

# THE RECORDER



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

See page 8.

Thursday, October 5, 2023

PonteVedraRecorder.com

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## Ponte Vedra residents say road project threatens trees

By Shaun Ryan

Residents living in the vicinity of a road improvement project in Ponte Vedra Beach met with county officials Sept. 26, for the most part over concerns that the scope of the work will result in the loss of dozens of mature trees, among them some majestic live oaks.

The meeting was called at the request of the residents who became alarmed after finding red X's spray-painted on trees marked for removal.

According to the residents, a meeting in December where officials explained the project – improvements to the intersection of Mickler Road

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## Local scout joins elite company

Ponte Vedra senior earns all 138 merit badges

By Anthony Richards

Gaining merit badges has been a goal for Boy Scouts for more than 100 years, but during that time there are very few that capture every merit badge possible during their time in the organization.

There is now another one added to that exclusive list, as Tre Peterson was awarded his final merit badges to give the Ponte Vedra High senior all 138.

Since the Boy Scouts of America started 113 years ago, only .0042% of scouts have every merit badge.

“If you look it up, about 540 kids have done it out of 16 million kids who have come through the program in the course of 113 years now,” Boy Scouts of America, North Florida Council CEO Kelvin Williams said. “There’s a hall of fame for sports, right? Well, when you earn Eagle Scout, you make it to the hall of fame, but then there’s Tom Brady, Tiger Woods, Messi and all the legends that take it to another level. That’s where Tre is.”

Peterson was one of the youngest in



Photo by Anthony Richards

Tre Peterson thanked his support system, which includes his father Tom and mother Cheryl, for helping him earn all 138 merit badges as a boy scout.

the area to ever achieve the rank of Eagle Scout when he did so in seventh grade, and at that time already had earned 86 merit badges.

“Obviously, all this wasn’t originally planned, and I was just going to go in and

have fun and hang out with all my friends,” Peterson said. “But as I realized this Eagle Scout thing was a real possibility, I realized how many merit badges I was accumul-

SCOUT continues on Page 12



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



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Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at  
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## BRIEFS

### GTM Research Reserve offers guided exploration hike

A GTM Research Reserve guided exploration hike will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 7. The event is free, but parking is \$3 per vehicle. Wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes. Hat, insect repellent, water and sunscreen are also recommended.

Register online at [secure.lgl-forms.com/form\\_engine/s/kdLJpf-MMinh8PJGDljlig?t=1666294262](https://secure.lgl-forms.com/form_engine/s/kdLJpf-MMinh8PJGDljlig?t=1666294262).

Meet at the GTM Research Reserve trailhead pavilion (west of Guana dam), 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

### Republican Executive Committee to meet

St. Johns County Republican Executive Committee business meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 12, at Holiday Inn-World Golf Village, 475 Commerce Lake Drive, St. Augustine.

Guest reception is at 5:30 p.m. Guests must register in advance at [stjohns.gop/beourguest](http://stjohns.gop/beourguest).

The member social is at 6 p.m. and the business membership meeting will be 6:30 to 8 p.m.

### Elections supervisor to address Democratic Club

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting on Monday Oct. 16, at the Ponte Vedra Library, 101 Library Road. Chat and chew at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m.

Vicky Oakes, St. John's County Supervisor of Elections, will speak about 2024 voting changing protocols.

For more information, email [jkary@verizon.net](mailto:jkary@verizon.net).

### County seeks input from Hastings community

St. Johns County has launched a new website, [sjchastings.com](http://sjchastings.com), with an online survey as one part of its efforts to engage the public to better understand their preferences on potential economic development opportunities in the Hastings community and nearby areas. The online survey is available at the site until Nov. 19.

There are also two public engagement meetings scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 25 and 5-7 p.m. Oct. 26 at the Hastings Library, 6195 S. Main St., Hastings.

"The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners is eager to know how the com-

munity prioritizes economic development relative to other community issues in Hastings and would like to get a general idea on what the public believes are potential economic development opportunities," said Joy Andrews, interim county administrator.

### Palm Valley Market every Tuesday

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

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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



80S TRIVIA FOR A CURE

Rock your '80s best for a family trivia night! Proceeds support breast cancer research and local fighter, Aimee Freedman.

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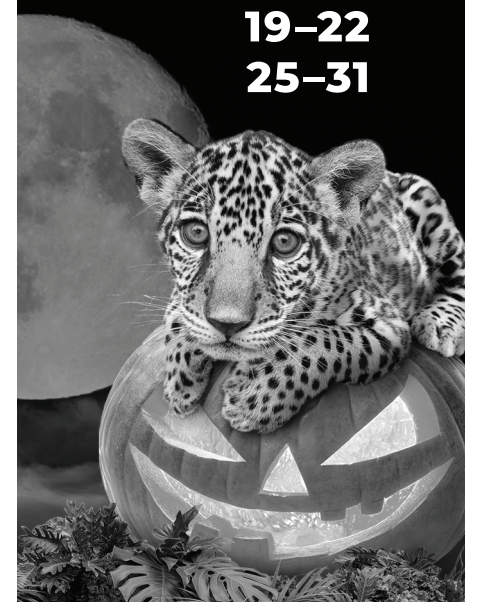


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# Send us your Best of the Beaches nominations

The Recorder has launched its inaugural Best of the Beaches contest, featuring businesses in Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach and Ponte Vedra Beach. This includes businesses in ZIP codes 32250, 32266, 32233 and 32082.

Readers will have the chance to nominate their favorite businesses in various categories online, such as auto & transportation, home & finance, food & drink and more!

From best new business to best charity event, best real estate agent to best personal trainer and best seafood to best

boutique, the categories run the gamut and are sure to include your favorite things.

Nominations will be taken from Oct. 6 to Nov. 6 at [pontevedrarecorder.com/bestofthebeaches](http://pontevedrarecorder.com/bestofthebeaches).

Anyone can nominate a business or person, and there is no limit to the number of nominations each person can submit.

Online voting will begin once nominations are complete, from Nov. 7 to Dec. 7. The nominees who receive the most votes



will be named 2023 Best of the Beaches. Nominations and voting are completely free and open to the public.

The Best Of platform on The Recorder's website will feature lists of nominees in an easy-to-use format. Nominees can participate in advertising packages that promote their entry by expanding their listing to feature additional details on the business. Winners will receive a free certificate

and a Best of the Beaches window cling. Each winner will also be listed in our Best of the Beaches special section and on the winner's website.

Winners will be announced with publication of the special section on Dec. 28.

For more information or to find out how to get your nominated business or product involved in promotions that will be going on throughout the contest cycle, contact publisher Susan Griffin, email [susan@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:susan@pontevedrarecorder.com) or call 904-686-3938.

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# Supporting community important to EnterCircle speaker, sponsor

EnterCircle 2023 is a three-day business summit that highlights inspirational speakers that align with the theme “Thrive with Purpose.” This year, the summit welcomes speaker Nick Crouch, co-CEO of DYNE Hospitality Group, and sponsor Hyundai of St. Augustine.

Crouch is a Missouri native who came to Northeast Florida in search of business opportunities. But when he set foot in St. Augustine, he fell in love with the area and decided to call this little corner of Florida his home. Crouch’s family moved from World Golf Village, then Palencia, before settling in the tight-knit community of

Nocatee.

“We believe that giving back to the communities where we own and operate businesses, especially schools, churches, athletics and charities, is extremely important, and we feel it is our duty to support the community as a thank you and sign of gratitude for the people in the community supporting our business,” Crouch said.

Crouch hopes to continue his mission to inspire youth by speaking at EnterCircle Summit 2023.

“I think that hopefully my story is a story of inspiration, hard work, grit, gratitude and consistency,” Crouch said.



**ENTERCIRCLE  
SUMMIT 2023**

Attendees will gain insight from industry and community leaders on how finding purpose in what you do can lead you to thrive.

“I believe that a great company is centered around a precise mission, strong core values that drive all actions and a first-class company culture ... We believe everyone has a purpose and a ‘seat’ and it’s our job to identify that and set each individual up for success. My constant focus from sunup to sundown is how I can create new opportunities for our team,” Crouch said.

Andrew DiFeo, managing partner

at Hyundai of St. Augustine, is also eager to make an impact on the youth at EnterCircle.

Hyundai of St. Augustine returns for the second year in a row as a sponsor for EnterCircle 2023. DiFeo believes that the youth are the future of innovation in this community.

“Supporting our local community is a core value of Hyundai of St. Augustine,” DiFeo said. “We are honored to support EnterCircle for the second year in a row. While the quality of the content and networking opportunities are first-class, it is the entrepreneurial spirit and innovative ideas from our community’s youth that are most inspiring. This year’s theme of ‘Thrive with Purpose’ is very relevant in our ever-changing world with so many opportunities for meaningful change at the local and global level.”

The youth symposium on Nov. 16 also features a pitch competition by high school students. This day couldn’t be possible without the continued support of leaders like Nick Crouch and Andrew DiFeo.

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

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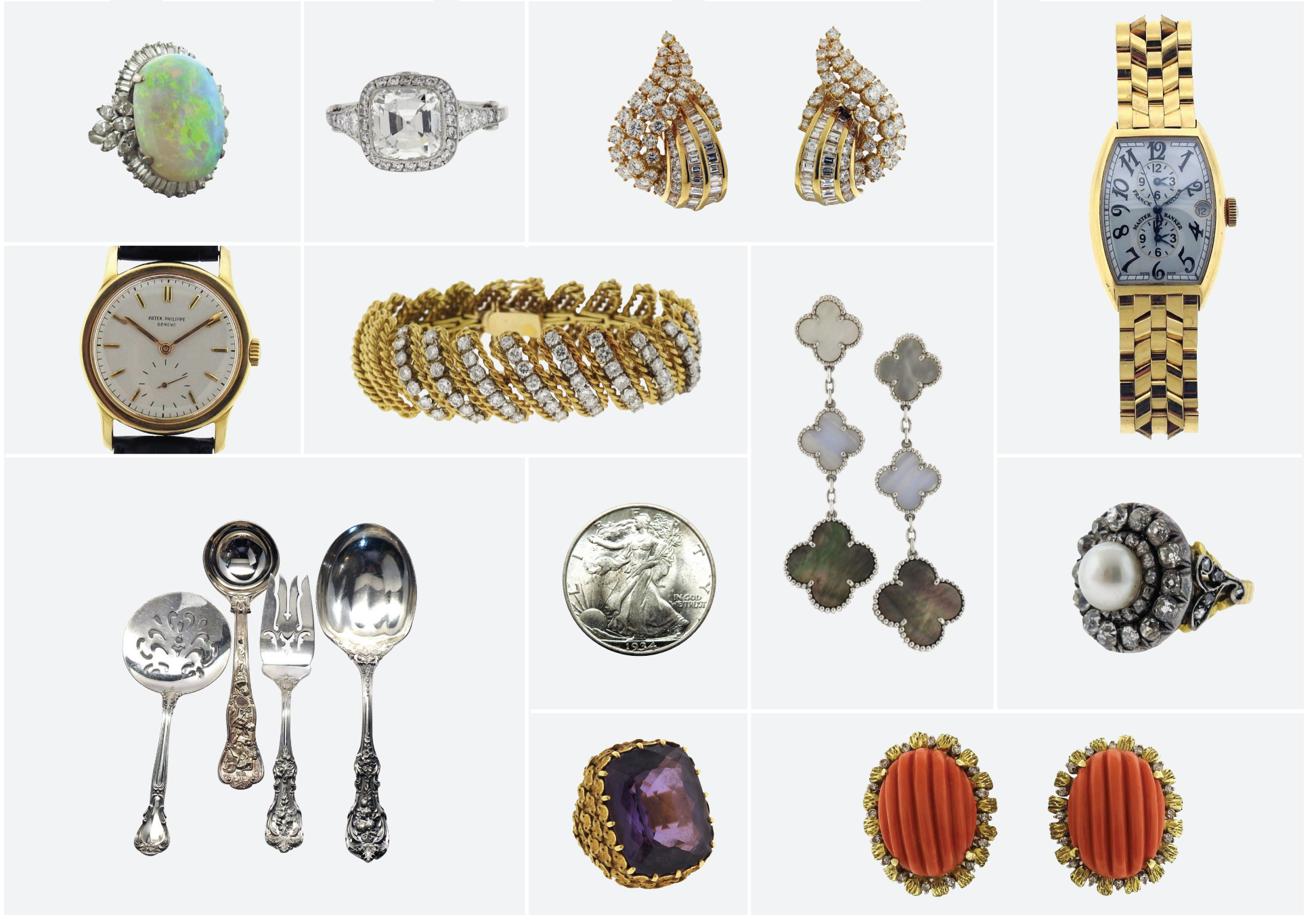
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*Josh Hull is a fourth generation Floridian, and he shows his love for his hometown by giving back to the community through his involvement in the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra. As the club's new president, he has goals to create a 5k race and an auto show so the Rotary Club can have additional fundraising opportunities.*

## Josh Hull

### As told to Anthony Richards

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

I was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida. I can trace my family back on my mother's side four generations all in Northeast Florida.

My great-grandfather was a lighthouse keeper at the St. Augustine Lighthouse.

I grew up in church, sang in the choir, and currently attend Christ's Church in Mandarin.

I am happily married to my wife of 15 years, Lena Hull, who is a branch manager at First Florida Credit Union.

I have a bachelor's degree of applied science in business supervision and management from Florida State College and I work at VyStar Credit Union as a branch vice president for our Nocatee branch.

#### How long have you been involved with the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra?

I'm a charter member of our club, which means I was part of the club since our club's inception in April of 2018.

Before my current Rotary club, I was a member of the Rotary Club of Palm Valley for two years where I began my Rotary journey.

#### What has the experience been like?

Being a part of Rotary has been absolutely wonderful and I recommend Rotary to everyone!

I initially joined Rotary through a referral from a friend when I was looking for additional ways to network in the community.

Networking is an important part of Rotary and yet even more so the reason that I stay in Rotary is because I see all of the good work that we do in the community.

Rotary mainly exists for community service in which the club resides in. In addition, each club is part of a larger district and together we perform international projects as well to do more good in the world.

Rotary is very much an international organization with a strong worldwide presence. One of the things you learn quickly in Rotary is that wherever you travel in the world you have a group of friends waiting to welcome you.

#### What are your roles and goals as the club's new president?

As the Rotary president I am looking for new and fresh ways to continue to give back to the community in which



Photo courtesy of Josh Hull

**Josh Hull is the new president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra. He and his wife Lena both work in the financial world.**

our club resides in Nocatee.

One of our recent projects right now involves purchasing and installing exercise equipment for the Nocatee trails in which folks who are on these trails can make stops to perform exercises to enhance their workouts.

We are also working on a project to install clean water filtration devices in water fountains around Nocatee so that residents can fill up water bottles to reduce waste while enjoying clean filtered water.

One primary goal I have in my term as Rotary president is to create a 5k race and an auto show for our Rotary Club so that we have new additional sources of fundraising available to enhance the club's ability to do more good in our community.

#### What do you enjoy most about being a member of the club?

Rotary is like a family. These are friends that you build a strong connection with hence the networking that I initially was seeking.

In addition to the comradery, I also enjoy our guest speakers at each meeting to stay up to date on important topics that concern our community.

Most important, Rotarians love to have fun! We usually try to mix in at least one to two socials per month to enjoy each other's company while making new memories.

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

The sunny weather and no snow! In addition, most of my family lives here

in Florida so being close to family and friends is a true blessing.

#### What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time, I'm a huge gamer. I'm into board games and rhythm games such as DDR, IIDX, Sound Voltex, Jubeat and Pop'n Music.

My favorite game of all is Magic the Gathering, as it's the game that I've been playing since high school.

I also enjoy playing pinball and watching competitive Starcraft 1 and Starcraft 2. I am proud to own every current gen gaming console and a gaming PC, which I built with my uncle.

I simply love gaming. Of course, gaming with my wife and friends is the best of all.



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# Noc’N Out Breast Cancer raises more than \$1k at wine tasting



Photos by Susan Griffin

Noc’N Out Breast Cancer is an initiative that helps raise funds for the Donna Foundation, which is a nonprofit organi-

zation that provides needed services to breast cancer patients and helps push for breast cancer research at Mayo Clinic.

The initiative was started by a group of friends within the Nocatee and Ponte Vedra communities that had a common goal and wanted to do their part to help those in need.

They held their second annual wine tasting event at Coastal Wine Market in Nocatee on Sept. 18, and the fun night not only raised awareness for breast cancer and the research being made, but it also raised \$1,120 for the Donna Foundation.

According to Robin Robson with Noc’N Out Breast Cancer, it is donations like that which helped the group become the largest donor the Donna Foundation had this year.

The group’s final event of its fundraising calendar will be in direct partnership with the Donna Foundation, as they will have a booth and take part in the THE PLAYERS Donna 5k, which will take place at TPC Sawgrass on Oct. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.



Contributed photo

It will be the 16th annual event, in which participants get to run or walk around the TPC Sawgrass golf course as it makes up the route for the event.



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Photo by Susan Griffin



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**12:00pm**  
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395 Front St, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082



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**

# Fall Colors!

"Nature always wears the colors of the spirit." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

By Kathy Esfahani



As the temperatures drop to the low 80s (or maybe even 70s!), we start to feel hints of fall in our Northeast Florida home. It is cooling off enough to return to the garden, but what is best to plant now for seasonal color? Many flowers that wilt in the summer heat enjoy the cooler temperatures of Florida's fall and winter. Although annuals need replanting every season, they show off vibrant colors throughout a landscape. Consider adding celosia, dianthus, dusty miller, marigolds, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, and violas to your garden and/or containers for color in the coming months. There are also perennials that will bloom now and return again next fall. In our area, look for firespike, geraniums, mums, pentas and salvia.

Shrubs and other plants can also be added to your landscape alongside these flowers. Plants that feature



Fall colors in landscaping

colorful foliage include crotons and loropetalum. Shrubbery can provide color and fill in throughout your yard. Holly and other shrubs that produce berries attract birds looking for food as they migrate through our area. These berries also remind us that the holidays are right around the corner!

Although Florida may not see the changing fall leaves of trees in cooler climates, there are trees that provide seasonal color in our area. Now is a good time to plant the trees that you have been considering for your landscape. Ideas for trees that feature fall color include bottlebrush, cypress, and maple.

When you prepare your garden for new fall planting,



Flower of the Week

Marigolds

be sure to enrich the soil with organic matter. This step allows plants to find and retain nutrients that help them grow and produce beautiful blooms. If desired, add a slow-release fertilizer or organic compost to support your new plants. And, as always, don't forget to water regularly! The coming months are the dryer season in our area, so you will need to maintain moisture throughout your gardens.

Visit us at the nursery in the coming weeks to select plants for fall color around your home. Happy planting!

*Flower of the Week: Marigolds*

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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# Original Ponte Vedra pumpkin patch reopens Sunday

Mark your calendar to attend the original pumpkin patch in Ponte Vedra Beach, now in its 24th year at Lord of Life Lutheran Church on Roscoe Boulevard.

The pumpkin patch will open on Sunday, Oct. 8, and will sell pumpkins every day up until 5 p.m. on Halloween Day, or as long as they last.

“Every year we get a great assortment of pumpkins in unusual shapes and colors that are very popular, such as green, gray, cream, or with ‘warts’ on orange ones along with the classic, perfect carving pumpkin,” said Deb Nye, the head organizer of this annual event, which is the largest fundraiser that the church holds.

This year the church will give 10% of the profits from pumpkin sales to the St. Johns County charity, Pie in the Sky, that provides fresh produce, eggs, bread and soup to 1,200 seniors in the county who don’t have enough to eat.

Along with large pumpkins, the church has a very good assortment of mini pumpkins and gourds and sells



Contributed photo

The Lord of Life Lutheran Church will sell pumpkins, gourds and homemade baked goods beginning Sunday, Oct. 8.

homemade baked goods, including its famous pumpkin pies baked using pumpkins from the patch. Last year, Nye baked 150 pumpkin pies, which sell out almost as quickly as they come out of the oven.

Patch hours are Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to dusk, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to dusk, and Sundays from 11 a.m. to dusk. It will host Family Fun Days the weekend of Oct. 14 and 15, with a slide, bounce house, face painting, games and a craft. New this year will be tractor rides every weekend from noon to 4 p.m. The patch will also be open all-day Monday, Oct. 16, when students are out of school in St. Johns County.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church is located at 276 Roscoe Blvd. North, in Ponte Vedra Beach. It is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a church of about 4 million members that traces its roots back through the mid-17th century, when early Lutherans came to America from Europe.



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Sailing was one of the many merit badges that Peterson collected over the years.



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Peterson had achieved Eagle Scout rank when he was in seventh grade and already had 86 merit badges at that time.

## Scout

Continued from 1

ing. At that point, my support team just kept pushing me to continue and see how far I could go and today I made it!"

Many of those supporters were in attendance to share in the moment with him and to see the result that came from all the hard work put forth behind the scenes throughout the years.

Each badge reflects certain skills or traits that a Boy Scout must meet to earn them.

According to Peterson, the badges are often not something you just do to get a badge, but instead can produce valuable life lessons that the scouts can use moving forward to become the best adults they can be.

"There are a lot of important badges, that I'll really continue to use, one of those is personal management, which is about financial budgeting and how to plan for your future," Peterson said. "One of the requirements for that was just learning how to make a budget and learning how to save and manage your money wisely."

Other badges he believes are so useful in everyday life include home repairs like plumbing and electricity, which are handy things to have knowledge about.

Even after becoming an Eagle Scout, Peterson remained very active within Troop 277 in Ponte Vedra Beach, and he has always embraced the leadership role that he has.

There were several Boy Scouts who received their first merit badges, and seeing each of them walk up to be awarded it with the big smiles on their face and their parents faces, reminds Peterson what it is all about even after so many years and badges.

"Showing the younger kids that this is possible is exactly what I was going for," Peterson said. "Even though it's a .0042%, it's still attainable if you just push and keep your head down. And that goes for anything in life."

Peterson plans to attend Stetson University in DeLand next fall and major in finance.

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GUEST COLUMN

# Americans depend on newspapers to stay informed about their communities

By **Benjy Hamm**,

Director, Institute for Rural Journalism,  
University of Kentucky

Nearly 220 million American adults turn to their local newspapers regularly for news and information they need to stay informed, feel more connected to their neighbors and improve their lives and communities.

That readership number is based on a recent national study by independent research firm Coda Ventures for the America's Newspapers organization.

Most likely, the number of readers is higher. Many people who say they receive news on their phone or from social media instead of newspapers fail to understand that the sources for those stories are often journalists at U.S. newspapers.

We sometimes take the work of journalists for granted, but those who work at newspapers are filling an important role in the health of our communities

and country.

Everyone, even nonreaders, benefits from the work of journalists. News coverage has led to improvements in food safety, decreases in traffic and plane fatalities, better care for veterans and nursing home patients, support for victims of natural disasters and exposure of all sorts of wrongdoing.

I have long loved this quotation by Frank Batten Sr., a media visionary and former chairman of Landmark Communications, who said about journalists and newspapers: "Our calling was never more important. We have the capacity to inform, to enlighten, to awaken and to inspire. We have the opportunity to enrich the lives of thousands of people every day."

Across the United States, journalists and other newspaper employees are serving their communities and democracy every day by informing, enlightening, awakening and inspiring millions of readers.

The news they provide is accessed in many forms. Many people still use the word newspaper as the all-encompassing term for those various forms, but now news is delivered through websites, social media, electronic editions, email alerts and newsletters, in addition to the traditional printed paper.

Those delivery methods have changed significantly in recent years. But one thing remains constant: Americans depend on the trusted news coverage provided by newspapers.



**Benjy Hamm**

The study by Coda Ventures, based on surveys of 5,000 people, revealed that respondents ranked local newspapers and their websites as the most accurate sources of original news reporting. The results also listed the top five reasons Americans seek out local news — to stay informed, feel connected in the community, decide where they stand on local issues, find places and things to do, and talk to other people about community news.

Survey respondents consistently said they prefer newspapers in print and digital formats over TV, radio and

social media as their main source for news and information important to them.

They like the fact that newspapers use different ways to deliver their news stories to various audiences. The survey showed that people who are 39 and younger listed social media as the No. 1 way they prefer to access news, though they also like news websites and email alerts. People in the 40 to 74 age group ranked news websites as their top choice, followed by email alerts and the printed newspaper. Those 75 and older prefer the print edition but also like news websites and email alerts.

Based on the frequent reports of struggles within the news business, many people might be surprised to learn that newspapers and their digital offerings reach so many readers. Those struggles, primarily financial, are real and affect many media companies, not just newspapers. But the new ways of delivering news allow newspapers to reach even larger audiences.

Frank Batten might not have anticipated the widespread use of the internet and social media when he first made his comments in the 1980s, but his words remain true today.

Newspapers and their dedicated employees continue to inform, enlighten, awaken and inspire — enriching their communities and the lives of millions of people who benefit from their work every day.

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# World Golf Village ideas thrown around during public meetings

By Anthony Richards

The discussion to figure out how to best use the World Golf Village land continued with a pair of public meetings in the county auditorium Sept. 27 and 28.

Its proximity to Interstate 95 makes it a valuable piece of land for both the county and its residents, and there were many varying ideas expressed during the meetings.

Some residents who spoke brought up the population increases the county continues to see, and the need for an infrastructure to keep up with that pace and proposed using the land to build a new school to help with overcrowding issues.

It was proposed that just because the space was set up for retail before does not mean that the space cannot be converted to use for something other than that in the future, such as schools.

The property's close history and ties to golf was also brought up by some who believe it should not be forgotten and that a golf course should be something that the county deeply considers building on the land in question.

Others want to see the infrastructure and roadways around the land improved to match some of the ideas being tossed around, because they believe the traffic along that section of International Golf Parkway right off the interstate is already heavily trafficked and future additions would only add to that.

Once again, due to its proximity on an interstate exit, it was stated that whatever retail goes in there will see a natural gravitation of not just local traffic but also an influx in visitors during certain parts of the year, with Buc-ee's convenience store and Costco's positioned right across the street from the current World Golf Village main entrance.

Some of the small business owners that currently have their businesses within the World Golf Village property at the moment mentioned wanting to bring things for the family to do back to the location by bringing back fireworks and focusing on things the entire family can take part in from an entertainment standpoint, such as a movie theater.

The IMAX theater has been a staple of the World Golf Village since its creation,

and many residents stepped forth to the podium to express how they would love to not waste its potential and remain as a theater on the property.

Putting a library and church somewhere on the property were also mentioned as things residents mentioned they would like to see built as part of the plan.

Residents from not only the surrounding area, but also those who currently call the World Golf Village home also

provided some of their points of view regarding the situation, and saving the golf course as part of the development was near the top of the list.

They did not seem against having shops move into the area for the most part, as it held retail before, but they also want to make sure that the development is not allowed to get out of control and that the ambiance of the area in which they live is maintained.

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# Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife returns Nov. 2-5

Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife – W3, presented by Publix, is set for Nov. 2-5 in Vilano Beach, St. Augustine. Several new events have been announced for this year. Early bird discount tickets will be available until Oct. 15, with savings of up to 30% on some tickets.

## Thursday, November 2

**NEW EVENT:** Pesca by Michael's W3 Wine Dinner. Cocktails, 6-6:30 p.m.; Dinner at 7 p.m.

**Location:** Pesca by Michael's Inside Hyatt Place Hotel, Vilano Beach.

The perfect way to kick-off Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife with an elegant four-course, wine-paired dinner by Executive Chef Michael Lugo and dessert course by Pastry Chef Rebecca Reed.

## Friday, November 3

W3 Master Classes, presented by Publix at Vilano Main Street Diner.

- "Easy Holiday Entertaining" with Damon Burch, Sysco executive chef, and Zac Coleman showcasing Ron Barcelo Rum cocktails, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

- "Wine & Wildlife" with Foley Family Wines and the GTM Research Reserve, noon to 1 p.m.

## Friday, November 3

**NEW EVENT:** Vilano A1A Soirée, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Vivian Browning Avenue.

An elegant and memorable sunset al fresco street party/dinner, with six courses from six acclaimed chefs: Norberto Jaramillo, Sebastian Sikora, Michael Lugo, Ellie Schultze, Chris Eldridge and Rebecca Reed. Cocktails and



Contributed photo

live music from Zaza Flamenca kick everything off!

## Saturday, November 4

Guided Tour through the GTM Research Reserve with wine and cheese paired reception, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

**Location:** Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) Research Reserve, 505 Guana River Road, No. 6527, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Explore the great coastal outdoors and the natural beauty of the GTM Research Reserve with a private guided tour. The tour concludes with tasting some fantastic wines, paired with specialty cheeses from Publix.

## Saturday, November 4

W3 Grand Tasting – Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife, 2-5 p.m., block party in Vilano Beach

**Location:** Vivian Browning Avenue, Vilano Beach  
Guests will enjoy hundreds of unlimited varieties of

beverage tastings with a souvenir glass and live music. It's a full afternoon of live music, artisans and celebrity guest chefs in the Publix cooking demonstration. Don't miss the Best Taste Awards and the silent auction, with 100% of the proceeds benefiting Vilano Beach Main Street. Tickets are all-inclusive, including all food and beverage tastings.

## Sunday, November 5

**NEW EVENT:** W3 Sunday Jazz Brunch

**Location:** Pesca by Michael's Inside Hyatt Place Hotel, 117 Vilano Road, Vilano Beach

The grand finale brunch at Pesca by Michael's will be a great way to end the weekend — an all-inclusive culinary and drink ticket for a fantastic brunch buffet with gourmet stations for breakfast and lunch lovers alike. The festival's only family-friendly event provides families a delicious way to end the weekend!

## Satellite parking lots and Old Town Trolley stops

Parking is very limited on Vilano Beach, so Old Town Trolleys will be running every 30 minutes and will provide the best and most hassle-free way to attend Saturday's Main Event. The satellite parking shuttle service is free of charge for festival guests, with the schedule available on the festival website in the coming weeks.

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

Whiskey, Wine & Wildlife Presented by Publix is supported by St. Johns County Tourism Development Council, St. Johns Cultural Council, St. Augustine/Ponte Vedra, Florida's Historic Coast and Vilano Beach Main Street.

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# Culinary world converges for Amelia Island Cookout Epicurean Weekend

By Anthony Richards

The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island looks to start a new tradition for the “foodies” in the area with its inaugural Amelia Island Cookout Epicurean Weekend scheduled for Oct. 20-22.

“Our vision is to continue it every October moving forward,” said Joe Murphy, director of marketing with The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island.

The weekend-long showcase will be a celebration of food and the various flavors and ways in which to cook and enjoy the culinary world.

A mix of both local and nationally renowned chefs will be featured during the event as part of several chef-inspired demonstrations where attendees will have the opportunity to hear and learn from the chefs firsthand.

According to Murphy, the interactive nature of the event brought about by the demonstrations is something that was a priority and something The Ritz-Carlton really wanted to highlight.

“We’ll have different action stations, where guests can mingle with the chefs as they share tips for making their dishes,” Murphy said. “We believe that people now more than ever are attracted to this kind of event because it is really engaging. They truly feel a part of it.”

It was also important to maintain the local vibe that Amelia Island is known for and not losing sight of that in the construction of the event was key.

“We always knew we wanted to present a quality mix for our guests, and we look to continue that model of having ‘local legends,’ as we like to call them,” Murphy said. “We would like to see it eventually expand to where local restaurants are getting involved.”

Chef Okan Kizilbayir of Salt Restaurant, which is just one of several dining options at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island has helped orchestrate the cookout



The weekend-long showcase will be a celebration of food and the various flavors and ways in which to cook and enjoy the culinary world.

weekend and will be one of the featured chefs.

He brings a unique take on the cookout from his past experiences with the Grand Cayman Cookout, which is a similar culinary event hosted by The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman, and is celebrating 15 years in October.

“He is the man behind all the success,” Murphy said. “His wealth of knowledge and experience is incredible.”

The goal of the showcase is to have something that captures the imagination of every palate, regardless of which foods or flavors peak a person’s interest.

Everything from chefs who specialize in farm-to-table, such as Lee Jones with Chef’s Garden to Tank Jackson with Holy City Hogs, who will be roasting a whole hog, and award-winning mixologists will be featured during the event.

The variety of chefs featured has

brought about interest from guests both across the First Coast but also throughout the nation, especially those on the East Coast.

“We started to concept it about a year ago, and all along we knew we wanted to capture the foodie culture that is growing everywhere, including here locally,” Murphy said. “Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra and

**COOKOUT** continues on Page 19



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# Cookout

Continued from 18

the First Coast in general have become much more of a ‘foodie’ scene in the last five years.”

The Amelia Island Cookout is the main event during the three-day showcase and will take place on Oct. 21 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the Oceanfront Lawn at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island.

Tickets for the cookout are \$150 per person and will allow guests to be front and center as some of the top chefs bring their best culinary work out of the kitchen and bring it outdoors for a unique cook-out feel.

Tickets are also still available for the Tomorrow’s Culinary Stars Brunch and Master Chefs Dinner, both scheduled for Oct. 22.

The brunch will feature executive chef Garrett Gooch, and his team will treat attendees to a lavish brunch, which they will be able to enjoy while watching an

interactive cooking competition between local college culinary students.

It will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton ballroom foyer and is \$150 per person with a portion of proceeds from the brunch being donated to Barnabas Food Pantry in Fernandina Beach.

Kizilbayir and fellow featured chefs will prepare a five-course collaboration dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Salt Restaurant. Tickets to the dinner, which will also mark the end of the cookout showcase are \$750 per person.



The Amelia Island Cookout is the main event during the three-day showcase and will take place on Oct. 21 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the Oceanfront Lawn at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island.

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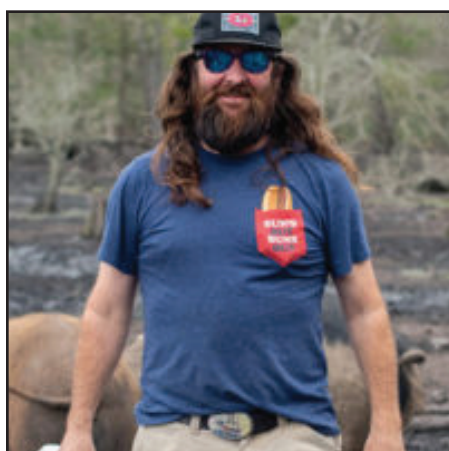
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**Chef Okan Kizilbayir of Salt Restaurant.**



**Lee Jones of Chef's Garden.**



**Tank Jackson of Holy City Hogs.**





Red X's mark trees slated for removal for a road improvement project on Mickler Road.

## Trees

Continued from 1

and State Road A1A – didn't show elements that would necessitate the trees' removal.

The project will widen the roadway to allow for dual left turn lanes from Mickler Road onto S.R. A1A, a left-turn lane from Ponte Vedra Boulevard onto southbound A1A and an additional through-lane on northbound A1A. The \$4.3 million project is being funded through impact fees and \$1.6 million from the state Department of Transportation.

The project grew out of a North Florida Transportation Planning Organization study performed about six years ago. The county followed up and contracted with Matthews Design Group to design the project.

Widening the intersection to accommodate the additional turn lane necessitates alterations to the immediate approach on Mickler Road, and possibly the loss of some trees, but a proposed turn lane into the Portofino condominium complex and drainage improvements lie at the heart of resi-

dents' concerns.

The Portofino turn lane, as well as a turn lane for the Mickler's Landing shopping plaza, extend the impact of the project westward, necessitating the removal of more trees.

"We have these left turn lanes based on engineering judgement," said St. Johns County Public Works Director Greg Caldwell.

But several residents attending the Sept. 26 meeting said the Portofino turn lane was not needed, as there were only 20 units in the community. No one at the meeting – including Portofino residents -- could remember ever having to wait behind someone turning in there.

"I think what a lot of us are asking for is for you to take a hard look at the turning at Portofino," said Neck Road resident Nicole Crosby.

To address drainage, 12-foot-wide swales would be created on the north side of Mickler Road. To accommodate the widening, which tapers 1,500 feet from the A1A intersection to a point at Neck Road, the sidewalk and utilities would have to be moved. Residents are concerned that the work will damage 12 large trees in front of the Mediterra community that are not even among



Photos by Shaun Ryan

**Residents living in the vicinity of a project on Mickler Road are concerned that work will damage majestic oaks there.**

those slated for removal.

On Sept. 20, residents consulted with arborist Danny Lippi concerning the likelihood of tree impacts.

Lippi found that the majority of the trees – laurel oak, live oak and pignut hickory – have "varying levels of tolerance to root stressors commonly associated with construction and roadway improvements."

These trees, he wrote, have shallow and expansive root systems. Design drawings show that work will be performed within the tree protection zones needed to maintain tree health and structure.

"Damaging roots too close to a tree's trunk can lead to a tree that is at higher risk of failure due to sudden loss of lateral support roots, especially during high wind events," Lippi wrote.

In addition, stresses to the trees would make them more susceptible to fungi, pests and disease.

"There are trees that we're not going to be able to save because of the scope of the project," said one resident at the Sept. 26 meeting, "but there are a number that we're putting at risk mainly because of the aggressiveness of that taper."

The county has put the contractor on hold and may request work be done on other parts of the project until this issue is resolved. Caldwell said no trees would be cut in the near future -- at least not until after another meeting with the residents in 30 days.

Though the meeting focused primarily on the trees, some residents raised concerns about a tiny island at the intersection where pedestrians must stand while waiting to cross. The new design keeps that island, which one resident called a "death trap" because cars turning to go west on Mickler Road from southbound A1A routinely fail to stop for pedestrians at the short crosswalk there.

Caldwell said officials would look at that.

The points residents hope to see addressed in the next 30 days are:

- Removal of the dedicated left turn lane into Portofino.
- A re-assessment of the dedicated left turn lane into the Mickler's Landing shopping center.
- A continued focus on minimizing tree impacts.
- A pedestrian crosswalk on A1A that will maximize safety.

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# Wolfson Children’s Hospital names new board of directors chair and vice chair

*New appointments reflect diversity of skill, knowledge, backgrounds in support of hospital’s mission*

Wolfson Children’s Hospital has named the new chair and vice chair of its board of directors. The new leadership brings a diverse range of skills, knowledge and experience to the team.

Erin Wolfson has been named chair and Mia Jones is vice chair. They will each serve three-year terms.

An Atlantic Beach native, Wolfson is an assistant state attorney with the State Attorney’s Office, 4th Judicial Circuit, and has been with the office since September 2008. Although Wolfson has worked in a variety of different areas, including the Homicide/Major Crimes Division, she has spent the majority of her career in the Special Victims Unit focusing on the prosecution of domestic violence, sexual assault offenses and crimes against children.

In 2016, she was assigned to the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative where her work focused solely on the investigation and prosecution of the 4th Judicial Circuit’s untested sexual assault kits.

Currently, Wolfson is assigned to the Special Victims Unit, where she is a division chief. Wolfson also continues to handle homicide prosecutions, as well as human trafficking cases not only as an ASA for the State of Florida but also as a special assistant United States attorney for the Jacksonville Division of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Florida.

Wolfson is a graduate of Vanderbilt University (B.A.) where she was an Ingram Scholar. She then went on to receive her law degree from the Fredric G. Levin College of Law, University of Florida. Wolfson is licensed to practice law in both Florida and New York and was named one of Florida’s Legal Elite Government/Non-Profit Attorneys in 2012.

Wolfson has an extensive history of community involvement and was named one of the 2018 Women’s Center of Jacksonville’s Unsung She-roses for the work she has done to improve the lives of women. She cur-



Erin Wolfson

rently serves as a member of The Women’s Board and is a member of the Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship, Class VII.

Jones serves as CEO for Agape Family Health, the oldest Federally Qualified Health Center in Jacksonville, providing quality health care to both uninsured and insured patients across Jacksonville. She was appointed as the inaugural health commissioner for the City of Jacksonville, where she tirelessly worked to ensure the community’s health care needs were met.

Jones served eight years in the Florida House of Representatives, elected in 2008 and reelected in 2012. She served two terms as Democratic Leader Pro Tempore (2012-2016), as well as the ranking member of the House Select Committee on Health Care Workforce Innovation and Health and Human Services Committee.

Prior to serving in the Florida House, she was a mem-



Mia Jones

ber of the Jacksonville City Council (2003-2008). Previously, she held the role of director of minority business affairs for the Duval County Public Schools.

Jones began her career in public service in 1992 and served during the administration of Jacksonville Mayor Ed Austin in the Office of Equal Opportunity until 1995. Jones graduated with her B.S. in accounting and MBA from Florida A&M University.

“Erin and Mia have both demonstrated a strong commitment to our focus of providing world-class care for the children in our community, and I’m excited to welcome them to our board of directors,” said Wolfson Children’s Hospital President Allegra C. Jaros. “The passion they bring will be instrumental in advancing our mission, and their unique insights will enhance our efforts to make a positive impact on the lives of our patients and their families.”



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## NOMINATIONS BEGIN OCTOBER 6TH

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

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

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

**NOMINATIONS START:  
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# Helping families dealing with cancer



Contributed photo

Recently, THE PLAYERS and Jay Fund teamed up to deliver gourmet meals to 31 local families with children fighting cancer. September, as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, was the perfect opportunity to raise awareness for the struggles that families experience when they have a loved one with cancer, food insecurity being one of the most important.

“When a family faces childhood can-

cer, they may struggle to afford groceries or put food on the table,” said Keli Coughlin, CEO of the Jay Fund. “We want parents to be able to focus on their sick child rather than worrying about feeding their family. We’re grateful to Chef Eric Butcher of the TOUR Café and THE PLAYERS team for preparing and delivering these meals and alleviating some of the stress these families face.”

# Whitney lecture focus: Human evolution

The Evenings at Whitney Lecture Series hosted by the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, continues at 7 p.m. Oct. 12 with the program titled “Bones, stones, and DNA: A Nature editor’s-eye view of human evolution.” Luíseach Nic Eoin Ph.D., Senior Editor at Nature Ecology and Evolution, will be the speaker.

This free lecture will be presented in person at the UF Whitney Laboratory Lohman Auditorium, 9505 Ocean Shore Blvd., in St. Augustine. Those interested also have the option of registering to watch via Zoom live the night of the lecture.

Register to watch online: [ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0bWg0Zu4QCmp5kEgv7BvLw](https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0bWg0Zu4QCmp5kEgv7BvLw).

Human evolution is a complex and fast-moving topic that’s key to understanding who we are and where we come from. The past decade and a half have seen something of a molecular revolution in archaeology and palaeoanthropology that means we know more than ever about the complexities of the human family tree, but classic techniques of stone tool and fossil bone analysis remain key to discovery and interpretation. The speaker will talk about who’s who, who’s where, who’s when,



Luíseach Nic Eoin

what we know, what we don’t know and what we’d like to know.

Luíseach will spend the first part of this talk explaining what exactly the job entails as an editor for arguably the most prestigious group of science journals in the world, discuss the pros and cons of scientific “gatekeeping,” share some exciting and some frankly odd discoveries from her inbox, and make a case that this field where both stakes and tensions run high needs a bird’s eye view to make sense of it.





Contributed photos

# Davidson Realty plans 8th Annual Clay Day fundraiser

Davidson Cares will host their eighth annual Clay Day fundraiser, which has been renamed this year from “Davidson Cares Clay Day” to “Jim Davidson’s Annual Clay Day” after the recent passing of the patriarch of the Davidson family, Jim Davidson.

The event will take place at the Jacksonville Clay Target Sports on Oct. 19. This annual sports shooting event has raised more than \$577,785 for local charities that support youth-based organizations throughout Northeast Florida.

“We’re so honored to live and work in a community that supports our charitable endeavors, like Clay Day,” says Sherry Davidson, president of Davidson Cares,

the philanthropic arm of Davidson Realty. “This is such a fun event, and the funds we raise go directly into organizations that support, protect and uplift some of our most vulnerable neighbors. It’s also an opportunity to celebrate my husband, Jim’s, life. We miss him every day.”

Clay Day begins with registration and lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Shooting starts at 2 p.m. Both new and experienced shooters are welcome. For a minimum donation of \$400 per shooter, participants can shoot 100 sporting clay targets. Those new to shooting can shoot 50 skeet in a safe and comfortable atmosphere under the guidance of an instructor for a minimum donation of \$300 per shooter.

This year’s Clay Day supports the following charities: St. Augustine Youth Services, Investing in Kids! (INK!), Builders Care, Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center, Hope is Restored, Homes for Hope and Five Star Veterans Center.

“We couldn’t do this without our wonderful sponsors,” said Davidson. “The contributions we receive from companies like The Hutson Companies, Iventure,

Providence Homes and Riverside Homes really help drive this event. We can’t express our appreciation enough!”

Jacksonville Clay Target Sports is located at 12125 New Berlin Road in Jacksonville. The event will be held rain or shine. To register to shoot, donate or inquire about sponsorship, go to [davidsoncares.com/fundraisers/davidson-cares-clay-day.aspx](http://davidsoncares.com/fundraisers/davidson-cares-clay-day.aspx).



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# Business Weekly

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

## GUEST COLUMN

# What can market volatility teach about the fundamentals?

Written by/for  
Wells Fargo Advisors

Market volatility, painful as it can be, can actually provide an important lesson for investors about why it's important to stick to the fundamentals, such as having an asset allocation strategy and reviewing your plan. With that in mind, here are suggestions for turbulent times that may help you turn today's worries into tomorrow's good habits.

### Remembering asset allocation

When market volatility occurs, investors have the opportunity to get back to fundamentals they may have forgotten. This is especially true for asset allocation — the strategy financial professionals return to time and again when investors want help dealing with volatile markets.

At its most basic level, asset allocation is how you diversify your investments across different asset classes (stocks, bonds, cash alternatives, etc.). This varies based on a number of factors, primarily:

- What you want your investments to help you achieve (objectives)
- How comfortable you are with market volatility (risk tolerance)
- How long it will be before you will need to access your investments (time horizon)

The asset allocation model that best suits any given investor depends on where they land in regard to these three



factors.

It's important to remember that asset allocation offers investors a trade-off. During good times, a diversified portfolio's return will lag the best performing asset class. On the other hand, during down periods, it will do better than the worst performing asset class. It's up to each investor to decide what's more important — participating more in the good times by holding more stock or avoiding the worst of the bad by holding less.

### Reviewing your plan regularly

If you have an asset allocation plan and still find yourself lying awake at night, volatility is a chance to revisit your plan for possible adjustments.

It's possible you overestimated your risk tolerance when creating your plan. Due to their potential for providing growth and, sometimes, income, stocks

have an important role to play in many plans. But with that potential comes the likelihood for greater price volatility than is typically seen with other investments, such as bonds. If concern about your investments when there's volatility causes you stress, it may be time to see whether you need to scale back the amount you have allocated to stocks.

It's also possible the problem is not with your plan. Over time, market activity can shift your allocations away from your plan's targeted amounts. Say you started with a hypothetical 60% stocks/40% bonds portfolio. An extended rise in the stock market could shift it to, for example, 75% stocks/25% bonds. As a result, when there's market volatility, you would experience more of it than intended.

You may want to consider rebalancing your portfolio regularly. Rebalancing is

simply checking your investments to see whether market activity has caused them to drift. If they have, you can decide if you want to sell investments that have increased in value and use the proceeds to buy others that may have decreased. Doing this at least once a year — or allowing your investment platform to do it for you — can keep your allocations, and risk level, where you want them.

**Asset allocation and diversification are investment methods used to help manage risk. They do not guarantee investment returns or eliminate risk of loss including in a declining market.**

**All investment involves risk, including the possible loss of principal.**

**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.**

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## Telescope Health recognized for health equity efforts

Telescope Health is reducing barriers to care for the uninsured and those in low-income areas by providing access to health care services and care providers.

In recognition of these ongoing efforts, the health technology company has been awarded a \$75,000 grant from Amazon Web Services (AWS) for the second year in a row. The grant is part of AWS's three-year-long Health Equity Initiative, which aims to solve health equity issues around the world.

“There's a critical gap in quality care

for underserved populations and Amazon Web Services is empowering our efforts to close it,” said Telescope Health CEO and Co-Founder Dr. Matthew Thompson. “Their support represents a critical piece of a collective and communal effort among organizations committed to providing quality care to everyone.”

Through strategic partnerships with local nonprofits, Telescope Health is reaching a broader subsection of the low-income/uninsured population that may not have a primary care provider or may be

relying on emergency medicine for non-critical issues.

As a part of their efforts in the community, Telescope Health will conduct an assessment to collect social determinants of health data, which can include, income, employment and education level.

Telescope Health will also steward patients to health system and social service providers through its virtual and in-person concierge care navigation service when further care is needed. This will reduce the burden on local emergency rooms and

provide care to patients faster and more efficiently.

These efforts are part of Telescope Health's overall mission of providing value-based solutions and connecting patients with the care they need. The physician-led company has served more than 75,000 patients in the southeastern United States and maintains partnerships through health systems, employers and nonprofits.

For more information on how Telescope Health is reducing barriers to care, go to [telescopehealth.com](https://telescopehealth.com).



# Benchmarks of Success

*A look at major career changes in the area.*

## Friends of GTM Reserve names new executive director

The Friends of GTM Reserve announced that Dale Ann Viger has joined the organization as executive director.

“Dale comes to us with a wealth of experience in the nonprofit sector, particularly in the field of conservation and land management,” said Steve Swann, president of the Friends of GTM Reserve’s board of directors. “Her background and dedication to preserving our natural environment make her an ideal fit for our organization.”

Originally hailing from the Adirondack mountain region in upstate New York, Viger has a diverse background that includes serving in the U.S. Air Force. Her experience includes serving as the chief executive officer of the Brevard Alzheimer’s Foundation and most recently as the executive director for the Allen Broussard Conservancy and Forever Florida.

Her educational achievements include an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where she excelled as a business manager. In this role, Viger oversaw substantial

endowment and gift funds, which played a pivotal role in advancing research and education efforts at the institute.



**Nicole B. Thomas**

## Thomas graduates from ELEVATE program

On Sept. 16, eight leading Black health care executives completed the ELEVATE program, an initiative founded by Black senior health care executives to equip rising Black health care leaders with a supportive and structured environment for learning, development and advancement.

This year’s cohort included Nicole B. Thomas, president from Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville.

In this year’s ELEVATE program, the eight cohort members met three times, in Washington, D.C., Chicago and Charlotte, North Carolina, learning more about the health care industry and continuing to hone their skills to advance to the highest rungs of leadership within health systems.

After completing the program, participants are better prepared to take on greater and more senior-level roles and responsibilities within major health care enterprises.

This, in turn, helps increase diversity in health system C-Suites. The first ELEVATE cohort has already demonstrated success in achieving these goals.



**Whitney Meyer**

## Sulzbacher appoints Meyer to board of directors

Sulzbacher recently appointed Whitney Meyer to its board of directors. Meyer is the senior vice president and chief community impact officer for the Jacksonville Jaguars. She is responsible for the development and implementation of the Jaguars community impact initiatives, including operations of the Jaguars Foundation, Inspire Change and Social Justice Initiatives, and community activities in connection with local development projects.

She previously worked as the inaugural vice president and chief diversity officer at the University of North Florida. In that role she advised university leadership on diversity, inclusion and racial equity pertaining to strategies and policies, learning and research, community relations and the recruitment, retention and admission of faculty, staff and students of color.

Currently, Meyer serves on the Florida Sports Foundation Board, PS27 Foundation Board, JAX Chamber Hightower Fellowship Board, and the World Affairs Council Board. She is also a frequent volunteer for the Friends of Boone Park South.



**Geoffrey Ring**

## ARC Group Medical names new chief operating officer

ARC Group Medical, Florida’s largest medical distribution company, has announced the addition of Geoffrey Ring, who will serve as a partner and chief operations officer. Ring comes to ARC Group Medical with a wealth of finance, sales and operational experience from 27 years at IBM where he served many leadership roles within IBM’s Global HQ and their strategic sales organizations, specializing in high-growth and transformational initiatives.

With his corporate experience, Ring will provide the necessary structure to guide the organization in its growth strategy, product investments/launches, and third-party logistics.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

# For the fifth time, Atlantic Logistics makes the Inc. 5000

Inc. revealed recently that Jacksonville-based Atlantic Logistics ranks as number 2,735 on the 2023 Inc. 5000, its annual list of the fastest-growing private companies in America.

The prestigious ranking provides a data-driven look at the most successful companies within the economy’s most dynamic segment — its independent, entrepreneurial businesses. Facebook, Chobani, Under Armour, Microsoft, Patagonia and many other household name brands gained their first national exposure as honorees on the Inc. 5000.

“Being named to the Inc. 5000 for the fifth time speaks volumes about our team,” said Atlantic Logistics CEO Rob Hooper. “We say it over and over again, ‘Live by the Golden Rule.’ Treating others the way we want to be treated is the lifeblood of our company. Our business is still a relationship business. One that’s built on trust. We’re deeply blessed to have built a culture of caring and customer devotion while carefully automating to the supply chain as needed. Our customers still want to talk with a person and



**Atlantic Logistics CEO Rob Hooper**

that’s what drives us to be the best we can be.”

The Inc. 5000 class of 2023 represents companies that have driven rapid revenue growth while navigating inflationary pressure, the rising costs of capital, and seemingly intractable hiring challenges. Among this year’s top 500 companies, the average median three-year revenue growth rate ticked up to 2,238%. In all, this

year’s Inc. 5000 companies have added 1,187,266 jobs to the economy over the past three years.

For complete results of the Inc. 5000, including company profiles and an interactive database that can be sorted by industry, location and other criteria, go to [inc.com/inc5000](http://inc.com/inc5000). The top 500 companies were featured in the September issue of Inc. magazine.

“Running a business has only gotten harder since the end of the pandemic,” said Inc. Editor-in-Chief Scott Omelianuk. “To make the Inc. 5000, with the fast growth that requires, is truly an accomplishment. Inc. is thrilled to honor the companies that are building our future.”

# RISE hosts wine-tasting event



RISE 55+ Active Living at Nocatee hosted a meet & greet wine-tasting event at Coastal Wine Market on Sept. 14. Pictured are Mande Combs, regional sales manager for RISE real estate company; and Jerry Shafer, general manager for RISE 55+ Active Living. The 55+ Active Living community features designs and luxury touches that deliver a calm, purposeful and elevated living experience. Coming to Nocatee in 2024, the community offers 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments for lease.

Photo by Susan Griffin

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# In the Arts

Send your arts news to  
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The stage setup for "Legally Blonde The Musical," at the Alhambra Theatre and Dining in Jacksonville.



Seafood stuffed flounder was one of the food options on the night.

Photos by Anthony Richards

## 'Legally Blonde' successfully transforms into musical at Alhambra

By Anthony Richards

Alhambra Theatre and Dining has had a lot of fun and entertaining shows during its 2023 season, and the latest of which was

just released with "Legally Blonde The Musical," coming out Sept. 28 and running through Nov. 5.

The show is now sold out for all of its

performances during that run, and there are many reasons why, as it does an excellent job of rekindling the former iconic movie.

As was the case during the initial making of the film, there were several comedic moments throughout, but it also had a good mix of sentimental moments.

So, whether it was tears of joy or tears of heartbreak, the show did a nice job of bringing out the gambit of emotions throughout the night.

One of the interesting aspects of the play was that the script for the film was not originally designed as a musical, so transforming it into one was one of the challenges the directing staff was faced with, but you would never know it, as they did a seamless job of fitting in the lines and choreography with that of the initial movie while sticking to the musical concept.

Helping to make this a reality was the fact that a talented cast was assembled, starting with Victoria Vagasy, who played the role of Elle Woods, who is the main character and the one that the storyline follows throughout.

Vagasy had performed on NBC's "America's Got Talent," and made it to the semifinal round during season 16 of the show.

It was not her first-time playing Elle Woods on stage, as she has done other renditions of "Legally Blonde," and her technique reflected that as she really seemed to fit the part.

Jacksonville native Adam Fields played Emmett Forrest in the role opposite Vagasy's, as he was happy to be back performing at his favorite theater.

For Forrest, the show is even more special because his girlfriend is also a member of the cast.

There were also three dogs that played

roles in show, and really helped add an extra element to the performance, as every time they would come out onto the stage to take part in a scene, the audience could not help but react to each one of them every time they took part in a scene.

From New York to California accents, the cast did a dynamite job and the acting and singing skills were on display from start to finish on the night.

The Alhambra has certain Friday nights considered gala nights where they go a little above and beyond even their usual service with complimentary champagne along with various appetizers and desserts.

The main course options in connection with "Legally Blonde" included either tender braised Swiss steak, seafood stuffed flounder, teriyaki glazed chicken or winter squash ravioli, while the dessert options were banana crème pie topped with whipped cream or coffee cake with caramel sauce.



There are certain gala nights, that include complimentary champagne and other options for guests in attendance.

### Trio Virado

FRIDAY, 10/13 • 7:30 PM

Tim Bullard, pottery

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### Aaron Diehl Trio

FRIDAY, 10/20 • 7:30 PM

Christianna Louise White Fletcher, painting

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### Viano String Quartet

SUNDAY, 11/5 • 4:00 PM

Allison Dick, painting

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### The Queen's Six vocal ensemble

FRIDAY, 12/15 • 7:30 PM

Mike Perry, painting

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of her parents, Garnett and Eleanor Ashby

### Galvin Cello Quartet

SUNDAY, 1/21 • 4:00 PM

Hillary McCullough, photography

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### VIDA Guitar Quartet

FRIDAY, 2/2 • 7:30 PM

Maiya Elaine, painting

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### Kenari Saxophone Quartet

SUNDAY, 3/10 • 4:00 PM

Hillary Hogue, painting

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### Llewellyn Sanchez-Werner - piano

FRIDAY, 3/22 • 7:30 PM

Mary Atwood, photography

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### \*Vincent Dubois - organ

SUNDAY, 4/14 • 4:00 PM \*St. John's Cathedral

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### Emilio Solla & Tributango

SUNDAY, 5/12 • 4:00 PM

Kim Collier, painting

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\*All concerts except 4/14 are held at our home venue: St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church 465 11th Ave. N Jacksonville Beach





GUEST COLUMN

# A Classic Theatre expands its repertoire

By Amy Lauer Goldin

Season 16 of St. Augustine's A Classic Theatre (ACT) introduces several exciting developments. Following up on their record-breaking 15th anniversary season last year in their new venue, the historic Waterworks Building, ACT will be offering four new and unique shows this season.

Ranging from bold contemporary issues to the wonders of the universe, a hilarious one woman show on human nature and a season finale musical, something ACT has not offered before. In addition to the expanded theatrical lineup, ACT is now offering season tickets.

A season subscription will offer a savings over purchasing individual show tickets. As a bonus, it will also include a ticket to one of the four staged readings

being offered this season.

For the season opener, ACT will debut the Florida premier of the multiple award-winning play "Church & State," written by Odell Williams and directed by Harolyn Sharpe. This fast-paced contemporary take on faith, politics and "The Twitter" is both relevant and laugh inducing. NPR proclaims it "Crackling ... enjoyable, thought-provoking and humorous. I wish every member of Congress would see it."

The second play is "Silent Sky," written by Lauren Gunderson and directed by Michael Lipp. "Silent Sky" tells the riveting true story of Henrietta Leavitt, a pioneering scientist in an age when women couldn't even vote. A mesmerizing drama that's full of wonder, humor and heart.

Next up is the rollicking comedy "Shirley Valentine" by Willy Russell, directed by Cindy Alexander and starring Franc-

esca Bellavista.

Something's about to change for Mrs. Shirley Bradshaw. After decades of dull married life, her former self — the fearless Shirley Valentine — is itching to get out. She dreams about life beyond the wall, and the possibility of "drinking wine in a country where the grape is grown."

The season finale will be the musical "Couples." Based on a short story by Mark Twain and directed by Cliff Parrish, this delightful one act musical follows Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden as they discover their world, each other and ... that snake. Adding to that age-old story, "Couples" will include some of Broadway's best duets of love and marriage.

Another new addition this season is a series of four staged readings, a form of theater without sets or full costumes,

providing the audience with an insider's sneak peek behind the scenes of the theatrical process. The readings will be performed at The Center for Spiritual Living at 1795 Old Moultrie Road, St Augustine, and include:

- "ART" by Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton, directed by David Buchman.
  - "Salon de Paris," an original play by St. Augustine playwright Amy Lauer Goldin, directed by Grace Reed.
  - "For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls" by Christopher Durang, directed by Dawn Knipe.
  - "Other Desert Cities" by John Robin Baitz, directed by Hazel Robinson
- For additional information on the shows, dates or ticket purchase go to [aclassictheatre.org](http://aclassictheatre.org).

# Author of 'Snakes of St. Augustine' to speak

In her novel, "Snakes of St. Augustine," Ginger Pinholster has combined the theft of three rare Eastern indigo snakes with the disappearance of a troubled brother and a healthy helping of Florida weirdness. Pinholster takes center stage to discuss her book at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library as part of the FOL Speaker Series.

Acclaimed novelist Connie Mae Fowler called "Snakes of St. Augustine" "... relentlessly beautiful and compelling, filled with insight, grace, and humor."

As Serena searches for her brother and falls for a mysterious man named Jazz, an exhausted cop's search for the pilfered snakes puts them all on a

dangerous collision course.

Pinholster earned her M.F.A. degree from Queens University of Charlotte and a B.A. from Eckerd College. Her first novel, "City in a Forest," won a Gold Royal Palm Literary Award from the Florida Writers Association in 2020.

A resident of Ponce Inlet in Volusia County, she serves as vice president for communications at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach. During sea turtle season, you'll find her patrolling the Ponce Inlet beach with the Volusia-Flagler Turtle Patrol.

Pinholster will have books available for purchase, with a percentage of all sales benefiting the Friends of the Li-

brary. Her appearance marks the end of the 2023 Speaker Series. A new series begins Jan. 9.



Ginger Pinholster

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# Sports



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Photo courtesy of Amelia Community Theatre



Ponte Vedra senior Chelsea Sutton set the volleyball school record for career blocks.



Chelsea Sutton plays middle blocker alongside her twin sister Morgan.

## Sutton sets career blocks record at Ponte Vedra

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Sharks have had some memorable volleyball players come through its program in recent years, and now Chelsea Sutton will be considered among them after she recently became the school record holder for career blocks.

The senior middle blocker has more than 200 blocks during her varsity career and is committed to play college ball at the University of Tennessee.

According to Sutton, she is fortunate to have many memories that will quickly come to the forefront of her mind when she looks back at her high school career, and the block record will definitely be among the top five.

"I know the tradition and standard that

the Ponte Vedra program has created, and I'm just thrilled that I am now able to be a part of that," Sutton said. "It has been an honor to be a part of this team and this group of girls."

Blocking has always been an aspect of her game that has come naturally.

"Ever since I started playing, my coaches have always told me that I have a normal knack for blocking, and I'm sure my height has a little something to do with that," Sutton chuckled. "Usually if you're tall, they put you in the middle."

At 6-foot-4-inches, Sutton presents an opposing obstacle at the net and served as a great defender for the Sharks over the years.

However, despite being known for her tenacious nature as a blocker, her offensive game is what she has continually

worked on in recent years and is perhaps what she is most proud of, as she now has more than 500 kills, which is high for the middle blocker position.

"My offense has really come along, and it's something I really look to continue to improve as I get to college," Sutton said.

One of the neat things about the last two seasons is that Sutton has had the opportunity to play alongside her twin sister Morgan, which has made the experience even more memorable, and the laughs multiplied.

"She knows how to get me and the whole team laughing, and we all appreciate her for that," Sutton said. "It is great to have her presence, especially when things get tight on the court. I'm thankful to have her by my side."

Sutton began playing competitive volleyball in eighth grade after she tried out but did not make the school team in sixth or seventh grade.

"I used to live in Massachusetts, and I actually played soccer growing up and I really thought that would end up being my sport," Sutton said. "But I guess you would say, I finally started putting my height to good use."

According to Sutton, it was the fast-paced nature of volleyball that wound up winning her over and her passion for the sport has only continued to grow in the years that have followed.

"There's so many plays that you can run, which makes for such a variety," Sutton said. "No matter how much you know, there's always something to learn in this sport."

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# WEEK 7 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

## Panthers, Sharks continue to develop identity with each week

By Anthony Richards

We are now in the thick of the high school football season and we are beginning to see what this year's teams are made of, and week seven presents huge tests for both Nease and Ponte Vedra.

The Panthers and the Sharks currently find themselves on winning streaks and they have begun to show both a mental and physical toughness in recent weeks.

Nease trailed at halftime in consecutive weeks to Orange Park and Sandalwood, but both times were able to come back to win thanks to second half charges and lock down defensive efforts.

Bryce Frick continues to look comfortable since taking over the starting quarterback duties and he does not appear to get bothered by the situations around him and his teammates seem to

feed off his calm presence.

Meanwhile, on the defensive side of the ball, the Panthers have shown the ability to tighten up when it matters most and have shut out their opponents in the second half the past two weeks, showing that the halftime adjustments are working.

They also continue to show a nose for the ball and the ability to force turnovers, especially with interceptions in the secondary, which are starting to add up as the season goes on.

The Panthers will need their defense and offense to continue its forward trajectory as they welcome longtime rival St. Augustine High to the Panther Den and look to slow down an explosive Yellow Jackets attack that is averaging 43 points per game.

The Yellow Jackets are undefeated

with an impressive record of 5-0, including wins over Bolles, Brunswick (Georgia) and Bartram Trail.

For the Ponte Vedra Sharks, they are flying high following a massive 31-0 district win on the road against Flagler Palm Coast and return home to take on the Bishop Kenny Crusaders (4-1).

The Sharks having been clicking in all phases of the game as they are coming off their second shutout of the season defensively, while also scoring 30 points or more as an offense for the third straight contest.

This defense is starting to develop and look the part in every facet, and they present a difficult challenge for opposing offensive coordinators each week, whose objective it is to find the chinks in the armor.

However, that is easier said than done when going up against the

Sharks, who have playmakers on each level and the cohesion amongst the group appears second to none.

The Sharks and Crusaders squared off last year in an instant classic that saw the Sharks score in the waning seconds to win 32-24.

In many ways, that was one of the games that sparked the Sharks offense at the tail end of last season, and they have built off that momentum through the offseason and into this year.

Ben Burk continues to spread the ball around through the air and Brian Case is becoming a walking 100-yard rushing game.

The Sharks are looking more and more like a state contender with each week that passes, but they also know that they still have a lot in front of them.

One thing for sure, is that the Shark Tank will be rocking after two consecutive weeks on the road.

# Local girls' youth softball team named champions of world series

For the 8-year-olds on the all-girls Creeks Softball team, softball isn't just an after-school activity. It's an opportunity to learn the game, discover camaraderie and be a part of a team, a team that works hard to win championships.

After winning the Florida State Championship and taking home the win for the 8U (age 8 and under) division, they went on to win their biggest title yet — Champions of the Babe Ruth World Series — for the second year in a row. Babe Ruth Softball is an international youth softball league, and the world series invitational invites teams from all over the country. The girls competed for the title on Aug. 3.

"These girls beat out every team in the U.S., including Puerto Rico," said Coach Luis Cordero. "They've worked so hard this year, and this win, as well as the fact that they ended their season undefeated 36-0, proves they're the best of the best."

Cordero has been with the Creeks Softball Association for three years, coaching for seven years, and is proud to lead these ladies on and off the field.

"I love coaching and teaching the game of softball," he said. "But what I love most is seeing how this team has come together and hustled to new heights, both on and off the field."

The 8U Softball World Series tourna-

ment was held in Jensen Beach, Florida, and proved exciting. The Creeks Softball team went 7-0, and their explosive offense scored 83 runs during the tournament and their defense only allowed 14 runs. Their winning streak continued to their final game against Jamesville 8U from North Carolina.

"Believe in yourself; there is no one better for the job!" exclaimed Georgia Griffin, short stop for the team.

And that's exactly what this team did, clinching the title with a final winning score of 8-3.

"I know this is an accomplishment the girls are proud of," said Cordero. "Everybody came together: the assistant coaches, the players and the parents. The girls always came ready to practice, to learn and get better. Hopefully, they will always remember the line that I would say to them at practice and before games, 'Have 100% focus, give 100% effort, and have a positive attitude.' I firmly believe if you approach anything in life with this in mind, you will succeed. And wow, did the girls succeed!"

The 2023 Babe Ruth World Series Champions for 8U invite the public to celebrate at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5 for a ring ceremony on Field 4 at Aberdeen Park, 1401 Shetland Drive, St. Johns.



Contributed photo

**Creeks Softball team members celebrate their victory.**

Creeks Softball Association (CSA) is a branch of Creeks Athletic Association, a not-for-profit focused on the advancement and development of youth athletics. CSA is the largest youth girls' softball league in Northwest St. Johns County, with more than 390 girls playing recre-

ational and advanced softball. They offer two softball seasons: instructional/recreational season in the fall and competitive season in the spring, as well as run various camps and clinics throughout the year. For more information, go to [creekssoftball.com](http://creekssoftball.com).



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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WILSON COUNTY TENNESSEE SITTING IN LEBANON**  
**CRYSTAL DAWN SMITH, Plaintiff/Wife,**  
**vs.**  
**FILE NO.: 2023-DC-205**  
**MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER BLAKE SMITH, Defendant/Husband.**  
**PUBLICATION ORDER**

This case came to be heard on the 25th day of August 2023 before the Honorable Clara W. Byrd, Judge of the Circuit Court of Wilson County, Tennessee, upon sworn Motion to Allow Service by Publication and for good cause shown, it is hereby **ORDERED ADJUDGED and DECREED** that:

1. **MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER BLAKE SMITH's** (hereinafter "Husband");
2. That **CRYSTAL DAWN SMITH's** (hereinafter "Wife") sworn testimony was that Husband's location is unknown;
3. That Wife attempted to serve Husband via the Secretary of State at two (2) separate addresses; however, said attempts were unsuccessful;
4. That counsel for Wife has attempted to reach out to Husband via Facebook, but said attempt was unsuccessful;
5. That Husband's last known address to Wife's knowledge was 446 Ocean Vista Avenue, St. Augustine, St. John's County, Florida 32080;
6. That pursuant to the background check ran by counsel for Wife, Husband's last known address is 851 Bulkhead Road, Green Cove Springs, Clay County, Florida 32043-8304.
7. That Wife's testimony was that she knows of no other location in which Husband may be found;
8. That the best possible notice under the circumstances and notice reasonably calculated to give reasonable actual notice is publication in a newspaper which circulates in St. John's County, Florida;
9. As such, the publication notice shall be posted with the Ponte Vedra Recorder which circulates weekly in St. John's County which is Husband's last known address.

So **ORDERED** this the 5 day of September 2023.

**CLARA W. BYRD, JUDGE APPROVED FOR ENTRY:**  
**KANE & CROWELL, PLLC**

**LINDSEY W. JOHNSON, # 36839**  
*Attorney for Wife*  
133 South College Street  
Lebanon, Tennessee 37087  
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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	62			
	63	64							65					
									67					

**ACROSS**

- Flat tableland with steep edges
- Partner to flow
- A very large body of water
- Accumulate on the surface of
- Central cores of stems
- Angry
- Spanish stew: \_\_ podrida
- Fastened with a pin
- On your way: \_\_ route
- Soviet labor camp system
- Enmities
- B complex vitamin
- Go quickly
- Toast
- A team's best pitcher
- Philly culinary specialty
- Small child
- Unhappy
- Trims away
- Full of tears
- Used to anoint
- Reproductive structure found in rust fungi
- Auburn great Newton
- Some are for Christmas
- Dried, split pulses
- Self
- Where to get your mail
- High schoolers' test
- Flightless bird
- Expectorated
- Practice of misrepresenting the truth
- Type of patch
- French river
- Told on
- Hillside
- Peyton's little brother
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Progressive country musician
- Witness
- Brews
- Yellowish-brown
- Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- Mexican agave
- Type of "cast"
- Popular breakfast food
- Atomic #52
- Position north or south of the equator
- Gadget
- Another recording
- Irregular bulges in cell membranes
- Dark brown
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Touch softly
- Former OSS
- A person's chest
- Came from behind
- Fall back
- Nellie \_\_, journalist
- A part of a river where the current is very fast
- Weather
- Sports broadcaster Ian
- Electroencephalograph
- Phenyl salicylate
- Web of Things
- Ship goods as cargo
- The bill in a restaurant
- Young female
- OJ trial judge
- One's grandmother
- West Siberian river

**DOWN**

- Licensed for Wall Street

**SUDOKU**

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

Level: Advanced

**Here's How It Works:**  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!





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