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FIRST ON THE FIRST COAST



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AND MUCH MORE

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

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ONE OF US

Tina Minahan

photo by and as told to **SHAUN RYAN**

Tina Minahan is a woodturner, which means she creates works of art in wood using a lathe. She was introduced to woodworking when she took a course in the early 1970s, and her first piece was a stand-alone spice cabinet. Initially, she focused on making furniture, but learning woodturning shifted her focus. Minahan's work can be seen at the Professional Artists of St. Augustine (PASTA) Fine Art Gallery in St. Augustine. She has won numerous awards and belongs to the American Association of Wood Turners and the North East Florida Wood Turners Association.

Tell me about your art.

I use wood that is found and picked up, not cut down. I start with big chunks of wood, and I use my chainsaw to cut it up. Then I decide what I want to make.

The wood does not speak to me as many people think it speaks to them. [Laughs]

You're not the wood whisperer.

I'm not the wood whisperer. However, you look at a piece and you go, "Ooh, maybe I could do that."

I have three lathes. I place it on a lathe, which holds the wood and spins it around. And I use chisels. This thing is spinning fast as you shape the wood.

I notice you have some interesting bowls and things like that.

I just went to a class in North Carolina at the end of June. There was a gentleman who teaches hollow form. He's fabulous. So, I've been doing hollow forms lately.

How do you decide what you want to make?

I walk through the house, and I just look at things and say, "I could make that out of wood." So, tissue holders, whatever.

How do you approach your pieces?

It is not a business for me. It is a joy. I

do things that make me joyful. I'm not a production woodturner. Each one, I take the time, stop, look at it, and then turn [the lathe] on again. I watch the wood change.

Nothing is done quickly because it's something that I just love doing.

Are there certain woods you prefer?

Yes, there are. I love cherry. I love black walnut. And I love the local woods. There's a lot of camphor wood that falls down here. Have you ever smelled camphor wood? Campho-Phenique? Remember that? That's exactly what it smells like.

When I'm turning that, I have my garage doors open, because, really, it's so overwhelming. [Laughs]

So, I like that. I like the oaks, but I can barely do oak anymore because here in Florida it's water oak. Think of it as water, how heavy water is. I do smaller things, but it's a lot of heavy, heavy stuff.

I love to turn wet wood. It turns easier. It's just wonderful to turn. And it doesn't stay the shape that you turned it, because of all the tensions in the wood. It opens up, or if there's a knot in it, it could be wavy.

Just about any wood is fun to turn, except for stuff that's really, really hard.

I noticed that you sometimes have different woods in a single piece. Like, you had one inlaid with sea turtles made from a darker wood.

That was a piece of — I think it's maple — that I made the round piece out of. Then, I used a darker wood. I carved [the turtles] and then put them in the wood. You're trying to differentiate, having those pop out at you.

But there are other woods. There's boxelder. That is a maple. When there is distress in the tree, it turns bright red there. It's a yellowish wood, but you will see reds going through it.

Then, I have spalted wood. Spalted wood is when the tree falls to the ground, and all of these fungi get in it and eat it. If you find it early enough as a woodturner,



Tina Minahan is seen with some of her creations inside the PASTA Fine Arts Gallery in St. Augustine.

when you turn it, it dries, it stays. You still see all of the colorations and the striations. And there are black lines; these fungi mark a territory that's theirs and that they're going to eat.

So, you see lots of different patterns and variations. I love that.

How did you learn to do this?

I have always loved wood. I've always been fascinated. I think it's beautiful.

There was a school, Cerritos College in California. I used to go there and take classes. I was doing flatwork, like tables. Then, I moved into Windsor chairs. I never wanted to turn, but I had to be able to do chair legs. So, I took a turning class. I loved it.

How long have you lived here?

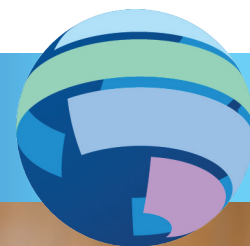
I've been living here ever since 2011. I was raised in West Palm and Miami in the 1950s and '60s. Then, my husband and I moved to California. And then, I worked my way back here.

What do you like best about living in Northeast Florida?

I think it's Heaven on Earth. That's all I can tell you. And I think it's Heaven on Earth to have the beautiful beach.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I have friends and we exercise together, and we go out and have lunch and all that stuff. I also like to garden. I have raised flower beds on my driveway. So, I love growing flowers there. I always say, "God, please. Let me make it through another spring because I want to see all the beautiful flowers again."



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FROM THE EDITOR

THE FIRST COAST REGISTER'S FIRST 15 YEARS

by **SHAUN RYAN**

With this issue, The First Coast Register arrives at a significant milestone: It celebrates 15 years as a glossy publication featuring great stories and events from Nassau, Duval and St. Johns counties.

A lot has happened in Northeast Florida since that first issue, not the least of which is the astounding growth we've seen. In 2008, our population was estimated at just over 1.1 million. Today, that estimate is over 1.4 million.

Since the debut of that landmark issue, we pulled ourselves out of the Great Recession. We witnessed the denouement of NASA's Space Shuttle program, the launches of which were visible from our own backyards. We survived major hurricanes and triumphed over the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout it all, countless new communities have popped up as people have discovered what many have called the best part of Florida and new business ideas have been introduced. An example: the link in Nocatee Town Center.

We've kept our eyes on the Jaguars, watching for that season when the team finally breaks out and goes all the way. We've faithfully attended the Amelia Concours d'Elegance and the Ponte Vedra Auto Show, THE PLAYERS Championship, the Sing Out Loud Festival and many, many other events.

Also in that time, we've grown a little older and, hopefully, a little wiser.

Over those years, The First Coast Register has allowed us to hobnob with our neighbors at exquisite social events, travel to far-away destinations, meet visiting celebrities and keep up with the vibrant art scene. It has featured real estate gems in the area, revealed the latest wedding styles, celebrated life on coastal waters and reported on dining options and wine offerings.

It has documented our culture and given us cause to reflect.

Produced bimonthly by the same folks who publish the weekly Recorder, The First Coast Register is distributed individually and as an inserted extra in the newspaper.

In addition to marking this milestone, the current issue of The First Coast Register offers the kinds of articles and features that readers have come to expect. A suggestion: When you finish reading it, store it in a safe place where you can take it out again in another 15 years. Who knows what current trends and events will prompt feelings of nostalgia as The First Coast Register completes its third decade?

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy what we have for you with this issue.

GUEST COLUMN

REFLECTING ON MY YEARS WITH THE FIRST COAST REGISTER

by **LEIGH CORT**

Throughout all of our years living in Ponte Vedra Beach and enjoying the town we chose to live and work in, The Register has been a valued member of our "family" — arriving bimonthly like a treasured cousin and joining our family at the breakfast table.

And just like a special visitor, we vied for who would sit next to this "guest" at the table and have the first look inside at the local stories that made us feel connected to the featured people and our neighborhood. From the color photos and easy-to-read continuity, 15 years of The Register have kept us informed and always wanting to read more when we closed the final page.

As a contributor of dining and travel stories over the years, I've been honored to be a part of the Register family — and to share not only many of the regional restaurants' culinary specialties but the back-story about the people who have made them important to the foodie scene. My regular travel features have been exciting to experience and to share — giving The Register readers an opportunity to possibly consider taking a trip to an unexplored destination that piqued their interest by the final sentence!


Standing proudly in my library of best-sellers, cookbooks, historical novellas, mysteries and signed author hardcovers are at least 10 years of Registers that have spent their new-release month on my cocktail table and then graduated to the "favorite uncle" section of the "R" section in the collection.

Thank you, Register, for being such a welcome guest. You're my only family member who doesn't travel with an overstuffed portmanteau of wardrobe, shoes, accessories or anything else to make you look glamorous. You're just perfect the way you are!



MARCH 2008

Movie stars John Travolta and Kelly Preston were the special guests at the 27th annual Red Rose Ball, a fundraiser for St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation. The proceeds from the 2008 event were used to fund a renovated neo-natal intensive care unit at St. Vincent's Marcia C. and Ricardo Morales Jr. Infant Nursery. The 11-bed unit was designed for premature infants and those with special needs or those at risk for serious complications. Here, Travolta and Preston pose for a photo with Pat and John Rutherford.



MARCH 2009

The Florida Forum hosted Jim Lehrer, George Stephanopoulos and David Gergen on Feb. 3, after which the speakers mingled with guests at a private reception at the home of Billy and Laura Howell. The Florida Forum brings interesting speakers to the First Coast each year. Presented by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, it raises awareness and funds for the hospital. Pictured here are: Jim Lehrer, Laura Howell, George Stephanopoulos and Bill Howell.



SUMMER 2010

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach held its fourth annual gala, Oh What a Night — The Black and White Party on May 22. The event featured big band-style music from the Ross Holmes Band, food by Matthew's Restaurant and a speed-sculpting performance by Peter Rubino. His sculpture was put up for auction after its completion. Pictured here, the Ross Holmes Band performs big band music at the party.



JUNE/JULY 2011

Long before the Jumbo Shrimp made their way to Jacksonville, the First Coast was home to the Suns. In the June/July 2011 edition of the First Coast Register, Lauren Ely wrote an article on the minor league baseball team. "Lucky for you," she wrote, "Jacksonville is home to the Jacksonville Suns, who not only serve up fun, fast-pitched excitement but also act as the minor league farm team for the Florida Marlins."

Photo courtesy of the Jacksonville Suns

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012



Caring Chefs, a major annual food and winetasting event, was held Oct. 14 at The Avenues Mall. It featured more than

50 of the best First Coast restaurants, caterers and wine vendors offering their most well-known dishes and libations. Proceeds from the event benefited Children's Home Society of Florida's efforts to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect. Going into the 2012 event, Caring Chefs had raised more than \$2.5 million over 28 years. Pictured here, Alyson Horton, Steve Coluccio, Jeffrey Murnin, Michael Vatter and Susan Waldeck attend Caring Chefs 2011.



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013

Alhambra Theatre and Dining Managing Partner Craig Smith and former TV news anchor Donna Deegan celebrate the 10th anniversary of the DONNA Foundation in 2013. The celebration was held at the theatre and a special

10th Anniversary Cake was made by Cinotti's Bakery. Deegan launched the foundation in June 2003 to meet the critical financial needs of the underserved living with breast cancer. It organizes and produces the annual DONNA Marathon. Today, Deegan is mayor of Jacksonville.



APRIL/MAY 2014

Automobile enthusiasts flocked to Nassau County for the annual three-day Amelia Island Concours D'Elegance, which took place at The Golf Club of Amelia Island and The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. More than 250 classic and exotic cars were featured. Best in Show, Concours d'Elegance was awarded to Bob and Anne Brockinton Lee from Sparks, Nevada, for their 1937 Horch

853, and Best in Show, Concours de Sport was presented to The Revs Institute for Automotive Research located in Naples, Florida, for a 1958 Scarab. The event, which has always raised funds for charity, debuted in 1996. Here, visitors study a 1934 Bugatti Type 57.



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**APRIL/
MAY 2015**

A "Fireside Chat with President and Mrs. George W. Bush" was held in

March 2015 at the Christ's Church Mandarin Campus on Greenland Road. The famous couple spoke before about 600 as part of a fundraiser for Christ's Church Academy. The president and former first lady discussed their life, family, current endeavors, their faith and more. Peter Dearing, worship leader at Christ's Church, sang the National Anthem to open the program.

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016



St. Augustine-based Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue presented "The

M*A*S*H Gala" on Jan. 23, 2016, at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse in Ponte Vedra, and local supporters were offered the chance to rub elbows with some major TV stars. Ed Asner, TV's Lou Grant, served as emcee, and several members of the cast of "M*A*S*H" appeared at the event, including Mike Farrell (Capt. "B.J." Hunnicut), Jamie Farr (Cpl. Maxwell Klinger), Loretta Swit (Major Margaret "Hotlips" Houlihan) and Gary Burghoff (Cpl. Walter "Radar" O'Reilly). The gala raised funds for the nonprofit animal rescue. Pictured here are: Farrell, Asner, Swit, Burghoff and Farr.



JUNE/JULY 2017

Sophie Allen, 12, holds up her prize-winning illustration

with assistance by Nicole Crosby during "Save Guana Now Gala," held at the home of John and Martha Denneen. About 150 attended the event, signaling their opposition to plans for a housing development near the Guana River. Gala guests enjoyed cocktails, a catered dinner and a silent auction as Save Guana Now co-founder Gary Coulliette provided entertainment, singing and playing guitar.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018



Mission House of Jacksonville Beach hosted its annual Compassion by the Sea fundraiser Sept. 27, 2018, to support the community's homeless population. Held at the

Casa Marina Hotel in Jacksonville Beach, the event featured food, live music performed by local band Cloud 9 and dozens of donated auction items up for grabs, drawing attendees from all over the greater Jacksonville area. Putting in an appearance was Scampi, the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp mascot.



APRIL/MAY 2019

In March 2019, Nocatee's newest amenity opened: Spray Water Park.

The 100,000-square-foot park includes a 42-foot water slide tower and interactive spray features. With a capacity of 2,000 people, the venue touted its resort-style beach environment with beach volleyball, a smaller spray park for younger children, a playground and a restaurant and bar. Shown here is Serenity Bay, a resort-style beach environment.



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

Club 904, a 14,000-square-foot center, opened in Jacksonville on Sept. 9, 2020. An initiative of the Malivai Washington Youth Foundation, Club 904 added a new building to the existing center. It features a lounge and study hall; teaching kitchen; game, theater and music rooms; and classrooms. It offers afterschool academic assistance, college preparation, job and leadership training, life skills, elective courses and social activities. The goal is to give pre-teens and teens in the city's urban core the tools they need to succeed.

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**AUGUST/
SEPTEMBER 2021**

The link, a \$7 million, 22,500-square-foot co-working space, multi-use innovation incubator and membership-based venue in Nocatee Town Center, opened in July 2021. Founded by Raghu and Gurpreet Misra, the smart building has become an indispensable component of the growing community. It offers summer camps, classes, a school, immersive dining, cultural events, meeting space and much more. Here, Raghu Misra speaks to attendees from the stage at the link during grand opening festivities.



JUNE/JULY 2022

The June/July issue featured a story on J.C. Harward & Associates, a Northeast Florida construction company, and the work it performed over 14 years to transform the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at Mission Nombre De Dios in St. Augustine. The site dates back to the founding of the Nation's Oldest City in 1565, with the shrine established there in the early 1600s. Shown is a sign welcoming visitors to the "sacred acre."

VICTOR GEORGE SPIRITS DONATES \$10K TO FORT MOSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Contributed photo

Victor Harvey, founder of Victor George Spirits, presented a \$10,000 donation to representatives of the Fort Mose Historical Society in St. Augustine on June 23. Former NFL player Oronde Gadsden joined Harvey for the presentation to share his insights.

Additional attendees at the ceremony and celebration included Fort Mose Historical Society President Charles Ellis and Vice President Sedrick Lee, St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline and State Park Manager Michael Watkins.

The donation is from Harvey's pledge to donate \$1 from every bottle sold of their bourbon, Fort Mose 1738. The donation will help with educational programs, events and creating overall awareness of the historic town. This year-long initiative to support Fort Mose Historical Society ran from June 19, 2022, to June 19, 2023, in celebration of freedom and Juneteenth.

Fort Mose Bourbon is named after the



Florida town that was established in 1738 just two miles north of St. Augustine. This became the first settlement and town in what is now the United States where Black people could live free.

"This donation is greatly appreciated and will help with executing our mission statement of continuing to tell the story of Fort Mose and the impact it has had in the history of our country, not only for African-Americans but all Americans," said Ellis. "We are excited to work with Mr. Harvey's company to educate the

community and make sure this part of history is never forgotten."

"Giving back has always been part of who I am," said Harvey. "We knew with the story behind Fort Mose and us being able to help tell it through our bourbon that this was going to be a huge brand. We wanted to do more, and I saw donating funds from every bottle sold over the past year as a way to do that."

Victor George Spirits is one of the fastest growing Black-owned spirits companies in the United States. Its award-winning Victor George "VG" Vodka is currently distributed in 45 states and its gold medal award-winning Fort Mose' 1738 Bourbon has been picked up in 10 states since its initial launch in June 2022.

In January 2023, Victor George Spirits (VGS) released its first flavored vodka, Victor George Caramel Vodka.

For more information about Fort Mose' 1738 Bourbon, go to fortmosewhiskey.com.

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Caitlyn Luce remembers going to Jaguars games with her family growing up, and now she will be performing in front of them on the field.



Caitlyn Luce grew up in Ponte Vedra and is a member of The Roar of the Jaguars 2023 squad.

A JOURNEY TO CHEER FOR THE HOMETOWN TEAM

With medical school on horizon, Roar cheerleader looks forward to season

story by **ANTHONY RICHARDS**
Contributed photos

Caitlyn Luce's passion for dancing has always been a part of her life and even when it may not be the primary focus, she still finds a way to feed that love.

But this time around, will be something different and memorable because she is a member of The Roar of the Jaguars' 2023 squad.

The opportunity of being an NFL cheerleader is something she had thought about at times over the years, but being one for her hometown team takes it to another level of excitement.

Luce is truly a local product as she grew up in Ponte Vedra and that is where she discovered her love for dance at an early age.

"It's really the only sport I ever did, and I've done it since I was about three or four years old," Luce said. "My dad and brother are big soccer people, so I tried that, but I was doing cartwheels on



She was a member of the "Dazzlers" her freshman year at the University of Florida.

the sideline while I was supposed to be in the game."

She was a member of the Splash Dance Team each of her four years at Ponte Vedra High School.

"I really enjoyed my time on Splash," Luce said. "Those years were so much fun, but I also really thought that my days as a part of a dance squad were done with high school."

However, she decided to try out as a freshman for the University of Florida's official dance team, known as the "Dazzlers," and earned a spot on the team for that year.

"It was really hard to just let that aspect of me go just like that," Luce said.

Then, the COVID-19 pandemic took

effect and she had also switched her track toward a degree in the medical field, so she decided to focus all her attention on school and only did the one year as a "Dazzler," as a result.

This time around, she definitely thought her time spent dancing in college was the last time she would be dancing on a platform like that and was happy with the opportunities she had been given.

But the dancing universe would bring her in once again, as she recently graduated from the University of Florida and returned home to the First Coast in May and has been shadowing doctors in the advanced heart failure and transplant department at Mayo Clinic.

"I'm working to get into medical school, so I just thought I've got some time so I might as well try out for the Jags," Luce said. "I went in understanding that this will probably be my only year with the squad."

According to Luce, she probably wouldn't have done it for any team but the Jaguars, because she remembers her family having season tickets and going to games together growing up.

When Luce was named a finalist and then got the call that she had made the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 ■

CHEER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

squad out of the 180 that tried out, she was amazed by the accomplishment, because even three years away from competitive dance could not stop the dance world from calling her name once again.

She cannot help but think about the excitement and surreal nature that she will be feeling when she is on the field performing and her family is up in the stands cheering her on.

“It’s so much fun to be able to point out people you know in the stands, and you can only do that with the hometown team,” Luce said. “My parents came to every game in high school to see me, so it will be just like that again.”

The Jaguars’ first regular season home game will be Sept. 17 against the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs at 1 p.m.

One of the experiences she is looking forward to the most



Luce’s love of dancing developed during her four years on Ponte Vedra High School’s Splash Dance Team.

this season is that The Roar will travel to London and cheer for the Jaguars during the Oct. 1 contest against the Atlanta Falcons at Wembley Stadium, since the Jaguars are designated as the “home team” for that contest.

Her family will be making the trip with her to London and although she has been to Europe with her family in recent years, she understands this trip will be entirely different.



The National Anthem plays prior to a game while she was a member of the “Dazzlers.”

“They don’t have cheerleaders at soccer games over there, so they are really enamored by it all,” Luce said. “We are going to do a lot of community events, including one in front of Buckingham Palace. I’m really excited about the free day we get, because that’s when I’ll have time to hang with family.”

Getting out in the community is something

Luce cannot wait to do, because she remembers when she was growing up and how much of a role model an NFL cheerleader can be to an aspiring young dancer.

“That’s why I like what I’m doing, because it’s so much bigger than just me,” Luce said. “You are on a platform and can truly have an impact on people. I’m ready to make a difference this season.”



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Dale Edgar offers insights during a recent Sail Science trip.



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Dale Edgar, founder of Sail Science LLC.



Dale Edgar at the helm.

NEW ADVENTURES BLEND SAILING AND SCIENCE

Contributed photos

Science and biology meet sailing in the newest offering from St. Augustine Sailing.

Sail Science adventures offer guests a chance to set sail with Professor Dale Edgar and learn about a variety of topics, including the local wildlife, geology and history. Edgar is a gifted storyteller and an experienced sailor, and a voyage with him is unique and immersive.

“I’m passionate about exploring the wonders of nature and being able to do that on a sailboat is the best of all worlds for me,” said Dr. Dale, as he’s known on the docks. “Having these two parts of my life coming together — science and sailing — it’s really the intersection of everything I am, as a scientist: a nature-lover, an adventurer, an explorer. Well, all scientists are explorers. And now I get to take others out exploring with me!”

Edgar received both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in biology at San Jose State University and his doctorate in physiology at the University of California.



Dale Edgar and St. Augustine Sailing owner Rose Ann Points.

After a career as an internationally recognized scientist and inventor, he retired in 2023, founding Sail Science LLC, a small business fostering sailing and wildlife education in partnership with St. Augustine Sailing.

Sail Science offers five engaging experiences.

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Each excursion is two-hours long and guests will set sail on one of St. Augustine Sailing’s luxury sailing yachts.

“What I love about these trips is that they aren’t a canned tour with someone reading off a script and a list of facts,” said Edgar. “Each sail is different, with each passenger coming aboard with their own interests and questions. The conversation is interesting and educational, but it’s organic. And it’s interactive. While we’re talking about birds, we’re watching them soar above the mainsail. I’m explaining echolocation to a child as they keep an eye on the bow for dolphins. It’s science and biology in action, and what could be more fascinating?”

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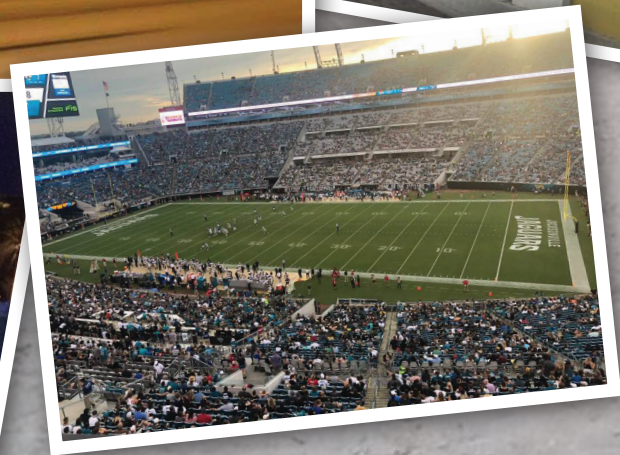
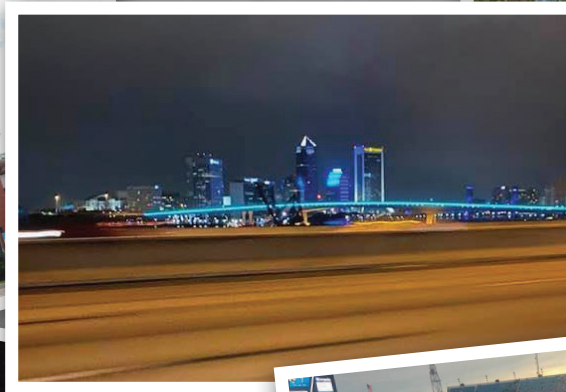
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Lucky me! I have been a Realtor in my home, Northeast Florida, for nearly 40 years. I grew up in Jacksonville and moved to the beach in my 20s. I studied architecture and interior design in college, feeding my love of homes and style. After graduation, I worked in media, where I learned the art of listening and asking questions, marketing and advertising.

In 1985, I transitioned from media to real estate, joining Watson Realty's Ponte Vedra office. It was meant to be! Serving customers by customizing promotions for their homes and researching housing options for buyers is exciting. The reward of finding a seller or a buyer the perfect home is what keeps me charged up about real estate. In 1990, I moved to the original Marsh Landing Realty, where I learned about lots and builders and the development process.

In 1993, I opened my own brokerage, Berry & Co. Real Estate. Our first listing was The Ponte Vedra Carlyle, 48 new condominiums on Ponte Vedra Boulevard. That was an exciting time – new residences in a premier location, with Lodge membership included for every purchaser!

Berry & Co. Real Estate continues to be a robust general brokerage. We have helped hundreds of buyers and sellers with their residential real estate needs. We take pride in our market knowledge – it is the foundation for the extra level of service we provide our customers.

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While homebase for our office is Ponte Vedra Beach, we also are active in neighboring Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach and Nocatee as well as greater Jacksonville. Our real estate market is ever-changing and always intriguing. I'm grateful for the challenges and opportunities each new day brings.



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Jamie Seim has over 12 years of investment experience as a Financial Advisor. He attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney and the University Arkansas at Little Rock on golf scholarships, graduating cum laude. He later graduated with an MBA in Accounting & Finance from Jacksonville University. Over the years, Jamie has devoted much of his time to local organizations and charities.

Stephen T. Foody has 38 years of Capital Markets experience. He

holds a BA in Economics and History from Fordham University. He was chairman of the board of trustees for the Guardian Catholic School, and a founding member of Ponte Vedra High School PTO.

Evonne T. Heykens, Senior Registered Client Associate, has 40 years of financial services industry experience. She started within the financial industry in 1982, and most of her career has been in Jacksonville or Ponte Vedra.

Melissa Scott, Client Associate, has almost 20 years of financial services experience. Born and raised in Indiana, she joined the United States Air Force out of high school and spent 10 years living in many states around the country and some abroad.

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The gathering at the Korean Association's armistice luncheon.

Korean War veterans honored AT 70TH ARMISTICE ANNIVERSARY

Contributed photos

The Jacksonville community recently held celebrations and remembrances marking the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, which was July 27. Residents and group leaders expressed gratitude to the Korean War veterans who fought to free the Korean people from the oppression of Communism.

The Jacksonville Naval Museum, the Korean War Veterans Chapter 200 and the We Can Be Heroes Foundation hosted the Armistice Remembrance at the USS-Orleck DD-886 Jacksonville pier. Museum volunteer Michael Morris shared the history of the USS Orleck's engagements during the Korean War.

Young Chul Kim, honorary member of the Korean Association of North Florida, shared his story of Korean life before and after the war. Dr. Henry Moreland,



Pictured from left, Korean War veterans Bill Speer, Ted Barber and Gerald Maloney.

commander of the North Florida Korean War and Korean Service Veterans Chapter, spoke about their history defending Korea. Beth Heath, president of the We Can Be Heroes Foundation, shared stories of the hardships the Korean War veterans suffered in their quest for freedom for the Korean people.

Honorary tributes to Korean War veterans included the flag line presented by the American Legion Riders 5th District, escorts by the Mayport Sea Scouts and taps by bugler Jim Steele.

Karim Zabaneh performed the National Anthem and closed with "God Bless America." Colors were presented by the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Bishop Kenny High School Color Guard.

The Korean Association of North Florida hosted the annual appreciation luncheon on July 29 at the Fleet Reserve Branch 126. The large luncheon included welcome and appreciation speeches by association President Ohhan Kim, liaison Jea Y.Lee and many members. Members performed traditional Korean music, song and dance in honor of the Korean War veterans. The association presented guests with U.S. and South Korea flags.



Young Chul Kim speaks on Korean life.



Korean War Veteran Commander Dr. Henry Moreland speaks.



Bugler aboard USS Orleck honors the fallen.



Jeff and Lisa Amato



Kate Amato

KATE KOMBO GOLF AND PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT TO HELP FIGHT CHILDHOOD CANCER

Contributed photos

The Kate Amato Foundation will conduct its inaugural Kate Kombo Golf and Pickleball Tournament presented by Northwestern Mutual on Oct. 20 at The Yards in Sawgrass. All net proceeds from this event will benefit The Kate Amato Foundation, which funds innovative, nontoxic treatments for childhood cancer.

There is nothing typical about this unique tournament, which offers something for everyone. Twenty golf foursomes will play a shotgun start, 15-hole course, culminating in a shoot-out for the top teams. Meanwhile, 36 pickleball pairs will simultaneously compete on 12 courts in a waterfall format, which consists of a combination of round robin and single elimination. Four rounds of round robin take place, and then, based on the results, teams will move into a single elimination draw. This guarantees a minimum of five games for each team.

At the end of tournament play, all golfers and picklers will reunite on the expansive Yards patio for further fun, fundraising, awards and a luncheon. There is even an option for spectators to attend, cheer and heckle throughout the day.

“This event has been in discussions for quite some time, and we are thrilled to finally share it with everyone,” said Jeff and Lisa Amato, co-founders of Kate Amato Foundation. “We have had such a tremendous response from the local

community and businesses to our Kate Kup Triples Tennis Tournament that when The Yards shared their plans for pickleball courts, we were excited to expand on our unique signature Kate events that bring people together for our cause.”

The couple lost their daughter, Kate Amato, at the age of 11 in November 2016, after a long and difficult battle with cancer. She is the inspiration for the foundation. Through her illness, Kate’s parents discovered how severely underfunded research was for pediatric cancer and witnessed first-hand the brutal effects of outdated, toxic treatments. To honor Kate’s life and continue the fight for other children, Kate Amato Foundation was formed.

As part of their mission, the Kate Amato Foundation awards grant funding to cutting-edge pediatric cancer research projects at some of the leading immunotherapy and cancer genomics research labs in the country, including Duke University, Dana Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard Medical School, UCLA, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, The University of Colorado, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children’s Cancer Research Hospital, The University of Buffalo and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

To date, the foundation has funded \$475,000 in grants to support groundbreaking research.

The foundation relies on local

businesses and donors to support their mission. They have found great partners in companies like Northwestern Mutual, a longtime supporter of the foundation and the work they are doing.

“We are so excited to host the first annual golf and pickleball tournament for the Kate Amato Foundation at a world class facility,” said Bradley Ernst, Kate Kombo Pickleball Committee chair and wealth management advisor at Northwestern Mutual. “This is an opportunity to support pediatric cancer research while playing the fastest growing sport in America. We hope others in the community will step up and join us for a day of fun and fundraising. We like to have fun and love to give back, so come ready for some day ‘dinking.’”

Sponsors are wanted and registration is now open. The Kate Kombo will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 20, at The Yards in Sawgrass. Registration includes team play for golf or pickleball, gift bags, brunch bar and Kombo party. All levels of play are welcome.

Prices for registration are as follows: golf foursome is \$1,250. Pickleball pair is \$350. Spectators are encouraged, and tickets are \$75. Following the tournaments, there will be a collective celebration with complimentary luncheon, live auction, prizes and an awards ceremony.

To donate to the Kate Amato Foundation or learn more about participating in Kate Kombo, go to KateAmatoFoundation.org.



Accessories like headbands and backpacks help complete and outfit.

The new back to school fashion trends for this year.

BACK TO SCHOOL NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD

Mix of comfort, durability is rooted in latest children's fashion trends

story and photos by
ANTHONY RICHARDS

The start of a new school year can mean so much new in a child's life, and one of those includes the clothes they wear.

According to Rachel Crismond and Melody Joy Snelen, owners of Kyds Children's Boutique in Neptune Beach and twin sisters, there has never been a more fun and creative time for children and parents when back to school shopping for new clothes.

"The trends that are really taking off are comfortable sets, so that's matching and coordinating tops and bottoms, which keeps it super simple and easy but also so much fun," Crismond said. "The materials are also getting more soft and comfortable than ever."

However, the sets also provide the opportunity to be creative where the prints on the tops and bottoms do not necessarily have to match in order to still



Patterns and prints are a creative and fun trend this year.

look the part.

"The sets provide opportunities to mix and match, so you could wear a solid top with a printed bottom or skirt or the opposite," Snelen said. "It really allows the child to build an outfit that matches



Kyds Children's Boutique in Neptune Beach has a wide range of clothing from newborn preemie to size 16.

their personality and reflects who they are."

There are certain styles or fabrics that are staples and remain that way in children's fashion, one of which is denim, which Crismond has seen less of this year, but it still has its place because it is durable and is good for lasting through a school year.

The twin sisters have owned Kyds Children's Boutique for about seven years and in that time have been able to see the trends transform over the years,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 ■



Comfort, durability and style are the goals of back-to-school fashion.

SCHOOL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

and sometimes from year to year.

Clothes made from a terry cloth material are another common thing Crismond has seen this year.

“That’s big in Florida, especially, because it’s breathable and can keep you dry and cool but is also a very soft and comfortable fabric,” Crismond said.

Finding the right mix of comfort and style is a challenge at times, but Crismond knows how important it is having children of her own.

“They are going to be wearing these clothes all day at school, so you want something that will last but also continue to be comfortable for them as the day goes on,” Crismond said.

There are a variety of prints available to choose from among this season’s selection, many of which in stock at Kyds reflect the Florida lifestyle with palm trees and flowers for girls and sharks for boys as just a few of the examples.

“It’s definitely important to know your customer base and where you live,” Snelen said. “That goes a long way in determining which trends to go with.”

Rompers are a popular trend for girls in Florida because they provide breathable material for when children go outside at school, but the pants as part of the outfit can provide a little bit of warmth needed in the cooler air-conditioned classroom.

The continued advancement in clothing material is something that they both believe has allowed for more unique prints and patterns to be introduced over time compared to the more traditional basic looks and solid colors.

The colors that are solid are often very bright and vibrant colors that reflect the mood of children.

“We want to make back-to-school shopping such a fun and unique experience for everyone involved, because the parents are just as much a part of it as the kids are,” Snelen said. “When the kids come into the store, they usually quickly gravitate to the thing or the print they connect with most, and that’s a special moment to see.”

Kyds is located at 216B First St. in Neptune Beach and has a wide range of clothing from newborn preemie to size 16.

“We actually have some petite women that have even shopped in our store, which shows how fashionable the styles are,” Snelen said.

So back-to-school time may represent the end of summer for many children, but at least it does not have to signify the end of looking and feeling good with what they wear thanks to the ever-evolving landscape of children’s clothes.



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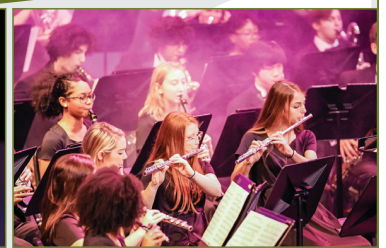
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AT BEDTIME, ASK CHILDREN ABOUT THEIR DAY

submitted by **JACKSONVILLE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL**

We know the change from the summer schedule to the school year schedule can be hard on both the child and the caregiver. When planning for this shift, there is one activity we think is a must have on the new schedule: incorporating a bedtime routine that involves your child telling you about their day. You might think this is obvious and that this is something you already do every day, but the positive impacts of a scheduled time might surprise you.

We asked Jacksonville Country Day School Counselor (JCDS) Liz McNairy M.Ed. about the benefits of having this established routine, which includes noticeable positive changes in behavior,

building a deeper connection with your child and a greater sense of preparedness.

Why do you think incorporating a bedtime routine that involves your child telling you about their day is important?

Establishing a routine at bedtime allows a child to know what to expect. It can offer a sense of safety and security, eliminating anxiety and uncertainty. Our days can be filled with so many activities, moving from one thing to the next. Taking the time to connect at the end of the day can help slow all of that down. It can also begin to provide the child with a sense of independence.

What do both the child and the caregiver gain from doing this?

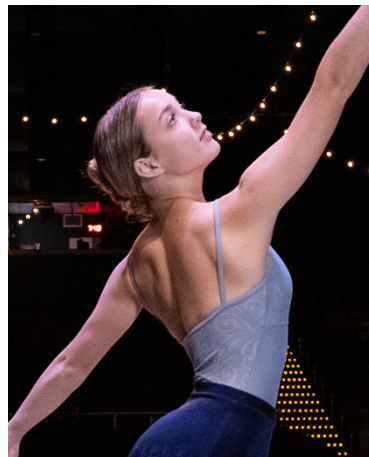
As children navigate through their

day, they are often asking themselves, "Am I safe?" and "Am I loved?" As they complete their day feeling safe and loved, their minds are free to think about what they have learned from the day and take those lessons forward. This time may also include any thoughts for the next day, giving you, the caregiver, insight on how to prepare for any challenges for the day to come.

What does incorporating a bedtime routine that involves your child telling you about their day look like?

At JCDS, we use a curriculum called Conscious Discipline by Becky Bailey. This program includes a technique called, "I Love You Rituals," which refers to four

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ■



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JOHNSON NAMED NEW HEAD OF JACKSONVILLE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Christopher Johnson has joined Jacksonville Country Day School (JCDS) as the new head of school, effective July 1. Pat Walker had been in this role since 2014.

Walker played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of the school's Character Education program, weaving these values into not only the curriculum but the school's mission as well. She has always prided herself on putting the interests and needs of the children first. To this end, she played a critical role in the development and implementation of an inclusive school logo in the early 2000s.

She also led the 2019 renovation and transformation of "The Center," a centralized space on campus for learning, innovation and collaboration. Additionally, she has been an integral part of continuous improvements in



Incoming Head of School Christopher Johnson meets with students at Jacksonville Country Day School.

safety and security measures throughout the school.

"I am indeed a fortunate person to have been able to work at a place I've felt connected to since my first time on campus in the spring of 1994," Walker said. "I've loved this school as a happy parent, as a teaching assistant in third

grade, as a teacher in first grade and as the admissions director. To cap that off with the great honor of being asked to be the head of school and serving in that capacity for nine years was a dream come true."

Walker, along with the board of trustees, has spent the last year planning for and ensuring a seamless transition between herself and Johnson.

"We couldn't be more grateful to Mrs. Pat Walker for the indelible mark she has left on thousands of JCDS students, graduates, families and faculty," said Greg Wong, Ponte Vedra resident and former JCDS board chair. "We are highly confident Mr. Johnson will lead our school to even greater success in developing the minds, character and talents of young children."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ■

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BEDTIME

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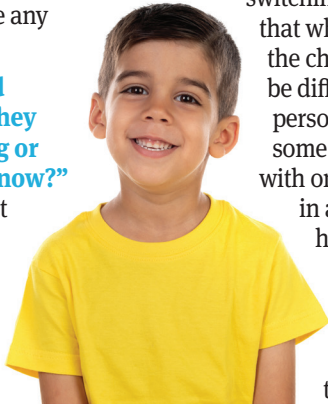
steps of engaging with your child. They include being present, making eye contact, playfulness and touch. These aspects of "I Love You Rituals" are a great foundation to set the tone for a daily reflection.

What questions can I ask to get the ball rolling?

What was your favorite part of the day? How did you show kindness today? What was challenging for you today? Do you have any questions about today?

What if I ask my child about their day and they don't tell me anything or simply say, "I don't know?"

"You can model what it sounds like to tell your child about their day by telling them about your day. For example, you might say to them. "I love



connecting with you and sharing my day with you, so I am going to tell you something that was challenging about my day which was ..."

Should it be the same caregiver each night? Both caregivers? Switching off each night?

Bedtime is a unique time for each family. Ideally, if a child is able to have this time with both caregivers, they strengthen the connection with both. However, that can be challenging. Therefore, you may find one person taking the lead with this time or switching off at times. Keep in mind that when switching caregivers, the child's routine will naturally be different due to different personalities. This may lead to some pushback from the child with one of the caregivers. To aid in any resistance, you may have to remind the child that caregivers have to take turns saying goodnight to their children and that they each love having this time.

JOHNSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

In late 2022, the JCDS Board of Trustees concluded the head of school search and announced that they had chosen Johnson as Walker's successor.

Johnson completed the recent school year as head of upper school at Scheck Hillel Community School in Miami. Johnson said he is "thrilled to be the next head of school and could not be more excited to call JCDS home."

Among Johnsons' priorities is getting to know each of the students, parents, teachers, staff, Sharky (the school's mascot) and community members. Besides joining as the new head of school, the other role that he is looking forward to is becoming a JCDS parent. Johnson's daughter will be a part of this year's pre-K 4 class.

"Being both a leader in the JCDS community and a parent provides me with a unique dual perspective and further fuels my commitment to our school's success," said Johnson.



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PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARTHA FERGUSON

Meet Me In The Breezeway” by Martha Ferguson



Martha Ferguson stands next to an exhibit of her new paintings at The Grand Bohemian Galley in St. Augustine.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARTHA FERGUSON

“Summer Evening” by Martha Ferguson

LOCAL ARTIST’S WORKS CELEBRATE ST. AUGUSTINE

Story and photos by **SHAUN RYAN**

For First Coast artist Martha Ferguson, the historic district of St. Augustine holds endless possibilities. Her paintings often feature the narrow streets and centuries-old architecture that inspire countless visitors to explore the Nation’s Oldest City.

Because she paints in the Impressionist style, the character of the light and how it interacts with her subjects are of primary importance, and she has found that mornings and the “magic hour” right after sunset provide the most desirable illumination.

She paints primarily in oils, though she often blocks out the various elements first in acrylic.

“A lot of underpainting will come through in the oil,” she said. “It’s cool when it works.”

Originally from West Virginia, Ferguson earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Flagler College in 1982. While a student there, she would wander the city and frequently find herself observing legendary local artist Emmett Fritz at his studio on St. George Street.

“I would talk to him and watch him paint,” Ferguson said. “I think that’s



Martha Ferguson does a painting live during a special event at The Grand Bohemian Galley.

what made me kind of fall in love with painting.”

After moving away for many years, she returned to St. Augustine in the early 2000s and has been a key member of the



Martha Ferguson applies paint to a work she created during the recent live demonstration.

city’s arts community ever since.

Her work has been featured in numerous exhibits and galleries and can be found in private collections throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

For the past two years, Ferguson’s art has found a home at The Grand Bohemian Gallery, located at 49 King St., St. Augustine. In August, the gallery featured her latest paintings and offered fans an opportunity to chat with her while she did a live painting demonstration.

The learn more about Ferguson’s work, go to mgfergusonfineart.com.



The Spotlight Center is a local dinner theater that opened in April and is located in Fleming Island.



The theater plans to have about 15 shows by the end of its first year, with *Addams Family* having been one of them.

THE SPOTLIGHT CENTER OFFERS UP TASTY THEATER OPTION

story by ANTHONY RICHARDS

photos courtesy of THE SPOTLIGHT CENTER

The First Coast is beginning to be a popular location for dinner theaters, as the latest of which opened in April with the Spotlight Center located in Fleming Island.

"We're still pretty brand new," said Curtis Reed, creative director with the theater.

Even though it is still early in the process, Reed is excited about the potential that exists for the dinner theater in that area of Northeast Florida.

"We used to own one of the most successful dinner theaters in Nashville, called Chaffin's Barn, but the pandemic hit and forced us to close it," Reed said.

However, they have now moved their attention to replicating that past success with the Spotlight Center, which was an idea that had been formulating since the end of 2021.

"This area is really starting to grow, especially with the new bridge going up along (State Road) 16," Reed said. "That area and Middleburg is really seeing an expansion,

and we're thinking a full dinner theater is what people are looking for."

The center uses a 50-50 approach when selecting a show's cast, which means that half of the performers are from the local area, while the other half are from outside the area, usually elsewhere in Florida or up into Georgia.

According to Reed, one of the aspects that make dinner theaters so unique and fun is that it allows for a certain level of convenience because a person or group's night out is all under one roof and there is no running around to other locations for dinner and then the play.

"It's a one-stop shop for celebrating and making a night out of it," Reed said. "And boy do we know how to celebrate."

One of the unique ways in which they share in celebrations with their guests is by singing a song for anyone in attendance celebrating a special occasion, no matter what it is.

"We try to really create that family atmosphere, and one

of our goals is that we want to make the experience so memorable that when people are walking out at the end of the night they are already planning their next outing at the center," Reed said. "It's a special place for us, and we want that to be the case for them as well."

Reed credited not just the system of success in place but also excellent people on the staff that help create those memorable experiences.

Despite being a new theater, Spotlight wasted little time forming a lineup of shows they believe their guests will appreciate and be proud of.

According to Reed, the theater plans to have 15 to 16 shows each year, including hitting that mark by the end of their first year in business.

Some of the shows the Spotlight Center has shown since it opened its doors in April include *James and the Giant Peach*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Addams Family*.

Future shows on the calendar include a Tribute to

Carol Burnett, *The 39 Steps*, *Willy Wonka*, which will be their children's production, and *Holiday Inn*, one of their Christmas features.

"We try to have a variety of shows that we offer, so that there's something for the whole family to enjoy when they stop by," Reed said. "One of the things that we've discovered is that love of theater has no age limit."

The Spotlight Center is located at 1809 East West Parkway in Fleming Island. It opens its doors for its nightly shows at 5:30 p.m. with dinner being served from then to 6:45 p.m. and the shows starting at 7 p.m.

Tables seat parties of four to six, which means parties less than four may be sharing a table. Tickets can be purchased by calling 904-375-9547 or going to spotlighteventscenter.com.

The center also offers matinee options with doors opening at 11 a.m. and the show starting at noon. Boxed lunches will be served for the matinees instead of the dinner menu.

TEXTILE ARTS SUBJECT OF EXHIBIT, THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

Contributed photos

The St. Johns Cultural Council will commemorate textile arts this fall with workshops and theatrical performances at The Waterworks and an Art in Public Spaces exhibition at the St. Johns County Administration Building.

Events will feature two performances of "Thread and Bone," a heartfelt and humorous solo show by Lisa Egan Woods, a Kentucky-based theater artist and heart-surgery survivor, who presents an intimate patchwork of love, grief and healing through dressmaking.

Performances will be held at 7 p.m. Sept. 2 and 2 p.m. Sept. 3 at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine. Tickets are available at [eventbrite.com/e/thread-and-bone-tickets-681802077367](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thread-and-bone-tickets-681802077367).

"Threading the Margins," an Art in Public Spaces exhibition, will be on display from Sept. 5 until Nov. 30 at the St. Johns County Administration Building, Rotunda Gallery, 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine.

Seventeen local artists were selected following an open call to participate in the exhibition, which also includes antique garments and samplers from the collections of the Peña-Peck House and Ximenez-Fatio House museums.

Participating artists include Kathryn Arango, Sherry Buckingham Peck, Susan Cockerham, Gretchen Crawford, Amy Hemphill Dove, Deborah Hossbach, Jenny Keyser, Courtney Krug, An Marshall, Melissa May, Laura Mongiovi, Elizabeth Odiorne, Linda Schultz, Juanelle Strickland Marshall, Diane Thompson Cortese, Laura Towne and Cindy Wilson.

An artist reception will be held at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 5. A formal opening will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Sept. 6 with comments at 6 p.m.

The art events are free and open to the public.

During the months of September, October and November, the public will have several opportunities to participate in hands-on textile arts workshops at The Waterworks.

For more information, go to stjohnsculture.com.

The Cultural Council presents the exhibition and events with support from the Florida Division of Arts and Culture, the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council and the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners. The Waterworks is available through the City of St. Augustine.



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FALL ARTS EVENT SCHEDULE

NOTE: Dates and events are subject to change.

PONTE VEDRA CONCERT HALL

1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach
pvconcerthall.com

Sept. 6: JOHNNYSWIM
Sept. 8: Molly Hatchet
Sept. 17: KT Tunstall
Sept. 21: Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes
Oct. 4: Blue October
Oct. 5: Toad the Wet Sprocket
Oct. 14: SOJA
Oct. 17: The Church
Oct. 18: The Cat Empire
Oct. 22: Joanne Shaw Taylor
Oct. 31: Acoustic Alchemy
Nov. 1: Jen Fulwiler
Nov. 2: Here Come The Mummies
Nov. 3: Colin Quinn: Small Talk
Nov. 4: Two Girls One Ghost Podcast
Nov. 5: Pam Tillis
Nov. 9: Keiko Matsui
Nov. 12: Tinsley Ellis and Marcia Ball
Nov. 18: Welcome to Night Vale
Nov. 19: An Evening with Bruce Hornsby
Nov. 29: The Fab Four — The Beatles Tribute Band
Dec. 2: The Wood Brothers
Dec. 6: A Peter White Christmas
Dec. 8: Andy Summers
Dec. 9: The Sixties Show
Dec. 10: The Outlaws

THE ST. AUGUSTINE AMPHITHEATRE

1340C A1A South, St. Augustine
staugamphitheatre.com

Sept. 8: Zach Williams
Sept. 21: Brett Young
Sept. 27-28: Whiskey Myers
Oct. 4: Alice Cooper
Oct. 5-6: Lynyrd Skynyrd
Oct. 14: Gov't Mule
Oct. 17: Falling In Reverse
Oct. 18: The Head and the Heart
Oct. 19: Hardy
Oct. 20: Buddy Guy
Oct. 26: Sammy Hagar & The Circle
Oct. 27: Mercyme
Nov. 3: The Front Bottoms
Nov. 9: Chris Young
Nov. 10: Blackberry Smoke
Nov. 17: Dwight Yoakam
Dec. 2: Bret Michaels with guest Night Ranger
Dec. 9: Dark Star Orchestra
Dec. 16: Steve Miller band

FLORIDA THEATER

128 E. Forsyth St., Suite 300, Jacksonville
floridatheatre.com

Sept. 7: Blues, Brews, Bourbon & BBQ
Oct. 10: Benise — Fiesta!
Nov. 1: Dot Dot Dot
Nov. 2: Jethro Tull's Martin Barre
Nov. 4: Steep Canyon Rangers
Nov. 4: Bored Teachers
Nov. 7: Brian Culbertson
Nov. 10: The SteelDrivers
Nov. 11: Celebrating Billy Joel — America's Piano Man
Nov. 12: William Shatner
Nov. 15: Straight No Chaser
Nov. 16: Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons
Nov. 17: Anthony Jeselnik
Nov. 18: Floyd Nation
Nov. 19: Ancient Aliens LIVE: Project Earth
Nov. 20: The Velveteen Rabbit
Nov. 20: Henry Rollins
Nov. 21: Rumours of Fleetwood Mac
Nov. 22: Lord of the Dance
Nov. 25: Croce Plays Croce
Nov. 27: Frosty: A Musical Adventure
Nov. 30: Dave Koz and Friends
Dec. 1: Michael Carbonaro
Dec. 2: Desi Banks
Dec. 3: Whose Live Anyway?
Dec. 10: Nurse Blake
Dec. 12: A Charlie Brown Christmas: Live on Stage
Dec. 13: The Allman Betts Family Revival
Dec. 15: Lewis Black
Dec. 16: Tony Hinchcliffe
Dec. 20: Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland
Dec. 22: Nardo Wick and Lil Poppa
Dec. 27: Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet
Dec. 29: Matt Mathews

JACKSONVILLE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

300 Water St., Jacksonville
jacksonvillecenterfortheperformingarts.com

Sept. 2-3: Paw Patrol Live! Heroes Unite
Sept. 23: Gospel Superfest
Sept. 24: Daniel Tosh: Sweet T Tour
Oct. 5: Ja Rule and Ashanti
Oct. 7: Matt Rife
Oct. 8: MJ LIVE — Michael Jackson Tribute
Oct. 18: Oh What A Night!
Oct. 20: The Jax City Blues Festival
Oct. 21: Raphael Saadiq Revisits Tony! Toni! Tone!
Nov. 5: Dane Cook
Nov. 12: Kat Timpf

Nov. 14: Chris Tucker

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

300 Water St., Suite 200, Jacksonville
904-354-5547 | jaxsymphony.org

Sept. 15: Beethoven & Tchaikovsky
Sept. 22-23: "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"
Sept. 29-30: Beethoven, Schumann & Liebermann
Oct. 6-7: The Music of Earth, Wind & Fire
Oct. 14: Greg Zelek in Recital
Oct. 15: Stories For Kids By Kids: Spooktacular
Oct. 20-21: Beethoven, Brahms & Dinnerstein
Oct. 26: Classical Mix Tape
Nov. 3-4: "Star Wars" & More: The Music of John Williams
Nov. 10-11: Mahler's Symphony for Alma
Nov. 12: Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra Fall Concert
Nov. 17-18: "Home Alone"
Nov. 19: Big Band Feature: East to West
Dec. 1-2: Tchaikovsky & Barber
Dec. 7-10: Holiday Pops
Dec. 11: Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra Holiday Concert
Dec. 15-17: First Coast Nutcracker
Dec. 16-17: Handel's "Messiah"

THE FIRST COAST CULTURAL CENTER

3972 3rd St. South, Jacksonville Beach
904-280-0614 | firstcoastculturalcenter.org

Sept. 29-Oct. 20: Darline Braz Pop-Up Exhibition and Reception
Nov. 3-TBA: Riette Gouws Pop-Up Exhibition and Reception

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

333 N. Laura St., Jacksonville
904-366-6911 | mocajacksonville.unf.edu

Sept. 6-Nov. 26: Facets: Contemporary Ceramic Sculpture
Sept. 14-Jan. 28: Project Atrium: Rowland Ricketts
Sept. 14-Jan. 14: Art With A Heart In Healthcare: Daydreamers
Dec. 1-June 30: A Walk On The Wild Side

THE CUMMER MUSEUM OF ART AND GARDENS

829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville
904-356-6857 | cummermuseum.org

Sept. 12: Living Art: Gardening As Both Preservation And Transformation
Sept. 15: Culture and Conversation: Lecture With Amer Kobaslija

Nov. 2: Inserting Ink: A Counterculture Experience
Nov. 18: Fall Garden Concert Featuring The Band Be Easy

A CLASSIC THEATRE

aclassictheatre.org

Oct. 6, 7, 13, 14: "Church & State"
Nov. 3: "Same Time Next Year"
Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9: "Silent Sky"

LIMELIGHT THEATRE

11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine
904-825-1164 | limelight-theatre.org

Through Sept. 3: "Hands on a Hardbody"
Sept. 29-Oct. 22: "The Music Man"

ALHAMBRA THEATRE & DINING

12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville
90-641-1212 | alhambrajax.com

Through Sept. 17: "Fiddler on the Roof"
Sept. 20-24: Elvis Tribute: Nothing but the Hits
Sept. 28-Nov. 5: "Legally Blonde"
Nov. 16-Dec. 24: "Miracle on 34th Street"

FERNANDINA BEACH

Sept. 1, Oct. 6: Sound on Centre
Oct. 7-8: Amelia Island Jazz Festival
Oct. 11-12: "Everything But The Kitchen Sink"
Nov. 4-5: Right Whale Festival

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



MAJOR ART NOUVEAU EXHIBIT PLANNED AT LIGHTNER MUSEUM

The Lightner Museum will be the first venue for a major new touring exhibition, “The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau” from the Chrysler Museum of Art.

The exhibition marks the culmination of the museum’s 75th anniversary celebration and will be on view from Nov. 17 through March 15. The museum will host an opening night reception on Nov. 17, providing guests with an exclusive first look at the exhibition. The Art Nouveau-inspired event will feature live music from Miami’s French Horn Collective. Tickets for the reception will go on sale on Sept. 1.

Featuring the organic furniture of Louis Majorelle, the alluring posters of Alphonse Mucha and the luminous works of Louis Comfort Tiffany, “The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau” from

the Chrysler Museum of Art presents a dazzling selection of ceramics, furniture, glass, jewelry, paintings, posters, prints, sculpture and textiles from one of the finest and largest U.S. collections of Art Nouveau.

The exhibition will be displayed in the grand ballroom gallery of the Lightner Museum. Completed in 1889, the space is contemporary with the origins of Art Nouveau and provides an ideal context for these notable works of art.

“The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau” from the Chrysler Museum of Art is organized by the Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia, and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.

Support for the “Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau” from the Chrysler

Museum of Art comes from the Crisp-Ellert Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida; Bank of America; The Treasury on the Plaza; the St. Augustine Alligator Farm; THE PLAYERS Championship; the Florida Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture; the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Chrysler Museum of Art is one of America’s most distinguished mid-sized art museums, with a nationally recognized collection of more than 30,000 objects, including one of the great glass collections in America. The core of the Chrysler’s collection comes from Walter P. Chrysler Jr., an avid art collector who donated thousands of objects from his private collection to the museum.

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20 Aviles Street, St Augustine, FL, 32084, 904 829-3575
XimenezFatioHouse.org

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Bad Boys of Opera



Sharon Isbin and the Pacifica Quartet



Jacksonville Symphony

EMMA CONCERT ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 45TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

Grammy Award-winning classical guitarist Sharon Isbin on stage Sept. 10

photos provided by
EMMA CONCERT ASSOCIATION

EMMA Concert Association has announced its 45th season of concerts, offering classical and contemporary music by world-class orchestras and performance groups from September through May in Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College.

Tickets for all six concerts are available at emmaconcerts.com or by calling 904-797-2800.

“We are thrilled to host these concerts and offer high-quality performances for the St. Augustine community and its visitors,” said Joanne Everett, president of EMMA Board of Directors. “We thank our patrons for helping us to continue to support local music programs in St. Johns County schools and provide



Neil Berg's 50 Years of Rock & Roll

scholarships to music students at Flagler College and beyond.”

The season opens Sept. 10 with Grammy Award winner Sharon Isbin, a classical guitarist who was named 2020 Musical America Worldwide Instrumentalist of the Year. Recognized for its virtuosity, exuberant performance style and daring repertory choices, the Pacifica Quartet has gained international stature over the past two decades as one of the finest chamber ensembles performing today.

Five other concerts throughout the 45th season include:

- Oct. 28: Bad Boys of Opera. Back by

popular demand, The Bad Boys of Opera is a touring concert production featuring highly acclaimed vocalists providing a program of opera hits and popular music.

- Dec. 12: Jacksonville Symphony. The acclaimed Jacksonville Symphony will perform EMMA Concert Association's annual Holiday Pops concert, a festive event during St. Augustine's Nights of Lights.

- Jan. 21: Sofia Philharmonic. The national orchestra of Bulgaria will perform a program of Mozart from Figaro to Jupiter.

- March 16: Neil Berg's 50 Years of Rock & Roll. Neil Berg musicians and singers share the music and often unknown stories from the 50-year history of the music that changed the world.

- May 4: St. Augustine Orchestra. In cooperation with the Romanza Festival of the Arts, the St. Augustine Orchestra will perform an evening of classical, pop and movie favorites.

Learn more and purchase tickets at emmaconcerts.com or call the EMMA ticket office at 904-797-2800.



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*Pending License

For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls

by Christopher Durang

February 9, 2024

Salon de Paris

by Amy Lauer Goldin

January 12, 2024

Other Desert Cities

by John Robin Baitz

April 12, 2024



SING OUT LOUD FESTIVAL WELCOMES BIG NAMES, LOCAL FAVORITES SEPT. 8-OCT. 1

The secret is out. St. Johns County is the place to see live music this fall as the Sing Out Loud Festival welcomes headliners The Black Keys, Mumford & Sons, Lord Huron, Maggie Rogers, Yola, War Hippies, Elle King, Amos Lee, S.G. Goodman, Yonder Mountain String Band, Railroad Earth, Keller & Keels and many other great performances.

The multi-weekend festival features various artists at locales throughout St. Augustine and the county.

FREE LOCAL SHOWCASES

The Sing Out Loud festival begins with free local showcases. Since 2016, local showcases have placed hundreds of local singers, songwriters and musicians into the spotlight.

With genres that include indie rock, bluegrass, hip hop, country, comedy and spoken word, performers are featured at over a dozen venues throughout the festival. These free concerts are a staple of the Sing Out Loud Festival and allow visitors to explore the vibrant musical landscape of the area.

The local showcases begin Sept. 8, and shows are featured every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Oct. 1. A listing of concerts and locations is available at SingOutLoudFestival.com.

FEATURED EVENTS

Featured events include:

- **Sept. 16:** Sing Out Loud Festival's newest event, Lincolnville Porch Fest, celebrates the unique history of one of St. Augustine's most historically and culturally significant neighborhoods. Featuring 25 local musical acts performing on five porches against the backdrop of the Lincolnville neighborhood, Porch Fest takes place from noon to 5 p.m., culminating with

a finale at Colonial Oak Music Park later in the evening.

- **Sept. 19:** artisan shopping and live music take center stage at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Night Market. This free event takes place from 5 to 9 p.m. and features live music, handmade arts, crafts and goods and local food trucks.

MAIN EVENT

The Sing Out Loud Festival main event, The Francis Field Showcase, takes place Sept. 22 and 23 at Francis Field in downtown St. Augustine.

- **Sept. 22:** The Francis Field Showcase will welcome headliners The Black Keys, a Grammy Award-winning American rock duo formed in Akron, Ohio, consisting of band members Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney. The Black Keys are known for songs like "Tighten Up," "Lonely Boy," "Howlin' for You," and "Fever." Other performers for that night include indie rock band Lord Huron, English singer-songwriter Yola and country music duo War Hippies.

- **Sept. 23:** The Francis Field Showcase will welcome headliners Mumford & Sons, a British folk-rock band founded in London in 2007, consisting of members Marcus Mumford, Ted Dwayne and Ben Lovett. Mumford & Sons are known for tunes like "I Will Wait," "Little Lion Man," "The Cave" and "Hopeless Wanderer." Other musicians that will take the stage on Saturday night include American singer-songwriter Maggie Rogers, blues rock musician Elle King, folk soul-rocker Amos Lee and Southern songwriter S.G. Goodman.

Two-day tickets for The Francis Field Showcase include general admission for \$235 each, general admission+ for \$395 each, and platinum for \$760 each.

One-day tickets can be purchased at \$125 for Friday and \$155 for Saturday. Tickets are available online only.

THERE'S MORE!

- **Record Fair:** Music lovers can expand their collections at the St. Augustine Record Fair. This free event takes place 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 24 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and is one of the area's largest fairs featuring limited-edition vinyl, '90s tour posters, vintage rock T-shirts — and even cassette tapes and record players.

- **Songwriters Festival:** Sept. 29 through Oct. 1, another foundation of the area's music scene, the St. Augustine Songwriters Festival, celebrates the craft of songwriting. Top-notch country songwriters will perform their hits throughout the St. Augustine's historic city, accented with the stories and anecdotes behind the hits. These free concerts occur at the Colonial Oak Music Park, Trade Winds Lounge, Prohibition Kitchen and the St. Augustine Distillery.

Introduced in 2016, the Sing Out Loud Festival is an annual celebration of live music in St. Johns County. The festival takes place over multiple weekends and features dozens of musical genres and more than 100 local, regional and national artists. It is produced by St. Johns County Cultural Events, which curates and operates The St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, in partnership with the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

The festival has welcomed more than 1,300 musicians from around the world and raised more than \$300,000 for local nonprofit organizations.

A FINE HEART EXPERIENCE

Fundraising event to benefit Art With a Heart in Healthcare

Contributed photo

Art With a Heart in Healthcare will host a fundraiser, A Fine HeART Experience, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Sept. 16. The event, to be held at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 333 N. Laura St., Jacksonville, will feature the nonprofit organization's newest annual patient art exhibition, "Daydreamers," as well as live painting and music, local cuisine from Biscottis, an open bar until 7:30 p.m. and more.

Guests attending the event will have the opportunity to bid on exclusive items, including getaway trips, a chance to win raffle prizes such as artwork created by Wolfson Children's Hospital patients, and hear stories from patients and families who have benefitted from



working with the organization. A Fine HeART Experience is open to the public with tickets available for purchase on Art With a Heart in Healthcare's website, awahih.org/event.

Proceeds from the event will benefit

the organization's mission of enhancing the healing process for patients and their families through a fine art experience.

Since its founding in 2001, Art With a Heart in Healthcare has served more than 125,000 patients and their families in several locations in Jacksonville, including Wolfson Children's Hospital, Nemours Children's Health, St. Vincent's Riverside, Baptist Medical Center, Mayo Clinic and Baptist Health MD Anderson. The organization's team of staff artists, community volunteers and interns from the University of North Florida provide fine art sessions individualized to meet the needs of patients at their bedside or in groups six days a week.

Sponsors for the Sept. 16 event include Ferguson Enterprises Inc., Sight and Sound Productions, Hillary Whitaker Gallery, Lisa Landwirth Ullmann, Dr. Tom Hilton and Friends of Art with a Heart in Healthcare.

For more information about sponsorships, tickets and donations, go to awahih.org/event.

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TABLE TALK

A Kaleidoscope of Dining ON AMELIA ISLAND

story and photos by LEIGH CORT



Leigh Cort

When a romantic, barrier island has perfected an incredible collection of dining destinations between Coastal Georgia and Jacksonville don't ignore your appetite for a vacation centered around food. This vast beachy Amelia Island has become a cornucopia of restaurants for culturally adventurous diners. Wake up early and cart your coffee cup to watch the sunrise; wander to an open-air deck or dress-up for a 5-star chef's dinner. Don't forget Amelia Island for a getaway or a leisurely drive for dinner. Each season, restaurants are making appearances and enjoying the limelight. Eventually they blend into the culinary excitement. Even if you only have a tiny window of time to visit, you'll enjoy my curated suggestions that capture the spirit of Islanders!

Burlingame — The Masterpiece



Chef Chad Livingston

Proud of its location in historic Fernandina Beach and nestled inside a charming 1947 "cottage," Chef Chad Livingston's Burlingame Restaurant is a masterpiece of fine dining. Dreaming about being invited to a chef's home for a special dinner, it's happening every night when you step in. Opening in 2016 after an illustrious culinary career that began at the Culinary Institute of America, he returned to his hometown

When a romantic, barrier island has perfected an incredible collection of dining destinations between Coastal Georgia and Jacksonville don't ignore your



Red Snapper

of Amelia Island, one of the youngest chefs at the Ritz-Carlton. Today, Chad is like a symphonic maestro of a seasoned ensemble — all deeply versed in his vision — managers, bartenders, servers, chef and cooks. His menu is concise, laden with luscious, layered refinements bringing together the highest tier of local fresh ingredients.

His authentic American cuisine highlights classical gastronomic techniques, woven into a distinctive style. There are beautiful surprises on every plate that take endless days of testing and tasting, assuring guests outstanding dishes they appreciate! If you're still hunting for the ultimate shrimp and grits, Chef's appetizer features Anson Mills grits, fried marinated goat cheese, balsamic reduction and capers. Chef's love of handsomely detailed, formal and precise cooking balances with his island-y upbringing. It's obvious in the gorgeous red snapper with beechwood mushrooms, chive and crème fraiche potatoes, asparagus, uni beurre blanc and English pea puree that's breathtaking.

Over the years, Burlingame has



Shrimp and Grits

gained the trust of guests even when the sophisticated menu changes seasonally. They arrive for an exceptional adventure. This begins at the bar with a craft cocktail authentically Burlingame. Growing their own potted herbs for cocktail garnish, they make every libation better. A tiny sprig of rosemary, a mint leaf, Polynesian bitters or a drop of rose water heightens your senses and the anticipation of dinner. Each intimate dining room, windowed porch and private outdoor courtyard claim their own charm for discerning diners. At Burlingame, you don't need to second guess this chef. His skill and resourcefulness are embedded in every minute of your visit.



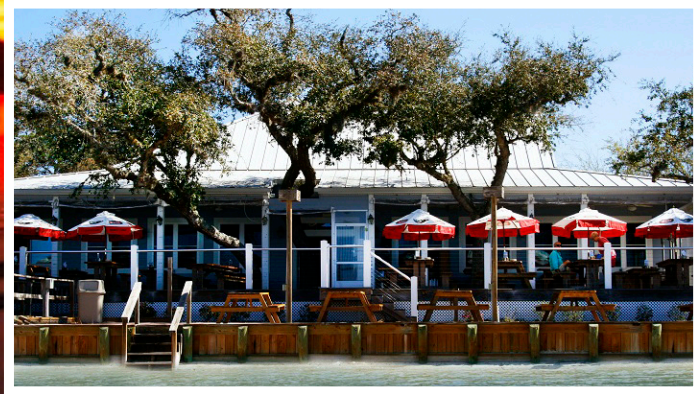
Chef David Echeverry

David's Restaurant & Lounge — The Global Journey

Chef David Echeverry has finally become the owner of David's Restaurant &

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 ■

**On A1A between St. Augustine and Ponte
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Bread Box

DINING

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Lounge, bringing his vibrant global fusion influence to the reinvention of David's (formerly a fine steak-and-seafood destination). Throughout his world travels and youthful career, he was influenced by each country's exhilarating diversity of flavors and panache.

Colombia, Miami, Australia, Orlando. Each was a giant step toward his current new proprietorship in historic downtown Fernandina Beach. There's no fanfare on Ash Street in what began as the red brick telephone company building decades ago. However, when you enter the couturier-designed wine cellar tasting and dining room, you know you're in a very special place.

ICE. WIND. FIRE. WATER. Begin by reading the menu that sets the scene for a wonderful experience of excellence. It's a luxurious main dining room with a subdued dramatic ambience that is unlike another restaurant on the island. Impeccably attired staff know how to introduce you to the evening's dining as the themed categories unfold on David's menu. Return to the golden age of dining on the dining adventure.

ICE: Caviar (Osetra, Siberian or Kaluga) with classic accoutrements from blini pancakes with whipped crème fraiche

WIND: Irresistible appetizers created to steal your heart: beef carpaccio, Chilean seabass risotto croquette, grilled octopus or David's escargot

FIRE: Quintessential aged steaks, including Frenched rack of lamb with sweet potato puree

WATER: Seafood "collection" featuring classically crafted Dover Sole Meuniere and Seafood Gnocchi Bouillabaisse

wine dinners meticulously planned in the private "cellar" at a 12-guest grand table. Renowned wine connoisseurs select from the curated collection to match Chef David's six-course gastronomic feast. At David's, even if you're just taking a midweek break from the ordinary, you'll feel as if you have slipped into a rare space and time. David brings out your hidden sophisticated appetite for the unusual!

1928 Cuban Bistro — The Real Deal



Rebecca Gonzalez

Savor the warm feeling of family when you select 1928 Cuban Bistro for an authentic Cuban meal or take-out from Rebecca and Adrian Gonzalez' newly opened island bistro. Their fifth restaurant/location opened in only four years. It's through hard-work and proud dedication to their Cuban/Spanish heritage that you enjoy the aromas from this bustling kitchen. Paying homage to Rebecca's grandparents, who fled Cuba, giving up everything to enjoy freedom in America, this dynamic young couple also possesses "taking a chance" in their blood. With



Lamb Chops

NOTE: It's not an easy decision especially after you've been served a delicate amuse bouche to tease your palate and a "secret box" with warm-from-the-oven dinner rolls! David chose an international team to work alongside him from Columbia, Thailand and the USA. Don't miss the

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DINING

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her Abuela and Abuelo as inspirations, Rebecca convinced her businessman husband to take a chance on her dream of a family restaurant. Adrian's grandmother from Spain (now 96) is a marvelous cook who sealed Rebecca's destiny with an iron-clad commitment to 1928 Cuban Bistro!

What is the formula? Generations of love, good food and hard work! There are days when the lines are long to place orders at the counter before taking a seat and being served. A complimentary coffee or pastry makes your wait more than bearable, especially if you're lucky enough to receive a sweet churro or guava pastry. The Platos Fuertes are enough to share (abundant rice plates with the best black beans and conгри rice plus a choice of steak, roasted pork, pollo or ground beef). More than a dozen huge sandwiches fill your plate, too, with The Cuban or Medianoche (roasted pork, ham, Swiss, pickles on sweet bread). For the hearty desayuno (breakfast) appetite



The Cuban

order Desayuno Caballo — Palomilla steak, two eggs, salad and Cuban tostada.

Ah, the empanadas! Handmade pastry stuffed with beef, chicken, ham, pork or banana and Nutella. Whatever you choose, one will never suffice. I guarantee another one will follow. Here it's always time for café — a long list that has my favorite, “La Rebe” with espresso, steamed almond milk, brown sugar and secret ingredient. HINT: Plan on taking some items to go. I'm dreaming about “El Guajiro” (the old farmer) with chorizo, roasted pork, onions, fontina cheese and sweet plantains on Cuban bread.

It won't be long before 1928 Cuban Bistro will be stopping traffic in historic Fernandina Beach. Visit with your friends and begin with a large order of Magu's Yuca Fries (named after Rebecca's mother) and those sweet Maduros, along with whatever soup of the day has been planned. And do not put dessert off until tomorrow!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39 ■

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Cliff Prince with Kelley Prince, Syler Prince and Rileigh Stout.



Realtors gathered at Sidney Gefen Riverwalk Park as part of NEFAR's Clean-up Florida Waterways initiative.



Cliff Prince with two big bags.

HUNDREDS TURN OUT FOR WATERWAY CLEAN-UP EFFORT

Contributed photos

More than 300 Realtors, friends, family members and others gathered at eight different clean-up sites along the St. Johns River on July 8 to take part in the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors' (NEFAR) third annual Clean-up Northeast Florida Waterways event.

This year's event invited volunteers from the community to work alongside NEFAR members to remove tons of garbage and litter from the shoreline of the St. Johns River between Mayport and Palatka.

In all, more than 3,300 pounds of trash and debris were collected and disposed of.

The event was NEFAR's collective contribution to Florida Realtors' month-long Clean-up Florida's Waterways initiative, which encourages Florida Realtors to clean up lakes, beaches, rivers, creeks and streams throughout the Sunshine State during the month of July.

Debris removed from the river's shores included tires, an automobile bumper,



Frank and Kathy Streeter collected the most trash, including a refrigerator door, a truck bumper and more.

a baby doll, sleeping bags, tarps, old buoys, Styrofoam cups and water bottles. JDog Junk Removal & Hauling collected the trash from all the clean-up sites.

Organizers are in the process of applying for permits to remove a derelict sailboat from the river near the Lions Club Boat ramp, said Mark Feagle, a NEFAR member who also serves as president of the Northeast Florida Coastal Conservation Association.

"If it can be removed, we will have

met our goal of removing 10 tons of trash from the St. Johns River in Northeast Florida," he said.

More than 150 volunteers celebrated their hard work during two four-hour afterparties hosted by the NEFAR Community Affairs Task Force at the NEFAR Resource Center on Deercreek Club Road in Jacksonville and at the Lighthouse Grill and Captains Cove Bar at the Crystal Cove Marina in Palatka.

During the afterparty at NEFAR, \$270 was raised from drawings for prizes donated by the Coastal Conservation Association. Extra money raised from the event went to NEFAR's Charitable Foundation and was earmarked for NEFAR's Oyster Bar, a University of North Florida river restoration project done in conjunction with the Coastal Conservation Association.

This year's event was considerably larger in scope and better attended than last year's.

"This was the largest turnout we've ever had," said Feagle. "It is our hope that we can expand it even further next year."

DINING

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Story & Song — Center for Art, Culture and Good Food



Donna Paz Kaufman

Jacques Pepin recently signed his recent cookbook with a sold-out crowd at Story & Song, a bookstore bistro and center for arts and culture in the heart of Amelia Island. Let's visit this

wonderful and unique spot for lunch or a morning espresso and book talk. Having opened in 2018 by Mark and Donna Paz Kaufman, it's a stimulating multi-art-cultural-bistro-bookstore — their dream. Visionaries of owning a community-based bookstore that hosts concert series with singers/songwriters/authors, they have paired the cultural side of Story & Song with a thriving bistro catering events on property while serving



Tea and Tales Tiers

breakfast, lunch and chef-made pastries throughout the day.

It's easy to theme this bookstore menu since the light fare is the "prologue" and soups and salads are the "short stories." Today's hand-held sandwiches are "savory plots" and all-day sweets are described as "sweet characters"! Chef/Cook Rachel Tyler practically giggles with enthusiasm as she manages both the bistro's kitchen and front-of-house

operations. Her love of food, art and theater make her an ideal director of culinary programs, combining food, culture and art to create meaningful edibles.

How fun to select any dish on their menu and discover a mystery, novel, movie or song. My Story & Song favorites are:

- Life of Pi Grilled Cheese Panini
- Curious George PBJ Sammie with fruit
- Eat, Pray, Love Hummus & Flatbread
- Alice's Mad Platter on the Snack Board

Donna's mission of helping other booksellers build skills and insights so that they, too, can open their own bookstores is an important part of her daily outreach and lateral business The Bookstore Training Group. Her background is rich in management of one of the country's leading independent bookstore cafes plus publishing. The Kaufmans nurture this culinary + cultural destination so that locals and visitors to Amelia Island can feed their souls as well as their appetites for excellent food!

Don't miss our next issue!

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