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Insider's Tournament Guide  
INSIDE

Thursday, March 7, 2024

PonteVedraRecorder.com

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## MOCA marks 100 years

By Shaun Ryan

With an enormous installation by acclaimed artist Frank Stella dominating its atrium and a sizable crowd of supporters gathered for the festivities, the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville marked its centennial in grand style Thursday, Feb. 29.

Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan, who has made arts and culture a priority of her administration, read a proclamation celebrating the occasion, tracing the history of the museum from its earliest days in the Roaring '20s through its 21st century affiliation with

MOCA continues on Page 36

## SHARKS FINISH DREAM SEASON WITH STATE TITLE

Girls soccer bombards opponents during dominant state playoff run

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Sharks are Class 6A state champions in girls soccer and could not have done so in a more dominant fashion.

The Sharks (22-1-1) looked the part in every round of the state tournament, winning every game by at least two goals and outscoring their opponents 22-2 in the process.

This included in the final four, as they cruised past Fort Lauderdale St. Thomas Aquinas 5-0 in the state semifinal on Feb. 28 and finished off their postseason run by defeating Tarpon Springs East Lake 3-1 in the championship matchup on March 2.

In the end, no matter who the Sharks matched up against they proved to be too much to handle both on offense and



Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra High Athletics

The Ponte Vedra High girls soccer team won the Class 6A state championship on March 2.

STATE TITLE continues on Page 37



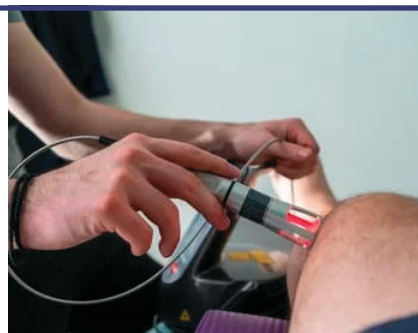
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# Send us your news

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



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

## BRIEFS

### Rotary Club holding luxury trip raffle

A vacation stay in one of five exotic locales will go to the winner of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach's luxury trip raffle. Raffle tickets are on sale now and are \$100 each or five for \$400 and may be purchased online at [mineralcitycelebration.com/raffle-trips](http://mineralcitycelebration.com/raffle-trips). The winner will be able to choose from five exotic destinations: Brazil, Bavaria, the French Alps, Ireland or the Pacific Northwest. Full descriptions of each trip are available at [mineralcitycelebration.com](http://mineralcitycelebration.com).

The winner will be announced at the Rotary Club's annual Mineral City Celebration gala; the winner does not need to be present to win.

The celebration will be held April 13 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. The theme is "The M\*A\*S\*H BASH." Guests will relive the days of the 4077th M\*A\*S\*H unit while enjoying themed cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and entertainment by the Crescendo Amelia Big Band.

A highlight of the gala will be the presentation of the "Rock of the Community Award" to Dr. Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa in recognition of his groundbreaking work as a neurosurgeon and as co-founder and president of Mission: BRAIN, a global nonprofit that provides critical medical services to patients in need in more than 25 countries.

The Mineral City Celebration is the signature annual fundraising event for the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach. Proceeds from the event have benefited more than two dozen local nonprofit organizations and charities. Major sponsors of the 2024 Mineral City Celebration include Mayo Clinic, THE PLAYERS Championship, PNC Bank, Best Fence & Rail, The PARC Group and the Longwell Meyer Fund.

To purchase raffle tickets, gala tickets or for more information, go to [mineralcitycelebration.com](http://mineralcitycelebration.com).

### Family seining event set for March 9

GTM Research Reserve will offer a program on family seining from 9 to 11 a.m. March 9 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 [gtmnrr.org/visit/events](http://gtmnrr.org/visit/events).

### Grief support group to meet

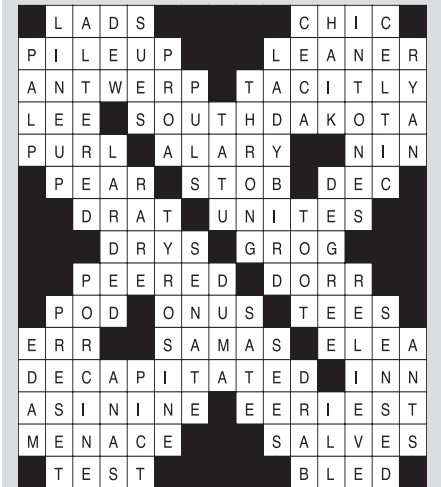
A grief support group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Room 107 of the Family Life Center, 578 First Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20. For information, call Kathy at 904-553-8933.

### Democratic Club to meet

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting Monday, March 25, at the Ponte Vedra Library, 101 Library Road. Chat and chew is at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m. The featured

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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



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# Community health assessment open for resident responses

The Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County and the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida Inc. have partnered to conduct the 2024 St. Johns County community health assessment. This vital process, undertaken every three years, aims to pinpoint priority health needs and concerns within the community.

This month, several health care and community stakeholders gathered at the St. Johns County Health Department in St. Augustine for the St. Johns County community health assessment kick-off meeting.

Elements of St. Johns County's health assessment will include an in-depth analysis of available demographic data, health statistics and indicators of access to health care for county residents. Additionally, community input on health care services and quality-of-life issues from focus group discussions and key stake-

holder interviews will be factored in. All the assessment data will be used to shape the St. Johns County Community Health Improvement Plan. This plan will guide health and social service providers in the county in their program development efforts over the next three to five years.

"We're trying to gather responses from as many people in the St. Johns community as we can for this health assessment," said Susan Grich, Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida president and CEO. "It's really important that everyone, especially those in vulnerable and underserved groups who may not typically have their voices heard, has an opportunity to share their thoughts."

If you live in St. Johns County, you are encouraged to complete the survey. Local business owners, educators and community-based organizations are also encouraged to share the survey with staff,

partners, volunteers, family and friends. The survey is also available in Spanish.

The survey will remain open until April 30. Survey responses are confidential and anonymous.

Take the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/r/zey87dRkks>.

For information about the survey, contact Lillian Zeman via email at [Lillian\\_Zeman@hpcnef.org](mailto:Lillian_Zeman@hpcnef.org).

Created in 1982, the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida Inc. is one of 11 local health councils mandated by Florida State Statute 408.033. Its purpose

is to dedicate resources and expertise to regional health utilization data management, health planning and research, community organizing, health promotion and awareness programs.

Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida Inc. is guided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention; the Health Promotion Healthy People Initiative; and the Agency for Health Care Administration.

For more information, call 904-448-4300 or go to [hpcnef.org](http://hpcnef.org).

## Briefs

Continued from 2

speaker will be Hunter McIntosh, CEO, The Boat Company, which operates in Alaskan waters. He will speak on stewardship of the land and eco-tourism. For additional information, go to [PVDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:PVDemClub@gmail.com).

### 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

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Photos courtesy of The Amelia



Best in Show Concours de Sport went to a 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO (left), while a 1947 Delahaye 135MS Narval Cabriolet (right) took home Best in Show Concours d'Elegance.



A record of more than 27,000 people attended the showcase throughout the four days of the event.

# The Amelia celebrates record-breaking year despite rainy conditions

By Anthony Richards

It was another record-breaking year for The Amelia, during the world-renowned Concours d'Elegance's 29th year.

A record of more than 27,000 people attended the showcase throughout the four days of the event, and proved once again that car enthusiasts are a hearty bunch as they dodged a rainy forecast during the weekend that resulted in 1.82 inches of rain being dropped but they did not let it deter them.

Best in Show Concours de Sport went to a 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO, while a 1947 Delahaye 135MS Narval Cabriolet took home Best in Show Concours d'Elegance.

The weeklong celebration of the automobile included an auction, seminars, film viewings and several other automo-

tive-related events.

"Enthusiasts were given no shortage of options this weekend, yet a record 27,000 of them returned to The Amelia," said McKeel Hagerty, Hagerty CEO and chairman of The Amelia. "A love for cars and people is at the root of any great automotive event, and enthusiasts voted with their most precious asset – their time – and we were thrilled to be their hosts. We saw two global vehicle debuts, several new auction records, packed show fields on Saturday and Sunday and most importantly, great car people coming together to celebrate great cars."

The 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO shown by David MacNeil has a storied competition history including an overall victory at the 1964 Tour de France and an impressive fourth overall and second in class at the

1963 24 Hours of Le Mans.

The car recently underwent a full restoration to the specification in which it appeared at Le Mans in 1963.

"We sweated the details with this car. Motion Products did an amazing restoration, and the results speak for themselves," MacNeil said.

The 1947 Delahaye 135MS Narval Cabriolet is one of six "Narval" Cabriolets built, so named as its nose is reminiscent of the bump on a narwhal's head.

This car was first seen at the 1947 Paris Auto Salon, and its original owner, Charles Trenet, was a well-known singer and songwriter.

He shipped the car to the United States for a concert tour in 1948 and it has seen just three more owners since.

It was restored in its original color of

"Orange Brule," a favorite of coachwork designer Joseph Figoni.

"This car was the Paris Show car in 1947 and today is its return to a concours," said owner Dana Mecum. "It takes a lot of preparation to come to a concours like Amelia, but this makes it all worth it."

Several other records on top of the weekend's attendees included 250 vehicles on display as part of the event's RADwood exhibit and 375 vehicles at Saturday's Cars & Community initiative.

The concours on Sunday featured 285 vehicles of a variety of makes and models and the event also led to \$150,000 being pledged to local nonprofits.

Next year will mark Hagerty's 30th celebration of The Amelia, which is scheduled to take place March 6-9, 2025.



## Orchid show and sale planned

The Jacksonville Orchid Society's annual Orchid Show will be held 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 16 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 17 at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road, Jacksonville. Admission is free. Thousands of orchids will be on display, grown by members, and there will be individual displays presented by other orchid societies and major displays by orchid growers from Florida.

American Orchid Society judges will attend to award both the grower and specific plants that qualify for distinguished certificates of award.

Talks will be held to educate the public on proper care and growing techniques for their orchid plants. Plants will also be sold.

For more information, go to [jaxorchidsociety.org](http://jaxorchidsociety.org).



Contributed photos



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*Tyler Oldenburg is the first vice chair heading into this year's THE PLAYERS Championship as he has been volunteering with the tournament since 2013. The Jacksonville native has special memories of TPC Sawgrass growing up from his days as a junior golfer and is proud to do his part to help carry on the event's legacy in the community.*

## Tyler Oldenburg

### As told to Anthony Richards

#### Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I was originally born in Rochester, Minnesota, but was only there for less than six months before my family moved down to Jacksonville.

I've pretty much been here ever since, except for when I went off to college at Embry-Riddle in Atlanta for my undergrad and then Mercer University for graduate school. I also played golf in college while at Embry-Riddle.

I came back to the area right after law school and got a job at a law firm called Marks Gray and I have been at that same firm since I finished law school in 2011, and I practice business litigation.

#### How did you get involved with THE PLAYERS?

I knew past chairman Robert Davis, who was the Red Coat chair in 2013 and he got me involved during the 2014 tournament.

I grew up and still live in Deerwood, which is also where Robert lives, so I've known him forever, and I knew when I got back to town that I was looking for a way to get involved somehow.

I figured it would be a good mix because I've always had a passion for golf and it is associated with the charitable aspect which is a huge component of it all.

#### What has your experience been like since getting involved?

I've realized how much THE PLAYERS gives back and the huge impact it has on the community, not just economically but also in terms of giving back.

One of the things I enjoy most is the people you get to meet and know while you're working the tournament.

We have a good time while we do it, and it's an amazing time seeing all your friends that you've developed over the years.

Some of these people I don't see but once a year, but we all reconnect and catch up come tournament time.

People from all over come to be a part of this event. I've gotten close with so many international to local volunteers. It's a special bond that we all share and have in common.

#### What is your role as a vice chairman?

I'm the first vice chair this year, and the way it works is that there are five vice chairs under the chair.

The first vice chair is really effectively helping run the tournament for the chair and overseeing the other four vice chairs and making sure the 50 or so committees are running efficiently, such as hospitality, competition, facilities and parking, and volunteers.

Each of the committees has a chair and an assistant chair associated with them.

It's a good system, because the vice chair can work their way up and it allows you to get a great sense of everything that makes a tournament work.

Ideally, the vice chair would take over the chair duties in the next year's tournament.



Contributed photo

**Tyler Oldenburg is the first vice chair heading into this year's THE PLAYERS Championship as he has been volunteering with the tournament since 2013.**

#### Have you had time to think about what it would be like to become chair next year?

It would be a tremendous honor to be able to lead the tournament and the continued impact it has on the community.

The tournament and what it means is not lost on me.

I remember growing up playing junior golf and our end of the year championship was always at the TPC Stadium Course.

You always knew you had to play well enough to play in it, and it was always a special time and I still have

those memories when it comes to this course.

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

I think Jacksonville and Northeast Florida is a wonderful area to grow up and raise a family.

It has a little bit of everything going for it and it's a pretty tight-knit community from downtown to the beaches and everything in between.

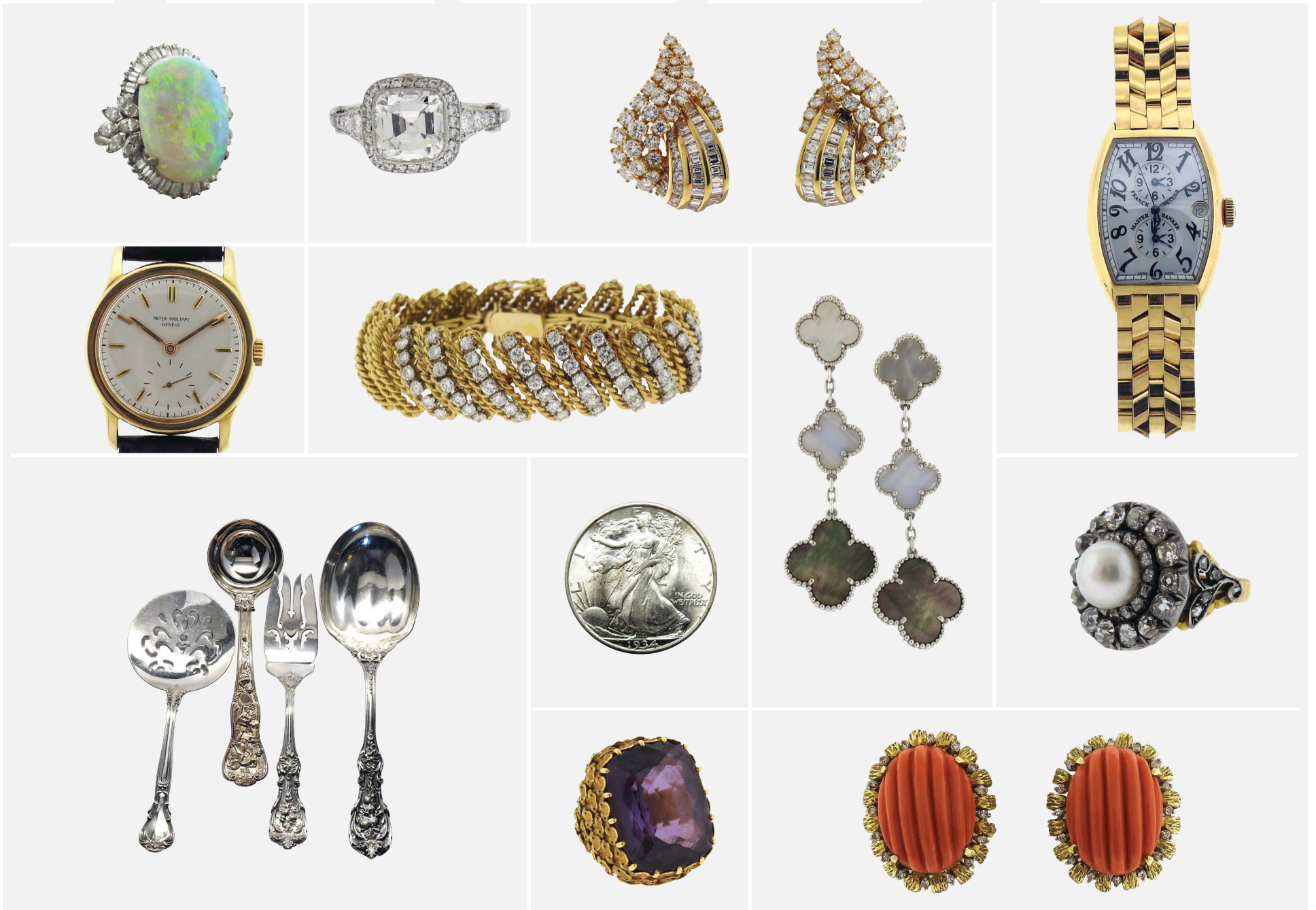
The golfing options are also immense so there's that to go along with everything else.



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**OBITUARIES**



**Lewis Russell Wrenn**  
November 5, 1952 – September 27, 2023

Lewis Russell “Rusty” Wrenn, 70, of Encinitas, California, passed away from natural causes on September 27, 2023.

A native of Richmond, Virginia, Rusty was born November 5, 1952, the son of Dare Masters Wrenn and the late Dr. Hugh Orian Wrenn. He graduated from St. Christopher’s School in 1971 and attended Hampden-Sydney College and the University of Miami, where he studied oceanography.

From an early age, Rusty was drawn to the great outdoors, where he developed his passion for tennis,

golf, fishing and boating. He was always most happy on the water and spent many summers with his family at “the river.”

Shortly after school, Rusty moved to Florida and began his career in landscape design with an emphasis on golf courses. One of his early successes (and a proud accomplishment) was the significant landscaping renovation of the practice facility at TPC Sawgrass. In the late 1990’s Rusty moved to Southern California, where he worked as a yoga instructor for Bikram Choudhury at his famous studio in Los Angeles, teaching many celebrities of the day. By the early 2000’s Rusty returned to his landscaping career in Encinitas, where he made his home for the last twenty years.

Survivors include his mother, Dare Masters Wrenn; his sisters, Anne Wrenn Poulson and Ellen Masters Wrenn; his nephew, Richard “Hundley” Poulson; his niece, Anna Blair Poulson; his uncle, Howard Masters, Jr.; his step-brother, Leighton Klevana (Chandler); his cousins, Robert Wrenn (Kathy), Lee Wrenn (Gene Krupa), Susan Lindeman (Bruce) and Ellen Ross Gibson. He is also survived by his life-long friends, the “brotherhood” from Ponte Vedra, Florida, including Bobby Weed, Harrison Minchu, Andy Riggsby and Greg Stang among others. He was pre-deceased by his father Hugh Orian Wrenn; his uncle and aunt, Robert and Lucille Wrenn (Bobby and Bobbie); his paternal grandparents, Lewis Orian Wrenn and Anna Lee Wrenn Hawkins; his maternal grandparents, Dr. Howard Russell Masters, and Bealmear “Mimi” Linthicum Masters; and his brother-in-law, Richard J. M. Poulson.

Charismatic and genuine, Rusty was known for his ability to strike up a conversation with anyone (espe-

cially young people) and for his avid love of reading, history, travel and outdoor adventure. His personality, friendship, humor and ever-present smile will be sorely missed.

Family and friends will gather at a later date for a private remembrance. To honor Rusty’s passion for nature and the water, contributions can be made in his name to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21403 ([www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org)).

Donations can also be made in his name to First Tee, an organization empowering kids and teens through golf, where Rusty’s extensive golf club collection has been donated. ([www.firsttee.org](http://www.firsttee.org))



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**OBITUARIES**



**Sidney Lanier Monroe**

Sidney Lanier Monroe, age 83, of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, joined our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, on February 26, 2024. Sidney was born on Christmas Day in Jacksonville FL, son of the late Sidney and Irene (Hanson) Monroe. Sidney was predeceased by his sister, Sarah Monroe. Sidney is survived by his loving wife, Susan Holloway. They were married aboard the Cunard

Queen Mary 2 on an adventurous Transatlantic cruise.

Sidney is lovingly remembered by his wife Susan of Ponte Vedra Beach; sister Mary Hopping (Wade); daughters Dawn Monroe and Eden Sheffield (Matt), grandchildren Adam, Allie, Benjamin; cousin, Earle Whitehurst, stepsons Sean (Rachel), Aaron (Edvina) and Paul, and other relatives.

Sidney enjoyed golf, traveling worldwide to over 45 countries and all states of the USA, special travels with his wife, dining out and reading. He was an avid FSU sports fan, especially football.

He was a member of the Ponte Vedra Lodge and Club and enjoyed strength training, pilates classes, playing trivia and other social activities. Those that knew him, knew him as a kind gentle soul.

He attended Landon High School locally. He continued on to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree from Florida State University, where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He went on to earn a master's degree in professional accountancy from Georgia State University

in Atlanta, GA. Sidney became a partner with the International CPA firm of Deloitte & Touche, where he was partner in charge of several of the firms' offices.

A celebration of life will be held this summer with family and close friends at his favorite place, The Lodge and Club in Ponte Vedra Beach. His most favorite song was Elvis singing "Amazing Grace."

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Community Hospice and Palliative Services or Davis Phinney Parkinson's Foundation. Condolences may be offered online at Ponte Vedra Valley [www.pontevedravalley.com](http://www.pontevedravalley.com).



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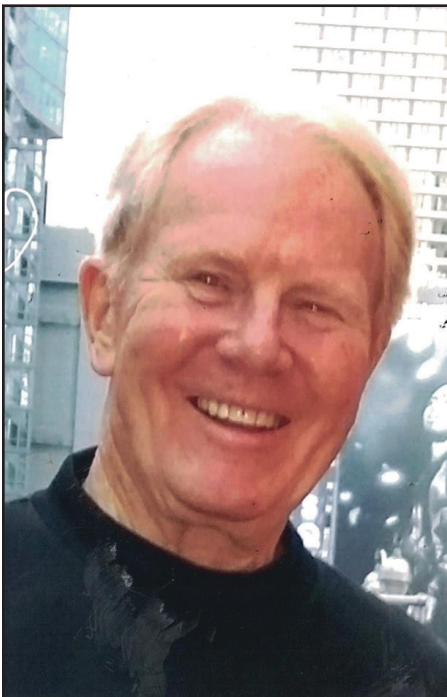





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## OBITUARIES

**David E. "Dave" Kimmel Sr.**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of David E. "Dave" Kimmel Sr., on February 23, 2024 at Vicar's Landing Retirement Community in Ponte Vedra, Florida. He braved a 12-year battle with Alzheimer's. He was a devoted husband of 37 years to wife Melanie; as well as a father, grandfather, Godfather, brother and friend to many.

His infectious Irish spirit lives on in all who knew him.

Dave was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on April 25, 1935 to the late Mary Margaret Holleran Kimmel and Cecil Byron Kimmel; he was raised in Youngstown, Ohio. He was predeceased by his first wife of 27 years Patty Sequella Kimmel and daughter Irene. He is survived by his daughter Davene (Mark) Staples and granddaughter Audrey who live in Atlanta, Georgia. He is survived by his son David Jr. (Beatrice) who live in Long Beach, New York with their daughter Isabella Koko. He was predeceased by his brother Cecil in 2023. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Judy Kimmel, and his nieces and nephews.

His lifelong Catholic faith was nurtured at St. Patrick's School and Ursuline High School in Youngstown.

Besides earning his B.S. in Education at Youngstown State, he earned his M.A. in Education at Westminster College. Dave was a passionate schoolteacher. He taught History at Princeton High School in Youngstown. He was also passionate about coaching the men's basketball team at Princeton.

While at Youngstown Ursuline High School, Davey relished many honors while playing on the gridiron for the Irish. He was known as the "Irish Comet" breaking records while winning about

every possible award from All City to All State. As a senior he left his mark earning letters for football, basketball and track. While playing football for Ursuline from 1951-1953 Dave and his team routinely filled the bleachers with 8,000 fans.

While being the most sought-after high school football player in the country, Dave remained in Youngstown playing four more seasons for Youngstown College. There in 1956 he set the school's all-time individual rushing record for 940 yards that season. He earned the nickname "swivel hips" for his incredible elusive running style. For six weeks he led the nation in rushing until an injury slowed him down. He earned the Associated Press's "Little All American" status in 1956 and 1957. A year later he signed a contract to play professional football with the Buffalo Bills. He was inducted into the Youngstown State Hall of Fame in 1988 as one of the school's greatest players.

Dave moved to Jacksonville, Florida in 1986 and married Melanie McGrorty in 1988. They were both executives at Steinmart Corporation. Previously Dave had another long career in Human Resources for The Lazarus Stores, The Campbell Soup Company, and Upton's Department Stores. He also recruited for The Limited Stores in Columbus, Ohio. After retiring he resumed his passion

for teaching at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida.

The family would like to thank Sarah Anthony, Jodi Morgan with Brooks Rehabilitative Aphasia Clinic; The Council on Aging Integrative Memory Enhancement Program team; Community Hospice and Palliative Care team; The Management and staff at Vicar's Landing Retirement Community. Deep thanks goes to the following compassionate caregivers who helped Dave in his home: Susie Dominiak, Scott Graner, Joan Biancke, Valerie Howell Crawford, Baylus Sizemore, Mike and Jan Buechele, Roselaine SeJour, Gail Flores, Pat Campanaro, Netia Mendoza and Cody Wright.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday March 23, 2024, 11 a.m. at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. The family will host a reception afterwards at the Parish Cultural Center. Dave will be interred in Calvary Cemetery in Youngstown at a later date.



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**John George Terek**

John George Terek, known by his friends as "Big John," of Ponte Vedra Beach passed away on March 2, 2024. There will be a celebration of his life on Saturday, March 9 from 2-4 at Pusser's Bar & Grille.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Alexey Bogomolov**

Alexey Bogomolov, 42, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died Feb. 21, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery — 904-285-1130 — [www.pontevedravalley.com](http://www.pontevedravalley.com)

**Edward James Brice, Jr.**

Edward James Brice, Jr., 74, of Jacksonville, Florida, died March 2, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

**Barry Paul Lieberman**

Barry Paul Lieberman, 92, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Feb. 26, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

**Marilyn Matejcek**

Marilyn Matejcek, 76, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died Feb. 23, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery — 904-285-1130 — [www.pontevedravalley.com](http://www.pontevedravalley.com)

**Raymond Nader**

Raymond Nader, 84, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Feb. 26, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery — 904-285-1130 — [www.pontevedravalley.com](http://www.pontevedravalley.com)

**Raymond O'Steen**

Raymond O'Steen, 81, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Feb. 21, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery — 904-285-1130 — [www.pontevedravalley.com](http://www.pontevedravalley.com)

**Benjamin Earl Ponce**

Benjamin Earl Ponce, 64, of Jacksonville, Florida, died March 1, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

**William Smith**

William Smith, 75, of St. Johns, Florida, died Feb. 17, 2024. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery — 904-285-1130 — [www.pontevedravalley.com](http://www.pontevedravalley.com)





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DURBIN PARK



# Golf, pickleball to be featured during Vicar's Landing Foundation's charity classic

Contributed photos

By Anthony Richards

The Vicar's Landing Foundation is proud to announce that the 18th Annual Charity Classic is scheduled for April 9 at the Yards at Sawgrass Players Club.

The event will offer two ways to enjoy a day of play while assisting seniors throughout St. Johns County with the proceeds raised.

Participants can choose to play in the Charity Classic Golf Tournament or the Charity Classic Pickleball Tournament.

The events will run concurrently, and registration includes food, drinks and door prizes. Details of the tournament schedules and contribution levels can be found by going to [VicarSLanding.com/golfcharityhomepage](http://VicarSLanding.com/golfcharityhomepage).

All funds raised at Drives & Dinks will be used in support of community charities serving St. Johns County seniors.

Among this year's beneficiaries are Lend an Ear Outreach which supplies hearing aids to seniors in St. Johns County with limited or no means.

Pie in the Sky and Meals on Wings, are also charities included, both of which battle senior hunger and food insecurity locally.

"For 18 years, the Charity Classic has reflected our profound dedication to making a positive impact for seniors throughout our county," Bruce Vorsanger, Vicar's Landing chief development officer, said. "We're excited to invite golf lovers and pickleball enthusiasts to showcase their



Participants can choose to play in the Charity Classic Golf Tournament or the Charity Classic Pickleball Tournament.

skills and help further our mission of service and compassion."

While golf is a sport historically associated with the area with such great courses throughout, and pickleball has been considered the fastest growing sport in America, so the two make an interesting combination and helps cover a



The fee to take part in the pickleball competition is \$80 with doubles play beginning at noon.

variety of interests by residents.

The schedule of events include check-in and registration at 11 a.m. for pickleball and noon for the golf tournament. Box lunches will be provided to all participants.

The fee to take part in the pickleball competition is \$80 with doubles play beginning at noon, while the golf fee is \$175 per play with a shotgun start set for 1:30 p.m. and a shootout of the top teams at 5 p.m.

A bar will open at 4:30 p.m. for everyone involved in both tournaments and it will be followed by heavy hors d'oeuvres being served and an awards banquet at 5:30 p.m.

Sponsorships for the event and two-person teams within the event are still available for any businesses looking to get involved in the initiative.



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**DID YOU KNOW?** You can return your vote-by-mail ballot to a **Secure Ballot Intake Station** at any early voting location from March 9 through March 16 during the hours of voting. Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections Office by 7 PM on Election Day to be counted.

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

**KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE**

# Ready, Set, PLANT!

"We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us." — Jenny Uglow



**Kathy Esfahani**

**By Kathy Esfahani**

It is finally warm enough to safely begin planting throughout your landscape. First, take the time to clean out your flower beds and containers. Then, select both annuals and perennials to add color and variety in your gardens.

An annual is a plant that lives for only one season. They exert their energy unconditionally, producing vibrant colors. Although replacing annuals at the end of each season adds maintenance to your yard, the reward is a rainbow of bright colors while these plants are blooming. Annuals typically last three to six months, requiring replacement two to three times per year.

When using annuals, plan your landscape to include several places where you want constant color and do not mind replanting each season. These locations can be garden beds or planters. Popular spots for annuals include framing a front entry, highlighting a driveway or mailbox, or surrounding a relaxing outdoor living space. Prepare



**Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery**

your gardens for annuals with 2-3 inches of compost, peat or topsoil. If you choose, you can add fertilizer; mix it in approximately the first 6 inches of soil before planting.

In our area, popular annuals include delphiniums, dianthus, dusty miller, impatiens, marigolds, salvias, supertunias, verbena, vincas and zinnias.

Perennials are plants, shrubs and trees that last indefinitely; flowers can survive at least three growing seasons in Northeast Florida. Many perennials turn brown and seem to die in the winter but then grow back from the roots. Just prune off dead stems and wait for them to reappear. Although perennials require less maintenance since they do not need replacing, they bloom in and out

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery



**Flower of the Week**

**Gazania**

of color, not showing off the bright hues that annuals provide. Consider planning your landscape with at least 90% perennials to balance the showy color with less replacement cost and effort.

When selecting perennials to add to your landscape, look for African iris, agapanthus, blue daze, bush daisy, canna lily, foxtail fern, gardenia, gazania, gold mound duranta, hibiscus, hydrangea, knockout/drift roses, lantana, loropetalum, mandevilla, muhly grass, portulaca and shrimp plant.

Happy planting!

**Flower of the Week: Gazania**

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

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# Human trafficking foes hold information night

The Operation Underground Railroad (OUR) Northeast Florida Conductors Club was invited by the Nease High School anti-trafficking club to participate in a human trafficking information night on Feb. 28. This event was for parents, teachers and students and included participation from Sgt. Scoggins of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office sex crimes unit and the Betty Griffin Center. The student club president led an informative interview with the detective and guests were offered an opportunity to ask questions. A bake sale was held to raise funds for OUR Rescue.

Contributed photos



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# Vested Metals plans charity golf tournament on March 25

Mark your calendar for the Second Annual Vested Metals Charity Golf Tournament on Monday, March 25, at Marsh Creek Country Club.

For the second year, Vested Metals International, a specialty metals and steels supplier based in St. Augustine, will host its charity golf tournament in honor of friend and colleague, John Mark Leach, who died in 2022. The first inaugural tournament took place in March 2023 and raised more than \$60,000 for local nonprofit organizations benefiting youth and their families.

“When John Mark passed away, I knew that I wanted to do something to commemorate his giving spirit and zest for life,” said Viv Helwig, president and founder of Vested Metals. “Because of the generous support of our sponsors and all of the golfers that came out to play last year, as well as Vested Metals staff and John Mark’s family, the First Annual Golf Tournament was an

incredible success — and we know this year will be even bigger and better.”

The tournament will be held for the first time at the Marsh Creek Country Club golf course, which is a premier 18-hole championship course located on Anastasia Island in St. Augustine. Designed by renowned golf course architect Mark McCumber, the par-72 course measures 6,888 yards and spans across lush green fairways nestled by giant oak trees.

“Just like last year, we’ll incorporate some of John Mark’s favorite things,” said Helwig, “like ice cream sandwiches delivered halfway through the golfers’ round and a ginger ale toast during the reception.” Helwig plans to host the fundraiser every year, with the goal of raising a million dollars for local charities by the year 2033.

Vested Metals is currently looking for sponsors for this year’s charity tournament, with opportunities ranging from a single ticket to packages for two to four

players. Email [golf@vestedmetals.net](mailto:golf@vestedmetals.net) for more information.

The Marsh Creek Country Club is located at 169 Marshside Drive, St. Augustine. The event will kick off at noon with a shotgun start. The 18-hole, four-person scramble features the chance to win a car with a “Hole-in-One,” a Longest Drive contest, and complimentary on-course snacks and beverages. At 5 p.m., there will be a post-event reception to announce winners, present contest prizes, recognize beneficiaries and honor the Leach Family.

Tickets can be purchased online at

[vestedmetals.net/golf](https://vestedmetals.net/golf). Donations are welcome for those who cannot attend.

Vested Metals International was founded in 2014 by Helwig, a Jamaican native who grew up in Palm Bay, Florida, and graduated from Flagler College. The fast-growing distribution company is headquartered in St. Augustine, and sources hard-to-find alloys, grades and sizes for niche applications and markets such as medical, defense, aerospace, industrial and power generation.

For more information, go to [vestedmetals.net](https://vestedmetals.net).



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# Goodwill grocery store to open in summer

With The Corner at Debs Store, Goodwill Industries of North Florida expands its traditional focus on employment, training and education to address one of the major challenges facing some Jacksonville residents: a lack of access to healthy, nutritious foods and free financial coaching.

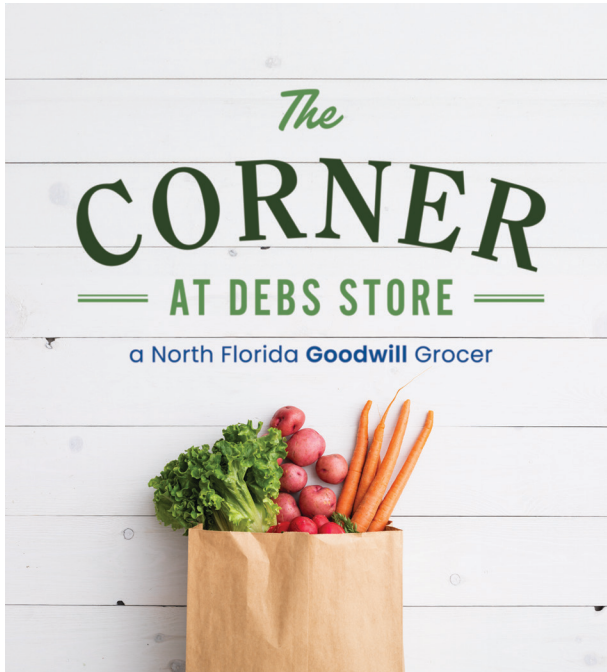
The Corner at Debs Store, located at the corner of Florida Avenue and 5th Street, Jacksonville, is the culmination of several community organizations joining forces to restore a grocery store in the Eastside neighborhood. The store will introduce fresh produce and groceries to the residents of Jacksonville's historic Eastside and surrounding neighborhoods, eliminating a food desert created by the 2011 closing of the original Debs Store.

LIFT JAX, the Debs Family, VyStar Credit Union, local community organizations and Goodwill Industries of North Florida have worked together to create a new community space where residents can build healthier, more prosperous lives.

Goodwill will manage the daily operations of the 5,000-square-foot complex. The first floor will house the 1,800-square-foot community market. Goodwill will run staffing, retail management, inventory and customer service. A Goodwill GoodCareers Center occupies the second floor of the restored building, bringing employment and job training for Debs Store neighbors.

VyStar will improve financial access in the area by providing a surcharge-free ATM and expanding its Financial Fitness initiative through financial education services.

"VyStar is committed to breaking down barriers to financial opportunities," said SVP VyStar Community



Engagement, Patricia McElory. "We have provided financial guidance to our members for over 70 years, and we are proud to be a community partner of The Corner at Debs Store and to offer financial tools and resources to residents in a location that best serves their needs."

David Garfunkel, president of LIFT JAX added: "The grand re-opening of The Debs Store is a monumental step toward enhancing well-being and quality of life for Eastside residents. Our multifaceted approach to ensuring access to necessary resources like fresh food, career

services and financial resources will address immediate needs and support long-term prosperity in the neighborhood."

"The Corner at Debs Store is a piece of Jacksonville's history that was a gathering place, a market and a real touchstone that was founded by the Debs family," said David Rey, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of North Florida. "When it opens again, it will provide the Eastside community a consistent source of affordable, healthy and fresh food. The bottom floor of the building is being restored in a way that keeps architectural details true to what they were originally — and it will house the community market. But what's especially exciting to us is that on the second floor of the building, we are opening a Goodwill GoodCareers Center. This will help close the wealth gap by providing the community access to career and financial wellness services."

Rey continued: "This is an incredible community, and we fell in love with the residents of the Eastside right from the start. We're excited to be able to bring in Goodwill's strengths and experience with retail and job placement to be a part of the positive changes happening. This is about lifting families out of generational poverty through career and financial wellness opportunities."

The Corner at Debs Store is slated to open in the summer.

Goodwill is seeking funding to offset initial start-up costs, including stocking the shelves with produce, purchasing equipment to keep food fresh and securing necessary food transportation services. To learn more about giving to the projects, go to The Corner at Debs Store — Goodwill of North Florida ([goodwillnorthfl.org](http://goodwillnorthfl.org))

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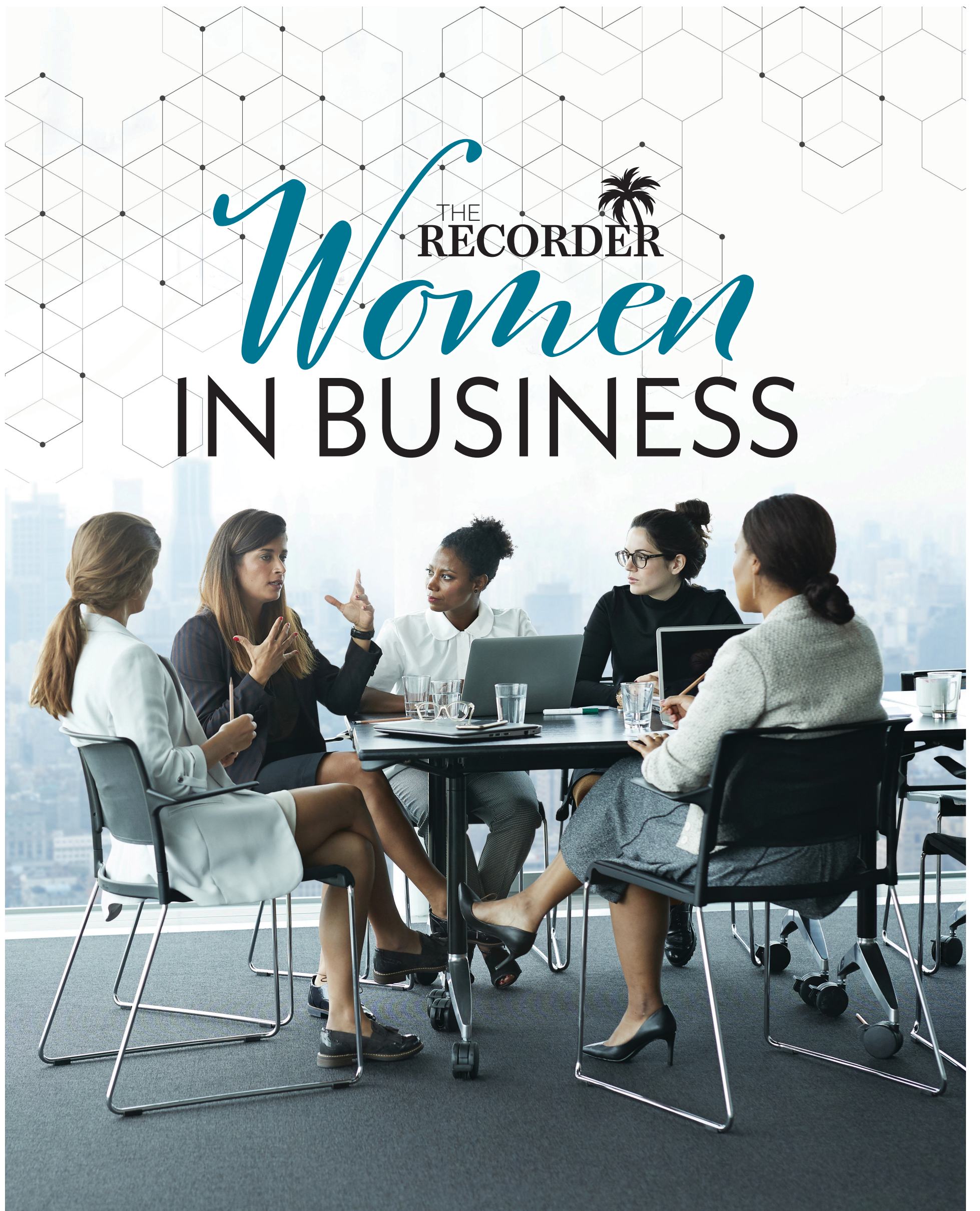
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IN BUSINESS



# Series will empower women across spectrum

By Shaun Ryan

It started with a question. When Gurpreet Misra considered how many women graduated at the top of their class and yet how few went on to employment as high-level executives, she had to ask: Where is the gap?

Clearly, there is a need for greater support, so that intelligent, educated women can better achieve their career goals.

As co-founder of the link, an innovation center in Nocatee, Misra wanted to help professional women find that support. When she proposed a new means for them to associate, share their dreams and challenges and help one another, the response was strong.

The result is Circle of Creation: The Expansion Project, named both for the creativity of women across the various stages of life and a goal of expanding their horizons. It revolves around the ideas of continuous growth, transformation and the collective power of women supporting one another.

Group members will benefit from a diversity of perspectives and experiences, shared wisdom, connections and personal and professional development.

They will meet in seven sessions on the second Wednesday of each month, from April through October, leading up to



Contributed photo  
**Circle of Creation initiators, from left: Keeli Scarlett, storyteller at the link; Elaine Raby, director of member experience; Kim Jones, CEO and founder of Tropical Vibes; Carolynn Castillo, CEO of Absolute Top Dollar; Gurpreet Misra, co-founder of the link; Sonya Morales-Marchisillo, founder/owner of Pinnacle Communications Group; Karen Patiño, opportunity creator at the link.**

*“There is nothing a strong, supported powerful woman cannot handle, and those are some of the gems you will receive inside the Expansion Project Series with the Circle of Creation.”*

— Sonya Morales-Marchisillo, founder/owner of Pinnacle Communications Group

EnterCircle Women’s Day in November where they will share lessons learned during their journey.

Each two-hour meeting will have a different theme. The theme for April 10 will be finances.

Sessions will be divided into two parts. Some of the group will hear from an expert on that month’s theme, while the rest will engage in a kind of social game where they will create greater self-aware-

**SERIES** continues on **Page 23**

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# Cabana Life opens boutique in Jacksonville Beach

By Anthony Richards

Cabana Life took the next step in offering its selection of stylish sun protective clothing to the community with the opening of its first boutique in Jacksonville Beach on Feb. 13.

Previously, Cabana Life had strictly online with a couple of in-person sample sales within the past year.

However, it was the success of those sample sales that played a role in helping owner and founder Melissa Papock realize that the time was right for the business' first brick-and-mortar store.

"It's something we've been thinking about for a while now, and once we moved to the Jacksonville Beach office space, we really realized that it was a great opportunity for something more permanent," Papock said. "It was really a no-brainer."

The boutique is located in conjunction with the office space that they have had and is located at 315 11th Ave. North in Jacksonville Beach, and is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Having the boutique and the office as one is not just convenient but is also an aspect of that Papock believes will pay dividends in the overall design of future products.

"It's really perfect for our team because now they can find out what the people like firsthand and we can use that feedback to help give the community what they are truly in search of," Papock said. "We'll even be able to put out some of our fall prototypes and get people to try them on to see if they like them."

Those aspects were just not able to be part of the design process before because there are only certain things that can be gained from the online marketplace that an actual storefront can help make up for.



Photo by Anthony Richards

**Cabana Life founder Melissa Papock had been thinking about opening a storefront for some time and now it is a reality.**

"We have a very big ecommerce business but there is also something about touching and feeling a product that people appreciate," Papock said. "We're looking forward to providing our customers with the best of both options."

The customer service angle is another area where a storefront can be a different experience than online if a customer happens to have an immediate question

**BOUTIQUE** continues on **Page 23**

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The panino is the signature menu item at Trasca & Co. Eatery and has been a staple for 50 years.



Contributed photos

Trasca & Co. Eatery is celebrating nine years as a restaurant in Ponte Vedra Beach.

# Trasca, panino celebrate anniversaries, family legacy

By Anthony Richards

Trasca & Co. Eatery is celebrating a major anniversary of one of the aspects that makes the restaurant so unique, and

that is the 50th anniversary of the panino, which is their signature wrap.

It coincides with the nine-year anniversary of Trasca, and it has led to owner Sara Frasca spending a lot of time

reminiscing and looking back on the history of her family and the legacy she continues to carry on.

“I literally grew up in the kitchen where my parents would put my basinet

up on top of the oven while they prepared food,” Frasca chuckled. “That’s what makes this time so fun, because it incorporates a lot of my family’s history.”

According to Frasca, she watched her parents and the way they took pride in the way they served the community they were in and that’s the environment she has strived to instill at Trasca.

“I learned how to appreciate food and how important service is,” Frasca said. “Connecting with customers is a necessity for the success of a business, and they in turn appreciate that.”

The history behind the panino dates back to her parents’ business in Colorado Springs, Colorado, called Pizza Plus, where they featured a rolled-up sandwich that was highlighted by the family’s secret recipe dough stuffed with ingredients similar to a pizza.

The panino quickly became the focal point of the restaurant, and it is something that Frasca has continued to perfect over the years, as nowadays it is stuffed with a variety of meats, cheeses and vegetables but continues to be a staple of the menu at Trasca.

Other changes included Frasca putting her spin on the restaurant and changing the name as she sought to rebrand while still maintaining the family tradition nine years ago with her location in Ponte Vedra Beach.

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# Realtor enjoys helping families live their best lives

By Shaun Ryan

Charlene “Charlie” Savidge was, in her words, “destined to be in real estate.” She always loved visiting model homes and designing spaces — so much so that friends even suggested she consider a career in real estate. In fact, her first job was leasing apartments.

But it was the years she spent in other lines of work that prepared her in unique ways to become a successful Realtor.

For 20 years, she worked in the advertising and marketing industry in North Florida. She was the program manager at the YMCA in Ponte Vedra and then moved to Palm Coast, where she created and published the Volusia, Flagler and St. Johns counties’ Parent Magazines. After a decade, she sold those publications and worked as a North Florida district manager for Healthy Schools before finding her “forever home” at Children’s Home Society of Florida (CHS), where she serves as the director of corporate relations.

“In this statewide leadership role, I support Children’s Home Society as a leader in delivering proactive behavioral health, case management, community and early-childhood solutions for chil-



Contributed photo

**Charlene “Charlie” Savidge said she loves creating partnerships and helping children.**

dren and families,” she said.

Her experience in cultivating critical relationships with businesses and organizations and a desire to help people led

her to joining her two worlds: continuing to work with CHS while working also as a Realtor, in which her marketing knowledge and creative talents

would help her develop specialized plans to sell properties for top dollar.

Today, she represents both buyers in sellers in the residential real estate market.

“I specialize in the newest neighborhoods of North St. Johns County, including Beachwalk, Beacon Lake, St. Johns Forest, Shearwater and Nocatee,” she said. “However, I would be happy to assist you anywhere within the North/Central Florida area, including Flagler County.”

A native of Carrollton, Texas, Savidge has lived in Northeast Florida since the early 1990s. She said she loves the weather here, as well as the small-town feel. She enjoys the beaches, the springs and her favorite theme park, Universal Studios Orlando.

And she finds the people here to be friendly and outgoing.

She is married with one son, who attends Nease High School, and has two collies and a cat. She volunteers as a board member for the Nease High School NJROTC.

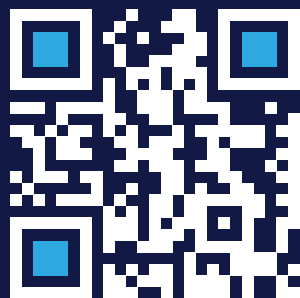
A licensed real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, Savidge can be reached at 386-547-0161 or 904-269-7117. Her email address is [Charlie@CBVFL.com](mailto:Charlie@CBVFL.com).

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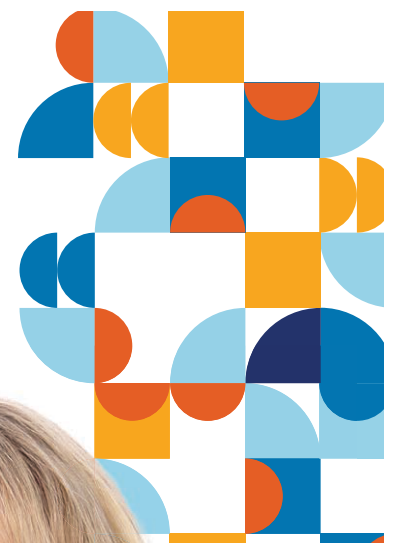
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# Trasca

Continued from 20

“I brought my best ideas when I opened the restaurant here, and I know I continue to need the best ideas out there to help grow this restaurant to where I believe it can be,” Frasca said.

One of Frasca’s goals is to expand the brand and make Trasca’s and the panino a household name across the country, which is what she is hoping to achieve



when she opened the restaurant up to be franchised last year.

“I wanted to do a fast casual atmo-

sphere,” Frasca said. “The panino didn’t change, but the way it was served was what changed. I can imagine paninos being served in every state across the country. It is that special.”

Her mom passed away 19 years ago and she continues to be at the forefront of her mind and thinking with everything she does and each decision she makes pertaining to the business.

“Looking back, my mom is the reason that I started Trasca’s and look to serve the community like I do,” Frasca said.

“When my mom passed, it was important for me to continue her warm attitude and genuine care for people. She had such a passion for her employees and was known for helping people after their shift study for their college degree.”

Trasca will be having a party to celebrate the family history and the legacy behind the anniversary’s during an event held at the Trasca located in the Sawgrass Village Shopping Center at 155 Tourside Drive, Suite 1500 in Ponte Vedra Beach.

# JAX Women’s Expo to be held March 16-17

The Jacksonville Women’s Expo takes place at the Prime Osborn Convention Center on March 16-17 with keynote speakers Kim Fields, Jenni “JWOWW” Farley, Teresa Giudice and Captain Sandy as they talk about learning to resist the pressures of conformity, loving yourself for who you are, embracing your flaws and unlocking your potential.

The Jacksonville Women’s Expo offers women a wealth of memorable, unforgettable experiences:

- Complimentary beauty treatments: Free haircuts, glam and spa services, mini manis and samples
- Fashion shows: Local designers host runway shows featuring summer and



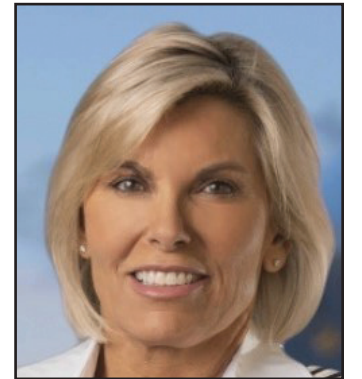
Kim Fields



Jenni “JWOWW” Farley



Teresa Giudice



Captain Sandy

fall collections

- Craft classes & do-it-yourself workshops: Complimentary hands-on classes teaching canvas painting, wine glass

painting, sign making, jewelry making and more

- Cooking & baking workshops: The most talented chefs in JAX lead a variety of interactive cooking workshops
- Extraordinary discount shopping: More than 250 pop up boutiques with one-of-a-kind finds in fashion, accessories, jewelry, emerging designers, home décor and handbags at sensational pricing
- Rejuvenate: Enjoy luxurious complimentary massages at the rejuvenation garden
- Get Started: Jacksonville’s most respected experts in finance, health care, career development, personal growth, style and beauty will educate and in-

spire as they share insights and reveal struggles that propelled them to the top of their fields.

Organizers have gathered leading companies, boutiques and brands together to bring a new level of Women’s Expo to Jacksonville. The Jacksonville Ultimate Women’s Expo hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 17. Advance tickets are only \$5 when purchased online at JAXWomensExpo.com and include all makeovers, tastings, celebrity speakers, shows, seminars and more.

For more information, go to JAXWomensExpo.com or call 866-618-3434.



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## Series

Continued from 18

ness and understanding of each other.

Then, the groups will switch.

But the social side should not be confused with traditional networking.

“We want it to go beyond networking,” said Keeli Scarlett, storyteller/communications manager at the link. “So many times, people come in, give their business cards to each other and go home. We want it to be like: What are your needs? ... How can we be a support group for each other?”

And Misra wants to avoid the kind of meetings where participants become greatly inspired only to go home and see that inspiration fade. To that end, members will have access to an online journal where they can anonymously share what they got from the meeting.

“Once you’re out of the room, you are still connected,” Misra said.

In November, members will be encouraged to speak about their experiences with Circle of Creation during EnterCircle. The summit’s theme this year will be “serendipity.”

“We want to open up the space for serendipitous things to happen,” said Scarlett. “You never know who you’re going to meet. You never know what’s going to get started.”

“If you can get to a place where you can exchange your thoughts, share your visions,

*“Women are emerging like never before; we now understand we can grow to be anything we desire to be! Women are breaking records in small business, motherhood, community, spiritually — the list is endless of what we are capable of doing! The Circle of Creation is a place where we stand with the movement of women empowerment!”*

— Carolyn Castillo, CEO, Absolute Top Dollar

share your dreams and see other people who have come across these challenges and are successful, then you’ll find a way,” said Misra.

After completion of seven meetings, members will receive a certificate of completion.

To learn more and to purchase tickets, go to <https://bit.ly/Circle-Of-Creation>.

## Boutique

Continued from 19

about a certain product they are trying on.

“We’re all there all the time for any questions a customer may have about a certain look,” Papock said. “Our customer service is something people can expect, because we want to do everything we can to add to the experience, which is why we offer drinks for those shopping around our store.”

The addition of the storefront has not changed the involvement that Papock strives for within the community as she continues to not just sell clothes that protect from the sun’s rays, but also educate people about how harmful they can be if the proper steps are not taken.

This is something Papock unfortunately knows firsthand after being diagnosed with melanoma when she was 26 years old.

She understands how fortunate she was that it was caught early but wants to do everything she can to make sure others prevent being faced with the fear that comes with that news. That includes any local sports teams that play outdoors in the sun.

“We want to invite golf teams, tennis teams or pickleball teams to come out and join us if they want to have a fun shopping day,” Papock said. “Our boutique is the perfect place for it.”



Contributed photo

**The Cabana Life Boutique is located at 315 11th Ave. North in Jacksonville Beach.**

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# GOING BEYOND A BEAUTIFUL SMILE

Penney Weeks started her dental practice in January 2000 and for more than two decades has continued to learn and keep up with the latest technologies in dentistry and medicine.

"We have now transitioned into an integrative dental medicine practice," Weeks said. "This means we bring dentistry, medicine, and wellness together to treat the whole patient. We educate on the importance of oral health and its impact on your overall health and give you the tools to maximize both."

According to Weeks, the concept for the transition came from organizations like the American Academy of Oral Systemic Health, which is a group of like-minded professionals organized around a mission of connecting the health of the mouth to the rest of the body.

"Chronic disease incidence is on the rise despite the rising costs spent on healthcare," Weeks said. "This is because it is spent on 'managing' disease, not looking for and treating

the root cause of the disease. Dentists should be on the front lines of fighting the health crisis facing our nation. We see inflammation in the mouth long before our medical colleagues see the effects of it systemically."

The switch in concept approach still stays true to Weeks' mission that has been in place from day one, which is to help patients live longer, healthier lives.

Catching symptoms early or reversing the negative health consequences of inflammation is something Weeks believes can play a vital role in a patient's wellbeing, and education is a major step in the process as well.

"Educating patients that lifestyle medicine can change how they live out their later years is one of our top priorities," Weeks said. "We do a complete health history and screen for inflammation, sleep apnea, and oral pathogens known to cause systemic problems like Alzheimer's and heart disease. We then empower



wellbeing of a patient by offering a comprehensive approach to overall health is what sets her practice apart from other dentists.

"Our dental office goes beyond just treating tooth issues and focuses on improving systemic health," Weeks said. "With a focus on prevention and collaborating with other healthcare professionals we can help patients achieve optimal health."

Not only does she hope that offering an outlook for the whole body's health is beneficial for the patient, but she also wants that patient to know that they are in good hands with a comfortable environment where their dental checkup is performed.

"What we are most proud of is our whole-body approach, educating patients how the mouth is the window into health," Weeks said. "Knowledge is power and important in making the necessary lifestyle changes to prevent and reverse chronic diseases."

our patients to take charge of their total health."

The methods in which they strive to do that is by offering a complete health dental experience through preventive hygiene care, sleep apnea screening and treatment, biocompatible materials for dental restorations, holistic homecare products,

nutritional counseling, safe protocol for removal of mercury fillings, Alzheimer's prevention protocol, clear aligners, and same day crowns.

She has 14 employees that are trained and passionate about delivering the health and wellness message to the practice's patients.

She believes prioritizing the overall

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Canoeing



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Fishing

# 7 Creeks Fest to be held Saturday

The 7 Creeks Partners are hosting the third annual 7 Creeks Fest on Saturday, March 9, at the 7 Creeks Recreation Area in northern Jacksonville. This free, family-friendly event is a chance for everyone to celebrate and explore the 7 Creeks Recreation Area, which is made up of city, state national and nonprofit wilderness preserves.

The 7 Creeks Fest will begin at 10 a.m. and run until 3 p.m. and includes plenty of activities for all ages. Betz-Tiger Point Preserve at 13990 Pumpkin Hill Road is the welcome hub where guests can get the program schedule, visit a host of environmental exhibitors and enjoy music from a variety of performers, including Nan Nkama Pan-African Drum and Dance Ensemble, fiddler Anna Strickland, Americana folk artist Rambler Kane and singer-songwriter Shifty Gears.

A free shuttle will take visitors between the hub and most of the trailheads and parks where activities are planned.

Visitors can take part in guided hikes throughout the 7 Creeks Recreation Area, which will focus on native plants, wildflowers, nature photography, archaeology, birds, geocaching and history. Rangers from JaxParks and the National Park Service's Timucuan Preserve will be leading hikes, along with award-winning



Contributed photos

Camping

photographer Will Dickey and experts and representatives from Sierra Club Northeast Florida Group, Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Friends of JaxParks Geocaching, UNF Archaeology Lab, Amelia Island Bird Club and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Kayaking at Pumpkin Hill Creek

Preserve State Park, canoeing at Cedar Point and both guided and self-guided bike rides from Cedar Point Preserve will be offered. There will be dip netting with rangers from Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park along with a prescribed fire demonstration. A camping clinic with Timucuan Preserve rangers will take place at NPS' Cedar Point.

At Betz-Tiger Point Preserve's Edwards Creek Trailhead, there will be a fishing heritage presentation focusing on the lifeways and fishing traditions of African-American and Indigenous peoples along with a Junior Ranger Angler Fishing Clinic (registration is required) for children ages 6 to 16. There will also be a selfie scavenger hunt at North Florida Land Trust's Bogey Creek Preserve.

An entire list of scheduled activities and fishing clinic registration can be found at [7creeksfest.org](http://7creeksfest.org).

Sponsors for the event include W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor Inc., Geosyntec Consultants, Rogers Tower P.A., JAXPORT, JEA, England-Thims &

Miller Inc., the City of Jacksonville and Visit Jacksonville. The Junior Ranger Angler fishing clinic is supported by the Rotary Club of East Arlington, Lew's and a National Parks Foundation grant.

The 7 Creeks Partners include Timucuan Parks Foundation, the City of Jacksonville, Florida State Parks, the National Park Service, North Florida Land Trust and Visit Jacksonville.

The 7 Creeks Recreation Area is 5,600 acres of contiguous parklands in northeastern Jacksonville that are linked by more than 30 miles of trails and waterways. It includes Betz-Tiger Point Preserve, Bogey Creek Preserve, Cedar Point Preserve, Cedar Point (NPS), Jim Wingate Preserve, Pescatello Island and Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park.

This special outdoor destination was made possible by the partnership of park agencies and supportive nonprofits working together to expand access and recreational opportunities for park visitors.

More information can be found at [timucuanparks.org/7-creeks-jax](http://timucuanparks.org/7-creeks-jax).



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NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 11th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION



# Pup-A-Pawlooza promises fun for the whole family

St. Augustine Sunrise Rotary invites families and their furry friends to join the festivities at Pup-A-Pawlooza, an event benefiting the St. Augustine Humane Society.

The day promises fun, laughter and heartwarming moments for everyone. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 23 at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds, 5840 Stat Road 207 in Elkton.

Preceding Pup-A-Pawlooza, registration is now open for St. Augustine Sunrise Rotary's Dash to the Dogs 5K benefiting the Homeless Coalition St. Johns County.

The 5K run or walk will commence at 8 a.m. March 23, starting and finishing at Armstrong Park, 4950 Harvey Ave. in Elkton. Sign up at [runsignup.com/Race/FL/Elkton/DashToTheDogs5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/Elkton/DashToTheDogs5K). The entrance fee includes access to Pup-A-Pawlooza at the nearby fairgrounds.

Admission to Pup-A-Pawlooza is \$10 before the event and \$15 at the gate, with children ages 15 and younger admitted free. Advance tickets can be purchased at [eventbrite.com/e/pup-a-pawlooza-tickets-778203516667](https://eventbrite.com/e/pup-a-pawlooza-tickets-778203516667). Parking is free for all attendees.

Pup-A-Pawlooza boasts an array of activities, including Pet Camp's Rocking Recall Championship, an AKC Fetch Competition and AKC K-9 Good Citizen Testing, available for a nominal fee. Participants can watch a demonstration of Dog Agility, K-9 Rally Obedience and K-9 Nosework, with opportunities to try it with their dog or practice at a nominal fee.

Silke Royer of Pet Camp will perform live training demonstrations on how to easily solve common behavioral problems (such as jumping up on visitors) through her effective-yet-kind training method.

Trick training demonstrations are also on the schedule, and admission includes access to all demonstrations.

To ensure a safe environment, dogs must be on a leash and under the owner's control at all times. Attendees are reminded to pick up after their pets, and only dogs are allowed — no other pets, please.

Music will add to the vibrant atmosphere, complemented by delicious food offerings from County Road Provisions, El Mariachi Loko Jax, Sweet & Salty Sisters, Wingin' It Catering & Food Truck and YAMO Food Truck, with beverages by Ancient City Brewing.

Free dog competitions include: the dog who looks most like the owner, the dog with the waggiest tail, the best treat catcher and the best rescue dog. A panel of judges will determine winners, with prizes for the victorious dogs.

Various onsite vendors will cater to pet owners, families, crafters, artisans, households, runners and even the little ones with a face painter for kids. Nonprofit organizations will also be represented.

St. Augustine Sunrise Rotary, operating as Rhythm and Ribs Festival, is a 501(c)3 organization, with all proceeds dedicated to charitable organizations for local and international service projects.

Sponsors and vendors are still being accepted. Go to [pupapawlooza.org](https://pupapawlooza.org) for more information.

Note that no outside food, drinks or coolers are permitted. Lawn chairs are permitted.

For more information, contact St. Augustine Sunrise Rotary President Anita O'Donnell at [anita.stasunriserotary@gmail.com](mailto:anita.stasunriserotary@gmail.com) or 302-607-8216.

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# Mutt Market scheduled for March 23

The Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) invites pet owners and pet lovers alike to mingle, shop and play at the organization's fourth annual Mutt Market on March 23.

JHS welcomes attendees to enjoy amenities for both ends of the leash at Mutt Market, including a local vendor market, food trucks, a \$10 pet supply fill-a-bag, a free pet photography booth and more. Attendees will also have the chance to bid on dozens of unique items in the Mutt Market silent auction and enter a raffle for the chance to win a JHS swag basket. There will also be a "fill-a-truck" donation drive on site during the event, and for a donation of pet food attendees will receive one free raffle ticket.

All adoptions at JHS will be half-priced as part of PetSmart Charities' National Adoption Weekend for anyone interested in bringing home a new furry family member.

Attendees are welcome to bring their pet to the



event. All animals must remain on their leashes while on site.

"Mutt Market provides us with the opportunity to celebrate our love of pets with our community," JHS CEO Denise Deisler said. "It will be a day of shopping, fun and adventure for everyone, while also raising awareness for the JHS mission and finding new, loving homes for pets in our care."

The Mutt Market will be held at 8464 Beach Blvd. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 23. Registration for the event is optional and there is no cost to attend, but donations to support the homeless dogs and cats in our community are appreciated. To register for tickets or learn more about event details, go to [jaxhumane.org/muttmarket2024](http://jaxhumane.org/muttmarket2024). The first 250 RSVPs will receive a free Wag Bag filled with items for you and your pet.

To learn more about the Jacksonville Humane Society and its upcoming Mutt Market, go to [jaxhumane.org](http://jaxhumane.org) or call 904-725-8766.

# Flagler College launches MPA program

Flagler College is elevating its academic offerings with the introduction of its Master of Public Administration (MPA) program. This cost-effective, advanced degree is tailored for professionals seeking career advancement.

The program is designed to equip students for leadership roles within public, nonprofit and private sectors. It provides a comprehensive understanding of government operations and private sector regulations, setting professionals up for success in their respective fields.

"Students will develop critical thinking skills enabling them to formulate policies and approaches to management that ensure effective and ethical administration and analysis of public policies and programs," Director of the Public Administration Program Joel Bolante said.

Building on the solid foundation of Flagler's 20-year-old undergraduate Public Administration Degree (PAD) program, this multi-disciplinary master's program is designed to enhance students' understanding of governance and prepare them to lead in various fields.

"It's a degree that aids you in managing and leading public organizations regardless of what field it's in," Bolante said.

The program requires minimal campus presence,

FLAGLER continues on Page 28

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# DONNA Foundation nominated for award

The DONNA Foundation recently announced its participation in USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Travel Awards. The DONNA Foundation's half marathon, part of the organization's DONNA Marathon Weekend, is one of 20 contenders for "Best Half Marathon" category — seeking to identify the best 13.1-mile race in the country.

The DONNA Foundation, founded in 2003, provides financial assistance and support to families living with a breast cancer diagnosis, both local to Jacksonville and across the country, through its DONNA CareLine, and supports groundbreaking breast cancer research. Each year, thousands of runners from around the world come to Jacksonville and The Beaches to participate in DONNA Marathon Weekend, including the nominated half marathon distance.

Votes may be submitted by those who are 18 years or older in the United States or Europe once per day through



noon March 25.

"Year after year, survivors and runners gather in our beautiful Jacksonville Beaches from across the country and the globe to participate in DONNA Marathon Weekend, and the half marathon distance is al-

ways a runner's favorite," said Donna Deegan, Jacksonville mayor and founder of The DONNA Foundation. "What sets this race apart is the way our seaside communities throw their arms around this event — the crowd support is over the top! They make every runner feel as if they have their own cheering squad all the way to the finish line. I know our runners and the families we serve every day see the DONNA half marathon as the best half marathon in the country, and it is an honor to be among those considered for the title."

Winners will be announced on the 10Best website at noon April 5. DONNA Foundation supporters and runners can learn more about the contest and cast their votes at [10best.usatoday.com/awards/travel/best-half-marathon-2024](https://10best.usatoday.com/awards/travel/best-half-marathon-2024).

To learn more about The DONNA Foundation, go to [thedonnafoundation.org](https://thedonnafoundation.org).

## Flagler

Continued from 27

making it particularly accessible for working adults and parents seeking to continue their education.

The 37-credit-hour program curriculum follows a fixed schedule, ensuring all classes are offered at least once per year during the fall, spring and summer semesters, allowing students to complete their degree in as little as one year or at a pace that suits their lifestyle. More details about the course schedule can be found on the MPA Programs and Courses webpage.

The application deadline for admission into the Fall 2024 MPA Cohort is Aug. 1, 2024.

With the MPA Program's promising trajectory, Flagler anticipates attracting students from across the state and, eventually, nationwide.

Bolante also revealed long-term plans to expand the curriculum to include concentrations in areas such as hospital administration, homeland security, environmental policies and sustainability, and not-for-profit work.

For more information about Flagler's MPA Program or to start the application process, contact [MPA@flagler.edu](mailto:MPA@flagler.edu) or call 904-826-8518.

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# Teen club gives back to the community

There is a small group of local teens who are doing big things for their community. Introducing the link teen club. The club was established in October 2023 under the leadership of Jeff Tawney, director of operations at the link.

At the first meetup, Tawney asked the teens what they want out of this club. The teens had an overwhelming response, which was “giving back to the community.” So, the club embarked on a mission to work with at least one charity each month.

Since the club’s inception, they have volunteered with the Tony Robbins initiative, “Thanksgiving Basket,” raised money and purchased new bikes for kids at Christmas, performed random acts of kindness in the local community and more.

In February, Arthur Hairston III spoke with the teens. He and his wife are the founders of Strive Youth & Family Services (SYFS), which is a licensed agency under the supervision of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). They partner with Community Based Centers (CBC) for placing foster children in a group home.

After listening to Hairston, the teens asked how they could help. They came up with an idea to have a Sensory Toy Drive for kids with autism.

Throughout the month of February, the teens collected 400-plus sensory toys for the SYFS.

If you have a teen who is interested in being a part of the link teen club, contact Tawney at [jeff@thelink.zone](mailto:jeff@thelink.zone).



Contributed photo

Members of the link’s teen club are shown with some of the sensory toys they collected for children with autism.

# Robotics teams compete successfully

The Shiva Robotics Academy provides hands-on STEM training to students in Jacksonville. It offers LEGO/metal robot education to students in preschool through high school. Four of the academy’s teams qualified for the regional championship, and two were selected to take part in the state championship. For further information, go to [shivarobotics.com](http://shivarobotics.com).

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Photo courtesy of Eclipse Recording Company

### Camp Rock

# Amphitheater plans Camp Rock

The Friends of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre have announced the return of their popular summer camps. The application period for the Summer Music & Art Camp has passed, but registration is still being accepted for Camp Rock. Back after a four-year hiatus, Camp Rock is a unique experience for teens 12 to 18 years of age.

Both camps are designed to encourage children and youth to appreciate and explore the arts.

“We’re so excited that, as we celebrate our 15th year, the Friends can bring back two awesome summer camps,” says Mark Ramirez, president of the Friends Board of Directors. “The purpose of the Friends is to make the Amp a place for locals to enjoy. These tremendous programs get our kids together and introduce them to the transformative power of art and music — there’s nothing better!”

Camp Rock is a one-of-a-kind band ex-

perience for teens. It focuses on rock music instruction and organization. Kids can focus on guitar, bass, drums, keyboards or vocals; they must have some experience.

Instructors will group students into bands that will perform on the main stage of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and, through a partnership with Jim Stafford of Eclipse Studios, record their songs in a professional recording studio.

Camp Rock will be held July 22-26, with studio time scheduled from July 29 through Aug. 1. The cost is \$300 per camper and includes a nonrefundable \$25 deposit. Fees may be pre-paid on the Friends website at [fosaa.org/events](http://fosaa.org/events).

Scholarships are available; parents and/or guardians should submit a letter explaining why support is needed with their application. To register for Camp Rock 2024, contact [camprock@eclipserecording.com](mailto:camprock@eclipserecording.com).



# Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum plans St. Augustine site

The Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum is expanding its footprint in the Nation's Oldest City with the purchase of the historic Sanchez House at 105 St. George St. in St. Augustine.

Karpeles Manuscript Library Inc. CEO Mark Karpeles and CFO Cheryl Alleman, who are the son and daughter of the museum founder, the late David Karpeles, paid \$4.5 million for the property in January. The sellers were Michael and Pamela Pounds, Richard Pinto and Mary Dee Stensgaard.

Realtor Amy Alloways of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty represented the buyers of the transaction.

"We are thrilled that we found the perfect location for the Karpeles Manuscript Library on St. George Street," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty President Ann King. "Our company was working with Cheryl Alleman at Karpeles. Although the property wasn't up for sale at that time, we searched out and found an owner in a prime location who was willing to sell. Choosing the best location for a commercial real estate purchase takes thoughtful consideration and the right team to help meet the buyer's goals."

The interior renovations for the new full-size Karpeles Manuscript Library museum are underway with an opening planned in



Contributed photo

**The Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum is expanding with a new location coming soon to 105 St. George St. in St. Augustine.**

the summer.

Built in 1809, the Sanchez House spans more than 3,800 square feet and is located near the Columbia Restaurant. The building was previously the home of Sunburst Crystal and Far East Traders.

The Karpeles Manuscript Library currently operates a Mini Museum at 106 St. George St., which is across the street from the new location. It is the smallest walk-in museum in the United States. The Mini Museum encompasses about 100 square

feet in St. George's Row, a collection of indoor shops and restaurants. It displays reproductions of documents from the Karpeles collection, including a collection of original drawings from early Disney films.

Founded in 1983 by David and Marsha Karpeles, the Karpeles Manuscript Library archives contain one of the largest private collections of historic documents and manuscripts in the United States, with more than 10,000 pieces totaling about a million pages, in the categories of literature, science, religion, political history, exploration, music and art. To make the collection more accessible to the general public, all Karpeles museums are free to visit, and the collection rotates between its museums three times per year.

There are nine Karpeles Manuscript Library Museums in the United States including the two St. Augustine locations and a location in Lake Mary, which is the museum's headquarters. A Jacksonville museum, located at 101 W. First St. in Springfield, closed in January 2023 after 30 years.

For more information about the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museums, go to [karpeles.com](http://karpeles.com).

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, go to [FloridaNetworkRealty.com](http://FloridaNetworkRealty.com) or [FLNetworkRealty.com](http://FLNetworkRealty.com).

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Tim Forson and Horace Taylor family at a recent Take Stock in Children graduation



Tim Forson, Jessica Fader and family at a recent Take Stock in Children graduation

# Take Stock application deadline is March 11

Investing in Kids (INK!) is accepting applications for the Take Stock in Children St. Johns County scholarship and mentoring program.

Families of current eighth- and ninth-grade public school students who meet the program criteria can apply online at [apply.ink-stjohns.org](http://apply.ink-stjohns.org) by Monday, March 11. INK! has 30 scholarship opportunities to award to qualifying eighth and ninth graders.

Take Stock in Children is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1995 to offer high-potential, low-income underrepresented students the resources needed to graduate from high school, complete post-secondary education and succeed in career and life. The Take Stock St. Johns program offers students an opportunity to earn a college or technical school scholarship, mentorship throughout high school and a comprehensive support system to help students attain higher learning and succeed in career and life.

Since 1998, INK! has been the exclusive umbrella agency for the program in St. Johns County.

Students accepted into the Take Stock program agree to maintain a 2.5 GPA, stay in high school through graduation and remain drug and crime free. Each student is paired with a volunteer mentor



Contributed photos

Aidan Bryant, James Wheeler and Horace Taylor at a recent Take Stock in Children graduation.

who offers support, guidance and encouragement throughout the student's high school years. Students and mentors meet regularly during the school year.

Upon graduation and successful completion of the Take Stock program, a student will earn a scholarship equal to two years (60 credit hours) at a Florida state college or post-secondary technical school, worth approximately \$6,500.

To date, more than 41,850 students throughout Florida have earned a scholarship through the Take Stock in Children

program. Since 2007, more than 98% of Take Stock St. Johns County students have enrolled in a post-secondary institution in the fall semester following high school graduation.

Interested families of eighth- and ninth-grade students can submit applications online at [apply.ink-stjohns.org](http://apply.ink-stjohns.org) or by paper copy to INK!, or through public school guidance counselors by the March 11 deadline. For more information or to request a paper application, contact Jim Wheeler, INK!'s director of operations

and students programs, at 904-547-7121 or email [James.Wheeler@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:James.Wheeler@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or go to [takestockinchildrensjc.org](http://takestockinchildrensjc.org).

Take Stock in Children Inc. is a non-profit mentoring, college success and college scholarship organization dedicated to transforming Florida one student at a time. The mission is to break the cycle of poverty for low-income, underrepresented, academically qualified students by providing opportunities for degree attainment through post-secondary education.

The organization provides wraparound services to students through an innovative multi-year model from middle through post-secondary school completion. For more information, go to [takestockinchildren.org](http://takestockinchildren.org).

The St. Johns County Education Foundation Inc., which operates as Investing in Kids (INK!), promotes success for all St. Johns County public school students and teachers by providing innovative programs, teacher support, classroom resources and scholarships to benefit more than 52,000 students and approximately 3,200 teachers.

INK! is a 501(c)3 education foundation with offices located at 1 Christopher St. in St. Augustine. For more information, contact Cathy Newman at [catherine.newman@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:catherine.newman@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or 904-547-7120 or go to [ink-stjohns.org](http://ink-stjohns.org).




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# Sunset Cruise for a Cause supports access to marine education

When Jessica Jadick, executive director of the Florida Water Warriors, was a small child, she dreamed of spending days on the water, studying dolphins, turtles, manatees and the ocean. She now dreams of bringing those same experiences to children, creating the next generation of marine scientists and environmentalists.

Sunset Cruise for a Cause raises funds for the Florida Water Warriors, a 501(c)(3) with a mission to provide equitable marine science education for all. Sunset Cruise for a Cause will be held 6-9 p.m. April 27, departing from the Camachee Cove Yacht Harbor in St. Augustine.

“Florida Water Warriors believes that every child deserves to share in the wondrous experience that is marine science,” said Jadick, who also runs Florida Water Tours and Floating Food Co. “We provide science field trips that allow kids to actually be a scientist for a day. These hands-on experiences build confidence, create an understanding of the world and show children the importance of a well-balanced and protected ecosystem.”

Sunset Cruise for a Cause is a fundraising event designed to unite the commu-



nity through the shared goal of education and conservation. The evening begins with a dockside silent auction. At 7:30 p.m., it's all aboard for a 90-minute sunset cruise on the Tolomato and Matanzas rivers. Guests can look for wildlife, admire St. Augustine's historic landmarks and watch the sun set behind the cityscape



while grazing on bespoke charcuterie boards by Floating Food Company.

Sunset Cruise for a Cause departs from Dock A-19 at Camachee Cove Yacht Harbor, 107 Yacht Club Drive in St. Augustine. Tickets may be purchased at [floridawaterwarriors.org/events](http://floridawaterwarriors.org/events).

Sunset Cruise for a Cause is still

seeking sponsors. Florida Water Warriors offers four sponsorship levels, each designed to offer marketing benefits, including social media exposure, radio spotlights, signage, tickets and speaking opportunities. Businesses can invest in a multimodal marketing opportunity while supporting Florida Water Warrior's 2024 educational season. To inquire about sponsorship opportunities, email [flwwarriors@gmail.com](mailto:flwwarriors@gmail.com).

“Our team is passionate about investing in our youth and providing unique educational opportunities,” said Jadick. “Sunset Cruise with a Cause is a wonderful opportunity for local businesses, organizations, and the community to support our local students and the environment.”

Florida Water Warriors is a nonprofit that provides K-12 students with eco-educational programming that teaches conservation through experiential learning, wildlife observation, discussion and data collection. Located at 107 Yacht Club Drive in St. Augustine, Florida Water Warriors offers community science tours, group education tours and more.

Learn more at [floridawaterwarriors.org](http://floridawaterwarriors.org).



# Business Weekly

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[www.PonteVedraRecorder.com](http://www.PonteVedraRecorder.com)

## Library programs coordinator Karen Newsome named Employee of the Year

St. Johns County Library Programs Coordinator Karen Newsome recently received the Employee of the Year honor at the annual St. Johns County Service Awards, held at River House, 179 Marine St., St. Augustine.

Newsome began her career with the St. Johns County Public Library System on May 10, 1993. She started at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library and has since worked at four library branches, the Bookmobile and in library administration.

Currently, Newsome is the program coordinator in the Youth Services team at the Southeast Branch, where she fulfills her dream of working with children. She can often be found singing and dancing during story times, teaching a group of teens how to cook, constructing new and exciting activities for tweens, or instructing a room of children (and their parents) how to investigate crimes using science and technology.

There is no task too big or small that Newsome won't take on to make her programs more enjoyable for all. She is an innovative collaborator and strong leader, always keeping the patron's perspective in mind. Newsome's colleagues describe her as patient, enthusiastic, knowl-



Contributed photo

**St. Johns County Library programs coordinator Karen Newsome received the Employee of the Year honor at the annual St. Johns County Service Awards.**

edgeable and incredibly hardworking. She approaches any challenging situation with thoughtful consideration and creative ideas, working diligently until the issue is resolved.

Newsome is a mother of two daughters, Mallory and Marissa, and will soon be a first-time grandmother. She is engaged to be married to her fiancé, Mark, in March. In her free time, Newsome enjoys raising and releasing monarch butterflies. On the library system's team, she brings creativity, positivity and dedication to her job daily.

Including Newsome, this year's iteration of the County Service Awards saw 188 employees recognized for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service. Joy Andrews, St. Johns County Administrator, welcomed and congratulated the honorees.

"Today, we celebrate a combined 2,770 years of service to our community," St. Johns County Commissioner Sarah Arnold said. "Yes, you heard me correctly, 2,770 years! That is incredible – but even more so, it is inspirational. It is amazing to think that we have so many professionals who come to work as public servants to make St. Johns County a better place to call home."

## Jacksonville University dean elected to association board

Barbara Ritter, dean of the Davis College of Business and Technology at Jacksonville University, recently was elected to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business Board of Directors as an official of an Organization from the Americas region.

"Barbara is to be congratulated on this outstanding achievement, particularly considering the remarkably competent nominees selected by the nominating committee to run in this year's election," said association President and CEO Lily Bi.

Ritter, who has been at the helm of Davis College since 2020, was among only four other individuals selected to the international board that hail from universities, which include North Carolina State University; University of California, San Diego; St. Mary's University and Texas Tech University. She will serve a three-year term and will take office July 1.

"I'm delighted and honored to be invited to serve on the board of directors," Ritter said. "Not only is this an exciting opportunity to collaborate with talented colleagues in shaping change at



Contributed photo

**Barbara Ritter was recently elected to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business Board of Directors.**

the most fundamental levels of higher education, but AACSB's vision in many ways parallels what we are doing here at the JU Davis College of Business and

Technology, which is also accredited by the AACSB."

Ritter, a St. Johns County resident, is an expert in the field of organizational behavior and management education with more than 100 publications and presentations in this area. She has experience consulting in the areas of organizational culture, human resource policies, employee satisfaction and selection as well as promotion, performance appraisal and development and data collection and analysis.

She's a recipient of numerous awards, including the Beta Gamma Sigma Outstanding Chapter Advisor, the Horry County Stardust Award for Outstanding Contribution and the MOBTS Peter Frost Mentoring Award, which acknowledges individuals who are distinguished as gifted teachers and scholars and who unselfishly impart these gifts through mentoring students, colleagues and associates.

In 2020, Ritter was recognized by MOBTS with the David L. Bradford Outstanding Educator Award, which acknowledges a person with consistently

demonstrated achievement over a lifetime, focusing on teaching and learning excellence. She earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in industrial and organizational psychology from the University of Akron.

Founded in 1916, the association is a nonprofit organization that provides quality assurance, business education intelligence and learning and development services to more than 1,850 member organizations and more than 950 accredited business schools worldwide. Linking education, business, and society, it drives change in priority areas such as accreditation standards, societal impact, leadership and advocacy.

The JU Davis College of Business and Technology is the only triple-accredited private college in all of North Florida and South Georgia, with AACSB, ABET and AABI accredited programs. Its mission is to empower students to achieve sustainable career success with a high quality, relevant and applied educational experience that is delivered by faculty committed to advancing the individual development of each student.



# In the Arts



Send your arts news to  
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THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024 · PAGE 34 www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## 'Penzance' to be staged

First Coast Opera will stage Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance" on March 15 and 17 in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College. Tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com or by calling 904-417-5555.

Join charming pirate apprentice Frederic on his quest to escape the pirates' clutches, find true love and discover his own identity in this swashbuckling adventure and uproarious comic operetta. Filled with witty dialogue, catchy tunes and a delightful cast of characters, this lighthearted romp promises laughter and joy for all ages.

### Fun Pirate Discount Partner:

- Book a room at The Local — St. Augustine and get a discount with code PIRATE
- Get a \$3 discount off admission at the St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum
- Old Town Trolley Tours 25% discount — use code FCO2024 at www.trusted-tours.net/sagroups

### If You Go

When: Friday, March 15, and Sunday, March 17.  
Where: Lewis Auditorium, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine

Go to firstcoastopera.com or contact the box office at 904-417-5555 for more information and to purchase tickets.

## Crisp-Ellert Art Museum debuts new exhibit

The Crisp-Ellert Art Museum (CEAM) and Flagler College have announced a new exhibit curated by Laura Novoa and Adler Guerrier. "A landscape longed for: The garden as disturbance" features work by 15 artists, each of whom, using various mediums and perspectives, explores the motif of the garden in its relation to the cultivation and expression of beauty and knowledge.

The exhibition will be on view through April 20 at the museum, 48 Sevilla St. in St. Augustine.

"A landscape longed for: The garden as disturbance" takes inspiration from the writings of Jamaica Kincaid. Kincaid, a gardener and lay horticulturist, wrote lovingly about the modalities felt within her garden — frustrations and disturbances accompanied by joy and amazement. Despite the planning, plotting and formulating that are implemented, Kincaid is aware that nature cannot be fully contained or controlled. It disturbs the best-laid plans and forces us to adapt and to be responsive to the unknown, to continually envision and hope for a better future.

The exhibit features the works of Laura Castro, Carolina Casusol, Sandi Haber Fifield, David Hartt, Jim Hodges, Mark Fleuridor, Candice Lin, Cathy Lu, Lee Mary Manning, Ana Mendieta, Reginald O'Neal, Ebony Patterson, Ema Ri, Onajide



"Fragment, 2014" by David Hartt. 24-by-48-by-48. Cast bronze. Photo courtesy of the artist and David Nolan Gallery

Shabaka and Kandis Williams.

The artists consider the intricacies of the garden as a metaphor for the larger world, using it as a framework to consider cultural, social, political, geographical and historical issues.

"A landscape longed for: The garden as disturbance" builds on the exhibit's first iteration, showcased at Locust Projects in Miami in 2021. There, works were displayed with dialogues addressing notions of fragility, remembrance, ornamentation, beauty and affective traces in the landscape.

At CEAM, the show's themes extend to ecological interdependence, homage, rever-

ence, refuge, renewal and time emphatically spent on the creation and nourishment of our inner lives.

Novoa is a curator and arts administrator based in Miami where she works as assistant director of programs and community engagement at the Bakehouse Art Complex. She has curated exhibitions for the Miami Design District, Locust Projects, Oolite Arts and YoungArts, among others.

Guerrier is an artist based in Miami who has presented his works in exhibitions at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Orlando Museum of Art, Pérez Art Museum Miami, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale and CEAM.

Please note that the museum will be closed from March 11 to 15 during Flagler College's spring break.

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"Ambient Music, 2022" by Mary Manning. Chromogenic print. Photo courtesy of the artist and CANADA, New York. Photography by Joe DeNardo.



# Free concert is Sunday

The Beaches Fine Arts Series will present the Kenari Quartet in a free concert of great saxophone music on Sunday, March 10, at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, Jacksonville Beach. Doors open at 3:15 p.m. and seating is first come, first served. The performance begins at 4 p.m. A reception follows with an art exhibit by Hillary Hogue. For more information, call 904-270-1771 or go to [beachesfinearts.org](http://beachesfinearts.org). The signature concert sponsor for this performance is Oceanside Rotary.

Contributed photo



# Gallery puts out call for art



Butterfield Garage is inviting artists of all ages and abilities to join the gallery in celebrating its 25th anniversary Open Community Art Project by creating and exhibiting artwork that speaks to the concept of "Influences."

Is it the teacher, mentor artist that encouraged you? Or a painting you saw in a museum? Maybe it's the beauty of nature or emotions inside that drive you to create. Be as creative as you like in your interpretation.

Draw it, paint it, collage it — be creative! Canvases and entry forms can be picked up at Butterfield Garage Art Gallery now. Entry fee is \$10 per entry and includes an 8-by-8-inch canvas. Works created with materials other than the canvas supplied must conform to the 8-by-8-inch dimensions.

Entry forms are available at the gallery, or on the Butterfield Garage website, [butterfieldgarage.com](http://butterfieldgarage.com). The gallery is open every day, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All entries must be received at Butterfield Garage Art Gallery no later than April 30. Exhibit opening reception will take place May 3, and the exhibit will continue through May 30. Artists decide if their work will be for sale. Butterfield Garage will handle any sales and will retain a 15% fee. Contact the gallery for further information.

Butterfield Garage Art Gallery is located at 137 King St., St. Augustine. The email address is [info@butterfieldgarage.com](mailto:info@butterfieldgarage.com). Phone: 904-825-4577.

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## Terence Blanchard

Featuring the E-Collective and Turtle Island Quartet



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# THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE



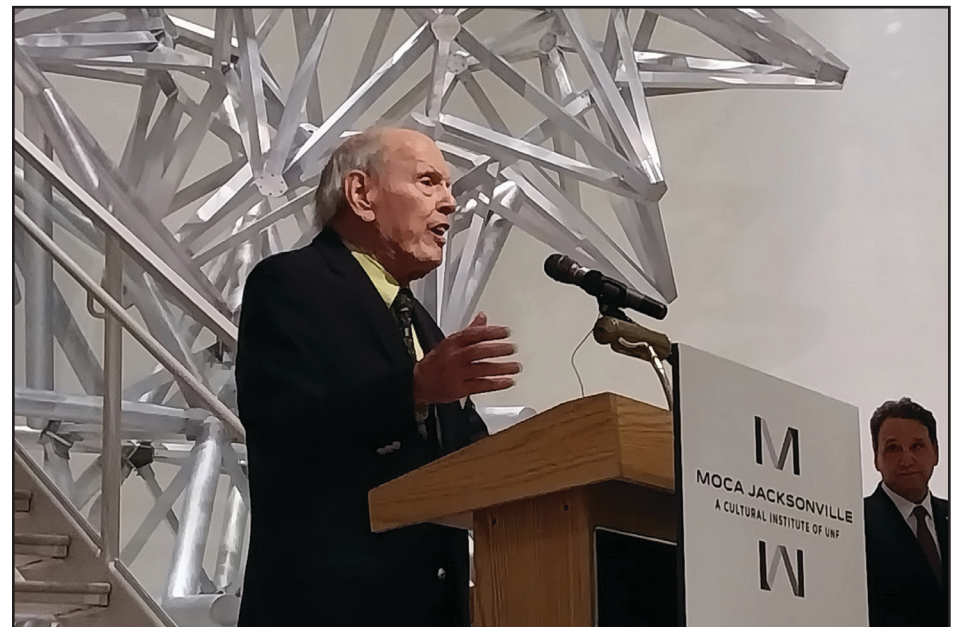
TICKETS (904) 417-5555 | [FIRSTCOASTOPERA.COM](http://FIRSTCOASTOPERA.COM)

*First Coast Opera*





Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan, left, holds up her proclamation during the recent event at MOCA. Standing next to Deegan are the museum's Executive Director Caitlin Doherty and University of North Florida President Moez Limayem.



Preston Haskell, presenting sponsor for "Project Atrium: Frank Stella," speaks to the assembled crowd.

Photos by Shaun Ryan

## MOCA

Continued from 1

the University of North Florida.

Deegan noted that MOCA is "the oldest art museum in the region and the second contemporary art museum to be established in the United States" and paid tribute to the "four, visionary local women artists" credited with its founding.

University of North Florida President Moez Limayem called MOCA "the bridge between UNF and this great community."

He added that research showed a relationship between students' success and their exposure to art in their education, calling the creation of a partnership between the university and the museum in 2009 a "defining moment."

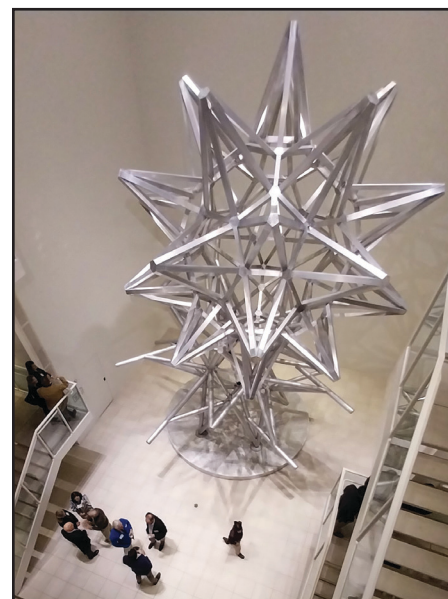
"MOCA is UNF, and UNF is MOCA," he declared.

In addition to the multi-story "Jacksonville Stacked Stars" installation, Stella was represented in several prints exhibited around the lobby and a special slideshow and lecture in the museum's theater presented by Senior Curator Ylva Rouse.

Rouse traced the artist's career through its evolution over several periods and described her visit two years ago to Stella's studio in Rock Tavern, New York, a former airplane hangar.

"He really is one of the 20th century's most innovative and productive artists," Rouse told the assembly.

Because the sculpture, consisting of two tremendous "stars" stacked vertically, was too large to bring into the museum whole, it had to be assembled in the atrium from pieces small enough to pass through the front door. Its weight was also an issue, and a special base had to be created to distribute that weight over a



Frank Stella's "Jacksonville Stacked Stars" dominates the MOCA atrium.

sizable area.

This is Stella's fourth MOCA exhibit, the last being in 2018.

"I am so grateful that he has added MOCA Jacksonville to his constellation," said Executive Director Caitlin Doherty.

Preston Haskell, presenting sponsor for "Project Atrium: Frank Stella" and longtime friend of the artist, expressed a hope that such occasions would attract other artists, galleries and institutions to Jacksonville's downtown, helping it to become more of a cultural center.

MOCA is located at 333 N. Laura St. It is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and the first and third Wednesday until 9 p.m. Admission to the museum's first floor is free to the public. Admission fees beyond that are modest.

For more information, go to [mocajacksonville.unf.edu](http://mocajacksonville.unf.edu).

# Rob Ickes & Trey Hensley to play The Waterworks

The Gamble Rogers Folk Festival and St. Johns Cultural Council co-present "Live From The Waterworks," a monthly concert series hosted at this venue built in 1898. The series is now in its second year, running every October to June, and aims to do what the annual Gamble Rogers Folk Festival does every April: celebrate folk music by showcasing musicians who echo Rogers' balladry, storytelling and guitar skill.

On Saturday, March 16, Rob Ickes and Trey Hensley will perform at The Waterworks with special guest Larry Mangum.

Called "two musical phenoms" by NPR, Ickes and Hensley are a musical duo like no other.

Ickes grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and started playing the Dobro guitar as a teenager. He later moved to Nashville, playing on records with the best in the business, including Vince Gill, Alan Jackson, Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire, Earl Scruggs, Merle Haggard and Alison Krauss.

He is the most decorated musician in IBMA (International Bluegrass Music Association) history, earning an unprecedented number (15 and counting) of Dobro Player of the Year accolades.



Contributed photo

### Rob Ickes and Trey Hensley

Hensley grew up in East Tennessee and started singing gospel at the age of 6. After attending his first bluegrass festival, he was inspired to play guitar. By age 11, the guitar prodigy was invited to perform at the life-changing Grand Ole Opry. He has earned IBMA Guitar Player of the Year nominations and has performed with Johnny Cash, Charlie Daniels, The Oak Ridge Boys, Ricky Skaggs, Peter Frampton and Old Crow Medicine Show.

The two musical forces have been called "bluegrass

aces" by Rolling Stone and "two of the finest musicians playing today" by No Depression. All four of their albums have received widespread acclaim, including their first, which was nominated for a Grammy.

Known for their white-hot picking, soulful stone country vocals and world class musicianship, Ickes and Hensley have a signature style that defies genre while melding together bluegrass, country, blues, rock, jamgrass and string band music. They've shared stages with Tommy Emmanuel, Taj Mahal, Vince Gill, Marty Stuart and Steve Wariner.

They'll be joined by special guest, singer-songwriter and troubadour Mangum. Originally from North Carolina, but now calling Jacksonville home, Mangum is an award-winning folk, rock, country and Americana artist.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. The intimate venue sells only 120 tickets, so don't miss this special opportunity. Tickets are \$20 each and are available on Eventbrite.

The 28th Annual Gamble Rogers Folk Festival is also coming soon. Held at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds on April 12-14, the three-day music fest will feature dozens of folk, Americana and bluegrass bands on four stages. Tickets are available on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).



# Sports



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For LIVE Sports and updates, follow our Twitter, @PVR\_sports

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## Local honored with Argentine golf award

Francisco “Paco” Aleman received the Argentine Golf Association Award to honor his career during the 117th VISA Open de Argentina. Paco lives in Ponte Vedra along with his wife Connie, son Fran and daughter Olivia. He is currently a golf analyst for Golf Channel Latin America. The award recognizes those who have helped to grow the game of golf in Argentina and for being an ambassador of Argentine golf around the world.



Francisco “Paco” Aleman joins the likes of World Golf Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam by being an award recipient



Aleman celebrates his award with his wife and daughter Maria.

Contributed photos

## Reinheimer on winning track team

In the recent ACC Men’s Indoor Track & Field Championships, runners from Ponte Vedra High School competed on the winning team from University of North Carolina. UNC last won the ACC Indoor Track & Field Championship in 1996.

Kyle Reinheimer (of Ponte Vedra High’s “COVID” class of 2020) is a member of the UNC men’s distance medley relay (DMR) team that finished second in the DMR at the ACC Championships at 9:34.74. Reinheimer holds the school record at Ponte Vedra High in the 800m at 1:53 and also broke the school record for the 800m at UNC at 1:48.36.

In the Feb. 17 DMR at Notre Dame, the team broke the ACC record and ran the fourth fastest time in NCAA history at 9:17.92.



Ponte Vedra High School alumnus Kyle Reinheimer runs in the recent DMR event.

Contributed photo



Lily Morse (No. 17) and Jenny Dearie (No. 9) were two dynamic scoring threats for the Sharks this season.

## State title

Continued from 1

defense.

Until the final four, they had not allowed a goal, as senior goalkeeper Audrey Johnson was a wall in net as she backed up a stout defensive play in front of her.

On offense, the Sharks had weapons throughout the lineup, but the focus of the attack centered around the play of sophomores Lily Morse and Natalie Brooks, along with junior Jenny Dearie.

Together, the three combined for 56 of the Sharks’ 76 goals heading into the final four, including Morse leading the team with 21 goals of her own.



The Sharks have a lot to celebrate as they ended the season ranked No. 1 in the state and nation across all classes according to MaxPreps.

East Lake earned a spot in the title game by beating Viera 1-0 in their semifinal matchup and proved to be an opponent that could keep pace with the Sharks offensively, having scored 78 goals through the regional finals.

And although they got one in the game it was not nearly enough to upset the Sharks, who entered the final four as the No. 1

seed and are ranked as the top team in the state and the national across all classes, according to MaxPreps.

The Sharks are the first of three Sharks winter sports squads to have a shot at a state title with boys and girls basketball both set to play their state semifinal matchups on March 7.

Photos by Anthony Richards



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**Legals**

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

Notice is hereby given that the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council will meet via Zoom teleconference on **Monday, March 18, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.** The purpose of this meeting is for the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council to consider and take action on items on its agenda. The meeting agenda and materials can be obtained electronically by emailing ikeane@thefirewatch.org.

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

**By Computer**  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82840999257?pwd=N0FDdTndOWU9UzlnTlplONVvOjRvQ090  
Meeting ID: 828 4099 9257  
Passcode: 993913

**By Phone**  
+1 929 205 6099  
Pursuant to Section 163.01(18), Florida Statutes, this meeting is being conducted through the use of communications media technology. Additionally, those who unable to access the call can attend the meeting in a communications media technology facility located in the offices of **Office Evolution, 5011 Gate Parkway, Building 100, Suite 100, Jacksonville, FL 32256.**

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

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

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

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

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please submit ADA accommodations requests to ikeane@thefirewatch.org.

Legal 102249 Published 3/7/2024 in St. Johns County's Ponte Vedra Recorder newspaper

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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**

1. Chaps
5. Currently fashionable
9. Collision
11. More slim
13. European city
15. Implicitly
16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
17. The Mount Rushmore State
19. Gold or silver wire cord
21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
22. Trent Reznor's band
23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
25. Broken branch
26. Indicates ten
27. Expression of annoyance
29. Brings together
31. Ancient city in Thrace
33. Sailors' spirit
34. Looked into
36. Muckraking woman journalist Rheta
38. A type of cast
39. One's responsibility
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most supernatural
56. "Dennis" is a famous one
57. Ointments
58. Exam
59. Leaked blood

**DOWN**

1. Baseball managers assemble it
2. Revised
3. Mountain is a popular kind
4. Takes to civil court
5. Pouches
6. A type of veil
7. Chants
8. Boston hoopster
9. Elongated appendage
10. Sailboat
11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
12. Actor Gosling
14. Monetary units
15. Assembly
18. Russian pop duo
20. Embellished with expressions

24. Infrequent
26. Temperature unit
28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Honk
32. Legislative body
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Sick

**SUDOKU**

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

Level: Advanced

**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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