

Recorder

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Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

COMMITTED



Phil Mickelson
Photo by Christian Petersen/
Getty Images

Tiger Woods
Photo by Sam Greenwood/
Getty Images

THE PLAYERS Championship announced last week that Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson have committed to play in the 2018 tournament taking place next week in Ponte Vedra Beach. **Read page 26 for more.**

Insider's
Tournament
Guide 2018
INSIDE



What to do with
**BORED
KIDS...**



What to do with
bored kids
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↑ ↓
Mother's Day
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Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to jonb@opcfla.com by Monday at 5 p.m.

All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

Four readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Restaurant Medure sign. The winner of the random drawing was **Paul Coronato**. Congratulations, Paul – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Rae, and I am a 4-year-old female cat who was brought to the pet center by my owners because they could no longer care for me. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #42564



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Bell, and I am a 4-year-old female dog who was brought to the pet center by my owners. I prefer to be



in single pet family. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #42560

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

S	M	A	S	H	M	O	M	O	K	R	A
P	I	N	T	A	E	W	E	A	R	E	A
A	C	T	O	R	O	N	O	G	E	N	I
R	A	I	N	B	O	W	W	I	L	S	O
			Y	O		I	S	L	E		
N	B	C	R	I	S	C	K	A	R	M	I
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O	U	S	E	A	R	B	O	R	T	I	E
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P	O	S	E	R	I	L	O	H	A	D	O
A	W	E	D	A	P	T	S	L	U	N	G

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

PLANTS. ART. FUN!



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Bring Your Designer and Create Your Perfect Dream Home!
 This 3 bedroom 2 bath home is situated east of A1A and a short walk to Ponte Vedra's private beaches. Imagine starting your day with a sunrise walk along the beach with a coffee or best friend in tow and quiet evenings on your screened porch! Is there a more relaxing way to live? With a few upgrades you can take advantage of everything this great community has to offer! **\$325,000**



A Sophisticated and Luxurious Retreat on Ponte Vedra Blvd
 This impressive 4 bedroom and 5 full & 3 half baths oceanfront home reflects that magical merging of beach living and architecture. Situated on 220ft of Oceanfront and designed by Residential Designs by Kevin Gray, Inc and built by Elwood Collier, this estate is a masterpiece of design and craftsmanship. It's location atop one of the highest natural sand dunes along the Florida coast (with the finished floor elevation is approximately 33.5' above sea level) allows owners the ultimate beach living experience. **\$8,750,000**



Extraordinary Lot in The Plantation at Ponte Vedra
 With stunning water-to-golf views, surrounded by gorgeous mature oaks, you will find yourself forgetting where you are with the abundance of nature and tranquil views from the spacious screened lanai. This Arthur Rutenberg home compliments the landscape with a synergy that pulls the outdoors in. The surrounding landscape is simply breathtaking, whether you are a nature lover, a birdwatcher, a golf spectator or simply in need of a tranquil place to decompress after a long day. **\$985,000**



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County requests participation in survey on trash, recycling and yard waste services

St. Johns County is asking residents to participate in an online survey regarding trash, recycling and yard waste services.

"Your voice is important in ensuring these programs continually improve to meet the needs of our growing and evolving community," the county wrote in a press release.

The survey can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJC2018. The county is asking residents to complete it by May 31. Those who participate will be entered into a recycled gift bag giveaway. For more information regarding the survey or these services, call (904) 827-6980 or email solidwaste@sjcfl.us.

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For More Information, Call or Text Rhonda Gummerman at 904.994.1721

Sand replacement projects to impact parking at Mickler's Landing

County urges caution, explores improvements

By Samantha Logue

In the wake of last year's disastrous hurricane season, erosion has become a pressing concern for many Ponte Vedra Beach residents—particularly those living along the beachfront. To better protect their homes, some residents recently began private sand replacement projects along Mickler's Beach, and the county is now urging visitors to take caution.

"Some residents had permits to do some sand placement, and to facilitate that request, we're allowing the use of Mickler's parking lot," explained Billy Zeits, assistant director of the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department. "The contractor is managing his heavy equipment that's going in and out of the parking lot and onto the beach, and we're allowing public access during that time, because we know it's important for people to go to the beach this time of year."

As the only free public beach access in Ponte Vedra Beach proper, the parking situation at Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park is already a source of frustration for many local beach-goers. The private projects, which officially began on Monday, April 30, are projected to be completed by May 15,



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

A truck transports sand onto Mickler's Beach as part of the private sand replacement projects that will be taking place there through May 15.

but Zeits confirmed that visitors to the beach can expect the normal parking difficulties to be exacerbated for the projects' duration.

"There's definitely going to be portions of the parking lot that won't be available for parking," Zeits said. "There will be flag men there to help people know when the heavy equipment's coming. Our intent is to just to make sure that people are prepared for an unusual beach experience for the next two weeks."

Zeits added that the county is aware of the community's concerns regard-

ing parking and accessibility at Mickler's Landing and revealed that there are plans in the works to address them.

"We appreciate everyone's patience and we are still working towards making some improvements at Mickler's, once all of these construction projects are done, to improve the beach access at the site going forward," Zeits said. "There is a plan to build another boardwalk, there's a plan to redo the parking lot, there's a plan to redo the emergency vehicle access and, right now, we're working with contractors to get some accurate pricing."

Underwood's Jewelers hosts Ippolita trunk show benefiting Angelwood

By Jon Blauvelt

Underwood's Jewelers in Ponte Vedra Beach hosted an Ippolita trunk show last week that benefited Angelwood, a Jacksonville-based nonprofit organization that serves adults and children living with developmental disabilities.

The third annual event kicked off Thursday, April 26, with a cocktail party that allowed event attendees to peruse the jewelry while enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Guests at the party also bought raffle tickets for a dazzling Ippolita necklace that will be raffled off at Angelwood's "Color Our World" gala on Saturday, Aug. 18, at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa. The trunk show continued at Underwood's Friday, April 27, and Saturday, April 28. Angelwood will ultimately receive 10 percent of the weekend's proceeds.

"It's a huge thing for Ippolita to give back to charity," said Natalie Wall, director of sales for Ippolita. "It's definitely a wonderful charity. We're honored to partner with them."

Former Angelwood Development Director and current volunteer Tera Lageman said the weekend-long event at



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Natalie Wall, director of sales for Ippolita; John Rutkowski, general manager at Underwood's Jewelers in Ponte Vedra Beach; and Tera Lageman, former development director of Angelwood, gather at a cocktail party on Thursday, April 26, which kicked off an Ippolita trunk show at Underwood's benefiting Angelwood.

Underwood's has raised approximately \$25,000 for the nonprofit over the last two years, allowing the organization to buy new vehicles for its clients and renovate its group homes.

"We wouldn't have been able to do this without them [Underwood's and Ippolita]," said Lageman, whose organization serves more than 350 families locally. "They've become like family to us. They really have their whole heart in it."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

At the Board of County Commissioners meeting on April 17, the commissioners voted to move forward on examining a user fee (fancy word for tax) for certain county services.

This discussion included possible fees for beach parking, boat ramps, parks, rec fields and libraries.

Now let's put this all in context with the talk since 2015 about the county's budget woes and revenue shortfalls. In fact, two years ago, this was all spelled out, and several solutions were proposed. Of all the possible sources of new revenue, the one that would give us the largest increase, while at the same time allow us to share the burden with nonresidents, was to add a 1-cent increase to the current county sales tax.

Did you know that out of 67 counties, St. Johns County has the second-lowest tax rate at 6.5 percent? Of that, we send 5 cents to Tallahassee, leaving the county with a penny and only a half-cent for the schools. The proposed 1-cent sales tax increase would be all ours.

Tourists would pay around 35 percent of the sales tax. It was estimated to collect over \$32 million dollars annually. The school board asked us to go forward with them in their request, but two of our county commissioners, Jeb Smith and Jimmy Johns, were adamant against any tax increase (both knowing full well that it would be the citizens who would make the choice at the ballot box, not them).

Then last year, we found out that Tallahassee was going to put an amendment on the 2018 ballot offering an increase in the homestead exemption (from 50,000 to 75,000). That will cost the county an additional 10 million in lost revenue if people vote for it, and you know they will.

So here we are today, already having lost well about \$40 million in additional sales tax revenue.

Our problems still exist, only worse. We continue to have a huge hole in our unfunded deferred maintenance for roads and bridge repairs. You name it, no money, no repairs.

Last year, a group of us even contacted the City of St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach Commissioners, explained the situation to them, asked if they would go to the county commissioners and help us, as they too would share in the additional revenue. They didn't bother and yet in the newspaper they are screaming about no money and wanting more of the bed tax revenue.

My friends: You do know it is our property taxes that are paying for the beaches, parks and libraries. Now they want you to pay more to use what you already pay for.

From our experience last year, it was again Jeb Smith, Jimmy Johns and now Paul Waldron who would not even consider putting the sales tax on the ballot for you to vote on.

If they continue down this path, it will be well over \$100 million in revenue that we will have lost over the next three years. I'm afraid their only option will be to raise our property taxes. These shortsighted elected officials are costing us a lot of money (services) and have not even given us an opportunity to vote, up or down. They should be ashamed! You, my fellow citizens, should be ashamed as well if you say and do nothing.

Mary Kohnke, Ponte Vedra

Local nonprofit hosts soiree to promote greenway trail project

By Benjamin Naim

PV Greenway Alliance Incorporated — a 501c3 nonprofit organization advocating to designate and develop a nature-based greenway trail through Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley — hosted a soiree featuring a presentation, hors d'oeuvres, drinks and more on Wednesday, April 25, at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Ponte Vedra Beach.

PV Greenway began as a grassroots effort in 2014 before recently growing into a nonprofit organization. Its stated mission is to identify, designate, preserve, expand and enhance a nature-based greenway providing safe mobility, interconnectivity and outdoor recreation to the Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley community.

"We have had a need in this community for our sidewalks, bike paths, greenways," Pam Marrott with PV Greenway Alliance said during the presentation. "Deb [Chapin] actually had this vision of a greenway from riding her horses along the beaches; she has had a vision for this greenway for a very long time."

Marrott added that the nonprofit is looking for more donors and support.

Deb Chapin, the founder of PV Greenway, said the project would add recreational opportunities and connect parks and other destinations. According to the nonprofit, a greenway would also increase property values, expand and diversify the golf course community market and keep pedestrians safe by providing a traffic-



Photo by Benjamin Naim

Rob Schlingmann, Teena Manners, Jennifer Bruno, Marilyn Jacobs, Deb Chapin, Sarah Alexander, Brian Anderson, Mark Atkins and Pam Marrott gather at the PV Greenway soiree April 25.

separated corridor.

"The genesis of this was literally the concern for safety and the fact that we don't have the recreational activities," said Chapin, who also noted her organization recently received a grant from the Coastal Partnership Initiative. "When you look at

the per-square mile recreation opportunities — on our map there's a lot of green space but a lot of that is hypothetical — it doesn't exist. We're really getting squeezed in."

For more information on the PV Greenway initiative, email Deb Chapin at debchapin@comcast.net.

Visit Jacksonville's Vice President of Marketing and Communications Katie Mitura (center left) and Beaches Museum & History Park Executive Director Christine Hoffman (center right) gather with staff members and local officials to cut the ribbon for the new Beaches Visitor Center at the Beaches Museum April 26.

Photo by Samantha Logue



Visit Jacksonville unveils new visitor center at Beaches Museum

By Samantha Logue

The Beaches Museum & History Park and Visit Jacksonville solidified their new partnership Thursday, April 26, with the official unveiling of Visit Jacksonville's new Beaches Visitor Center, located inside the museum's lobby.

"We're so excited to welcome the newest Visit Jacksonville Visitor Center here to our museum," said Christine Hoffman, executive director of the Beaches Museum & History Park. "It has been years of hard work to fully realize the dream of a fully staffed visitor center. We're excited to finally make it a reality."

Members and officials of the Jacksonville and Beaches community applauded as staff of both the museum and Visit Jacksonville held a ceremonial ribbon cutting to celebrate the new visitor center, which will be open seven days a week — even when the museum is closed.

"It's a mutually beneficial relationship," Hoffman said. "We bring in new visitors to the visitor center — and also into the museum — and vice versa, and we're going to continue to work together to grow this relationship and make

this one of the top spots for visitors coming to our Beaches.

"We've seen quite a bit of change here at the museum in the past few years, including more engaging programs and exhibits, more opportunities for community groups to utilize the museum and the history park, and more importantly, free admission to the museum," Hoffman continued. "Now visitors that come into the visitor center can not only stop here and get their information, but they can stay and learn about the history of the area that they've chosen to visit."

With the addition of its new Beaches Visitor Center, Visit Jacksonville will now have a total of three information centers throughout the city, including one at Jacksonville International Airport and another at 208 N. Laura St. in Downtown Jacksonville.

"This is more than just a visitor center," said Katie Mitura, vice president of marketing and communications for Visit Jacksonville. "This is a great partnership with a great existing attraction and we're so excited for that. And this is also giving those visitors that come in more than just a brochure

SJCSD seeks applicants to serve on SJC Planning and Zoning Agency

The St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) is seeking applicants interested in serving on the St. Johns County Planning and Zoning Agency (PZA).

According to the district, Florida growth management legislation requires all counties to have a school board appointment as a non-voting member to participate in discussions on rezoning amendments to the land use plan that impact density. The St. Johns County Commission has agreed to go beyond the legislative requirements to make the school board appointment a full voting member of the PZA.

The applicant must be a resident of St. Johns County. Selection will be based on a number of factors, including the applicant's involvement in the county and in public education. The deadline for applications is noon on May 18.

Each applicant will need to attend the workshop with the school board Tuesday, June 5, at 8:30 a.m. The school board plans to make the appointment at its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, June 12 at 9 a.m.

Applications can be found on the district's website homepage at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us under "What's New." Applications may also be obtained by calling Judith Harvey, executive secretary for Planning and Government Relations, at (904) 547-7680 or in person at the School Board Administration building located at 40 Orange St. in St. Augustine.

Murray Beard is a local realtor who served as the tournament chairman of THE PLAYERS Championship in 2000.

Murray Beard

Can you please tell us about your background with THE PLAYERS Championship, and your family's connections to the tournament?

I started as a volunteer with the old Greater Jacksonville Open as a teenager when I was a standard bearer for one year at Hidden Hills. As an adult, I began volunteering in 1982 just after the tournament moved to its permanent home at TPC Sawgrass. Those were fun days with the volunteers taking on significant roles in the operation of the tournament. Over the years, I volunteered on many committees, including Markers (now Walking Scorers); Inventory/Supplies; Course Prep; Sign Installation; VIP Parking; Banking; and Spirit. We helped with the SENIOR PLAYERS Championship when it was held here, along with the U.S. Amateur in 1994, the first of Tiger Woods' three wins.

I was promoted to vice chairman in 1996 when Gerry Hurst was chairman of the tournament. I was honored to chair the tourney in 2000, the year Hal Sutton won on a Monday finish. I got my children involved when they were early teens, initially as runners and later as standard bearers. They enjoyed being able to get up close to some great (and not so great) players. My son Max was Standard Bearer of the Year in 2009. As an adult, my daughter has gained a passion for the tournament and over the past several years has chaired the Standard Bearer committee. This year, she will oversee the Benefactor Committee, coordinating about 40 volunteers.

How was THE PLAYERS Championship different when you served as chairman?

THE PLAYERS was very different in 2000. Things had begun to change with the "Tiger" effect with more PGA Tour staff and trying to upgrade the look and feel of the tourney. TV coverage was expanding, and corporate hospitality was beginning to grow. Just look at 16 and 17 today with all the hospitality venues. It was just a fraction of that in 2000 and before. The volunteers associated with corporate hospitality has grown. I think we had 1,200 overall volunteers in 2000, compared to over 2,000 today.

What are your thoughts on the tournament moving back to March?

I like the tournament going back to March for two reasons. The weather is cooler and more enjoyable, and I like the PGA Tour's efforts to create a schedule of major tournaments with the year kicking off with THE PLAYERS.

What makes THE PLAYERS Championship so special?

From a big picture perspective, it is a significant golf championship for the professionals. We will always debate if it is a major. Locally, it has a huge impact on our community. It is the single largest event in our community, and the charitable impact cannot be understated. Millions of dollars are raised to make a difference in our community.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

What is your favorite moment from THE PLAYERS Championship?

My lasting memory of THE PLAYERS was the year I was chairman of the tournament. I had the pleasure of spending the day with Byron Nelson, one of the great legends of golf. I drove him around the golf course, so he could see and invite players to come play in his tournament in Fort Worth. The respect and admiration all the professional players shared with him was amazing and the stories he shared during our day together was priceless. He sadly passed away a couple of years later.

What do you enjoy most about living in Ponte Vedra?

Speaking of changes, my wife Elise and I moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1982 back when A1A was a two-lane road and many of the neighborhoods were not constructed yet. Sawgrass Village was under construction for the first time! We love our little beach community and all the little quirks of it. It's a beautiful place with great friends and neighbors.

Edited by Jon Blauvelt

To watch a video portion of the interview, visit pontevedrarecorder.com and click One of Us.

Rotary, Recorder seek nominations for 26th Annual 'Local Heroes Awards'

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and the Ponte Vedra Recorder are seeking nominations for the 26th Annual "Local Heroes Awards."

Presented each spring, the Local Heroes Awards recognize individuals who give back to the community and reflect the spirit of the Rotary Club's motto, "Service Above Self." Suggested categories for a person who might be nominated include community service in the arts, edu-

cation, the environment, vocational service, volunteerism and corporate community service. A youth category recognizes young people making a difference in the community.

Residents who know of an individual they believe is deserving of recognition as a "Local Hero" are encouraged to complete the nomination form on this page and email it to lksmith59@yahoo.com. Nomination forms may also be mailed to: Local Heroes Awards Committee,

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, PO Box 70, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004. The deadline for submission of nominations is May 14.

Award recipients will be recognized at the "Local Heroes Awards" reception to be held Thursday, May 24, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Marsh Landing Country Club.

For more information, contact Rotarian Ken Smith at (904) 710-7702 or lksmith59@yahoo.com.



The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

in cooperation with **The Ponte Vedra Recorder**

2018 Local Heroes Awards *Nomination Form*

Nominee: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Nominated by: _____

Nominator's Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Category: *(check one)*

Arts _____ Education _____ Youth _____

Environmental _____ Vocational _____

Volunteer _____ Corporate _____

Entry Deadline: Monday, May 14, 2018

Send Entries to:

**Local Heroes Awards Committee
Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach**

P.O. Box 70

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

or email entries to: lksmith59@yahoo.com

Qualifications: *Submit this form with a detailed description of the nominee's achievements and why he or she deserves recognition. Direct any questions to:*

Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club member
Ken Smith, lksmith59@yahoo.com, (904) 710-7702

Thank you for your nomination!

***Awards to be presented
Thursday, May 24, 2018
Marsh Landing Country Club***



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WHY I SERVE
JEREMIAH BLOCKER

In the latest edition of the *Why I Serve* series, the *Ponte Vedra Recorder* sat down with Jeremiah Blocker, a Ponte Vedra resident and local attorney, to discuss his time in the Army and Air Force Reserve and why he served in the military. The full video version of the interview is available online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com.



What was your role in the army?

In the Army, I served as everything from platoon leader to company commander. I led a military police company — we were embedded with the Iraqi police in Mosul, Iraq, and Northern Iraq. We actually managed all the police stations. I managed all the police stations in Mosul at that point. This is a time of ongoing contingency as we were fighting, at that time, with pre-ISIS. We were embedded with

the Iraqi police making sure that their logistics were correct, that they had clean water, that they had the correct amount of ammunition and enforcing the rule of law in a very intense combat environment. I've been in charge of all the logistics, a multi-million-dollar budget, managing the resources, the manning, the training requirements. I've worked in two different battalion staffs during my time in the Army, and most importantly, the opportunity to lead troops in combat as a company commander.

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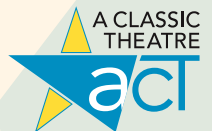


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\$2,190,000 - Builder/Lot Package



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\$174,900



REDUCED
152 DEER LAKE DR.
\$509,000




145 KINGFISHER DR.
\$399,000 - Marsh Landing Lot



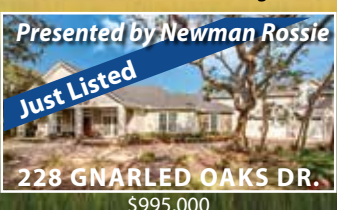
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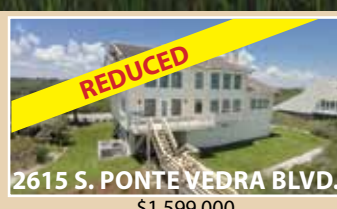
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4931 PHILROSE DR.
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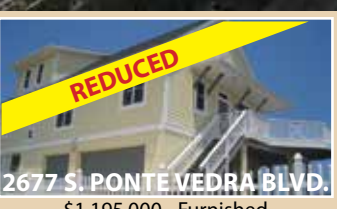
New Listing
133 BRISTOL PLACE
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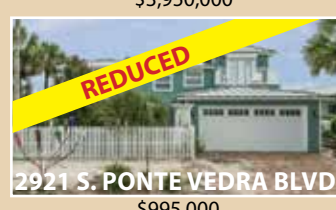
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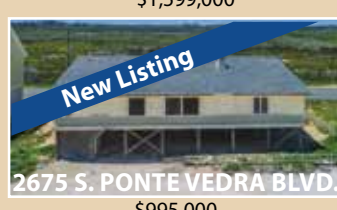
342 PABLO TERRACE
\$1,200,000



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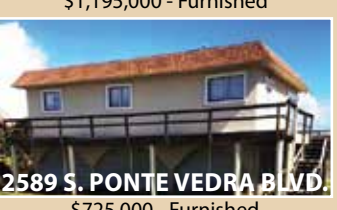
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Sunset Rotary Club raises funds for charity with second annual Comedy for a Cause event

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset held its second annual comedy fundraiser, Comedy for a Cause, on Saturday, April 21, and ultimately raised more funds this year than last year for several Northeast Florida charities.

Held at the University of North Florida's Robinson Theater, the event featured hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, 50/50 raffle and silent auction including more than 50 items, such as restaurant gift certificates, golf packages, unique artisan items and more.

Danny Johnson, a Northeast Florida award-winning comedian, headlined the evening. He has starred on Comedy Central's Laugh Riots and shared the stage with a host of comedic celebrities, such as Chris Rock, Bob Saget, Billy Gardell, Richard Lewis and many others. Johnson was joined by fellow comedians Wes Johnson, Christina Schriver and Joey Nickel.

"It was wildly successful for us," said Cyndi King, president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset. "Those in attendance had a very enjoyable time. Many who attended last year enjoyed it just as much this year and are looking forward to attending next year."



LEFT: Janeene Hart and Cyndi King of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset address the crowd at the Comedy for a Cause fundraiser.



BELOW: Kerry Ann Kirkland, Tony Kirkland, Robin Kirkland and Brian Bang gather at Comedy for a Cause.



Comedian Danny Johnson entertains the crowd at the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset's Comedy for a Cause fundraiser on April 21 at UNF's Robinson Theater.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Bob Fuller and Lois Remolde enjoy Comedy for a Cause.

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Roscolusa Festival brings Nashville songwriters to Ponte Vedra for one-night music event

By Benjamin Naim

The seventh annual Roscolusa Songwriters Festival, featuring Maggie Rose, Jeffrey Steele, Earl Bud Lee and others, took place last Saturday, April 28, in Nocatee.

Festival attendees enjoyed live music, food, drinks, kids' activities and more. Started in 2012, the one-night event brings songwriters from Nashville to Ponte Vedra to share the stories behind popular songs and perform them live on stage. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, a nonprofit organization helping local families tackle childhood cancer.

"It's all the people that have written all of the top radio songs and all the music artists that you hear on the radio," volunteer coordinator Meagan Dubberly said. "These are the guys that got to sit down and write it and pitch it to the singers who then produce it. They come here, and they get to sit down and do a small 'writers round.' It's pretty intimate, and they get to tell the story behind the song and tell us how it came about, what made them write it."

For more information on past Roscolusa events, visit the festival's official website at www.roscolusa.com.



Photo by Benjamin Naim

Songwriters share their stories and perform popular songs on-stage at the 2018 Roscolusa Songwriters Festival, held April 28 in Nocatee.

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Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra celebrates being chartered as new Rotary club

By Jon Blauvelt

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra celebrated being chartered as a new Rotary Club last Wednesday, April 25, at a chartering ceremony and installation dinner held at Marsh Landing Country Club.

Leadership from Rotary District 6970, Rotary International and Rotarians from across the First Coast attended to recognize the new club and present gifts to its charter president, Kelly Altosino-Sastre. The only new club in Florida to become chartered this Rotary year, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra started in June 2017, met as a board from August to December, developed a strategic plan in January 2018 and subsequently held its first official meeting Jan. 16. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, the new club meets Tuesday mornings in the Coastal Oaks at Nocatee Clubhouse.

“We are so proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish,” said Altosino-Sastre, who previously served as president of the

Rotary Club of Coral Gables in 2003-04. “We have such big plans as a club to really bring Rotary into the life of our community and to work with others collaboratively ... to achieve goals and really embark on this Rotary journey to make the world a better place.”

The new club was planned to be named the Rotary Club of Nocatee, explained Altosino-Sastre; however, Nocatee is trademarked by The PARC Group, making it unusable. Therefore, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra was born, joining in the area the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, which meets on Thursday mornings at Marsh Landing Country Club, and the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset, which meets on Tuesday nights at Hilton Garden Inn.

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra currently has 24 members, including Past District Governor Russ Miller, who served as a new club advisor and is an honorary member. Of the club’s 23 other members, there are 18 who are new to Rotary. In



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra President Kelly Altosino-Sastre (second from right) receives the official charter from Rotary International, presented by Rotary District 6970 Governor Nominee Mike Darragh (from left), Past District Governor Fel Lee, 2018-19 District Governor-Elect Jannette Loftus and Rotary International Director David Stovall, at a special chartering ceremony held April 25 at Marsh Landing Country Club.

addition, 17 members on the club’s board are between the ages of 29-44.

“Everybody you see on this board said, ‘I want in now, and I want to be part of the legacy of this club by setting a strong foundation,’” said Altosino-Sastre. “I have a whole team full of race horses, and they’re young, which is amazing.”

The new club plans to sponsor addi-

tional clubs in the Nocatee area, including Rotaract for young adults and EarlyAct for elementary students at the new K-8 school in Nocatee, Palm Valley Academy.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra, visit its Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rotaryclubof-pontevedra) or contact the club via email at pontevedrarotary@gmail.com.

Museum

Continued from 5

or someone to talk to, but an opportunity to be interactive in an existing, fantastic museum that tells you about the history of the Beaches, not to mention this wonderful history park we have out here in all the uniqueness that it is.”

The Beaches Museum & History Park is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach. To learn more about the museum and its exhibits, visit www.beachmuseum.org. For more information about Visit Jacksonville and its visitor centers, visit www.visitjacksonville.com.



ABOVE: First responders make their way down First Street in Jacksonville Beach during the annual Opening of the Beaches Parade Sunday, April 29.

RIGHT: Miss Florida’s Outstanding Teen 2017 Reece Weaver (left) and her Sunshine Princess Gabby Watkins wave at the crowd as they drive by.



Photos by Samantha Logue

Beaches declared open with annual parade, fanfare

By Samantha Logue

Spectators from around the Greater Jacksonville area gathered in Jacksonville Beach this past Sunday, April 29, for the Opening of the Beaches Parade, an annual tradition for Jacksonville’s beach communities.

Now in its 72nd year, this year’s parade featured local officials, veterans, pageant queens and more. Crowds cheered and thanked first responders as they passed, including the Beaches Energy linemen on their “Men at Work” float.

From the race cars and buggies of Shriners Hospitals for Children to THE PLAYERS Championship’s island green float, local organizations made their presence known. With additional entertainment provided by the Crystal Springs Twirlers and the Fletcher High marching band, the event offered community members of all ages the opportunity to celebrate and enjoy the opening of yet another beach season.

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What to do with **BORED KIDS...**



May 3, 2018
Special Section

Ponte Vedra 
Recorder
Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

St. Johns County to offer summer camps, activities for kids

Over the next few months, St. Johns County's Parks and Recreation Department is offering a handful of camps and events for local kids. Here are some of those opportunities for your youngsters looking for fun activities as we head into the summer.

SJC Exploration Summer Camp

Date: July 23-27 for ages 5-8 (completed kindergarten) and July 30-Aug. 3 for ages 9-12

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Location: Ketterlinus Gym, 60 Orange St. in St. Augustine

Details: St. Johns County's park naturalists will host a weeklong Exploration Camp enabling children to explore the natural world around them. Campers will have an exciting week chock-full of field trips, while expanding their understanding of local ecosystems, sustainability and how to collect and analyze data like a scientist. For more information or to register, contact Kelly Ussia at (904) 209-0335 or kussia@sjcfl.us.

Kids' Beach Yoga

Date: Friday, June 15

Time: 4-4:45 p.m.

Location: Frank B. Butler Park East, 5860 A1A South in St. Augustine

Details: Participants will learn how to relax their mind and body with some simple, kid-friendly stretches, exercises and activities. Attendees are asked to wear loose clothing and to bring a towel or mat. This program is free. For more information, contact Kelly Ussia at (904) 209-0335 or kussia@sjcfl.us.

Parent & Child Fitness in the Park

Date: Saturday, June 2 and Saturday, June 23

Time: 9-10:30 a.m.

Location: Hastings Park, corner of W. Holtz Street and North Main Street in Hastings

Details: Participants will do sit-ups and push-ups, walk

and run together as families. Attendees should bring water and athletic wear. For more information, contact Willie Cooper at (904) 209-0395 or wcooper@sjcfl.us.

Parents Night Out at Trout Creek

Date: Friday, May 4

Time: 6-9 p.m.

Location: Trout Creek Community Center, 6795 Collier Road in St. Augustine

Details: Parents can enjoy a well-deserved break while their kids have a night full of fun playing games, eating pizza and watching a movie. The theme for the night is "Sports Night" and kids are encouraged to wear apparel from their favorite sports team or player. Registration is open now until the event. The cost is \$20 for the first child, \$10 for each additional child (per family) and is open to kids ages 6 to 13. For more information and to register, contact Josh Bratovich at (904) 209-0320 or jjbratovich@sjcfl.us.

Story Time at Trout Creek

Date: May 10 and 24

Time: 11 a.m. to noon



Location: Trout Creek Community Center, 6795 Collier Road in St. Augustine

Details: St. Johns County Parks and Recreation has partnered with the Library to bring story time to Trout Creek. An interactive opportunity for parents and their preschoolers, story time will be filled with learning and fun as well as crafts and other activities. No registration is required. For more information, contact Josh Bratovich at (904) 209-0320 or jjbratovich@sjcfl.us.



Photos courtesy of St. Johns County Parks and Recreation

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Photo courtesy of St. Marys Express

Featuring the charms of favorite storybook characters, the Storybook Express will depart Theatre by the Trax in St. Marys, Georgia, at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. on May 19 and 26.

Storybook Express train rides to debut in St. Marys May 19, 26

Just beyond the Florida-Georgia border, the St. Marys Express is introducing a new excursion featuring the charms of Snow White, Robin Hood, Snoopy and other favorite storybook characters.

The Storybook Express will depart Theatre by the Trax in St. Marys, Georgia, at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. on May 19 and 26. Passengers will ride the rails to StoryLand through woodlands and marshlands with entertainment all along the way. At the Midway stage, actors from St. Marys Little Theatre will bring a storybook adventure to life, and then the fun continues as the characters board the train for the ride back.

Every spring, St. Marys Express introduces a new train adventure, and this year's "Storybook Express" is the last train excursion until October.

"Volunteers for St. Marys Little Theatre create engaging scenarios that get the passengers involved before, after and during the train ride," said Barbara Ryan, entertainment director for St. Marys Express. "We have many returning guests because they know that each excursion is an entirely new and different experience."

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$14 for children 12 and under. Children 2 and under ride free on laps. Tickets can be purchased at www.stmarysrailroad.com or by calling (912) 200-5235. Special group discounts are available for groups of ten or more by calling (912) 729-1103 to get a discount code.

St. Marys Express' popular AT THE THROTTLE experience is also offered on all train dates. AT THE THROTTLE gives someone (must be 16 or older) an opportunity to actually run the diesel locomotive. The cost is \$150 and reservations for AT THE THROTTLE must be made ahead of time by calling (912) 729-1103.

For more information, visit www.stmarysrailroad.com.

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council offering summer camps at two locations

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council (GSGC) is once again holding summer camps for girls of Northeast Florida this year.

The organization is offering summer camp experiences at two different locations: Camp Kateri near Gainesville and North Fork in Middleburg. Campers can earn badges including Archery, Gardener, Adventurer, STEM and Survival.

Camp Kateri will offer multiple resident camps throughout the months of June, July and August. Resident camps are overnight camps for girls of varying ages to practice independence, test their ideas and try new things. At Camp Kateri, campers can participate in activities such as swimming, kayaking, outdoor skills, arts and crafts, canoeing and archery.

The North Fork Leadership Center will host day camps where campers can enjoy the wonders of nature with canoeing and archery. Day campers may also choose the STEM emphasis camp to combine nature with the sciences, such as robotics, photography, astronomy and more.

Beyond day camps at North Fork, the North Fork campsite offers girls the option of a two-to three-night stay to test out a traditional camp experience. Girls choosing to try a sampler overnight camp will sleep in a cabin, cook over fire at night and enjoy customary



Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of Gateway Council

camp activities including swimming, boating, shooting and making s'mores.

Girls who have completed high school are able to earn their Counselor in Training designation. With the approval from a Girl Scout camp director, Counselors in Training can mentor and work with younger girls in a camp/outdoor setting.

To find out more information about the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council 2018 summer camp offerings and how to register, visit www.girlscouts-gatewaycouncil.com or contact TriciaRae Stancato at (904) 421-3484.

Bolles PVB first grade wows crowd with underwater stage show



The ocean and its inhabitants took center stage in The Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus' first-grade play on April 18.

Led by music teacher Stacey Posick, the show featured a colorful and creative set with distinctive blue and green stage lighting by technology teacher, Michael Bachman. Students took to the Ponte Vedra Hall stage in pairs to share funny bits and all participated in an under-the-sea comedy act that kept the audience laughing. Students performed two shows that morning: one for their parents and special friends, and another for their campus peers.



Photos courtesy of The Bolles School

The first-grade students of The Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus perform in an ocean-themed comedy show April 18.

Keep your kids safe in and around water this summer



Jennifer Ryan
Guest Columnist

By Jennifer Ryan
Ponte Vedra Family
YMCA executive director
Special to the Recorder

There is a list of basic life skills all parents instinctively know they must teach their children to keep them safe and healthy. It includes

habits such as looking both ways before crossing the street, washing your hands with soap and water and eating the right amount of fruits and vegetables every day.

For too many parents, however, safety in and around water is not on the list, and that's something we need to change. Florida leads the country in drowning deaths of children ages 1-4, according to the Florida Department of Health. Annually in our state, enough children to fill three to four preschool classrooms drown before their fifth birthday.

During National Water Safety Month this May, the Y offers Safety Around Water, a program to engage parents about the importance of water safety skills and provide more children access to water safety

lessons. As part of the program, the Ponte Vedra YMCA will provide scholarships to children from low-income and underserved communities to participate in free water safety lessons. The lessons teach young people valuable skills like what to do if they find themselves in the water unexpectedly, a situation every child should be equipped to handle.

To find out how to enroll your child in the Y's Safety Around Water program or swim lessons, visit FirstCoastYMCA.org/youth-swim.

Water Safety Tips

Before letting your children hit the water this summer, remember these tips to ensure it's an enjoyable and safe experience.

- 1. Never swim alone.** Teach your children that they should only swim in locations where a lifeguard is on duty.
- 2. Supervise your children whenever they're in water.** Whether it's bath time or taking a dip in a pool or lake, make sure your children are within arm's reach at all times.
- 3. Don't engage in breath holding activities.** Children shouldn't hold their

SAFETY continues on **Page 17**

Register at: www.surfintosummer.com



OPE STUDENTS SPEND 'SCIENTIST SATURDAY' AT MARINE SCIENCE EDUCATION CENTER



Photo courtesy of Katie Byrd

Several of Ocean Palms Elementary's fourth-grade students had the opportunity to spend a morning at the Marine Science Education Center in Mayport on April 21 to celebrate "Scientist Saturday." Students used microscopes to inspect sand, identifying the various minerals that can be found in sand from local beaches, and they also had the chance to identify living specimens in the wet lab tanks, hold starfish and hermit crabs and examine whalebones and fossilized sharks' teeth.

Safety

Continued from 16

breath for a prolonged amount of time while swimming, as this can cause drowning and has several other severe physical side-effects.

4. Wear a life jacket: Inexperienced or non-swimmers should wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket.

5. Don't jump in the water to save a friend who is struggling in deep water. If a child finds their friend in deep water unexpectedly, their natural reaction may be to jump in the water to try to save them. Even if a child is a great swimmer, a panicked person will overpower them, pulling them underwater with them. The Y's Safety

Around Water program teaches the "reach, throw, don't go" concept of using a long object to reach for them and pull them to safety. By using this technique, children can help their friend without compromising their own safety.

6. Enroll your children in water safety or swim lessons. Just like teaching your children to look both ways before they cross the street, participating in formal water safety lessons teaches them an important life skill.

Join our cause by supporting the Ponte Vedra YMCA SandCastle Showdown May 1 at Mickler's Landing or by becoming a donor. \$60 is all it takes to help one child learn how to be safe around water. For more information, visit FCYMCA.org or call (904) 543-9622.

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With its own unique paint design by day and flash pattern at night, the St. Augustine Lighthouse tells sailors that they are approaching the town. Like our Lighthouse, Museum camps sail you into St. Augustine to experience the stories of those who have sailed into St. Augustine over the last 450 years.

MAY 29-JUNE 1: LEGENDS OF THE SEA (COST \$105 FOR 4-DAY WEEK)

Living aboard ship creates a culture of its own! Learn sailor slang, make and eat hardtack, and take part in some favorite past times aboard ship. Plus, find out if sea monsters are as scary as they sound!

JUNE 4-8: GUARDIANS OF THE COAST

Discover daily life and technology of guardians of St. Augustine's coast from 1565 through World War II, and learn how archaeologists bring these Lighthouse stories to life.

JUNE 11-15: BUILD YOUR DREAM IN ST. AUGUSTINE

The proximity of St. Augustine to the ocean has made it a place for dreamers for centuries. Live off the sea like Menorcans have since 1775. Follow the footsteps of Henry Flagler and use steam power and rail to turn St. Augustine into a late 1800s resort town.

JUNE 18-22: WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN!

From the Timucuan to the Spanish, find out how recycle, reuse, and renew were common place before today. Turn old into new, try some early hunting methods, and use your creativity to make nature into art. Go in the woods to find drinkable water, identify food and track your path back to modern day.

JUNE 25-29: UNIQUELY ST. AUGUSTINE

The people and environment of the area have created a unique blend of fun history and beauty. Explore early attractions and festivals, create traditional arts, try local foods, and hunt for plants, animals and landforms unique to St. Augustine.

Completed 5th - 7th Grades ST. AUGUSTINE: COASTAL COMMUNITY

JULY 9TH - 13TH 9 AM - 3 PM COST: \$225/WEEK

Discover how people have lived and interacted with the marine environment from the early 1500s to the present. Practice boat building skills, fish from shore and on the water, row locally made wooden watercraft, visit modern shrimping and boating operations in St. Augustine, go on an eco-tour by kayak, and more!

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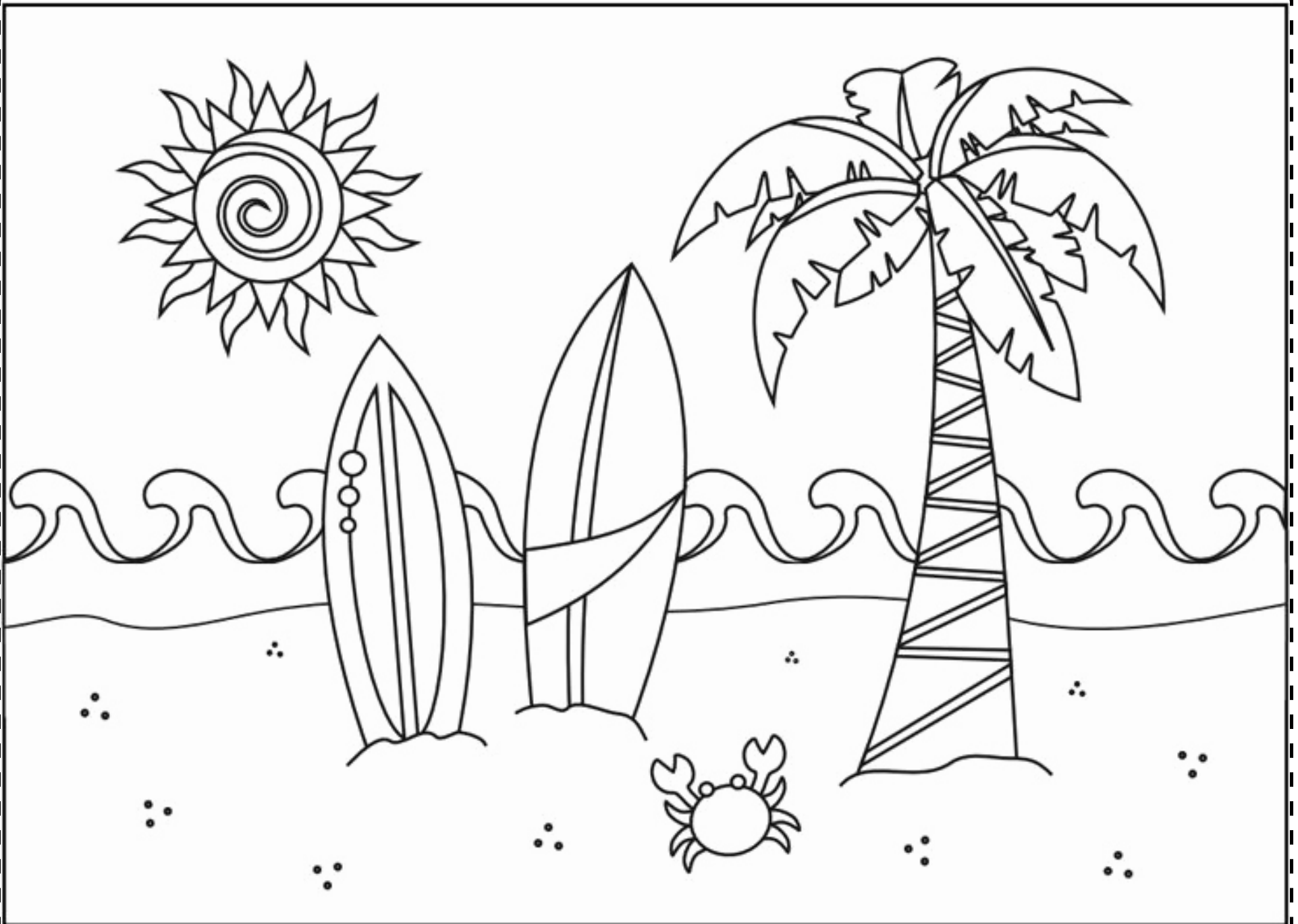
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Contest open to children ages 3-12 and will be judged in 3 categories: 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12.
 Winners will receive a family four-pack of tickets to The Crayola Experience in Orlando, FL!
 Our office must receive all entries by Friday, May 25th

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Parent's Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Age _____

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Adventure Landing employees celebrate the opening of Shipwreck Island Waterpark's new \$1 million interactive slide complex with a ribbon cutting ceremony last week.

Photo courtesy of Media Mix



Adventure Landing celebrates opening of interactive slide complex

Adventure Landing's Shipwreck Island Waterpark in Jacksonville Beach hosted representatives from the JAX Chamber last week for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of a new \$1 million interactive slide complex.

The pirate-themed waterslide complex features five slides and interactive water features, and replaces part of the original pirate village.

"Shipwreck Island Waterpark is celebrating its 23rd year," said owner Hank Woodburn. "We're constantly making improvements to offer the best experience to guests, groups and birthday parties celebrated here. Our new complex offers five slides with more water features that are more substantial than the previous village.

There will simply be more for families to do and just in time for our spring and summer season."

The Pirate Play Complex features attractions such as the Cannonball Burst, an enclosed slide for single riders with three 360-degree loops; Black Beard's Revenge, an open flume body slide filled with twist and turns; and Pirate's Plunge, a tunneling body slide featuring two 360-degree turns. Guests will also experience a bucket that sporadically dumps endless amounts of water. The youngest guests can safely enjoy the Junior Jolly, a wide platform waterslide and Sea Pups Racer, an open dual body slide racer.

Visit jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.com for more information.

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Thursday, May 3	Friday, May 4	Saturday, May 5	Sunday, May 6
<p>Centenarian Luncheons The Council on Aging will honor community centenarians and nonagenarians at the annual Centenarian Luncheons May 3 at noon at River House, located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine, and May 23 at 11:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. Table sponsorships are available for \$250 and include a variety of special recognitions and a seat (Ponte Vedra) or two seats (St Augustine) at the luncheon. For more information, to sponsor a table or to RSVP, contact Cindy Walker at cjwalker@stjohnscoa.com or (904) 209-3687.</p> <p>National Day of Prayer at Redeemer Church Join Redeemer Church for its #Pray4Unity National Day of Prayer event May 3 from noon to 1 p.m. Redeemer Church is located at 190 S. Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit www.redeemerpv.com.</p> <p>Farm Swap & Music Jam Enjoy music from local musicians while shopping for farm-fresh produce at the Florida Agricultural Museum May 3 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will feature musicians, singers and songwriters of folk, bluegrass, old time, fiddle, country and blues, along with vendors offering fruits, veggies, honeys, jellies, nuts, arts and more. The Farm Swap & Music Jam will take place at 7900 Old Kings Road N. in Palm Coast. Visit www.floridaagmuseum.org for more information.</p> <p>'A Beautiful Mind' at Corazon Cinema and Cafe After John Nash, a brilliant but asocial mathematician, accepts secret work in cryptography, his life takes a turn for the nightmarish. This film is showing at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe at noon. Admission costs \$10. The Corazon Cinema and Cafe is located at 36 Granada St. in St. Augustine. For more information, visit the cinema's official website at www.corazoncinemaandcafe.com</p>	<p>'Oklahoma!' at Nease Nease will present the musical "Oklahoma!" May 3-5 at 7 p.m. and May 6 at 2 p.m. General admission costs \$10. Set in a Western Indian territory just after the turn of the century, the high-spirited rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys provides the colorful background against which Curl – a handsome cowboy – and Laurey play out their love story. The Allen D. Nease Performing Arts Center is located at 10550 Ray Road in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>Gilbert King at The BookMark Pulitzer Prize-winning author Gilbert King will appear at The BookMark May 4 at 7 p.m. to talk about and sign copies of his new book, "Beneath a Ruthless Sun: A True Story of Violence, Race, and Justice Lost and Found." The BookMark is located at 220 1st St. in Neptune Beach. For more information, call (904) 241-9026.</p> <p>First Friday garden tour Visit Washington Oaks Gardens State Park on the first Friday of every month for a guided tour of the gardens; meet in the garden parking lot at 10 a.m. Visitors are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes for the tour, which will last approximately one hour. Admission costs \$5 per vehicle, \$4 for single occupancy and \$2 per bicycle. Washington Oaks Gardens State Park is located at 6400 N. Oceanshore Blvd. in Palm Coast. Visit www.floridastateparks.org/park/Washington-Oaks for more information.</p> <p>St. Augustine's Romanza Festivale of the Arts This arts and culture festival is presented by the St. Augustine and St. Johns County community. Cultural organizations and businesses will come together May 4-13 to showcase the community's talents. There will be more than 80 events taking place, including dance performances, concerts, art shows and productions. For locations and event information, visit www.romanzafestivale.com.</p>	<p>'Avengers: Infinity War' at IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame The Avengers and their allies must be willing to sacrifice it all in an attempt to defeat the powerful Thanos before his blitz of devastation and ruin puts an end to the universe. This film is showing at the IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame. For more information on showtimes and to purchase tickets, visit www.worldgolfimax.com. The World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Gamble Rogers Music Festival The Gamble Rogers Music Festival, featuring more than 50 acts on four stages with youth activities, storytelling and more, will take place May 4-6 in St. Augustine's Colonial Quarter. Peter Rowan and Verlon Thompson will appear at the event along with six youth competition performers. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.gamblerogersfest.org.</p> <p>St. Augustine Amphitheatre Farmers Market The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Farmers Market, running from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Saturday, features 100 tents loaded with local produce, flowers, baked goods, handmade arts and crafts and more. The market also features community classes, including a yoga class on the first Saturday of the month and a cooking class on the fourth Saturday of the month. Admission is free. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S. For more information, visit www.staugamphitheatre.com.</p> <p>St. Augustine Cruisers 16th Annual Car & Truck Show The St. Augustine Cruisers 16th Annual Car & Truck Show will be held May 5 at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. Food, music and entertainment will be available throughout the event and the awards ceremony begins at 3 p.m. The Florida School for the Deaf and Blind is located at 207 N. San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine. Visit www.staugustinecruisers.com for more information.</p>	<p>Sandals, shorts and steel drum service Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Budweiser Clydesdale Hitch visits Jacksonville The world-famous Budweiser Clydesdale Hitch will visit the Budweiser Brewery Experience in Jacksonville May 1 to 6. During the visit, guests will have the opportunity to view the full Budweiser Clydesdale hitch team pulling the famous red wagon on the brewery grounds. Guests can also take photos with the gentle giants on Thursday, May 3 and Friday, May 4. For more information, visit www.budweisertours.com. This event will take place at 111 Busch Drive.</p> <p>Charles Martin at The BookMark New York Times bestselling author and Jacksonville-native Charles Martin will appear at The BookMark May 6 at 4 p.m. to launch his new novel "Send Down the Rain." The BookMark is located at 220 1st St. in Neptune Beach. For more information, call (904) 241-9026.</p> <p>Babkallah bake Join Chabad at the Beaches for a Babkallah bake May 6 at 3 p.m. Visitors can make their own chocolate babka and challah and build a "Challah Pillow." This program is geared to children ages 2 to 13; children must be accompanied by an adult. Moms, dads and caregivers are welcome free of charge. For reservations, visit www.chabadbeaches.com. Call (904) 543-9301 for more information.</p> <p>'Bad Jews' at Limelight Theatre The Limelight Theatre will host a performance of "Bad Jews," a comedy about faith and family, May 6 at 2 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.limelight-theatre.org or call (904) 825-1164. Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave. in St. Augustine.</p>

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Monday, May 7	Tuesday, May 8	Wednesday, May 9	Thursday, May 10
<p>Caregiver support meetings The St. Johns County Council on Aging will host caregiver support meetings Mondays (except holidays) from noon to 1 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center at 1048 A1A N. For more information, call Paulette Kozlowski at (904) 209-3674 or email pkozlowski@stjohnscoa.com. The meetings will provide a supportive environment for people who are experiencing similar challenges in which they can share problems, ideas and solutions.</p> <p>Cutter Wood at The BookMark Award-winning author Cutter Wood will appear at The BookMark May 7 at 7 p.m. to talk about and sign copies of his new non-fiction book "Love and Death in the Sunshine State: The Story of a Crime." The BookMark is located at 220 1st St. in Neptune Beach. For more information, call (904) 241-9026.</p> <p>PVB Women voter registration at the post office The Ponte Vedra Beach Women group will hand out voter registration forms and information on absentee ballots and the upcoming election at the Ponte Vedra Postal Service building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 7-10. This event will take place at 130 Corridor Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>First Coast Pastel Society exhibition This exhibition at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach features a juried member show of works from the First Coast Pastel Society. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way.</p> <p>MOSH Mondays The Museum of Science and History's MOSH Mondays feature discounts including buy-one-get-one-half-off admission for adults, 10 percent off MOSH-branded items in the museum shop, 10 percent off memberships when signing up in-person and 10 percent off birthday packages when signing up in-person. MOSH Mondays also feature rotating weekly programs. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville. Visit www.themosh.org for more information.</p>	<p>Volunteers needed Volunteers are needed at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the kitchen. The center is looking for upbeat volunteers to help with new spring and summer programs. Contact Amy Leach at (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com for more information. The PLAYERS Community Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>Florida Blue free Tuesday Every Tuesday, enjoy free admission to the Cummer Museum thanks to the support of Florida Blue. The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville. The Cummer Museum's Tuesday hours are 4 to 9 p.m. No registration is required. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org or call (904) 356-6857.</p> <p>Bookmobile Visit Publix at Nocatee Town Center for a Bookmobile Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The Bookmobile will feature books, movies, music and more. Publix at Nocatee Town Center is located at 120 Marketside Ave. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Jewish book club for women Chabad at the Beaches will present a Jewish book club for women May 8 at 7:30 p.m. Every month the club meets and discusses a new book covering a wide variety of topics on differing interests. Guests can meet new people, share thoughts and opinions and hear the insights of others. The May 8 session will feature the "Around Sarah's Table: Ten Hasidic Women Share Their Stories of Life, Faith and Tradition" discussion by Rivkah Zakutinsky and Yaffa Lieba Gottlieb. For more information, call (904) 504-9301 or email lkurinsky@gmail.com. Chabad at the Beaches is located at 521 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Day Retreat The Life Enrichment Day Retreat is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered daily at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra. For more information, call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Wednesday Market at St. Augustine Beach The St. Augustine Beach Wednesday Market offers oceanfront shopping at the St. Johns County Pier Park every Wednesday starting at 8 a.m. Approximately 60-80 vendors can be found at the market selling locally grown produce, baked goods, prepared foods, arts, crafts and more. Visit www.sabca.org for more information. The St. Johns County Pier Park is located at 350 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>THE PLAYERS Championship The world's greatest golf players will compete at THE PLAYERS Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach May 8 through 13 at TPC Sawgrass. THE PLAYERS Championship features one of the most sought-after titles in professional golf. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.theplayers.com. TPC Sawgrass is located at 110 Championship Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Vilano Beach art session Vilano Beach Art Programs will offer an instructional art session at the North Shore Improvement Association Community Center from noon to 3 p.m. each Wednesday. Local artist Barb Valentine leads the session. Visit www.vilanobeachfl.com for more information.</p>	<p>Gallery 725 exhibition A collection of art by world-renowned pop artists Romero Britto and Peter Max will be on exhibition and available for acquisition at Gallery 725. The pop-up exhibition opens with a preview party May 10 through 20. RSVPs are strongly suggested; email gallery725@gmail.com or call (904) 345-9320 for more information. Gallery 725 is located 725 Atlantic Blvd #5 in Atlantic Beach.</p> <p>Musical Madness for Kids School-age children, their caregivers and any other interested students and adults are invited to join the Ponte Vedra Library for a Musical Madness for Kids event May 10 from 4 to 5 p.m. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>Farm Swap & Music Jam Enjoy music from local musicians while shopping for farm-fresh produce at the Florida Agricultural Museum May 3 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will feature musicians, singers and songwriters of folk, bluegrass, old time, fiddle, country and blues, along with vendors offering fruits, veggies, honeys, jellies, nuts, arts and more. The Farm Swap & Music Jam will take place at 7900 Old Kings Road N. in Palm Coast. Visit www.floridaagmuseum.org.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a Yoga for Survivors class May 10 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to ben@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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Mother's Day Gift Guide

Gift ideas for mom

With Mother's Day around the corner on Sunday, May 13, now is the time to find that special gift showing mom just how much you care. Lucky for you, the pursuit for the perfect gift doesn't have to take you far, with several local businesses and organizations offering great options for moms across the First Coast.



Photo courtesy of Underwood's Jewelers

JEWELRY

Underwood's Jewelers

With locations in Ponte Vedra Beach, San Marco and Avondale, Underwood's Jewelers is home to fine men's and women's jewelry, including rings, necklaces, bracelets, watches and more. With Mother's Day quickly approaching, keep in mind that the local business is holding a sale on diamond ear studs and pendants, with prices reduced by 15 percent. Visit www.underwoodjewelers.com for more information.

Espling Jewelers

With locations in Ponte Vedra Beach and Mandarin, Espling Jewelers is also home to fine jewelry such as diamonds, watches, estate jewelry, coins and links. The business has a sale on diamond studs and pendants, as well as a sale on estate jewelry. Discounts depend on the particular piece of jewelry. Visit www.esplingjewelers.com for more information.

DINING EXPERIENCES

One Ocean Resort & Spa Mother's Day Brunch

Azurea, One Ocean Resort & Spa's signature AAA Four-Diamond restaurant, is offering a Mother's Day brunch and dinner menu on Sunday, May 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., respectively. Curated by resort chef Jay Mendoza and inspired by the surrounding oceanfront, the menus pair artisanal, local ingredients with savory and sweet seasonal trends. Highlights include Thick Sliced Brioche French Toast laden with crushed strawberries; Shrimp & Grits with Nueske bacon; and English Pea Risotto alongside poached eggs and topped with shaved parmesigiano reggiano. Reservations are required and can be made through OpenTable or by calling (904) 249-7402. One Ocean Resort & Spa is located at 1 Ocean Blvd. in Atlantic Beach.



Photo courtesy of One Ocean Resort & Spa

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Mother-Daughter Dinner

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation is hosting mothers and daughters for a Mother's Day dinner on Saturday, May 5, at the W.E. Harris Community Center in Hastings. In addition to dinner, entertainment will be provided. This program is free. For more information or to register, contact Tanya Jackson at (904) 692-3655 or tjackson@sjcfl.us. The W.E. Harris Community Center is located at 400 East Harris St. in Hastings.

BEAUTY

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The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's 30,000-square-foot Spa features more than 100 beauty and pampering services. From intensive massages to gentle facials, there's something in store for all women. Choose between a Spa gift card, which is packaged, wrapped and delivered directly, or a Spa gift eCertificate, which is delivered via email. Visit www.pvspa.com/spa-gift-cards.htm or call (904) 273-7700 for more information. The Inn & Club's Spa is located at 302 Ponte Vedra Blvd.



Photo courtesy The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

FijiTanSunSpa Gift Certificate

FijiTanSunSpa Tanning Salon and Wellness Spa in Jacksonville Beach features classic tans, spray tans, red light therapy, teeth whitening, hydro massage, a weight loss sauna blanket and more. For Mother's Day, the business is offering a \$99 "Love My Mom" gift certificate that includes hydro massage, a red light facial, spray tan, aroma spa and teeth whitening. The experience has a \$170 value. Visit www.fijitansunspa.com or call (904) 339-0045 for more information. The business is located at 1323 S. 3rd St.

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MM1481

Bridging the distance on Mother's Day

Many families today are spread out across the country if not the globe.

Distance can make it challenging to spend time together for major holidays and other special occasions, like Mother's Day. But, by following the below suggestions, Mother's Day can still be special even if mom lives hundreds or thousands of miles away.

Embrace technology

Technology helps break down some of the barriers created by distance. While phone calls were once the way to keep in touch, many people now utilize various forms of digital communication. Someone who lives across different time zones can talk through texting or the various social media avenues available on computers, phones and tablets. Video apps like Skype and FaceTime enable you to video chat with others in real time. Come Mother's Day, connect with mom via such apps so you can watch her open up her gifts.

Reconnect with home

If Mom is the one who ventured from home, help her to reconnect with her hometown or another place she feels attached to. Ship her some favorite regional

foods that can only be bought in town. Make a photo or video montage of places of interest in town. These little touches of home can mean the world to her.

Create a special day

Even if you do not live near your

mother, you can still plan a fun day for her in her town. Make reservations for a spa, hair salon or other sources of pampering and surprise her with all the details.

Treat her to the ultimate surprise

If possible, make a surprise visit this

Mother's Day. Coordinate the plan with your father or another relative and then enjoy seeing her eyes light up when you arrive.

With a little creativity, even families separated by geography can share the magic of Mother's Day together.



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Gifts

Continued from 23

SWEETS

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You can't beat a Mother's Day package from Peterbrooke Chocolatier. Compile an assortment of hand-dipped pretzels, Oreos and graham crackers, and the mom in your life is sure to be pleased. Visit the Ponte Vedra Beach location at 333 Village Main St. suite 650 or call (904) 273-7878 for more information.



Photo by Jennifer Logue

Le Macaron

Spoil mom with Parisian treats from Le Macaron, with options including macarons, pastries, gelato, cakes and more. For Mother's Day, the Ponte Vedra Beach location is holding a drawing to win a tower of macarons. Visit the business at 330 A1A North Suite 300 to enter.

Compiled by Jon Blauvelt

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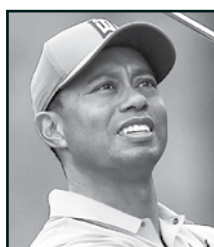
Woods, Mickelson commit to THE PLAYERS Championship

THE PLAYERS Championship announced last week that Tiger Woods, the 2001 and 2013 champion of THE PLAYERS, and Phil Mickelson, the 2007 champion, have committed to play in the 2018 tournament, at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass May 8-13.

Woods and Mickelson have a combined 122 PGA Tour wins and are No. 50 and No. 4 in the FedExCup standings, respectively.

Woods, who is in search of his first PGA Tour victory since the 2013 World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational, is the only player in golf history to win THE PLAYERS, the Tour Championship, the FedExCup and all four major championships. Woods was unable to defend his 2013 title at THE PLAYERS due to a back surgery, but returned in 2015 and finished T69, his most recent start at TPC Sawgrass. This year, he earned a spot in the tournament due to the five-year exemption that exists for past champions of the event.

Woods is one of six two-time winners of THE PLAYERS (Jack Nicklaus has won the championship three times), where he owns 16 made cuts in 17 starts, including one runner-up (2000) and three additional top 10s. He also ranks second behind only Sergio Garcia in



Michael Reaves/Getty Images
Tiger Woods



Don Christian
Phil Mickelson

career money earned at THE PLAYERS (\$4,421,241.90), and his 13 consecutive made cuts at THE PLAYERS is the second-most in tournament history, behind only Sergio Garcia and Brad Faxon, who each own 14 straight made cuts.

Should Woods win THE PLAYERS this year, he would join Jack Nicklaus as the only three-time winners of the event (1974, 1976, 1978), and he would also notch his 80th TOUR victory, bringing him within two of Sam Snead for most wins on the PGA Tour.

Mickelson recently earned his 43rd PGA Tour win at the WGC-Mexico Championship in a playoff against reigning FedExCup champion Justin Thomas, 23 years his junior. As Mickelson looks to become the seventh player to win THE PLAYERS more than once, he is also in search of his first multiple-win season on Tour since 2013.

Mickelson won THE PLAYERS in its inaugural showing in May, overcoming a one-stroke deficit to 54-hole leader Sean O'Hair and posting rounds of 67-72-69-69 — 277 to finish two strokes ahead of Sergio Garcia, who would go on to win THE PLAYERS the following year. It took the then-36-year-old Mickelson 14 starts at THE PLAYERS before his first victory — the most before a win of anyone except Tom Kite and Fred Funk, who both needed 15 starts at THE PLAYERS before their first win. He also owns the three-best finishes ever by a left-handed player at THE PLAYERS — 1 in 2007, T3 in 2004, T8 in 1998.

Other players who have committed to THE PLAYERS Championship 2018 include Henrik Stenson, Ian Poulter, Bubba Watson, Adam Scott, Dustin Johnson, Rory McIlroy, Hideki Matsuyama, Sergio Garcia, Martin Kaymer and Si Woo Kim.

According to the PGA Tour, players not otherwise exempt who are inside the top-50 of the Official World Golf Ranking as of Monday, April 30, qualified for THE PLAYERS. The final opportunity to qualify for THE PLAYERS would involve either winning the Wells Fargo Championship or moving into the top-10 in the FedExCup standings.



Photo courtesy of Lynn Damm Photography

Former Ponte Vedra quarterback announced via Twitter on Sunday, April 29, that he is transferring from Indiana University.

QB Tronti announces decision to transfer from Indiana

By Jon Blauvelt

Former Ponte Vedra star quarterback and 2016 Mr. Florida award winner Nick Tronti announced last weekend via Twitter that he will be transferring from Indiana University.

"I am forever grateful to Indiana University, Coach Allen, Coach Sheridan and Coach DeBord for giving me an opportunity to compete with the best in college football," Tronti tweeted on Sunday, April 29. "I will always be thankful for the experiences and lessons that I learned while in Bloomington. However, I will be transferring from Indiana University. I am now exploring all of my options to continue to chase my football dreams."

Tronti did not reveal any information pertaining to where he will transfer. The former Shark redshirted the 2017 season, and was named offensive scout team player of the year and a four-time scout team player of the week for the Hoosiers.

The quarterback led Ponte Vedra on a magical playoff run in 2016 that ended

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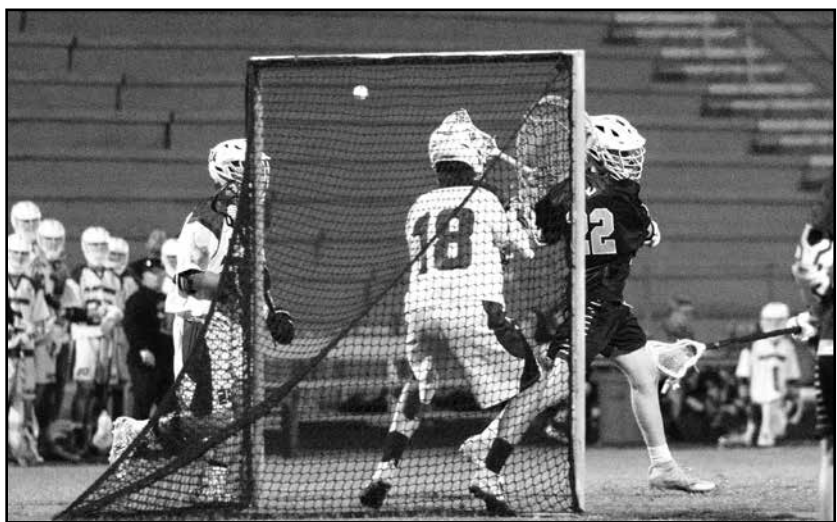
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ABOVE: Ponte Vedra's Dylan Hess knocks over a defender and attempts a shot in the Sharks' 12-6 win over St. Augustine on Tuesday, May 1.



RIGHT: Ponte Vedra's Carter Parlette shoots behind his back and scores for the Sharks in the team's 21-4 win over Fletcher on Friday, April 27.

Photos by Jerry and Chris Norton

Ponte Vedra boys lacrosse advances to regional finals

After defeating St. Augustine and Fletcher over the past week, the Ponte Vedra boy's lacrosse team will play Gainesville Oak Hall in the regional finals on Friday, May 4, for a shot to play in the state tournament.

The Sharks topped the Yellow Jackets 12-6 at the Shark Tank on Tuesday, May 1. Scorers for Ponte Vedra includ-

ed Jack Dowd and Carter Parlette with three goals, Walker Azzaro with two goals and Dylan Hess, CD James, Jack Burke and Freddie DiMarzo with one goal each.

A few days prior on Friday, April 27, Ponte Vedra beat Fletcher 21-4. Scorers in that contest included Parlette with seven goals and an assist; Dowd with five goals and

an assist; and Cam Welch and Azzaro with two goals each. Wyatt Schupler had eight saves in net, while Parlette and Tommy Zitello each had five ground balls.

The regional final on May 4 will be played at Oak Hall at 7 p.m., according to the Ponte Vedra lacrosse website. Earlier in the season, the Sharks defeated Oak Hall 13-7.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

THEME: TOURIST DESTINATIONS

ACROSS

- 1. Dog show outcasts
- 6. Pose a question
- 9. Mr. Potato Head, e.g.
- 13. _____ tower
- 14. Holstein sound
- 15. Liable to cry
- 16. Was rebroadcasted
- 17. Pilot's deadline
- 18. Packers QB
- 19. *Where ATMs have instructions in Latin
- 21. Army bathroom
- 23. Surf turf
- 24. "At _____, soldier!"
- 25. Pat
- 28. University head
- 30. Pre-wedding agreement
- 35. Caspian Sea river
- 37. Like the fairy tale duckling
- 39. Pore in a leaf
- 40. Hindu Mr.
- 41. Intrudes
- 43. Month before Nisan
- 44. Perpendicular to the keel
- 46. "Pronto!"
- 47. Highway hauler
- 48. Magazine collection
- 50. Bike maker
- 52. Bro's counterpart
- 53. Start of a conclusion
- 55. Look through a scope
- 57. *Popular all-inclusive location, pl.

- 61. *Where to visit "the happiest place on Earth"
- 65. Yokel's holler
- 66. Crematorium jar
- 68. Dip a _____ the water
- 69. General direction
- 70. Be indisposed
- 71. Jagged
- 72. Trees on Freddy Krueger's street
- 73. Spade for stony ground
- 74. Roller derby turf, pl.

DOWN

- 1. Type of nuclear missile
- 2. Eye layer
- 3. Legal wrong
- 4. *Orient Express, e.g.
- 5. On the same page
- 6. Echoed by the flock
- 7. Chronic drinker
- 8. *Down Under marsupial
- 9. Scorch
- 10. _____ wig or _____ winkle
- 11. *Middle name of Shakespeare's hometown
- 12. Unit of force
- 15. *Taking the _____ or going to Baden-Baden
- 20. Consumed
- 22. Pharaoh's cobra
- 24. Joins the military
- 25. *Location of world's tallest building

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

- 26. Omani and Yemeni
- 27. "_____ in Toyland"
- 29. *Where to see Taj Mahal
- 31. #17 Across, pl.
- 32. Source of lymphocytes, pl.
- 33. Savory sensation
- 34. *Chunnel ride from London
- 36. *Party in Maui
- 38. *Sydney Harbour is one of first to ring in the new one
- 42. Ancient fishing tool
- 45. Modus operandi
- 49. Female pronoun
- 51. In working order
- 54. Run-of-the-mill
- 56. Native New Zealander
- 57. Memory unit
- 58. Nobleman's title
- 59. Throat-clearing sound
- 60. Flipside of pros
- 61. Unrivaled
- 62. *Vegas light
- 63. Floppy storage
- 64. Change for a five
- 67. *Home to Christ the Redeemer

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Tronti

Continued from 26

in a heartbreaking 35-33 loss to American Heritage High School in Ponte Vedra's first ever-state championship appearance. He passed for 3,333 yards and 34 touch-

downs and rushed for 662 yards and 19 touchdowns throughout his senior season, which ultimately resulted in him being crowned Mr. Football in December by a statewide panel of high school football coaches and media representatives. Tronti won the award in convincing fashion, with 12 of the 23 first-place votes.

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