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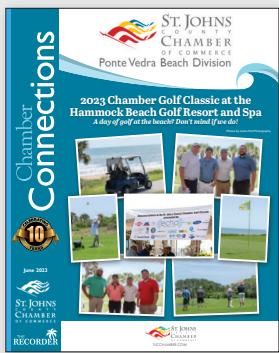
June 29, 2023
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PonteVedraRecorder.com



First Coast Register
INSIDE



Connections
Page 11



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!
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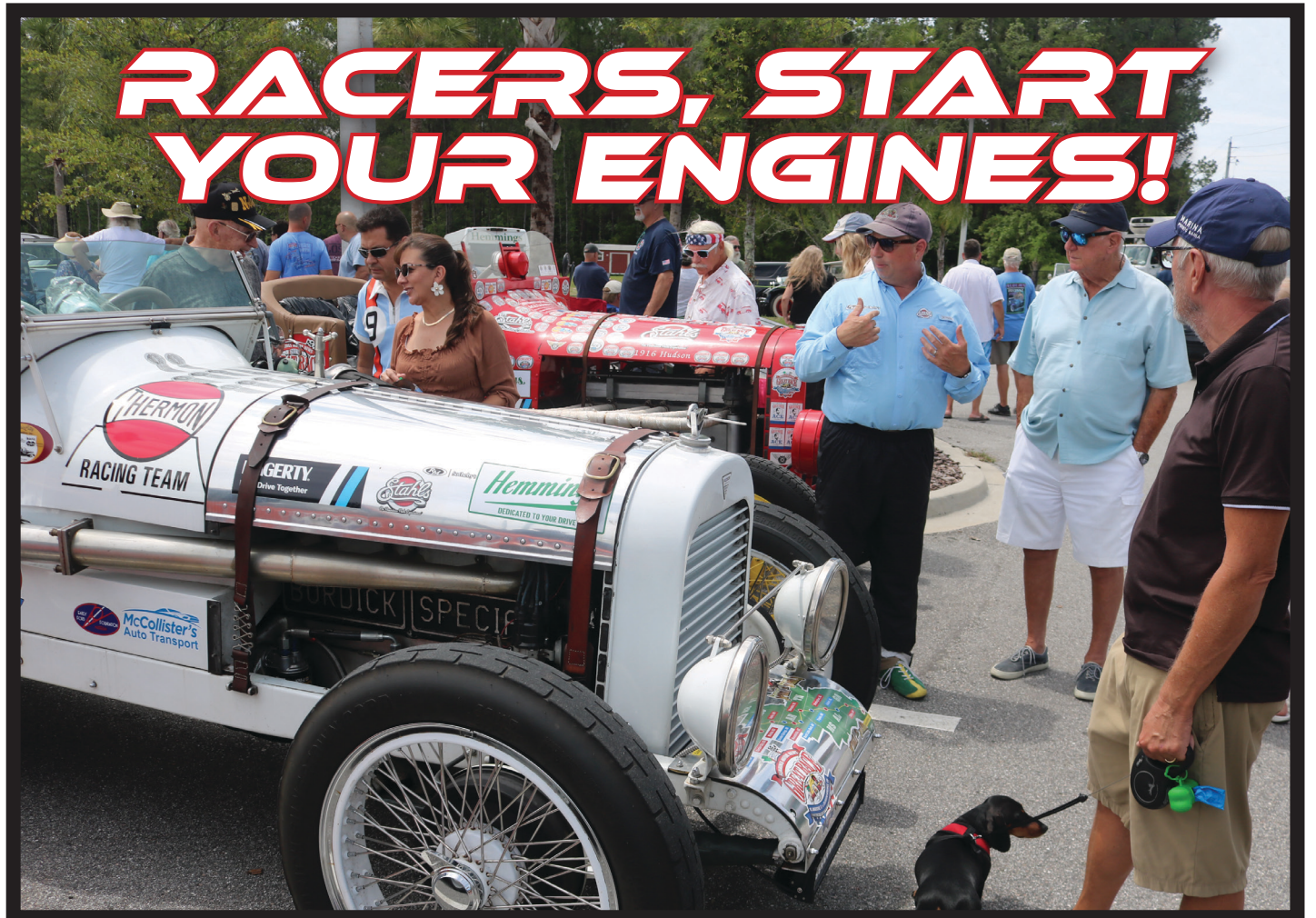


Photo by Anthony Richards

Attendees marvel at a 1916 Hudson Speedster, which was one of 120 classic vehicles taking place in this year's The Great Race that features a route that started in St. Augustine June 24 and will end in Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 2. Read the full story and see photos from the practice rally held at the Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine on page 8.

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INSIDE

One of Us

Page 6

Business Weekly

Pages 25-26

In the Arts

Page 27

Sports

Pages 28-29

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



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5	8	2	9	4	6	1	7	3
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County awarded food, shelter funds

United Way of St. Johns County has announced that \$28,632 in federal funds has been awarded to St. Johns County through Phase 40 of the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.



engaging the community and leveraging resources. Success is measured not by dollars raised, but by lives improved and changed.

Go to unitedway-sjc.org for more information.

A local board made up of county, city and human services agencies along with United Way of St. Johns County will determine how funds are to be distributed among emergency food and shelter programs in the local service area.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local organizations, whether nonprofit or government, may apply. To receive funds, the organization must conduct an annual audit, practice non-discrimination policies and have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and shelter programs.

Examples of how program funds can be used include the following: food (served meals or groceries), lodging in a mass shelter or hotel, equipment necessary to feed or shelter people and one month's rent, mortgage or utility bill.

Qualifying programs are urged to apply or obtain additional information by contacting Jenny Harvey at jenny.harvey@unitedway-sjc.org or 904-829-9721.

Serving both Putnam and St. Johns counties, United Way of St. Johns County is the only organization that brings together agencies, businesses, organizations, faith-based groups, government and individuals to focus on the community problems that matter most.

Partners share the vision and have the energy, passion, expertise and resources to get the work done.

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Jay Fund hosts weekend, vigil for families having lost a child to cancer

Photos courtesy of the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund



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Photos by Susan Griffin



Goodwill Industries of North Florida Inc. held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to welcome the re-opening of its Jacksonville Beach location.



The second floor of the location houses a GoodCareers center, a no-cost, full-service career center for people who want to find a job and develop the skills to be successful in their search.

Goodwill Industries' Jacksonville Beach location reopens

Goodwill Industries of North Florida Inc. has made its return to the Jacksonville Beach community, re-opening its 25,500-square-foot retail store and donation center at 1036 Beach Blvd. on Thursday, June 22, following a massive overhaul.

The store had been closed since No-

ember.

The store's much-anticipated return unveils a new two-story shopping and office complex featuring a retail store, a donation drive-through and a GoodCareers job center.

The free-standing building in Jacksonville Beach features an enlarged and

bright sales floor, a larger backroom for processing donations, plentiful parking and a convenient canopy-covered drive-through for customers to donate their gently used items, without having to leave their cars.

The second floor houses a GoodCareers center, a no-cost, full-service career center for people who want to find a job and develop the skills to be successful in their search. GoodCareers centers offer hundreds of current job leads, soft skills workshops, use of computers for resumé prep and job searches, on-site interviews, career fairs, a Hello Line (a telephone line reserved for participants without a phone to allow employers to contact them), individualized career counseling and more.


"There has been so much enthusiasm and anticipation in the local community

around the renovation of our popular Jacksonville Beach location," said David Rey, Goodwill Industries of North Florida's president and CEO. "This refreshed retail store is more reflective of our store model going forward, and we'll be able to serve more people now with the addition of drive-through donation and an expanded GoodCareers center.

"It's essential to our mission that we maintain that local support and engagement because our retail stores are the economic engine that supports our programs designed to train and employ individuals, removing barriers to employment."


Store hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.


For more information, go to goodwilljax.org.





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Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club celebrates 40 years

Submitted by Jennifer Logue

In June 1983, a small group of local businessmen got together and formally chartered the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Today, the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary has grown into a respected nonprofit that has donated more than \$1.5 million to local charities and community improvement projects. That legacy was celebrated Sunday, June 25, when 100 Rotarians and guests gathered to mark the club's 40th anniversary. Held at Palm Valley Outdoors along the banks of the Intracoastal Waterway, the celebration brought together Rotarians old and new who reminisced about the club's early days and celebrated its philanthropic achievements.

Past president and event emcee Bruce Barber displayed items from a club time capsule, noting that when the club was founded, its membership was open only to men, who were expected to wear suits and ties to every meeting. Today, the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club includes 114 members — 34 of them women — and

the dress code is a bit more relaxed.

Barber also recognized some of the founding club members who attended the celebration — among them, founding club President Steve Melching and past presidents Bill Hill and Jim Hoener. Current club President Doc Renuart, meanwhile, thanked Rotarians for remaining committed to the club's motto of "Service Above Self" and for their efforts to support both Rotary International's humanitarian and polio eradication efforts as well as the club's efforts to raise money for countless local charities.

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach holds weekly breakfast meetings at Marsh Landing Country Club. Through its annual Mineral City Celebration, the club raises funds to support local nonprofits such as K9s for Warriors, the Council on Aging, BEAM, Beaches Dial-a-Ride, PACE Center for Girls, Boys & Girls Clubs and more. Club members also join together to complete local community service projects.

For more information or to learn how to become a Rotarian, contact pvbrotary-club@gmail.com.



Photo provided by Jennifer Logue

Attendees at the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club's 40th anniversary celebration included, from left, District Governor Jeff Michelman, club President Doc Renuart and club charter members Steve Melching, Bill Hill and Jim Hoener.

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Please go to <https://pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2023> to vote daily through late July for me in all categories, and for your other favorites!

I am grateful for your support again this year!

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Shawn Spencer is the vice president and general manager of the new Randy Marion Cadillac dealership, which recently purchased Claude Nolan Cadillac and is located along Southside Boulevard in Jacksonville. The dealership is the 16th in the Randy Marion family and the first outside of the state of North Carolina. Spencer is ready to embrace the opportunity of helping his uncle Randy Marion and the family business take this next step and brings years of experience to the table with him.

Shawn Spencer

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I was born and raised in Charleston, West Virginia, and went to school at West Virginia State University and got a two-year degree in chemistry before going to work for Union Carbide in the chemical industry.

DOW ended up buying Union Carbide and I ended up retiring from DOW after 20 years of service, and that's when I went to work for Randy (Marion), who's actually my uncle.

I had my little boy, who was 3 months old at the time, when my wife and I moved to North Carolina with our jobs and I started selling cars part-time at first, just to see if I'd like the business, but I ended up falling in love with it.

Randy and his wife Betty have been like parents to me my whole life, and we grew up all vacationing together.

I just knew that one day I would be working for him at some point in my life. I just didn't have a clue when, until it happened.

Did working in the chemical world translate to car sales?

DOW and Union Carbide were big corporations with thousands and thousands of employees, so they had a lot of procedures and processes, and I think having those attributes and bringing that to the car business has really helped me.

Car sales is all about staying in constant communication with your customers and keeping all your T's crossed and I's dotted when it comes to the financial side of things.

Now as a general manager, I'm trying to instill in these guys some of those same things that I have found work. It's not about trying to change the way they do things, but maybe just help hone them a little bit and get them thinking about the process.

What led to Randy Marion opening its first location in Florida?

Randy's been coming to Ponte Vedra for almost 40 years as the automotive group he was with came to the area for their management group meetings all the time.

He and my aunt just fell in love with the place, and rightfully so, because it's pretty much like a resort down here.

They always said they would like to maybe live here one day and about 15 years ago bought a beach house down on Ponte Vedra Boulevard, and we've been coming down here with the family for years now.

He had his eye on this store for a long time and it was finally brought to his attention that there was a chance they were looking to sell it.

Jack Helmick was the owner of Claude Nolan Cadillac and he wanted to interview my uncle, so they set up a meeting at my uncle's beach house.

We are a family business, and they are a family business, so we knew where they were coming from and we've actually formed a relationship between the families out of all this.

One of the things we are most proud of is that we did not get rid of one person after taking over, and that's the



Photo courtesy of Shawn Spencer

Shawn Spencer with his wife Jaime on the showroom floor at the new Randy Marion Cadillac dealership in Jacksonville.

way we do every sale we're a part of.

We're continuing to grow rapidly and this gives us 16 stores now.

Have you noticed differences in the Jacksonville car market compared to North Carolina?

There is definitely a car culture here. If you drive enough around this area, you're going to see a lot of really nice vehicles.

Working for a stand-alone Cadillac store is a whole different array of buyers compared to other brands.

Cadillac definitely has a different marketing style right now, because with them in racing, the V-Series cars and the new all-electric Lyriq, they are really focusing more on the younger generation and pick up that market share as well.

What are your goals for the dealership down the road?

We'd like to grow the average units to about 100 a month, and we already have 70 used cars out there on the lot now compared to the 20 that were there when we took over.

Our big focus is definitely about volume and getting

our name on the street while also making sure someone's getting a good bang for their buck. That's what we pride ourselves on.

When the manufacturers are ready to provide new car inventory, we'll be ready to accept it.

We're only just over 45 days into this thing, so it's still pretty fresh and everyone's still adjusting.

What do you love most about living in Ponte Vedra Beach?

My wife and son moved to the area after he got out of school.

I'm a huge college basketball fan and we've been huge Duke supporters for a while now, so I have a passion for sports.

We're going to be Jaguars fans and I already told my son he'll be wearing Jaguars gear.

When it comes to hobbies, we love going to the beach or really anything that has to do with hanging out around the water, and then we're also foodies and love to try out new restaurants. We just love finding all the mom-and-pop places where the locals like to go to eat.

Supper Club guests dine ‘abroad’ during immersive event

Five-course meal at link studio transports diners to UAE

By Shaun Ryan

Local diners enjoyed an exceptional, five-course, “Arabian Nights” repast Sunday, June 25, at Abu Dhabi’s Sheik Zayed Grand Mosque — without leaving Nocatee.

The meal, created by Chef Wesley Nogueira, was served in the Flagler Health+ 360 Immersive Studio at the link, 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra. Cuisine aficionados will recognize Nogueira from the Food Network’s “Beachside Brawl.”

Inside the intimate dining space, table mates introduced themselves and shared stories with one another as still images and video depicting relevant scenes encircled them. The aromas of the evening’s fare further enhanced the experience.

The event was part of the link’s ongoing Supper Club series. Each month, featured chefs prepare meals with a specific cultural context. The experience has been described as a “dining journey.”

Sunday, as guests stepped into the lobby of the link, they were welcomed by a short

video and served a glass of wine. Talented henna artist Neha Shah was on hand to create ornate, temporary tattoos for anyone who wanted to give them a try.

Entering the immersive studio by way of a red carpet, the guests were transported to the evening’s locale — for this occasion, United Arab Emirates. Every seat offered a good view of the cultural surroundings projected on special 360-degree screens. Images and wine pairings were tailored to each course.

The experience began at Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque with falafel, caramelized eggplant, tomatoes, pickled turnips, pomegranate and tahini.

The second course included pistachio-encrusted lamb, honey-glazed cumin carrots, potato puree, garlic cream and date sauce. Throughout, a belly-dancing performance was projected around the room.

Third course: za’atar cod, roasted cauliflower, crispy spicy Yukon potatoes, rice foam and orange butter sauce were served during a virtual tour of Dubai.

The Dubai Fountain in front of the Burj Khalifa was shown as diners enjoyed the fourth course: poulet et gratin dauphinois, chicken leg, creamy potato gratin, glazed carrot, saffron garlic cream and red wine sauce.

Finally, guests — surrounded by images



Contributed photo

Each Supper Club dining experience is unique. Guests are immersed in the culture of the locale of the evening’s feast. This image is from a previous event.

of The Milky Way — were served baklava pistachios, hazelnut cream, filo dough, honey ice cream and caramel tuille.

An alternative vegetarian menu was also available.

The link staff and caterers saw to every detail to enhance the dining experience.

And guests enjoyed the opportunity to try cuisine almost certainly new to them.

The link is a unique facility, a smart

building at the forefront of embracing technology for smart workspaces, event spaces and experiences. It’s a business incubator, a center for cultural events, a place to learn new things and more.

To learn more, go to thelink.zone.

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is an abridged article. To read the full story, please go to pontevedrerecorder.com.

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Photos by Anthony Richards



St. Augustine serves as backdrop for annual Great Race

By Anthony Richards

There are many races throughout the world, but none quite like The Great Race, which is an annual distance race featuring classic cars in a contest that crosses over several states.

The city of St. Augustine now has its place in the storied history of the race, as the route usually starts somewhere on the East Coast and this year Francis Field in St. Augustine served as the starting line on June 24.

One hundred and twenty classic vehicles are taking part in the 2023 version of the race, which will have crossed through eight states before reaching the finish line in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on July 2.

The vintage rally lived up to its name as it featured vehicles spanning several decades, including vehicles from the early 1900s all the way to the 1980s.

Brad Phillips and Dan Stahl are driving one of the oldest cars in the competition,

a 1916 Hudson Speedster, which presents several challenges that new era cars do not, such as being an open cockpit, having no air conditioning and no power steering.

“It’s really more like riding a horse across the country than driving a car, which is what makes it so much fun,” Phillips said. “One of the biggest things to consider is weather, because if you’re in a ’65 Mustang with a windshield and a roof, you can weather a lot of stuff, but we’re just sitting out in it. “If you haven’t been pelted by rain going 45 (mph), it’s like getting shot in the face by a BB gun and it can really hurt. We spend a lot of time ducking down and dodging, all while driving and maintaining a specific speed.”

According to Phillips there are about five to eight checkpoints each day that the racers must hit in order to continue to be counted as the race progresses, and they also have predetermined destinations to

stop for lunch and to stay overnight.

Having a co-pilot is a vital part of having success in the race because the route is already mapped out turn by turn, and staying on course is a must before any thoughts of winning the race can creep into a competitor’s head.

For some winning the race is the primary objective, while others see it an accomplishment just reaching the final destination with the car still intact without having suffered any major mechanical issues that resulted in a retirement from the race.

Tom Gray is one who entered this year’s race, his second with that being the mindset.

“The first year was like a blur, and I think we’ve learned a lot from that,” Gray said.

Gray is driving a 1973 Volvo P1800ES and he is just as old school as the car itself, as he drove it from Louisville to his place in Daytona, before driving it up

to St. Augustine for the start of the race and then driving it back home following the race.

“A lot of the cars they ship, but we like to drive it,” Gray said.

A practice rally and fan event was held in the parking lot of the Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine June 23, which allowed fans to get up close and personal with the cars before they headed out on their trek the next day.

Being part of The Great Race was always a dream of Gray’s and now that he’s part of it he is soaking up every second.

“I’ve been applying to be in the race for seven years and they finally picked me last year,” Gray said. “I raced NASCAR for 10 years, but this is pretty fun.”

To see more photos from the The Great Race practice rally at the Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine go to pontevdrarecorder.com.



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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

Celebrate America!

"Fireworks are flowers in the garden sky."
— Jarod Kintz

By Kathy Esfahani



Kathy Esfahani

Independence Day festivities are here! Enhance your celebration with a red, white and blue garden or several colorful planters.

There are many options for creating a garden or planters full of patriotic colors. Remember that "true" blue flowers can be difficult to find, but light blue or purple can give the same effect.

Both annuals and perennials can be used for your garden or planters. Annuals will give more vibrant color but grow for only one long season.

Perennials will live more than two years, but their color is less vibrant as it comes and goes throughout the year.

Some great choices for your garden in the North Florida summer are: (P stands for perennial)

- RED: Begonia (shade), Caladium (shade), Celosia, Impatiens (shade), Mandevilla (P), Penta (P), Salvia, Vinca, Zinnia
- WHITE: Begonias (shade), Caladium (shade),



Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

Euphorbia, Impatiens (shade), Mandevilla (P), Penta (P), Salvia, Variegated Sun Rose, Vinca, Zinnia

- BLUE: Blue Daze (P), Penta (P), Salvia, Vinca

Idea for a July 4th planter:

- Be sure to place your planter in full sun to gain the most color from your blooms.
- Select a planter approximately 18-20 inches in diameter and 2.5 feet tall.

The following plants are now available at Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery:

- Red Mandevilla (1 plant): adds height to your arrangement; plant in the center of the planter and

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

Flower of the Week



Ixora

include a trellis for the Mandevilla to climb

- White Penta (7 plants): medium height; plant around the Mandevilla
- Blue Daze (5 plants): cascading; plant at the edge of your planter to allow the blooms to drape

Add an American flag to the planter for a celebratory touch!

Have a wonderful July 4th holiday, and happy planting!

Flower of the Week: Red Mandevilla

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



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A few ideas for celebrating Independence Day 2023 in St. Johns County



Fireworks Over the Matanzas

This classic show starts at 6 p.m. with the All-Star Orchestra performing in the gazebo in the Plaza de la Constitución. It's a two-hour show with big band, swing hits and patriotic favorites. Bring a chair, nonalcoholic beverages and a picnic basket — or check out one of the local restaurants.

St. Augustine's fireworks show

This spectacular display begins at 9:30 p.m. Fireworks are shot off a barge anchored in the Intracoastal Waterway. The fireworks can be viewed from downtown St. Augustine, the Bridge of Lions, the Davis Shores neighborhood and Vilano Beach. It is suggested you arrive early to find parking and a seat.

Music and dancing

Oakfest begins Monday at the Colonial Oak Music Park on St. George Street. Local artists perform from 5 to 8 p.m. Then, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Chillula, a popular local dance band, performs at the Colonial Oak Music Park. The music is a blend of R&B, funk, hip-hop, soul, rock, reggae and jazz. Music pauses at 9:30 p.m. so everyone can enjoy the fireworks. Chillula returns to the stage to close out the evening with more dance hits. This is a free event.

Beach shuttles

St. Johns County offers two free beach shuttles to help reduce congestion and make travel to the beach safe and convenient. The St. Johns County Ocean and Fishing Pier shuttle picks-up beachgoers at the St. Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 A1A South, and drops-off at the St. Augustine Beach Pier. The second covers northern St. Johns County, departing from Cornerstone Park, 1046 A1A North, for Mickler's Landing. Both shuttles run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning Saturday, July 1, and running through Tuesday, July 4.

Beach driving

Those wanting to drive and park on the beach may do so from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in permitted areas. Drivers must stay in the designated lanes and be attentive to pedestrians and beach-goers. Driving conditions on the beach can change multiple times each day. Follow the St. Johns County-area beaches on Facebook and Twitter @SJCBeaches, downloading the Reach the Beach mobile app, or checking the St. Johns County Beach Services website for the most up-to-date driving and weather conditions.

Independence Night Paddle

Guana Lake's bioluminescence is an unusual phenomenon, viewable nightly, thanks to the protection of the dam. A large population of comb jellies create sparkling lights and whirling orbs in the water. Both sit-inside and sit-on-top kayaks are available for single and tandem paddlers. The tour will explore the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve where the group will experience a stunning sunset, ethereal bioluminescence and the fireworks show, seen from a marsh cove. Excursions launch at 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. for two to two-and-a-half hours. Rates begin at \$60 per person.

Blacklight Night

Painting with a Twist in Ponte Vedra is offering a cool way to kick off the holiday with their Blacklight Night! Their studio has a full suite of black lights that make glow and neon paints come alive. Be sure to wear your brightest neon outfits. Participants can enjoy a traditional painting or add on a DIY candle. Arrive early to get a drink and get smocked up. Blacklight Night is from 4 to 6 p.m. and begins at \$42 per person.

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www.CityStAug.com/Fireworks

Follow on @CityStAug

Fireworks over the Matanzas is produced by the City of St. Augustine with funding support from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council. Visit www.FloridaHistoricCoast.com for St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and the Beaches visitor information.

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Chamber Connections



2023 Chamber Golf Classic at the Hammock Beach Golf Resort and Spa

A day of golf at the beach? Don't mind if we do!

Photos by Jackie Hird Photography



June 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Becoming a certified autism destination



Isabelle Renault
President/CEO
St. Johns County
Chamber of Commerce

As a mother of a child on the autism spectrum, I know first-hand the challenges of traveling with kids who often have difficulties with communication, sensitivity to things like light or noise and behaviors that others may not understand. I am always on the lookout for doable and fun vacation ideas for my unique family. And I'm not the only one.

In 2019, Mesa, Arizona, became the first community in the United States to become "autism certified" tapping into, at that time, a market of 32 million annual travelers who spend more than \$262 billion on autism-related services in the U.S. each year. That market only continues to grow as organizations like the Jacksonville-based International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES), trains industry professionals on a wide range of approaches to meet this market's needs.

In fact, according to IBCCES, other certified organizations have seen a triple-digit increase in out-of-market guests, a 32% increase in first-time guests, and a 54% increase in group bookings. To

achieve certification status, however, enough attractions, hotels and other recreation and entertainment venues would have to complete the autism and sensory disorder sensitivity and awareness training.

For this reason, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the St. Johns County Tourism Development Council is offering matching grants up to \$5,000 for St. Johns County tourism and hospitality businesses who train their visitor-facing staff.

With 80% of our industry trained, becoming a Certified Autism Destination would set our community apart in the world of travel. Autistic visitors would feel confident that the tourism community has taken the necessary steps resulting in them feeling welcomed, safe and enjoying their vacation.

An autism-certified destination benefits from its inclusion on the AutismTravel.com website, which was developed by IBCCES as a credible resource to help autistic individuals and their families and friends connect with trained and certified destinations, attractions and related options. This allows them to plan their vacations knowing where they are going is a safe place for them to visit.

St. Johns County Tourist Development Council launched the grant program to make it easier for tourism and hospitality businesses in the county to become certified. This grant is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reach out to the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce to see if you qualify or apply to the grant at www.sjchamber.com/autism-certification-matching-grant.

Isabelle Renault
President and CEO, St. Johns County
Chamber of Commerce

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

- **Ribbon Cutting:** Mainstream Boutique, July 6
- **BIZZed, Enhance your Workforce with Apprenticeships:** July 13
- **Ribbon Cutting:** CKO Kickboxing, July 18
- **Joint Chamber at Noon, Greenside Chat with the Executive Director of THE PLAYERS:** July 19
- **Ribbon Cutting:** TD Bank, July 26
- **Chamber After Hours:** Wells Fargo Nocatee, July 26

AUGUST

- **Ribbon Cutting:** Beacon Point Townes, Aug. 1
- **Ribbon Cutting:** Meleca Foot and Ankle, Aug. 3
- **Chamber Before Hours:** Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery, Aug. 9
- **Chamber at Noon, Essential Workforce Housing Presentation:** Aug. 16

- **Joint Meeting, Tourism & Hospitality & Historic St. Augustine, Essential Workforce Housing Presentation:** Aug. 17
- **All About Networking Before Hours, Breakfast and Mocktails:** Aug. 18
- **Chamber After Hours:** Hardage-Giddens, Aug. 23
- **Chamber After Hours:** Center State Bank, Aug. 30

SEPTEMBER

- **Women With Vision:** Sept. 7
- **Historic St. Augustine Council, Locally Made Roundtable:** Sept. 8
- **Chamber Before Hours:** K9s for Warriors, Sept. 13
- **BIZZed, Generational Differences:** Sept. 14
- **Chamber at Noon:** Sept. 20
- **Economic Development Breakfast, Essential Workforce Housing Presentation:** Sept. 22
- **Chamber After Hours:** Beard Art Gallery, Sept. 27

For further information and to register at The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce website, go to sjchamber.com.

ABA Connection holds ribbon cutting



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

ABA Connection recently joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony at its location at 175 Cumberland Park Drive, Suite 100 in St. Augustine. The business offers applied behavior analysis therapy for children and adults in-home, at school and in their on-site clinic.

Arthur Murray hosts Chamber before hours event

The following are photos from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division before hours at Arthur Murray Ponte Vedra Beach Dance Center.

Photo by Susan Griffin
Arthur Murray owner Heiko Leyhausen dances with his daughter during the event.



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Compass Real Estate held a ribbon cutting ceremony March 1 at its newest location at 601 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach.



“One of the benefits our clients value most is having a dedicated chief information officer who will meet with company leadership on a regular basis to prioritize goals for growth, cybersecurity, compliance and employee productivity.”

— JOHN AGUILERA,
VP, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

TruTechnology celebrates 20 years of IT service

TruTechnology is an IT managed service provider celebrating its 20th year of service that partners with small to medium businesses of 20-300 computer users who are locally headquartered in the Jacksonville, St Johns County and the surrounding area.

TruTech offers two options of service, either fully managed IT solutions or co-managed IT collaborating with an organization's internal IT department.

“One of the benefits our clients value most is having a dedicated chief information officer who will meet with company leadership on a regular basis to prioritize

goals for growth, cybersecurity, compliance and employee productivity,” said John Aguilera, vice president of business development. “This has led to our clients being rewarded with having one of the best organizations to work for, high employee retention, customer service excellence, decreased exposure to risk, and profitability in their businesses.”

Continual monthly IT audits, patch management and super responsive, friendly, 24/7 support every day throughout the year is their promise to customers.

Quarterly feedback is provided to clients by their dedicated CIO to ensure



constant improvement in business process.

“Our motto is with 20 years of experience, we're big enough to transform your business, but small enough to know you with our personalized customer service,” Aguilera said. “As the VP of Business Development, I am very proud to have recently received the JBJ Tech Leaders of the Year award. That let me know that my personal

goal of making a difference in the Jacksonville area business community is a dream becoming a reality, and I look forward to the opportunity to assist more organizations with their technology.”

According to Aguilera, his role is to connect companies or nonprofit organizations with our team and show them how much more efficiency, cost saving and data security they will receive with the guidance and strategy that TruTechnology provides.

No matter the type of business or what area the business specializes in, TruTechnology is there to help in the processes so that businesses everywhere can achieve their

ultimate goals and succeed.

Aguilera first arrived in Jacksonville in 1991 as a Navy helicopter pilot and has been happy to call it home ever since.

A famous quote that he loves to harken back on is one from Winston Churchill, where he said, “Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

“I continue to meet more great organizations as a Jacksonville Chamber Trustee, St John County Chamber, NEFBA, ABC, and FCMA member and through TruTechnology's partnerships with local non-profit organizations,” Aguilera said.



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Basecamp Fitness



Contributed photo

Basecamp Fitness held its grand opening ribbon cutting on June 22.

Senior Living at The Greens



Contributed photo

Senior Living at The Greens held its ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 19.

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Chamber Before Hours at AAA

The April 12 Chamber Before Hours was held at AAA in Ponte Vedra. Gloria Dongara and her team hosted the meeting, which included networking, food and coffee.

Contributed photos



Kathleen Floryan and Gloria Dongara



Sam Ruiz and Jennifer Jenkins



Lori Adams and Carla Resetar



Trudy Toche and Clare Berry

Signature First Coast Realty holds ribbon cutting



Photo by Susan Griffin

Signature First Coast Realty joined the St. Johns County Chamber Ponte Vedra Beach Division with a ribbon cutting ceremony April 20.



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FLORIDA ASSISTED LIVING LICENSE PENDING

Daybreak Market & Fuel



Contributed photo

Daybreak Market & Fuel held a grand opening for its St. Johns store on June 25.

State of the Beaches



Contributed photo

A full house greeted St. Johns County Commissioner Krista Joseph, Atlantic Beach Mayor Curtis Ford, Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown and Jacksonville Beach Mayor Christine Hoffman at the Joint JAX Chamber and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce lunch on April 13. The topic of the meeting was "State of the Beaches." Discussions surrounded decisions and projects going on in Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra Beach. Sponsor was Fields Auto Group.

TruTechnology's Nicolitz speaks on cybersecurity



Contributed photo

Daniel Nicolitz, TruCIO at TruTechnology, spoke about cybersecurity for small business at the Chamber at Noon event on May 17. He said 67% of small businesses experienced a cyberattack within the last year. The Ponte Vedra Beach Library hosted the luncheon. The series is sponsored by Fields Auto Group.

Ponte Vedra Spine Center



Contributed photo

The Ponte Vedra Spine Center is open for business. Dr. Gion Monn cut the ribbon May 10 and showed off his office at 220 Ponte Vedra Park Drive, Ste 180.

Exchange at St. Augustine



Contributed photo

Exchange at St. Augustine held its ribbon cutting on April 11.



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THE MORTGAGE EXCHANGE SPOTLIGHT

Janet McMillin

United Way president is event speaker



Photo by Susan Griffin

United Way of St. Johns County President Mark LeMaire was the speaker on Wednesday, June 14, for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division's Chamber at Noon event.

LeMaire joined the United Way of St. Johns County in October 2022. For more than 20 years, he has dedicated himself to the nonprofit sector, focusing on the communities in which he lives and works.

Prior to joining United Way of St. Johns County, he worked with the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida for 10 years. And, he has been fortunate to serve with two other United Ways, located in Jacksonville and Lakeland, Florida.

LeMaire lives in St. Augustine with his wife and three children.

Chamber Before Hours at Slate Real Estate



Contributed photo

The April 5 Chamber Before Hours was held at Slate Real Estate. It was a morning of networking, food, and coffee.

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Femmewell Gynecology and Aesthetics



Contributed photo

Femmewell Gynecology and Aesthetics in Nocatee held its ribbon cutting on May 11.

Fort Mose Historical Society hosts Chamber After Hours



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its March 31 Chamber After Hours at Fort Mose Historical Society. It was an evening of networking, food and drinks.

Chamber Golf Classic



Contributed photo

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Chamber Golf Classic on May 9 at Hammock Beach Golf Resort & Spa. Sponsors were: Presenting Sponsor, Echo Managed Care; Gold Sponsors, SouthState Bank and ServiceMaster Restore; Gold Sponsor and Hole in One Sponsor, Hyundai of St. Augustine; Breakfast Sponsor, Florida Power & Light; Golf Cart Sponsor, Legacy Roofing & Solar; Signage Sponsor, FASTSIGNS; Island Bar Sponsor, Orkin Pest Control (529 Stuart Lane, Jacksonville); Mulligan Sponsor, Florida Health Care Plans; Photography Sponsor, Jackie Hird Photography; Oasis Sponsors, TruTechnology, Exchange at St. Augustine, Kinetic CGC Water — Florida and ABA Connection; Hope Signage Sponsor, Hardage-Giddens St. Johns, Caspian Homes, WM, Stretch Zone St. Augustine North and Benton House of St. Johns.

First Coast Technical College



Contributed photo

First Coast Technical College held its ribbon cutting on April 28. The school recently expanded its welding program.

Legislative Update



Photo by Shaun Ryan

State Rep. Cyndi Stevenson speaks during the May 19 St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast. Seated next to her are St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline and St. Augustine Beach Mayor Don Samora.



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Flagler Health+ Primary Care



Contributed photo

Flagler Health+ Primary Care held its ribbon cutting April 17 at Treaty Oaks.

Hospital presidents speak



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Flagler Health+ President and CEO Carlton DeVooght addresses attendees at the June 16 St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Quarterly Breakfast as UF Health President David R. Nelson looks on.

Stretch Zone St. Augustine North



Contributed photo

Stretch Zone St. Augustine North held its ribbon cutting on June 1.

Memory Lane joins Chamber with ribbon cutting

Memory Lane in Jacksonville held a ribbon cutting ceremony and joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Regent and Pam Ducas are the owners of Memory Lane, which is the largest studio in the area with the ability to digitize memories recorded using old methods, such as film.



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Memory Lane held a ribbon cutting ceremony recently to join the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

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Modern Aesthetics hosts Chamber After Hours



The May 24 Chamber After Hours was held at Modern Aesthetic Centers. It was an evening of networking, food and drinks.

Prime IV Hydration & Wellness



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held May 4 for Prime IV Hydration & Wellness.

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Essential Energy Spa offers healing, enlightenment to community

By Anthony Richards

For those involved with the creation and the operation of Essential Energy Spa & Mystical Center in St. Augustine, the path to ownership and involvement has been a calling of sorts.

According to Reid Hale, director of finance and operations with the center, he had a real spiritual connection, which is what led him to come out of retirement after nine years to embark on this venture, which began with the center holding an open house May 19.

“I felt it down to my heart, and something was just pulling me and all of us to do this,” Hale said. “We were already talking about forming a wellness center, but when we heard about this technology and approach we knew we had to go down that path.”

Hale is joined on the team at the center by Sheila Bachar, director of spa services, Atahana, director of the mystical center, and Rich Hume director of sales and marketing.

The center uses a 24-unit energy enhancement system, which is designed with the goal of creating better wellness through self-healing, enlightenment and



Photo courtesy of Essential Energy Spa & Mystical Center

Essential Energy Spa and Mystical Center opened their doors on May 19.

community building practices.

The majority takes place in a room called “the portal,” which is specifically designed for regenerative healing as there are certain frequencies within the room that initiate with the body in a natural way and at the cellular level.

“The way the body responds to frequencies is essential in the healing process,” Hale said. “We’re just giving the body a place and a chance to essentially heal itself.”

According to Hale, there is something different felt just by walking into the room and the reactions people have from the experience varies depending on the person.

“We’ve had people cry and just be overcome with emotion, and we’ve had others who feel a tingling sensation throughout their body after going through the treatment,” Hale said. “The room is a real sanctuary for those who enter it. There’s just something special going on here.”

That special feeling is something they

hope to get across to residents of St. Augustine and St. Johns County, as they strive to not just build a client base, but instead create a wellness community within the area.

One of the ways in which they hope to do this is through education about their approach to healing and wellness and that includes the next generation through its mystical center initiative that offers teens and transitional youth dealing with developmental or social disorders a safe and fun environment where they can foster their potential.

What makes Essential Energy Spa & Mystical Center even more unique is the fact that they are a nonprofit, and although they charge for the use of the technology, that money goes back into allowing them to sponsor individuals within the community dealing with issues that they need help with.

“We’re offering something much deeper than just wellness,” Hale said. “It’s all about a lifestyle.”

More information about the center can be found by going to eespamc.org. The facility is located at 3440 U.S. Highway 1 S., Suite 202 in St. Augustine.

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Contributed photos

Pure Hydration has expanded its location and its offerings.

Pure Hydration expands Jacksonville Beach location

Pure Hydration, a hydration spa in Jacksonville that brought commercial IV infusions to the community, has announced the expansion of its flagship location in Jacksonville Beach and the addition of new service offerings.

The spa, which celebrates its five-year anniversary this spring, now offers the below services at its Jacksonville Beach location with the goal to further support the

performance, health and wellness goals of its clients:

- **Infrared Sauna:** Utilizes three Sunlighten Amplifies saunas that reach more than 165 degrees.
- **Cold Plunge Therapy:** Powered by the advanced Bluecube system, this therapy assists in reducing inflammation, improving lymphatic circulation and boosting overall mood, according to Pure Hydration.

- **Cryotherapy:** Featuring the Mecotec CryoOne Electric technology, this treatment exposes the body to extreme cold, which, according to Pure Hydration, promotes accelerated injury recovery, pain relief and enhanced skin health.

- **Light Therapy:** Employing the innovative Neolight Bed, this noninvasive procedure uses low-level wavelengths of light. This unit offers red, blue and green light waves.

- **Compression Therapy:** Using the Rapid Reboot system, Pure Hydration said this treatment enhances blood flow, speeds up recovery time and alleviates muscle soreness.

Pure Hydration is owned and led by husband-and-wife team Spencer and Hannah Wanderon. The Jacksonville Beach residents were inspired to create an IV therapy spa in the Northeast Florida community after experiencing the benefits of hydration therapy during their travels to other cities.

Upon realizing that the Jacksonville market did not offer this service, they quickly recognized the opportunity to bring something new to the market. They opened their first spa in 2018 and a second location in Five Points in 2019.

This expansion doubles the square foot-

age of the Jacksonville Beach spa, located at 384 9th Ave. North. The spa's hours of operation are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"We couldn't be more eager to expand our Jacksonville Beach spa and bring these new services to the greater community," said Spencer Wanderon. "The services we offer have been around for years in Eastern medicine, but we're seeing health and wellness grow in importance in everyone's lives following the pandemic."

"To be able to support our clients' health journeys throughout the last few years is an accomplishment in itself, and something we're extremely proud of," said Hannah Wanderon. "With these new services, we're further achieving our goal to supply the city with an opportunity to live healthier, longer and better years."

To ensure the safety and health of all clients during their visit, Pure Hydration reviews all clients' medical background before treatment. Additionally, all IV infusions and booster shots are administered by a registered nurse and under the direction of a medical director.

For more information and to learn more about Pure Hydration, go to purehydration-spa.com.

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PAGE 25

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Photos by Susan Griffin



The rooftop restaurant is the first of its kind in Ponte Vedra Beach.



An assortment of foods were on display to sample.



1912 Ocean Bar & Rooftop held its grand opening recently.

1912 Ocean Bar & Rooftop celebrates grand opening

The first rooftop restaurant on Ponte Vedra Beach, 1912 Ocean Bar & Rooftop, celebrated its grand opening this week at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa's Cabana Beach Club.

The restaurant provides guests with a backdrop of breathtaking scenery, featuring an airy outdoor rooftop space offering sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean plus an interior dining room with floor-to-ceiling windows. The venue is open to the public, Cabana Beach Club members and resort guests.

The 1912 Ocean Bar & Rooftop menu, created by Sawgrass Marriott Executive Chef Edgar Maldonado, features fresh seafood, small-bite options, craft cocktails and fine wines.

Menu highlights include:

- She crab soup with lump crab, roe, chives, sherry, datil aioli, pane carasau
- Charred tomato and burrata fire bread with calabrian pepper flake, fresh mozzarella, pecorino romano, fresh basil
- Octopus and shrimp tiradito with maiz cancha, leche de tigre, baby bell pepper, cilantro
- Seared 8 oz. filet with goat cheese whipped potatoes, seasonal vegetables, beef au jus
- Daily Catch: fresh fish with Congaree and Penn grit cake, hominy corn and lobster succotash, micro greens
- Lime panna cotta with berries, strawberry sorbet, bread pudding crumbles

Guests can make reservations and view full menus at 1912pontevedrabeach.com. For additional updates, see the restaurant's Facebook and Instagram pages.



Aja Owens, general manager of Cabana Beach Club speaks to the crowd during the event.

1912 Ocean Bar & Rooftop is located at Cabana Beach Club at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, 619 Ponte Vedra Blvd., with complimentary valet only. The restaurant and rooftop are open for dinner and drinks nightly.

The restaurant occupies the second and third floors of an all-new dining venue at the resort's private Cabana Beach Club and serves as the crowning jewel in the club's transformation.

Inspired by the city it calls home and the exquisite scenery the venue offers, 1912 Ocean Bar & Rooftop is named after the year in which rich mineral veins were discovered running through the area's sand dunes, paving the way for growth into the city it is today.

About Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

is a popular location for work and play. The property is next to the famed TPC Sawgrass golf club and guests can enjoy

exclusive privileges with the complex.

Modern rooms, suites and family-friendly villas boast every imaginable comfort and many feature balconies or terraces.

The resort also features four pools, the 25,000-square-foot Sawgrass Spa and complimentary shuttle service to the property's private Cabana Beach Club, with 26 miles of beachfront offerings, including water sports, oceanside dining, fire pits and a family-friendly pool.

Delicious fare can be found at its restaurants and lounges, including farm-to-table options and craft cocktails. For those hosting events, more than 90,000 square feet of flexible indoor/outdoor venue space and close proximity to Jacksonville make the resort a memorable destination for any gathering.

For more information, go to SawgrassMarriott.com.

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Nemours celebrates opening of THE PLAYERS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders

Highlighted by a special ribbon-cutting ceremony, Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville, opened a new state-of-the-art facility named THE PLAYERS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. The center opened to patients on Monday, June 26, and offers a fully integrated approach to hematology/oncology treatment with the ability to provide multiple services in one location, offering a better experience for patients and families.

The new center is part of the Nemours Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (NCCBD), the most extensive pediatric cancer program in the state with treatment centers in Northeast and Central Florida. In addition, the center includes the only pediatric sickle cell program in the city and one of the largest in the state.

"THE PLAYERS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders will offer the full spectrum of cancer and blood disorder care delivery," said Dr. Michael Erhard, North Florida president, Nemours Children's Health. "This is a landmark moment for cancer and blood disorder care in Northeast Florida. We are proud and honored to serve the needs of the community in an expert and compassionate fashion in this facility."

Tuesday's event was the culmination of a more than \$11 million capital campaign begun in 2019 for the center's complete redesign, expansion and renovation. THE PLAYERS Championship made the lead gift to the campaign donating \$2 million in October 2022.

"Here at THE PLAYERS, we believe in the power of helping others, transforming lives and strengthening our community, and we are so excited that this center will provide Northeast Florida families and children with the resources that they deserve," said Lee Smith, executive director, THE PLAYERS Championship.

Design of the project began in

November 2021 and construction was complete at the beginning of this month. The project expanded the hematology/oncology department, doubling the size to more than 12,000 square feet, now taking up the entire fifth floor.

New features include a dedicated laboratory space for point-of-care testing and one-stop service. The lab features a pneumatic tube station connected to Nemours Children's main laboratory on the ninth floor and to Wolfson Children's Hospital making the entire testing process more efficient.

One of the most notable enhancements of the new space is the Eckstein Family Infusion Suite, which is a service of Wolfson Children's Hospital. The infusion suite features five open infusion bays and three private isolation rooms for immunocompromised patients. The space will be staffed by Wolfson Children's Hospital pediatric oncology-certified nurses and will include a medication room and a treatment room, which allows the hospital team to perform procedures such as IV starts, port access and other medical services.

"Building upon the partnership with Nemours Children's, the new Wolfson Children's Hospital Infusion suite, supported by the Ray and Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust, will help us provide comfortable, convenient treatments to patients and families within the clinic space," said Allegra C. Jaros, president, Wolfson Children's Hospital. "Children will be able to see their Nemours pediatric hematologist/oncologist, have their lab draws, get prepared for their infusions and receive their treatment, all in an outpatient setting."

The design of THE PLAYERS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders creates spaces that are comfortable and have a home-like feel that will be supportive to the needs of the whole family, ensuring the best possible outcomes for children.

New features include:

- Waiting rooms and play areas to meet the drastically different needs of



Contributed photos

Nemours Children's Health North Florida President Michael Erhard MD (second from left) and former Nemours Children's cancer patients McKethan Parker and Rue Andeer cut the ribbon at Tuesday's grand opening of THE PLAYERS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. They were joined by executives and physicians at the event.



Nemours Children's Health Alliance President Jim Digan, Nemours Children's Health North Florida President Michael Erhard MD, former Nemours patient and pediatric cancer survivor McKethan Parker, former Nemours patient and pediatric cancer survivor Rue Andeer, Nemours Children's Health Chair of Pediatrics Eric Sandler MD, THE PLAYERS Championship Executive Director Lee Smith and Wolfson Children's Hospital President Allegra Jaros.

teen and toddler patients.

- Comprehensive clinic capacity with room to provide multiple services that rotate efficiently.
- Specialized rooms for in-person consults, education, telehealth

consultations, psychology testing and therapy.

- Dedicated medicine room
- Comforting, supportive care service spaces including social work, a parent lounge, Child Life area and staff lounge.

Two Jacksonville Beach hotels receive numerous awards

Marriott International recently awarded two Jacksonville Beach hotels with numerous awards for 2022.

The Four Points by Sheraton Jacksonville Beachfront received a total of four awards this year.

The hotel was named Four Points by Sheraton brand's Hotel of the Year for 2022 out of more than 155 properties. In addition, the hotel is one of only three Diamond Circle Award winners for being

in the top of its brand in overall guest satisfaction scores. Front Desk Supervisor Dennis Robinson was awarded the Team Member of the Year award for his dedication to the hotel and its guests, and Sonny Bhikha was one of three general managers to be awarded the Diamond General Manager of the Year award.

The Element by Westin Jacksonville Beach was also recognized for having the highest guest satisfaction score out of

the 82 Element by Westin's in the United States and Canada.

"We are honored to be recognized by Marriott International for our commitment to providing our guests with an exceptional experience," Shawn LeNoble, vice president of operations for Shivam Property Management. "We are constantly striving to improve our guest service, our culture and our overall properties. These awards are a testament to the hard work

and dedication of our entire team and we couldn't be more proud."

The Element by Westin and Four Points by Sheraton are both located in the heart of Jacksonville Beach. Element by Westin Jacksonville Beach is located at 208 Beach Blvd. and the Four Points Jacksonville Beachfront is located at 11 N. 1st St.

For more information, go to elementjaxbeach.com and fourpointsjacksonvillebeach.com.

In the Arts



Send your arts news to news@pontevedrarecorder.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023 · PAGE 27 www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Artist depicts her dreams on canvas

By Shaun Ryan

Famed Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung once called a person’s dream the theater, while the dreamer is scene, actor, prompter, stage manager, author, audience and critic.

In paintings by Laura Pawlik — one of nine “Next Originals” featured in the Grand Bohemian Galleries — the dream becomes art, the dreamer, artist.

Nearly all of Pawlik’s multi-layered creations are representations of her dreams, which she says have the ability to “tell you something you don’t already know” — usually about the dreamer herself. Perhaps these revelations are the product of a mind left free to wander, or perhaps the process is of a spiritual nature; like so many others, Pawlik believes that dreams originate with an external source. Or perhaps, Source.

Whatever the mechanism, Pawlik has found that dreams are fraught with symbols: colors, numbers, weather conditions, time of day (or night) and more. These are no mere accidents.

“There’s a reason for it,” Pawlik said.

The result is a body of work mysterious, engaging and having a nearly intangible

power to connect to the viewer’s own experiences.

Her work is always executed in oils, a medium she finds both “frustrating” and “wonderful.”

“There are a lot of possibilities with oil,” she explained.

She often — though not always — employs a technique that extends selective focus to some elements in her paintings while rendering others in softer clarity, granting the work a distinctive, dreamlike quality.

“I do that with linseed oil,” she explained. “What I usually do is I paint in layers, which I love because dreams are layered, life is layered. So, I’ll linseed-oil my canvas and then I’ll wipe it down a little with paper towels so it’s not too wet.”

It’s a technique she learned from the work of artist Kathleen Speranza.

In fact, Pawlik is quick to credit the artists from whom she learned, artists like Alyssa Monks and Adrienne Stein. Surprisingly, Pawlik has the COVID-19 pandemic to thank for her introduction to the techniques that have helped to elevate her own work.

“All these top-notch, incredible artists were now opening up online classes; because of COVID, they couldn’t have people come to their art studios or fly out,” she said. “I wouldn’t have been able to take their classes before. I probably wouldn’t have gotten in, because they would have been filled. And they would have been really, really expensive.”

This is the 21st-century version of a time-honored practice. Throughout history, the world’s greatest artists have learned from the masters who preceded them.

Despite her proficiency with her art, Pawlik remains humble.

“I feel like I still have a lot of growing to do, obviously,” she said. “I’m learning.”

It’s a surprising admission from one of the few artists selected by entrepreneur Richard C. Kessler of The Kessler Collection to be featured in The Next Original initiative.

After Kessler issued an open call to



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Artist Laura Pawlik stands near some of her work at the Grand Bohemian Gallery in St. Augustine.

emerging artists nationwide, more than 1,800 responded. Pawlik was one of nine finalists selected to display her work in New York City’s Times Square and at several of the Grand Bohemian Galleries, including the one in St. Augustine.

To view Pawlik’s work online, go to laurawoodspawlik.com.

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

Security expert to speak to writers



Sarah Bewley

We’ve all heard about how utilities are potential targets for terrorists. But who are these terrorists? What’s being done to protect the critical infrastructure that gives us our electricity, water

and wastewater treatment?

Sarah Bewley, who works in the department responsible for the physical security of a utilities company, will speak on the issue during the next meeting of the NE Florida Sisters in Crime, 1 p.m. July 29 at the Ponte Vedra Branch Library.

Bewley writes, climbs rock walls and takes boxing lessons. She was born young, grew old very quickly, then entered into her second childhood, which she found far more satisfying than her first.

“Burning Eden” is her first mystery and the first book of the Eden County Mysteries series. She’s worked as a licensed

private investigator and now works in utilities security, which is physical protection for critical infrastructure.

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Sports



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Pantherettes host summer dance camp



Photos by Anthony Richards

The Nease High Pantherettes dance team held a summer camp for elementary and middle school children to help grow a love of dance within them. The campers performed the routines they learned for their parents in the school's gym on the final day of camp June 21.

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REACHES GO GREEN

Rain does not dampen spirit of Nease girls lacrosse camp



Contributed photo

A girls lacrosse summer camp was hosted by Nease High. Highlights of the camp included meeting new friends, learning the game of lacrosse while dodging rain drops and throwing water balloons.



Photo courtesy of Nease Athletics

Several members of the Nease High boys lacrosse team will be offering a helping hand and giving advice on technique to the campers during drills.

Fastest summer camp on two feet

Nease to host annual boys lacrosse summer camp July 17-20

By Anthony Richards

The Nease High boys lacrosse squad will be hosting its traditional summer camp July 17-20 at the school.

The four-day camp will begin each day at 9 a.m. and end at 11 a.m. and is open to elementary and middle school students wanting to learn more about the sport of lacrosse and the fundamentals behind it.

“We believe as an organization that lacrosse is the best game in the world,” Nease head coach Max Gurowski said. “At Nease, we only worry about what we can control, our attitude, effort and communication. All these elements are within our control, and we can do a great job of giving everything we have, staying posi-



...tive, and having constructive conversations on and off the field.”

Campers do not need to have prior experience playing lacrosse to take part, as it is open to all levels because another major goal of the camp is to continue the game’s interest among the next generation.

One of the things Gurowski has found younger players like about the game is the fast-paced nature of it, which is also why it is commonly branded as “the fast-

est game on two feet.”

In order to participate in the camp, players will need to bring full equipment, which includes a helmet, gloves, arm pads, shoulder pads, a stick, a cup and a mouth guard.

However, if one does not have full equipment, they are asked to please inform the camp staff ahead of time so that they can figure out a solution by emailing max.gurowski@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Every participant must also have a U.S. lacrosse membership, which can be found by going to uslacrosse.org and going about the steps for the registration process.

Several members of the current high school program will be on hand offering a helping hand and giving advice on technique to the campers during drills.

For many players, they have gone through similar lacrosse camps over the years as part of the path to get to where they are now and able to represent their

schools at the high school level.

“Nease lacrosse camp is a refreshing throwback to help all players improve and do it with one-on-one instruction,” Gurowski said. “We are very fortunate to have Nease lacrosse alumni, current players and coaches at camp to lead the participants in their goals to improve.”

Gurowski believes that the benefits of children playing lacrosse go far beyond the playing field and what the final score is after games.

He hopes the lessons learned during the camp will last just as long in a child’s life and memory as the techniques they may learn.

“Lacrosse is a medicine game that truly heals,” Gurowski said. “Our lacrosse camp is a great opportunity for new players to experience the sport and fall in love with the medicine.”

It is \$150 to attend the camp and registration can be found by clicking the camps and clinics at neaselacrosse.com.

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

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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

- Excited movements
- Soap opera actress Patsy
- Unknowing
- Dangerous mosquitos
- Exaggerated and sensationalized
- Military policeman
- Touch softly
- Wrap
- A story of one's life
- Midway between east and southeast
- Toward the mouth or oral region
- A list of dishes available at a restaurant
- Changes the meaning of
- Semitic Sun god
- Sneaker parts
- Capital of Zimbabwe
- Breezed through
- Partner to pedi
- Becomes less intense
- Bottoms
- Tested
- Vistas
- Take care of
- Traditional rhythmic pattern
- S. African political party
- Cologne
- Men
- The Science Guy
- Gospel author (abbr.)
- Act of signing up
- Human feet
- A very short time
- Streetcars
- Cuplike cavities

- A pair
- Young male
- Make a mistake
- Experienced
- It often accompanies injury
- Old world, new
- Commercial
- Course of lectures
- Promote
- Female horses
- Greek mythological figure
- Small amount
- Orthodox church altar
- Actress Tomei
- Excited
- Looked directly at
- Popular cold desserts
- More reasonable

- Disk above the head of a saint
- Devoted to the extreme
- Make an effort
- It's in the surf
- Member of aboriginal people of Japan
- Discounts
- Cliff in Hawaii
- Extremely wild person
- All persons
- Aromas
- Popular kids' game
- A difficult situation
- Popular Georgia rockers
- It's in all living cells
- Unspoken language
- "Talk to you" abbreviation
- Influential lawyer

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

DOWN

- A type of pool
- Malaise
- Seasoned



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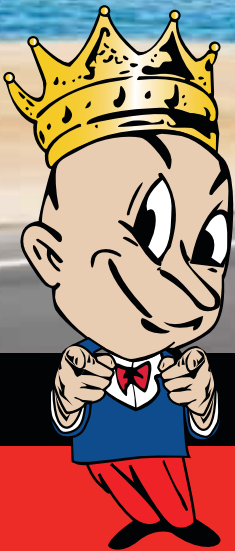
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