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PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

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July 15, 2021  
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75 cents

PonteVedraRecorder.com

## BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Photo by Anthony Richards



Members of the Florida National Guard lower the Spanish flag and raise the American flag to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Florida becoming a U.S. territory in St. Augustine on July 10. For more, go to page 5

What's Available NOW On **hulu**

787 304-0814

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



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### Legal Eagles

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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. Email submissions to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

Visit our website at [www.pontevedrarecorder.com](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com)



Find the Recorder on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder](https://www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

## ADOPT A PET

### CAT OF THE WEEK

Hello, my name is Evie. I am a 2-year-old female domestic short-hair cat. I am very friendly and good with other cats and children. I am also litter-box trained. When you meet me, you will notice I love head scratches and chin rubs. I recently had a beautiful litter of kittens, who have all found loving families. Now it's my turn. I am looking forward to a new home and a family I can call my own. Come see me at the Pet Center! #58848



### DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi! My name is Teddy, like a teddy bear! I am a 1-year-old male retriever hound mix. I am house-trained and should be in a home with no other animals as I prefer to be the only object of my person's attention. I am still young and will need some training on a leash and someone who is patient with me. I will return that patience with love. Come visit me at the Pet Center today! #58774



Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to its new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training, and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

## St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road in St. Augustine, off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. **For more information, please call the St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

## BRIEFS

### Celebrating 200 Years of Excellence – 'St. Johns County: Then, Now, and the Future Symposium' set for July 17

The public is invited to the "St. Johns County: Then, Now, and the Future" symposium to learn more about the history of St. Johns County and its many cultures.

The symposium coincides with the county's 200th anniversary and will provide an in-depth look at the county's past, present and future. Four influential speakers will discuss the historical, cultural, revolutionary and vast background of one of Florida's first two counties.

Attendees will be invited to ask questions during the program and will have the opportunity to win a copy of Dr. Thomas Graham's book, "Mr. Flagler's St. Augustine." The symposium is hosted by the St. Johns County Public Library System in partnership with the St. Johns Cultural Council and Flagler College.

Panelists will include: Dr. Thomas Graham, professor emeritus at Flagler College; Gayle Phillips, executive director of the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center; Dr. Ann Browning Masters, author, poet and educator; and Christina Parrish Stone, executive director of the St. Johns Cultural Council.

The symposium will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 17, at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St.

For more information on all 200th Anniversary events, go to [www.sjc200.com](http://www.sjc200.com).

### St. Johns County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The St. Johns County Emergency Rental Assistance Program provides aid to residents who are financially impacted by COVID-19 and at risk of housing instability. The program is federally funded and is designed to assist low-to-moderate income households with rent-related expenses and utilities for up to 12 months or a maximum of \$5,000. Eligible households must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a low-to-moderate income St. Johns County residential renter at or below 80% of area median income.
- Be eligible for unemployment benefits or have experienced financial hardship directly or indirectly due to the coronavirus outbreak.
- Can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Go to [stjohns-crr.unqork.io](http://stjohns-crr.unqork.io) to apply for the program. For additional information, call (904) 344-3188 or (800) 557-7441.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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T	R	E	E	S		A	L	L		F	I	X	E	R	
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8	5	1	3	7	6	2	4	9
6	7	4	5	9	2	8	1	3
3	2	9	1	4	8	6	7	5
4	6	8	7	5	9	3	2	1
9	3	5	2	1	4	7	6	8
2	1	7	6	8	3	9	5	4

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

**Hugh Osteen**  
Florida Market Manager  
hugh@opcfla.com  
(904) 285-8831

**Susan Griffin**  
Publisher  
susan@opcfla.com  
(904) 686-3938

**Paris Moulden**  
Page Designer/Reporter  
paris@opcfla.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3943

**Shaun Ryan**  
Reporter  
shaun@opcfla.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3941

**Anthony Richards**  
Reporter  
anthony@opcfla.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3943

**Don Coble**  
Contributor  
don@opcfla.com  
(904) 686-3939

**Ed Johnson**  
Senior Account Executive  
ed@opcfla.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3940

**Kristin Flanagan**  
Account Executive  
kristin@opcfla.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3950

**April Snyder**  
Sales Assistant  
aprils@opcfla.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3937

**Joe Wilhelm**  
Circulation Manager  
joe@opcfla.com  
904-300-5374

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# Voting open for Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra contest

The Ponte Vedra Recorder is holding its third annual Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra contest, covering ZIP codes 32082 and 32081.

Readers currently have the chance to vote for their favorite businesses, professional services, organizations and more in nearly 250 categories online. 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.

Votes can be made on the website at [pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2021](http://pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2021).



Voting will take place until July 26, during which each person can vote once per day in as many categories as he or she wants. The nominees who receive

the most votes will be named 2021 Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra. 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.

Winners will receive a free framed certificate and a Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra window cling. Each winner will also be listed in our Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra special section and on the winner's website.

Winners will be notified by Recorder staff after votes are counted.

Nominees can participate in advertising packages that promote their entry by expanding their listing to feature additional details on the business.

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, email [susan@opcfla.com](mailto:susan@opcfla.com) or call (904) 686-3938.

**Vote for your favorite business, service, person, restaurant or product now at [www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2021](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2021).**

*Vote for us!*

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**Stunning Riverfront Estate**

Riverfront/SanMarco. Instantly makes you feel you've been swept away to a chateau in France. Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes, this 10,204-sq.-ft. home is a masterpiece in design and built for entertaining. **5 Bedroom, 6 Bathrooms, 5 Half Bathrooms \$6,200,000**



**Ideally Located in Sea View Park**

Live east of A1A in this updated move-in-ready home ideally located in old Ponte Vedra. Renovated interiors with wood floors, shiplap details, custom built-ins, and coastal accents. The kitchen features white cabinetry, open shelving, quartzite countertops, a farmhouse sink, and a gas stove. The fenced-in backyard features a screened-in porch, outdoor patio, and room for a pool. **3 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths, 1 Half Bath. \$890,000.**



**Ultimate Atlantic Beach Lifestyle**

Live the ultimate beach lifestyle in this midcentury modern on double corner lot just one block from the ocean and only 6 blocks from Atlantic Beach Town Center. Large open great room and kitchen with barn door pantry looks onto private backyard with pool and outdoor kitchen. Spacious master, 3 additional bedrooms & bathrooms plus laundry upstairs. **4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 1 Half Bathroom. \$3,600,000**

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**SARAH ALEXANDER**

**Sarah Alexander, REALTOR®**  
904.334.3104 cell  
[Sarah@SarahAlexander.net](mailto:Sarah@SarahAlexander.net)  
[www.SarahAlexander.net](http://www.SarahAlexander.net)

**ELIZABETH HUDGINS**

**Elizabeth Hudgins, REALTOR®**  
904.553.2032 cell  
[Elizabeth@ElizabethHudgins.com](mailto:Elizabeth@ElizabethHudgins.com)  
[www.ElizabethHudgins.com](http://www.ElizabethHudgins.com)

# St. Augustine Municipal Marina gets new weather station

## WeatherSTEM offers real-time data, safety, reliable forecasts

The City of St. Augustine, in partnership with the St. Johns County Emergency Management, has installed a new WeatherSTEM station, funded by the Florida Division of Emergency Management. This station, located at the St. Augustine Municipal Marina, will serve as real-time weather information source, beginning with the 2021 hurricane season.

“WeatherSTEM stations pick up wind speed, wind direction, rain rate, temperature, humidity, UV radiation, solar radiation and lightning detection,” explained Ed Mansouri, the owner of WeatherSTEM. “These stations are capable of updating and broadcasting weather data and condition changes instantly.”

“From a public safety perspective, WeatherSTEM is an excellent resource that we can use to make data-informed decisions,” said Fire Chief Carlos Aviles. “It will help us evaluate when sustained winds and wind gusts, as well as ocean tides are picking up beyond a manageable level.”

“St. Johns County Emergency Management uses WeatherSTEM for several different purposes,” said Kelly Wilson, St. Johns County Emergency Management deputy director. “On a daily basis, our numerous WeatherSTEM stations throughout the county help us maintain situational awareness on the current conditions. This location at the St. Augustine Municipal Marina will be part of a larger, countywide and statewide, network of WeatherSTEM stations.”

A list of all WeatherSTEM locations within St. Johns County is available online at [stjohns.weatherstem.com](http://stjohns.weatherstem.com). There is also a WeatherSTEM app available for both iOS

and Android, where you can select the station from which you would like to receive notifications and localized forecasts.

For specific information about weather in St. Augustine, follow CityStAug WeatherSTEM on Facebook and Twitter, and check out the online dashboard to see the live stream camera and select key metrics to monitor.

“Having a WeatherSTEM location in the heart of downtown really gives us an advantage when it comes to hurricane preparedness and emergency management,” said Eric Mauldin, St. Augustine Municipal Marina Harbormaster. “The real-time weather data provided by this unit will give the city vital information to better inform residents, visitors and boaters of current hazards.”

For more information, contact the St. Augustine Fire Department at (904) 825-1098 or the St. Augustine Municipal Marina Harbormaster’s Office at (904) 825-1026.

# Flag-raising marks new chapter for senior center

By Shaun Ryan

Thursday, July 8, several people gathered on the front porch of THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center for a flag-raising ceremony marking the center’s re-opening after its long closure during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Deputies Mikayla Preston and Kyle Hayward of the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office lowered the tattered U.S. flag on the pole in front of the center and raised the new one.

Alison Vitti, Senior Center program director, explained the significance of the ceremony.

“With COVID, and us being away from our friends for over a year, I just thought it was a nice symbolic thing to do,” she said. “This is a new beginning for the Senior Center, and this is a great place for them to come and just enjoy each other’s company. We’ve missed that for over a year.”

For now, the center is open on Thursdays only, though there is a plan to increase program offerings over time. The reopening is part of a careful, phased approach implemented at the Council on Aging’s six senior centers in St. Johns County.

A grand re-opening open house was held June 24, and about 100 people visited throughout the day.

“It was a great turnout,” said Vitti. “They’re happy to be back.”

The center offers area seniors a place to socialize and take part in various programs. Currently, it offers tai chi, arts and crafts, brown-bag bingo, Wii bowling, a book club, chair yoga and more.

For further information, go to [www.coasjc.org](http://www.coasjc.org) or call (904) 209-3700. COA’s weekly e-newsletter is available to anyone signing up at [www.coasjc.org/sign-up](http://www.coasjc.org/sign-up).

The center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra.



Photos by Shaun Ryan

Deputies Kyle Hayward (left) and Mikayla Preston fold the old U.S. flag that had been hanging in front of THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center.



Deputy Kyle Hayward raises the new U.S. flag at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center on July 8 while Deputy Mikayla Preston stands at attention. Alison Vitti, Senior Center program director, holds the old flag at left.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### CONGRATULATIONS TO NEASE TEACHER AND PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

On behalf of the 300-plus First Coast-returned Peace Corps volunteers, we want to salute Cordes Lindow, teacher at Nease High School, for receiving C-SPAN’s Teacher Fellowship Program.

Cordes served as a teacher, in Hungary, with the Peace Corps, (1991-93), and later in Washington as a Peace Corps staff member. Her Peace Corps experience set her on a path to teach global citizenship. Her students at Nease High School, and their parents, are the beneficiaries. Peace Corps turns 60 this year.

Returned volunteers, like Cordes, have been providing superb service to their communities, in all walks of life.

We hope Congress, and Rep. John Rutherford, will provide funds for the approximate 20,000 qualified applicants for 4,000 positions in 2022.

**David and Bernadette Miron,**

Returned Peace Corps volunteers, Colombia

## Briefs

Continued from 2

### St. Johns County Utility issues water conservation request

Summer temperatures and weather patterns are here and water demands have increased. St. Johns County Utility encourages customers to reduce water usage whenever possible and observe the following mandatory irrigation schedules for St. Johns County properties:

- Homes with odd-numbered or no addresses irrigate on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Homes with even-numbered addresses irrigate on Thursdays and Sundays.
- Nonresidential properties irrigate on Tuesdays and Fridays.

For optimal water conservation, refrain from irrigating between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For more information on water conservation or irrigation regulations, call (904) 209-2700 or go to [www.sjcfcl.us/utilities](http://www.sjcfcl.us/utilities).

**Orlando Ramirez as Col. Jose Coppinger and Jeff Jore as Col. Robert Butler toast to signify the Adams-Onis treaty agreement during the 200th anniversary celebration of Florida becoming a U.S. territory on July 10 in St. Augustine.**

Photos by Anthony Richards



# 200 and counting

Ceremonies commemorate Florida becoming U.S. territory

**By Anthony Richards**

Two hundred years ago, St. Augustine was the site of Spain's transfer of power of Florida to the United States with the signing of the Adams-Onis Treaty.

That was the case once again on July 10, but this time it was a reenactment intended to commemorate the anniversary.

The significance of the events that took place years ago was deeply expressed to the crowd of spectators that stood rows deep at the Plaza De La Constitucion to watch the ceremonies take place.

"We're here to remember a moment that dramatically shifted our history," St. Augustine Mayor Tracy Upchurch said.

Dignitaries from Florida and Spain were on hand to take in the event, including Spanish Ambassador to the United States, Santiago Cabanas who felt it was necessary for Spain to have representation at the historical commorancy.

"It's a very emotional day for us, because we are celebrating not only the 300 years of Spanish presence in Florida, but we're also celebrating the friendship, partnership and the alliance between our two countries," Cabanas said. "At that moment when we signed the Adams-Onis Treaty, we were convinced, as we still are, that the United States and Spain are going to be friends forever."

The commemoration was broken up into two parts, the first was the initial proclamation and signing of the treaty, which took place at the Governor's House Cultural Center and Museum in historic St. Augustine.

Jeff Jore of Nocatee portrayed United States Col. Robert Butler during the reenactment, which was a role he embraced after having spent 36 years in the army and teaching history at the Air Force Academy and currently being an adjunct professor of history at Flagler College.

"I really enjoy the reenactments because it's all about bringing history to life," Jore said. "That's what we're trying to do out here."

Once the treaty was signed, the precession made the half of a mile march to the Florida National Guard's training field on the banks of the Matanzas River to lower the Spanish flag and raise the American flag.



Native Americans from the Seminole tribe were one of many groups portrayed by reenactors during the ceremonies.



Reenactors fire muskets following the signing of the Adams-Onis treaty.

"We were touched by the dignified way in which it has been organized by the state of Florida and by the City of St. Augustine," Cabanas said. "We have a shared legacy and are very proud. We have many reasons to celebrate not only the Spanish, but the Hispanic presence in the United States."

As the participants marched down the city streets, many onlookers stopped along the sidewalks to wave and take pictures, including several children

whose faces showed an amazement for what they were seeing.

"The whole idea is to get them (children) stimulated and to wonder what this is all about," Jore said.

According to Upchurch, using the National Guard's training field as the site of the flag exchange was fitting in many ways.

"Florida is one of two states where the national guard is not based in the state's capital," Upchurch said.



Orlando Ramirez as Col. Jose Coppinger signals to the crowd after reading a proclamation from the balcony of the Governor's House Cultural Center and Museum.

Reenactors portrayed several groups that were prevalent in Florida when the treaty was made official in 1821.

Those groups included Native American representation from the Seminole tribe and militia from Fort Mose, which the National Park Service considers the first legally established free African settlement in North America.

"We take our history in St. Augustine very seriously, and we are blessed with such a rich history," Upchurch said.

*Michael Wicks and his wife Marianne have lived in Ponte Vedra for about 15 years. He is a certified financial planner with LPL Financial and has been active in the community. The couple have two children, who are enrolled at Landrum Middle School.*

## Michael Wicks



Photo provided by Michael Wicks

*As told to Shaun Ryan*

### **What brought you to Ponte Vedra?**

We moved up from Orlando, my wife and I. At the time, we were expecting twins and decided that we wanted to raise them here at the beach.

My wife's in pharmaceutical sales, and I'm a certified financial planner, so we had the flexibility to kind of choose where we wanted to live.

So, we chose Ponte Vedra and have really not looked back. It's probably the best decision we've ever made.

### **What do you like most about this area?**

I'm a beach guy. I was raised in Satellite Beach, Florida, which is down in Brevard County, so I'm a beach guy. I'm also an avid golfer. For me, living in Ponte Vedra Beach is as good as it gets.

I like the weather here. I like the fact that we get a change of season. I like the fact that we have a distinct period of time during the winter. The way I always describe our weather is that it gets so hot for so long that you forget what cold air feels like, but then we get so cool for so long that you forget what really oppressive heat feels like.

So, it's kind of the best of both worlds.

There's a reason why I meet so many people that live in Ponte Vedra that have chosen Ponte Vedra. It wasn't thrust upon them. They did their homework, and they did their research and they decided that this is where they wanted to do it.

### **Tell me about your profession.**

I'm in my 27th year as a certified financial planner. I do full-service planning and wealth management for about 200 households.

### **How do you maintain a good work/family balance?**

I've always worked from home. In my old house — we're in the process of building a new one — but in my old house, I had a detached garage where I built some really cool office space. And that will be part of what we do in the new house. So, I was ahead of the curve on that deal.

I don't want to miss a minute of my kids. This really has given me an incredible opportunity to really be involved and to utilize my time really effectively.

So, not having to commute 45 minutes each way and all that kind of stuff, I can work really efficiently and get a lot of time with them. And we do a lot of traveling in the summer.

You hate to compare yourself with other people, but I think you'd be hard-pressed to find a dad who's gotten more time with his kids than I've gotten with mine.

### **Tell me about your involvement in the community.**

We're members of Sawgrass Country Club, which is another of the best decisions I ever made. I think we're at the 10-year mark as far as being at Sawgrass.

And then, I've just been really involved in the community in different ways.

My first real foray into community service work was I got involved with a group that was petitioning St. Johns County to build sidewalks. So, I was very involved with the construction of sidewalks that connected Plantation Oaks into the roundabout and took the sidewalks from the roundabout to the Palm Valley bridge and then took the sidewalks up Mickler Road. So, 2.1 miles of sidewalks. It took us several years to get the county to do that.

So, that was my first real foray into that.

I have a political science degree, so I'm one of these guys that really pays a lot of attention, not only at the national level but really at the local level, too. National's all fun and well, but the local stuff is, you know, potholes and sidewalks, planting trees and stuff that I can actually see and feel and touch.

Then, I was on the board of the Blood Alliance, which was the big blood bank here in town before they merged with OneBlood out of Central Florida. I was on that board probably about five years.

When that board rolled into the bigger board, I joined the board of the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. I had been very involved in that group up until recently.

I rolled off of that board because I was asked by Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker to serve on the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, and the Concert Hall is under the purview of the Cultural Arts Division. I just didn't want there to be any sort of perceived conflict of interest.

I served on the strategic planning committee at Sawgrass Country Club. I did a four-year stint there.

### **What do you like to do in your spare time?**

Like I said, I play golf. I also play a lot of tennis. I'm on the tennis team at Sawgrass, and we're competing in July down in Orlando.

And then I sit at swim meets on Saturday, and I take kids to cross-country meets and all the other typical stuff.

When I do get time that I can kind of focus on me it's a tennis and golf thing, for sure.

# Craig Speziale Memorial Scholarships awarded

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has announced that Joseph DePorre and Mason Romero are the 2020 and 2021 recipients of the Craig Speziale Memorial Scholarship.

This scholarship recognizes a Ponte Vedra High graduating senior who demonstrates academic excellence, school leadership, community service and the “Spirit of Spez.”

The 2020 scholarship was not awarded last year due to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, the committee decided to award 2020 and 2021 jointly this year.

DePorre graduated fourth in his class. As a scholar athlete, he served as varsity captain for the men’s basketball team, was a member of the National Honor Societies as well as a member of the math, science, English, Hispanic and history honor societies. He was active in the Hi-Q team and Ultimate Frisbee. He completed more than 200 community service hours and is currently attending Notre Dame University.



Contributed photos

Pictured (from left) are Ana Speziale, scholarship recipient Joseph DePorre, Susan and Vince DePorre.

Romero is also a scholar athlete. He played football all four years and was the starting cornerback for the 2019 Ponte Vedra Shark District Championship team. He was a well-rounded student active in service to school and community. He



Pictured (from left) are Patricia Dawson Speziale, scholarship recipient Mason Romero and Ana Speziale.

founded the Sharks for Heroes club, which supports local military organizations. He was a member of National Honor Society, Math Honor and Science Honor. He plans to attend University of Florida in the fall.

For more information or to learn how to make donations, go to [www.jaxcf.org/give/craig-speziale-memorial-fund](http://www.jaxcf.org/give/craig-speziale-memorial-fund).

## NOCATEE HAPPENINGS

# Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra to hold trash pickup event

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra is holding a “Keeping Nocatee Looking Sharp” community service event Saturday, July 17.

Participating members will meet at 8 a.m. at the Nocatee Welcome Center and will be assigned to designated portions of Crosswater Parkway for litter pickup. Volunteers will return to the welcome center around 9:30 a.m. to dispose of the litter (courtesy coffee, juice and donuts will be provided).

Volunteers are encouraged to bring work gloves and a Rotary T-shirt. For those who don’t have a T-shirt, there will be a box of T-shirts with different sizes to distribute to club members. David Ray’s office will be providing safety vests, helmets and trash bags.

## FARMERS MARKET MEETS THE ISLANDS

The Nocatee Farmers Market: Island Experience will take place Saturday, July 17, at Nocatee Station Field.

Attendees can look forward to performances by Prince Pele’s Polynesian Revue, including a variety of Polynesian dances, costumes, live music and more. Shows will be at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.

Along with the interactive theme, the Farmers Market features more than 70 local vendors, selling fresh produce, crafts, jewelry, herbs, unique foods and more. The bar will also be open for beer and wine purchases, however Paradise Park Playground will not be open for market

attendees. The Nocatee Farmers Market is open to the public and the event is weather permitting.

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# Jacksonville Beach legend Sterling Joyce retires in style

By Anthony Richards

It is an understatement to say that renowned Casa Marina maître d' Sterling Joyce has kept busy over the years.

He has only had one vacation in the past 19 years, but that is all about to change following his retirement on July 7.

"I just love to entertain," Joyce said.

Joyce is known for his style and welcoming attitude, which has made him a known commodity among the Jacksonville Beach community.

According to Joyce, it was his hospitality and the way he treated people that made him into the respected person he is today.

"They say men are not gentlemen anymore," Joyce said. "Hospitality is an art and not just something to take for granted."

He went out in style with a retirement party at Seachasers Lounge in Jacksonville Beach on July 7. The event was attended by several people he interacted with over the years.

"I've met people from all over the world," Joyce said. "No one will ever be able to take away the experiences I've had and seen."

Joyce experienced some rough times after his mother and sisters died in a house fire in New Jersey when he was 12 years old.

He and his father moved to Jacksonville not long after experiencing their tragic loss, and his dad got a job working for the Stockton family, who he thanked for helping both him and his dad during that period.

"Old man Jimmy Stockton is like my second dad," Joyce said. "The Stocktons were very instrumental in my raising and my life."

The tragedy left a desire within Joyce to give back and help those he can by holding the annual Sterling's Dance at the Pier event each summer to raise money and food for families in need with kids going back to school.

He has also been involved with initiatives to collect toys and books for children as part of the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry.

"All my life, all I've ever wanted to do was give back," Joyce said. "It stems back to when I was a kid. I praise the Lord for everything I've got."

After 10 years serving in the Air Force, Joyce started working on and off at Max's Grand Ballroom in Jacksonville Beach before eventually taking on a full-time role.

As he developed recognition for the work he was doing, it caught the eye of the Casa Marina, and he has become a mainstay at the hotel and restaurant for the past 21-plus years.



Photos by Anthony Richards

Longtime Casa Marina maître d' Sterling Joyce held a retirement party at Seachasers Lounge in Jacksonville Beach on July 7.



Raina Bartlett (from left), Joyce and Nereida Barker

On top of his job with the Casa Marina, he has also built much of his reputation by planning weddings, which he estimated doing about 120 per year, including two or three in the same day at times.

"People are always going to be getting married any and everywhere," Joyce said. "It (the job) doesn't get old, but I do," Joyce chuckled.



Joyce shares a moment with Fred and Rosemary Foreman.

In retirement Joyce is planning to go on a cruise to the Mediterranean but also wants to remain involved and hopes to offer advice as a consultant to businesses looking for answers in how to better brand themselves.

"A lot of people have a good product, but they just don't know how to get that message across," Joyce said. "Just look at me; branding is everything."

## Dates announced for 2021 Jax Beach Deck The Chairs

### Expectations high after 2020 record attendance

Decorated lifeguard chairs accompanied by holiday lights and sounds, set against an ocean backdrop, provided the perfect solution to thousands of people affected by the 2020 pandemic. Jacksonville Beach Deck The Chairs organizers, sponsors and volunteers stepped up to produce one of the most successful events in its eight-year history. The Beaches holiday tradition attracted an estimated 90,000 visitors over 42 days.

High marks were given for the new and innovative exhibits and the variety of weekly children's programming safely produced under CDC recommended guidelines.

"We knew there would be a desire to get out and see lights, especially for families with kids," said Deck The Chairs founder Kurtis Loftus. "I think we all were amazed by how many showed up." He continues, "The weather for most of the event was great, so on traditionally slow days, more people than normal were out in the afternoons before the lights came on and stayed later in the evenings."

This year, Deck The Chairs is introducing a new interactive light and music exhibit — SeaSongs Spectacle. This custom-fabricated exhibit will showcase 12 lifeguard chairs crafted to represent two whimsical fish, featuring motion-activated musical instruments. Sponsor and donor logos will be featured on each one of the chairs.

#### SCHEDULE: NOV. 20-JAN. 1, 2022

**Opening night (Nov. 20):** Introducing SeaSongs Light and Music Spectacle

**Free and open:** Lights nightly from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.

**Musical Light Show:** Nightly at 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.

**Returning:** Beaches Go Green Octopus Garden; Moonlight Movies; Tuba Christmas/Santa; Weekly Children's Dance Programming

**Jan. 1, 4:30 p.m.:** Gator Bowl Pep Rally

The event is handicap accessible and pet-friendly. Concessions will be available on weekends and scheduled holiday nights.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. To learn more, email [info@deckthechairs.org](mailto:info@deckthechairs.org). For more information about Deck The Chairs or to volunteer, go to [www.deckthechairs.org](http://www.deckthechairs.org).

# All About Pets



Pages 9-11



## St. Augustine Humane Society to host Pin Up Paws event July 16

'Paws Across America' event and calendar to feature local pets

The St. Augustine Humane Society has launched its 11th annual Pin Up Paws pet calendar photo contest with this year's theme, "Paws Across America," featuring winning pets and their photos in a variety of scenes associated with iconic American landmarks.

The fundraiser supports the nonprofit's accomplishments since launching the contest in 2010 and the organization's mission of promoting healthy, lifelong pet ownership while reducing the rate of relinquishment to shelters.

As support for the overall fundraiser, the nonprofit will hold a Pin Up Paws Primary special event from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, July 16, at Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill, 377 S. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

The Primary is free and open to the public along with calendar contestants who raise \$200 or more by 5 p.m. Thursday, July 15. Qualifying contestants' pets will be featured on collection jars at the event to further campaign and collect donations for the nonprofit.

The pet owner contestant who raises the most money will win a prize from the Humane Society. All money raised will be applied to each contestant's page for final calendar pet photo placements, giveaways and prizes.

For more information, go to [www.facebook.com/StAugustineHumaneSociety](http://www.facebook.com/StAugustineHumaneSociety). To enter the contest or vote for your favorite contestant, go to [www.PinUpPaws.com](http://www.PinUpPaws.com).

According to Sam Williams, St. Augustine Humane Society's board president and general manager at Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill, he and his restaurant team look forward to welcoming guests who attend the family-friendly activities for a good cause.

"The St. Augustine Humane Society has a key mission to promote healthy and responsible lifelong pet ownership by serving the medical and rehabilitative needs of companion animals in our community," he said. "Our programs are designed to strengthen human-pet relationships and reduce the need for pets to enter shelters with a goal to ensure all pets have access to quality veterinary care, prevent overpopulation and prevent animal suffering. This is one of the many ways we

CALENDAR continues on Page 10

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# Calendar

Continued from 9

raise much-needed funds to support the nonprofit.”

For a chance to have a pet featured in the full color, high-quality calendar, photos are submitted with heartfelt and entertaining descriptions to let people know why they should vote for the pet to be featured in the calendar for donations starting at \$1 for votes.

Online pet photos and write-up entries end at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5. The close of the contest is 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7.

Last year, more than \$21,000 was raised by the effort for calendar votes and donations to the campaign.

For more information, call (904) 829-2737 or email mmurphy@staughumane.org. The public can visit the contest website at www.PinUpPaws.com.

The pet with the greatest number of votes at the end of the contest will be the first-place winner and will receive the cover spot on the 2022 Pin Up Paws Calendar.

Each of the 12 second-place winners will be featured on one of the months in the calendar.

All first- and second-place winners will receive a professional photography session along with gift certificates from Columbia Restaurant as part of the prize package.

The 12 pets with the next highest number of votes will be runners-up and will have the image they submitted to the contest and a brief description of their pet featured in a one-and-a-half-inch space in the calendar. The top 80 pet contestants will have their submitted photos included in a calendar collage.

Styling and photography sessions will take place with award-winning photographer Addison Fitzgerald, who has do-



Photo provided by St. Augustine Humane Society

**A pet grouping photo montage includes the top nine entries so far who have each made the \$200 minimum to be featured at the Pin Up Paws Primary event.**

nated his talents to the Humane Society since the calendar’s inception.

Local fine artist and graphic designer Maribel Angel continues to donate her creative talents to designing the distinctive calendar publication. And the Humane Society is receiving a promotional billboard to be donated by Clear Channel Outdoor for eight weeks along U.S. 1 in St. Johns County.

The completed calendar will be revealed at a Pin Up Paws Party in St. Augustine to be held in October. The location will be announced along with pricing for dinner, live music, silent auc-

tion, wine pull, refreshments and more.

The calendars will be available for \$10 each starting in October with purchase available online, by phone or at the Humane Society and area retail locations.

All proceeds from submissions, votes, sponsorships and sales will benefit the programs and services of the St. Augustine Humane Society. The campaign and calendar sales and events will benefit St. Augustine Humane Society’s veterinary clinic and surgery center, along with other services and programs.

The Humane Society is located at 1665 Old Moultrie Road in St. Augustine.

# Florida saved 6,000 more dogs and cats in 2020 than previous year

Best Friends Animal Society, a leading animal welfare organization, has released its sixth annual pet lifesaving dataset, which gives a national overview of the number of dogs and cats that enter and exit shelters each year.

It also includes a state-by-state no-kill priority ranking in which Florida is fourth.

Best Friends measures shelter lifesaving with a metric called “save rate.”

A 90% save rate is the nationally recognized benchmark to be considered “no-kill,” factoring that approximately 10 percent of pets who enter shelters have medical or behavioral circumstances that warrant humane euthanasia rather than killing for other reasons, such as lack of space.

In 2020, 283,942 dogs and cats entered Florida shelters and 234,681 were saved, giving the state an aggregate save rate of 82.65%.

In the same year, an estimated 55.92% of state shelters measured above the 90% benchmark. Those that were below it needed to save an estimated 24,289 more healthy or treatable animals to make Florida “no-kill.” A state is considered to be “no-kill” when every brick-and-mortar shelter in the state has a save rate of 90% or higher.

“Florida has many animal sheltering agencies doing tremendous work within their local communities,” said Tiffany Deaton, strategist for the Best Friends Animal Society East Region. “They have implemented best practices to save the animals in their care and keep pets out of shelters and with their families when possible. If we can take what we have learned from these model agencies and share that knowledge and those resources with other communities and shelters in Florida, we can make the Sunshine State a safe place for animals in shelters.”

By comparison, in 2019, 361,478 animals entered state shelters and 282,021 were saved for an aggregate save rate of 78%. At the time, an estimated 53.29% of shelters were no-kill and those that were below it needed to save an estimated 45,503 more animals.

SHELTERS continues on Page 16

## LOCAL STATISTICS FOR 2020: ST. JOHNS COUNTY

**Total cats and dogs saved:** 3,179  
**Total entered:** 4,101  
**No-kill gap:** 675  
**Total shelters:** 3  
**No-kill shelters:** 2

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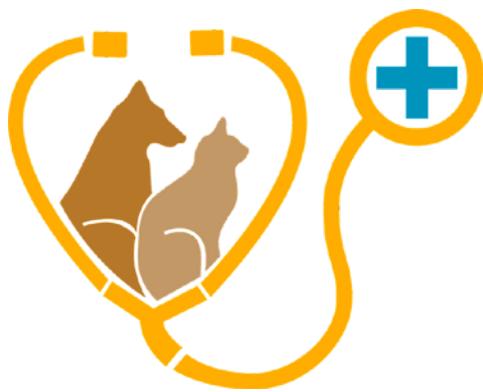
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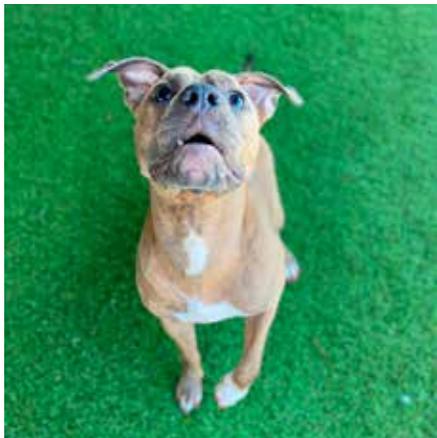
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## FLETCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL BEACHES GO GREEN CLUB WINS GREEN SCHOOLS AWARD

The Fletcher Middle School Beaches Go Green Club won the 2021 USGBC's Green Schools award for "Broad Engagement" on environmental education. The BGG club students created several educational videos, which can be found on the Beaches Go Green YouTube Channel, a giant single-use plastic art installation "WAVE" for the Beaches Go Green Octopus Garden at Deck the Chairs 2020, participated in several BGG community clean-ups and hosted a lunchtime educational Earth Day display. The club met weekly throughout the school year in person and via Zoom to complete the projects, along with assistance from teacher/sponsor Scott Fretz.

Photo provided by Beaches Go Green

## Green Chamber accepting nominations for Water Quality & Resource Awards

The North Florida Green Chamber of Commerce is recognizing August as National Water Quality Month.

To focus on an important natural resource, the Green Chamber is accepting nominations for the 2021 Green Chamber Water Quality & Resource Awards. Deadline is July 18.

The awards will recognize examples of water quality improvement and conservation that best demonstrate significant, lasting and measurable excellence in water quality improvement or in prevention of

water quality degradation by Green Chamber members and other businesses in North Florida in four categories.

### CREATIVE LANDSCAPE AWARD

Successful candidate uses engineering design principals of low impact development to reduce or eliminate flow of stormwater and potential contaminants carried with it from the property to receiving waters or that uses natural systems to manage stormwater and contaminants. Living shorelines, xeriscaping and concepts

included in the minimal impact design manual are good examples as well as other efforts to use existing natural landscape or restoring landscape to provide water quality improvement and wildlife habitat.

### CONSERVATION AND WATER REUSE AWARD

Successful candidate successfully demonstrates sustainability through reduction of consumption and reuse of resources. Examples include water conservation through low flow facilities and water reuse from

converting wastewater or stormwater into water that can be reused for other purposes. Types of reuses include urban reuse, agricultural reuse (irrigation), environmental reuse, industrial reuse. Reuse may include irrigation of gardens and agricultural fields. Reused water may also be directed toward fulfilling certain needs in residences (e.g., toilet flushing), businesses and industry. Creative reductions in energy use and resource recycling are included.

AWARDS continues on Page 13

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ESTIMATES



# Flagler Health+, partnership to open telehealth kiosks at 2 schools

An initiative that will improve student access to health care at two St. Johns County schools will be launched this week.

The Webster School and South Woods Elementary are community partnership schools, which benefit by a collaborative leadership between Children’s Home Society of Florida, Flagler Health+, the school district and St. Johns River State

College. This collaboration offers support to students beyond education.

On Wednesday, July 14, a ceremonial ribbon will be cut to officially grant students access to timely, accessible health and wellness services through a telehealth kiosk at each school. The kiosks are being provided by Flagler Health+.

A call to a parent from a school nurse would typically require the child to be

picked up from school and taken home, and then an appointment would have to be made with a physician – assuming the family has insurance and the logistical capabilities to attend the appointment.

Now, these needs can be addressed more urgently and free of charge with a visit to the Flagler Health+ Wellness Kiosk. It will save time and get the child feeling better, faster.

# 4 county Girl Scouts receive Gold Awards

The Girl Scouts of Gateway Council has announced its 2021 Gold Award recipients, one of whom is a recent graduate of Nease High School.

The council has 12 total award recipients, and four Girl Scouts are from the St. Johns County or St. Augustine area. This marks the most recipients in any county in the council.

This is the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve, and the award is given for intensive, Girl Scout-led community service projects to solve complicated challenges in their communities.

The girls from St. Johns County who

have achieved the Gold Award are:

- Sidney Weber, recent Nease High School graduate. Sidney created an online community and project to help women and girls facing mental illness and depression from physical disorders. Her project was called Happiness Within Struggle.

- Charlotte Corbitt, grade 9, Creekside High School. Charlotte hand-made 345 facemasks during the COVID-19 pandemic for pediatric patients. The masks were used and distributed through the Community Hospice and Palliative Care.

- Dagny Noce, grade 12, Creekside

High School. Dagny created a multi-sensory de-escalation room at her school for students in stress and crisis.

- Courtney Oko, grade 12, Creekside High School. Courtney created a program to help exceptional students learn job skills through a series of “taskboxes” she made and installed at three area St. Johns County schools’ exceptional classrooms.

The Gold Award is a key that can open doors to scholarships, preferred admission tracks for college and career opportunities. For more information, go to [www.girlscouts.org/en/our-program/highest-awards/gold-award.html](http://www.girlscouts.org/en/our-program/highest-awards/gold-award.html).

## Awards

Continued from 12

### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AWARD

Successful candidate demonstrates creative and beneficial stormwater management activities in their stormwater pollution prevention plans, either on behalf of their own facility or their client’s, by keeping potential contaminants from stormwater exposure at covered industrial sites or optimizing erosion and sedimentation controls at construction sites.

### WETLAND PROTECTIONS AWARD

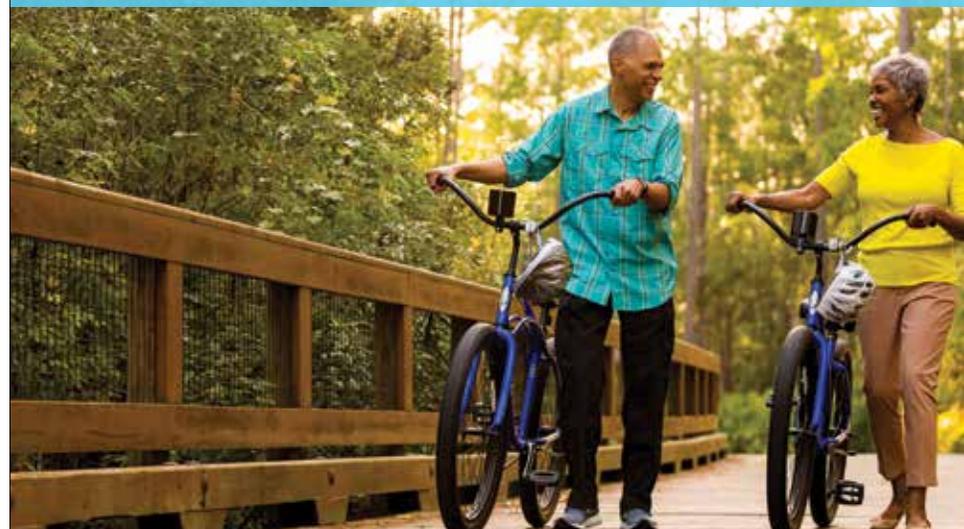
Candidate demonstrates successful efforts in protecting and enhancing wetlands through project design that avoids impacts to wetlands, including secondary impacts, enhancing wetlands through exotic species removal and hydrologic restoration or other efforts that preserve and expand wetland functions.

The Green Chamber is a regional networking organization for all sizes of businesses and community organizations including nonprofits that emphasize green and sustainable business practices. The award is being created in cooperation with St. Johns Riverkeepers, the Florida Green Building Coalition and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

To submit a nomination, go to [www.northfloridagreenchamber.org/sustainability](http://www.northfloridagreenchamber.org/sustainability).



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# Connie Green looks back on time as a rancher

By Anthony Richards

Connie Green has lived a unique and adventurous life that led the Neptune Beach resident to eventually owning and operating a cattle ranch in Colorado.

The Jacksonville native and her late husband Stanton Green were active people and although many have dreams of retiring and taking it easy by focusing on a hobby or fishing every day, that was not in their nature.

“We did not retire; we just changed jobs,” Green said.

Connie met Stanton when they were in college, as he was at Tulane University and she attended H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College, which was Tulane’s women’s college.

Stanton Green worked for years as chief of orthopedic surgery, primarily at St. Vincent’s in Jacksonville, before he retired.

“I think he had the ability to see down the line,” Green said. “He saw what was coming in, that the insurance companies would start to dictate how many patients you would see. If he wanted to spend 40 minutes with a patient, he would.”

However, orthopedic surgeon to rancher is not the first transition of jobs that one thinks of.

That was the same thought that first crossed Connie Green’s mind when her husband shared the idea with her.

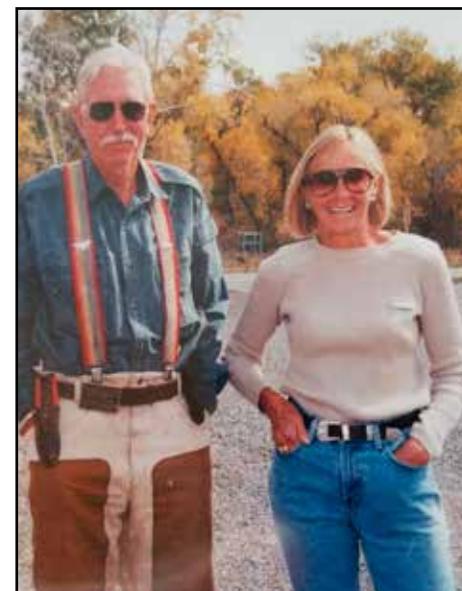


Photo provided by Connie Green

**Stanton and Connie Green traded in their city life to be ranchers.**



**ABOVE: Connie Green of Neptune Beach holds the book she wrote years ago about her and her husband Stanton’s experience owning a cattle ranch in Colorado.**

Photo by Anthony Richards

**LEFT: Connie Green feeds some of the cattle they had.**

Photo provided by Connie Green

“My first reaction was, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me,’” Green said.

But as she thought more about it, orthopedic surgery and ranching did have more in common than she initially presumed, especially when it came to the commitment required to do both jobs.

“Ranching is 24/7,” Green said. “He (Stanton) was quite familiar with that 24/7 way of life as an orthopedic surgeon.”

She began making trips out west to look at ranches that were on the market and assess if the land was right for grazing cattle.

“As a cattle rancher, you pay by the sale

of your calves, so the more you have, the more you can possibly make,” Green said.

After looking at ranches in several states, she found one about half an hour from Cedaredge, Colorado, that was a 25,000-acre grazing permit exclusive for their use along with a deed for 3,200 acres of private land.

The Greens did not go into their ranching venture without first doing their homework and researching what all it would take.

Part of the research included going to watch Tom Waldrop, who was one of Stanton Green’s patients, at his work as

the head of the livestock market in Lake City.

“I would go and sit with him as they (cattle) were being sold, and he would point out what features to look at,” Green said. “It was an education, because I was essentially a city girl.”

They had 300-plus cattle and six horses, which came in handy and were used to help move the cattle.

“Every time a calf is born, even in the middle of the night, we were there tagging them,” Green said.

As with farming, the ebbs and flows of the weather were always in the back of their mind.

“You live and die by your water rights,” Green said. “If you don’t have grass (due to lack of water), you can’t feed your cows. If there was no snow for snow melt or rainwater, it became a problem.”

According to Green, the ranch’s livestock was fed 4,000 pounds of round-bale a day.

The Greens spent a decade on the ranch, including the last couple of years when Connie took over the primary role of running the ranch after Stanton had a heart attack and passed away.

**RANCHER** continues on Page 16

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# Winter Design Show to feature TV host, medical expert, renowned designer

## Holiday event benefits Wolfson Children's Hospital

The 2021 Winter Design Show: Flaunting the First Coast, featuring some familiar names from television and design, will be held Dec. 3-5.

The event is a new and reimagined version of the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital's Art & Antiques Show, which raises funds for the hospital.

As it has for more than four decades, the show will herald the holiday season.

"The Winter Design Show will bring many of the prized elements from its previous decades as the Art & Antiques Show while broadening and evolving its concept," said Robin Albaneze, president of The Women's Board. "Flaunting the First Coast" is an appropriate theme to showcase all of the talent right here in our community, in one space, for an event benefitting the hospital."

The show will feature more than 45 exhibitors, including local and nationally recognized designers, artists, antique dealers and decor retailers.

Returning to the event are the black-tie gala, The Children's Fashion Show featuring Wolfson Children's patients and lectures by renowned speakers.

Here's a look at this year's speakers:

■ Ty Pennington, Emmy Award-winning television host, designer, carpenter and author will focus his presentation on sustainable design and construction while featuring his St. Augustine home.



**Robin Albaneze**  
Women's Board president



**Fitz Pullins**  
Interior designer and Winter Design Show creative director

■ Dr. Jennifer Arnold, neonatologist and co-star of TLC's "The Little Couple," will offer the keynote session about overcoming obstacles with optimism.

■ Janie Molster, author of "House Dressing: Interiors for Colorful Living" and acclaimed Southern designer based in Richmond, Virginia, will reveal the secret behind her unique ability to craft dreamy interiors and share down-to-earth advice for creating your own beautiful and personal spaces.

The designers, artists, antiques dealers and other exhibitors at the show will share their work amid a backdrop that celebrates Northeast Florida. Interior designer and event creative director Fitz Pullins is behind the theme, "Flaunting the First Coast." Attendees will be able to explore a path through the distinct and diverse personalities of the First Coast's neighborhoods.

"From my home in Avondale, just outside the heart of Jacksonville's downtown, to historic Springfield, from Fernandina past American Beach and following the coast of A1A, I've run into no shortage of inspiration behind 'Flaunting the First Coast,'" said Pullins. "Creating an



Photos provided by the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital  
**Michael Aubin, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital, speaks during the announcement for the Winter Design Show.**

experience through the art and design that celebrates my hometown and supports our community and its children alongside The Women's Board is especially rewarding."

The Women's Board aims to raise \$1 million from the show for an endowment supporting the new world-class Neonatal Intensive Care Center in the Wolfson Children's Critical Care Tower.

The endowment will help provide for programs, equipment and services for the center, which will open in February. All proceeds will be matched 150% by Baptist Health.

"The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital was the first organization to commit to an endowment for the new Wolfson Children's Critical Care Tower, and for more than 40 years, this extraordinary event has helped to support and save the lives of many patients," said Michael Aubin, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

DESIGN SHOW continues on Page 16



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## OBITUARIES

### Blanche Sue Batey Coggin

Blanche Sue Batey Coggin, born December 29, 1929, returned to the loving arms of our Father on July 5, 2021 in the presence of her family at her home in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. She was a Christian, a mother, a wife, a philanthropist, and a friend to many across the globe.

She is survived by her daughters, Cindy Coggin (Kim), Christy Hayden and Tracey Hawkins; her grandchildren, Natalie Hall, Hunter Hayden, Alex Hayden, Joshua Hawkins (Kristin), and Chandler Coggin; and her great-grandchildren, Dylan, Noelle and Harmony Hawkins. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends, including Pat Richardson, Elaine Simone, Lois Aschenbach, Ramona Sturgill and Pearl Hicks, to name a few. She was close to them all.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 70 years, Luther Coggin, her beloved daughter, Terrye Coggin Proctor, and her beautiful, blue-eyed grandson, Chase Hawkins.

Blanche was grateful to be a loyal follower of Christ and a member of the Disciples of Christ Christian Church. She regularly attended the First Christian Church in Birmingham Alabama, where she met her husband, Luther Coggin. They married in October, 1949 and had four daughters before moving to Florida and becoming members of the First Christian Church of the Beaches here in Neptune Beach.

Blanche and Luther Coggin settled down in Ponte Vedra Beach and Jacksonville Beach, Florida living more than half of their married lives on the beach and vacationing to the mountains in North Carolina where they could enjoy the best of both worlds. Blanche enjoyed swimming, reading, playing tennis, and traveling. She and her husband travelled the world, touching on every continent except Antarctica.

Blanche loved any activity with her family and friends. She enjoyed countless days at the club with her tennis gals. She

had a tremendous sense of humor, loving funny cards and jokes, and she delighted in solving puzzles and playing games, especially with her family.

Blanche served on the Jacksonville, Florida Salvation Army Advisory Board for more than 20 years. She was also a founding board member of the University of North Florida's US Group, promoting women and girls health here in Jacksonville. She served in several offices of Disciples of Christ Church, primarily working with young people. Blanche and Luther's kindness and generosity will continue for generations through their gifts to hospitals, educational institutions and charities.

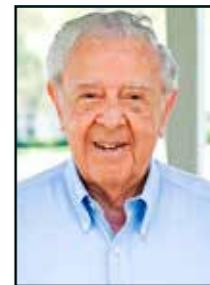
Through prosperity and adversity, Blanche always relied upon her Christian faith, retained her sense of humor, and shared her love with all who were in her presence. She was loved by many and will be missed by all who loved her.

There will be a Celebration of Life Service at First Christian Church of the Beaches, 2125 Ocean Front, Neptune Beach, Florida 32266 on Saturday, July 17 at 2:00 pm. Memorial donations can be made to Community Hospice of Jacksonville Beach, Florida. Arrangements are under the direction of HARDAGE-GIDDENS FUNERAL HOME, 1701 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach, FL.

### Victor Martinelli

Victor Martinelli, 92, a resident of Brookdale Southside Senior Living in Jacksonville, FL, passed away on June 20, 2021 after a brief illness. Before moving to Brookdale in 2016, Vic, along with his wife, Natalie (who passed away in 2018) were longtime residents of Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, moving there when they retired in 1984.

A New Jersey native, who worked for many years in New York City and also lived and worked in Southern California before settling in north Florida, Vic was born in Orange, NJ on November 18, 1928, the only son of Martin and Mayme Nitoli Martinelli. He graduated from Barringer High School in Newark, NJ and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration



Victor Martinelli

from Rutgers University in 1950, where he was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. A veteran of the armed forces, Vic married Natalie Manno on Christmas Day, 1950 while serving in the US Airforce.

Vic enjoyed a long and successful business career. He was a financial management consultant and partner in the firm of Coopers & Lybrand, where he was an acknowledged expert in the application of standard cost accounting principles to industrial manufacturing business sectors. This was followed by a career in corporate finance and management that included Controller of Max Factor & Co., and CFO of Sav-a-Stop and Informatics Corporations until his retirement. He was a member of the American Management Association and the National Association of Accountants. He was published in professional and trade journals and was a frequent lecturer. Vic was also active as a business consultant in north Florida after his retirement.

Vic was an elected member and Chairman of the St. Augustine Airport Authority, as well as an appointed member of the St. Johns County Water & Sewer Authority. An accomplished pilot, he was also past president of the St. Augustine Pilots Association and a member of the Quiet Birdmen. He enjoyed playing golf for many years during his residence at Sawgrass and was a lifelong electronics buff. Vic and Natalie travelled throughout the world in their retirement, spending time in Europe, China and Australia.

Vic is survived by his two children, Martin Martinelli (Mary Knott), and Kim Shiley (Edward Shiley), four grandchildren, Phillip and Gregory Martinelli, and Megan and Christopher Shiley, and four great-grandchildren. His only sister, Luena Dachino, passed away from complications due to Covid 19 in 2020.

A funeral mass will be held at Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church in Ponte Vedra Beach at 1:00pm on Monday, September 20, 2021 followed by the interment of his ashes and a memorial reception at Brookdale Southside Senior Living in Jacksonville. Arrangements are the direction of HARDAGE-GIDDENS FUNERAL HOME, 1701 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach, FL.

To leave condolences and remembrances, please visit: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/jacksonville-beach-fl/victor-martinelli-10244355>



Photo provided by Connie Green

Connie Green continued operations of the ranch for two years after her husband passed away of a heart attack.

## Rancher

Continued from 14

Although Stanton's death was unexpected, she knew that the two had too much invested in the ranch to not see it through before finding the right time to move back home.

"I would have followed Stanton anywhere, and I did," Green said. "It was a fabulous adventure."

Green wrote a book about her ranching venture with Stanton, and when thinking of a title she harkened back to when she first heard of the idea.

The book is called "You've got to be kidding! From mending bones to mending fences; from social scene to saddleback."

## Design Show

Continued from 15

The show, chaired by Kymberly Wolfson, Heather Creel and Kristina Powell, will take place at the Prime Osborn III Convention Center and continues to welcome exhibitors and sponsors. To get involved as a sponsor and exhibitor, contact (904) 202-2866.

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

General admission tickets are \$15 and include the entire three-day event. Individual lecture tickets start at an additional \$30. To purchase tickets or learn more about the 2021 Winter Design Show, go to [womensboardwch.com/2021-winter-design-show](http://womensboardwch.com/2021-winter-design-show).

## Shelters

Continued from 10

"This was a monumental year for cats and dogs in America's shelters," said Julie Castle, CEO of Best Friends Animal Society. "We saw communities, shelters and individuals step up for animals in ways we couldn't have imagined, and now we are closer than ever before to achieving our goal of no-kill by 2025."

The organization has identified the top six states where it says pets need to be

saved: Texas, California, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama and Louisiana, which make up 50% of the dogs and cats still being killed in the nation. Although they continue to represent the largest lifesaving gaps, these states have seen significant progress in lifesaving over the past year.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted this year's data, as many shelters or services had to partially close or reduce services. Communities and individuals filled that gap through volunteering, fostering and adopting. As a result, fewer pets entered shelters and more animals' lives were saved.

"This year's progress has been exceptional, from what we have seen with community support and involvement and the lifesaving numbers as a result. It is crucial that we build on this momentum to keep pets out of shelters and in loving homes where they belong. This is how we will get to no-kill," Castle said.

Nationally, about 347,000 cats and dogs were killed in America's shelters in 2020, down from 625,000 in 2019. This is the largest yearly reduction in dogs and cats killed in the nation's shelters (44.5%) to date, putting the nation at an 83% save rate.

"Since we announced our no-kill goal the number of cats and dogs killed in shelters has decreased by 76%, down from about 1.5 million in 2016," said Castle. "This is incredible progress, but we must never lose sight that there are still over 950 cats and dogs killed every day just because they do not have a safe place to call home."

For the past six years, Best Friends has spearheaded a one-of-a-kind extensive data collection process that involved coordinated outreach to every shelter in America followed by additional research, data analysis, and technology development.

# Business Weekly

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Legal Eagles: Judge John examines the role of the special magistrate

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Children attend a Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach art camp at the link, an innovative facility located at the Nocatee Town Center.

## The link becomes a reality

Innovative facility in Nocatee offers co-working space, classes, entertainment and more

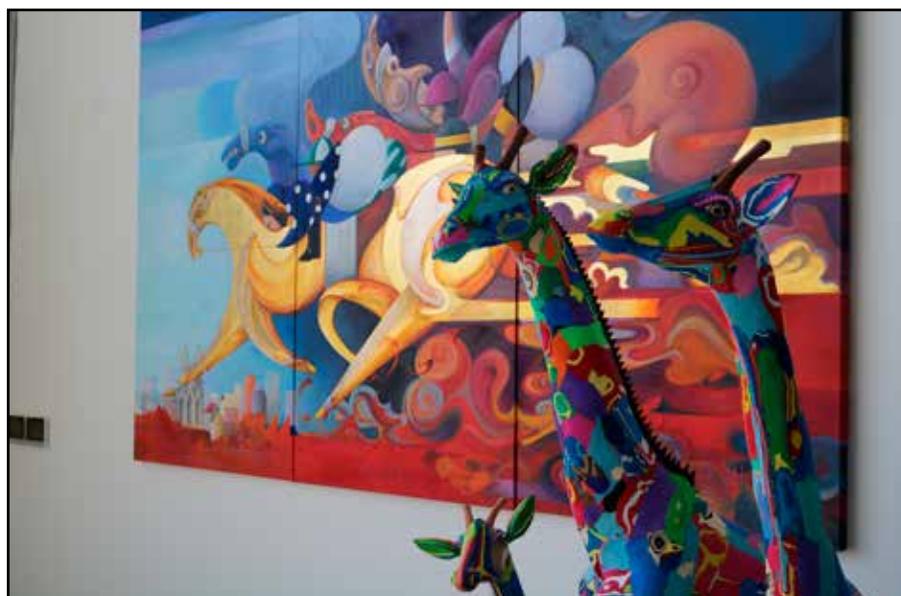
By Shaun Ryan

A dream of entrepreneur Raghu Misra comes to fruition this week with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the link, a co-working space, innovation incubator and membership-based venue in Nocatee Town Center.

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted the ceremony Wednesday, July 14, for the newest addition to the local business community.

In conjunction with the ribbon-cutting, the link is throwing a multi-day Grand Opening celebration featuring speakers, performers, workshops, food and more.

From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday, July 15, the Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach is offering a full day of art and entertainment events at the link. The schedule includes music, poetry, visual arts, ballet, a fashion show and more. View the schedule at [ccpyb.org/events/upcoming-events](http://ccpyb.org/events/upcoming-events).



Photos by Shaun Ryan

The link showcases the work of some of the area's most accomplished artists. The giraffes are part of a menagerie of animals created by Ocean Sole from recycled flip-flops. The painting is by Susanne Schuenke.

From noon to 10 p.m. Friday, July 16, the link is conducting an entrepreneurship and innovation showcase featuring link talks, a luncheon and a cocktail reception.

The link is like nothing else in this area.

"We want to be a place where people of all age groups come and get inspired," said Misra.

The 22,500-square-foot facility at 425 Town Plaza Ave. is a smart building with

LINK continues on Page 23

## Why an irrevocable trust may be superior to gifting



Dan Armstrong  
Guest Columnist

Parents and other family members who want to pass on assets during their lifetimes may be tempted to gift the assets. Although setting up an irrevocable trust lacks the simplicity of giving a gift, it may be a better

way to preserve assets for the future.

A trust is a legal entity under which one person — the "trustee" — holds legal title to property for the benefit of others — the "beneficiaries." The trustee must follow the rules provided in the trust instrument. An "irrevocable" trust cannot be changed after it has been created. In most cases, this type of trust is drafted so that the income is payable to you (the person establishing the trust, called the "grantor") for life, and the principal cannot be applied to benefit you or your spouse. At your death the principal is paid to your heirs. This way, the funds in the trust are protected, and you can use the income for your living expenses.

While gifting assets outright is much simpler process than setting up a trust, the following are some of the advantages of setting up a trust instead:

**Income.** Putting assets in a trust means you can receive income from the assets to continue to pay for living expenses. Depending on how the trust is set up, you can receive regular income payments or the trustee could have discretion to make payments.

**Control.** With an irrevocable trust, you as the grantor can maintain some control over the assets. You get to choose the trustees and establish the rules of the trust. You can also retain the right to change beneficiaries with a power of appointment in your will.

**Asset protection from creditors.** If you give money to a family member directly, that money could be lost to the recipient's carelessness, creditors or divorce.

ARMSTRONG continues on Page 21

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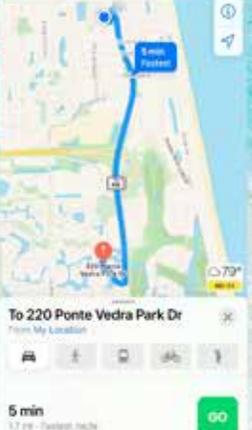
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# Judge John: Role of the special magistrate



**John Miller**  
Guest Columnist

Local governments have choices of how to enforce compliance with city/county ordinances and laws. Some choose to utilize a board, often made up of citizens. While this system has benefits, it is reliant upon citizen participation and can be liable to popular opinion and even personal grudges. A frequent alternative is a special magistrate. Atlantic, Neptune and Jacksonville beaches each utilize a special magistrate for code enforcement.

The proceedings are quasi-judicial, with some degree of formality, but significantly less than a court proceeding. A decision is rendered and is enforceable and can be appealed. Some participants choose to be represented by an attorney, as all are permitted to do.

Beaches resident and current Circuit Court Judge Jeb Branham was formerly a special magistrate. He has the following to say about the position: "In Florida, cities

and counties have the option to appoint a special magistrate instead of using a full code enforcement board to conduct hearings to determine whether a person has violated a local ordinance and what the penalty will be if a violation is found. Code enforcement boards are composed of members of the community, while a special magistrate is usually a lawyer. A special magistrate functions very much like a judge in court. They will usually conduct code enforcement hearings similarly to how judges conduct trials. In my experience, having a special magistrate conduct code enforcement hearing works well for both the city or county and the residents."

Jacksonville Beach has an active special magistrate docket. With respect to the purpose of the position, City Manager Mike Staffopoulos says: "Our goal at the city is compliance, and not fines or making money. If everyone follows our codes, we will have a community that all residents and business owners can be proud of!" At the central core, the role of the special

**JUDGE JOHN** continues on **Page 20**

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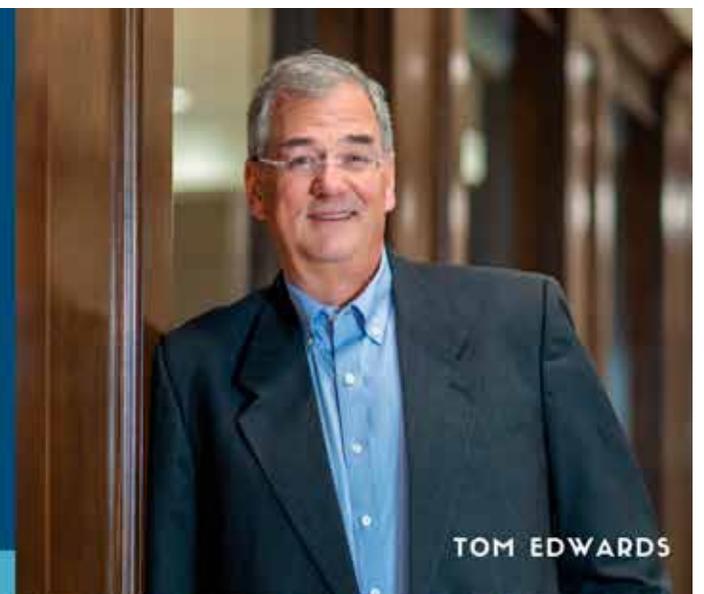
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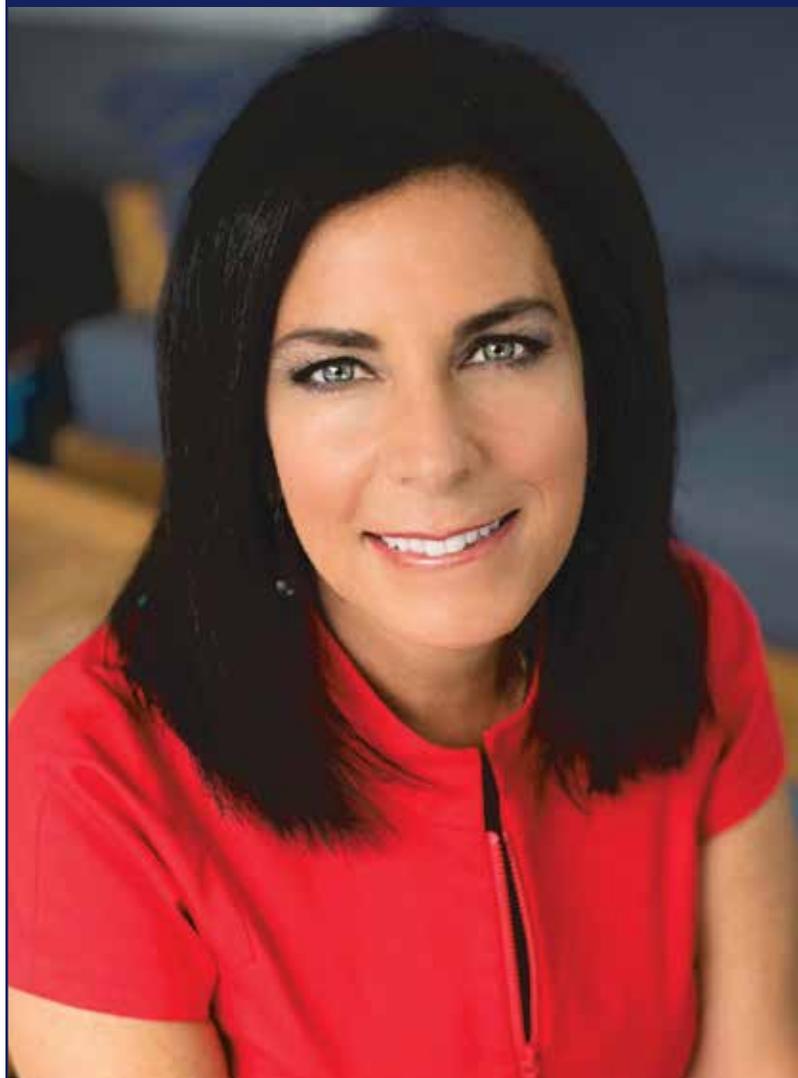
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## Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

## Criminal Defense Attorney



Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL "Blood, Breath & Tears" annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the AV preeminent rating™ from Martindale-Hubble® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys. She also appears as a legal commentator on CNN and HLN.

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## Armstrong

Continued from 17

Keeping the funds in a trust protects the assets for the future.

**Taxes.** If the trust is structured properly, it can have a tax advantage for your beneficiaries. Assets that have gone up in value will receive a “step-up” in basis on your death, which means your beneficiaries will pay less in capital gains taxes. Assets that are gifted do not receive a “step-up.”

**Medicaid.** If you anticipate needing long-term care benefits in the future, then

it is important to plan ahead. If you give away money or fund an irrevocable trust within the five years (the “look-back period”) before applying for Medicaid, you may face a period of ineligibility for Medicaid benefits. The actual period of ineligibility will depend on the amount gifted or transferred to the trust. Putting assets in a trust allows you to plan ahead while retaining some income and control over the assets.

To set up an irrevocable trust, contact your attorney.

**Dan W. Armstrong is an attorney based in Ponte Vedra Beach. He specializes in elder law, estate planning and corporate law.**

## Judge John

Continued from 18

magistrate is to uphold community standards as adopted by local ordinances and thereby help maintain an attractive city and property values.

Judge John has now served in his position for such a period of time that he is the current longest sitting special magistrate at the Beaches. In my experience, the employees of the several beaches cities do their best to act fairly and in compliance with their city codes. Those of us who do serve as magistrates do so as a form of community service to give back to the beaches that we love so much. We strive to assure that every

citizen has a fair opportunity to have their voice heard about the issues before the hearing.

Special magistrate hearings are open to the public (as long as decorum is observed) and are a great opportunity to observe local laws in action at the most basic level of our democracy.

**John Miller is the special magistrate for the City of Neptune Beach. His law firm, Rock Solid Law & Title, provides expert guidance in all areas of estate planning, trust & wills, real estate, closings, title & escrow, and small business representation. (904) 241-1113.**

**Do you have any questions of law or customs that are of particular interest to those living the Sand Life on our beautiful island? Please submit them to Judge John for consideration for a future article. john@rocksolidlaw.com**



**Do you have questions concerning Probate or Estate Planning?**



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## Nicole Carlucci

is an experienced and compassionate family law attorney who has practiced law and worked in legal education in Jacksonville for more than 20 years. She understands that her clients are experiencing challenging times and is dedicated to providing them with personalized attention and support.

Ms. Carlucci handles cases involving a variety of issues such as dissolution of marriage, paternity, child custody, child support and relocation.

Ms. Carlucci graduated cum laude from both Wake Forest University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree and Florida State University College of Law where she earned her law degree.

Ms. Carlucci began her career as an Assistant State Attorney before going into private practice. Over the years she has litigated in the areas of family law, personal injury, insurance defense and criminal defense. Immediately prior to joining the Law Offices of Jason K.S. Porter, P.A., Ms. Carlucci worked in legal education at Florida Coastal School of Law. Although she enjoyed working in academics, Ms. Carlucci was happy to return to the practice of law.

At The Law Offices of Jason K.S. Porter, P.A., Ms. Carlucci leads the family law division and is spearheading the firm’s expansion to Jacksonville Beach.

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Maxwell D. Potter

## Smith Hulsey & Busey welcomes attorney Max Potter

Maxwell D. Potter has joined Smith Hulsey & Busey as an associate attorney. He will assist clients in complex matters involving tax law, trusts and estates.

Potter received his law degree from Stetson University and obtained a master of laws in tax-

ation from the University of Florida. Before joining Smith Hulsey, he clerked at a tax and estate planning law firm and completed an in-house counsel externship with the nation's leading medical spa.

"Max is a crucial hire for our tax and estate planning practices," said firm chairman Steve

Busey. "He has a unique breadth of experience and knowledge of the tax code, which will be a major asset to our clients."

Potter grew up in Ponte Vedra Beach and earned his undergraduate degree from Florida State University.

## Local educational toy brand to open retail store in Nocatee

ToyTopia by Safari Ltd. will open its doors in January 2022

Educational toy brand Safari Ltd. is planning to open its first interactive retail store, ToyTopia, in the Nocatee Town Center. The store will offer an immersive, modern shopping experience where children are encouraged to explore and interact with toys off the shelves.

The family-owned creator of Toys That Teach has been making educational figurines for nearly 40 years and recently relocated its headquarters to Jacksonville.

As parents, locals and third-generation business owners, the Pariente family plans to make ToyTopia a place where families can come together, play and take home quality toys.

When the Pariente family moved into the Nocatee community, they decided to

create a much-needed local toy store in their new home.

"The goal is to become the 'Cheers' of toy stores for Nocatee," said Christina Pariente, president of Safari Ltd. and mother of three. "Seriously! Toy stores should be fun. We want to be the place families go to relax and let their kids' imaginations run wild — you know, get all that energy out before bedtime!"

ToyTopia will carry the Safari Ltd. signature fan-favorite collections, which are carefully crafted and non-toxic. For years, the company's animal, dinosaur and mythical creature toys have been loved and trusted by parents, educators and creators alike. ToyTopia will also feature other trusted brands and



Photo provided by Safari Ltd.

**TOY STORE** continues on **Page 23** This rendering shows the future location of ToyTopia by Safari Ltd. in the Nocatee Town Center.

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Source: *Real Value of Joining a Local Chamber of Commerce*  
Shapiro Group, 2012.

# link

Continued from 17

technology to keep energy use at an optimum level, artificial intelligence to ensure security, strategies to promote wellness and much more.

It is a hub for tech entrepreneurs to launch their businesses. But the link is much more than that. It offers a variety of recreational and educational activities for the entrepreneurs' families and members from the community at large.

It is being called the first membership-based organization and venue where people of all ages can go to "learn, play, think and do" under one roof.

Misra, the founder and CEO of Wired-2Perform, unveiled his plan for the link in June 2020 during a groundbreaking ceremony. But it was an idea that went back to 2018 when he and wife Gurpreet were driving their son to taekwondo lessons half a mile from their home. During the hour-long class, the Misras waited in their car with little to do.

The experience inspired Raghu Misra to seek a way to reduce the two hours and make the remaining time more valuable. His solution was the link, where people could work while their families engaged in various activities on site, reducing the need for unnecessary commuting.

For the professional, the link offers a variety of office-space solutions, including desks, meeting rooms, virtual office space and a mail service.

For all members, there are activities,



The link is the newest addition to the Nocatee Town Center community.



classes, entertainment and more with an array of amenities.

In fact, kids' camps have already begun. Four robotic camps are being offered this summer. And the Cultural Center is conducting seven arts camps. STEAM

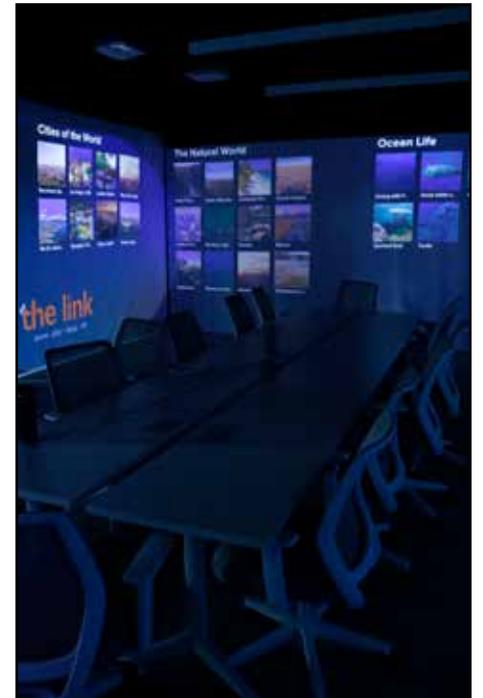


ABOVE: Large spaces at the link will be used for classes in yoga and martial arts.

LEFT: A grizzly made entirely of recycled flipflops — the work of Ocean Sole — stands near the entrance to the link.

week is planned for August. And Misra's nonprofit Sapna Foundation is offering additional courses.

There will be classes in martial arts, including kickboxing and jiu jitsu, physics, fencing and dance.



Photos by Shaun Ryan

The Flagler Health+ Immersive Studio walls display a menu of destinations and experiences that, once selected, can be projected all around occupants of the room.

The Flagler Health+ Immersive Studio is among the facility's most popular amenities. The meeting room's walls form a 360-degree environment that can put people inside videos from around the world and images from webcams. The studio is useful for virtual travel, demonstrations or relaxation.

Memberships are available to anyone in the community and surprisingly affordable. To learn more, go to [thelink.zone/membership](http://thelink.zone/membership).

# Toy Store

Continued from 22

products curated by the Parientes, such as BiOBUDDi plant-based building blocks, Folkmanis plush puppets and other popular, eco-friendly brands for kids of all ages.

The local toy store hopes to become a neighborhood hangout by hosting interactive sessions for kids, parent/child classes and more.

"We truly believe in the value of combining creativity, learning and imaginative play, especially in a world increasingly filled with screens," said Pariente.



Photo provided by Safari Ltd.

A selection of Safari Ltd. Figures is shown.

The store is scheduled to open in January 2022, but its owners aren't ruling out the possibility of an early opening in time for the holiday season.

ToyTopia will be an extension of Safari Ltd., which has been teaching kids about the natural world and encouraging its conservation through the joy of play. The company's sculptors and artists meticulously research every animal's anatomy — including consulting with paleontologists and zoologists — prior to creating a lifelike model. Each product is then manufactured and delicately hand-painted,

meaning no two Safari Ltd. figures are exactly alike.

"We look forward to being a neighborhood hangout where children can unleash their imaginations and create memorable moments in an experimental space," said Pariente. "Nocatee is a perfect community to launch our first retail store, and we can't wait to welcome kids and their families to ToyTopia!"



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# In the Arts



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THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021 • PAGE 24 [www.PonteVedraRecorder.com](http://www.PonteVedraRecorder.com)

## St. Johns County 200th Celebration continues with photography exhibition opening July 19

An opening reception for The 200th Anniversary photography exhibition titled “From River to Ocean” will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, July 19, at the St. Johns County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View.

Live music will be provided by the House Cats. Refreshments will be served.

Local photographers submitted photography depicting five districts throughout St. Johns County, and photos were chosen by a panel to be part of this exhibit. A total of 24 photographers were chosen, with 44 photographs on view in this display.

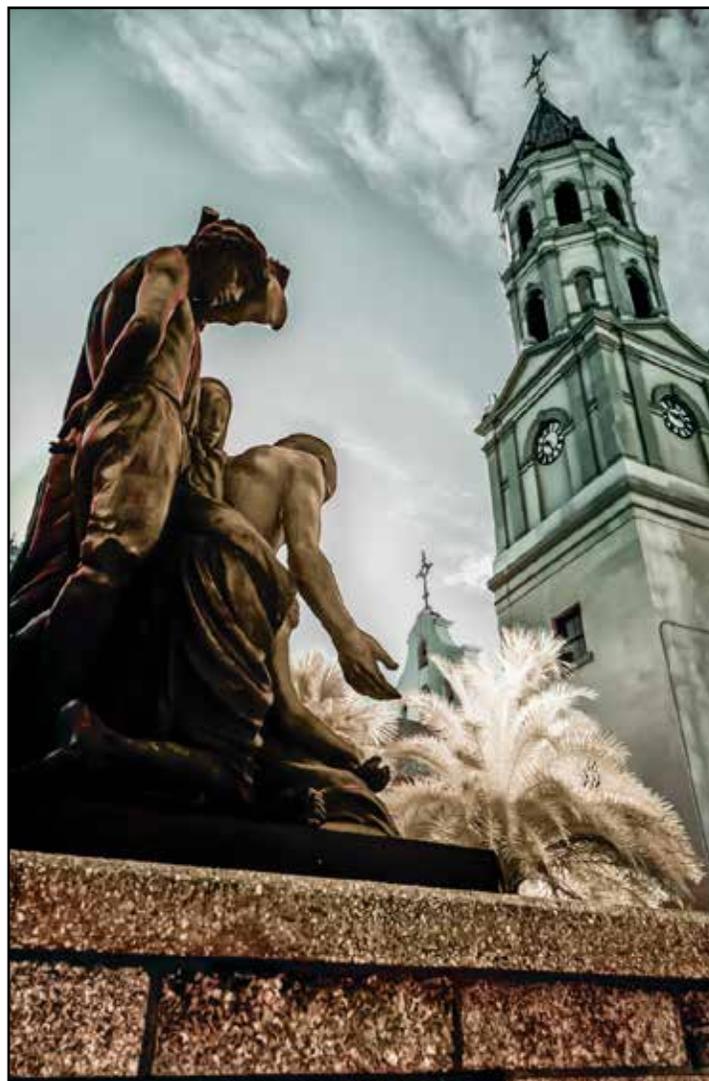
Admission is free to the opening reception and to view the artwork daily during regular hours, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. The 200th Anniversary photography exhibition will run through Jan. 3, 2022.



“Shands Pier Venus Belt” by John B. Merriam



“Pasture Morning” by Paul Coleman



“Menorcan Monument” by Byron Capo

Contributed photos



## Annual music event releases 2nd round of headliners

St. Johns County’s Month of Music continues to grow as the Sing Out Loud Festival adds more artists and venues to the festival lineup.

Beginning Sept. 10 and running through Sept. 26, the fifth annual Sing Out Loud Festival features more than 100 free and ticketed performances at various venues throughout St. Johns County. This second round of artists joining the lineup includes:

- Scottish singer/guitarist with endearing energy, KT Tunstall, performing at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Sunday, Sept. 19. Tickets are on sale at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) and at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office.
- The renowned Patty Griffin, known for her poignant and melodic folk-tinged tunes, joins as special guest to Yola on Sunday, Sept. 12, at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Tickets for this event are on sale now.

As with previous years, a portion of proceeds from ticketed events will benefit local charities. Thus far, beneficiaries of the fifth annual Sing Out Loud Festival include Port in the Storm, S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue, St. Johns County Legal Aid, Jax Legal Aid and Wildflower Clinic.

Joining the lineup with free performances are Mississippi Hill Country blues guitarist Cedric Burnside, New Orleans Big Sam’s Funky Nation, Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter John Paul White, non-traditional cellist with a soulful voice Ben Sollee, Americana singer/songwriter and instrumentalist Dylan LeBlanc, country-blues duo The Cactus Blossoms and indie guitar band Surfer Blood. Also free this year will be the Ancient City Poets Showcase followed by a Poetry Open Mic.

FESTIVAL continues on Page 26

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**ACROSS**

- 1. E-wallet content
- 6. Pen \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \*Rubik's \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Bryan Stevenson's "Just \_\_\_\_\_"
- 14. \*\_\_\_\_-Wan Kenobi
- 15. Egyptian falcon-headed deity
- 16. Top of a steeple
- 17. \*"\_\_\_\_-I-Am"
- 18. Vernacular
- 19. \*\*"Walking" spring toy
- 21. \*Purple dinosaur
- 23. Foot the bill

- 24. Smidgen
- 25. \*KIDZ \_\_\_\_\_
- 28. Like a mattress?
- 30. Stay clear of \_\_\_\_\_
- 35. \*Dumbo's were huge
- 37. \*Arnold Lobel's "Frog and \_\_\_\_\_"
- 39. Emotional punishment
- 40. At the summit of \_\_\_\_\_
- 41. Young hooter
- 43. Shakespeare's hometown river
- 44. Increase rpms (2 words)

- 46. \*Pinocchio or Baron Munchausen, e.g.
- 47. Retired, shortened
- 48. Soft palate vibrations
- 50. Bob of the boxing world
- 52. Bovine hangout
- 53. Give the cold shoulder
- 55. Unagi on sushi menu
- 57. \*Place called Sesame
- 60. \*Place for Pong and Pac-Man
- 63. Semolina source
- 64. It would
- 66. Mourning fabric
- 68. Arterial blood vessel
- 69. Atlantic catch
- 70. Partner of pains
- 71. Emeralds and rubies
- 72. \*One of "Little Women"
- 73. Haul something heavy

- 12. Eastern Standard Time
- 15. What bullies do
- 20. City in Japan
- 22. Past tense of eat
- 24. Popular salad dressing
- 25. \*Winnie and Paddington
- 26. Derived from oats
- 27. Utah city
- 29. Thanksgiving turkey, e.g.
- 31. Burn to a crisp
- 32. Václav of Czechoslovakia
- 33. Be theatrical
- 34. \*One of the Darling children
- 36. Horse prod
- 38. Letter opener
- 42. More true
- 45. Bygone Spanish money
- 49. "He said, \_\_\_ said"
- 51. Place that attracts visitors, pl.
- 54. Ancient city in Africa
- 56. Cooler climate conifer
- 57. \*\*"One, two, buckle my \_\_\_\_\_"
- 58. Four years in the White House, e.g.
- 59. \*\*\_\_\_\_ of NIMH"
- 60. \*\_\_\_\_ Walker, American Girl
- 61. \*"Matilda" and "The Gremlins" author
- 62. \*\*"The Three Musketeers" sword
- 63. Tail action
- 65. \*Huck's friend
- 67. Sixth sense

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# Apex Theatre Studio to perform 'Matilda Jr.' at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

Apex Theatre Studio will present "Matilda Jr." on July 23-24 at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

Rebellion is nigh in "Matilda Jr.," a gleefully witty ode to the anarchy of childhood and the power of imagination. This story of a girl who dreams of a better life and the children she inspires will have audiences rooting for the "revolting children," who are out to teach the grown-ups a lesson.

Matilda has astonishing wit, intelligence ... and special powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents, but impresses her school-teacher, the highly loveable Miss Honey.

Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however. The school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness and could be the school pupils' saving grace. Packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs, "Matilda Jr." is a joyous girl-power romp.

Tickets for Apex Theatre Studio's Matilda Jr. are on sale via Ticketmaster.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office remains closed at this time.

# Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach presents summer art camps

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach presents summer art camps in Jacksonville Beach and surrounding areas until Aug. 13.

The Cultural Center has served the community as a gathering place to learn, experience and appreciate the arts and culture in its many forms. The nonprofit provides opportunities for adults, children and families through classes, exhibits, programs, services, activities and memberships open to the local community, and beyond.

The Cultural Center is featuring camps for kids in Jacksonville Beach, located at 3972 3rd St. South, and surrounding area locations. The Cultural Center features local, regional, national and international artists, events, art classes, lectures, workshops and children's programming to include summer and winter camps, after-school programs and adult programming.

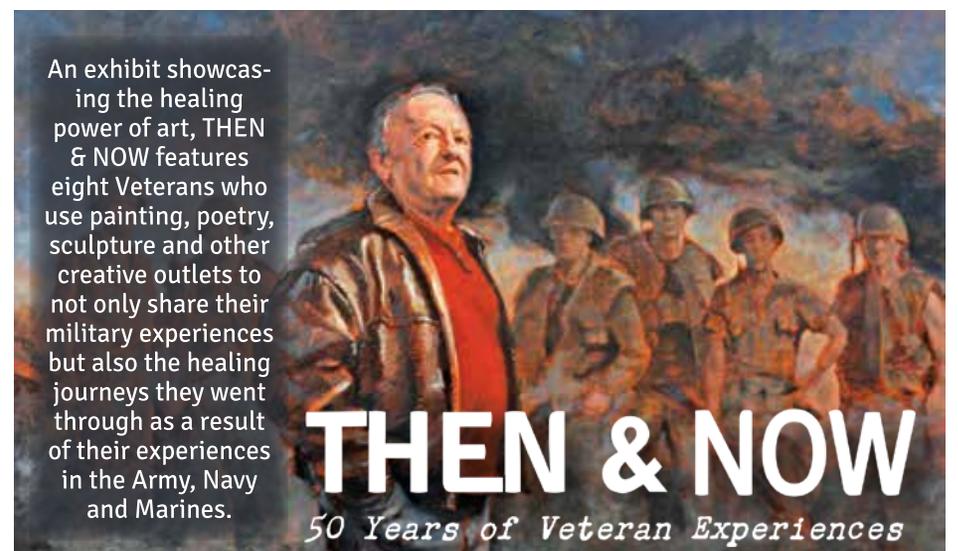
Summer camps will be held on Mondays through Fridays with half- and full-day programs from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. featuring activities for children from 4 to

11 years of age. Most camps cost \$225 per person, and member cost is \$199 per person. Themed classes are designed to ignite creativity and innovation in young minds through various innovative forms. For more information about camp schedules, locations, space availability and registration, go to [ccpvb.org/arts-programs/summer-art-camps](http://ccpvb.org/arts-programs/summer-art-camps).

Mural Week camp will be held from July 19 through July 23 as Northeast Florida is bursting with mural art. Campers will learn about various forms of public art and create their own mini murals. Mural pieces will be exhibited at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach for a pop-up exhibition on Friday, July 30, until Saturday, July 31. Campers will keep their artwork as mementos of their experience.

Space Camp will run from July 26 until July 30 with information about astronaut training and techniques, space hardware, spaceflight missions, aerospace livelihoods

CAMPS continues on Page 26



An exhibit showcasing the healing power of art, THEN & NOW features eight Veterans who use painting, poetry, sculpture and other creative outlets to not only share their military experiences but also the healing journeys they went through as a result of their experiences in the Army, Navy and Marines.

# THEN & NOW

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# Festival

Continued from 24

In addition to the live music performances, The St. Augustine Record Fair, presented by ToneVendor Records will take place Sunday, Sept. 26 at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre.

The festival will also feature a Music Industry Panel and Artist Workshop with industry professionals Steve Markland, VP A&R at Downtown Music Publishing Group, and Luke Pierce, Artist Management at WORKS Enter-

tainment, and songwriters Andy Albert, Justin Wilson, and Mark Irwin. The Music Industry Panel and Artist Workshop takes place at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Thursday, Sept. 23.

Participating Sing Out Loud Festival venues include The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, Colonial Oak Music Park, The Lightner Museum, Sarbez, Nobby's, Dog Rose Brewery, St. Augustine Distillery, Jenna Alexander x SunDay, and Prohibition Kitchen.

For more information about the festival and the current lineup, go to [www.singoutloudfestival.com](http://www.singoutloudfestival.com).

# World-renowned drummer and artist John Douglas to appear live at Jacksonville art gallery

Fresh off drumming with Aerosmith at the Grammy's and performing at the prestigious MusicCares — where Aerosmith was honored as the Person of the Year — John Douglas has been getting ready to continue his 2021 North American Art Tour and will make an appearance at Gallery 725 in downtown Jacksonville.

Gallery 725 will present Douglas' "High-Performance" fine art tour in its' limited engagement July 21 through July 30 with live appearances by Douglas from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 24, and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 25. All artwork will be on exhibition and available for acquisition.

Not only is Douglas' artwork of rock-and-roll icons some of the most famous and highly collected among celebrities and art enthusiasts around the world, but Douglas has toured the globe with multi-platinum musicians including ZZ Top, Slash, Van Halen and Bon Jovi. He is just back from playing the Grammy's and MusicCares with Aerosmith and, pre-COVID, was on tour with Aerosmith in the band's Las Vegas residency.

Along the way, he has created one-of-a-



Photo provided by John Douglas Art

**Artist John Douglas with Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler and Douglas' artwork.**

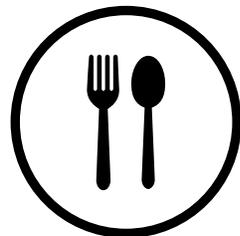
kind masterpieces of rock-and-roll icons including Joe Perry (Aerosmith), Stevie Nicks, Dave Grohl (Foo Fighters), Bono (U2) and The Rolling Stones.

The exhibition as well as the John Douglas in-gallery appearances are complimentary and open to the public, RSVPs are suggested through Eventbrite.

For more information, call (904) 345-9320 or email [galler725@gmail.com](mailto:galler725@gmail.com).



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# Camps

Continued from 25

and more. Preliminarily, an outer space-themed bubble painting Kid's Night Out will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. July 9.

Culinary Camp runs from Aug. 2-6 when campers learn to have fun with food preparation and learn about healthy eating, growing food and safely preparing meals. Young people will make their own snacks and lunches every day and learn about art-

fully plating their dishes.

STEAM Week camp from Aug. 9-13 will feature campers learning through fun experiments in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics and displays to bring home after the class.

Campers must bring their own set of handheld supplies due to COVID-19 protocols and their own snacks, waters and lunches and will also receive a supply list pertinent to each camp class. For more information, call (904) 280-0614, ext. 1206, or go to [www.ccpvb.org](http://www.ccpvb.org).

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# Sports



THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021 • PAGE 27

Send your sports news to  
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## Move to TE results in Coastal Carolina commitment for Nease senior

Grant Stevens adds big boost to Panthers' offense after making switch from WR position

By Anthony Richards

Nease High senior Grant Stevens made a concerted effort a couple of years ago to change not only his position on the field, but also his approach off the field.

He did so with the hope that it would give him a better shot at playing college football, and that came to fruition with his commitment to Coastal Carolina University on July 5.

Stevens made the switch to tight end last season after playing wide receiver his freshman and sophomore seasons.

As a tight end, he found himself a much more integral part of the Panthers' offense during his junior year and finished with 502



Photo provided by Grant Stevens

Nease assistant coach Robert Garth (left) and head coach Collin Drafts were on hand as Grant Stevens announced his decision during a ceremony at the school's football field on July 5.

yards and five touchdowns on 40 catches, which is something he looks to build on as a senior.

At 6 feet 4 inches and 225 pounds, Stevens has the mixture of size and speed that makes him a dangerous matchup for

opposing defenses.

"When I look back on it, I just don't think I was that good my freshman and sophomore years," Stevens said. "I noticed my junior year that I started getting a lot of balls thrown my way and plays drawn up for me."

As part of the position change, Stevens gained 35 pounds from his sophomore to his junior year, primarily due to changes in his dietary and workout routines.

"It basically took over my life," Stevens chuckled. "I was working out multiple times a day and eating 4,000 to 5,000 calories a day."

After his freshman year, Stevens met Nease assistant head coach Robert Garth and he has leaned on him for support ever since.

It was Garth who advised Stevens to consider the transition to tight end, and he has been there supporting Stevens along

STEVENS continues on Page 28

## North Florida Junior Golf Foundation announces scholarship recipients

The North Florida Junior Golf Foundation (NFJGF), Northeast Florida's premier junior golf tour, has announced the 2021 recipients of its annual college scholarship awards.

A total \$24,000 in scholarship funds have been awarded to five female junior golfers and foundation members who have upheld the values of the foundation and demonstrated a high level of academic achievement and a strong commitment to community involvement.

Each year, the foundation provides scholarships to deserving young men and women who display outstanding character and devotion to furthering their education. Since 2006, the foundation has presented more than \$180,000 in scholarships and has raised nearly \$300,000 for future foundation and junior golf scholarships.

Applicants are evaluated based on the following criteria: academic performance, extracurricular activities, personal statements, applicant interview, foundation activity, community involvement and financial need.

"On behalf of the NFJGF Foundation's Board of Directors, we are honored to announce our 2021 scholarship recipients," said Jim Houston, president of the board of directors and general manager of The Golf Club at South Hampton. "Each of the recipients not only embodies our foundation's core values of integrity, honesty and

fairness but strives for excellence in all aspects of her life, on and off the golf course. We are honored to help further their pursuit of their dreams and contributions to society through these scholarship awards."

The 2021 scholarship recipients are as follows:

### Bill Straub Sr. Scholarship — Kenzie Heba (\$10,000)



Kenzie Heba

Kenzie Heba of St. Augustine graduated from Bartram Trail High School with a 3.83 GPA and will attend the University of West Florida – Pensacola, where she will play on the women's golf team and plans to study nursing. She joined the foundation in 2017 and competed in 45 events.

### NFJGF Scholarship — Thanya Arasu (\$8,000)



Thanya Arasu

Thanya Arasu of St. Johns graduated from Nease High School with a 3.52 GPA and will attend Ohio University, where she will play on the women's golf team and plans to study biological sci-

ence with hopes of becoming a physician. She joined the foundation in 2018 and played in 52 events.

### Northern Chapter PGA Scholarship — Ashley Huffman (\$2,000)



Ashley Huffman

Ashley Huffman of Ponte Vedra Beach graduated from St. Johns Virtual School with a 3.94 GPA and will attend Jacksonville University, where she will play on the women's golf team and plans to study marketing. She joined the foundation in 2018 and competed in 37 events.

### Henry Tuten Gator Bowl Pro-Am Scholarship — Marissa Cardenas (\$2,000)



Marissa Cardenas

Marissa Cardenas of St. Augustine graduated from Nease High School with a 3.85 GPA and will attend Florida Southern College, where she will play on the women's golf team and plans to study graphic design and marketing. She joined the foundation in 2015 and competed in 84 events.

### Henry Tuten Gator Bowl Pro-Am Scholarship — Kylie Turner (\$2,000)



Kylie Turner

Kylie Turner of Jacksonville Beach graduated from Providence High School with a 3.85 GPA and will attend Flagler College, where she will play on the women's golf team and plans to study history and science. She joined the foundation in 2014 and competed in 58 events.

The North Florida Junior Golf Foundation provides local junior golfers, ages 7-18, an opportunity to play in competitive tournaments that are affordable, professional and consistent with the USGA Rules of Golf and the Conditions of Competition.

The tournaments and events provide an opportunity for junior golfers to build a solid foundation, gain tournament experience and compete among their peers for the love of the game while developing the values of honesty, integrity and fairness.

For more information on the North Florida Junior Golf Foundation scholarships and applicant requirements, go to [nfjg.org/scholarships](http://nfjg.org/scholarships).

More information about the foundation can be found at [www.nfjg.org](http://www.nfjg.org).

## Mickler's Landing set to host NFBC beach ride July 18

By Anthony Richards

The North Florida Bike Club will hold a Beach Bike Sunday ride beginning and finishing at Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park on July 18.

Riders will depart at 7 a.m. and the route will be along the beach for 14.5 miles before turning around at Hanna Park and heading back to Mickler's.

According to Jonathan Tomassetti, member of the NFBC's board of directors, starting at 7 a.m. will not only help beat the summer heat, but it will also help in conjunction with ocean tides.

"Low tide will be about 9:30 a.m., so we will hit it just right," Tomassetti said. "It should take about three hours to do the ride."

The North Florida Bike Club holds several rides throughout the region, but Mickler's has been part of the Beach Bike Sunday rotation since 2015.

Tomassetti has found that the hard-packed sand is ideal for riding bicycles on.

"Here in North Florida, we are one of the only places in the world where you can ride a bicycle for long distances along the beach," Tomassetti said.

He has been a club member since 1996 and has seen it grow over the years to the point where they have more than 1,000 members.

"We've gradually been getting better bike infrastructure around the area," Tomassetti said. "There are more bike lanes



Photo provided by Jonathan Tomassetti/North Florida Bicycle Club

### Cyclists get ready at a past Beach Bike Sunday ride in Ponte Vedra Beach.

and bike trails, which means it's getting safer to ride."

Although the worry of cars will not be on the mind of riders like it would on the road, Tomassetti was quick to point out that other beachgoers and people fishing are the two prominent things riders must be aware of.

With the Tour de France, the most famous bicycle race in the world, taking place, Tomassetti usually notices an increase in questions and interest about the NFBC by people in the public.

He also expects the races during the Olympics to generate some interest as well this year.

However, the Tour de France and the Olympics will only add to the already established growth of interest that the pandemic created.

"We've been seeing more numbers

this year because during the pandemic people wanted to get out and find ways to move around where they could still be distanced from others," Tomassetti said.

A bike with wider tires is recommended for the beach sand as opposed to the thinner tires used on pavement.

An array of bikes, including mountain bikes, beach cruisers, fat-tire bikes and gravel bikes will do the job. Bike helmets are also required to ride.

For those interested in taking part or looking for more information can go to [www.nfbc.us](http://www.nfbc.us) to learn more or sign up with the club.

According to Tomassetti, visitors to the club get three rides to try it out before any fees are asked of them.

"It gives them a chance to see if they like it before making a decision," Tomassetti said.

## Furyk rebounds after rocky start to capture U.S. Senior Open Championship

After making bogey-double bogey on his second and third holes to lose most of the four-stroke lead he began the day with in the 41st U.S. Senior Open, Jim Furyk got back to what has made him one of the best players of his era and the 2003 U.S. Open champion: consistency.

The championship was played July 8-11 at the Omaha (Nebraska) Country Club.

Furyk, 51, settled down and played 2-under-par golf over the next 11 holes to restore his advantage and went on to capture the championship in his debut.

He completed a final round of 1-over-par 71 for a total of 7-under 273, good for a three-stroke victory over two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen and 2003 Masters winner Mike Weir.

The victory made Furyk the eighth man to win both the U.S. Open and U.S. Senior Open titles, joining a list that includes Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Hale Irwin and Lee Trevino.

"I'm not sure I ever felt comfortable out there," said Furyk, whose middle rounds of 64-66 tied the championship scoring record. "This is a dangerous golf course — you're not worried about making low scores; you're worried about making 'others.' I just tried to worry about my own game, and on No. 17 it was a relief to see where I stood and know that a 4 or 5 on 18 would win the tournament."

Furyk nearly holed a long putt from 75 feet on the final hole before tapping in for par, giving him his third victory as an over-50 player and first senior major.

Furyk and Stephen Ames, who began the day in solo second place, both made double bogey out of treacherous lies in the left bunker on the par-3 third, which left Goosen just one stroke back.

But Furyk settled in with a pair of routine pars and his first birdie of the day on the par-5 sixth, while Goosen made a three-putt bogey on No. 5. After that, Furyk was never seriously threatened.

"I think I got a little greedy [out of the bunker] and tried to throw it across the green a little farther and maybe give myself a 10- or 15-footer for par," said Furyk. "I was just a little mad at myself for turning a 4 into a 5, which you got a big lead going into Sunday, that's what you're trying to avoid. So I was really just trying to collect myself, and I thought the tee shot at 4 and the iron shot at 4 were very key. I hit two very good shots and gave myself a good look at birdie."

Weir and Rod Pamplung both made birdies on No. 18 to complete 3-under 67s, the best rounds of the day.

## Stevens

Continued from 27

the way, including during his daily workout sessions.

"He has really pushed to not only gain weight, but get faster," Stevens said. "I pretty much credit all of my transition from the beginning to now to him for all he's done for me."

Twenty-four schools offered Stevens a scholarship and after taking several trips to campuses, including two to Coastal Carolina, it was his official visit to CCU in late June that secured his final decision.

He went to several other official visits after CCU, but nothing could top the feeling he left there with.

"I went there and right away I loved it," Stevens said. "It just felt like family with the coaches and especially getting to hang out with the players."

According to Stevens, he was able to talk a lot with current Chanticleer senior tight end Isaiah Likely about what it is like to play in the program.

Stevens said his mom has been very involved and someone he has shared discussions with throughout the process.

"When it actually came down to making a decision, the last three weeks to a month of narrowing down schools was very stressful," Stevens said. "Once I committed, it was like a weight off my shoulders."

Stevens will be given the opportunity to play early in his college career with the Chanticleers, which is something that intrigued him.

Coastal Carolina left their mark on the college football world



Photo provided by Grant Stevens

### Grant Stevens committed to play football at Coastal Carolina on July 5. He took an official visit to the school with his sister Grayle (left) and mom Angela (right) in late June.

last season by going 11-1 and being named co-champions of the Sun Belt Conference.

According to Stevens, watching that success played a factor in what he believes they are capable of as a program in the future.

"I don't think they're going to be good one year and then you'll never see them again," Stevens said. "My class will be the highest recruiting class that they've ever had, so they are only working on building on it."

With Stevens, the Chanticleers' 2022 recruiting class is currently ranked No. 1 in the Sun Belt Conference and No. 51 nationally according to 247Sports.

# Blind golf's best to play TPC Sawgrass in 2022

By Anthony Richards

The best blind golfers in the world will take aim at TPC Sawgrass at the 2022 ISPS Handa Vision Cup.

The event is scheduled for Sept. 18-22, 2022, and although it is a year away there already seems to be buzz in the air about playing at such a world-renowned course.

Vision Cup committee chairman Paul McCormack is excited a relationship with TPC Sawgrass has been developed and believes it is the most marquee venue the Vision Cup has been to.

"It's the biggest event in blind golf worldwide," McCormack said. "The fact that the United States was hosting it, I like to aim high."

Not only did McCormack aim high, but he hit the bullseye on the target.

"It's a bucket list course, and we are so privileged to be able to play it," McCormack said.

The past two Vision Cups have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the last one being played in 2019 at Portmarnock Links Golf Club in Dublin, Ireland. After some time off, the tournament has lined up a grand way to welcome itself back to the golf world.

According to McCormack, he reached out to Matt Borocz, head golf professional at TPC Sawgrass, and the two began having a conversation.



Vision Cup teams at the opening ceremony at Portmarnock Links Golf Club in Dublin, Ireland in 2019.

"It came about quickly," McCormack said. "It's not just an opportunity to promote blind golf, but blind sports as a whole in America."

McCormack is legally blind after losing his sight because of the fumes he was around while assisting in the search and cleanup efforts following the 9/11 terrorist attacks as an investigator with the New York Police Department.

"Losing your sight can definitely halt your life," McCormack said. "It can be a lonely place, but golfing is good for the mind and body."

He had played a lot of golf prior to going blind, but he noticed he was having trouble seeing the ball and he was slowing down

the guys he played with.

According to McCormack, he thought his days of playing golf were over until he found out about blind golf about six years ago.

Now he is not only the Vision Cup's committee chairman, but he has also won the 2016 and 2017 U.S. Open Blind Golf Championships and the 2017 British Open Blind Golf Championship.

"You've got guys playing out there that can drive the ball 250 yards," McCormack said.

The tournament format will be like the President's Cup, which pits teams against each other with a combination of foursome and singles play.



Photos provided by Paul McCormack  
Paul McCormack sinks a putt on his way to winning the 2017 U.S. Open Blind Golf Championship in Tucson, Arizona.

McCormack also plans to hold his annual Ground Zero 360 fundraising golf event in September 2022 leading up to the Vision Cup.

"It's all about keeping the memory of those who died alive," McCormack said.

Although the events are more than a year away, McCormack urged the importance of finding help within the community to make them both successful endeavors.

To find out more about how to get involved send an email to paul.mccormack@groundzero360.org.

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