



The Register INSIDE

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MSD in stalemate with county over 'Jake Pope position'

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District is determined to establish a new plan review position, which will affectionately be called the "Jake Pope position" after the name of the last person to hold a similar position in the past.

According to the MSD board, the goal of the position is to provide an added layer to make sure the building codes within the MSD are being followed, especially when it comes to new structures being built.

MSD chairman Al Hollon updated his fellow trustees on the

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DOOR TO SUCCESS

EnterCircle summit promotes spirit of entrepreneurship

By Shaun Ryan

Every year, the EnterCircle entrepreneur and business summit organized by the Sapna Foundation and presented at the link gets bigger and more engaging. This third year, it ran for five days rather than the usual three, the goal being to eventually get to seven.

The theme of EnterCircle 2023 was "Thrive with Purpose," which was selected to encapsulate the central aim of its offerings: to inspire attendees in their professional and personal endeavors.

And the summit offered indispensable inspiration, but it also offered information, real insights into the processes and methods that facilitate startups and promote growth, real struggles that lead to success.

Held Tuesday through Saturday, Nov. 14-18, the summit consisted of talks. workshops, breakout sessions, panel discussions and networking.

Day one was the JVC Showdown,



Optic Systems CEO Wesley Hunt pitches his idea to the JVC Showdown judges.

hosted by the Jacksonville Venture Competition network.

"JVC Showdown is an opportunity for four companies to pitch to a panel of four judges," explained JVC Program Director

Karigan Cannon. "It aligns with our mission to build a world-class startup ecosystem in Jacksonville."

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MSD

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progress of the position's creation at the recent MSD meeting on Nov. 13, informing them that he and the county's attorney have met with the commissioners about the position, but support is still something they are working on.

"Commissioner (Krista) Joseph has been extremely in support of this position, but we've run into some push back from other commissioners," Hollon said.

One of the sticking points appears to be the authority of the position and what would be required in order to give the person the proper ability needed during the building inspection process.

"They say, 'Yeah you all (MSD) can do that,' but you have to get permission from the landowner, and I just don't think that's the case," Hollon said. "I think someone should be allowed to go in, if you're a member of the government, and give that inspection.

"We'll keep trying to break through this log jam with the county."

Megan McKinley, member of the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board attended the meeting and made it a point to applaud the MSD for what they are doing to try and get the position created.

It has been a regular topic on the agenda that has been discussed by the MSD for years now, as McKinley said she had been working with former MSD trustee Holly Kartsonis for three years to see what it would take to create the position with little progress.

"In the past, Jake Pope also had to review the physical plans on paper as well as the county, so whoever takes this position, nothing can happen until they approve the plans," MSD trustee Kitty Switkes said. "It just makes sense for that person to have a relationship with that homeowner because he's going to sit down with them and approve their plans."

Trustee Rick Brown brought up the scenario if the person in the plan review position approves the plans, but the county does not, or vise vera, how does the jurisdiction or authorization work in that case?

"When we built our house in 2014, we had

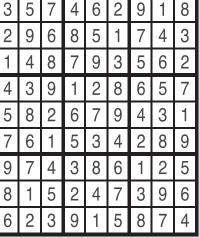
to meet with Jake Pope to get him to sign off, and then we went from him to the county," trustee Charles Callaghan said.

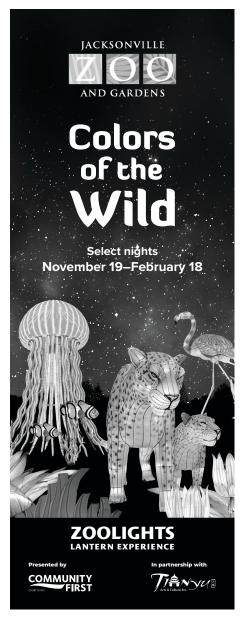
However, MSD attorney Wayne Flowers stated that the difference when the position was last in place years ago, was the fact that Jack Pope was an employee of St. Johns County, whereas this time around the position will be employed through the MSD.

The past agreement was for the MSD and county to each pay half of the position's salary, which is something the MSD is requesting takes place again if the position is eventually approved.









Coastal Friends to hold special holiday luncheon on Dec. 6

Christmas is coming early this year as Coastal Friends will hold its monthly holiday luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Open to the community, members and guests of Coastal Friends, the luncheon program will feature musical selections from vocalist Maggie Shannon. Shannon is a graduate of Fletcher High School where she was active in the choral program. She attended Florida State

University where she studied vocal music and was a member of the prestigious FSU University Singers.

Shannon's passion has always been singing and helping others. She has sung locally at many weddings and other special events and plans to pursue further education in child development, psychology and vocal music. At the luncheon, Shannon will lead the group in sing-along songs for the holiday season. There will also be extra holiday raffle prizes and gift certificates to winners of

the Christmas Trivia Game.

Marsh Landing Country Club will serve a house salad with vinaigrette dressing, chicken piccata with linguine, mixed vegetables and cheesecake. Reservations to attend must be made in advance by contacting the luncheon chairman at bartshar@comcast.net as soon as possible. The deadline for \$25 checks to be received is Wednesday morning, Nov. 29.

Formed in 1998, Coastal Friends is a social club that just celebrated its 25th

year in existence. It consists of women who live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach, St. Augustine, Jacksonville and the surrounding area. Some of the activities offered are adventures and outings, book club, bunco, canasta, happy hour, lunch in, periodic lunches at local restaurants, mah-jongg and wine socials. Monthly luncheons are held on the first Wednesday of every month except for July and August.





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FLORIDA NETWORK REALTY







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: SNAPDRAGONS — MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY FACE!

Flowers of Gratitude and Friendship

"Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul." — Henry Ward Beecher



Kathy Esfahani

By Kathy Esfahani

As we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, we reflect on the many blessings in our lives.

Our friends are often not only an important part of the celebration,

but they are also one of our greatest blessings. Flowers are a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday and our friends. Keep these flowers in mind when looking for the perfect bloom!

A gift of flowers is a popular way to express gratitude, particularly when the following varieties are included:

• Hydrangeas: In Japanese society, the hydrangea flower means "thank you for understanding." Specifically, blue hydrangeas are most often considered a flower of gratitude while pink hydrangeas represent sincere feelings.

- Lilies: Yellow lilies are especially suited for expressing appreciation. These blooms naturally evoke happiness with their large, brightly colored petals.
- Roses: Although roses are often considered a romantic flower, blooms in a peach color are traditionally thought of as a way to say "thank you." It is also acceptable to express appreciation and/or admiration with a dark pink rose.
- Maranta ("Prayer Plant"): Maranta is commonly known as the "Prayer Plant" because of the way its leaves fold up at night as if in prayer. As prayer often shows gratitude, this plant represents appreciation and thankfulness. Maranta is an ideal choice for saying "thank you" because it can thrive as a low maintenance houseplant and features leaves with unique colors and patterns.
- Sweet Pea: These plants are perfectly suited to show appreciation for an invitation, but sweet pea flowers can also be used in bouquets for any expression of gratitude.

Flowers are also a beautiful expression of

friendship. Consider the following blooms when showing a friend how much they mean to you:

- Geranium: Available in red, pink, purple, white and lilac, geraniums represent the positive feelings of friendship, happiness and good health. These plants are the perfect gift to celebrate close friends, but they are also ideal as an offer of friendship, such as a housewarming gift for a new neighbor.
- Roses: Yellow roses feature a bright, sunny hue that brings out happiness and positivity. They are, therefore, a cheerful, warm expression of friendship.
- Daisies: In any color, daisies symbolize happiness. Specifically, however, yellow daisies represent a positive connection to another person. They are the perfect flower to demonstrate the happiness that a true friendship brings.
- Alstroemeria ("Peruvian Lily"): The most prevalent meaning of alstroemeria, or Peruvian lily, relates to friendship and companionship. The blooms have six petals that are thought to represent the values of a true friendship empathy,

Photo provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery



Geraniums

patience, humor, respect, commitment and understanding. Remember alstroemeria when selecting a flower to celebrate a friend.

• Zinnia: Available in many colors, zinnia blooms are a wonderful gift of friendship.

Yellow flowers recognize a newer friend, magenta blooms symbolize a deeper friendship and white zinnias represent a pure relationship.

We hope you enjoy a very special Thanksgiving with your family and friends!

Flower of the Week: Geraniums

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



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Pink Ribbon Jax receives \$360k at Underwood event

Clayton Bromberg and Christy Bromberg of Underwood Jewelers presented Marica Pendjer and members of Pink Ribbon Jax with a check for \$360,000 during an event on Nov. 16.

Photos by Anthony Richard









Angel and Dave Imbt.

Sean Fleming, Leah Young and Jared Hayes.



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6 ONE OF USPonte Vedra Recorder · November 23, 2023

Albert Syeles is co-founder and president of Romanza, an organization that produces several of St. Augustine's major events.

Albert Syeles

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me a little bit about yourself.

- Born in Silver Spring, Maryland. Also lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (in college); Key West (in the Navy); Norfolk, Virginia (in the Navy); New Haven, Connecticut; San Antonio, Texas; Old Town Alexandria, Virginia; and St. Augustine (as of 2005).
- Married to Pat since 1972. (Note: Pat is executive director of the Celtic Festival as well as Romanza's secretary, treasurer and board member.)
- Retired telecom corporate executive director, and a certified management accountant (Institute of Management Accountants).
- Public relations director for each of Romanza's events.
- Co-founder and president of Romanza-St. Augustine Inc. (since 2009)
- Founder and president of St. Augustine's EpiCentre Alliance (since 2019)
- Previously a director on the Chamber's Tourism and Hospitality Council.
- Previously a member on Visit Florida's Culture, Heritage, Rural and Nature
 - Award-winning composer.

Tell me about Romanza and the events it brings to our community.

Romanza produces St. Augustine's Romanza Festivale of Music & the Arts, St. Augustine's Celtic Music & Heritage Festival, St. Augustine's St. Patrick Parade, Romanza's Collage Concert Series and other small events and activities.

Romanza is the grassroots umbrella organization for dozens of independent arts and culture groups and individuals. Members include arts nonprofits, bands, troupes, individual artists, non-artists, businesses, etc. Through collaboration, Romanza achieves an operational and financial scale not possible by most of its members on their own, from which they all then benefit.

Romanza was founded in June 2009. Twenty-two representatives from St. Augustine cultural organizations and businesses got together, formed a committee and created a mission statement. They wanted to work together to gain recognition for the vibrant cultural scene here.

They specifically wanted an annual festival to showcase our abundance of talent, both resident and touring. The group also selected the name Romanza after a previous production by First Coast Opera and the 1997 hit album by Andrea Bocelli.

Romanza united the St. Augustine arts, culture and heritage community and provided a significant stimulus for growth both for them and the whole community. A spirit of collaboration now exists that multiplies creativity.

In its first two years, Romanza produced two 1940s "swing dances," a black history tour and a fair at Villa Zorayda museum and instituted the "Romanza Gathering" mixers.

In 2011, we produced our first St. Patrick Parade and our first Celtic Music & Heritage Festival in cooperation with local businesses.

In 2012, we continued the parade and Celtic Festival while introducing our main mission event, Romanza Festivale of Music & the Arts.

Since 2013, Romanza has presented grassroots concerns of the arts community by communicating with county and city boards and commissions on carefully chosen topics and maintains active memberships in the Chamber, Visitors Bureau and Visit Florida.

Since 2016, Romanza formed and continues to lead a community Performing Arts Center committee, an affiliation of many of the arts organizations that are also members of Romanza, which in 2019 became a separate nonprofit corporation chaired by Romanza's president.

The COVID crisis depleted most of Romanza's cash reserves in 2020. That impact was partially reduced by grant contract amendments with our TDC, with the State of Florida, with Visit Florida, and by COVID-related grants, as well as the generosity of individuals around the U.S. and local businesses.

Romanza Festivale became a virtual online event in 2020, and it included a full day featuring unique presentations by our international Celtic performers who had been scheduled for our Celtic Festival, which had been cancelled at the last minute. Festivale returned as live in-person event in May 2021.

The parade, Celtic Festival and gatherings were suspended in both 2020 and 2021 and returned live in 2022.

Romanza's events enjoyed record attendance in 2023.

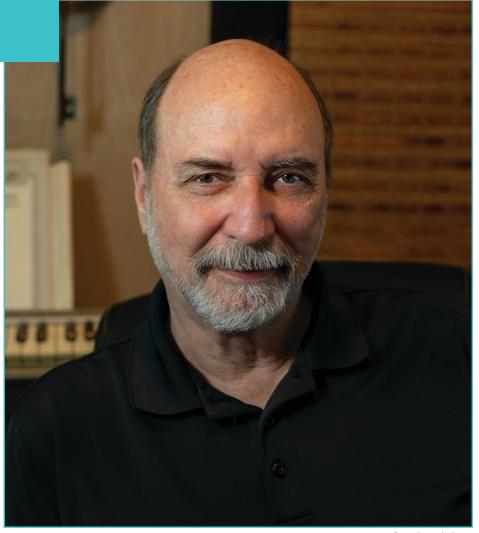
How did you first become involved with Romanza?

In 2008, former Mayor George Gardner suggested we start a festival to celebrate the city's 450th anniversary coming up in 2015.

Over several months, we interviewed over 200 people to hear what kind of festival the community might want. We discovered that they wanted more than a one-time event. They wanted an annual festival. In June 2009, they appointed me volunteer president and board chair.

I see that you're also a musician and composer.

I was never a confident live performer. But I enjoy composing and arranging for solo piano, small bands and full orches-



Contributed photo

Albert Syeles

tras. I've collaborated and recorded via the internet with musicians across the world: U.S., Canada, Great Britain, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Cairo, Israel, Russia and Brazil, in many genres: classical, jazz, pop, country, R&B, folk, "world," rock, new age, techno, etc.

My "Christabel Rhapsody for Violin and Orchestra" won 11 first-place awards in 2022 and 2023 for Best Composer or Best Film Score at international film festivals in London, Toronto, Las Vegas, Munich, Rome, Istanbul and India, plus six honorable mentions in New York, Madrid, Seoul, Tokyo, Zagreb and at a second festival in Rome, as well as nominations in Los Angeles and Cannes.

What do you enjoy most about being involved with events like those presented by Romanza?

I am attracted to opportunities where I can help make a positive difference. I got to know so many talented folks here who wanted to work together, and they seemed to think I could help with that. How could I refuse?

You are also president at The St. Augustine EpiCentre Alliance. Can you tell me about that and your role in the effort?

Most of the same folks and organizations that created and are involved with Romanza made me abundantly aware of their desperate need for performance, exhibit and rehearsal space.

Over the years, the problem has contin-

ued to get worse and worse. The venues that our community used to provide for arts, like school auditoriums and churches, have been filling up with many more students and congregations, as well as weddings. So, there's even less venue availability than there was 20 years ago.

At the same time, the growing population has brought more and more demand for cultural experiences, as well as demand to participate in them. Folks want to be in theatre productions, orchestras, bands, dance groups and art exhibitions, etc.

County residents could use five or six more appropriate cultural facilities of various sizes, similar to Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, but scattered across places like St. Augustine, World Golf Village, Julington Creek, Palencia, Hastings and U.S. 1 South. Our bustling cultural community could fill all their calendars instantly.

The EpiCentre Alliance was formed in 2019 to address part of that need. "The EpiCentre Alliance" represents 10 independent performing arts organizations to plan and raise funds for St. Augustine's first performing arts center. Working with Vavarde consulting, we have devised a strategic plan for "The Shell at St. Augustine," which has already attracted significant investment. We are currently in talks with several properties located close to St. Augustine. Stay tuned.

How do you like to spend your free time?

What free time? [Smiles]



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8 COMMUNITY NEWS



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Remembering our veterans

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The Ponte Vedra Chapter of the DAR recently spent a day of service at the Warren Smith Cemetery cleaning 30 gravestones, 27 of whom were for veterans. One of the gravestones belonged to a female WWII veteran and was buried in dirt and leaves. The group also sent cards to active-

duty military. For information, go to DAR. com. Pictured are chapter members Marsha Byers (Chapter Regent), Jenny Wouters, Kathleen Pawlowski, Suzanne Egeln, Melissa Ford, Phyllis Baehrend, Charlene Maroney, Mary Scarlett Anderson, Mary Glover and Jan Micklos.

Library system's Food for Fines program returns

The St. Johns County Public Library System has announced that the popular Food for Fines program has returned to the county's libraries and bookmobiles this year. Donating one non-perishable, unexpired food item will remove \$2 of fines from a patron's library record. An opportunity to eliminate most library fines, Food for Fines will run now through Dec. 22. The food items collected will be used to stock the St. Johns County Health and Human Services Food Pantry, providing food for St. Johns County families in need.

This fine-reduction program applies only to overdue fines, and patrons may bring in as many items as needed to reduce overdue fines. Fees related to damaged or lost items are not included in the Food for Fines program. Any

Most Efficient

library user is welcome to make donations, and food may be dropped off at any of the St. Johns County library branches or bookmobiles.

"Since we first implemented Food for Fines in 2009, the community has really gotten behind the program," Director Debra Rhodes Gibson said. "It's even supported by our patrons who don't have fines. We're thrilled that this year we're able to offer our patrons \$2 off their fines for each item of food donated."

Last year, St. Johns County residents provided more than 3,500 non-perishable items through the Food for Fines program.

For more information about this program, other library services and library branch locations, go to sjcpls. org.

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Students from Bolles' Ponte Vedra campus honor veterans

Leaders on all four Bolles campuses hosted special Veterans Day celebrations on Nov. 10 to honor those who have served our country in the military.

On the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus, students welcomed veterans, parents and guests to George Hall for a commemorative flag event.

The morning festivities included patriotic songs and special grade-wide fact presentations about the American flag and why we celebrate Veterans Day. The Bulldogs recognized the family, friends and faculty in the audience who served in the U.S. military by presenting each with a star and inviting them to stand in front of the stage.

Veterans who could not be in attendance or have passed away were honored through multiple displays that attendees could view before and after the ceremony.

Contributed photos





Ximenez-Fatio House hosts holiday house tours

Historic holiday house tours in St. Augustine will take place during the Nights of Lights season at the 225-year-old Ximenez-Fatio House Museum, located on America's oldest street.

In partnership with the St. Augustine Art Association, the Ximenez-Fatio House will present "A Celebration of Art & History" through Jan. 5 featuring 1800s holiday finery and 14 fireplaces decorated by 14-plus area artists. Guests can stroll through the historic house decorated for the Christmas season and view decor and artwork by members of the St. Augustine Art Association. The association was founded on Jan. 18, 1924. in the Ximenez-Fatio House, located at 20 Aviles St. Now located at 22 Marine St., the association will celebrate 100 years in 2024.

Holiday house tours will be held at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the original coquina structure. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for seniors, military and teachers; \$10 for St. Johns County residents and Flagler College students; and \$5 for children 17 and younger. Tickets can be purchased at ximenezfatiohouse.org and through eventbrite.

Selected artists include Melissa Whitehead, Martha Ferguson, Linda Sperruzzi, Laura Leibert, Catherine St. Jean,

Paula Pascucci, Svetlana Shorey, Robyn Freedman, Gwen Mehler, Teri Tompkins, Judy Vance and the Flagler College Fine Arts Department — Leslie Robison, Sara Pedigo and Jason Schwab.

"This effort has been inspired by the beautiful Christmas Extravaganza at Stetson Mansion in Deland, Florida, and supported by its designer, J. T. Thompson," said Payson Tilden, executive director at the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum. "We do not believe this has ever been done in St. Augustine, and it provides a unique opportunity to celebrate our partner relationship with the St. Augustine Art Association, which had its beginnings at the Ximenez Fatio House in 1924."

In 1798, Don Andrés Ximenez built the three-story house for his wife, Juana Pellicer, and their children. Juana's father, Francisco Pellicer, led the Menorcan exodus of 1777 out of New Smyrna, from their bondage by Dr. Andrew Turnbull.

By 1830, Margaret Cook had completed the purchase of the property. Cook converted the home into a boarding house. In 1838, Sarah Petty Anderson purchased the boarding house. In 1851, Louisa Fatio became the manager of Anderson's boarding house. In 1855, Anderson sold the property to Fatio.

After Fatio's death, the house remained in her family until 1939 and was leased

throughout the years for many purposes, including the St. Augustine Art Association. The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of Florida purchased the property in 1939 and began the decades-long process of meticulously restoring and furnishing the home with the intent of making it a historic house museum.

Events at the Ximenez-Fatio House

Museum are sponsored in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, St. Johns Cultural Council and Historic Coast Culture, the Institute of Museums and Library Services and other community partners and sponsors.

Learn more at ximenezfatiohouse.org or call 904-829-3575. The Ximenez-Fatio House is located at 20 Aviles St., St. Augustine.









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Heart & Soulfood plans holiday fundraiser for foster families

With love, passion and a deep dedication to his community, local Chef Tyrone Bennett continues his mission to make Northeast Florida an even better place to live. He's the founder of We Feed St. Augustine, a nonprofit that works with local restaurants and farmers to alleviate hunger for those in need. He's also the owner, along with his wife Lateefa, of the popular Heart & SoulFood Truck, which has expanded to a brick-and-mortar location in downtown Palatka.

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On Sunday, Dec. 3, they're hosting not only the soft opening of the new eatery, but a fundraiser for local teens — where all proceeds support Fostering Connections, a local organization that offers educational programs and scholarships

to youth and families impacted by foster care, adoption or trauma.

"The Holiday Backyard Southern Series: Down by the River" dinner will be at the Bennett's new Heart & SoulFood Eatery on the Palatka riverfront. This is the first time they'll open their doors, and the team is excited to host such a special event for their soft opening.

"We are so proud to be a part of this community, and we're committed to helping those in need, especially families," said Bennett. "We are hoping to double last years' efforts to \$8,000 for this year!" The holiday dinner's proceeds will go to Fostering Connections' Career Readiness Academy Program in Putnam County, a job training program where

students learn foundational skills like how to apply to jobs, writing a resume, interviewing, customer service and teamwork.

The Dec. 3 fundraiser is from 6 to 9 p.m. at 308 St. Johns Ave., Palatka. Tickets are \$100. Tickets include unlimited tapas, mixed craft drinks, live entertainment by Chillula and Wes Register, an art walk display, and more. The eats will be crafted by a culinary team that includes Real Peel Pizza, Pitmaster Clay Murphy, Cowboy Chef Paul Brock, Chef Dustin Dailey, Chef Jimmy Hughes, Pitmaster Marvin Ross, Kelly Holleran of She Salt Charcuterie, Chef Ellie Schultze and

Chef Kevin Golarge Rasberry, along with mixologists Amber Marie and Kayla Tackett.

Buy tickets and make a donation at givebutter.com/ OfqHuE?mibextid=Zxz2cZ. The event is hosted by the Heart & SoulFood Eatery/ We Feed Inc., along with News4JAX, WJXT Channel 4, and hosted by River City Live's Rance Adams. Sponsors include Title Sponsor Beck Automotive Group, St. Augustine Amphitheatre, St. Augustine Distillery, Fort Mosé 1738/ Victor George Spirits, St. Augustine Elks Lodge, Simone's Woodcraft Grill, Sonny's BBQ and The Bailey Group.



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Photos by Anthony Richards

Gathering to give thanks at The Palms

By Anthony Richards

The Palms at Ponte Vedra held a Thanksgiving celebration with its residents for the first time in a couple of years.

According to executive director Barbara Matteson, the postponement of the celebration had been due to several factors starting with the COVID-19 pandemic and then trouble finding staff to help put on the event in the years to follow.

However, they have weathered those issues and are back to providing their residents and their families with the holiday social experience Matteson believes they deserve.

One of the ways they have found help when it comes to staffing for a large gathering like that is looking to Ponte Vedra High and Bolles School students to work as servers at the assisted living and memory care facility.

"We decided to go with the high school students, and they have been just wonderful," Matteson said. "They are so well brought up and the residents enjoy seeing their smiling faces. You just couldn't do an event like this if you didn't have the needed staff."

The minute one walked through the main doors of The Palms at Ponte Vedra, there was a murmur in the air of people conversing and sharing in laughter and memories, which Matteson acknowledged is much better than the sound of silence.

"They (residents) need their family around them, especially during this time of year," Matteson said. "The smiles are

endless, and everyone is just so happy to be a part of today. It makes my heart feel good and makes it all worth it."

And of course, it would not be Thanksgiving without some turkey and all the fixings that usually accompany it, such as homemade mashed potatoes, stuffing and green beans, as well as a table of dessert options to choose from.

Now that the Thanksgiving celebration is back and was a success, there are already plans for The Palms to have a Christmas celebration as well to continue sharing the holiday spirit.







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Students create heartfelt cards for hospital patients

Jacksonville Country Day School students recently came together to create 165 Thanksgiving cards for inpatients at Baptist Medical Center — Beaches. This act of kindness reflects the school's commitment to serving others and blends seamlessly with the school's ongoing Character Education curriculum and specifically the "Live to Give" mindset.

Students have been exploring the concept of generosity and the impact it can

have on both the giver and the receiver. Those in grades 4-6 created 165 beautifully crafted cards, each filled with love, warmth and well wishes. The cards were placed in a basket adorned with holiday decorations.

These cards will undoubtedly brighten the days of those spending their Thanksgiving in the hospital.

Contributed photos







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Donation match helps fund new Bolles center



Contributed photo

The Fender Family and Frank Sanchez stand in front of Center for Innovation.

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Dr. Dana Fender and his wife Hope signed a commitment Oct 30 to match a \$5 million gift from Frank Sanchez to build the Center for Innovation on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus.

The 47,000-square-foot, three-story building marks the most expansive construction undertaking on the San Jose Campus property since the building now known as Bolles Hall was constructed as the San Jose Hotel in 1925.

Groundbreaking on the \$26 million building, designed by Miami-based Zyscovich architects and constructed by Jacksonville-based Stellar design-build company, began in June 2022 with construction expected to finish by spring 2024.

The \$5 million donations from the Fenders and Sanchez are the largest single gifts to The Bolles School in its history. The state-of-the-art structure will now be called the "Frank R. Sanchez & Hope and Dana E. Fender Center for Innovation" in honor of their generosity.

"The Center for Innovation is an exciting work of both art and engineering, but like all campus structures, it exists to support the learning that happens within its footprint," said Bolles President and Head of School Tyler Hodges. "In this case, this means collaborative handson learning, academic exploration with

inspirational faculty and the ability for students to experiment and gain practical experience as they work toward their highest potential to serve our community and the world."

The state-of-the-art structure is being constructed on the San Jose Campus' last prime development site adjacent to Bolles Hall on a bluff overlooking the St. Johns River. The building will house Bolles' science, math and technology programs, as well as expansive areas for advanced courses in robotics, computer programming, information technology, engineering and design. Designs for the facility accommodate opportunities for new offerings and provide space for collaboration and dialogue across disciplines. The new academic areas will deepen Bolles' curriculum and cultivate the country's next generation of innovators, according to department leaders.

The Center for Innovation features numerous cutting-edge classrooms and 12 sophisticated specialty labs, including spaces for anatomy, biology and chemistry lab instruction. The building also will house Bolles' Anatomage table, the world's first and only virtual dissection table used by medical schools and universities around the globe. Bolles has long-been one of the few high schools in the country to offer students this college-level science resource.

In addition to being built with the latest technology for advanced study, the Center for Innovation also will include spaces for small group discussions, collaborative learning and independent study. Faculty and school leaders felt strongly the building's design should complement the school's focus on real-world learning that allows students to create, invent and explore using a variety of tools, materials and technology. And it should also highlight the campus' greatest natural asset — the St. Johns River.

Construction of the Center for Innovation, and the subsequent relocation of programs from classroom space in Bolles Hall and other buildings, also provides space for other areas of academic advancement and Resident Life — including the expansion of the Llura "Lulie" Liggett Gund '58 Residence Hall for Girls on the second floor of Bolles Hall.

While the milestone Sanchez and Fender gifts continues the Center for Innovation on a course for success, Bolles Chief Advancement Officer Carol Nimitz said the School continues to seek support for the ongoing development of the facility. The Bolles School needs an additional \$8 million in philanthropic gifts to meet the \$26 million cost of the building.

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Tree of Life, ceremony honor loved ones

The 33rd annual Tree of Life and Candlelight Services of Remembrance, hosted by Community Hospice & Palliative Care, honors the memory of loved ones lost in a beautiful, inspiring program of music and reflection.

This free event is open to the public and will be held from 5:45 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, at the Earl B. Hadlow Center for Caring in Jacksonville and Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the Stephen R. Chapman Family Community Campus in St. Augustine.

Attendees are invited to bring a photo of their loved one to display on the memory table. The campuses will be adorned

with lights and evergreen trees decorated in ivory ribbons personalized with the names of loved ones.

Regardless of whether they received care from Community Hospice, anyone in the community who has experienced a loss can honor their loved one. In addition, there will be special trees recognizing the youngest patients and children from the community.

Offsite parking will be available, with a shuttle service at each location. To have a ribbon hung in a loved one's honor, submit names by Dec. 1. For more information, go to TOL.CommunityHospice.com.



Nights of Pints gives back to local nonprofits

The seventh annual Nights of Pints is running now through Dec. 31 at three St. Augustine breweries — Dog Rose Brewing Company, Ancient City Brewing and Bootlegger Beach Brewing at Jack's BBO.

Coinciding with the City of St. Augustine's Nights of Lights, the event was started in 2017 by the breweries as a way to give back to nonprofit organizations in the area while enjoying the festivities during the Nights of Lights.

"We love giving back to the community with this event," said Courtney Murr, co-owner of Dog Rose Brewery Company, along with her husband Doug Murr. "Nights of Pints is a fun way for friends and families to enjoy time together over a couple of St. Augustine craft beers."

The 2023 shirts feature "Bad" Santa with tattoos of St. Augustine landmarks (the fort and the lighthouse) designed by The Skinny Lizard T-Shirt Printers. Past shirts have featured the City Gate, historic ships and the Castillo de San Marcos —

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all symbols of the Nation's Oldest City.
Shirts are \$35, available at any of the three breweries, and each shirt comes with a punch card — good for one free pint at each of the breweries through Dec. 31.

A portion of the proceeds will go to three area charities: Fish Island Community Alliance, THE PLAYERS Championship Boys & Girls Club and Pie in the Sky.

For more details, follow on Facebook at facebook.com/nightsofpints and on Instagram at @nightofpints.

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State recognizes Blessings in a Backpack coordinator

Ocean Palms Elementary School celebrated Sharon Kehoe, a crusader against childhood hunger and a local hero to those who know her and the 195 students in area schools who receive meals because of her kindness and dedication.

Honored this past spring as the Senior Volunteer of the Year at Ocean Palms Elementary School, Kehoe went on to win the district award for the category and recently learned she was honored with a third-place award at the state level for her endeavors.

In fact, Kehoe, for the past 13 years, has worked to fight childhood hunger as the coordinator of the local Blessings in a Backpack program. Here she plans meals, organizes volunteer teams and work locations, raises funds for purchases and delivers food backpacks to students in need in local schools.

Contributed photos



Ocean Palms Elementary School Principal Tiffany Cantwell recognizes Sharon Kehoe for her service and state recognition at the school's Otter Run pep rally.



Students congratulate Sharon Kehoe for her state recognition.



Sharon Kehoe celebrates her award with her friends and family.

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Salvation Army seeks bell ringers

The Salvation Army of St. Johns County is now recruiting bell ringers for the 2023 holiday season. It's not too early to sign up; the site is already open and time slots are already being booked.

There are bell-ringing locations at Winn Dixie, Walmart and more than 17 Publix locations with two or more shifts per day, throughout St. Johns County.

The Salvation Army needs volunteers but has, in the past, relied on paid individuals to fill all the shifts. But in a year

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marked with labor shortages, additional help is being sought from volunteers.

One can ring individually or with a group of friends. Signing up is easy. Go to registertoring.com, then pick a location and time.

With more people facing poverty this year, the need to serve those most vulnerable is greater than ever before. The Salvation Army is dedicated to helping the homeless within the community through financial assistance, utilities and food

The Salvation Army is a nonprofit organization determined to assist those in need and make a difference in the world. This red kettle campaign makes it possible for The Salvation Army to help struggling individuals and families through donations received.

For more than 130 years, The Salvation Army's Red Kettles have represented hope during the holidays.

For more information, contact The Salvation Army at 904-824-6956. Monetary donations can also be made by calling 800-SAL-ARMY or at salvationarmyusa.org.

Santa Suits on the Loose is Dec. 9

The 12th Annual Santa Suits on the Loose 5K presented by Bozard Ford, St. Augustine, to benefit St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS), is a fun walk/jog/run that will occur at 8 a.m. Dec. 9, starting at the St. Augustine Beach Pier Park. The race follows a flat 3.1-mile course through St. Augustine Beach neighborhoods.

It's an attention-getter with 1,000-plus participants, many dressed head to toe in festive Santa suits and other holiday garb out for a run through the neighborhood.

Entry fee is \$35 per person in advance, \$40 the day before and day of the race. Day of race registration begins at 6:30 a.m.

Go to runsignup.com/Race/Info/FL/StAugustine/SantaSuitsOnTheLoose-5KWalkJogRun for more information.

Individuals can gather neighbors, coworkers, friends and relatives to form a team. Receive bragging rights and a traveling trophy for registering the most participants, all while doing even more to help local youth.

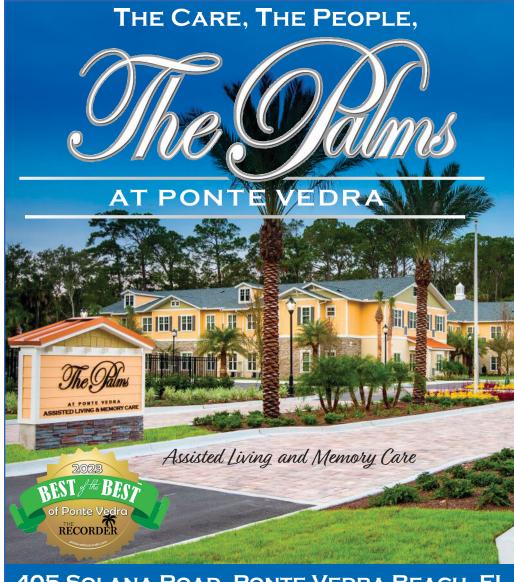
"Every year we say this year's 5K will be the biggest one yet, and every



year we seem to beat our previous numbers!" said Executive Director Schuyler Siefker.

For more information or to register online, go to racesmith.com or email santasuitsontheloose@gmail.com for any questions.

SAYS provides residential therapeutic group home services for boys ages 6-17 who have experienced emotional trauma or abuse, and three programs providing crisis management and case management services to the community. SAYS is celebrating 34 years of serving children



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18 COMMUNITY NEWS



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Sport shooting event supports nonprofits

Davidson Cares hosted its successful Jim Davidson's Annual Clay Day fundraiser on Oct. 19 at Jacksonville Clay Target Sports. This charity event boomed back for its eighth year, raising \$150,000 for local organizations that assist youth and veterans in the community.

This year's event brings Davidson Cares' charitable fundraising total to almost \$750,000. The event was made possible by title sponsors The Hutson Companies, Iventure, Providence Homes and Riverside Homes; and 12-gauge sponsors Bird Dog, Matthews Design Group, Vallencourt, MasterCraft Builder Group, Watson Civil, ECS, Bozard Ford, Sherwin Williams and many more.

"Our incredible shooters and sponsors really helped us turn it out this year," said Sherry Davidson, president of Davidson Cares. "I'm so proud of everything we've accomplished over the last eight years. Each Clay Day gets better and better. This year, our fundraising efforts exceeded our expectations enough that we were able to assist an eighth organization. The nonprofits that we support are really the lifeblood of our community. They are the helpers our most precious populations turn to in times of need. How amazing that we're able to show them support in

return!"

The Jim Davidson Annual Clay Day fundraiser awarded donations to eight local charities: Hope is Restored, which helps survivors of human trafficking; Port in a Storm, a homeless shelter for youth 16-24 years old; St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS), which serves at-risk youth; Homes for Hope, which works locally to end poverty globally by building homes; Take Stock in Children received funding for three college scholarships; Five Star Veterans Center is a 41-bed facility assisting veterans; Builders Care, a nonprofit that restores accessibility by building ramps; and Community Hospice & Palliative Care, a medical center that provides end-of-life care.

Davidson Cares Clay Day was renamed Jim Davidson's Annual Clay Day after the recent passing of the Davidson family's patriarch.

"It was really important to us that we select charities that honored Jim's memory," says Davidson. "Every single one of these organizations represents a cause that was very meaningful to us. He truly wanted to improve this community and make it a better place for everyone. That's what we'll continue to do through Davidson Cares and in Jim's name."







Jacksonville Chamber names Robles 2024 Small Business Leader of The Year

Aaron Robles, owner and CEO of Innovative Physical Therapy and John Goetze Physical Therapy — Beaches, has been named the 2024 Small Business Leader of the Year by the Beach Division of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce.

The announcement took place at the Beach Division's monthly meeting at Casa Marina in Jacksonville Beach

Greg DiFranza, the 2023 Small Business Leader of the Year, announced Robles' award to attendees.

Robles was given the opportunity to say a few words and expressed his gratitude toward the Chamber.

"I am honored to be selected 2024 Small Business Leader of the Year for the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division," said Robles. "I hope to continue to help more businesses and people connect, build relationships and support each other and the Beaches community."

Innovative Physical Therapy and John Goetze Physical Therapy — Beaches are manual physical therapy clinics focused on keeping the Jacksonville community active, mobile and pain-free.

Innovative Physical Therapy locations provide personalized, one-on-one manual therapy, with locations in Southside Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra Beach. To learn more call or text 904-280-2002 or go to MyManualPT com

The John Goetze Physical Therapy — Beaches is a manual therapy clinic serving the Jacksonville Beach



Contributed photo

Aaron Robles speaks after being named the 2024 Small Business Leader of the Year by the Beach Division of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce.

area. Call or text 904-280-2001 or go to ManualPT.com. The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce helps local

events designed to help make meaningful connections and cultivate valuable business relationships within the community; go to JaxChamber.com.





20 COMMUNITY NEWSPonte Vedra Recorder · November 23, 2023

Tickets available for First Coast Design Show on Dec. 1-3

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital has announced that tickets are available for the annual First Coast Design Show.

The fundraising event benefiting Wolfson Children's Hospital is Dec. 1-3, at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. The 2023 First Coast Design Show, "The Art of Gathering," honors the long-standing tradition of collecting and celebrates the relationships that are nurtured throughout the home. To purchase tickets, go to First-CoastDesignShow.com.

"We are excited to celebrate the art of gathering at the 2023 First Coast Design Show," said Kendra McCrary, president of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital. "The art of gathering is about creating spaces that encourage relationships, community and joy. We hope everyone will join us and celebrate the relationships that are nurtured around the table and throughout the home when loved ones come together. Most importantly, the show supports our commitment to raise \$1.5 million for two new Kids Kare Mobile Intensive Care Units (ICUs), part of Wolfson Children's Hospital's Neonatal and Pediatric Critical Care Transport fleet, by 2024"

On Friday, Dec. 1, the First Coast Design Show will open in the morning with lectures by designers Angie Hranowsky and Melanie Turner. There will be a flower workshop and a "Booth Crawl" with designer Juli Catlin. On Friday evening, the Opening Night Gala features dinner and dancing alongside curated antiques and art and garden dealers with entertainment by DJ Lucy Wrubel.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, lectures include designer and lifestyle expert Danielle Rollins and artist Aldous Bertram. There will be a table setting experience and a







Melanie Turner



Danielle Rollins



Aldous Bertram

cocktail demonstration.

On Sunday, Dec. 3, a "Bubbles and Booth Crawl" with Stephanie Jarvis will be followed by the signature grand finale event, the Children's Fashion Show, featuring more than 30 models who are current or former Wolfson Children's Hospital patients. In collaboration with the Cummer Museum, the Children's Fashion Show honors the inspiration of fashion and self-expression with the theme, "Dress to Inspire with the Cummer Museum." Dillard's, a longtime sponsor, will provide the clothing to light up the runway. A reception will take place immediately following the Children's Fashion Show.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 1, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2-3. General show admission is \$15 and features antiques, art and garden dealers from around the Southeast. Enjoy lunch at the Tea Room or an afternoon coffee and treat at the Pastry Café. The show also presents a gallery wall of local art that is available for

purchase, with 50% of the proceeds going directly to the 2023 Kids Kare Mobile ICU Funding Target.

The Opening Night Gala, lectures, workshops, demonstrations and the children's fashion show are ticketed events and ticket quantity is limited. Opening Night Gala tickets start at \$150 for Young Collector tickets and \$250 for Patron tickets. Lectures are \$30 each, and the cost of immersive experiences varies. Book signings will occur at the end of each lecture. Tickets to the Children's Fashion Show are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students with free admission for children under age 6.

For sponsorship and ticket information, go to first-coastdesignshow.com, call 904-202-2886, or email womensboard@bmcjax.com.

Follow The Women's Board and the First Coast Design Show on social media at @firstcoastdesignshow, @ thewomensboardwch and facebook.com/womensboardwch



EnterCircle

It also served as a kind of dry run for entrepreneurs who hope to pitch their ideas at JVC's main event in March.

Day two was the Premier Business Showcase and Awards Night. Among the offerings here was a pitch competition, not unlike that of the previous day, which summit co-organizer Raghu Misra called "the most exciting" part of the whole event.

Witnessing these presentations, one had to marvel at the ideas put forth - how inventive and focused they were - and how prepared the presenters were to answer judges' questions. Awards according to a variety of criteria were given out later in

A business expo in the main lobby of the link encouraged attendees to visit with and learn more about the many businesses that had dedicated tables there.

In addition, County Administrator Joy Andrews and Melissa Wright, director of community relations and partnership for Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub, spoke to those assembled. Andrews, newly appointed to her position, took the opportunity to share some information about



Jay Owen of Business Builders gives students some advice Thursday, Nov. 16, during the Youth Symposium.

herself and her background.

STEM2 Hub, whose mission is to grow STEM education programs in Florida schools, was this year's nonprofit and received proceeds from another day-two event, Cocktails for a Cause Charity Networking.

Day three was the Youth Symposium. Students from four high school career academies in St. Johns County had opportunities to hear from speakers on a host of topics, including some solid advice on crafting their futures. The district's Career and Technical Education department helped arrange the students' participation.

Day four was Women's Day, featuring speakers from a variety of industries and professions. The goal of this day was to offer important insights to attendees as they initiate their own entrepreneurial journeys.



Joy Andrews, county administrator for St. Johns County, speaks Wednesday, Nov. 15, at EnterCircle 2023.

Day five was the Jr. Business Fair, a collaboration between the Sapna Foundation and Acton Academy Ponte Vedra. Children and youth under age 15 were given opportunities to experience the launch of their own startups.

NOTE: This is an abridged version of the article. Find the full article, as well as online-exclusive content, at pontevedrarecorder.com.

For more photos from EnterCircle 2023, please turn to page 22.



Crissy Collins and Jesse Manning were happy to tell Business Expo attendees about World's Greatest Heating & Air.



Debbie Kantor, CEO of Hero Medical Technologies, received the award for Most Innovative Idea during the EnterCircle pitch competition.



Dr. Mark Manera, CEO of Offshift, received the award for Best Presentation at the EnterCircle pitch competition.

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MORE PHOTOS FROM ENTERCIRCLE 2023



The Rev. Rich Pagano speaks Friday, Nov. 17, at EnterCircle 2023.



Marc Montemerlo of SpaceX speaks to students Thursday, Nov. 16, during the Youth Symposium.



Sonya Morales-Marchisillo of Pinnacle **Communications Group speaks during** EnterCircle Women's Day.



Tina Bodnar, senior vice president, banking relations manager for First Horizon Private Bank, speaks during Women's Day.





The team from First Coast Heart & Vascular Center at the **EnterCircle Business Expo.**



Realtor Lesley Brawn of Game Changer Realty.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Mandee Combs and Jerry Shafer represented RISE 55+ at the Business Expo.



The Recorder was proud to be a sponsor of the 2023 EnterCircle event.



The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce was happy to be part of the EnterCircle event again this year.



Maria Rodriguez, Lesley Brawn, and Mandee Combs enjoy a night of networking at the Cocktails for a Cause, which raised funds for Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub.





Attendees enjoyed an assortment of foods from the charcuterie display.





BUSIN For MORF business news. go to facebook.com/ ThePVRecorder **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023**



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Two new communities planned in northern St. Johns County

The Northeast Florida Division of PulteGroup has purchased 963 acres in St. Johns County to develop The Landings, a master-planned development that will feature Del Webb and Pulte Homes. The new residential development will be located south of Greenbriar Road and west of Longleaf Pine Parkway in northern St. Johns County.

"We are pleased to build upon our presence in St. Johns County and excited to meet the growing demand for housing," said Justin Cook, president of PulteGroup's Northeast Florida Division. "St. Johns County is an extremely popular and thriving area, and it ranks among the most sought-after areas for homebuyers."

PulteGroup closed on the property in October 2023 and construction is already underway. The masterplanned development is expected to open in 2025 with consumer inspired floorplans from two of its signature

Del Webb, the nation's leading builder of active adult communities for those 55 and older, will develop Del Webb St. Johns to include up to 761 home sites accom-



Map of Del Webb St. Johns and The Landings by Pulte Homes.

modating single-family floor plans with open-concept living areas that are perfect for hosting family and entertaining.

Del Webb St. Johns residents will enjoy an active adult lifestyle with a variety of amenities including an amenity center designed for group activities and gatherings, a

resort style pool, pickleball courts and more.

PulteGroup is actively selling in three additional popular age-restricted Del Webb communities in Northeast Florida. The communities, which offer active-adult living and an array of amenities, include Del Webb Wildlight, Del Webb eTown and Del Webb Nocatee.

Pulte Homes will develop The Landings, which will be designed for families of all ages and will include up to 588 home sites. Pulte will offer one- and two-story floor plans and residents will enjoy an array of amenities.

Nearly half of The Landings has been planned with open space, including more than 50 acres of preservation areas and 15 acres of parks. The Landings is zoned for A-rated schools in the St. Johns County Public School District and is a short drive from shopping, dining, entertainment, outdoor recreation and more.

Those interested in Del Webb St. Johns or The Landings by Pulte Homes may join the VIP List for updates and to be among the first to know of upcoming announcements. For more information, call 904-604-7254 or go to pulte.com/jacksonville.

NEFAR's Global Business Council receives Gold Award

The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors' (NEFAR) Global Business Council has been awarded the Gold Award in the 2023 National Association of Realtors (NAR) Global Achievement Program.

NEFAR was one of only nine associations to receive the Gold Award out of 130 global business councils in the nation.

The recognition represents the outstanding dedication and commitment NEFAR's Global Business Council has made in fostering global business activities in Northeast Florida this year. NEFAR's Global Business Council also received the Gold Award in 2022, 2019, 2018, 2017 and

"NEFAR is proud to be recognized for exceptional work in the global arena by receiving the Gold Award from the National Association of Realtors," said 2023 NEFAR President Diana Galavis. "The NEFAR Global Business Council is a leader in the state by providing our Realtor members and affiliates the tools and resources needed to conduct global real estate business."

The NAR Global Achievement Program celebrates excellence in the global real estate market, acknowledging associations that go above and beyond to support their members in becoming proficient global real estate practitioners. The program

serves to recognize the efforts of local Realtor associations in developing and implementing global programs that facilitate connections and business opportunities

A wide array of educational opportunities is provided to members by NEFAR's Global Business Council, including international certifications, seminars and networking events. The council strives to ensure that its members remain informed about the latest global real estate trends and practices. By promoting cultural awareness and fostering international relationships, NEFAR's Global Business Council enables its members to serve their clients effectively in the global market-

The Gold Award highlights the exceptional accomplishments, innovative programs and dedication to enhancing the global business capabilities of the members of NEFAR's Global Business Council.

This year, the council expanded its membership from 58 to 140 members. It hosted Taste the Nations, a fundraiser for the Realtor Party, which celebrated food and the customs of 18 countries throughout the world. It also provided members with behind-the-scenes tours of JAXPort, a group event touring the City of Jacksonville's World of Nations, four Lunch

& Learns, four mixers at restaurants that serve international fare, and an upcoming educational holiday event celebrating Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hannukah,

"It has been an honor to partner with each member of NEFAR's Global Business Council this year, as we've grown global

organically together," said council Chair April Hall-Lloyd. "This year, we tripled our membership and now have the most diverse group of members ever in the history of the council. Our educational and social opportunities have been as diverse as our membership."

Walkers Ridge in Sawgrass Country Club

Step inside 52 South Nine Drive and experience a unique custom designed home that is perfect for entertaining family and friends. The cozy entrance to the foyer welcomes you to an open concept dining room, and light filled living room, and sunroom, that reveals one of Sawgrass Country Clubs waterfront views with a Northeastern exposure. This completely updated home with the master on the first floor is simply gorgeous! With 2294 square feet of design this 3-bedroom 21/2 bath coastal traditional is light, and spacious, with a unique floor plan that connects the new Chefs kitchen, and breakfast room, to the dining room, office and spacious 2 story living room, with a wood burning fireplace. Minutes to the beach and golf course. Enjoy country club living

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recent 2022 Chairman ircle Gold Award recipien representing the top 2%, cutting edge marketing ising integrit



True Spec teams up with Travis Fulton, opens Ponte Vedra location

By Anthony Richards

The Travis Fulton Golf Studio has developed into one of the golf world's top-notch facilities to learn the techniques behind the game, and now it is taking honing one's skill to the next level by partnering with True Spec Golf.

True Spec Golf is a worldwide leader in custom club fitting and creation and opened a True Spec Ponte Vedra at the studio's facility located at 14797 Philips Highway, Suite 202 on Nov. 21.

Golfers can work directly with Travis at the studio to learn more about their own golf game and the steps needed to improve their technique and develop more skill, but now they can also get their clubs fitted to help take their play to the next level as well and has developed

a national following through his work with Golf Channel.

"I'm passionate about golf instruction, regardless of whether I'm speaking to a national audience or one-on-one with a student at my studio," Travis Fulton said. "True Spec exhibits that same dedication and attention to detail with their clients and I'm delighted to have them onboard."

The studio's location just south of TPC Sawgrass is something that True Spec Golf believed made for an excellent fit and they are excited to be in the backyard of some of the best golf options in the world, as well as being affiliated with a known commodity such as Travis Fulton.

"The mere mention of Ponte Vedra understandably rouses pleasant images in the minds of most golfers," said Ryan Richardson, president of True Spec Golf. "We're thrilled to be setting up shop there and operating alongside someone as talented and successful as Travis Fulton."

The studio is already set up with a state-of-the-art About Golf Simulator, putting green, bar, televisions and more to help host great events along with helping to grow the game.

The new True Spec facility features an indoor fitting bay equipped with a Foresight GCQuad launch monitor and utilizes True Spec's brand-agnostic fitting matrix of more than 50,000 club head and shaft combinations from every major equipment manufacturer. Each club will be custom built at True Spec's headquarters located in Scottsdale, Arizona, to the exact specifications derived from the

The fitting process consists of three steps, the first is the interview portion, which is where the master fitter gets to know the player and initially learns about their game and the clubs they currently having in their bag.

This is followed by the second step, which is testing the equipment to narrow down which club types work best for the player and the final step is the master fitter's recommendation of the best combination of club head, shaft and grip works for them to get the best out of their game.

Fitting sessions range from \$125 to \$375 for a full bag fitting.

This will be True Spec's eighth fitting location in Florida, and to book a custom fitting appointment, golfers can go to www.truespecgolf.com to pick a location







170 students compete at Stock Market Challenge

Junior Achievement of North Florida (JANFL), a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy, recently hosted a highly successful Stock Market Challenge at EverBank Stadium. The event brought together more than 170 students from 10 local high schools for a day of financial education and friendly competition.

The Second Annual JA Stock Market Challenge held Nov. 8 provided students with the special opportunity to experience the fast-paced world of stock trading. The unique setting of EverBank's Gallagher Suites added an extra layer of excitement to the event, allowing young minds to engage in financial simulations in the atmosphere of a professional sports arena. The event was not only educational but also aimed at fostering teamwork, critical thinking and decision-making skills.

The title sponsor, EverBank, played a crucial role in making the event possible, contributing to the success of the Stock Market Challenge and reinforcing their commitment to financial literacy and education in the community.

Special participants were Brian Sexton, the Voice of the Jaguars; Dana Kriznar, interim superintendent of Duval County Public Schools; Curt Cunkle, president of Florida Banking at EverBank; and Jaxson de Ville, Jacksonville Jaguars Mascot.

Leading up to the Stock Market Challenge, more than 700 students participated in JA's Take Stock in Your Future program sponsored by TD Bank, which introduces students to concepts about how the stock market works and the impact of current events on the stock

The schools that participated include Bartram Trail High School, Duncan U.

Fletcher High School, Englewood High School, Jean Ribault High School, KIPP Bold City High School, Samuel W. Wolfson High School, Mandarin High School, Baldwin Senior High School, Paxon School for Advanced Studies and Stanton College Preparatory School.

After intense rounds of trading, team Market Mavericks from Englewood High School emerged as the champion, showcasing strategic acumen and financial skills. Team DCSO from Bartram Trail High School claimed the secondplace position, and team Slime from KIPP Bold City High School secured a commendable third place.

"The Stock Market Challenge is a testament to the power of experiential learning in shaping the future leaders of our community," said Tiffany Guthrie, VP of Programs & Partnerships at Junior Achievement of North Florida. "We are immensely grateful to our

sponsors for their unwavering support in empowering these students with JA programs. Congratulations to all the participating schools, especially the Market Mavericks, for their outstanding performance."

This event not only provided a platform for friendly competition but also reinforced Junior Achievement of North Florida's commitment to equipping young minds with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the ever-evolving economic landscape.

JA of North Florida plans to host the Stock Market Challenge in the fall of 2024. The enthusiasm generated by this year's event has sparked interest from both corporations and schools eager to participate; for inquiries or to express interest, contact Stephanie Saman at ssaman@janfl.org. For more information about JANFL and their programs, go to janfl.org.

Slowing market impacted by high interest rates

Traditionally, with the approach of Thanksgiving, the housing market slows as both buyers and sellers begin to reflect on the holidays. However, observing a longer data history, this is by far the biggest seasonal slowdown seen at this time in many years.

With few exceptions, the number of days houses sat on the market increased along with active inventory throughout the region. And prices remained high.

"The monthly supply of inventory in the region increased to 3.5 months," observed NEFAR President Diana Galavis, noting there was a 19% increase since September. "Overall, the Northeast Florida market is strong with the sales median holding with very little change."

Even with the increase of inventory, the region still has a way to go before it can be considered a buyers' market, where six to seven months of inventory is for sale. And one thing is for certain, homes have never been so expensive in Northeast Florida. The region's Home Affordability Index for single-family homes slid 4.5% to 63, registering at an all-time low.

The Housing Affordability Index measures housing affordability for the region. In other words, it measures whether a typical family earns enough to qualify for a mortgage on a typical home, based on current interest rates, median income and



median home prices. A higher number means greater affordability.

This index measures affordability factors for all homebuyers making a 20% downpayment. An index of 100 is defined as the point where a median-income family has the exact amount of income needed to purchase a median-priced existing home. An index value over 100 means that the family has more than enough income, while a value below 100

means that a family doesn't have enough income to qualify for a mortgage loan.

The high cost of housing has a lot to do with high interest rates, Galavis said.

"Interest rates reached the highest levels in October," she said. "Buyers were cautious and took a little longer to make offers, which reflected in higher median days on market. Closed sales slid down. The home affordability index had a slight dip. The cost of goods, services and bor-

rowing money is much more expensive today than a year ago. Buyers are taking a pause to see which direction the Federal Reserve, stock investments and the real estate market will move."

In St. Johns County, median prices for October increased 0.9% to \$540,000 for single-family homes. The median days on the market jumped up 14% to 49. Monthto-month, closed sales fell 2.0% to 401, pending sales dropped 4% to 407, and new listings rose negligibly 01% to 700.

Active inventory rose to 1,675 homes, an increase of 5.1% from September, and 4.2-month supply. The Home Affordability Index slid downward, 4.3% to 45, indicating St. Johns County is the most expensive Northeast Florida county to live in.

In Duval County, the October median price of single-family housing was \$320,000, a 3.6% dip downward from September. The median days on the market in October increased to 38, a 22.6% hike from the month before. Month-tomonth, closed sales fell 12.8% to 765, pending sales rose 4.7% to 795, and new listings increased 6.9% to 1,415. Active inventory for the county rose 11.2% to 2,422 homes, a 3.2-month supply. In October, the Home Affordability Index remained stable from the month before

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In the Arts

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Alhambra continues holiday tradition with Miracle on 34th Street

By Anthony Richards

It is not hard to look around and know that the holidays are upon us, as holidayinspired decorations and events begin to pop up throughout the First Coast.

However, one of the iconic local holiday traditions is the Christmas show at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining in Jacksonville, and this year's showcase is the classic tale of "Miracle on 34th Street."

Director Shain Stroff combined a show that was inspired by the book, music and lyrics of Meredith Willson and the motion picture story by Valentine Davies and screenplay by George Seaton, and it was a story that so many in the audience were already very familiar with and anxious to

One of the main characters was Susan Walker, who is the child who builds a relationship and a growing belief in Santa throughout the show. The role was played by Kat DeCicco, who took to the Alhambra stage for the second time this year, as she also played "Chip" in Beauty and the

DeCicco did an excellent job with her performance both in the acting and singing portions of the show.

One of the stars of the show was Pete Clapsis, who played Kris Kringle, and did a fabulous job of bringing the character to life from beginning to end.



Photo courtesy of Alhambra Theatre & Dining

Miracle on 34th Street is this year's Christmas show at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining in Jacksonville.

Clapsis has been part of many Alhambra shows in the past, including playing the wizard in "The Wizard of Oz," and he always does an excellent job of providing an abundance of personality to the characters he portrays.

Other major characters included Sarah Middough as Doris Walker and Matthew Johnson as Fred Gailey. It was Middough's fourth appearance at the Alhambra and the 40th for Johnson, who is from the area, and did his first show at the theatre in 1997.

One thing about shows at the Alhambra is that they lead to people from outside the area playing roles, and one of those for "Miracle on 34th Street" is Kole Mitchell McKinley, who plays Marvin Shellham-

McKinley lives in New York City but is spending his holidays in Jacksonville performing in "Miracle on 34th Street," which held its opening night on Nov. 16 and will

MIRACLE continues on Page 27



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First Coast Opera receives \$10K grant from Truist **Foundation**

First Coast Opera (FCO) has received a \$10,000 grant from Truist Foundation to expand accessibility initiatives and the reach of its programs.

According to FCO General Director Curtis Tucker, "making opera accessible to all people is an essential goal for First Coast Opera, and we are grateful to the Truist Foundation for partnering with us to enrich our community."

With this grant, FCO will offer expanded services for hearing- and vision-impaired members of the community by providing captioning, large print versions of its playbill and the use of hearing-assisted technologies.

Additionally, FCO will partner with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Jacksonville to further expand its audience throughout Northeast Florida.

Now in its 24th season, the mission of First Coast Opera is to serve Northeast Florida with professional opera performances for the education, cultural enhancement and enjoyment of our communities, combining artistic excellence and the development of local and regional talent.

Learn more at FirstCoastOpera. com or call 904-417-5555, and follow on social media at facebook. com/firstcoastopera and instagram. com/first coast opera.

Established in 2020, the Truist Foundation makes strategic investments in nonprofit organizations to help ensure the communities it serves have more opportunities for a better quality of life. Truist Foundation's grants and activities focus on building career pathways to economic mobility and strengthening small businesses. Learn more at Truist.com/Foundation.

Butterfield features 'Wizard of Wood'

Butterfield Garage's featured artist for December is Jim Rivers, a "Wizard of Wood" with his handcrafted furniture and sculptures. An artist talk at 6 p.m. on First Friday — Dec. 1 — will be an opportunity to experience Rivers' unbridled creativity and his often curious, always charming pieces of furniture.

Rivers has been practicing woodcraft since he was a child; he began helping his woodcarver uncle search the woods for just the right piece. Wood searching has been an important part of his life ever since

Over a lifetime, Rivers has developed an eye for seeing potential in unusual pieces of wood.

"Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to walk through the countryside and find a piece of the Almighty's creation that I can take home, cut and polish, and turn into something that people will like," he said.

His impressive wood collection includes cedar, sweet-gum, oak and pine.

Lately, Rivers has been focusing on sculptures.

"A lot of times I'll bring a piece of wood home, and I know there is something in there, but I can't quite see it," he said. "He studies a piece of wood to work out what's already in there. He often discovers mythical creatures and shapes the sculpture to bring out those elements.

What an untrained eye might see as an imperfection, Rivers sees as an opportunity. It's a wonder to watch him work. Crude logs are sawed, shaped and sanded, coaxed by his touch and sense of the wood's potential. Edges are not precise. Surprises are embraced. The final finished piece is a work of art, no two pieces are alike.

Rivers works in his wood shop every day and is continually collecting new wood and experimenting with new tech-



Contributed photos

Jim Rivers slices a cedar log into planks.



A chair Rivers made

niques. Butterfield has been graced with his mirrors, tables and benches for years, and they have become enthusiastically collected. Butterfield Garage will be freshly stocked with new pieces, placed throughout the gallery during the month of March.

First Coast Opera to stage 'La Bohème' Dec. 30-31

First Coast Opera will stage Puccini's masterpiece, "La Bohème," on New Year's Eve weekend — with two performances Dec. 30-31 in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St., downtown St. Augustine. The fully staged opera will include a cast of opera singers from throughout the United States, along with a live orchestra. Tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com

Experience this iconic opera while ringing in the New Year. "La Bohème" debuted in 1896 at the Teatro Regio in Turin, Italy—127 years after its premiere, Giacomo Puccini's "La Bohème" arguably remains the most popular opera in the world.

The Dec. 30 matinee performance will be preceded with a pre-show talk at 1 p.m., with the performance to begin at 2 p.m.

The Dec. 31 performance will be preceded with a pre-show talk at 6:30 p.m., followed by the performance at 7:30 p.m. A glass of complimentary champagne will be served to patrons during intermission for the New Year's Eve celebration.

"La Bohème" is directed by Helena Binder, who returns to First Coast Opera after directing Opera Mystique in February and Verdi's "La Traviata" last season. Performing artists include Ganson Salmon as Rodolfo; Julia Radosz as Mimì, Steve Valenzuela as Marcello; McKenna Slack as Musetta; Thomas Gunther as Schaunard; Edwin Davis as Colline; Paul Houghtaling as Benoît and Alcindoro; Esteban Cano as Parpignol.

First Coast Opera launched its new season Oct. 27-28 with Copland's "America," its annual dinner show. Patrons enjoyed a meal provided by St. Augustine's own La Cocina International

restaurant.

General and Artistic Director Curtis Tucker narrated the program and even took a turn on stage. Tucker was recognized on the occasion of his 10th anniversary with



Contributed photo

First Coast Opera will stage Puccini's masterpiece, "La Bohème," on New Year's Eve weekend.

the company.

Upcoming 2024 events include:

• The Roaring '20s Gala: Feb. 14 at Lightner Museum, 75 King St., in downtown St. Augustine. Find your flapper dresses and zoot suits and step into the Roaring 1920s on Valentine's Day. Celebrate with a night filled with sumptuous food and cocktails, lively dancing and exciting auctions. This event is sponsored by The Treasury on the Plaza and Lightner Museum. Tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com.

• "The Pirates of Penzance" on March 15 and 17 in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College. Be swept away by Gilbert and Sullivan's beloved operetta. Unforgettable characters and catchy tunes will have guests tapping their toes and laughing out loud. Tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com.

First Coast Opera season supporters include the Truist Foundation; Bank of America; Treasury on the Plaza; Tiberio Foundation; Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball, P.A; Gathered Events and Rentals; and Ameriprise.

First Coast Opera is sponsored in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council and the Florida Division of Arts and Culture.

Miracle

Continued from 26

run through Christmas Eve.

There are five children with roles in the play, which provides a good amount of youthful exuberance and adds to the overall experience, which is already captured so well the holiday vibes resonating throughout the theatre, from the decorations in the lobby to the Christmas music that plays over the speakers during intermission.

The show is sold out for this year, as the holiday specials are always a fan favorite; however, next year's show listings have been released and the show will be another classic, in the form of "A Christmas Story, The Musical."





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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Make way for the winter sports season

By Anthony Richards

With the championship seasons for the fall sports wrapping up and still underway, when it comes to football, that can only mean that the winter sports are now underway.

And the soccer and basketball teams for both Ponte Vedra and Nease have had their share of success in recent years, so the expectations heading in are high.

The Ponte Vedra High girls soccer team started the season on a tear with victories over Beachside and Gulf Breeze, both on the road, by a combined score of 7-0.

They will have some home cooking with a stretch of three straight home games following the Thanksgiving break, with home contest against Stanton and Bishop Kenny on Nov. 27 and 29, respectively and against Fletcher on Dec. 5.

On the boys side of things, the Sharks are looking to keep things going following the loss of a productive senior class, but the program has plenty of talent within it and the young Sharks from recent years look to take over the reigns as the new leaders on the team moving forward.

The Panthers boys soccer squad looks



File photo

Soccer is one of the winter sports that has begun their latest season.

to keep the momentum going after a 9-4-4 record a year ago, and one of the leaders coming back is senior Evan Miriello, who provides them with a solid presence in net that the rest of the team can feed off of.

It has been a furious start for the Nease girls soccer program, especially offensively, as they outscored their opponents 12-2 in their first three games.

If that continues, look out because the Panthers could be poised for a deep playoff run in their future.

When it comes to basketball, both the Panthers and Sharks schedule tough in an attempt to challenge their team and get them ready for the quality of competition they would go up against in the postseason.

This year is no different, as all four teams have their share of in-season tournaments they will take part in against some of the best competition around.

The Sharks boys squad will play in the Sixth Annual Fortegra Invitational Dec. 7-9 at the South Campus of Florida State College of Jacksonville against some of the best local teams and then test themselves against the best in the state in the 50th Annual Kingdom of the Sun Tournament in Ocala on Dec. 27-30.

Ponte Vedra's girls team has a veteran group led by sharpshooting seniors Morgan Gavazzi and Kennedy Rosendahl and the tenacious senior power forward Maya Richards.

The Panther girls have proven they are not afraid to play teams outside of the state under head coach Sherri Anthony and will do so again this year as they travelled to take on Glynn Academy and Valdosta out of Georgia and Chattanooga FCA out of Tennessee.

A tournament is also scheduled in the future for the Panthers boys basketball team Dec. 27-30, although the opponents are not yet sorted out.

Sharks boys golf wins seventh straight state title



Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra High Athletics

Four Sharks finished among the top 17 with Cameron Reed (6th), Mason Hage and Joey Hage (T13), and Sean Grezbin (17th).

Barracudas bring home state title in girls golf



Contributed photo

The Beachside Barracudas won the Class 2A championship by three shots over Broward American Heritage.

Q-School ticketing information announced

With PGA TOUR cards at stake for the first time in more than a decade, fans will have the opportunity to attend the Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry for all four tournament rounds at the Dye's Valley Course at TPC Sawgrass, which will be contested Dec. 14-17.

To secure tickets, fans can go to pgatourqschool.com/tickets, where they'll have the option to donate a minimum of \$5 per ticket to one of three Jacksonville-based charities. Fans 15-and-under can enter free with a ticketed adult, and parking at TPC Sawgrass will be complimentary for all spectators. For more information on the three benefitting charities:

- First Tee North Florida (firstteenorthflorida.org/about)
- Jacksonville Area Golf Association's scholarship program (jaxareagolf.org/about-jaga)
- Moore-Myers Children's Fund (moore-myers.org)

As the PGA TOUR previously announced in June 2022, the top five

finishers and ties at Final Stage of 2023 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry will earn PGA TOUR membership for the 2024 season.

The field at Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry will feature players who advanced through the various stages of Q-School — including Pre-Qualifying, First Stage, Second Stage — and others who automatically qualify for Final Stage by meeting the criteria of at least one exemption category.

In addition to awarding PGA TOUR cards, PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry will determine Korn Ferry Tour and PGA TOUR Americas eligibility for the 2024 season:

- Top five finishers and ties at Final Stage will earn PGA TOUR cards;
- Next 40 finishers and ties at Final Stage will earn exempt status through multiple reshuffles of the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season, with the first 25 finishers and ties being subject to the third reshuffle, and any remaining finishers within the category being subject to the

second reshuffle;

- The next 20 finishers and ties at Final Stage will earn exempt status for the Latin America Swing of the 2024 PGA TOUR Americas season, while also earning conditional Korn Ferry Tour membership;
- All remaining finishers at Final Stage will have conditional Korn Ferry Tour membership and conditional PGA TOUR Americas membership for the 2024 season.

Initially established as the PGA TOUR Qualifying Tournament, the now renamed PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry replaces the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, which operated from 2013 through 2022 and only awarded varying levels of Korn Ferry Tour membership.

Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry will see the last set of TOUR cards awarded prior to the 2024 season.

For those unable to attend in person, Golf Channel and Peacock will broadcast live weekend coverage at Final Stage of 2023 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry. Coverage on Golf Channel will be live from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 16 and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 17, and coverage on Peacock will be live from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. both days.

Sawgrass Country Club, which hosted THE PLAYERS Championship on its East-West Course from 1977 through 1981, will serve as the other course during the Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry. Fan access to Sawgrass Country Club during the Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry will be exclusive to Sawgrass Country Club members, player families and other essential personnel.

PGA TOUR fans interested in volunteering at the Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry can register at events.r2it.com/volunteer/qschool/2023 or contact QSchoolVolunteers@pgatourhq.com for more information.

17 Bolles seniors honored for college athletic commitments

Jacksonville Beach residents Alex and Kate Meyers-Labenz, Atlantic Beach resident Simany Lee and Ponte Vedra Beach resident Bella Bergeron were among 17 Bolles student-athletes representing six sports who were honored on Nov. 8 for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers. See the complete list of student-athletes below.

Family, friends, classmates, coaches and faculty gathered in Davis Gym on the San Jose Campus to celebrate this achievement. Athletic Director Matt Morris welcomed everyone, and coaches introduced their respective athletes.

The following Bolles student-athletes were honored:

Baseball

- Chayce Kieck, Clemson University
- David Martin, Samford University



Contributed photo

Seventeen Bolles students were honored Nov. 8 for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers.

• Spencer Stephens, US Naval Academy

Boys' Cross Country/Track & Field

• Chris Joost, Boston College

Boys' Lacrosse

- Gavin Boree, High Point University
- Daylin John-Hill, Jacksonville

University

• Parker Kane, Florida Institute of Technology

Boys' Swimming

- Landon Kyser, University of Wisconsin
- Carter Lancaster, University of

California, Berkeley

- Alex Meyers-Labenz, Duke University
- Seth Tolentino, Texas A&M University

Girls' Swimming

- Sophia Joos, Emory University
- Simany Lee, University of Georgia
- Kate Meyers-Labenz, Duke University
- Julia Murphy, Virginia Tech

Volleyball

- Ashlyn Anderson, Kennesaw State University
- Bella Bergeron, Denison University

This is the first of three college commitment ceremonies planned at Bolles this school year to recognize studentathletes as they commit to colleges. Ceremonies are also planned for February and April.



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Public Notice

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, November 27, 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/8199621 3866?pwd=SC9KWE8vYkFBdU5IS 2FxRSt2dmJsdz09

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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 Watch

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 lan 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

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 lan Keane at <u>ikeane@thefirewatch.org</u> or by phone at 904 834 9420.

Pursuant to the American Disabilities accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests possible to fulfill. Please submit ADA accommodations requests to ikeane@thefirewatch.org.

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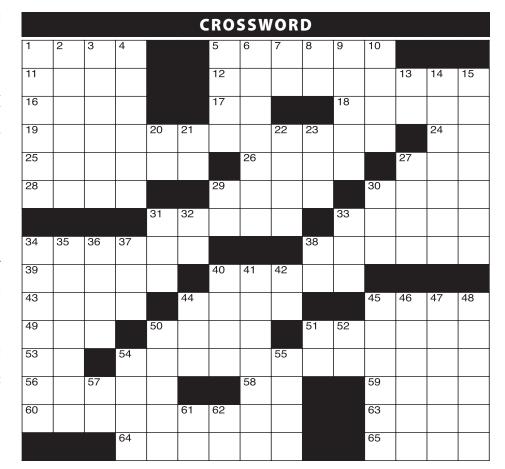
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ACROSS

- 1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 5. Requesting
- 11. Give temporarily
- 12. Happiness
- 16. Military branch
- 17. -__, denotes past
- 18. Middle Eastern city
- 19. Air hostesses
- 24. Partner to Pa
- 25. Percussion instrument
- 26. Popular computers
- 27. Decrease light
- 28. Valley in the Osh Region
- 29. "To __ his own"
- 30. Absence of difficulty 31. Notice announcing
- intended marriage read out in church
- 33. Trims by cutting
- 34. Impact
- 38. Military member
- 39. A French river
- 40. Member of prehistoric people in Mexico
- 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 44. Musician Clapton
- 45. Greek sophist
- 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 50. Narrow valley
- 51. A way to disentangle
- 53. Indicates not an issue (abbr.)
- 56. Genus of leaumes
- 58. Friend to Larry and Curly
- 59. Off-Broadway theater award
- 60. Fencers
- 63. Small Eurasian deer
- 64. Denoting passerine birds
- 65. Separate by category

DOWN

- 1. Colorless fluid part of blood
- 2. Of a main artery
- 3. Photographic equipment
- 4. Confirms a point
- 5. Developed over time

- 7. Lang (country singer)
- 8. Adults need one 9. Nests of pheasants
- 10. Antelopes
- 13. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 14. Japanese three-stringed lute
- 15. Type of cat
- 20. Cools your home
- 21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 22. Pouches
- 23. Trigraph
- 27. Form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan
- 29. __ route
- 30. Body part
- 31. Bridge building degree
- 32. Indicates position
- 33. Political action committee
- 34. Tasty snack

- 35. Part of a quadruped
- 36. Locate
- 37. Pitching statistic
- 40. City in Utah
- 41. Football players in the trenches
- 42. Hammer is one
- 44. A "nightmarish" street 45. Performers
- 46. Slang for cut or scrape
- 47. More breathable
- 48. Most slick
- 50. Provokes
- 51. Home to college's Flyers
- 52. Sodium
- 54. Large fish of mackerel family
- 55. Zero
- 57. and behold
- 61. The Palmetto State
- 62. Popular Tom Cruise movie franchise (abbr.)

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

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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