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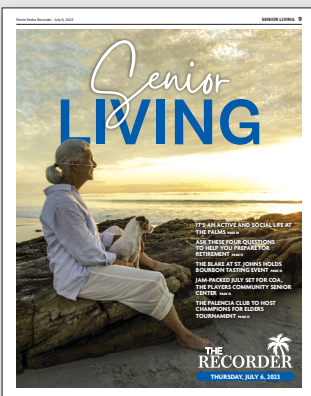


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July 6, 2023
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Serving Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, The Beaches and Greater St. Johns County

PonteVedraRecorder.com



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



Photo by Susan Griffin

Patriotism was in full swing as a bevy of decorated golf carts came out to celebrate America's birthday in the annual Nocatee Fourth of July golf cart parade. Find more photos from the parade on page 3.

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INSIDE

One of Us

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Business Weekly

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In the Arts

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Sports

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Send us your news

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



Visit our new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

BRIEFS

Family Summer Make-A-Craft Day is Saturday at library

Saturday, July 8, will be a fun-filled day of creativity and adventure at the Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library. The event runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.

This event promises something for everyone in the family, with engaging activities tailored for kids and adults. Explore your artistic side and make lasting memories. There will be crafts for kids, activities for babies and toddlers and for teens/adults planting plants/designing painted rocks. It will be an opportunity to create beautiful personalized keepsakes.

Finally, everyone will embark on a scavenger hunt that will take them on an outdoor adventure all around the library. Test your skills, solve clues and discover hidden treasures.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library.

For further information, contact Joan Meyers at 904-827-6950 or email jmeyers@sjcfl.us.

Handwriting workshop to be offered

The Morris Center Ponte Vedra Beach, in collaboration with The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, will offer a free handwriting workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 15, for children ages 5-12.

Parents are required to stay at the clinic during the workshop. Light refreshments will be provided.

To register your child, complete and submit the registration form at mailchi.mp/b6f2b74d5efa/3nsfq26vr4. Within 48 hours a team member from The Morris Center Ponte Vedra Beach will contact you to confirm your registration and schedule. Limited availability.

Grief support group to meet

A grief support group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Room 107 of the Family Life Center, 578 First Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. July 19. For information, call Kathy at 553-8933.

Palm Valley Market every Tuesday

The Palm Valley Market is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday inside the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Road. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, local

honey, tea, seasonal treats, soap, jewelry, plants and more.

American Airlines to provide service from JAX to Phoenix

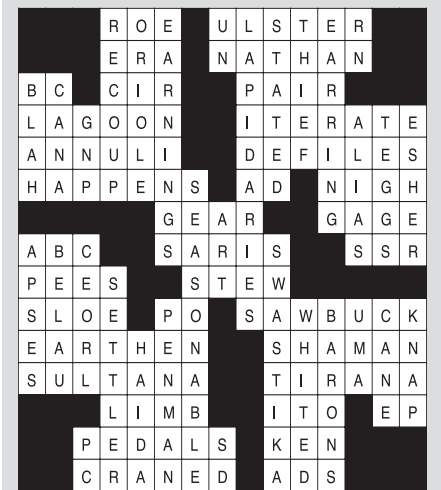
American Airlines will offer new, nonstop service from Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) starting on Nov. 5.

The flight will depart Phoenix at 5 p.m. MST, landing in Jacksonville at 10:01 p.m. EST. The return flight will depart Jacksonville at 8 a.m. EST, arriving at Phoenix at 9:37 a.m. MST.

Strong business ties between Jacksonville and

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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

Continued from 2

Phoenix were one of the contributing factors for adding the new service. Both cities are home to Mayo Clinic campuses.

The airline currently offers non-stop service from JAX to Austin, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

For fares, reservations, comprehensive flight schedules and more information, go to www.aa.com.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

GOLF CART PARADE

View more photos from Nocatee's 6th annual Independence Day Golf Cart Parade online at www.pontevedrerecorder.com.

Photos by Susan Griffin



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Charity bike ride set to come through Ponte Vedra July 10-11

By Anthony Richards

Paul Anderson Youth Home will hold its 18th annual bike ride July 8 to July 14, and Ponte Vedra Beach is one of the stops along the route.

It is a long-distance ride that will stretch across Georgia and Florida as part of the riders' journey.

Paul Anderson Youth Home is a fully accredited and licensed program located in Vidalia, Georgia, dedicated to offering help to young men facing serious trouble or incarceration for six decades.

What makes the ride even more special is that five young men from the home will be the ones going on the journey together.

This year will also be one of change for the bike ride, which will take its next step in the event's growth by expanding this year from five to seven days.

With the addition of the two days, the five riders are projected to cover more than 520 miles.

Along those many miles covered will include a day three stop in Ponte Vedra on July 10 and then leaving from Ponte Vedra and riding 92 miles to St. Simons Island on July 11.

Ponte Vedra will mark the farthest south this year's route will go.

Since its beginning, the Paul Anderson Bike Ride has commemorated a foundational moment in the history of the Paul Anderson Youth Home, because at its founding in 1961, former Olympic gold-medal winner and the home's namesake Paul Anderson decided to ride a bicycle from Vidalia, Georgia, to Omaha, Ne-



Photo courtesy of Paul Anderson Youth Home

The ride will not just be a physical challenge but will also test the mental strength and fortitude of the five riders, who are also members of the youth home's program.

braska.

That 1,200-mile trek was the start of a fundraising tradition that is welded into the fabric of the foundation.

Anderson's motivation then was the same as the five riders who prepare to embark on a similar journey of their own.

The mission for the ride continues to serve the overall goal of the organization, which is to raise funds and awareness of the mission to give troubled youth a second chance through Christ.

Since its founding more than 60 years ago, the ministry has celebrated more than 1,400 lives changed through a process of recovery, restoration and redemption.

"Paul was an incredibly determined man, so when he decided to ride a bike 1,200 miles to Omaha. I felt it was Christ working through him," said Glenda Anderson Leonard, co-founder and president of Paul Anderson Youth Home. "All these years later, I get the same feeling when these strong young men take to the road, keeping Paul's legacy of faith and fitness alive."

The five riders, like all other young men in the program, have been working to overcome a range of challenges, including emotional issues, substance abuse, legal trouble and spiritual deficiencies.

The ride will not just be a physical challenge but will also test the mental

strength and fortitude of the riders, while they also work to grow their relationship with God during the ride.

"It takes character to volunteer for this ride, because it is not easy," Anderson Leonard said. "This endeavor honors the young men's commitment to changing their lives, accepting the Lord's word, and the memory of Paul, who was such a gifted athlete."

Funds raised will allow the youth home to more effectively carry out its mission of helping those troubled.

Supporters can meet the riders, contribute to their success and become a part of the organization's family of support by going to payh.org and clicking on the donate or get involved tabs.



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Cynthia Steers has lived in the area for 26 years and always made candles as a hobby for her family and friends. However, about a year ago she decided to turn her love of candle making into a business of her own called Simply Cynthia. She continues to grow her selection of scents while she develops new customers and educates the public by offering candles that do not just smell good but also do not contain certain harmful chemicals.

Cynthia Steers

As told to Anthony Richards

What led you to the creation of Simply Cynthia?

What led me to do this is that a lot of people don't realize that a lot of candles you buy from the store have all sorts of chemicals and bad things for you in them. It's something that the average shopper just does not realize.

I wanted to help educate people and offer up a healthy alternative with nothing that can disrupt your endocrine system. My scents are very pure, and I use natural soy in my candles.

I turned it into an actual business about a year ago after making candles for a long time for friends and family, and have been selling at the Palm Valley Market since September.

One of my sons actually came up with the design of my logo while he was in college.

How long does it take typically to make a candle?

All of my candles are blends, which makes me unique because you won't be able to get this exact blend anywhere else.

Once I get an idea for a blend, I start with blotter strips, which are cardboard or poster board strips, and then take the fragrance oils and put them on the strips and in a baggie for 24 hours.

I'll come back and see how the smell is and if I like the mix then I'll pour a candle with that mix.

A soy wax candle takes 10 to 14 days to fully cure after you've poured it.

You can burn them before that, but to get the wax and the fragrance oil fully blended makes a difference, so I would definitely recommend waiting it out.

Are you always trying to think of new scents to add?

I am always thinking of new ones and new names.

Some of the names are based on Bible verses, such as "With God, all things are possible," and it also has a Bible verse on the side of it.

I have a lot of scents that are pretty seasonal, as I have a lot of citrus and florals right now for the summer.

To my surprise, pine is a scent that sells well all year long, so that's a popular one. I discovered that after putting it away in January and then people were still asking for it.

Even with that, every week is different when it comes to what scents people will like that week.

I can't just say that one is my No. 1 seller because every week is truly different. You just never know which direction people's noses will take them.

What are some of your more interesting scents?

Vanilla and tobacco is one that is very interesting but one that people like the smell of.

A friend of mine actually mentioned one day that she had once bought a vanilla and tobacco candle and asked if I thought I could do something like that, and I wanted to give it a try.

You'd be surprised which combinations work well together to make an amazing scent.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Cynthia Steers has always loved making candles and a year ago started her business Simply Cynthia and is a regular vendor at the Palm Valley Market.

Not just developing scents, but actually building upon them and making them better is what it's all about.

I also have wax molds for people that are looking for that.

What has the feedback been like since starting Simply Cynthia?

I've started to develop many regular customers, which is always such a great feeling.

I enjoy the feedback because people will ask me what my favorite is and it's so hard to choose, because they are all my babies and it's impossible to choose just one.

I think people want to support local and small businesses and the Palm Valley Market is the perfect place to make sure you find that.

I would really like to give a shout out to Lisa Struble and Dr. Leslie Taylor for encouraging me to be part of the Palm Valley Market. It really helped to jump start my business.

New president for Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach installed its new president, Jennifer Logue, on Thursday, June 30, at the club's final meeting of the 2022-23 year, held at Marsh Landing Country Club.

Logue succeeds Ronald "Doc" Renuart, who offered a review of the club's many activities and accomplishments achieved during the past Rotary year.

In addition to donating more than \$90,000 to local charities and nonprofit organizations from the club's Mineral City Celebration, Renuart noted, club members contributed to Rotary International's efforts to eradicate polio and aid the people of Ukraine.

Ponte Vedra Beach Rotarians also participated in numerous local service projects — from conducting regular cleanups of AIA and volunteering for Habitat to Humanity to preparing dinner for cancer and organ transplant patients at Gabriel House of Care.

The club also held its annual Local Heroes Awards, honoring the "unsung heroes" in the community.

In addition to thanking the board of



Doc Renuart presents Byron Miller with the Rookie of the Year Award.

directors for its support, Renuart presented the Rookie of the Year Award to new member Byron Miller. The Rotarian of the Year Award, meanwhile, was presented to Lorraine Dorsa in recognition of her longstanding exemplary service as club treasurer.

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach holds weekly breakfast meetings at 7:30 a.m. at Marsh Landing Country Club. To learn about becoming a member or for more information, contact pvbrotary-club@gmail.com.



Contributed photos
Jennifer Logue presents outgoing President Doc Renuart with his President's Plaque.

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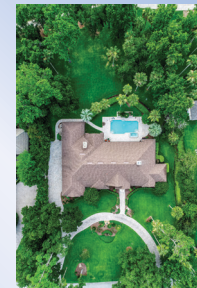


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Buzzer beater secures Brown Family YMCA All-stars title

The Brown Family YMCA Fifth Grade All-stars won back-to-back games to win the Junior All-American Basketball League fourth/fifth grade girls championship on May 21.

After a tough 19-15 loss on opening night to the Wolfpack, the Fifth Grade All-stars responded with three consecutive wins, including a 15-13 thriller against the rival Wolfpack in the tournament finals.

The Fifth Grade All-Stars from Ponte Vedra survived a tough game against the Brown Family YMCA Third/Fourth Grade All-Stars 10-4 and the same two teams met in the semifinals that the fifth graders won once again, 20-10.

“We are very proud of all the girls in the program,” Fifth Grade All-stars head coach Bill Grant said. “It was great to see them compete against one another in such a competitive environment. All the coaches are very proud of how far our teams have come since we started.”

The semifinal victory set the stage for the fourth meeting between the All-stars and the Wolfpack this spring season, and the Wolfpack held a 3-0 record against the All-stars heading into the championship game.

However, the margin of victory over the span of those three games was trending in the All-stars direction and Grant’s squad was primed and ready to



Contributed photo

The Brown Family YMCA Fifth Grade All-stars hit a buzzer beater to win the Junior All-American Basketball League fourth/fifth grade girls championship on May 21.

pull off the upset over the very talented Wolfpack.

“We try to teach the girls that every possession and every play on both ends of the court matters,” Grant said. “Play as hard as you can through the whistle and the rest will take care of itself.”

The Wolfpack found themselves with the ball and eight seconds remaining in the game but after inbounding the ball, All-stars point guard Teagan McKenney was able to get a hand on a loose ball that deflected off a Wolfpack guard and scooped up the ball with five seconds remaining.

As though it were a made-for-television movie, McKenney raced freely down the floor with the time on the clock being the only thing that could stop her and with one second remaining she released the ball from the right side of the paint and connected on the game winning layup as time expired to claim the All-stars’ first tournament championship.

McKenney and Lexi Davis led the All-Stars with six points each.

“It took every ounce of effort and energy we had on the roster to pull this one out,” Grant said. “These eight girls should be very proud of their accomplishment this weekend; it was truly a team effort.”

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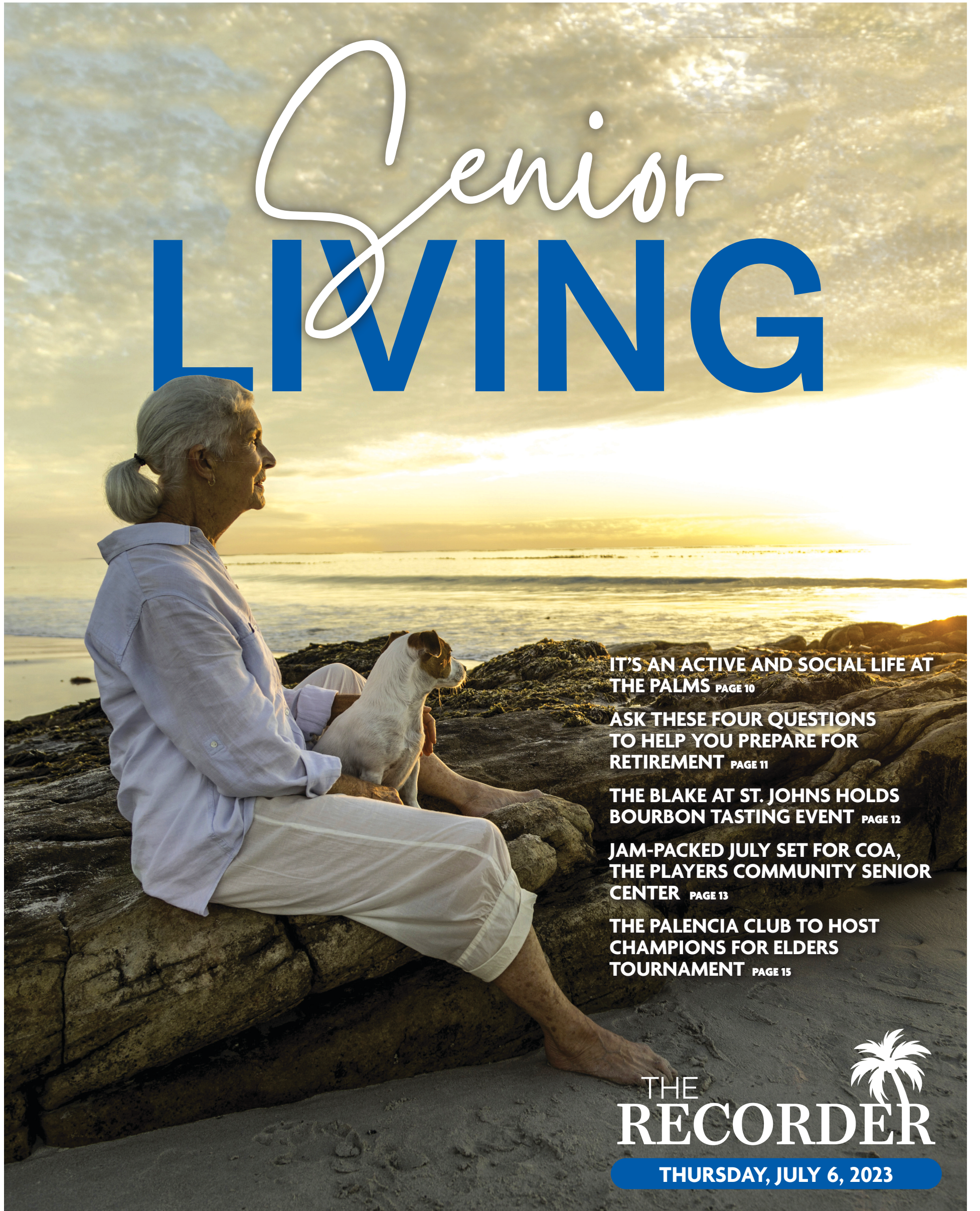


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Senior LIVING



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THE PALENCIA CLUB TO HOST CHAMPIONS FOR ELDERS TOURNAMENT PAGE 15

THE
RECORDER



THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023

GUEST COLUMN

It's an active and social life at The Palms

The thought of placing a loved one in a retirement home setting is quite a burden to bear. You've heard it all about folks feeling couped up with a minimal amount of interaction, less than comfortable visiting accommodations for family and not much going on outside of their living quarters to keep them socially engaged or keeping their minds active.

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essential part of that is for them to do things they enjoy and keep their acuity sharp. This is important in both the assisted living and memory care residences.

There is a study/library with plenty of books, and a PC with internet access to exchange emails with friends and family and keep in touch with the information

superhighway and its everchanging world of technology.

Residents can team up with their favorite neighbors and play bridge or mahjong, or compete solo against a tableful of poker enthusiasts. For one-on-one or team table games, the billiard room is known to host a pick-up game and in-house tournaments alike, as well as a shuffleboard table.

If there's a love for arts and crafts, The Palms has a dedicated activity room that houses abundant crafting supplies, and science materials for those analytically engaged folks. If outdoor activity is preferred, a green thumb can be put to the test in the herb garden. Sharing favorite culinary offerings and family recipes is no problem with propane grills in the courtyard. The Palms even has a putting green for keeping the short game up to snuff.

THE PALMS continues on **Page 14**

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GUEST COLUMN

Ask these four questions to help you prepare for retirement

Written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors

To determine how much you will need to fund your retirement, it's helpful to estimate what your budget will look like. These four questions could help you identify your retirement lifestyle and plan for the related costs.

1. What will I be doing?

- Do I plan to continue working past age 65 or after I reach my full retirement age? Full time or part time?
- Are there hobbies I want to pursue that will either cost money or make money?
- Is there volunteer work that may also have costs associated?
- Do I plan to travel? Where?
- Are there things I enjoy that have related costs?

2. Where will I be living?

- Will I stay in my current home or downsize to something smaller or a rental property?
- Will I move to a retirement community or assisted living facility?
- Will I sell my home and replace it with an RV or other alternative living option?

3. What situations could impact my expenditures?

- What health care coverage do I need for my health conditions?
- Do I have an emergency fund for unexpected situations such as a health care crisis or property loss due to a natural disaster?
- What if I stop working sooner than expected?
- What happens if I experience a significant income loss?

4. What barriers are keeping me from investing?

- I have nothing extra to invest.
- I have education loans or other debt.
- I don't know how to start an investment plan.
- I have time to start saving later.

Next steps

Prepare rather than panic. Create an outline from your answers to these questions. It should give you the framework to calculate the income you may need to support your retirement lifestyle.

Decide to adjust your spending patterns today. Choose something you really don't need and redirect that amount into your



retirement savings. Take advantage of growth potential over time. Pay yourself first instead of spending money on something that won't support your future retirement needs. Creating that nest egg now could reduce your stress about money.

Start or add to an emergency fund. Even if the amount seems very small, it's important to take the first step. As that

RETIREMENT continues on Page 15



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Photos by Susan Griffin

The Blake at St. Johns held a pre-leasing event and bourbon tasting at Ember & Iron on June 29.

The Blake at St. Johns holds bourbon tasting event

The Blake at St. Johns held a pre-leasing event that also served as a meet and greet and bourbon tasting at Ember & Iron in St. Johns on June 29. The Blake is currently forming a founders club for potential new residences.



Mark Kurtz with Heaven Hill Brands speaks to those in attendance during the bourbon tasting portion of the event.

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Jam-packed July set for COA, THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center

By Anthony Richards

July looks to be a full month for the St. Johns County Council on Aging at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center with a calendar full of events and exciting things for the older members of the community to enjoy.

For those who love to travel and the adventure of seeing new places and experiencing various cultures, the COA's travel club will hold a meeting July 11 at 11 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center.

There will also be several free lectures taking place throughout the month at the center, including one about both myths and facts surrounding hospice and its approach to care presented by Community Hospice and Palliative Care.

Other lectures on the horizon in July include the COA's Integrated Memory Enhancement Program, which will dive into the topics of brain health and attempt to help answer the question of whether certain degrees of forgetfulness are expected or not and certain exercises that could be done to help brain strength dur-



ing a July 20 discussion at 11 a.m.

As technology develops the ways in which fraud and scams are used continue to morph as well.

Because of this, and the fact that senior citizens have been shown to be heavily targeted by scammers, there will be a consumer protection outreach presented by members of the state of Florida's of-

office of the attorney general July 18 beginning at 11 a.m.

They will discuss what to look for and how to pinpoint when interacting with a scammer and how to best handle the situation if presented with it.

The Palms at Ponte Vedra will offer free blood pressure screenings at the center for an hour starting at 11 a.m. July 13.

There are also several classes that have become monthly traditions at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, and one of these includes line dancing classes, which will be held each Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. throughout the month.

However, there are also interesting things going on for senior citizens elsewhere around the Ponte Vedra area, such as a class on how to properly pickle just about anything.

The pickling class will be held at the COA office at Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee located at 351 Town Plaza Ave., Suite 205 in Ponte Vedra on July 25 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Participants of the pickling class will learn how to make quick pickles and how to refrigerate pickles in a variety of styles, as well as tasting a variety of pickles found in international cuisines.

Professor James M. Carucci, who teaches biological sciences at St. Johns River State College and is also a master herbalist and personal chef will lead the class.



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The Palms

Continued from 10

There is not enough time in the day to do everything The Palms has under its roof. The Better Health Channel website has a good article about the importance of staying mentally active and its role in healthy aging.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Palms at Ponte Vedra residents go beyond staying busy; they do it together. Building loving friendships with neighbors and gathering with groups of other people who share the same interests is inevitable.

Before they know it, camaraderie has nudged its way into their hearts. The Palms has plenty of happenings in store to sit back and enjoy time with others. Live music performances are a crowd favorite at The Palms. Gathering in the lounge for happy hour or enjoying a favorite scoop of ice cream in the parlor brings smiles. Happy hour and lunch are also available in the outdoor courtyard equipped with a social walkway, ambient firepit and a beautiful view of an 11-acre wildlife preserve.

Movie buffs get the full theater experience with fresh-popped popcorn and a 32-seat classic theater. Spiritual well-being and relationships are encouraged and developed in the non-denominational



chapel, complete with Bible study meetings.

At The Palms, the staff knows how important it is to keep residents living as independently as possible. Their approach to social and personally enriching activities is the heart and soul of their foundation.

By staying active and engaged, a long and happy life is on the horizon.

The staff loves it when family members come join in and experience the fun and frivolities for themselves. There is peace of mind knowing a loved one is happy, healthy, active, well cared for and most of all social. From their neighbors all the way through every member of the staff, people are known by name and recognized for their skills and interests. People get to know each other at The Palms.

Make contact with The Palms at Ponte Vedra today and schedule a family tour, and see for yourself what makes it a good choice in assisted and memory care living.



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The Palencia Club to host Champions for Elders Tournament

The Council on Aging invites the St. Johns County community to participate in its 20th Annual Island Doctors Champions for Elders Golf Tournament to benefit the COA on Monday, August 14 at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine.

Sponsors are invited to bring a team of four to enjoy a day of golf followed by a celebratory luncheon or participate as a sponsor off the course and support the important work COA does every day for local seniors and caregivers.

As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, COA relies upon the financial support of members of the community to support its important work and asks anyone in the community to join title sponsor Island Doctors and other caring individuals, churches, and businesses in being there for our community's elders.

For the second year in a row, Island Doctors is the title sponsor of the event.

"We are very excited to be able to help Council on Aging serve more seniors and caregivers in St. Johns County," said Roy H. Hinman, II, M.D., chief medical officer of Island Doctors MSO. "This event is

a fantastic way to help our community's elders."

For more information and to register to participate as a sponsor and/or playing in the event as a team, please contact COA's Janel Graham at 904-209-3697 or via email at jgraham@coasjc.org.

A list of sponsorship and participation levels and benefits can be found by going to www.coasjc.org/champions.

Caring Partner and Playing Team sponsorship levels includes eight complimentary tickets to the COA's companion gala on the evening August 13th on the Matanzas at River House located at 179 Marine St., in St. Augustine. For more information on the gala, go to www.coasjc.org/gala.

The COA provides an extensive array of services for area seniors including Meals on Wheels, independent living services, case management, memory enhancement programs, therapeutic adult daycare, transportation, prescription assistance, and more.

"The St. Johns County community is committed to being there for our elders and caregivers," COA executive director

Becky Yanni said. "We rely upon the generosity and good will of local businesses and members of the community to make

this possible. Our annual Champions for Elders golf tournament is crucial to our ability to serve."



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Retirement

Continued from 11

amount grows and the behavior becomes a habit, you will likely gain confidence and momentum in your investment activities.

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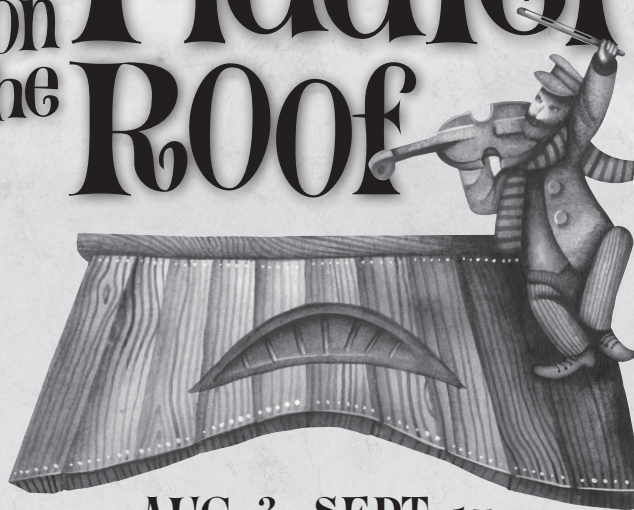
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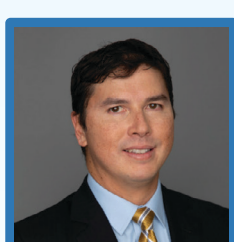



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Business Weekly

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

New theatre company to offer camps this month

By Shaun Ryan

In April, the Ponte Vedra High School Theater Department, under the direction of drama teacher Jason Nettle, presented “Disney Descendants The Musical.” Concurrently, Nettle and wife Katie held a “Descendants” camp for elementary school children.

The idea was to have the children learn a couple of the show’s songs alongside the teen performers. The response was huge; 75 kids signed up.

“We had no idea it would turn out like that,” Katie Nettle said.

There was clearly a demand for a musical theatre outlet for local children.

The Nettles have since launched a musical theatre company, Musical Theatre Ponte Vedra (MTPV), and its inaugural summer camps will be held this month.

“Broadway Bound,” for kids in kinder-

garten through grade eight, will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 10-13, with a showcase at 1 p.m. the final day. The goal is to learn some basics of the musical theatre and have lots of fun.

Teens in grades 9-12 will meet 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 17-20 and 24-27. They will rehearse a show, “Something Rotten!” to be presented at 7 p.m. the final day. The goal is put together a show quickly, just as professional theatre companies must do.

“I think it’s going to be a lot of fun,” said Katie Nettle. “I’m really excited for it.”

“Something Rotten!” is a musical comedy about the life of Shakespeare, though Jason Nettle does caution that it’s PG-13. The suggestion for the production was actually made by his drama students.

The teen camp will require taped auditions. There are no auditions for the



younger children’s camp. All rehearsals and performances will be at the high school.

The Nettles have extensive experience in the theatre. Jason Nettle had worked as a professional actor in New York for 12 years. Katie Nettle, who has a fine arts degree in acting from UCF, has also performed in several stage productions.

In fact, both husband and wife will be familiar to regular patrons of Alhambra

Theatre & Dining where they have performed in about 20 productions. Among his many roles, Jason Nettle demonstrated his comic talents as Lord Farquaad in “Shrek The Musical.” Katie Nettle was last seen in the Alhambra’s production of “White Christmas.”

For the camps, the Nettles will be joined by choreographer Maureen Straub Craig, who also performed in New York.

The PVHS Dramatic Boosters are lending the Nettles their assistance, hosting camp registrations on their website, pvhs-dramaticartsboosters.membershiptoolkit.com. Signups will be accepted until the first day of camp, though the teens will want some time to put together their taped auditions prior to that.

Ultimately, the Nettles hope to establish a musical theatre culture in Ponte Vedra, perhaps one day launching a community theatre here.

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Senior care franchise returns to Jacksonville Area

A Place At Home, a senior-focused home care provider franchise, has announced the opening of its first Florida corporate location in Jacksonville.

The franchise will continue providing compassionate care for those in Northeast Florida by opening A Place At Home — Jacksonville Southeast. The new location opened April 3 and is managed by Chris Adams, the former owner of A Place At Home — Orange Park.

The A Place At Home franchise provides seniors with empathetic care that allows them to age in their homes. All locations offer families personalized guidance throughout the aging journey, from in-home care to care coordination, finding senior living alternatives and offering staffing solutions to area facilities.

Adams has more than 30 years of experience in the senior care profession. From being his parents' caretaker all the way to becoming vice president and COO of a small skilled nursing company, he's done it all in the industry. He's spent 20 of those years in Jacksonville, where he's seen the dire need for in-home care for the large senior population.

He said he's excited to continue supplying the Jacksonville community with these crucial services in his new role as manager of the corporate-owned location.

"There are many other in-home care providers in the city, but nothing quite like us," said Adams. "We focus on providing compassionate, customizable care. We're not here to require you to have 12 hours of care seven days a week. Instead,

I'll work with you and your loved ones to create the perfect care that fits your needs and budget."

A Place At Home — Jacksonville Southeast will serve Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Ponte Vedra, Ponte Vedra Beach and Saint Johns. It's one of the few licensed home health agencies in the area.

This means that they're regulated by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, surveyed by them every two years, and the state monitors any complaints. In addition, employees undergo background checks and drug tests regulated by A Place At Home — Jacksonville Southeast. Other agencies are just registered, which means they don't undergo monitoring, background checks and drug tests.

Northeast Florida has one of the largest veteran populations in the country. A Place At Home — Jacksonville Southeast is currently undergoing the process of becoming a VA provider. This can take up to eight months to accomplish.

"The Jacksonville community is in great hands with Chris, and we're thrilled to have him back on our team," said Jerod Evanich, co-founder and president of A Place At Home. "He's built a great reputation in the area of providing compassionate care to seniors and families. We're excited to watch our first Florida corporate location grow and serve families facing challenging times.

For more information about franchising with A Place At Home, go to aplaceathomefranchise.com.

Baptist Medical Center Beaches one of the 'Best Maternity Hospitals'

Baptist Medical Center Beaches has been named to Newsweek's list of America's Best Maternity Hospitals 2023. This prestigious award is presented by Newsweek and Statista Inc., a global market research and consumer data firm. Baptist Beaches was one of only 159 "five-ribbon" hospitals recognized in the country.

Three data sources were used for the evaluation:

- Nationwide online survey: Health care professionals and hospital managers with knowledge about maternity processes e.g., neonatal and perinatal doctors, nurses and midwives were asked to recommend leading maternity hospitals in the United States.
- Medical key performance indicators of hospitals with a focus on indicators relevant to maternity care
- Results from patient surveys

"Choosing where to deliver your baby is an extremely important decision," said



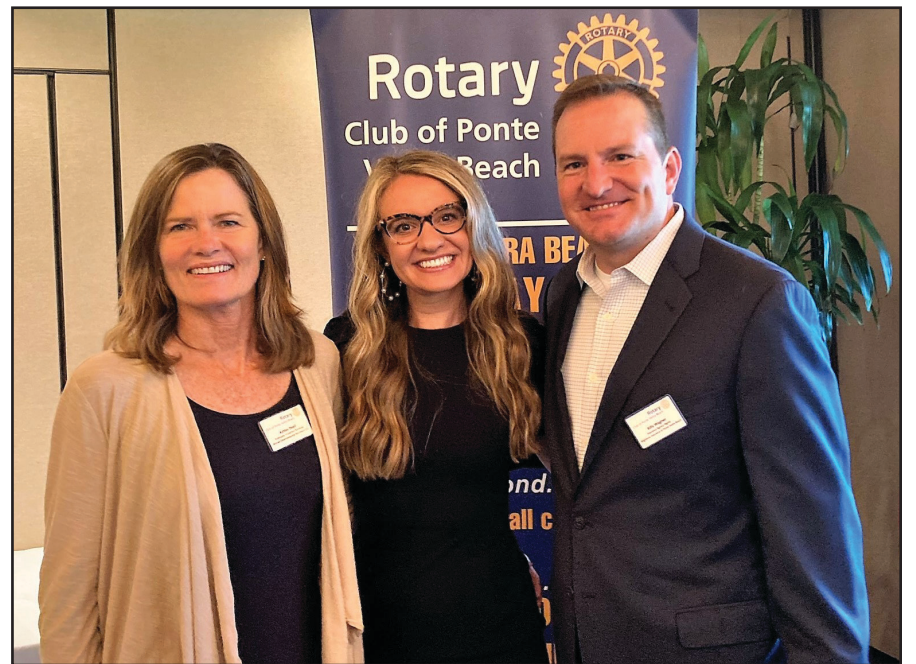
Contributed photo

Baptist Medical Center Beaches has been named to Newsweek's list of America's Best Maternity Hospitals 2023.

Hospital President Jarret Dreicer. "This accomplishment highlights the compassionate and highly skilled care our physicians, nurses and maternity team provide to moms and families."

Newsweek and Statista invited more than 10,000 medical professionals to participate in the survey. The awards list can currently be viewed on Newsweek's website.

\$2,500 scholarship awarded to UNF student



Contributed photo

University of North Florida Director of Annual Giving Kristy Herrington stopped by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach on June 15 to thank the club for its annual \$2,500 scholarship. The Service Above Self scholarship goes to a student in public administration or related major who plans to work in the nonprofit sector. Shown here with Herrington (center) are Ponte Vedra Beach Foundation Rotarians Ashley Dopf and Billy Wagner.



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In the Arts

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Painter preserves working-class roots while producing fine art

By Shaun Ryan

Standing before the portraits of artist Alfredo Gonzalez, one is pulled into the emotion depicted there.

Each work seems to capture a moment from an unspoken narrative.

Each painting is more than it is.

It's a quality one finds in great works of fine art. What comes as a surprise is the strong working-class roots of these pieces, roots that find expression even in the artist's choice of tools.

Gonzalez is one of the nine finalists selected by entrepreneur Richard C. Kessler of The Kessler Collection from a pool of 1,800 applicants to display his work in New York City's Times Square and at several Grand Bohemian Galleries.

Kessler put out a call in late 2022 for applicants in his search for The Next Original. That competition arrived at what appeared to be a crossroads of sorts for Gonzalez, who was working hard in construction even as he completed coursework for his bachelor's degree and faced enormous debts.

Gonzalez grew up in Oxnard, California. His introduction to the world of art — and that of the critic — came when he was in kindergarten.

"We were asked to do a family picture," he said. "I drew the classic picture of the head with the legs coming out of the head and the arms coming out of the leg. And I couldn't figure out why it didn't look like my parents."

At some point it occurred to him that anatomy was what made a person unique.

"So, my naïve, 5-year-old self decided to draw breasts on my mom," he said, laughing. "My teacher pulled me aside. I got into trouble."

As a boy, Gonzalez found himself drawn to the "funny, funky characters" popular in skateboarding graphics. That led him to graffiti and artists like Shepard Fairey and Banksy. Gonzalez found himself captivated by the color and messages these street artists employed.

Of course, graffiti had a tendency to get artists into trouble, and Gonzalez began a transition to fine arts. An art teacher in high school influenced him to pursue line drawing and figurative life painting.

Then, Gonzalez's life took a practical turn, one that would have an impact on



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Artist Alfredo Gonzalez stands amid several of his paintings exhibited at The Grand Bohemian Gallery in St. Augustine.

his future artwork.

Gonzalez's father was a construction worker who specialized in masonry.

One day, his father took him to the job site where he was able to meet the boss. The company employed Gonzalez during the summers.

He enjoyed mixing and working with concrete but found it tiring. At the end of the day, through his exhaustion, he would try to find the energy to paint.

In 2017, he enrolled in the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. He spent a couple of years there, but the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted his plans.

Amidst the many business closures, Gonzalez was not able to work, which meant he couldn't earn money for rent. He moved all of his possessions into his

two-door Honda Civic and slept in different rest stops in San Francisco.

Finally, he began to drive back and forth from Oxnard to San Francisco, a six-hour trip one way.

At last, he earned his bachelor's degree in fine arts but completion of his formal education was not a ticket to a more leisurely lifestyle. Gonzalez continued to work even as he honed his artistic skills.

Eventually, he came across the call for artists for The Next Original.

He submitted his work and promptly forgot all about it.

Then, in December, the phone rang. The woman at the other end of the line told him he has one of the competition's finalists.

In January, Gonzalez stopped working

in concrete and focused on his art.

He has chosen to paint in black and white to symbolize concrete, to which he maintains an emotional attachment because it reminds him of his father.

His painting process is unique. He starts with an acrylic spray paint. Then, he applies acrylic paint using a cement trowel, an unusual tool for a fine arts painter but one that makes perfect sense given his familiarity with its use. He finishes his works with paint brushes and oils.

Gonzalez's art can be found on Instagram, @dofreart, and on his website, dofreart.com.

NOTE: This is an abridged version of the article. To read it at full length, go to pontevedrarecorder.com.

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Matthew Miller was one of the featured clinicians during the four-day Victory Wrestling Club summer camp.



Photos by Anthony Richards

A variety of techniques and scenarios were taught during the camp.

Victory Wrestling Club 'gives back' to sport with summer camp

By Anthony Richards

Victory Wrestling Club held its first ever wrestling summer camp at Nease High School June 26-29, as several ages and local schools were represented.

"We've been trying to get a club up off the ground for a couple of years now," Nease head coach Bradley Lucas said. "This is just the first year, but we had 25 kids come out on the first night, which is a good turnout. We're hoping to make it an annual thing and maybe even add an additional set of dates next year over the summer."

This year the camp was just open for middle and high school, but Lucas does have plans to open it up for even younger children and those who are truly just beginning.

Not only was there a variety in those who participated in the camp but also in the coaches who helped lead the camp's instruction along with Lucas and his staff.

Each of the four days featured different coaches teaching the various techniques of the wrestling world and how to properly execute them.

According to Lucas, having different coaches speak as

clinicians has had a positive effect because sometimes it just helps the kids to hear another voice than the same ones they hear all throughout the season.

"It's good to see different perspectives and get fresh takes every now and again, even if it's really the same moves," Lucas said. "Sometimes it just clicks better when you hear it from someone else."

One of the featured coaches included Matthew Miller, who was a former coach in the area and now serves as an FHSAA official during wrestling matches.

"Bradley asked me to come in and we've been friends for a really long time," Miller said. "I just always love giving back to the sport."

Miller mentioned and demonstrated several techniques to group in attendance and went over an array of scenarios where certain moves could be used.

Getting involved in camps like the one Nease hosted leads to Miller harkening back to when he was the campers' age and just getting into the sport.

"I remember going to camps and clinics when I was growing up, and if I can help one kid in here develop

one go-to move, then we've accomplished what we were going to do in two hours," Miller said. "Every coach or official that does this is always sort of living through their past, because it probably had a good effect on them in their lives and helped make them who they are."

For the parents or children out there thinking about taking up a sport, Miller advises them to seriously consider wrestling because he has seen it change people for the better and transform teens into mature adults before his very eyes.

"There's so much confidence that comes from this sport because there is so much hand-to-hand combat that's involved," Miller said. "We've got a lot of problems with bullies nowadays, but most bullies aren't going to mess with someone who they know they can't beat up."

However, he also knows that it takes a special person to be good at the sport because it does not come without hard work and determination.

"If you've got young kids with a ton of energy, this is probably the sport for them," Miller said.



It was the inaugural year for the wrestling camp.



Campers included those in middle school and high school.



Both boys and girls took part in the camp.



Photos courtesy of Elite Pickleball

The medal winners of Elite Pickleball's inaugural Battle at the Beaches Tournament June 30 at The Yards.

START OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

Forty-eight compete in inaugural pickleball tournament

By Anthony Richards

Elite Pickleball held its inaugural junior tournament designed with the next generation of pickleballers in mind at The Yards on June 30 and it was a success in more ways than one.

“It was a true blessing,” Elite Pickleball co-founder Matt Masto said. “The kids had a blast, and we had a super competitive championship match.”

Forty-eight competitors of various ages took part in



A unique aspect of pickleball is that male and female players can compete against and alongside each other on the same court and in the same competition.



Forty-eight competitors took part in the inaugural tournament.

the inaugural showcase, some of which traveled nearly six hours to the area to compete.

That was a big deal to Masto, because it shows the passion that exists out there for pickleball among the youth and how unique of a tournament it was.

According to Masto, there are not as many tournaments or outlets solely focused on providing pickleball avenues for the youth and that was the basis for the creation of Elite Pickleball and the tournament.

The tournament consisted of two age brackets with 12- to 14-year-olds competing against each other and 15- to 18-year-olds competing in the other group.

Austin Miskelly and Tyler Miskelly teamed up to win gold in the younger age group, while the tandem of Myles Call and Alexander Crawford took home the title in the older group.

Call and Crawford battled to earn their gold medals as the championship match for the 15- to 18-year-olds needed all three games of the best of three format to decide the winner.

In the end, it was Call and Crawford that won the final game by a score of 11-9, which proved a memorable way to cap the inaugural event.

On top of Call's gold medal, he also earned male MVP honors for his dynamite play on the court.

Another unique aspect of pickleball is that male and female players can compete against and alongside each other on the same court and in the same competition.

Rachel Marino's play was another one who's play stood out throughout the tournament and she was named female MVP to go along with the silver medal she was awarded.

After a successful inaugural tournament, Masto and Elite Pickleball have already turned their focus to the next tournament on the schedule, which will be held at the Pictona complex in Daytona Beach July 28.



The tournament was designed to help feed the passion for pickleball among the youth in the community.

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ACROSS

- Small Eurasian deer
- Irish county
- A major division of geological time
- Broadway actor Lane
- Canadian province
- It causes fainting (abbr.)
- Two
- A notable one is blue
- Utter repeatedly
- Rings
- Sullies
- Occurs
- Publicity
- Near
- Tools of a trade
- Offer in good faith
- "American Idol" network
- Garments
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Retired NFL DC Dean
- Hot meal
- A type of gin
- Percussion instrument
- A \$10 bill
- About ground
- Medicine man
- Seedless raisin
- National capital of Albania
- Appendage
- OJ trial judge
- By the way
- Bicycle parts
- Barbie's friend
- In a way, stretched
- Commercials

DOWN

- Pay
- International organization
- Engravers
- Declared as fact
- Criminal
- Jewelry
- Hospital worker (abbr.)
- Nonsense (slang)
- Town in Galilee
- Value
- Another name
- Sheep in second year before shearing
- Town in Surrey, England
- Appropriate during a time of year
- Creative output

- Recesses
- District in N. Germany
- Rider of Rohan
- The official emblem of the German Third Reich
- One who puts down roots
- Scribe
- Painted a bright color
- Tycoons
- Actress Thurman
- Walking accessory
- Crest of a hill
- Member of a North American people
- Type of computer
- U.S. State (abbr.)

SUDOKU

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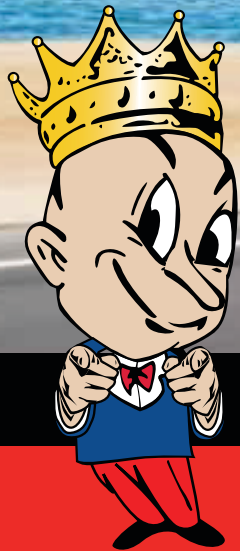
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