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INSIDE



**Valentine's Day**  
Pages 13-14

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Thursday, February 1, 2024

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## Yacht Club celebrates 150 years with plans for youth sailing center

Construction, fundraising is Floryan's focus as commodore

By Anthony Richards

The St. Augustine Yacht Club is celebrating 150 years in the community, and it is looking to celebrate by raising money to build a youth sailing center.

"It's a very exciting time right now," said Kathleen Floryan, who was named commodore of the club during a ceremony on Jan. 20. "We are trying to reach out to the youth, who will be the next generation of sailors."

Progress continues to be made on

**SAILING CENTER** continues on **Page 12**



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

# More lanes for C.R. 210

By Shaun Ryan

Relief is on the way for motorists who must regularly cope with congestion along County Road 210 between Interstate 95 and U.S. 1.

County officials and staff gathered Tuesday at the intersection of Badger Park Drive and C.R. 210 in St. Johns to ceremonially break ground on a project to widen a segment of that road from two to six lanes.

"The community has been looking forward to this project for quite some time," said Greg Caldwell, St. Johns County Public Works director.

County Commissioner Henry Dean called it "one of the more exciting projects" with which he has been involved during the time he has served on the board.

"It's going to do so much for the residents that are along this path," he said. "We added a new high school, of course, in the last year or so, and it increased the level of traffic even more. So, this couldn't come at a better time. It's absolutely wonderful. I couldn't be happier."

He noted that, as the commissioner



Photo by Shaun Ryan

**Pictured from left, Assistant Director of Growth Management Dick D'Souza, County Manager Joy Andrews, Commissioner Sarah Arnold, Commissioner Henry Dean, Commissioner Roy Alaimo, County Engineer Duane Kent and Public Works Director Greg Caldwell ceremonially break ground for the road-widening project.**

representing that area of the county, he receives many calls from people concerning the traffic congestion there.

The project, budgeted at \$12.8 million, will add four lanes of traffic for the

seven-tenths of a mile between Trinity Way and Beachwalk Boulevard, as well as sidewalks on both sides. It will im-

**LANES** continues on **Page 7**

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# Send us your news

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



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**Hugh Osteen**

COO/VP

[hugh@osteenmediagroup.com](mailto:hugh@osteenmediagroup.com)

(904) 285-8831

**Susan Griffin**

Publisher

[susan@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:susan@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 686-3938

**Shaun Ryan**

Editor

[shaun@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:shaun@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 285-8831, ext. 1202

**Anthony Richards**

Reporter

[anthony@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:anthony@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 285-8831, ext. 1207

**Don Coble**

Contributor

[don@claytodayonline.com](mailto:don@claytodayonline.com)

**Amber Anderson**

Page/Graphic Designer

[amber@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:amber@pontevedrarecorder.com)

**April Snyder**

Sales Assistant

[april@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:april@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 285-8831, ext. 1204

**Kristin Flanagan**

Account Executive

[kristin@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:kristin@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 285-8831, ext. 1206

**Adele McGraw**

Account Executive

[adele@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:adele@pontevedrarecorder.com)

(904) 285-8831, ext. 1208

**Joe Wilhelm**

Circulation Manager

[joe@osteenmediagroup.com](mailto:joe@osteenmediagroup.com)

(904) 300-5374

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## BRIEFS

### Beach cleanup yields 720 pounds of trash

On Jan. 19, the St. Johns County Solid Waste Division hosted a countywide beach clean-up event. A total of 720 pounds of trash and more than 300 volunteers showed up across seven different sites.

In attendance were County Commissioners Christian Whitehurst and Roy Alaimo, President of St. Johns River State College Joe Pickens and various community activists.

This event was in collaboration with St. Johns River State College for their Viking's Day of Service. They were joined by 16 other county departments and local organizations.

St. Johns County will host another county-wide clean up event in May for the start of turtle nesting season.

### Delores Barr Weaver fund grants \$650K to United Way

United Way of St. Johns County has received a \$650,000 grant spanning the next three years from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund. This contribution will play a pivotal role in advancing United Way's community initiatives.

The funding will enable United Way to expand its Real Sense Free Tax Program, initiate a Scholastic Book literacy program in Putnam County and encourage greater philanthropy in the community.

Combining Delores Barr Weaver's recent endowed gift and student mental health challenge grant, the total impact of her recent gift commitments amounts to \$1 million over the last 12 months.

To make an endowed gift of any size to United Way of St. Johns, contact Mark Lemaire at [mark.lemaire@unitedway-sjc.org](mailto:mark.lemaire@unitedway-sjc.org) or call 904-829-0721.

For more information on United Way of St. Johns, go to [unitedway-sjc.org](http://unitedway-sjc.org).

### Garden club plans sale

Ribault Garden Club invites the community to its Trash to Treasures Sale. Admission to the pre-sale from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, is \$10, and wine and appetizers are included. Admission to the sale from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 3, is free.

Ribault Garden Club is located at 705

Second Ave. North, Jacksonville Beach. For further information call, 901-634-5028

### Essential tremor group to meet

The Essential Tremor Support Group will meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee, 400 Colonnade Drive, No. 130.

Stephen Morio with Insightec Focused Ultrasound will describe the incisionless treatment for ET and give an update on their new Jacksonville location.

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

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# Briefs

Continued from 2

Admission is free. Register to indicate your attendance and [jkary@verizon.net](mailto:jkary@verizon.net) or 202-438-6750.

## Palm Valley Market every Tuesday

The Palm Valley Market is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday inside the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Road. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, local honey, tea, seasonal treats, soap, jewelry, plants and more.

## Grief support group to meet

A grief support group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Room 107 of the Family Life Center, 578 First Ave. North, Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 21. For information call Kathy at 553-8933.

## Bonsai is topic for Garden Center Day

The Ribault Garden Club will present its Garden Center Day from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 22 at the club, 705 Second Ave. North, Jacksonville Beach. The topic will be bonsai plants.

The guest speaker will be Master Gardener John Stumpf, who will speak about growing and caring for bonsai plants.

The event is open to the public. Admission is free. There will be refreshments, door prizes and a raffle.

## Free children's dental services to be offered

Sulzbacher's annual Give Kids a Smile event will provide free dental care for area children ages 1-18. Through a donation of supplies from the American Dental Association, the Sulzbacher Pediatric clinic dental team will be on hand to give comprehensive care and support.

Services on this day will include: routine exams, cleanings, sealants, extractions and simple fillings.

The event will be held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 24 at Sulzbacher Pediatric Clinic/ Dental Division, 5455 Springfield Blvd., Jacksonville.

No registration is required; however, patients are encouraged to arrive early as services will be rendered on a first-come, first-served basis. The last patient will be admitted no later than 1:30 p.m.

For further information, call 904-535-0327 or email [SulzbacherDental@sulzbacherjax.org](mailto:SulzbacherDental@sulzbacherjax.org).

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



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# St. Johns River Ferry to close three weeks for maintenance

*Closure will take place beginning Feb. 5*

**By Anthony Richards**

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority has announced that the St. Johns River Ferry will be out of service beginning Feb. 5 and ending Feb. 26 due to maintenance required to the vessel.

Also included during the three-week period will be infrastructure improvements taking place along with the maintenance.

The maintenance is not due to a current issue but is preventive in nature and, according to the JTA, is expected to achieve increased safety for passengers and extend the life of the vessel.

Updates throughout the project will be available on social media and the MyJTA website and at [ferry.jtafla.com](http://ferry.jtafla.com).

JTA took over operation of the ferry in 2016, and it offers the transport service for both vehicles and passengers from Mayport Village to Fort George Island, which allows for a direct connect between the north and south ends of Florida State Road A1A in Duval County.

The trip across the St. Johns River is less than a mile in length and travels through the Timucuan Preserve. It takes about five minutes to complete, with a trip taking place every 30 minutes.

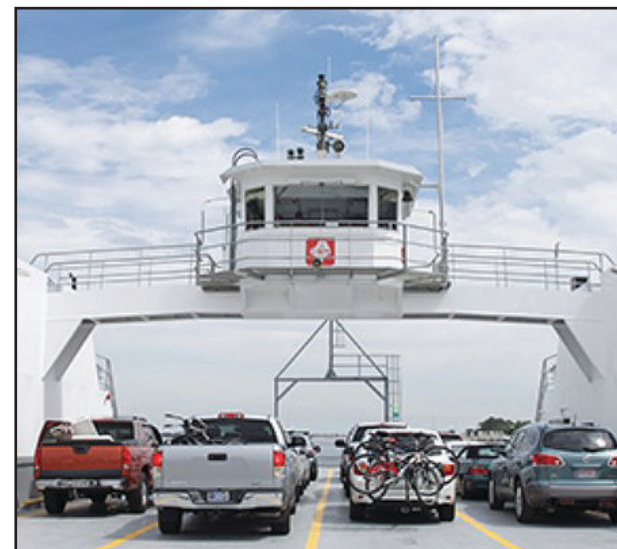
The loading docks where the ferry finds port is at 4680



**A trip across the St. Johns River is less than a mile in length and takes about five minutes to complete.**

Ocean Street in Atlantic Beach (Mayport Village) and 9618 Heckscher Drive in Jacksonville (Fort George Island).

The closure will cause regular passengers to find an alternative route to get across the river, and the closest op-



Photos courtesy of Jacksonville Transportation Authority

**The St. Johns River Ferry will be closed Feb. 5-26 due to maintenance.**

tion would be traveling the Interstate 295 Beltway, which loops around and can get to the other side of the river using the Dames Point Bridge if coming from the southside of the river.

However, the alternative routes will not be as quick as the ferry would have been, and there will be its share of residents that will be relieved to have the convenience of travel that it provides back into the routine of their daily lives.

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- 5330 Bookdocks Rd. - \$295,000
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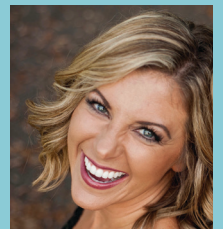
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*Shontres Miller is co-owner of Beaches Home Care, with offices at 3304 Sawgrass Village Circle in Ponte Vedra Beach. Recently, Beaches Home Care received the highest number of votes from readers to win the Best In-Home Care category in the Best of the Beaches community poll. In addition, it has received numerous five-star reviews online.*

## Shontres Miller

### As told to Shaun Ryan

#### **Tell me a little bit about Beaches Home Care and what types of services it offers.**

Beaches Home Care is a nurse registry and we match our clients with our CNAs [Certified Nursing Assistants] for home health care and companion services. Our company offers home health care and companion services, which include but are not limited to personal hygiene, light housekeeping, sitting services, transportation, errands, etc.

#### **How long have you been in business?**

Beaches Home Care started in 2013 as Ponte Vedra Home Care.

#### **I know Beaches Home Care comes highly recommended and won the Best of the Beaches in its category. What sets it apart from other agencies?**

What sets it apart is that we try our best to get caregivers that actually care about our clients, as well as we have adopted the philosophy of Patient Over Profit so if we cannot meet your needs we will do everything to get you to the right company who can. Our clients are not just a number; we try to build lasting relationships.

#### **Tell me a little about your background and what drew you to this line of work.**

I have been doing this kind of work off and on for 33 years. I started at the Georgia War Veterans Building in Milledgeville, Georgia. I worked for four years full time, unpaid for a senior helping ministry called Rescue Of Love, where we sought out the elderly and coordinated them with any needs they may have had. I have always loved seniors, even as a child going to the nursing homes with a church group called the Pathfinders.

#### **What do you like best about what you do?**

I love what I do because by watching seniors and their lives they show me that anyone can get through anything; just keep on living.

#### **Have you lived in this area long? What do you like best about living in Northeast Florida?**

I moved to Jacksonville at the age of 7 in 1978 from Huntington, New York. I graduated from Samuel W. Wolfson in 1988 and have been here off and on ever since.

#### **How do you like to spend your free time?**

In my free time, I spend it with my children and grandchildren, and I also help a senior that cannot afford our services. I organize yard work for her as well as cleaning of her house and personal hygiene.



Contributed photo

Shontres Miller



# Lanes

Continued from 1

prove traffic flow just west of the Twin Creeks Planned Unit Development.

In addition, a traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of C.R. 210 and Badger Park Drive. That will likely benefit the businesses located there, as well as their customers.

Dean noted that the county has about 35 capital improvement projects for roads currently underway with a total budget of approximately \$183 million. That includes widening portions of C.R. 210 west of I-95, modifications to County Road 2209 and four-laning Longleaf Pine Parkway.

Work on C.R. 210 east of I-95 has actually begun, and access is being improved at the intersection with Sandy Creek Parkway.

The civil engineer for the C.R. 210 widening between I-95 and U.S. 1 is Prosser Inc. of Jacksonville, and Watson Civil Construction of St. Augustine is the contractor for the project. Jacksonville-based England-Thims and Miller Inc. will conduct lead construction engineering and inspection.



The intersection of C.R. 210 and Badger Park Drive where a traffic light will be added.



A map of the site shows the scope of the project.



St. Johns County Commissioner Henry Dean addresses those gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony.



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Contributed photos



Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus first graders and their families gaze into the night sky.



Northeast Florida Astronomical Society volunteers brought telescopes for the students to observe the constellations, planets and more.

# Starry Night event brings night sky closer to students

First graders on the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus explored the night sky after school on Jan. 10 during a Starry Night evening event aimed at stoking students' curiosity and inspiring them to learn about the universe.

Bolles lower school science teacher Carolyn Houston organized the event with grade 1 teachers Brittany Hetland and Monica Morton, who took groups

of students and parents around multiple interactive stations. Ponte Vedra Beach Campus learning specialist Kathy Rawlins also enriched the students' experiences throughout the evening.

The grade 1 students enjoyed learning about the winter constellations with Ponte Vedra Beach Campus librarian and media specialist Christina Karvounis and lower school guidance counselor Sherry Bowen

while admiring their own rendition of Van Gogh's "Starry Night" prominently displayed in the classroom. The Bulldogs worked with lower school art teacher Kimberly Thomas to show the motion and direction of marks while recreating this piece. Ponte Vedra Beach Campus health coordinator Angel Fuentes and her sister, Bolles junior Gabby Glisson '25, also led an activity using Oreo cookies to explain

the lunar phases.

One of the highlights of the evening was made possible by two high school volunteers with the Northeast Florida Astronomical Society (NEFAS), who brought and set up telescopes for the students to observe the constellations, planets and more. Houston said a few lucky students saw Messier 42, a nebula located within the sword of Orion hanging from his belt.

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# Water fountain to be installed

Residents in Nocatee will notice a new addition to their county park facilities in the coming weeks. That’s because workers from the St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Department will install a new water fountain and bottle refill station in the restroom area of the Nocatee Fields.

This addition results from a partnership effort between the local Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra and the St. Johns County Parks Foundation. The club is providing a grant of almost \$2,000 that will go through the newly formed St. Johns County Parks Foundation, which will, in turn, give it to the Parks & Rec department for the equipment purchase.

A gathering was held at the restroom area of Nocatee Fields on Jan. 23 for a ceremonial big check photo opportunity.

A couple of years ago, leaders from the Rotary Club approached the Parks & Rec Department asking if there was anything the club could do to help efforts in Nocatee parks and beyond. The



Contributed photo

**Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra provided funding for a new water fountain to the St. Johns County Parks Foundation.**

result of that conversation was a commitment from the club to supply funding for at least one (and hopefully more) water bottle refill stations at the Nocatee Fields.

“Our club members are among those who use and enjoy the facilities at

Nocatee Fields daily,” said Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra President Josh Hull. “We thank the St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Department and St. Johns County Parks Foundation for the opportunity to provide relief to those who run, sweat and play in our beautiful parks.

It helps fulfill our Rotary mission of “Service Above Self” and addresses the ongoing issue of providing clean drinking water to our world's population.”

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**OBITUARIES**



**Carolyn (CJ) Virginia Shaw**

Carolyn (CJ) Virginia Shaw went home to the Lord on January 23, 2024. She was surrounded by love and amazing grace.

To know CJ was to love CJ. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. She never knew a stranger and never left anyone without a smile. If you were extra lucky you would get a little squeeze.

She was born on January 18, 1937, in Gallipolis, Ohio where she was raised. She later married and raised her children, Jenifer Jerles (Brant Turner) and Jamie Jerles in Worthington, Ohio. Go Buckeyes! Throughout her life she dedicated much of her time and devotion to Worthington United Methodist Church, lots of travel, laughter, and adventures with her sisters (Kathy Riblet and Liz Arnold) and eventually made her way to South Carolina and Florida to be closer to her children, grandchildren, and

great-grandchildren.

CJ was a woman of God and His love and tenderness was poured into anyone she met. She was a proud and doting mother. Jenifer and Jamie brought her more love, laughter (and a few gray hairs) to last a lifetime. She loved her grandchildren and would brag on them any chance she got! She was the ultimate hostess...her home and arms were open to everyone. She would never dare be seen without her signature lipstick and if you caught her eye, you may have been lucky enough to get a wink, too. But don't let that smile fool you, she could turn it right around in a game of cards.

While our hearts may ache, we are comforted to know hers is whole again.

CJ was survived by her children, sisters, grandchildren Stefanie Harrison (Drew), Heather Thibideau (Sean Taylor), Katelyn Cunningham (Dalton), Jake Jerles (Amber) and Nick Jerles and great-grandchildren Cora and Jones Harrison, Violet, Sunny and Dean Cunningham and Elliott Jerles arriving in the spring of this year.

She was preceded in death by her parents August and Elisabeth Arnold and brother Louis Arnold.

Her immediate family will celebrate her life and honor her memory in a private service.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her memory to BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry). Please visit her online Tribute at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

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**Edward (Ted) Lewis Spetnagel III**

Edward ("Ted") Lewis Spetnagel III, 88, of St. Louis, MO and formerly of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL and Wyoming, OH passed away on October 26, 2023 of natural causes. The eldest of three

sons born to Edward Lewis Jr. and Jane Spencer Spetnagel, Ted was born in Toledo, OH on September 18, 1935. After his family moved to Scarsdale, NY, Ted attended Edgemont local schools, then Choate-Rosemary prep school, and finally Dartmouth college ('57), where he majored in history, was a member of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, played rugby, and ran cross-country. Afterwards, Ted served briefly in the Army then was a successful salesman and sales manager with the Continental Can Company, where he worked for close to 20 years while living in the Midwest. Ted was friendly and fun-loving, and thoroughly loved and enjoyed his family, friends, sports, travel, business, investing, and philanthropy throughout his life. Ted was preceded in passing by his beloved wife of 50+ years Judy (Edmonson) (2022); his first wife Emily (Webber) (1959), who tragically passed with complications related to birthing his first son Steven; and his two brothers Jan Venn and Richard Spencer Spetnagel. Ted is survived by sons Steven, David and Thomas.

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Dolores (Happy) Jean Sher Kramer**

Dolores (Happy) Jean Sher Kramer, 97, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Jan. 26, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

28, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100

**Gloria Schuman Register**

Gloria Schuman Register, 85, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died Jan.

**Richard Wayne Wall**

Richard Wayne Wall, 79, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died Jan. 25, 2024. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). 904-249-1100



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*Ponte Vedra brought joy to children around the world*

**To the Editor:**

Generosity throughout Ponte Vedra Beach contributed to a successful shoebox gift collection season at drop-off locations for the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child. Across the U.S., the project collected 10 million shoebox gifts in 2023. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2023, the ministry is now sending over 11.3 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide, including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster.

Through shoeboxes — packed with fun toys, school supplies and personal care items — Ponte Vedra Beach area volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. Through the continued generosity

of donors since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 220 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Across Florida, shoebox packers often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year, and many serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information about ways area participants can get involved year-round can also be found at [samaritanpurse.org/occ](http://samaritanpurse.org/occ) or by calling 407-273-6112.

Although local drop off locations for shoebox gifts are closed until Nov. 18-25, 2024, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at [samaritanpurse.org/buildonline](http://samaritanpurse.org/buildonline).

These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Sincerely,  
**Dolores Brown**  
**Samaritan's Purse**

# St. Augustine Yacht Club masquerade ball is Feb. 13

This year, the St. Augustine Yacht Club is celebrating its 150th anniversary with a special masquerade ball.

Founded in 1874, the club's membership now exceeds 250. A SAYC Sailing Center focusing on the youth in and around St. Augustine is currently under construction as the sailing program grows.

The Grand Masquerade Ball will be held Feb. 13. It will mimic such elegant affairs held in the late 1800s.

A black tie and masked event such as this has not been seen in St. Augustine for some time. Dinner will be catered by Purple Olive with cocktail hour entertainment by classical guitarist Chuck Rogers and his wife Laura accompanying him on the flute. Later in the evening, kick back and dance the night away to live band music by Contact Buzz.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the club was referred to as the Winter Newport because so many prominent Northern families came here for "the season," January through May. The club became renowned for its parties. The most famous was the "Grand Bal Masque," held each February at a hotel; it "eclipsed anything of the season," according to one scribe. Two hundred attendees, many of them masked, would dance to an orchestra until 2 in the morning.

For tickets, go to [staugustineyachtclub.com/event/xkjUpSXibM](http://staugustineyachtclub.com/event/xkjUpSXibM). Questions may be sent by email to [manager@sayc.club](mailto:manager@sayc.club).

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Kathleen Floryan was named commodore of the St. Augustine Yacht Club during a ceremony on Jan. 20.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Many friends were on hand to congratulate Floryan on her new role as commodore.

## Sailing Center

Continued from 1

the center, as the construction of the facility's bulkhead began in April 2023 along with the official engineering building plans also getting approved.

Construction of the dock that will be used by the center started in the fall but fundraising continues to be an ongoing task as the funds to make the project a reality is still being worked out.

According to Floryan, any contributions from the community would be

greatly appreciated and they are tax deductible.

"The youth learn so much more than just the techniques of sailing, but they learn skills about discipline and being part of a team, which are so important because it's all about building and strengthening a community through sailing," Floryan said. "We want to leave a legacy for the next 150 years of the club."

One of the marquee events marking the St. Augustine Yacht Club's 150th anniversary this year will include a masquerade ball on Feb. 13 that is open to the public.

Many of the events hosted by the club this year will have a historic component, as it looks back on its many years of existence, including the days when Flagler and Carnegie were some of the family names that were members of the club around the late 1800s.

The club has about 350 members and was recently presented with a letter of recognition by the City of St. Augustine in honor of its 150 years of service to the community.

Floryan takes over the role of the club's commodore after serving as vice commodore last year and will hold the position for the next year.

The duty is the most senior and highest ranked officer and responsibilities include overseeing all of the club's initiatives and serving as chair of the



Photo courtesy of the St. Augustine Yacht Club

Members of the St. Augustine City Council recently recognized the St. Augustine Yacht Club's 150th anniversary with a proclamation.

executive committee.

It is a volunteer position, but one that Floryan is honored to hold because she and her husband love being members of the club and it is a way they can give back and support their passion of sailing.

"We've been members since 2006, and we have a 38-foot Hunter sailing yacht named Ariel," Floryan said.

The yacht won during the 2023 St. Augustine Race Week in the offshore series and the performance non-spinnaker category.

"Sailing is a peaceful escape from the world around us. There's nothing like feeling the wind in your face and hearing the sound of the water against the side of the boat while watching the porpoises follow along."

Floryan is involved in the community in many other ways as well, including being the immediate chair of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and a member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

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The St. Augustine Yacht Club is celebrating 150 years in 2024.



There will be plenty of events and opportunities planned by the St. Augustine Yacht Club to honor the anniversary.



# Romantic sailing excursions offered during Month of Love

By Shaun Ryan

The Month of Love has arrived, and romantic hearts are looking for ways to show the ones they cherish most just how much they care.

Whether seeking an ideal setting to pop the question, celebrating lifelong devotion or creating memorable moments, one of the sweetest options for local couples is to sign up for an enchanting excursion aboard one of St. Augustine Sailing's six private luxury yachts.

With a glass of bubbly in hand, sweethearts will sail under a moonlit sky, taking in the beautiful waterways of the Nation's Oldest City.

St. Augustine Sailing Sweetheart Packages include a variety of customizations, and each one can be enhanced with food and beverage additions available for purchase, including beer, wine, canned cocktails and specialty snacks.

And those who book for February will be able to preserve their precious memories with a mini-photoshoot aboard the boat for just \$75. (This is a significant savings from the usual price of \$375.) Couples arrive half an hour before sailing time, and the session with a professional photographer lasts 15 minutes. They will receive five unedited images.

Demand is high each Feb. 14 for

romantic excursions, so St. Augustine Sailing has found a way to accommodate couples around that date.

"We're offering the Sweetheart Packages for the whole month for those who want to celebrate their special occasion," said co-owner Rose Ann Points.

The Sweetheart Packages vary in the particulars. Here's a look at what's available:

- **Puppy Love** – This intimate one-hour charter includes a bottle of bubbly and six chocolate-covered strawberries. Couples will snuggle under a cozy blanket made for two while they coast under the twinkling stars above. Starts at \$595.

- **Apple of My Eye** – This romantic two-hour charter includes a bottle of bubbly or bottle of wine, as well as perfect pairings of sweet and savory bites. Sail together as the sun begins to set and the sea shimmers around you. Starts at \$795.

- **Head Over Heels** – This enchanting three-hour charter includes an upscale multi-course dinner prepared by a private chef, as well a bottle of bubbly and a bottle of wine. Here's a rare opportunity to wine and dine with your beloved while soaking in the sights along the Intra-coastal Waterway and Matanzas Bay. Starts at \$2,150. To see menu options, go





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St. Augustine Sailing is offering romantic excursions this month.


SAILING continues on Page 14

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## Sailing

Continued from 13

to [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com).

• **Sweet Dreams** – This overnight stay is highly customizable. Couples will experience life aboard while taking in the breathtaking views of historic St. Augustine, including landmarks such as the Castillo de San Marcos, the Bridge of Lions, the Great Cross and the St. Augustine Lighthouse. The vessel departs

two hours before sunset and returns to the dock just after, where the couple will then have the yacht to themselves until morning. (Check out is 10:30 a.m.) Starts at \$1,785.

St. Augustine Sailing Enterprises is a luxury adventure experience that offers a range of sailing excursions to fit a variety of occasions and budgets. Public and private charters can be customized to create a unique experience. Popular options include private chef-prepared meals, premium beer and wine upgrades, and

overnight adventures.

The yachts range from 35 to 44 feet in length. The company also has a catamaran.

“So for whatever experience they are wanting, we have a vessel that would suit them,” said Points.

St. Augustine Sailing also offers sailing lessons and membership in SailTime, a club allowing members to rent a boat at franchises nationwide.

For more information, go to [sta-sail.com](http://sta-sail.com).

# PENNY PREVILLE



## Valentine Events

There are a number of great ways to celebrate the most romantic of holidays with someone special. Here's a few:

• Marina Munch waterside food truck park is hosting a pre-Valentine's Day singles night and friends mixer from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9. Admission is free. The Thick & Thin String Band will perform from 5 to 8 p.m., and the St. Augustine Rug Cutters will offer a free dance lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. Marina Munch is located at 509 S. Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine. For further information, call 904-315-7454.

• The Gifted Cork, 64 Hypolita St., St. Augustine, will hold an event, The Love of Wine & Chocolate, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9. Admission is \$30. Reserve your space at 904-810-1083.

• The Tasting Tours is offering a Valentine's Carriage and Dessert Tour from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, through Saturday, Feb. 17. Admission is \$190. The private, horse-drawn carriage departs from 88 Riberia St., St. Augustine. For further information or to book online, go to [thetastingtours.com/valentine-experiences.html](http://thetastingtours.com/valentine-experiences.html).

• Limelight Theatre will present “Love Letters” by A.R. Gurney from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Feb. 11-14. Admission is \$27.50-\$32.50. The show follows a romantic friendship and correspondence that spans nearly 50 years. For tickets, go to [limelight-theatre.org/special-events](http://limelight-theatre.org/special-events). Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine.

• The Tasting Tours is offering a Valentine Food & Wine Pairing Tour from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Feb. 14. The 2.5-hour tour aboard a chauffeured electric vehicle makes four stops. It starts at 1:30 p.m. at 88 Riberia St., St. Augustine. Admission is \$165. For further information or to book online, go to [thetastingtours.com/valentine-experiences.html](http://thetastingtours.com/valentine-experiences.html).

• Red Boat Tours is offering a romantic BYOB Valentine's Day Party aboard its newest boat. Tickets are \$39. The tour is 5 to 6:30 p.m. Feb. 14. Departs from the Vilano Pier, 260 Vilano Road, St. Augustine. For more information, go to [redboattours.com](http://redboattours.com).

 UNDERWOOD'S

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— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



# Quiñones-Hinojosa to receive 'Rock of the Community Award'

Acclaimed Mayo Clinic neurosurgeon Dr. Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa will receive the 2024 "Rock of the Community Award" at the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach's annual Mineral City Celebration in April.

Quiñones-Hinojosa will be honored for his contributions to medical research and advances in the treatment of brain tumors. In addition to his groundbreaking work as a neurosurgeon, he is also the co-founder and president of Mission: BRAIN, a global nonprofit that provides critical medical services to patients in need in more than 25 countries.

"In presenting the Rock of the Community Award, the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club seeks not only to honor a deserving individual, but also to inspire others to embrace a spirit of service," President Jennifer Logue said. "From his accomplishments as a world-renowned neurosurgeon to his philanthropic efforts to provide care to underserved populations, 'Dr. Q' has made a profound positive impact both on First Coast residents and the wider world. We are thrilled to honor him as the 2024 Rock of the Community."

Quiñones-Hinojosa's personal story has been the focus of numerous articles, films and documentaries, including the Emmy Award-winning series "The Surgeon's

Cut."

A former migrant farm worker, Quiñones-Hinojosa earned his BA with honors from the University of California-Berkeley before graduating cum laude from Harvard Medical School. He completed his neurosurgery residency and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California-San Francisco before beginning his career as a neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He served as director of Johns Hopkins' Brain Tumor Program until 2016, when he joined the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville.

He currently serves as chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery, the William J. and Charles H. Mayo Professor, the Monica Flynn Jacoby Endowed Chair and the James C. and Sarah K. Kennedy Dean of Research for Mayo Clinic Florida.

To be held April 13 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, the Mineral City Celebration is the signature annual fundraising event for the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach. The theme of this year's event is The M\*A\*S\*H BASH, honoring our military and medical first responders.

Proceeds from the event have benefited dozens of local nonprofit organizations and charities, including the Beaches Dial-



Contributed photo

Dr. Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa will receive the "Rock of the Community Award" at the Mineral City Celebration in April.

a-Ride program, Mission House, BEAM, HEAL, K9s for Warriors, Wounded Warrior Project, United Way of St. Johns

County, the Council on Aging and more. For more information, go to mineralcitycelebration.com.

# Baptist Primary Care doctor receives 'Family Physician of the Year' award

Baptist Primary Care physician Diana Twiggs was recently named "Family Physician of the Year" for 2023 by the Florida Academy of Family Physicians (FAFP).

The award, presented by the Florida chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, recognizes outstanding family physicians for maintaining high-quality standards for family medicine. It also acknowledges their compassion, professional dedication, outstanding service to their patients, commitment to public service and participation in activities to enhance the lives of those in the community.

Twiggs has practiced family medicine in Fernandina Beach for the past 23 years and has been a Baptist Primary Care physician since 2010. Active within the community, she has held several leadership positions within professional organizations over the years, including serving on the board of Baptist Primary Care and the Florida



Dr. Diana Twiggs

Medical Association as well as president and a board member of FAFP.

Her commitment to caring for others also extends beyond the local community. She has volunteered for several humanitarian missions to Poland and Ukraine to help care for Ukrainians displaced during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

"We wholeheartedly congratulate Dr. Twiggs on this well-deserved honor," said Kenneth Mayer MD, chief medical officer of Baptist Primary Care. "We're pleased that her dedication to her patients, colleagues and community has been recognized; she is an exemplary member of the Baptist Health family."

She attended medical school at the University of Florida in Gainesville and completed her residency at Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach.

As a reflection of her commitment to

ongoing professional development, Twiggs plans to leverage her experience in family medicine to embark on a new role in emergency medicine at Baptist Medical Center Nassau in February 2024.



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# New York Times best-sellers to highlight Amelia Island Book Festival

By Anthony Richards

Twenty-three years ago, the idea to have a book festival in Amelia Island took shape and now that idea has become a part of the local community's annual traditions, which this year will be held Feb. 23 and 24.

It all started with a love of books that was shared by Don and Andrea Parker and Joe and Joani Selement, who combined their passion for reading with the beautiful area they lived in Northeast Florida, and the first festival in 2001 was the result.

Since its grassroots start, the festival has continued to grow, and strives to cultivate an excitement for reading and writing across generations.

According to festival marketing director Nicole York, the festival features a variety of people well-known in the literary world in a series of events including New York Times best-selling authors, independent publishers, award programs and workshops all open to the public.

Celebrity authors at this year's festival will be New York Times best-selling authors David Baldacci, John Grisham and James Ponti, while the Authors' Expo will have more than 100 exhibiting authors.

Something new for this year will be young adult/teen author breakout sessions that will give student attendees a copy of the featured author's book.

"These events attract thousands of people for learning,



David Baldacci



John Grisham



James Ponti

entertainment and the excitement of seeing and meeting some of the most remarkable and provocative authors of the time," York said.

The featured authors are chosen by the schools during the selection process, and each year, authors present to more than 13,000 students at both public and private schools in Nassau County.

Another way the festival has grown is that the festival is more than just two days of events, as it gets things started with a kick-off social event in September, which is designed to give volunteers, members, donors and sponsors a chance to learn more about the upcoming festival lineup.

The excitement then continued to build with a celebrity author luncheon in November to celebrate National

Family Literacy Month.

This year's festival itinerary includes a celebrity author gala on Feb. 23 followed by the authors' expo and readers' extravaganza as the highlight on Feb. 24.

The gala will begin at 6 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island at 4750 Amelia Island Parkway in Fernandina Beach and will include fine wine and food, question and answer discussion and a live auction. Tickets to the event can be purchased by going to [ameliaislandbookfestival.org](http://ameliaislandbookfestival.org).

The extravaganza is free to the public and it will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fernandina Beach Middle School located at 315 Citrona Drive.

Two Nassau County high school students will also receive \$5,000 scholarships, and applications are being accepted now for the program.

However, even with all the growth it has achieved over the years, the festival understands that it can make a difference even further.

"Starting this year, we are making efforts to expand beyond Nassau County into Northeast Florida and beyond," York said. "We are working diligently to reach communities in Duval and St. Johns counties by continuing to promote literacy and host literary events in these locations. We are striving to increase our reach and help more students in the area."

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# Lee Smith speaker for Churchmen luncheon



Contributed photo

The Churchmen held their first luncheon of 2024 at the newly renovated Marsh Landing Country Club. Pictured from left are Chairman John Ekdahl; guest speaker Lee Smith, executive director for THE PLAYERS Championship; and Peter Karpen, Churchmen treasurer.

# Raffle Winners



Contributed photo

The Rotary Club of Palm Valley recently welcomed the Caring for Kids grand prize raffle winners to their chef-created feast in The Wine Room at The Lodge and Club. Pictured front to back are couples Chris and Alison Seely, Kullen and Meaghan Sourdiff, Donnie and Heather Connelly, as well as St. Augustine Symphony's Bella Costa String Quartet, who performed for the group. The funds raised by the raffle went to support local charities, including Peace of Heart, Blessings in a Backpack and S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue.

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

**KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE**

# Winter Landscaping

"The beauty of the natural world lies in the details." — Natalie Angier

By Kathy Esfahani



Kathy Esfahani

The landscape can seem a bit less colorful this time of year. Many of our favorite blooms are dormant or not available during the cooler months. But there are flowers that will brighten your yard and tasks that prepare for the spring warmup!

Winter flowers will add color to wake up your landscape. Look for annuals such as dusty miller, pansies, petunias, snapdragons and violas. These plants are available in many colors and look great in garden beds and planters. Most importantly, they are tough enough to withstand the cold temperatures we may experience. Camellias are also a popular choice at this time of year as they are



Winter Planter

the only perennial that blooms in winter. These evergreen shrubs produce flowers in white, pink and red. Use camellias as an anchor for a landscape bed or a hedge in your yard. These shrubs are low maintenance and will produce stunning blooms for years to come.

Winter is also a great time to tend to your landscape ahead of warmer spring temperatures. Several tasks are important:

- Protect your plants from frost and cold temperatures. Tropical plants are especially sensitive to temperatures below 40 degrees and should be covered

with frost cloth ahead of freezes.

These plants include arboricola, bird of paradise, bougainvillea, crotons, crown of thorns, ginger, gold mound, Hawaiian ti, kalanchoe, mandevilla, philodendron, sea grapes, stromanthe, sunpatiens, tibouchina, and xanadu as well as adonidia palms, lady palms and roebellini palms. Also, be sure to cover more sensitive plants below 32 degrees (blue daze, bush daisies, geraniums, gold dust, pentas, salvia and sedum) and cover citrus trees below 30 degrees.

- Monitor your irrigation system. Although less water is needed than during the hot summer months, you should still water your landscape, especially if rainfall is low and temperatures are higher than normal. Be careful not to water within 48 hours of an upcoming freeze and turn off your irrigation system for those events.

- Winter is a good time to prune shrubs and trees that do not bloom in the spring. Make sure not to prune once new buds have appeared! When pruning, remove dead or injured branches but keep the

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

**Flower of the Week**



Dusty Miller

cutting to a minimum. Hedges can be shaped and thinned. Trim the top of the hedges more narrowly than the bottom to allow sunlight to reach all the leaves.

- Finally, winter is a good time to spread new mulch in your garden beds. This new layer will help keep roots warm during cold temperatures and freshen the look of your landscape. Take advantage of sunny days to give your landscape a little TLC!

**Flower of the Week: Dusty Miller**

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

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# Flagler College public lecture series underway

Flagler College has announced its 2024 public lecture series lineup. This series includes nationally recognized journalists and commentators through the Forum on Government and Public Policy and renowned religious scholars as part of the Cecil and Gene Usdin Judeo-Christian lecture series.

The Forum on Government and Public Policy has invited journalists and commentators of diverse ideologies to speak on politics, government affairs, public policy, and international relations since 1988. These lectures deal with issues of regional, state and national importance.

Funded by college donors Cecil and Gene Usdin, the Judeo-Christian lecture series features lectures with a religious lens. In the past, the Usdin lecture series has hosted speakers like Father Columba, an American Benedictine monk, and Dr. Raymond Scheindlin, a scholar, author and translator of Hebrew poetry.

The sponsors for this academic year's public lecture series include Casa Monica Hotel and Leonard's photography.

All lectures are free and open to the public.

## Bishop Stowe, OFM Conv.

7 p.m. Feb. 6, Virginia Room, Ringhaver Student Center

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv., was ordained as the third Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington on May 5, 2015, succeeding Bishop Ronald Gainer who was appointed as Bishop of Harrisburg, Pa., in 2014.

## Hilke Schellman, author of "The Algorithm"

7 p.m. March 7, Virginia Room, Ringhaver Student Center

Hilke Schellman is an Emmy-winning investigative reporter and journalism professor at NYU. She has reported for HBO, NPR, The New York Times, The Guardian and The Wall Street Journal, where she has led a team investigating how artificial intelligence is changing our lives. Her documentary for PBS, "Outlawed in Pakistan" won an Emmy.

## Lee Rainie, Pew Research Center's Internet & Technology Research Group

7 p.m. April 11, Virginia Room, Ringhaver Student Center

Lee Rainie is the founder and former director of the Pew Research Center's Internet & Technology Research Group, which has studied the social impact of digital technologies since 2000. He is an expert source on technology trends for major news organizations.

Prior to launching the Pew Internet Project, he was managing editor of U.S. News & World Report.

## Ross Douthat, New York Times columnist

7 p.m. April 23 Lewis Auditorium

Ross Douthat joined The New York Times as an opinion columnist in April 2009. His column appears every Tuesday and Sunday. He is also a host on the weekly podcast, "Matter of Opinion." Previously, he was a senior editor at The Atlantic and a blogger on its website.

# Community Foundation welcomes new chair, trustees

The Board of Trustees of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida is welcoming new leadership, as Michael DuBow begins a two-year term as chair and John Hirabayashi, John Peyton and Amy Wacaster begin three-year terms as new trustees. DuBow succeeds Judge Brian J. Davis, who completed his two-year term as chairman on Dec. 31 and will continue his service to the board as the chair of the governance committee.



Michael DuBow

DuBow, a native of Jacksonville, currently manages a family investment portfolio and serves as president of the DuBow Family Foundation, overseeing all grantmaking initiatives. He has served on the board of The Community Foundation since 2014.

Previously, he had an extensive career in the pharmaceutical industry as co-founder of HMS Sales and Marketing, a full-service company focused on generic prescrip-

FOUNDATION continues on Page 21

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# Longtime Realtor remembered for kindness, success

By Shaun Ryan

In every way, Joyce Elizabeth Reesh, who passed away Jan. 15 just shy of her 87th birthday, was a success — in both business and life.

Married for more than five decades, a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she was a woman to whom family was important.

“She was very passionate about her family,” said son-in-law Bill Sharp. “I think that pretty much everything she ever did was for her family.”

Longtime members of the Ponte Vedra community will remember her for her successful career in local real estate. From the 1980s through the early 2000s, she sold more than \$500 million worth of residential real estate — pretty much all of it in Ponte Vedra Beach.

And throughout her career, she never stopped caring about others.

“I think everybody who encountered her loved her,” Sharp said. “She was the kind of person who, if you came to her and you needed help, she would stop what she was doing and help you.”

“When I think of her, I just think of a warm person who enveloped others with caring and kindness — as well as smarts and expertise,” said Clare Berry, broker and president of Berry & Co. Real Estate. “She really was the whole package.”

Berry recalled an example of her friend’s thoughtfulness.

One night in 1993, Berry was leaving her office and speaking with Reesh by



Contributed photo

Joyce Reesh was a very successful real estate agent in Ponte Vedra Beach for many years.

phone about a property when Reesh asked her where she was and if she was by herself. Berry answered in the affirmative.

“Promise me something,” Reesh said. “Every time you do this at this hour, be on the phone. Don’t ever walk out of your office by yourself without that, because you’re putting yourself at risk.”

The thought had never even occurred to Berry.

“But that’s who she was,” Berry said. “She was an incredibly caring person. ...

I mean, how many people would even ask where you are and what you’re doing and are you OK?”

Reesh was born Jan. 22, 1937, in Youngstown, Ohio, where she met and married Robert Reesh, who later held management positions with JT Baker Chemical, General Foods and Gallo Winery. The family moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1974 and here, Joyce Reesh launched her successful real estate business.

She focused almost exclusively on what she knew best — Ponte Vedra Beach — and would refer clients interested in other properties to agents more familiar with them.

“That was, I think, one of the keys to her success,” said Sharp, “knowing her market so well, and if you called her, she knew everything that was for sale and what was coming up. She knew the community. She knew the people. And the people knew her.”

She worked hard and was often at her desk by 3 or 4 a.m. She worked for Ponte Vedra Club Realty for a while and at Arvida Realty Services for many years.

“She was top producer at Arvida Realty for a long, long time,” said Berry. “And with good reason. She was great with listing. She was great with sales. It didn’t matter what she was doing; she gave it her all — and she did it with unquestioned honor and integrity.”

“Her client list really was ‘Who’s Who in America,’” Sharp recalled. She sold homes to famous race car drivers, Commissioner of Baseball Bowie Kuhn and CEOs of major companies.

“She was friends with all of the Realtors you can think of in Ponte Vedra,” said Sharp. “They all respected her and went to her for advice.”

In fact, she helped Sharp get his career in the mortgage business started. He said he learned a lot from her.

“She was such a powerhouse and a significant person and a good person,” he said.

## St. Johns County OKs 2024 list of priority transportation projects

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the 2024 List of Priority Projects and transmit it to the North Florida TPO

for funding consideration in FDOT’s FY 2029/30 as recommended by the Transportation Advisory Group.

“The county is really focused on secur-

ing funding for the priority projects,” said Assistant Director of Growth Management Dick D’Souza. “Our main priority is State Road 16, which we have already committed \$5 million to the Florida Department of Transportation for the design work. We hope by keeping this a top priority we can ensure forward progress.”

In addition to S.R. 16 improvements, other priority projects include widening and constructing additional lanes of County Road 2209, improving the intersection of International Golf Parkway and S.R. 16, U.S. 1 intersection at Pine Island Road to Race Track Road, and widening State Road 207.

The county offers a public online dashboard to see details on all capital projects, which include roads. Go to [co.st-johns.fl.us/PublicWorks/index.aspx](http://co.st-johns.fl.us/PublicWorks/index.aspx) and select Public Works Maps and Apps. The dashboard link will appear among the options.

“For the second consecutive year our

board has recognized State Road 16 as our top transportation priority,” said Commissioner and North Florida TPO Chair Christian Whitehurst. “Myself and other commissioners will be in touch with our legislative delegation in Tallahassee to ensure that all of our transportation projects receive the necessary funding.”

The county’s 2024 Legislative Action Plan requests \$20 million to widen S.R. 16 from International Golf Parkway to I-95 and \$10 million to complete the new central segment of C.R. 2209. U.S. Rep. John Rutherford, District 5, has committed \$4 million toward S.R. 16 widening in the FY24 Budget.

Work on priority projects has already begun, including C.R. 2209, which broke ground last month.

Last year, the county received a record \$59 million in state appropriations for transportation projects.

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# Foundation

Continued from 19

tion products in the U.S. market.

DuBow has been involved in a wide array of nonprofit initiatives and organizations. He previously served as president of the Jacksonville Jewish Center and as the board chair of the Wolfson Children's Hospital. He received his BSM from Tulane University and an MBA from the University of Florida.



**John Hirabayashi**

Hirabayashi is retiring this year as the president and CEO of Community First Credit Union after leading it since 1996. Previously, Hirabayashi served as president and CEO at Cal State 9 Credit Union, CFO at

Patelco Credit Union, and served in various positions at Pentagon Federal Credit Union.

Hirabayashi has served on many community boards, including the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Florida State College at Jacksonville, the JAX Chamber, the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida, Jacksonville Community Council Inc. and WJCT Public Broadcasting.

He received an MBA in finance from

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University – Pamplin, a bachelor's in finance from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. He received the Jacksonville Business Journal's Ultimate CEO award in 2011.



**John Peyton**

Peyton was named president of GATE Petroleum Co. in January 2012 after serving two consecutive terms as mayor of Jacksonville. GATE was founded by Peyton's father, Herbert Hill Peyton, in 1960 and has

grown into one of the largest privately held companies in Florida.

During his tenure as mayor, he hosted the city's first Super Bowl; implemented initiatives to advance early literacy, reduce crime and improve the health of the St. Johns River; and worked hand-in-hand with the city's economic development arm and the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce to cultivate both domestic and international business.

Peyton is an alumnus of Mercer University and Harvard Business School Executive Education Program. He has participated in The Community Foundation's Weaver Philanthropic Initiative, Leadership Jacksonville and Leadership Florida. Actively involved in the com-

munity, Peyton served as chairman of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, Jacksonville Symphony Association, Greenscape of Jacksonville and the JAX Chamber.



**Amy Wacaster**

Wacaster is a community leader and retired equity trader who chaired the Board of Trustees at Beaches Episcopal School prior to its merger with Episcopal School of Jacksonville (ESJ) and now serves on the executive committee of the board at Episcopal, her alma mater.

She is the current co-chair of the Boldly ESJ capital campaign and was awarded Alumna of the Year in 2023. She also serves on the Board of Directors at Wolfson Children's Hospital and on the Board

of Visitors at Davidson College.

Wacaster holds a bachelor's in political science from Davidson College and an MBA from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. She spent her professional career working in finance in New York City, specifically equity trading at Merrill Lynch and Credit Suisse, before retiring to focus on raising her children in Ponte Vedra Beach, where she and her family relocated in 2013.

The new trustees will join Carol J. Alexander, Martha Frye Baker, Dr. Solomon G. Brotman, Brian J. Davis, George M. Egan, Michael R. Meyers, Velma Monteiro-Tribble, Lauren Rueger, George E. "Buddy" Schulz Jr., Richard L. Sisisky and Halsey Wise. Julia Taylor and Robert E. Hill completed their board service in 2023.

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

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# Deane Beman Award to be presented at golf banquet

One of the highlight events on the Northeast Florida golf calendar, the Celebration of Golf Banquet presented by Circle K, will be held at Timuquana Country Club on Feb. 21. The announcement was made by co-hosts the Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) and the Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA.

The evening's top honor, the Deane Beman Award, will be presented to Jacksonville businessman Tom Dudley, who has spent five decades volunteering his golf rules and competition expertise to the U.S. Golf Association, the Florida State Golf Association (FSGA) and the Jacksonville Area Golf Association. In 2019, the Columbus, Georgia, native and University of Georgia grad was awarded the USGA's and golf's highest volunteer honor, the Joseph C. Dey Award, for meritorious volunteer service to the game.

Dudley, a past president of the FSGA (2008-09), has worked more than 100 USGA tournaments, including almost 30 U.S. Opens and 25-plus U.S. Amateurs, approximately 300 FSGA events and numerous JAGA events.

Additional highlights of the evening will be comments from the USGA's immediate past chief executive officer Mike Davis, who worked very closely with Dudley over the years. Davis will be joined by up to 11 invited Northeast Florida residents who have won USGA championships.

This will be the eighth time the banquet has been held. The first seven were sellouts. More than 200 people were in attendance last February at Sawgrass Country Club when Jim and Tabitha Furyk received the Deane Beman Award.

Tables and individual tickets are now on sale. Reservations and payment can be made at: jagagolfbanquet.com. Tables of eight are \$1,000. Individual tickets are \$125.

With another sellout likely, those interested in purchasing tables and seats are encouraged to begin making group plans now.

JAGA member golf clubs and facilities are encouraged to purchase their tables and invite their general manager, director of golf/head golf professional, course superintendent, club president, golf com-

mittee chairs, and JAGA club director(s), and their wives/significant others, or any combination thereof.

In addition to the Deane Beman Award, individuals from the following organizations will be recognized:

- Jacksonville Women's Golf Association
- Jacksonville Area Golf Association
- Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA
- North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association

The Celebration of Golf presented by Circle K annually brings together people from all facets of the Jacksonville-area golf community — players, leaders, promoters, supporters, clubs, volunteers, pros, amateurs, juniors, superintendents and other organizations — to recognize and honor those who have made contributions to area golf, both on the golf course and off.

It is co-sponsored and organized by the Jacksonville Area Golf Association and the Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA, with the support of the Jacksonville

Women's Golf Association and the North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Circle K returns for the second year in a row as the banquet's presenting sponsor.

Proceeds will support the tax-exempt JAGA Charitable Trust, which annually awards scholarships to college-bound students from the area who have affiliations with JAGA and its 40 member clubs.

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## Williams celebrates 20 years of insurance agency

By Anthony Richards

Eddie Williams has had her insurance agency for 20 years, and although it has changed locations along the way, she continues to approach each day with the same mindset she did when she started her journey as a businesswoman decades ago.

She grew up in Illinois and was going to college working on her MBA as a graduate student when a professor took her and a group of students to the State Farm corporate office.

“I met some executives that day and eventually interned with them,” Williams said.

She wound up getting a job as a financial analyst and worked a lot with vendors behind the scenes.

“I had really nothing to do with the insurance, but I knew I loved it and I wanted to be even more involved,” she chuckled. “They asked me to help start an after-hours service, which was one of the first 24-hour customer service operations.”

It was that which brought her to Northeast Florida, where she came to help start a service in Jacksonville.

“I thought it was a temporary move, but I fell in love with the area, and had three kids at the time and it seemed like a great place to raise a family,” Williams said.

So, she decided to apply to get schooled to be an agent and became an entrepreneur by starting her own State Farm agency.

According to Williams, having worked with the company, she knew that their values and her values matched perfectly.

“I started in pre-med in college because I always wanted to help people,” Williams said. “I’m still doing that but I’m just doing it in a different way but a way that still truly connects with people.”

Florida presents some unique challenges from an insurance standpoint, and she has learned that it is the relationships and will of the people that make it the great and resilient state that it is.

“We’ve weathered a lot of storms in Florida, both literally and figuratively,” Williams said. “No matter



Eddie Williams has aligned her business and family since moving her State Farm agency location to Ponte Vedra Beach a couple of years ago.



Her agency car visits the front of the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse in Ponte Vedra Beach, which is an area she also calls home.

what, I’ve learned that there’s always a way you can help people to get through these big life events when they come about. These are big decisions in people’s lives and as an insurance agent you get to be there to help them along the ride.”



Contributed photos

Eddie Williams loves being able to help people through their tough life decisions as a State Farm insurance agent.

One of the things she prides herself most in with her business is the staff that she has assembled over the years and how crucial the quality of the staff is to the ability and effectiveness of a business.

“I could not have built the dream I had without their help,” Williams said. “As a CEO you can feel lonely at times, it truly takes a team to make all the difference.”

For 18 of the 20 years, she had her office in the Riverside area of Jacksonville but decided to move closer to where she lived and moved her location to Ponte Vedra Beach off State Road A1A a couple of years ago.

Although it was tough to leave the familiarity she had developed in Riverside she is also a mom of five children now and finding the balance was something she has always strived for.

“Business and family have really been aligned since the move, and that is something very important to me,” Williams said.

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# Sporting JAX opens front office, official team store

Sporting Club Jacksonville, the organization bringing high-level United Soccer League (USL) professional men's and women's soccer to the First Coast, has officially opened a new front office and team store in South Jacksonville.

The new 2,000-square-foot office and retail store is located at 14797 Philips Highway, Suite 103, on the ground floor of the Above Athletics Center. The new headquarters will house the club's growing front office and provide an inclusive destination for club supporters to purchase official team merchandise, secure season ticket deposits and meet front office staff.

"We're delighted to unveil our new office space and official team store, which serves as a welcome mat for our club supporters and provides a collaborative working environment for our growing team," said Sporting JAX President and CEO Steve Livingstone. "We encourage fans to stop by to learn more about our plans and pick up exclusive merchandise as we continue to develop our upcoming Sporting JAX pro soccer clubs."

In addition to supporting merchandise



Contributed photo

**Sporting Club Jacksonville has officially opened a new front office and team store in South Jacksonville.**

sales and front office operations, the team headquarters also serves as a studio and podcast recording space for video content development and recording of the weekly "Sporting JAX Report" presented by Cole Pepper and featuring Mauricio Ruiz. The office also features collaborative

working spaces, a conference room and a large banner signed by the club's founding supporters.

The Sporting JAX official team store is open weekdays from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and carries a wide range of official club mer-

chandise, including T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, hats and other exclusive items.

In addition, supporters who have joined the free Sporting JAX club membership program will receive a 10% discount on purchases made at the official team store. Fans can also purchase team merchandise at the We Got Soccer store located in The Pavilion at Durbin Park and online at [sportingjax.com](http://sportingjax.com).

The local USL clubs intend to kick off by 2026, contingent upon securing a home venue on the First Coast for the men's and women's teams. Sporting JAX is actively engaged with local stakeholders and has identified multiple potential locations for the development of a 15,000-capacity stadium and a world-class training facility. More updates will be shared as details are finalized.

For the latest Sporting JAX news and club updates, fans are encouraged to follow @Sporting\_JAX across all social media channels. Additionally, fans can sign up for free club memberships and secure their season ticket deposits for the inaugural season for \$25 at [sportingjax.com](http://sportingjax.com).

# Vagus PR recognized for excellence in marketing

A Ponte Vedra-based public relations agency, Vagus PR, has been recognized among the best in the animal health care industry at the Veterinary Meeting & Expo (VMX) 2024. Vagus PR has received a Gold VETTY Award in the New Product Launch category for OraStripdx's Integrated New Product Marketing Launch Campaign. OraStripdx is the world's first and only diagnostic test that detects periodontal disease in cats and dogs.

The North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) recently announced the winners of its 2023 VETTY Awards program, which is dedicated to annually recognizing marketing excellence in the animal health care industry. Veterinary industry nonprofit and for-profit organizations and agencies throughout the globe were invited to submit

their projects for consideration during the awards program.

"We are proud of the amazing work that those in marketing and advertising are accomplishing in the animal health care industry," said NAVC CEO Gene O'Neill. "This year's entries proved beyond excellent, showcasing many of the advancements in animal medicine, a deeper understanding of the animal health audience, developments in technology and memorable creative campaigns. The VETTY Awards entrants play an important role in helping animals everywhere live longer, better quality lives."

The NAVC, the world's leading not-for-profit dedicated to supporting the global veterinary health community, introduced the VETTY Awards competition in 2017 to recognize and reward the marketing excel-

lence that helps fuel the rapidly growing animal health industry. It has rapidly grown to be a prestigious awards program, pulling entries from around the world and recognizing the best in marketing animal health care products, programs and services.

This year's participation reached record numbers. Entries consisted of advertising, public relations, digital, social, design, events, promotions, educational materials and other projects developed to promote animal health industry contributions designed to keep those furry, feathered and scaly friends healthy and happy.

From Jan. 13 to 17, Vagus PR was among the VETTY Awards winners recognized during VMX 2024, the world's largest gathering of veterinary industry professionals. VMX, which takes place at the

Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, offers more than 1,000 hours of continuing education and program tracks over the course of five days for veterinary professionals. It features one of the largest veterinary industry expos in the world.

"We are proud to recognize the impact that Vagus PR has made in the animal health care industry," O'Neill said. "VETTY Awards winners like Vagus PR are truly the 'best of show' and capture the talent and creativity across our industry in supporting the veterinary profession and promoting products and services that improve the lives of animals."

To learn more about the VETTY Awards or to see a full list of winning entries, go to [thevettys.com](http://thevettys.com). For more information about NAVC, go to [navc.com](http://navc.com).

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GUEST COLUMN

# Connecting the dots: The power of aggregation

**Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors**

To have less stress and more confidence about the future, taking the time to review account statements is helpful. But it can be even more meaningful to have a single place where you can see the total picture of all of your assets and liabilities — and how it may fluctuate over time. Building a comprehensive account summary or net worth statement can make it easier to connect the dots. As more dots are connected, you get a more meaningful picture and see a clearer, more actionable path.

As individuals build wealth, it becomes more challenging to keep track of one's overall financial picture. There will likely be household cash accounts, investment accounts, retirement plans, real estate, loans and a number of credit cards. Executives may have stock options and other equity-based benefits that vest over time, and deferred compensation plans. Business owners often have multiple entities related to their core business, along with real estate holdings connected to the business. You may have private investments as well.

So, gathering financial information and documents from different sources can become a bit of a chore.

**How do successful people do this?**

Don't get overly complicated. Build something that works for you. Remember that the goal is to see the big picture, not



Jamie L. Seim, Matthew D. Guevara, Evonne T. Heykens and Stephen T. Foody.

to focus on the microscopic details.

Let technology do some of the work for you. Many credit cards offer very useful spending summaries. And increasingly, financial institutions are offering account aggregation tools that make it easier to see all your accounts, even at various institutions, in one place. After you take a little bit of time to set this up, you don't need to wait for a monthly statement or quarterly review to get a broader view of your finances. Values are updated daily, so you can get a current picture any time it's convenient for you to go online or check in on mobile.

Work with an experienced professional.

An investment plan and net worth statement can form a "foundation built from facts" that may enable really good (if not always easy) conversations about spending, values, choices and things to look forward to.

**If I feel pretty sure that I am doing okay, why do all this extra work?**

One reason is that having good metrics appears to be a hallmark of good performance. For example: successful business owners or executives can quickly tell you the key metrics that they watch to know how their business is doing. Athletes measure their training (and their rest)

so that they will know whether they are progressing toward performance goals.

Another reason is, there is a payoff. We generally have more confidence when we know how we're doing. Uncertainty, on the other hand, is likely to increase anxiety and stress.

Building a net worth statement is not an end in itself. But developing this positive habit can lead to lifelong benefits by providing a starting point for meaningful conversations about what we want our money to accomplish.

**This article was written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Jamie Seim, CFP, Senior Vice President – Investment Officer in Ponte Vedra Beach at 904-273-7917. Investment and Insurance Products are:**

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# In the Arts

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The VIDA Guitar Quartet



Soprano Christine Alfano

## VIDA Guitar Quartet to perform free concert

The Beaches Fine Arts Series will present the VIDA Guitar Quartet in a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, Jacksonville Beach. This British ensemble will be joined by soprano Christine Alfano for a beautiful performance of Hector Villa-Lobos' Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and seating is first come, first served. A reception follows with an art exhibit by Maiya Elaine.

Founded in 2007, the VIDA Guitar Quartet brings together four of the UK's most exceptional guitarists: Christopher Stell, Mark Eden (the renowned Eden

Stell Duo), Amanda Cook and Mark Ashford.

The VIDA Guitar Quartet has appeared on some of North America's and Europe's most prestigious stages for classical guitar. Notable performances include the 2015 Guitar Federation of America Annual Conference, the 92nd Street Y in New York City, Cornell University Concert Series, Atlanta's Spivey Hall, Washington, D.C.'s Dumbarton Concerts, the Winter Park (Florida) Bach Festival, University of New Orleans, the Long Island Guitar Festival and the Allegro Guitar Series in Dallas, Fort Worth, and Las Vegas.

In the UK, they have appeared at

London's Purcell Room and King's Place, The Sage (Gateshead), Turner Sims (Southampton) and St. George's (Bristol).

Following their acclaimed debut CD, "Love, the Magician," VIDA released their second CD, "Rhapsody," in 2013, featuring works by George Gershwin, Malcolm Arnold and Adam Gorb. Their latest CD, released in 2015, is "The Leaves be Green," with works by British composers including Benjamin Britten, Vaughan Williams, Elgar and more.

Praised for her "enticing strength and marvelous vocal character" (Arts Knoxville), Alfano's powerful and sparkling voice has charmed audiences at home and

abroad. Often described as possessing an "important" and "luscious" Verdian instrument by top coaches and conductors, her voice is particularly at home in the music of the bel canto, romantic and veristic periods.

She has performed in concerts, outreach events, and operas with organizations including Knoxville Opera, Marble City Opera, Florida State Opera, Tennessee Opera Theatre, Vienna Summer Music Festival, Gulfshore Opera, Amalfi Coast Music and Arts Festival and Brancaleoni International Music Festival.

VIDA continues on Page 28

## Local author lists '100 Things to Do in St. Augustine Before You Die'

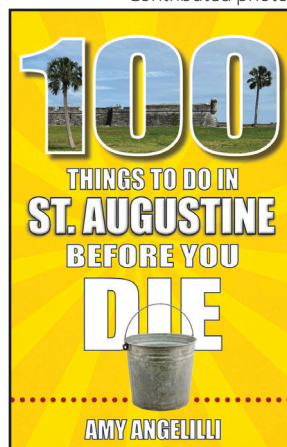


Amy Angelilli

Look up "Things to Do" in St. Augustine and the thousands of results can be a bit overwhelming. Luckily, Amy Angelilli is a willing guide. Her new book, "100 Things to Do in St. Augustine Before You Die," catalogs the most interesting and obscure activities not to be missed in the Nation's Oldest City. Her curated list of attrac-

tions, restaurants, activities and recreation will turn anyone's visit to St. Augustine into a memorable experience. Angelilli will celebrate the book's release at some of her favorite local spots, many of which are featured in her work.

Contributed photos



of The Adventure Project and Third Space Improv, and enthusiastic traveler, to uncover the best food, drink, music, entertainment, sports, recreation, museums, shop-

The book can be ordered at reedypress.com/shop/100-things-to-do-in-st-augustine-before-you-die.

The 100 Things to Do series, published by Reedy Press, provides tourists with a list of local-approved experiences in American cities and towns. "100 Things to Do in St. Augustine Before You Die," enlists Angelilli, improv theater instructor, owner

ping and more.

"If doing improv has taught me anything, it's to live in the moment and say yes to the adventure," said Angelilli. "As much as I would love to save all of St. Augustine's secret spots for myself, that's just not me. I want everyone to know how amazing this tiny town is — the people, the places, the history and architecture — everything. Come and use this book as your guide for a fun and fabulous adventure."

Amy Angelilli will host events celebrating the book's launch at:

- Ximenez-Fatio House Museum, 5-9 p.m. March 1
- St. Johns County Public Library, Main Branch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 5
- St. Johns County Public Library, Anastasia Island Branch, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. March 9
- Gypsy Cab Company Restaurant, 4-6 p.m. March 11
- Spinster Abbott's, 5-9 p.m. March 28



Contributed photos



# First Coast Cultural Center formally opens new location

Donna Guzzo, president and CEO of First Coast Cultural Center, recently announced that the nonprofit organization's new building has formally opened with arts, culture, community activities and a gift shop at 6000B Sawgrass Village Circle in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The two-story, 6,000-square-foot space was funded in part by local donors and an additional support campaign is currently in place.

According to Guzzo, the donations also help to expand local programs for adults and children in art, music and culture, bringing in renowned artists, performers, instructors and audio-visual equipment, among others.

"Contributions and naming rights are still available for many opportunities at the new building, including a culinary center, pottery room, music and arts workshops, performance areas, exhibits and rehearsal space," Guzzo said.

She also announced a new milestone partnership with Florida Ballet with dance instruction, programs and classes. Additionally, the Cultural Center is now a Certified Autism Center accredited through The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards. The local organization now joins worldwide members who are leaders in working with the autism and neurodiversity community.

First Coast Cultural Center classes for adults and youth are now available for members and non-members and priced accordingly at the new location.

For more information, registration and payments, go to [firstcoastculturalcenter.org/programs-events/adult-art-programs](http://firstcoastculturalcenter.org/programs-events/adult-art-programs).

For more information, contact Silvia Romero, director of programs, at 904-280-0614 ext.1206 or email [programs@firstcoastculturalcenter.org](mailto:programs@firstcoastculturalcenter.org).

Adult classes include: "Botanical Mandala — Illustration and Watercolor" with Elaine Bergstrom from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Feb. 6-27; "Valentine's Day Candle Making Workshop" from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7; "Acrylic Inks on

Watercolor Canvas: A Unique Color Technique" with Sandy Harrington from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 23; "Where in the World Have You Been? Acrylic Painting with Charlotte Chastain" from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, March 5 to April 9; "Acrylic Painting — Zoom Series" with Ellen Diamond from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. with four Tuesday sessions, March 5-26; "Sharpen Your Palette Knife Painting Skills" with Jeff Desautels from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 6-27; "Encaustic Workshop: Image Transfer" with Caitlin Flynn from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 8; "Natural Perspectives in Watercolor" with Charlotte Chastain from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, April 16 to May 7; and "Still Life and Floral Painting Workshop" with Qiang Huang from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 15, 16 and 17.

Youth classes include "Spring Break Art Camp" with printmaking and painting for ages 7-11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 11-15. Also, parents may schedule a party for children to celebrate a birthday and create art with their friends. Summer camp sched-

uling will be available soon for May 28 to Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The new location in the Sawgrass area of Ponte Vedra serves residents and visitors in St. Johns County and the Beaches area, including Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach and Atlantic Beach.

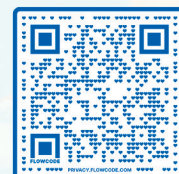
"With more than 8,000 constituents, we are pleased to have our own home where we can double and, in some instances, triple the number of programs we offer," said Guzzo.

All interior and exterior areas of the new building will be Americans with Disabilities Act-approved and accessible. Visual arts and music classrooms will be designed to teach music therapy to children with disabilities. There is to be a pottery room with multiple wheels and a kiln, a culinary studio and expanded spaces for exhibits, along with a gift shop. The center's Kick StART afterschool enrichment program and classes will continue to reach several Title I schools in the south of the county.

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## CANVAS, STAGE AND MORE

### Concert to feature works by Black composers

“Classically Black,” a concert and talk with Richard Alston, will be held during Black History Month. Romanza’s Collage Series features a variety of professional performers in autumn and winter, as a prelude to the 2024 Romanza Festival of Music and the Arts, which begins in May.

Pianist and recitalist Alston will present his show, “Classically Black: Piano Compositions by Composers of African-American Descent.” The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine.

Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at [romanzacollage.com](http://romanzacollage.com).

### P.I. to speak at mystery writers’ meeting

Private Investigator Lynda J. Bergh Herring will speak to The Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime chapter at 11:15 a.m. Feb. 10 in the Friends of the Library Room of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library.

Herring has worked in the investigation industry for 41 years. She graduated from Rio Hondo Police Academy and has bachelor’s degrees in criminal justice and psychology, and a master’s degree in public administration. She conducts many types of investigations including background checks, cybercrimes, elder abuse, fraud

and more.

The public is invited to attend in person or via Zoom. Future Zoom attendance will be available to paid chapter members only. (Membership is \$20 per year.) Zoom registration information is available on the Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime Facebook page.

Go to [nefloridasistersincrime.org](http://nefloridasistersincrime.org) to register for the meeting.

### Grammy winner David Phelps to perform

Multi-Dove and Grammy Award-winning recording artist David Phelps will perform in a special evening of worship and celebration at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at the Westside Baptist Church, 7775 Herlong Road, Jacksonville. A childhood musical prodigy from Texas, Phelps has become a nationally celebrated vocalist. Perhaps best known as the powerful tenor for the Gaither Vocal Band, Phelps has emerged as a leading voice in Christian music.

He has performed at numerous prestigious venues across the globe, including the White House, New York’s Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

For further information, go to [davidphelps.com](http://davidphelps.com).

### Blues artist Jontavious Willis to perform

Every October to June, the Gamble Rogers Folk Festival and the St. Johns Cultural Council co-present “Live

From The Waterworks,” a monthly concert series. The series aims to do what the Gamble Rogers Folk Festival does in April: celebrate folk music by showcasing musicians who echo Rogers’ balladry and storytelling.

The next performance will feature Jontavious Willis, with brother-and-sister duo Kelly Goddard and Brian Durham, who go by the stage name They Came From The Same.

Willis is a Grammy-nominated musician and songwriter from rural Georgia, whose unique sound blends his Southern heritage with his deep reverence for traditional blues. His acoustic debut album, “Blue Metamorphosis,” was released in 2016, garnering rave reviews, and he won the Blues Foundation’s International Blues Challenge 2018 Award for Best Self-Produced CD. His sophomore album, “Spectacular Class,” was nominated for a Grammy in 2020.

Special guests They Came From The Same will also play at the show and will host a workshop at St. Augustine High School with Trey Brewer’s guitar class on Feb. 16.

The show will be held 7-10 p.m. Feb. 17 at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and are available on Eventbrite.

### Randy Houser to perform at Concerts For A Cause

Concerts For A Cause, a fundraising

concert series, will feature singer-songwriter Randy Houser on May 25 at Tringali Barn at Heritage Farms, 7310 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine.

Called the “golden-voiced Mississippi native” by Billboard Magazine, Houser is known for his thick and formidable vocals. Before becoming a country music star in his own right, he made a name for himself writing hits for Trace Adkins, Justin Moore and Willie Nelson.

The concert begins at 7 p.m., and gates open at 5:30 p.m.

Chris Shee, owner and operator of Heritage Farms, started Concerts For A Cause in 2021. Inspired by his love for music, he wanted a creative way to raise money for his community.

The series chooses a new charity every concert based on the needs of the community. This concert supports Rethreaded, a nonprofit that provides employment opportunities and support to survivors of human trafficking within Jacksonville.

Previous recipients include Seamark Ranch, St. Augustine Youth Services, Investing in Kids, Alpha-Omega Miracle Home and Builders Care.

Tickets are sold in sets of eight-person pods, which are 10-by-12-foot areas roped off for every group.

To purchase tickets, go to [tringalibarn.com/concerts-for-a-cause](http://tringalibarn.com/concerts-for-a-cause).

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

## VIDA

Continued from 26

In December, she appeared as a featured soloist in Saint-Saëns’ Oratorio de Noel in Jacksonville. Earlier this season, she tackled the title role of Angelica in Puccini’s “Suor Angelica” with Bold City Opera and appeared as a guest soloist in Vivaldi’s “Gloria” with The Bolles School.

Highlights of recent seasons include a role debut as Rosalinde in Strauss II’s “Die Fledermaus” and Zweite Dame in Mozart’s “Die Zauberflöte,” both with Tennessee Opera Theatre.

Alfano has also been engaged in several world premieres.

Elaine is a native Floridian who began studying the arts at the age of 9. Graduating from the 2014 class of Douglas Anderson, she trained as a theatre technician, studying set design, lighting, sound, costume and prop making, focusing on scenic painting. By junior year, she became the lead painter for that year’s major musical theatre production, “Beauty and the Beast,” in 2012.

She acts as culture correspondent on First Coast Living’s monthly segment,



Maiya Elaine

“The Artist Corner with Maiya Elaine,” where she discusses arts and culture events happening in Jacksonville. She is currently working on murals around Jacksonville and a smaller series of work in the studio.

Signature Concert Sponsors for this concert are Hud and Rolly Berrey. For further information, call 904-270-1771 or go to [beachesfinearts.org](http://beachesfinearts.org).



A painting by Maiya Elaine

Contributed photos



# Sports



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## Last push for playoffs with district tournaments next up

By Anthony Richards

The winter season is coming to an end for high school sports, and that means district tournaments and playoffs are right around the corner for both boys and girls basketball.

The Ponte Vedra boys basketball team has been on a tear of late as they had won four straight games as of Jan. 30 and they have won those games by an average of 24.5 points per contest.

What makes the Sharks (16-6) so dangerous to defend is that they spread the ball around with their offensive attack and have multiple players who can take off and be the leading scorer on a given night.

David Sanchez Barrera led the way with 18 points against Atlantic Coast on Jan. 18, while Sam Ritchie exploded for 24 against Bartram Trail on Jan. 23 and Tyler Cowan poured in 18 of his own for a team-high against St. Augustine two days later.

The balanced approach they take on offense has really started to hit its stride in recent weeks and the result has been massive leads the Sharks have been able to jump out to in the first quarters of each of their recent victories.

This, coupled with a down right stinginess on the defensive end will make them difficult to beat in the postseason when each possession tends to carry even more weight.

The Sharks will close out the regular season on the road against the Nease Panthers on Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. as the outcome of the game between the rivals will also help decide the Sharks' seeding for the district tournament next week.

The Panthers (12-10) have had a back-and-forth season, with the games they have won looking very good, so the potential has been shown but now it is all about building upon and sustaining that success.

Senior Bryson Utter runs the show for the Panthers from his point guard position and looks comfortable with the ball in his hands, en route to leading the team with 14



Photo by Anthony Richards

**The Sharks and Panthers will meet in a boys basketball showdown at Nease High to end the regular season on Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m.**

points and nearly four assists per game.

And throughout the season, another consistently productive force has been fellow senior Jack Sullivan, who provides a matchup problem with his size down low for many teams.

One of the Panthers' calling cards has always seemed to be its defense and that is the case again this year, as it has not allowed more than 50 points in any game this season.

Just like the Sharks' boys squad, the girls team has had a memorable year to this point, and even have the same record of 16-6.

However, they understand that all their goals are still in front of them, and that starts with winning the District 3-6A tournament,

which they enter as the top seed and will automatically advance to the semifinals where they will play the winner of Nease and Fletcher on Feb. 7.

Both Morgan Gavazzi and Kennedy Rosendahl have reached 1,000 career points this year and the two seniors are the catalysts of the team as not just the stuffers of the stat sheet, but also in leadership roles.

They are both averaging double digits scoring per game with Gavazzi at 16.9 and Rosendahl with 11.9.

Fellow senior Maya Richards completes the trifecta of playmakers, as her versatility makes her key to what the Sharks want to accomplish, as she averages 8.2 points and 7.4 rebounds a game.

The Panthers have endured a learning year of sorts with such a young team with many underclassmen playing major minutes.

However, the Panthers have still found success as the youth on the floor has mixed well with the experienced players on the team for a 13-10 record.

Freshman Audrey Rollins is one of the nice surprises on the team as she leads the group with 9.7 points per game, while junior McKenna Owens has grabbed a team-high 5.5 rebounds.

The Panthers are the No. 4 seed in the district tournament and will face Fletcher at home on Feb. 5 with the start time still to be determined.

## PANTHERS RELEASE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

By Anthony Richards

The Nease Panthers released their football schedule for the 2024 season on Jan. 30, and as always there are several marquee matchups on the slate.

The Panthers open up on the road against Oakleaf on Aug. 16 before facing the rival Ponte Vedra Sharks at home on Aug. 23.

Following the recent FHSAA realignment, the Panthers and Sharks are no longer in the same district due to the Panthers being in Class 6A, while the Sharks are in Class 5A, which means the matchup moves back to early in the season.

The Panthers' new district opponents include Toco Creek, Gainesville Buchholz and Bartram Trail, and of those district games, Bartram Trail and Gainesville

Buchholz will be at home while Toco Creek is a road contest.

Other road contests include Creekside, St. Augustine and Beachside, which is now in a class instead of being independent.

The home slate also includes matchups with Davenport Ridge Community, Fletcher and Atlantic Coast.



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- 1x2 (2"x2") \$40.50/1 wk • \$70.00/2 wks. • \$100/3 wks.
- 1x3 (2"x3") \$61.50/1 wk. • \$112.00/2 wks. • \$150.00/3 wks.
- 2x2 (4"x2") \$82.00/1 wk. • \$153.00/2 wks. • \$200.00/3 wks.
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### Business & Worship Directory

- 1.5 x 2 \$55.00/month
- 1.5 x 4 \$96.52/month
- 1.5 x 6 \$149.52/month

Rate Guide for: The Recorder



www.pontevedrarecorder.com

CLASSIFIED LINER DEADLINE  
MONDAY NOON

CALL APRIL SNYDER  
904-285-8831 ext. 1204

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY DEADLINE  
FRIDAY 5PM

RECORDER FAX #  
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Our **NEW** In-line Amplifier does that!



### Easy to Qualify:

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- Have a Hearing Loss or Speech Disorder

FREE from the State of Florida

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- Amplifies up to 45 decibels
- AC and battery operated
- Keep your favorite corded phone
- Simple solution for Assisted Living Facility phones



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RF23

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Christopher Stone Photography  
**PoochiePooAndYou.com**  
Schedule a Portrait Session for just \$150 and get 10 Digital Downloads (a \$500 value) for FREE!  
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### Help Wanted

Sr. Mechanical Design Engineer, Medtronic, Inc., Jacksonville, FL. Req. Master's in Mechanical, Biomedical, Industrial Engr. or related engr. field & 2 yrs exp. in R&D or Mechanical Design Engr. occupation for medical devices, or Bachelor's & 5 yrs exp. Req. min. 2 yrs w/ each: AutoCAD, Creo, & GD&T; FEA & fluid analysis; design of plastic injection molded components, extrusion parts, design fixture, & machine parts; design for Mfg. & Assembly; Risk analysis, FMEA, & DMAIC; design verification & validation, & test method & strategy development; Minitab, DOE, capability analysis, & correlation & regression analysis; tolerance stack up analysis & Gauge R&R; FDA 21 CFR 820, ISO 13485, & ISO 14971; PLCM including Agile & Windchill. Relocation assistance is not available for this position. Apply at <https://jobs.medtronic.com/>, Req. #240000SQ. No agencies or phone calls. Medtronic is an equal opportunity employer committed to cultural diversity in the workplace. All individuals are encouraged to apply.



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**YOU MAY QUALIFY** for disability benefits if you have are between 52-63 years old and under a doctor's care for a health condition that prevents you from working for a year or more. **Call now! 1-888-222-1803**

**ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS!** Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. **Call 844-958-2473.**

### Other

**DONATE YOUR VEHICLE** to fund the **SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN**. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! **Call 24/7: 866-471-2576**

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When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for **Happy Jack** animal healthcare for cats, dogs, & horses. **Distributed By Florida Hardware 800-793-0926**

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Collector buying old sports cards. Baseball, basketball, hockey and football. prefer pre 1980. No collection too large. **Steve 508-932-4095.**

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**NEED NEW WINDOWS?** Drafty rooms? Chipped or damaged frames? Need outside noise reduction? New, energy efficient windows may be the answer! **Call for a consultation & FREE quote today, 1-888-993-3693.** You will be asked for the zip code of the property when connecting.

**PROTECT YOUR HOME** from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for a quote or inspection today 1-877-644-9799 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

**WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION:** A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! **Call 24/7: 1-866-782-4060** Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

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## Let's get social!

"LIKE" US ON **facebook**

Stay up to date on contests, advertising specials, and real-time news in Ponte Vedra. Our fans get access to exclusive content you can't find anywhere else!

THE **RECORDER**

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

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$735.

Call 866-643-0438 to schedule your free quote!

\*Terms and Conditions apply.



Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB**

1-855-417-1306

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

# Worship DIRECTORY

To advertise in the Worship Directory call April at 904-285-8831



## Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Try a unique experience with service in a former stable!  
Come as you are. All are welcome.  
Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

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**AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE?** You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. **Financing available. Call 1-888-967-1158.** Have zip code of property ready when calling!

**Miscellaneous**

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**MobileHelp**, America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! **1-888-489-3936**

**Miscellaneous**

Prepare for power outages today with a **Generac Home Standby Generator**. Act now to receive a **FREE 7-Year warranty** with qualifying purchase\* Call **1-855-948-6176** today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

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**Safe Step.** North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time! Financing available. **1-855-417-1306**

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**Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts** Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. **833-308-1971**

**Miscellaneous**

**Diagnosed with lung cancer & 65+?** You may qualify for a substantial cash award. No obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help! **Call 24/7 1-877-707-5707**

**HughesNet** - Finally, super-fast internet no matter where you live. 25 Mbps just \$59.99/mo! Unlimited Data is Here. Stream Video. Bundle TV & Internet. Free Installation. **Call 866-499-0141**

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! **LeafFilter**, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. **Call 1-833-610-1936**

**DIRECTV Stream** - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. **Call IVS 1-866-859-0405**

Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from **Erie Metal Roofs!** 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders.) **1-833-370-1234**

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CROSSWORD													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18								
19					20			21					
				22				23					
		24	25					26			27	28	
29	30						31				32	33	
34					35	36				37			
38				39						40			
	41		42					43	44				
			45					46					
		47	48				49				50	51	52
53						54				55	56		
57										58			
59					60					61			

**ACROSS**

- Become less intense
- Variety of pear
- Religion native to China
- Type of tooth
- Fitted out
- Make every effort
- Autonomic nervous system
- Complete
- Alternate name
- River in France and Belgium
- Miami's mascot is one
- Turfs
- Most cognizant of reality
- Broad volcanic crater
- Canadian surname
- Satisfaction
- Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- Collide
- Immune response
- Feline
- High opinion of one's own appearance
- Thin strip to align parts
- Containers
- Convicted American spy
- Breathe noisily
- Taxi
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Swiss river
- I.M., architect
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal
- Dutch and German surname
- Square measures
- 2,000 lbs.
- Degrade someone

- Work unit
- Yellow edible fruits
- Gemstone
- A place ships dock (abbr.)
- Evergreen tropical tree
- Reality TV star Richards
- Nonflowering aquatic plant
- Stakes
- Antidiuretic hormone
- Make warm again
- Light beams
- Lethal dose
- Terrorist group
- Kids love him
- Naturally occurring solid
- German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- Popular cuisine
- Partner to cheese
- Type of horse
- Diego
- Defensive nuclear weapon

- Most shrewd
- It may be for shopping
- Midway between south and southeast
- A stock of foods
- The bindings of books
- Swiss river
- Megabyte
- Sammy \_\_, songwriter
- Dutch colonist
- Clare Booth \_\_, American writer
- Sun or solar disk
- Popular type of bread
- Transfers of money (abbr.)
- Association of engineering professionals
- Young women's association
- City
- Niger-Congo branch of languages
- Pointed end of a pen

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


Level: Intermediate

**DOWN**

- Siberian river
- Blessing
- Substitutes (abbr.)
- Principle underlying the universe

**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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Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Get your free Information Kit with details! 1-855-526-1060 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/ads)  
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**Miscellaneous**  
Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase\* Call 1-855-948-6176 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.  
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BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices- No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-761-1725  
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HughesNet- Finally, super-fast internet no matter where you live. 25 Mbps just \$59.99/mo! Un-limited Data is Here. Stream Video. Bundle TV & Internet. Free Installation. Call 866-499-0141

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Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off- limited time! Fi-nancing available. 1-855-417-1306  
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Free high speed internet if qualified. Govt. pgm for recipients of select pgms incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet. Android tablet free w/one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping. Call Maxsip Telecom! 1-833-758-3892  
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Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders.) 1-833-370-1234  
Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a lim-ited time, we're cutting installation costs in half and offering a FREE safety upgrade! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24 Call 1-844-501-3208

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**PONTE VEDRA TO ORANGE PARK**

**40 AVAILABLE**  
2023-2024 XT4, XT5 AND XT6S



**14 AVAILABLE**  
2024 LYRIQS



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**(904) 642-5111**

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