Crown Region — continue to attract members from successive generations of enthusiasts.

This year's Ponte Vedra Auto Show will include a special focus on this ever-popular brand.

The 356 model was designed by Ferry Porsche who had complained that he couldn't find an automobile he wanted to purchase. It was produced first by an Austrian company founded by Porsche and his sister, Louise Piech, and later by a German company founded by their father that had previously produced the first Volkswagen Beetles.

The original price of a 356 coupe was \$3,750, and the cabriolet was \$4,250. In

today's dollars, those prices would be \$47,892 and \$54,278, respectively.

As new models were produced, the Porsche name quickly became associated with automobile racing following wins in the 1950s and 1960s.

The late Hans Mandt, a 30-year member of the local club, actually served as the chief racing mechanic for several championship Porsche teams in the International Motorsports Association series. Porsches under his care won the 24 Hours of Daytona in 1977, the 24 Hours of LeMans, 12 Hours of Sebring and the Targa Florio in Italy.

As a result of his father's career, son Hans Mandt grew up around Porsches and always had one himself. He went on to crew for Porsche teams for several years.

Today, Mandt serves as the dealer liaison for the local club, which has approximately 1,000 members, though not all active. In this role, he acts as the single point of contact for the club with outside organizations, such as the local dealer. It's an important position, as the club is very active. It helped out with the dealer's 75th anniversary of Porsche event last summer, holds a car show and swap meet at the dealership most years, conducts a car show at The Brumos Collection, participates in the Porsche Corral at the 24



Hours of Daytona, has a monthly social gathering and more.

For years, the Porsche Club took part in the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. In fact, Mandt got involved in the very first one in April 1996 at the request of the event's founder, Bill Warner.

Though the club is no longer affiliated with The Amelia, it does hold its Porsche Club of America's Werks Reunion Amelia Island on the Friday before the event. That draws more than 300 Porsches.

"It's an event worth seeing!" said Mandt. "It's been a phenomenal event for many years. A lot of famous Porsche driv-

ers come to that."

Porsche's popularity continues unabated these many decades since its introduction. Part of the reason may be its stylistic integrity.

"The Porsche 911 — it's gone through many generations, but it still looks like a Porsche 911," Mandt said. Introduced in 1963 at the Frankfurt International Motor Show, today's 911 "still has those same lines," said Mandt.

"People are just loyal to the brand," he added. "Even those that now buy the Cayenne and the Panameras and such."

In fact, even among the model cars that hobbyists prefer, Porsches remain the top-seller.

And living on the First Coast is a benefit to devotees of the brand. Mandt called The Brumos Collection of Jacksonville "one of the best Porsche museums in America," though it features other automobiles as well.

Mandt has been affiliated with, and even been a judge at, the Ponte Vedra Auto Show over the years.

"The field is incredible," he said. "And it's a family-friendly event. If you want to go to a car show, this is one to go to."

This year, the club will sponsor two awards: Best Early Porsche Pre-1969 and PCA Florida Crown Region Judges' Choice.



Photos by Susan Griffin



Brumos Collection to bring autos to show

By Shaun Ryan

The Brumos Collection is one of several sponsors for this year's Ponte Vedra Auto Show, and it couldn't be more appropriate, considering the brand that brought Brumos so many victories will

be featured during its 75th anniversary.

The first Porsche made its debut in 1948. Since then, it has been a major part of racing history.

The Jacksonville-based Brumos team has won the 24 Hours of Daytona four times — all with Porsche getting it first

across the finish line.

In 1973 and '75, Peter Gregg and Hurley Haywood won that race with a Porsche Carrera RSR. In 1978, Gregg won with a Porsche 935/77. Most recently, David Donohue, Antonio García, Darren Law and Buddy Rice won the

2009 race in a Riley Mk XI with a Porsche engine.

The Brumos Collection, located at 5159 San Pablo Road South, Jacksonville, exhibits about 40 automobiles at

BRUMOS continues on Page 21



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The Recorder presents the *first ever* **Best of the Beaches**, featuring your favorite businesses in Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach and Ponte Vedra Beach! This includes businesses in zip codes 32250, 32266, 32233, and 32082.

Readers will have the chance to nominate their favorite businesses in various categories online, such as auto & transportation, home & finance, food & drink and more! Online voting will begin once nominations are complete.

Give your favorite business the recognition they deserve, and nominate them as the Best of the Best in their category!

**NOMINATIONS START:
October 6th - November 12th**

**VOTING STARTS:
November 13th - December 4th**

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED/
WINNER'S CIRCE PUBLISHES:
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Photos provided by TopCoat

TopCoat Products returns this year as presenting partner for the Ponte Vedra Auto Show, which will be held Sunday, Nov. 12, at Nocatee Station Field.

TopCoat

Continued from 17

and museums that use our product just for that reason. It's not a solvent that can deteriorate over time."

Each bottle has a QR code on it, so shoppers can scan them right in the store and see videos and testimonials on their smartphones before buying.

But F11 is not the company's only product.

There's also F11PRO, TopCoat's most advanced multi-purpose, water-based, amino-functional technology coating; Gla-C, a glass cleaner that cleans more than glass; Spritz, a speed detailer and waterless wash; TireDress, which blackens tires and adds a light sheen; TopCoat HPS, for use in the home; UnCoat, which easily removes waxes, water-based sealers and several solvent-based coatings; SapErase, designed to remove sap; GunArmor, a unique gun cleaner and polish for weapons; and microfiber towels.

And there's TopCoat Crystaleen, a permanent ceramic five-year coating, that the company recently released in 2-ounce sizes.

Smith explained the importance of the product.

"The ceramics you see on the market today are not real ceramics," he said. "They're what's called hybrid ceramics. A real ceramic is a permanent coating that lasts years. And you can't remove it unless you wet-sand it off."

Real ceramic coatings are normally applied by certified professionals — at a professional price. Smith said this normally runs about \$1,500-plus.

"Now, the retail customer can actually apply a real, permanent, basically silica ceramic for \$80," Smith said. "You can do it yourself; very easy to do."

That's partially because TopCoat sells it with a kit that includes videos and QR codes that can be scanned to help the owner learn. The 2-ounce size gets the customer started.

TopCoat is always improving its formulas. F11PRO, for instance, has been made anti-static and corrosion resistant and has been given a UV guard.

The company itself continues to grow. "When we first launched, we were the only ones online. Period," said Smith. "There was no competition."

In the past year, TopCoat has improved its presence on Amazon and Walmart online. And something new: It has begun working with brick-and-mortar retailers to get its products on store shelves. This is particularly evident at Advance Auto Parts, AutoZone and Harley-Davidson.

In addition, the company has launched TopCoat Mania, a free sweepstakes where customers can win TopCoat products, Visa gift cards and a trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota for the 2024 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

No purchase is necessary to sign up. Go to topcoatmania.com.

TopCoat is planning big things for 2024, including new products. To learn more about the company and its products or watch product videos, go to topcoatproducts.com or check out www.facebook.com/f11topcoat.

Or stop by the TopCoat booth at the Ponte Vedra Auto Show, which is just one of many community events the company is involved with.



Gla-C, a glass cleaner that cleans more than glass, is one of TopCoat's popular products.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Brumos

Continued from 19

any given time. It rotates cars often, so expect to see new ones on display if you haven't visited recently.

The 35,000-square-foot museum is divided into two sections:

Forerunners — This area celebrates the earliest days of motoring and advances that “set the stage for racing and automobile innovation as we know it today.” Automobile enthusiasts will encounter the foundational ideas of

Bugatti, Duesenberg and Peugeot, some as early as 1894. Here, they will find the contributions of Leo Goossen, Harry Miller and Fred Offenhauser.



Frontrunners — This area provides a deep dive into the history of Brumos racing. Learn about the role Porsche played in the Brumos victories.

The Brumos Collection initially opened in January 2020. Unfortunately, COVID-19 forced it to close its doors two months later. But the museum was able to reopen in January 2021 and has been open full time ever since.

It's open each Thursday, Friday and Saturday, starting at 9 a.m. The last ticket entry is 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance at thebrumoscollection.com. They can also be purchased

upon arrival in the lobby.

Visitors will discover that the museum has recently incorporated a lot more memorabilia than previously.

“We just finished redoing all of the trophy cases on the Frontrunner side,” said Toni Boudreaux, director of operations. “So, on the Brumos Collection side there's a lot more content to see.”

On Saturday, Nov. 11, The Brumos Collection will hold its fourth Saturday Social.

“It's a fun community event where

BRUMOS continues on **Page 22**

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Photos by Susan Griffin



Brumos

Continued from 21

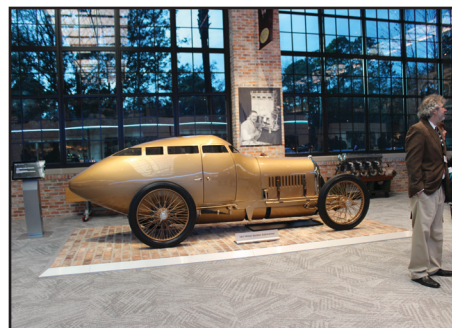
guests come and feast their eyes and ears on cars from our collection,” said Boudreaux.

The Brumos team will run some of the cars so that attendees can hear their engines and see them run.

That event begins at 9 a.m. Vendors will be onsite, as will UNF’s Osprey Racing Team with their Formula SAE car. Formula SAE is a student design competition sponsored by SAE International.

Shop technicians will give a small presentation, with time for a Q&A.

Attendees are invited to bring their own vehicles for a chance to win the Staff Picks Award.



“We do two Saturday Socials a year,” said Boudreaux. “We usually do one in the springtime, and then we do one in the fall. It is a big event. People love seeing the different cars. We always have great food trucks. In addition to that, people also get to make their way into the museum. So, it’s a really fun day.”

General admission to the social is \$19.99, and children age 10 and younger are admitted free. Because this will be Veterans Day weekend, the museum is offering a military admission for both active and retired military at \$14.99.

When the museum first opened, peo-

ple expressed a lot of interest in putting on special events there. As a result, the staff put together a corporate partnership program called The Brumos Collection Executive Circle. Essentially, organizations and businesses pay a membership fee and then may be able to use the facility’s space. Those interested in the Executive Circle can learn more by contacting Boudreaux at Tboudreaux@brumos.com or by calling 904-422-7275.

Visitors to the Ponte Vedra Auto Show will want to see what vehicles Brumos brings to display. There will also be retail opportunities for people to purchase Brumos merchandise.

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The Nease NJROTC program has had its share of state and national success over the years.



The second annual Nease NJROTC Car Show is set for Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Nease NJROTC uses car show as unique fundraiser

By Anthony Richards

Car shows are a huge deal to a lot of people, so much so that they make for great fundraising opportunities, as found by the Nease High School NJROTC program.

It is no secret that high school programs or really any group are always attempting to find unique ideas to raise money, especially since it can go a long way in helping a program like Nease achieve their success.

The Nease NJROTC held its inaugural car show in July, and it was such a success that the program is back and preparing for their second annual showcase, this time on Feb. 24.

The event will be held once again in the Nease High School parking lot and will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Registration to be included in the festivities is now being accepted and the application form can be found and filled out by clicking on the “register your car” tab on the top left corner of the website neasecarshow.com.

Car registration is \$20 for the early bird price and increases to \$25 for those entering on the day of the show.

Two hundred-plus vehicles, from classic and exotic cars to sports cars and motorcycles. All makes, models and years are accepted and there will be several categories so that the judges can pick the best one for each.

The judges will be those in attendance, who will be able to vote on their favorites with a top three being selected as a “people’s choice award” winner in the best in show representatives in the classic and exotic/sports categories.

There will also be a winner and runner-up being named among the motorcycles present for the show.

Admission is free for all spectators



Photos courtesy of Nease NJROTC

Nease NJROTC helps create memories and opportunities to its cadets.

and there will be fun for the entire family, with food, vendors, games, a 50/50 raffle and music provided by DJ Chris.

All proceeds from the show go toward helping the Nease NJROTC program to help their cadets continue to create lasting experiences in high school to better prepare them for their future path in life.

The Nease NJROTC program has garnered its share of recognition both statewide and nationally over the years, and fundraisers like this help make sure that level remains for the next classes of students looking to make a memory for themselves. That tradition of success starts with the support of the local car community.



The inaugural car show fundraiser took place in July.

A look back over the years at the Ponte Vedra Auto Show

By Shaun Ryan

This year brings the 21st annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show — or, if you prefer, the 20th anniversary of that first show in 2003. This is also another major anniversary in the automotive world; it's the 75th anniversary of Porsche, which produced its first car in 1948.

This is also the fourth year Art 'n Motion of St. Augustine has operated the show.

Over the years, the Ponte Vedra Auto Show has demonstrated its continued popularity. Hundreds of vehicles have appeared at the show, representing nearly every era, style and manufacturer in America, and the world at large.

Some changes have been made over the past two decades.

Originally a creation of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the first show was held in the Sawgrass Village shopping center parking lot. In those early years, it was held each April. In 2011, it was moved to the lawn at the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse, near the famed Stadium Course, annually the site of THE PLAYERS Championship.

In 2012, the date was changed. The show was moved to September. The event was presented by the Chamber in partnership with Brumos Porsche. Celebrated racecar driver Hurley Haywood served as a guest judge, and among the attendees were Bill Warner, founder of the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, and Ray Shaffer, then-general manager of Brumos Porsche.

Porsche, too, remains an important part of show history. On the 10th anniversary in 2013, the unveiling of the 2014 Porsche Panamera was featured. Also that year, a panel discussion was held with the Brumos Racing Team.

The following year, the Brumos Companies served as the presenting sponsor.

This year, The Brumos Collection is one of the show's sponsors.

The 20th anniversary of the Porsche 992 was celebrated at the 2015 show.

The next year, the Ponte Vedra Auto Show fell on Sept. 11, the 15th anniversary of the infamous terrorist attacks in New York City, in Pennsylvania and at

the Pentagon. A special tribute honoring first responders and those who lost their lives that day was incorporated into the program.

2016 also saw the show move to another location, Nocatee Town Center Field, which was near the Publix Supermarket.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma crashed the party, forcing organizers to reschedule the show to Sept. 24. The community

was still cleaning up on that date, but the show still attracted 3,500 people, a testament to how important this show is to local residents.

In 2018, the show was moved to its current location, Nocatee Station Field. That year, there was a special focus on the 70th anniversary of the Porsche 356, the automaker's first model.

The date of the show was moved once

again, this time to Sept. 22 in anticipation of Hurricane Dorian, which fortunately did not actually come ashore.

In 2020, Art 'n Motion took the show's reins from the Chamber and the date was changed to November as a prudent safeguard against further hurricane threats. Unfortunately, the pandemic posed a serious challenge, but in the end, the show was still held.

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Photos from the 2022 Ponte Vedra Auto Show

Photos by Susan Griffin and Anthony Richards



See **MORE PHOTOS** on **Page 27**

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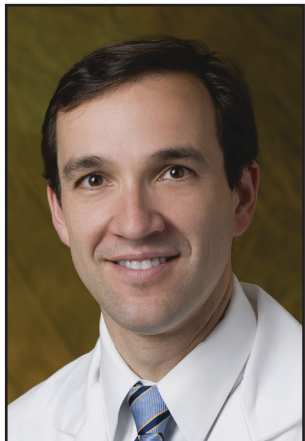
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GUEST COLUMN

What is your AFib risk?



By Anthony Magnano M.D.,
Ascension St. Vincent's
Riverside

Atrial fibrillation, or AFib, is a common condition that causes the heart to beat irregularly or too fast. According to a study in the Journal of the American Heart Association, people over age 40 have a one-in-four lifetime risk of developing AFib. That risk

increases gradually with age.

One of the reasons it's so important to diagnose and manage AFib is because this condition can increase the risk of stroke by up to five times and put patients at risk for heart failure, according to the CDC. While some don't experience any symptoms during AFib, many individuals have reported significant symptoms of breathlessness, reduced ability to engage in strenuous activity and heart palpitations where one's heart may feel like it's pounding, fluttering or beating irregularly. All of this makes awareness of risk factors and screening even more important.

Know and monitor your heart health

One of the most common risk factors for AFib is high blood pressure. According to the CDC, this accounts for about one in five cases of AFib. If you have high blood pressure or aren't sure, it may be time to schedule your regular physical exam with your doctor. They will help you monitor heart health risk factors including your age, weight, blood pressure, cholesterol and other factors that could contribute to heart problems like AFib.

Consider all your health conditions

Several underlying conditions can increase your risk of AFib. One of the most "sneaky" risk factors is undiagnosed sleep apnea. Other risk factors include obesity, diabetes, congestive heart failure, valvular heart disease, ischemic heart disease, kidney disease and hyperthyroidism. Make your health care providers aware of all your health conditions at future health screenings.

Watch for AFib signs and symptoms

Symptoms of AFib can include an irregular heart-beat, palpitations, lightheadedness or dizziness, shortness of breath, faintness or confusion, extreme fatigue, and/or chest discomfort. If you experience any of these symptoms, don't write them off. Even subtle changes in your health should be discussed with

your doctor. Getting an electrocardiogram during the episode can confirm the presence of AFib.

Take control of your habits

Habits such as smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, unhealthy sleep patterns and lack of exercise can also increase the risk of AFib. Even relatively low amounts of alcohol of one drink per day can cause a measurable increase in AFib risk. While no alcohol gives the lowest risk of AFib, I advise my patients who do drink to keep their intake to 0-1 drinks per day and never go over two. On a weekly basis, keeping overall alcohol intake to less than five drinks per week is a very good way to lower risk of AFib.

See your doctor for diagnosis and treatment

Since AFib can present with subtle symptoms, regular yearly screenings are crucial, particularly if you're over 65. If you or a family member experience symptoms that could indicate a heart rhythm issue, don't hesitate to consult your primary care doctor or cardiologist.

The earlier AFib is diagnosed, the higher the success rate at controlling it. Treatments include oral medications, such as anticoagulation medications used to

AFIB continues on Page 30



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GUEST COLUMN

Five cataract myths debunked



By Kenzo Koike M.D.
Florida Eye Specialists

A cataract is a cloudy area on the eye's clear lens. Although cataracts are a normal part of aging, they are one of the most misunderstood medical conditions. Cataracts don't have to get in the way of doing the things you love. Stay informed of your eye health to catch symptoms early and know your treatment options.

Myth: Cataracts only affect seniors.

More than half of all Americans age 75 or older have experienced cataracts or undergone cataract surgery. However, age-related cataract issues can arise for individuals as young as 40. Cataracts often develop earlier in life, but symptoms aren't noticed until later.

Cataracts can also develop from reasons other than age. For example, cataracts can be a direct result of eye injury or medical conditions like diabetes or hypertension. The disease can also form from certain medications or excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation.

Myth: It takes months to recover from cataract surgery.

Recovery time after cataract surgery is usually fast. Most patients report that their vision is improved in as little as 24 hours, and some return to work within one to three days after surgery. Your vision will continue to improve in the weeks and months following your procedure. Complete cataract surgery recovery often occurs within four to six weeks.

Myth: Cataracts can grow back after surgery.

During cataract surgery, the eye's cloudy lens is removed and replaced with an intraocular lens. Fortunately, these artificial lenses are not capable of cataract regrowth. What many patients don't realize is how customized these lenses are to you. Everyone's vision needs are unique, so we match you with the right lens for your lifestyle. Whether you struggle with astigmatism, night driving, or love to read or play golf, we tailor your procedure to give you the best vision outcomes that last the rest of your life.

Myth: Cataract surgery is painful and unsafe.

Cataract surgery is extremely safe and painless. It is one of the most highly performed surgical procedures in medicine, with a 95% success rate according to the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). Risks exist with any surgery, but Florida Eye Specialists has a team of highly trained surgeons with decades of experience. We have performed over 75,000 successful cataract surgeries to date.

Myth: You'll still have to wear glasses after cataract surgery.

With today's advanced technology, cataract surgery can help you see better than ever and even say goodbye to glasses or contact lenses for good. For example, the Light Adjustable Lens (LAL) is a new cataract lens implant that can be adjusted after cataract surgery. This technology allows patients to test drive their vision and customize their prescription to their lifestyle, just like with glasses or contacts.

Schedule Your Annual Eye Exam

Regular eye exams are crucial to pinpoint developing cataract symptoms, no matter your age. This way, you can catch cataracts early and avoid more significant damage later in life. At Florida Eye Specialists, our dedicated team of eye doctors has helped thousands of patients in the Jacksonville area improve their vision and detect serious conditions in the early stages. Contact us today to schedule your comprehensive exam and protect your sight for years to come.

Kenzo Koike, M.D., is a board-certified ophthalmologist at Florida Eye Specialists. For more information on Dr. Koike and his specialties in treating cataracts and glaucoma, visit FloridaEyeSpecialists.com or call 904-564-2020.

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AFib

Continued from 29

reduce stroke risk. One of the most significant technological advancements in AFib treatment that our team at Ascension St. Vincent's has implemented is the use of catheter ablation. This procedure, using catheters, effectively targets and eliminates the abnormal electrical impulses responsible for AFib. It has proven to be more effective than medication for many patients. However, each case of AFib is unique, requiring a personalized treatment plan.

The first step in getting the care you



need is to start a conversation with your doctor about things like new symptoms, health history and risk for heart disease. Don't delay important heart care, visit ascension.org/jaxheart.

Dr. Anthony Magnano is a Ponte Vedra resident and Chief of Cardiology at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside.

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300 structural heart procedures done at Baptist Health

Baptist Health recently celebrated a major medical milestone — the completion of the 300th minimally invasive procedure to treat mitral regurgitation, a common heart valve condition in which the mitral valve doesn't close properly.

Using an innovative procedure called transcatheter mitral valve repair, a specially trained structural heart specialist guides a catheter through the vein in the groin up to the heart and carefully implants a MitraClip device. Because there is no incision, the patient only requires minimal anesthesia. A "magic stitch" closes the catheter site, which typically allows patients to walk a few hours after the procedure and go home the next day.

The MitraClip procedure at Baptist Health is performed by two nationally recognized interventional cardiologists Ruby Satpathy M.D., medical director of the structural heart program, and Sidharth Wayangankar M.D., director of the catheterization lab.

By continuing to advance research and education in this relatively new field, Baptist Health has become the highest volume structural heart program in the region.

Satpathy joined as the director of the structural heart program at Baptist Health in 2016, after being recognized

nationally as a pioneer in this specialty, which focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of abnormalities and defects within the heart's structure.

Satpathy just completed her 250th transcatheter mitral valve repair, another huge personal milestone after being the very first to implant a MitraClip in the state of Nebraska in 2013 and first to do a commercial MitraClip case in Jacksonville in 2016. Today, she is one of the top implanters in the country and the highest female primary implanter for the device.

"Minimally invasive procedural options give us the ability to 'treat the untreatable' so our patients, who otherwise may be high-risk candidates for surgery, can start feeling better right away," said Satpathy.

Wayangankar joined Baptist Health in 2020 and has contributed significantly to the growth of the structural heart program. He trained at the Cleveland Clinic and brings with him extensive experience and advanced expertise in treating a multitude of structural heart diseases.

In addition to transcatheter mitral valve repair, Baptist Health offers an array of innovative treatment options for structural heart conditions including transcatheter aortic and mitral valve

replacement, transcatheter PFO/ASD closure, left atrial appendage occlusion, paravalvular leak closure and alcohol septal ablation. The team also leads and participates in national and international research studies, bringing unparalleled access to the latest in structural heart technologies and techniques to the community.

"It takes a highly dedicated and accomplished structural heart team to deliver such a comprehensive array of advanced treatment and care," said Michael A. Mayo, president and CEO

of Baptist Health. "We are proud to celebrate this medical milestone as an indicator of quality and demonstration of our commitment to providing the best cardiovascular care to our community."

Baptist Health was recently recognized by Becker's Hospital Review's 2023 list of "100 hospitals and health systems with great heart programs" and received the Society of Thoracic Surgeons' three-star rating for coronary artery bypass graft surgery, which is the highest possible rating.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023 PAGE 32

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Bobby Weed completes renovation of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Lagoon Course

Bobby Weed Golf Design and MacCurach Golf Construction have successfully completed a nine-month modernization of the Lagoon Course at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. Previously renovated by Weed and MacCurach in 2007, the tandem used their intimate knowledge of the property to restore Weed's design and upgrade critical infrastructure, turfgrass varieties, playability and agronomic efficiencies.

"Led by Herbert Peyton, chairman of Gate Petroleum, the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club has entrusted our firm for nearly 30 years to guide the evolution of the Ocean and Lagoon courses," said golf course architect Bobby Weed. "The Lagoon's shorter layout, with numerous half-par

holes, offers a diverse, faster playing experience that perfectly complements the bolder Ocean Course."

The front nine was designed by Robert Trent Jones in 1961. The back nine was added by Joe Lee in 1978.

In 2007, Weed redesigned and lengthened the par 70 layout to 6,025 yards.

The following elements were included in Weed's latest project at the AAA Five-Diamond Resort:

Greens

All golf course and practice greens (20 total) were rebuilt to USGA standards and grassed with TifEagle bermudagrass. Original green sizes were restored. Intricate contouring was enhanced to

accommodate modern day green speeds. New irrigation surrounds on all green complexes were added to more efficiently control and manage watering inputs.

Grassing

Tees, fairways and roughs were re-grassed wall-to-wall with TifTuf bermudagrass. The bright green characteristic of the turf provides a striking contrast alongside the native coquina shell areas that flank the edges of many holes.

Bunkers

Bunkers were restored to their original flat-bottomed design. New drains, liners and sand were installed throughout the golf course.

Practice Facility

Adjacent to the first tee, the practice putting green was significantly enlarged. The chipping green was re-designed and lowered to better maximize the overall utilization of the playing area.

"Following his award-winning renovations to the Ocean Course in 1998 and 2020, Bobby was our first call when it became time to modernize the Lagoon Course," said Jeff Hanson, director of golf at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. "Ongoing infrastructure improvements are critical to maintaining our high standards. We appreciate Bobby Weed Golf Design for their decades-long relationship and

COURSE continues on **Page 33**

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Beson4 marks 25th year in business in Northeast Florida

AJ Beson has witnessed the marketing industry transform and adapt to evolving consumer, cultural and technological trends for an impressive 25 years. This November, the creative entrepreneur will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his Jacksonville-based digital marketing and branding firm, Beson4, which he founded in November 1999 as Beson4 Media.

To kick off a planned, year-long celebration, Beson, along with his business partner of 20 years, Mike Hicks, and agency team members will host a charity poker event on the evening of Nov. 16 at the Jacksonville BestBet Poker Room. The event will be held in partnership with the Northeast Florida Builder's Association (NEFBA) with the goal of raising

money for The Charitable Foundation of NEFBA, where Beson is a board member.

"It seemed fitting," said Beson. "Starting a business is like playing poker: Sometimes you've got to go all in, and sometimes you've got to fold, but you'll never win if you don't ante up in the first place! We've enjoyed a great, long run here in Northeast Florida, and the only appropriate way to celebrate is to try and give something back to the local community that has supported us for so long."

Beson launched Beson4 as a publishing company. Beson4 regularly produced advertising for its magazine clients, many of whom began asking if the firm could also provide additional marketing and creative support outside of the magazines.

As revenue began to grow on the agency side, and print publishing began to wane, Beson sold the publication business in 2015 and repositioned Beson4 as a full-service marketing firm.

Since that time, the agency has continued to evolve. Although it remains a full-service firm, its focus today is squarely on its digital marketing services including website design, search engine optimization (SEO), pay-per-click (PPC) advertising, social media marketing, content marketing and video production.

Over the years, the firm has been honored for its outstanding creating creative work and been named to such lists as "Northeast Florida's Fastest Growing Companies" and "Best Places to Work."

Beson4 has worked with clients all over the nation, including many of Northeast Florida's largest and most successful companies, many of whom the firm helped celebrate their own milestone anniversaries in the area, such as Chase Properties, The Jay Fund, LandSouth Construction, Baker Distributing, Lift Power and Daco Worldwide, among others.

"We've grown right alongside our numerous partners and so many other great businesses and people in this incredible community," said Beson. "We're blessed to live and work here and are looking forward to the next 25 years."

For more information, go to beson4.com or call 904-992-9945.



Pictured from left: Michael Gordon, Jeff Hanson, Herbert Peyton, Joey Graziani and Joey Flinchbaugh on the first tee of the Lagoon Course at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.



Contributed photos

The sixth hole on the Lagoon Course at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

Course

Continued from 32

personal commitment to our club."

Joey Flinchbaugh, director of agronomy of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, also assisted the Lagoon Course renovation by overseeing construction and managing the turfgrass grow-in. His efforts provide outstanding day-to-day conditioning of both courses.

Bobby Weed Golf Design possesses

some of the most innovative minds in golf. Weed has designed more than 50 new courses and comprehensive renovations spanning from the "golden age" of design to the "modern era." His work features a balance of visual appeal, sustainability and playability, all informed by an environmentally sensitive aesthetic and an exceptional hands-on approach.

His professional career began in the 1970s with an extended apprenticeship under Pete Dye, sparking a 40-year friendship. Hired in 1983 as the golf

course superintendent at TPC Sawgrass, Weed went on to become the PGA Tour's first in-house golf course architect. He was responsible for many of today's best known TPC venues, which continue as host sites for prominent professional

events.


In 1994, Weed's career reached new heights with the formation of his own design firm. Both his original and renovated courses are consistently ranked at the top of their respective design categories.

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In the Arts



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023 • PAGE 34

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Messiah to feature local singers, musicians, dancers

By Shaun Ryan

On Nov. 18, Grace Conservatory and the St. Augustine Community Chorus (SACC) will bring something new to the First Coast: a presentation of George Frideric Handel's Messiah in both music and dance.

Dozens of singers and musicians will be joined by about 250 dancers to perform this classic in the Moran Theater at the Jacksonville Performing Arts Center. It will be the 75th anniversary performance of Messiah by the St. Augustine Community Chorus and the first for the dancers of Grace

Conservatory.

"It's a huge production," said conservatory co-founder Kristina Robison. "We're really excited to have something to bring in the Christmas season, something that's different, something that represents the arts in a different way. And something that, hopefully, will become a Christmas tradition for many families."

The dance portion will be a contemporary ballet, with choreography by conservatory staff.

"Each year, it will be new and fresh," said Robison, who co-owns Grace Conservatory with husband

Vaughan. "Each year, we're going to change the choreography. Each year, we're going to mold it and change it into something new and different."

The performance will be divided into three parts: Part I, followed by the intermission, and then Parts II and III together. The dancing will help interpret the storyline.

"There's such a strong narrative," Robison said, "it's easy to follow the storyline, which is Christ's Birth, Death and Resurrection."

Costuming and lighting, too, will add narrative dimensions. Costumes will be dark to start and become light with the approach of the Resurrection.

Principal performers include James Ranch as Jesus; Kayla Burford as the Angel of the Lord; soprano Kim Beasley; alto Regina Torres; tenor Pablo Pomales-Ojeda; bass Joseph Colsant; archangels Yiwen Chen, Pamela Garcia, Addison Rennie and Hope Lang; and angels Brooke Dorow, Jena Guarnera and Daley Jamison.

The biggest challenge, according to choreographer Florian Rouiller, will be timing the dance with the live music. To help facilitate that, SACC concert director Mike Sanflippo and accompanist Shannon McKay have been working with the dancers.

When Handel's Messiah was first performed in 1742, proceeds benefit-



Photo provided by Grace Conservatory

Dancers from Grace Conservatory will join vocalists and musicians from the St. Augustine Community Chorus on Nov. 18 to present Handel's Messiah.

ted three charities. Carrying on that tradition, 100% of the proceeds from this performance will benefit three 501(c)3 organizations: Alpha-Omega Miracle Home, Emmanuel Project of Northeast Florida and Peace of Heart Community.

Tickets may be purchased at grace-conservatory.com and Ticketmaster.com. Showtime is 6 p.m.

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Local authors recognized for novel

By Shaun Ryan

Local authors Tracy Tripp and Edwards Mickolus received second place recently in the mystery or crime category at the Florida Writers Association Royal Palm Literary Awards for their novel, “White Noise Whispers.”

The Royal Palm Literary Awards are hosted annually by the Florida Writers Association. This is a highly regarded writing competition that celebrates excel-

lence in writing across more than 20 genre categories for adults and five for youth.

The Royal Palm Literary Awards offer a platform for writers to showcase their literary works and gain valuable recognition. The competition is exclusive to members of the Florida Writers Association, a community of writers and other industry professionals committed to fostering literary excellence and camaraderie.

“White Noise Whispers,” published by The Wild Rose Press, was released in May.

The story follows Detective Jim Castile, who is hunting down a serial killer in Jacksonville and receives clues from a peculiar source: voices coming over his walkie-talkie — voices of the killer’s victims. The final voice Castile hears is that of his wife.

The novel’s antagonist is a psychiatric patient, a former U.S. Marine who fell in

love with an embedded journalist during his service in the Iraq War. The horrific acts he’s forced to commit in the line of duty contribute to his decline, with the journalist becoming his first victim.

The Royal Palm Literary Awards, now in their 21st year, continue to shine a spotlight on the best in the world of literature. For information about the Royal Palm Literary Awards and the Florida Writers Association, go to floridawriters.org.

Lightner Museum to host An Evening of Art Nouveau

The Lightner Museum has announced the opening of a major touring exhibition, “The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art.” The exhibition marks the culmination of the Lightner’s 75th anniversary celebration and will be on view from Nov. 17 through March 15.

The Lightner Museum will celebrate the opening of this exhibition on the evening of Nov. 17, from 7 to 10 p.m., with a spectacular soirée inspired by all things Art Nouveau. Guests will get an exclusive first look at the exhibition while enjoying craft cocktails curated by The Treasury on the Plaza, hors d’oeuvres served by Chef’s Garden and live music by Miami’s French Horn Collective, all while immersed in lavish decor inspired by the era in the historic Alcazar Casino.

Tickets for the event are available on lightnermuseum.org.

Featuring the organic furniture of Louis Majorelle, the alluring posters of Alphonse Mucha and the luminous works of Louis Comfort Tiffany, “The Triumph of Nature” presents a dazzling selection of ceramics, furniture, glass, jewelry, paintings, posters, prints, sculpture and textiles from one of the finest and largest U.S. collections of Art Nouveau. The exhibition will be displayed in the Lightner Museum’s Grand Ballroom Gallery.

Completed in 1889, the space is contemporary with the origins of Art Nouveau and provides an ideal context for these remarkable works of art.

Art Nouveau was an exuberant, radical style that blithely trampled many of the Victorian era’s traditions of art and design. Celebrating beauty and nature while embracing new technologies and incorporating international influences, Art Nouveau exploded age-old orthodoxies with its fanciful approach to art, architec-

ture and design.

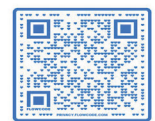
Art Nouveau flourished during a period of rapid social and technological change in Europe and America. Taking inspiration from the vitality of nature, the pioneers of Art Nouveau created sensuous, decadent works of art dominated by sinuous, undulating lines, stylized organic forms and bold asymmetric compositions.

On the brink of a new century, these visionary artists and designers rejected slavish adherence to past styles, challenged social and cultural norms and sought to create a vocabulary of design for the modern age.

“The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art” is organized by the Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.




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Sports

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023 • PAGE 36

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IT'S PLAYOFF TIME!

*Panthers, Sharks host first
round matchups*

By Anthony Richards

It is playoff time and both the Nease Panthers and Ponte Vedra Sharks are set to open the first round this Friday and they will do so in front of their home fans.

As district champions, the seventh-seeded Nease Panthers earned the right to host their first-round matchup against the No. 2 Niceville Eagles on Nov. 10 at 6 p.m.

It seems that all the Panthers (7-3) do is win big games lately, with two consecutive victories to end the season and clinch their first district title since 2015.

Although the Panthers understand the significance of that, the senior class wants to leave even more of a legacy, and that starts by beating the Eagles to start their journey of a deep playoff run.

The Eagles finished the season with a record of 8-2 and feature a high-scoring offense that averages 40.4 points per game, including three contests where they surpassed the 60-point mark.

However, the Eagles played an interesting schedule, in which they had only two road games, and one of them wound up being one of their two losses.

This presents an intriguing situation because there is still some doubt of how the Eagles will respond, especially since they have to make the long trip roughly four and a half hours to the First Coast, which includes having to cross a time zone as Niceville is located in the Central Standard Time Zone.

The FHSAA attempts to accommodate for teams in the Panhandle of the state by pushing the start of the game back one hour, which is why it begins at 6 p.m. instead of 7 p.m., but it is still a daunting task for any team making that trip along Interstate 10 either east or west.

For the Ponte Vedra Sharks, they made it into the postseason as a No. 4 seed and will face

PLAYOFF continues on Page 37



Contributed photos

The Ponte Vedra High girls swim team won their third straight regional championship and now move onto states this weekend.

Local swimmers eye more gold at states

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Sharks and Nease Panthers will be well represented at the Class 3A state competition in both the team and individual disciplines.

The Ponte Vedra High girls swim team captured their third straight region title thanks to a bevy of six regional champions.

Three of the six champions did so as an individual and included Penny Zarcynski in the 100-foot butterfly, Kate Pelot in the 100 backstroke and Annabelle MacAdams in the 100 breaststroke.

Although three individual titles are impressive, the Sharks did not stop there and earned a trio of team titles as well, including Zarcynski and Pelot both earning three titles apiece during the event.

Zarcynski and Pelot were on the team that won in the 200 freestyle relay, while Zarcynski also finished first in the 400 freestyle relay and Pelot helped her group earn top honors in the 200 medley relay.

Joining Pelot and Zarcynski in the 200 freestyle relay was Valentina Fraga and Sophie Fox, while Zarcynski teamed up with Fraga, Ainsley MacAdams and Lily Doyle to win the longer 400 freestyle relay.

Annabelle MacAdams, Fox and Sydney Player teamed up with Pelot to take home gold in the 200 medley relay.

There were so many other Sharks that were close to winning the region



Nease's winning 400 freestyle relay team of Jack Mainville, Walker Lanoue, Luke Zardavets and Brandon Gear with their coaches.

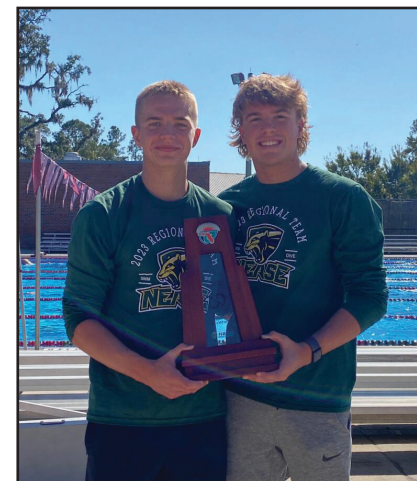
but will get another shot at it with the state title on the line on Nov. 11 during the state championship in Ocala.

These close finishes included Fox coming home second in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly; Annabelle MacAdams as runner-up in the 200 individual medley; and Doyle coming home second in the 500 freestyle.

For the Nease boys swim team, they made it two years in a row that they won a regional team championship and will look for even more golds as they prepare for states.

The Panthers won regional championships in the 100 breaststroke with Luke Zardavets and the 400 freestyle relay, with a team of Zardavets, Jack Mainville, Walker Lanoue and Brandon Gear.

Mainville, Lanoue and Gear joined



Nease captains Brandon Gear and Walker Lanoue with the regional championship trophy.

Declan Costello as they looked to double-up the freestyle relays but wound up runner-up at the 200-foot distance.

Aaron Sorlie's form looks ready for states after a second place finish in diving and Zardavets' big day continued with a runner-up outing in the 200 individual medley.

Although the Ponte Vedra boys and Nease girls swim teams did not have enough points to rack up the team success, they did have some memorable individual challenges for titles, including Thomas Smith finishing second in the 100 backstroke discipline.

Olivia Moore and Charlotte Driesse each captured regional titles for the Panthers, with Moore's coming in the 200 freestyle and Driesse earning her title in the 200 individual medley.



Senior Cam Smith (No. 6) celebrates with teammates Emmanuel Williams and Brayden Felder following his fifth touchdown on the night.



The Nease student section had plenty to cheer for during a title-winning senior night.

Panthers

Continued from 1

One of the members of the offensive line helping pave the way in the running game was senior Riley Mariani, who was one of four seniors along the front five.

It was the second straight emotional victory for the Panthers, after they defeated rival Ponte Vedra a week ago, which set themselves up for a shot at the title.

As a senior, Mariani knew that it was up to them as leaders to make sure the team remained focused on the prize and understood that the win over the Sharks would mean even more if they could finish the job.

“It was definitely something that we had to lock-in about and make sure everyone knew how important this one tonight was,” Mariani said.

He has been part of some memorable teams during his four years at Nease, but even the 2021 squad that made



Photos by Anthony Richards

Bryce Frick attempts a pass.

it to the regional finals did not win their district, so it makes it even more special.

“It really means a lot,” Mariani said. “These bonds that we have is something that came together, not just

this year, but we’ve been developing it for a long time now.”

For two weeks in a row now, the Panthers have held their own defensively and that is something they believe can be key during an attempt at a deep playoff run.

“There are ups and downs in each game, but in the end we’re finding ways to come away with the ‘w’, and that’s all that matters, senior defensive back Cade Papineau said. “We’ve just been locked in and really been out there playing for each other.”

Next up for the Panthers is the first round of the Class 4S state playoffs, and they will find out who their opponent is on Sunday when the FHSAA releases the postseason brackets.

The district title was the sixth in the program’s 43-year history.

“It hasn’t sunk in yet but knowing that the playoffs are ahead of us is definitely in the back of my mind because we definitely to go even further,” Frick said.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Ponte Vedra quarterback Ben Burk can present issues for a defense with his arm and his legs.



Maddox Spencer and the rest of the Nease wide receivers are keys to the offensive production.

Playoff

Continued from 36

a very familiar foe in the form of the Creekside Knights, who they just faced last week and lost 26-21.

However, that game was hosted by Creekside (6-4) and this time around it will be played in the Shark Tank.

So not only will the Sharks (7-3) have the home field advantage behind them this time, but they will also have the odds in their favor, because so many times throughout history sports have given instances where it is difficult to beat a team twice, but especially if the two squads met just one week ago.

But the one thing that is for sure is that it will be a close contest, as both teams

proved to be evenly matched, and they both present quite the formidable challenge for the other.

The Knights will be looking to ignore that history and write some of their own by replicating the success they found, and the Sharks will be anxiously ready to correct the little mistakes they made that could have swayed the outcome of the contest.

With both teams knowing each other and what the other wants to accomplish so well, which coaching staffs and players will be able to adapt more quickly will likely be the winner.

In most games the adjustments are made at halftime, but in this matchup adjustments will be made prior to kickoff in practice and then once again at the halftime break.

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Miscellaneous

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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	
13								14					
15							16	17	18			19	
20						21					22		
23						24				25			
26			27	28	29				30				
			31						32				
			33					34					
35	36	37				38							
39						40					41	42	43
44					45						46		
47				48							49		
50			51						52	53	54		
55		56						57					
58								59					

ACROSS

- Happen again
- Large flightless birds
- A type of account
- Beyond what is natural
- Beloved comfort food
- Rural delivery
- Belonging to us
- Typical
- Pie ___ mode
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Not us
- Discharge
- Made empty
- Fishing net
- Fast-moving, harmless snake
- Analyzed into its parts
- In a way, chilled
- Hindu queen
- Circles around the sun
- Used for emphasis
- Reactive structures
- Recommendations
- Feel intense anger
- Puke
- Rural Northern Ireland community
- Naturally occurring solid material
- British watch brand
- Toddler
- Integrated circuit
- Being revered
- "Pets" you can grow
- Continual
- Puts together in time
- Houses temporarily

- Every body has one (abbr.)
- Utilize
- In a way, disproved
- Fisherman's tool
- Of she
- Trauma center
- Commercial flyer
- Administered medicine to calm
- Popular R&B performer
- Regretted
- Leg (slang)
- "Night Train" author
- More supernatural
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Shoe parts
- Scores perfectly
- More lucid
- Trim by cutting
- Disreputable people
- Dramatic behaviors
- Disorder
- Private box in a theater
- More dried-up
- Raw
- In operation
- Pillager
- Butterflies with brown wings
- Disallow
- Own up
- Hungarian city
- A way to condemn
- Tax collector
- Lease
- Not out

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

DOWN

- Vital public document
- Disinter
- Musical performances
- After B

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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