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## Lady Sharks split pair

Shark catcher Taylor Bradshaw waits for the ball as the Bear runner scores on a squeeze bunt. The Lady Sharks fell to the Bears 4-2, but came back two nights later to trounce Pedro Menendez 11-2. PAGE 35

PHOTO BY CHRIS NORTON/FOR THE RECORDER

### Kids Summer Fun Guide

First Coast fun the whole family can enjoy

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### Fashion

Pop-up shops, fashion shows and more

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## Send us your news

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



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### WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

**Email your answer to [jennifer@opcfla.com](mailto:jennifer@opcfla.com) by Tuesday 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.

Eleven readers correctly identified last week's photo as Fifi's Consignment in Ponte Vedra Beach. Winner of the random drawing was **Barbara Meyer** – congratulations, Barbara!

Don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.



### ADOPT A PET

#### CAT OF THE WEEK

Ohhhh... Who's a little 1-year-old (male) kitty? Sponge-bob-the-cat! Whose tail is a nub and as cute as can be? Sponge-bob-the-cat! Who's furry and fluffy and something to see? Sponge-bob-the-cat! For you to adopt him is his only wish! So come and see him and all of his friends here at the pet center! #31208

Hi, my name is Sponge-bob-the-cat and I am a 1-year-old male kitty who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray.



#### DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Squidward and I am a 2-year-old male dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray and I love



to get tons of love and attention. As this animal was a stray, there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. #31177

Any pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to a new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets. Come visit us today here at the pet center.

## St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions are \$30 for male 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 Rd., just off US 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

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

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

## DESTINATION: DINO

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## New nonstop flights from St. Augustine to Chicago, Philadelphia to begin next week

By **Jennifer Logue**  
Editor

Frontier Airlines will begin new, nonstop routes from St. Augustine's Northeast Florida Regional Airport to Chicago and Philadelphia next week, offering area residents an alternative to driving to Jacksonville International Airport to catch a flight to those cities.

Frontier will begin service to Chicago on April 14, with the nonstop route to Philadelphia beginning the following day. To inaugurate the new routes, the airline offered low introductory fares, with savings of as much as 64 percent off the industry average fare. Flights between St. Augustine and Chicago will operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, while flights to Philadelphia will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

"There has been a high level of

interest in both Philadelphia and Chicago for the new service to Northeast Florida/St. Augustine," Northeast Florida Regional Airport Executive Director Edward Wuellner said. "The airport has been working with the Visitors and Convention Bureau and with Frontier to advertise and promote the new service in the Philadelphia and Chicago areas."

When asked about the possibility of adding nonstop flights from St. Augustine to other major metropolitan cities, Wuellner said the success of the new Chicago and Philadelphia routes could play a role in making that happen.

"Local support will lead to the success of these new routes," he said. "A successful launch of the new markets will allow the airport to tell the story of Northeast Florida to airlines and continue to work to identify opportunities for future service additions."

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# Flavor Palette brings international flair to sandwich shop

By Jennifer Logue  
Editor

Homemade soups, salads and an eclectic blend of internationally inspired sandwiches are just a few of the items on the menu at Flavor Palette, which opened last week in the Ponte Vedra Pointe Shopping Center.

The sandwich shop and its diverse menu are the culinary creation of Chef Tommy McDonough, who recently moved from Philadelphia to the First Coast with his wife and two children.

"I got my start working in the iconic sandwich shops of Philly," said McDonough, who went on to work for two decades in a variety of culinary and executive chef positions before opening his own business. "I was fortunate to work under culturally diverse chefs from places like Taiwan, India, Germany, Korea and Belgium. I picked up things from each of them, which has helped me develop my own style as a chef and become more dynamic."

All of the signature sandwiches are McDonough's original creations, unique combinations. The "Boss Hogg" sandwich, for example, features pastor-marinated pork topped with cucumber-avocado salsa, salsa verde, black bean

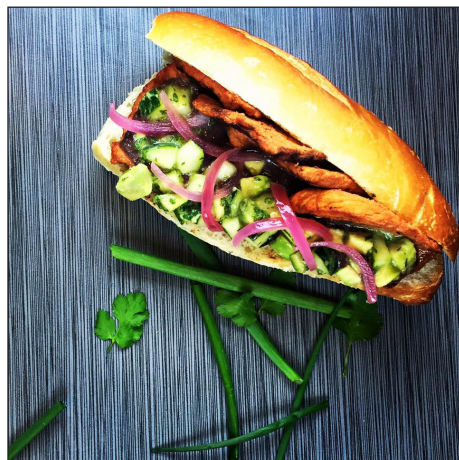


PHOTO COURTESY OF FLAVOR PALETTE

## The "Boss Hogg"

hummus and pickled red onions on an Amoroso hoagie roll. The "Samurai," meanwhile, is a miso-marinated fish sandwich topped with grilled scallions, cucumber, cabbage slaw and a sesame pickled ginger aioli on a wrap.

Other internationally inspired offerings include Poutine, which the menu describes as a Canadian French fry dish topped with gravy, cheddar, bacon, caramelized onions and scallions. The menu also includes a "create your own masterpiece" option whereby customers can build their own custom sandwich from a



PHOTO JENNIFER LOGUE/EDITOR

## Chef Tommy McDonough and his wife, Jamie.

selection of breads, toppings and meats, chicken or fish.

"I like big, bold flavors," said McDonough, noting that Flavor Palette also has a kids' menu with traditional items such as burgers and a grilled cheese sandwich. "We have options for people who are a little adventurous, but our menu is really designed to appeal to a vast array of palates."

Hence the restaurant's name. "It's a play on words," said McDonough's wife, Jamie, taking a quick break from waiting on lunchtime customers. "It refers to an artist's palette and the palate of your mouth."

The shop's logo, in fact, features a sandwich in the shape of an artist's palette – a nod to the artistic flair McDonough tries to bring to each creation, including the shop's salads, soups and desserts. On a recent visit, the soups of the day included chimichurri and ribolita – a hearty Tuscan vegetable – while the homemade gelatos available included mint lemonade sorbet, chocolate amaretto and strawberry balsamic swirl.

"Everything here is made from scratch," McDonough said. "Some gelato shops use bases or stabilizers, but we use only fresh, natural ingredients."

Open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Flavor Palette has been doing brisk business since it opened March 29. "We opened our doors and within 10 minutes we had 30 people in line!" McDonough said.

Flavor Palette plans to have an official grand opening in the coming weeks. Also in the works are plans to offer wine and a selection of craft beers.

# THE PLAYERS hosts 17th Hole Charity Challenge

Rebecca Briones, Taylor Belshouse, Angie Horsley and Diane Boyle show their support for Ronald McDonald House Charities.



PHOTO BY JASMINE MARSHALL/ THE RECORDER

## Local celebrities tee off for charity

By Jasmine Marshall  
The Recorder

THE PLAYERS hosted its annual 17th Hole Charity Challenge event earlier this week.

Held Monday on the 17th hole's iconic island green, the event raised \$15,000 for organizations supported by a lineup of participating celebrities.

Former PGA Tour player Bob Duval took the gold in the form of a \$10,000 check donation for K9s for Warriors in the first round with a ball that landed just 11 feet from the

pin. The second round winner, Frank Lickliter, scored a \$5,000 donation for True Blue Navy Benefactors with a swing that landed just one foot and 11 inches from the pin.

A total of 16 players took the green this year, including Clint Avret, Blake Bortles, Tony Boselli, Gus Bradley, Richie Bryant, Vince Covello, Todd Demsey, Bob Duval, Curtis Dvorak, Matt Every, Jeff Klauk, Frank Lickliter, Brent Martineau, John McManamon

CHARITY continues on Page 5

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# Accotink Academy to merge with Keystone Child Development Center

New 'Keystone by the Sea' to open on Accotink campus in the fall

By Jennifer Logue  
Editor

Accotink Academy By The Sea is merging with Keystone Child Development Center, adding Keystone staff and curriculum to the Ponte Vedra school.

Keystone By The Sea will officially open in the fall, as Keystone relocates its child development center and preschool to the Accotink campus located at 171 Canal Blvd. Keystone By The Sea will serve children ages 3 months to 8 years old.

"This is a child development and early learning center that focuses on preparing children for success in mainstream elementary school," Keystone Marketing Coordinator Karen Rieley said. "The primary school will serve those students who will benefit from having some additional time to develop fundamental skills needed for success in a traditional school setting."

In addition to featuring small class sizes and a high staff-to-student ratio, Rieley said, the newly merged Keystone By The Sea will feature a variety of enrichment programs, including tutoring, yoga, health and wellness, dance, sports, art and music.

"I'm thrilled," Accotink Academy Head of School Rebecca Bowersox said. "I really believe we are now going to be the premier preschool in all of Jacksonville."

Bowersox said Accotink's current staff of 40 will continue with the school, with the addition of Keystone staff. Bowersox will continue in her role as head of school, under the overall direction of Keystone CEO and founder Katie Falwell, Ph.D.

"We are very excited about the pending merger," Falwell said. "Our newest educational endeavor will be our third school in the past four

years to operate under the Keystone umbrella.

"The new paradigm of education and pediatrics creates a marriage of the two under integrated care," Falwell continued. "Keystone By The Sea will offer all learning, health and wellness programs that a child could need under one roof."

Bowersox agreed.

"This is an amazing opportunity for us," she said. "We're going to take what's awesome about Accotink and enhance it through the addition of Keystone's incredibly professional staff and updated curriculum."

For Accotink's existing students, there will be no change or disruption to their schedule, Bowersox said. "We're already gearing up for our summer programs, which begin June 6," she said.

## Open enrollment

Currently, Accotink Academy By The Sea serves 275 children ranging from 1-year-olds to 8-year-olds. Open enrollment for the new fall program will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Sat. April 9 in the multipurpose room at Accotink Academy by the Sea, 171 Canal Blvd. Registration for existing students and alumni families will occur today (Thursday) and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Registration packets have already been sent home with current students.

A town hall meeting for both current and prospective parents to ask questions about the merger will also be held at 6 p.m. April 14 in the school's multipurpose room.

Bowersox noted that she believes school founder Elaine McConnell, who passed away in January, would have given the merger her blessing.

"This is exactly what she would have wanted," she said. "It's a match made in heaven."

# Malcolm Anthony to run for circuit judge

Ponte Vedra attorney Malcolm Anthony has announced his candidacy for circuit judge.

Anthony, 57, previously had announced his intention to run for U.S. Congress for the FL 6th congressional seat being vacated by Rep. Ron DeSantis, who is running for U.S. Senate. Following the recent congressional redistricting that split St. Johns County into two congressional districts, however, Anthony decided to withdraw from the congressional race and seek election as a circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit, which includes St. Johns,

Flagler, Volusia and Putnam counties.

"I believe the time has come for me to offer my years of experience to the people of St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia and Putnam counties as a circuit judge," Anthony said in announcing his candidacy. "I have enjoyed over 32 years practicing law in this circuit, both as a prosecutor and a private attorney, and I know the value of a well-seasoned judge on the bench who has been professionally involved in the challenges people face regarding the law and who understands the application of justice from all sides."



PHOTO BY JASMINE MARSHALL/THE RECORDER

The players await their tee-offs at the 17th hole on the stadium course.

# Charity

Continued from 4

and Spencer Schindler. As former Jaguars player Josh Scobee was unable to attend, a representative made his swing on behalf of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Charities represented in the challenge included St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, the Blake Bortles Foundation, the Boselli Foundation, the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation, the North Florida Junior Golf Foundation, Junior Achievement, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, K9s for Warriors, the Tim Coughlin Jay Fund, Take Stock in Children, the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida, True Blue Navy Benefactors, Ronald McDonald House Charities, the JT Townsend Foundation, The First Tee of North Florida and Wolfson's Children's Hospital.

A crowd of spectators, charity representatives and supporters surrounded the players on the green, where they each made their best shot for a chance to win donations for the charities they represented. For many charities present, the earnings weren't the only prize.

"It's terrific for all nonprofits because it gives visibility to these charities and the need for philanthropy," said Jane Lanier, president of St. Vincent's Health-Care Foundation.

Participants also made it clear that winning was secondary to generating support for First Coast residents in need.

"No organization is more giving than The Players," Lanier said. "Through this event, they touch people by raising support and awareness for people and children who wouldn't ordinarily have access to care."

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*Ponte Vedra resident Robert “Bob” Rooks, 69, has a lot of love to give. A chance encounter at a foster parent booth at the state fair led Bob and his wife, Geri, on the path to their life’s work. The couple became foster parents in 1969 and successfully fostered about 100 children. Upon moving to Florida, Geri became a neonatal nurse and Rooks took a job with Daniel, the oldest child-serving agency in Florida. The Jacksonville-based organization helps nearly 2,000 children and their families each day through a wide variety of programs. Rooks has worked for the organization since 1993 and currently serves as director of Florida’s Adoption Information Center. In addition to being a foster parent, he and his wife are also adoptive parents. A youth-care services worker for more than 30 years, Rooks has served as a residential counselor and youth care administrator. —By Carrie Resch, The Recorder*

## Robert “Bob” Rooks

### How long have you and your wife been foster parents?

My wife and I have been foster parents since 1969. We were active foster parents from then until we moved here to Florida, which was in 1993. If the children couldn’t go back to their family, our goal was to keep them and raise them. A couple of the kids stayed with us well into their 20s. That’s what you’re supposed to do. We had a word for our program back then. We called it family - and truly that’s how we operated, we operated as a family.

### Tell me about your role at Daniel.

Daniel operates the state’s adoption information center. We’re the 1-800-96-ADOPT number, a statewide program. It handles all areas of adoption – whether it’s working with people wanting to adopt or whether the child is an infant, an international child or the kids are in foster care. About 60 percent of our work is on behalf of the children in foster care that need to be adopted. But we also work with adults who were adopted and may be seeking their medical history. We can let them know how to go about doing that. If they’re wanting to reconnect to their birth family, we can help them with that. Also, we get calls from pregnant woman who are considering placing their child for adoption. We let them know what services are available to them and then get them directed to those folks who would be most helpful to them. It might be adoption, but it might just be a good social service agency so they don’t have to place their child for adoption. In this day and age, money is the last reason anybody should have to place their child for adoption.

### How many calls does the adoption information center receive?

We average over 10,000 calls a year in adoption. Our motto is “if adoption is in the sentence, we can help.” I’ve been in the adoption information center for 22 years now. We pay close attention to what’s going on in adoption and try to make sure that we’re minimally able to get that person or family to that next step based on what their needs are.

### And you also like to clown around when you have the time?

I didn’t set out into the world to be a clown, but I had these skills. One year for Father’s Day, one of my kids got me this book to learn how to make

balloon animals. Then, it was actually a little paragraph in the paper that said come learn how to juggle – just bring three oranges. So, I brought my teenagers and we all went to learn how to juggle. I went home and practiced and

got relatively decent at it. Two years later, I was teaching the juggling class. Geri, my wife, got me a unicycle for Christmas. So, I learned how to ride a unicycle. Now if you can do balloon animals, ride a unicycle and juggle,

what do you do with those skills? You become a clown, and so I did! I did it for a while quasi-professionally. When we moved here, I joined a group in town called Gator Clowns. There are about 75 of us.



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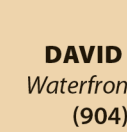
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Thursday, April 7	Friday, April 8	Saturday, April 9	Sunday, April 10
<p><b>An Evening with Dailey and Vincent</b> The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall presents "An Evening with Dailey and Vincent" on Thursday April 7. Reserved seating tickets are \$39. Doors open at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall or St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices or visit <a href="http://www.pvconcerthall.com">www.pvconcerthall.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Backyard Block Party</b> The St. Augustine Amphitheatre's Backyard Block Party featuring The Young Step, Cosmic Groove and Sand Fleas is Thursday April 7 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 1340C A1A S., St. Augustine. Gates open at 6 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. This is a free event. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.staugamphitheatre.com">www.staugamphitheatre.com</a>.</p> <p><b>'Natural Currents' exhibition</b> "Natural Currents" featuring the recent paintings by John Bunker and the sculptural forms of Brian Frus will be exhibited in the main gallery of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach from Feb. 26 to April 8. The Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 280-0614 or visit <a href="http://www.ccpvb.org">www.ccpvb.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Life Enrichment Group</b> The Life Enrichment Group is a program designed for those with memory changes who like to stay active mentally, physically and socially while allowing caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered weekdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ashford Court, 1700 The Greens Way in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 568-8174, or email <a href="mailto:life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com">life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Free Bridge Lessons</b> Free beginning bridge lessons are available at the Jacksonville School of Bridge, 3353 Washburn Rd., Jacksonville Beach on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lessons start 9:30 a.m. and end at 10:15 a.m. This is followed by an actual game at 10:30 a.m. and ends by 2:15 p.m. Contact Burt O'Dell at (352) 428-1075 for more information.</p>	<p><b>1964 The Tribute</b> Back by popular demand: 1964: The Tribute. Named "The Best Beatles Tribute on Earth" by Rolling Stone Magazine, 1964: The Tribute will perform live in concert on Friday April 8 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 1340C A1A S., St. Augustine. Tickets start at \$29. Gates open at 6:30 p.m.; show starts at 7:30 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the St. Augustine Amphitheatre or Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box offices or visit <a href="http://www.staugamphitheatre.com">www.staugamphitheatre.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Rebirth Brass Band concert</b> The Rebirth Brass Band will perform live in concert on Friday April 8 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 day of show. Doors open at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall or St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices or visit <a href="http://www.pvconcerthall.com">www.pvconcerthall.com</a>.</p> <p><b>MOSH \$5 Fridays</b> Every Friday, come to MOSH to enjoy \$5 admission and extended hours. The museum will be open late every Friday until 8 p.m. Additional discounts or coupons are not permitted.</p> <p><b>Arbor Terrace Life Enrichment Group</b> The Life Enrichment Group Day Program takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 497-4346 or visit <a href="http://www.at-pontevedra.com">www.at-pontevedra.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Mental Health Recovery Support</b> Support is free to the public and facilitated by Georgia/Florida Certified Peer Specialist Whitney Bolin. Sessions are by appointment only Monday through Friday; call (770) 403-4991 or email <a href="mailto:whitneybat76@gmail.com">whitneybat76@gmail.com</a>. Bolin also facilitates a mental health recovery group at Flagler Hospital from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday.</p> <p><b>Live Music at Table 1</b> Table 1 at 330 A1A N will host Dustin Bradley and Johnny Flood live starting at 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>EarthWise Pet Supply grand opening</b> A grand opening celebration for EarthWise Pet Supply will be held Saturday April 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meet local trainers, pet sitters and rescue organizations. Customers have a chance to win a one-year supply of free pet food. There will also be on-site dog and cat adoptions and raffle baskets. EarthWise Pet Supply is located at 3846 3rd St. S., Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 372-7822 or visit <a href="http://www.earthwisepet.com/jacksonville-jaxbeach">www.earthwisepet.com/jacksonville-jaxbeach</a>.</p> <p><b>Beach clean-up day</b> A beach clean-up day will take place Saturday April 9 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Seawalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach. The clean-up is hosted by Coastal Conscience, a local environmental conservation group that is using the event as a launch party for the organization. There will be prize raffles along with goodie bags for the kids. The free event is open to the public; online registration is available through <a href="http://www.eventbrite.com/e/coastal-conscience-1st-beach-clean-up-launch-party-tickets-23921262139">www.eventbrite.com/e/coastal-conscience-1st-beach-clean-up-launch-party-tickets-23921262139</a>. For more information about Coastal Conscience or the clean-up event, email <a href="mailto:mycoastalconscience@mail.com">mycoastalconscience@mail.com</a> or visit <a href="http://www.mycoastalconscience.wordpress.com">www.mycoastalconscience.wordpress.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Pediatric dentist office grand opening</b> Ponte Vedra Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics will host a free grand opening celebration Saturday April 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come check out the new offices, meet Dr. Lindsay Maples, Dr. Derek Hoffman, Dr. Abigail Levrini and their staff at the new Nocatee office located at 480 Town Plaza Ave., Ste. 110, Ponte Vedra. The grand opening celebration will include a Gather 2 Game truck, a food truck, door prizes, raffles and more. For more information, call Dr. Maples at (904) 373-5120, email <a href="mailto:pvpdosmiles@gmail.com">pvpdosmiles@gmail.com</a> or visit <a href="http://www.kidspv.com">www.kidspv.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Beaches Green Market</b> The Beaches Green Market is held every Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. at Jarboe Park (intersection of A1A and Florida Blvd.) in Neptune Beach. For more information, call (904) 710-2022 or visit <a href="http://www.beacheslocalfoodnetwork.org">www.beacheslocalfoodnetwork.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>Florida Chamber Music Project</b> On Sunday April 10, the Florida Chamber Music Project will present its final concert of the season featuring music from Beethoven and Mendelssohn. Beethoven's String Quartet Opus 18, No. 1 and Mendelssohn's Octet in E Flat Major, Opus 20 will be performed at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach. Tickets are \$25. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <a href="http://www.flchambermusic.org">www.flchambermusic.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Backyard Block Party</b> The St. Augustine Amphitheatre's Backyard Block Party featuring Lera Lynn with Israel Nash and Rivernecks will be held Sunday April 10 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 1340C A1A S., St. Augustine. Gates open at 6 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 day of show. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the St. Augustine Amphitheatre or Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box offices or visit <a href="http://www.staugamphitheatre.com">www.staugamphitheatre.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Practice with Purpose at Big Fish Yoga</b> Practice with Purpose is an all-level yoga class offered on Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. at Big Fish Power Yoga. The fee for the class is a \$5 cash donation that goes to the charity that Big Fish Power Yoga has selected for the quarter. Big Fish Yoga has relocated to the South Beach Regional Shopping Center in Jacksonville Beach at 3852 3rd St. S. For more information, call (904) 372-0601.</p> <p><b>Collection Tour</b> Join the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens on Sundays for a guided tour of its permanent collection. The tour is free with the cost of admission. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>For The Love of Driving</b> Volunteer drivers are needed to assist seniors in achieving their mobility goals in St. Johns County. Transportation needs range from trips to the grocery store and classes to spousal hospital visits or social activities. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging, (904) 315-6505, or email <a href="mailto:KatieArnold@stjohnscoa.com">KatieArnold@stjohnscoa.com</a>.</p>



*The Lodge & Club*

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**April Activities for Members**

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Call 273-9500 for more information

<p><b>Member Monday</b> Every Monday Evening</p> <p><b>Taco Tuesday</b> Every Tuesday</p> <p><b>Wing Wednesday</b> Every Wednesday Evening</p> <p><b>Party Bridge</b> Every Thursday Noon</p> <p><b>Thirsty Thursday</b> Every Tuesday Evening</p> <p><b>Meditation Workshop</b> Every Sunday in April</p> <p><b>Mad Hatter Tea Party</b> Sunday, April 10</p> <p><b>Trivia Night</b> Monday, April 11</p>	<p><b>Kids Yoga Workshop</b> Wednesday, April 13 &amp; 27</p> <p><b>Book Club</b> Tuesday, April 19</p> <p><b>Beverage Tasting (Oasis Turtle Boards)</b> Tuesday, April 19</p> <p><b>Pink Moon Party</b> Friday, April 22</p> <p><b>Kids Movie Night</b> Friday, April 22</p> <p><b>Chalk Hill Wine Dinner</b> Friday, April 29</p>
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*Ponte Vedra Inn & Club*

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**APRIL ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS**

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To learn more about enjoying these wonderful events and membership in the Club, please call the membership office at (904) 273-7716 or visit [www.pvicmember.com](http://www.pvicmember.com)

<p><b>Sunday Brunch Buffet</b> Every Sunday</p> <p><b>Bridge</b> Monday's at 12:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Lobster Night</b> Every Wednesday</p> <p><b>Tapas Night</b> Every Thursday</p> <p><b>Prime Rib Buffet</b> Every Friday</p> <p><b>Meditation Workshop</b> Sundays in April</p> <p><b>Family Beach Movie</b> Saturday, April 9</p> <p><b>Spa Closed</b> Monday, April 11</p> <p><b>Italian Night</b> Monday, April 11</p>	<p><b>Trivia Night</b> Tuesday, April 19</p> <p><b>Ladies Night Out (Girl Scout Cookie &amp; Wine Pairing)</b> Thursday, April 14</p> <p><b>Eileen Fisher Event</b> April 14-16</p> <p><b>Mermaid Party for Kids</b> Saturday, April 16</p> <p><b>Earth Day Dinner</b> Friday, April 22</p> <p><b>Obagi Spa Event</b> Friday, April 22</p> <p><b>Kids Pajama Party</b> Saturday, April 23</p> <p><b>GM Collin Spa Event</b> Friday, April 29</p> <p><b>PV Date Night</b> Saturday, April 30</p>
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Monday, April 11	Tuesday, April 12	Wednesday, April 13	Thursday, April 14
<p><b>Caregiver Support Group</b> The Players Caregiver Support Group meets every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. at The Players Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Kimberly Weir of Heartland Hospice facilitates a weekly discussion of current concerns and issues of caregivers. It is a great opportunity for caregivers to share resources and ideas. For more information, call (904) 280-3233.</p> <p><b>Sunshine Center Volunteers</b> The adult day center located in the Coastal Community Center is seeking creative volunteers to assist with simple arts and crafts projects with seniors Mondays through Fridays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Call (904) 209-3686 for more information.</p> <p><b>Habitat for Humanity volunteers</b> Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County is currently seeking qualified homeowners. Habitat does not give away homes for free. Instead, homeowners pay an affordable monthly mortgage payment and Habitat helps build them a simple, decent place to live. For more information on volunteering, donating or qualifying for a Habitat home, visit <a href="http://habitatstjohns.org">habitatstjohns.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Travel Training Program</b> The Council on Aging's Travel Training program is designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. Residents interested in expanding their transportation options or who would like to increase their confidence as a bus rider can receive assistance from trained volunteers in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging at (904) 315-6505 or email Katie Arnold at <a href="mailto:karnold@stjohnscoa.com">karnold@stjohnscoa.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Destination Dino</b> Jacksonville Zoo &amp; Gardens presents Destination Dino March 5-July 4. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.jaxzoodinos.org">www.jaxzoodinos.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>Talk with a Doc: 'Your Amazing Brain'</b> Talk with a Doc: "Your Amazing Brain" will be held Tuesday April 12 at noon at the Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA, 170 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach. Join Robert Cavaliere, MD, as he explores the anatomy and functions of the brain, what brain imaging can tell us, and how to maintain brain health through the challenges of a cancer diagnosis. This free event is open to the community. Reserve your seat today at <a href="http://baptistjax.com/ymca">baptistjax.com/ymca</a> or by calling (904) 202-5376.</p> <p><b>Amy Helm and Zach Djanikian concert</b> The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall presents Amy Helm with guest Zach Djanikian live in concert on Tuesday April 12. Tickets are \$39 for the first eight rows, \$35 for all remaining rows. Doors open at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall or St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices or visit <a href="http://www.pvconcerthall.com">www.pvconcerthall.com</a>.</p> <p><b>PV Forum: Chef Warren Caterson</b> Chef Warren Caterson will present a free program at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday April 12 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. Caterson is the author of the award-winning cookbooks "Table for Two: the Cookbook for Couples" and "Table for Two: Back for Seconds." This program is made possible by the Friends of the Library. For more information, call (904) 827-6950 or visit <a href="http://www.sjcpls.org">www.sjcpls.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Palm Valley Farmers Market</b> The Palm Valley Farmers Market takes place every Tuesday from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Sunset Rotary Club weekly meeting</b> The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call Club President Ron Mott at (904) 460-7092 or email <a href="mailto:hojron@aol.com">hojron@aol.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>Newcomers Monthly Meeting</b> Newcomers of the Beaches monthly luncheon is Wednesday April 13 at 11 a.m. at the Marsh Landing Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach. The cost is \$23. Reservations are required. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.newcomersofthebeaches.com">www.newcomersofthebeaches.com</a>.</p> <p><b>'Peter Pan' at Christ Episcopal Church</b> Christ Episcopal Church presents a new adaptation of J.M. Barrie's classic "Peter Pan" written and directed by Jason Woods. Follow beloved characters Peter Pan and Captain Hook in this timeless story, featuring new songs, captivating music and one very large crocodile. A preview night with half-price admission will be held Wednesday April 13 at 7:30 p.m. Regular performances are April 14-16 and April 21-23 at 7:30 p.m., with matinee performances April 17 and April 24 at 3 p.m. Christ Episcopal Church is located at 400 San Juan Dr., Ponte Vedra. For more information, call (904) 285-6127. Purchase tickets online at <a href="http://www.readyforeverland.com">www.readyforeverland.com</a>.</p> <p><b>PV Professionals Networking Group</b> The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. at Mulligans, 43 PGA Tour Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call Gloria at (904) 635-6103, visit <a href="http://www.pvpng.com">www.pvpng.com</a> or email <a href="mailto:pontevedrapng@gmail.com">pontevedrapng@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Ponte Vedra Toastmasters</b> The Ponte Vedra Toastmasters Club offers opportunities for developing your leadership and communication skills. Join us on Wednesdays at The Players Community Center, 175 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra. The meeting starts promptly at 7:30 a.m. and lasts one hour. Contact Lucy Reep at (904) 607-3695 or email <a href="mailto:contact-5199@toastmastersclubs.org">contact-5199@toastmastersclubs.org</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Live Music at Table 1</b> Table 1 at 330 A1A N will host Billy Bowers live starting at 6 p.m. for Wine Down Wednesday.</p>	<p><b>Beaches and SJC Chamber luncheon</b> The JAX Chamber Beaches Division and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce will hold a joint luncheon Thursday April 14 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Sawgrass Country Club, 10034 Golf Club Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach. The guest speaker will be Matt Rapp, executive director of The Players Championship. The cost is \$25 with advance online registration; \$30 at the door. Register online at <a href="http://www.myjaxchamber.com">www.myjaxchamber.com</a> or <a href="http://www.stjohnscounty-chamber.com">www.stjohnscounty-chamber.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Annual Activity Member</b> Become an Annual Activity Member at The Players Community Senior Center. Membership includes discounts on fee-based classes, designated events and Coastal Travel along with complimentary participation in a wide variety of scheduled activities. Call Darlene Mahany at (904) 280-3233 for more information.</p> <p><b>'The Wiz' at Alhambra Theatre</b> Alhambra Theatre &amp; Dining presents "The Wiz: The Super Soul Musical," March 23-April 24. The musical is a retelling of Frank Baum's "Wonderful Wizard of Oz" set in the context of African-American culture. With an infectious funky soul score and lyrics by Charlie Smalls, The Wiz brought renewed relevance to a timeless classic. The 1975 Broadway production won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Score. The theatre is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 641-1212 or visit <a href="http://www.alhambrajax.com">www.alhambrajax.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Live Music at Table 1</b> Table 1 at 330 A1A N will host the Gary Starling Jazz Band live starting at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>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 <a href="mailto:carrie@opcfla.com">carrie@opcfla.com</a>, post online at <a href="http://www.pontevedrerecorder.com">www.pontevedrerecorder.com</a> using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p>

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# Despite downpours, Relay for Life exceeds last year's goal

By Jennifer Logue  
Editor

Alyssa Sandler Sugg, 27, doesn't remember much about the first time she was diagnosed with leukemia at age 3. She remembers vividly, however, what it felt like when the cancer returned at age 9. So much so, that the Landrum Middle School special needs teacher credits her battle with cancer with inspiring her to become a teacher.

"I was in middle school when I was finishing my treatments and I was having difficulties in school because of some of the effects," she said. "It made me want to work with special needs children."

Today, the newly married Sugg says that having cancer was in some ways a blessing.

"You meet so many wonderful people and make so many special connections because of it," she said.

Those connections were evident Saturday, as more than 120 volunteers participated in the Ponte Vedra Relay for Life fundraiser for cancer research and treatment. Though thunderstorms delayed the start of this year's event, the downpours didn't dampen the spirits of the volunteers and cancer survivors who showed up and walked to fight cancer.

Held at Ponte Vedra High School, this year's Relay for Life opening ceremonies



began at 3 p.m. Before the first walkers began their paces, however, the event had already exceeded last year's fundraising goal. Lynn Nelson, the event's lead coordinator, said that \$13,000 had already been raised as the event was getting underway. That figure was expected to rise, she added, thanks to fundraising containers placed at local Gate gas stations and ongoing fundraisers that will occur through August. One such event, she noted, will occur May 18 at Bogey Grille.

"The restaurant is doing a special promotion called 'Stick a Fork in Cancer,'" Nelson said. "On that day, they'll donate 10 percent of all sales from 5 p.m. until closing."

Saturday's Relay for Life featured a full slate of entertainment, including per-

formances by local dance troupes and concerts by local singer/songwriters. The focus, however, remained squarely on fighting cancer, and following the opening ceremonies the official relay portion of the event began with a "Survivor's Lap," as Sugg and four other local cancer survivors took a victory lap around the high school's courtyard to the applause of volunteers. Survivor Richard Ulmer – a retired teacher who now substitutes regularly at Ponte Vedra High School – smiled and jokingly told the cheering students, "If I see you smoking, you're swallowing it!"

"Events like this are special to me, because this is what's going to cure cancer," Ulmer said. "I volunteer for the American Cancer Society and the Mayo Clinic, and many of us believe that we will see a

cure for cancer...In my opinion, getting cancer was one of the best things that ever happened to me."

Bob McKeefrey, a prostate cancer survivor and member of the event's leadership team, agreed.

"Having cancer gives you a whole new appreciation for life," said McKeefrey, whose company, Medcruiters, was a sponsor of this year's Relay for Life.

Martine Gelb, 16, has been participating in Relay for Life events for nearly her entire life.

"I've been doing this since I was 3 years old – and I've been a captain since I was 12," the Ponte Vedra High School sophomore said. "I participated with my family when we lived in New Hampshire, and then my dad got cancer so we said, 'Let's keep doing this.'"

For this year's event, Gelb was team captain of a group of students representing PVHS's Gay/Straight Alliance.

"I think events like these are important because they not only bring awareness of the need for cancer research, but also of the huge impact cancer has on the lives of all the people around that person," said team member Adam Snowden, 17. "When we come together and see all the support that's out there, I think it's very encouraging for people fighting cancer to know the monumental impact that they have on us."

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Suzie Connolly



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Laura Torrey



**THE PLANTATION**  
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**PV OCEANFRONT**  
Homesite • \$759,000  
Michael Curet



**MEDITERRA**  
3BR/3BA • \$725,000  
Jayne Young / Chris Knight



**PLANTATION AT PV**  
4BR/3BA • \$679,500  
Olivia or Brent Seaman



**OCEANFRONT**  
4BR/5BA • \$3,950,000  
Belk Ingram



**PONTE VEDRA BEACH**  
2BR/2BA • \$145,000  
David Cheek



**OCEANFRONT**  
4BR/4.5BA • \$3,695,000  
Belk Ingram



**ATLANTIC BEACH**  
5BR/3.5BA • \$1,199,000  
Patti Armstrong

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# Seawalk Pavilion welcomes Springing the Blues bands, visitors for 26th year



**Kim Reteguiz belts the band's signature blues-funk tunes on day two of Springing the Blues.**

**By Jasmine Marshall**  
The Recorder

For a brief moment on Saturday, the rain clouds dissipated over Jacksonville Beach's Seawalk Pavilion for the second day of the annual Springing the Blues festival, casting sunlight over a growing crowd as Kim Reteguiz and the Black Cats Bones took the main stage.

The 2015 Jax Idol winners performed songs from their yet to be released LP,

with frontwoman Reteguiz belting the band's signature brand of hybrid Latin fusion and soul to the applause of an early afternoon turnout.

Celebrating its 26th year on the Jax Beach calendar, Springing the Blues hosted yet another lineup of acclaimed blues musicians both local and national drawing an equally mixed crowd.

After kicking off Friday April 1, the festival presented a variety of acts over

the course of three days, including The Lee Boys, Toots Lorraine & The Traffic and Red Dirt Revelators.

"I don't think there's anything else like it," said Nelson Osborn, an Alabama native with a band of his own who attended in support of Red Dirt Revelators. "I love it – it's by the beach and the sound production is always great. And I'm from Alabama – I'm a real blues man so it's really for me."

Springing the Blues, which reportedly attracts over 150,000 people to the Seawalk Pavilion each year, has come a long way since its first event in 1991 featuring just four artists. This year's festival featured 16 bands and soloists and more than 40 hours of music on two stages – the Main Stage and a Blues Lounge, for a more intimate performance experience.

A bevy of food trucks vendors, including MOJO Kitchen and several other local and national chains, offered up an assortment of classic hot dogs and sausages, smoothies and snow cones. A ferris wheel, a cluster of apparel booths and a small attraction of inflatable slides and bouncy houses gave the festival the feel of a fair – a vibe festival organizers pride themselves on bringing to the First Coast.

Keisha Jones, a first-time attendee with her daughter, Kelly, felt it was the perfect event for families to celebrate the blues.

"I love that my daughter can experience music like this, the type of music I grew up with," she said. "And I love that it's great for people of any age to enjoy. It's good food, good music and fun. I'm glad I didn't miss it this year."

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PHOTOS BY JASMINE MARSHALL/THE RECORDER  
**Red Dirt Revelators' guitarist Jamie Trollinger.**



**Alabama native Nelson Osborn attends the festival to see Red Dirt Revelators.**

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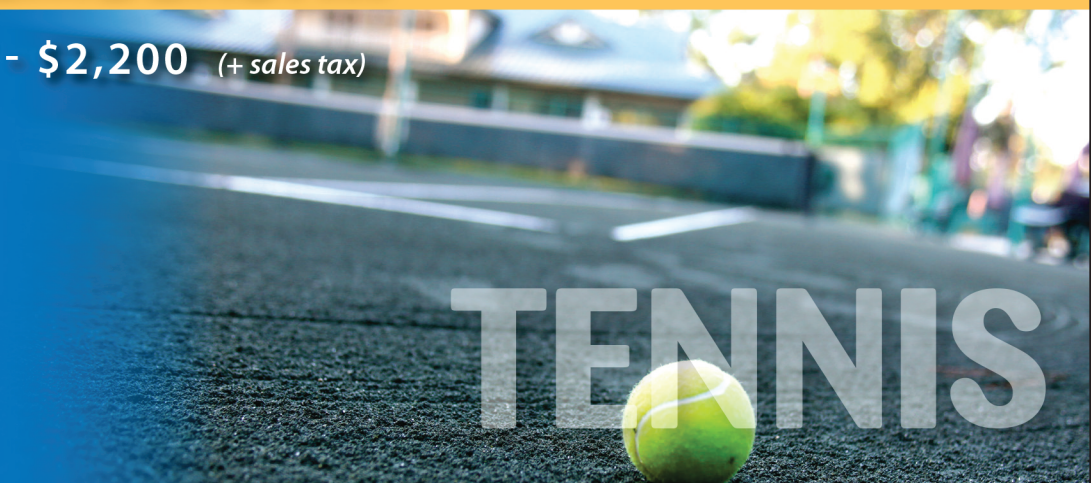
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# Nocatee launches 'NocaTour'

By Jennifer Logue  
Editor

Prospective homebuyers thinking about moving to Nocatee now have another option for learning more about the fast-growing master-planned community: the NocaTour.

Through the new tour, guests will have an opportunity to take a 30-minute golf cart journey through the community's Greenway Trails, viewing many of Nocatee's most popular amenities along the way.

"The NocaTour really makes guests get excited about living in Nocatee," Welcome Center Representative Julie Alen said. "When we take folks out in the golf cart, it really gives them a sense of what it's like living among the green."

Conducted by Welcome Center representatives, the tour takes guests along the community's golf cart paths and through the Greenway Trails. The route takes visitors past Nocatee Community Park – with its dog park and children's playground – and the back side of the tennis courts. The tour continues past one of Nocatee's athletics fields before entering the Greenway Trails, traveling over picturesque wooden bridges and through acres of preserve land. Along the way, Welcome Center staff describe the amenities and point out the nearby Nocatee neighborhoods, including Coastal Oaks, Del Webb and Willowcove. Often, the NocaTour will pass Nocatee residents jogging, bicycling or walking their dogs along the trails.

The tour then loops around and returns to the Welcome Center, where guests may visit the Splash Water Park, the lap pool, athletic courts and other Nocatee amenities.

Alen said the tour also demonstrates the appeal of living in a community that's easily accessible by golf cart. "With a golf cart, Nocatee residents can go to Publix, get a haircut, attend a swim meet or go



PHOTO BY JENNIFER LOGUE/EDITOR

**Nocatee Welcome Center Representative Julie Alen prepares to conduct a NocaTour.**

to 'Food Truck Friday' without ever having to get in a car," Alen said. "So the NocaTour is a great selling tool for the Nocatee lifestyle."

That selling tool will be in even greater demand, Alen added, as word continues to spread about Nocatee. For the past several years, Nocatee has ranked as one of the top-selling master-planned communities in the nation.

"We've had people come to the Welcome Center from South Africa, Italy and the Bahamas," Alen said. "Nocatee is now on the map!"

Currently, NocaTours are offered at 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Thursday through Saturday and at noon on Sunday. Reservations may be made by signing up on Eventbrite.com or calling the Nocatee Welcome Center at (904) 924-6863.

## Nocatee Welcome Center Spotlight: Judi Grossman



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOCATEE

**Judi Grossman (left) and Barbara Walters at the Nocatee Welcome Center**

By Jasmine Marshall  
The Recorder

The Nocatee Welcome Center is the first stop for anyone looking to find out more about the master-planned community.

The office offers resources such as interactive maps, tours and of information about living in Nocatee. The most important resource, however, is the Welcome Center staff who help newcomers get oriented. Each month, a different member of the Welcome Center team will be featured in this space.

This week's spotlight is on Judi Grossman, a Welcome Center representative who will be retiring this spring. As the current longest-serving member of the team, Grossman's duties range from updating information and assuring the Welcome Center's cleanliness to being among the first friendly faces new and old visitors alike see in the center.

**Describe a bit of your role at the Welcome Center.**

As a welcome center rep, I wear many hats. We all interact with each other and the site agents as team players.

We are responsible for keeping all displays updated and the Welcome Center cleaned. We also interact with Realtors who bring in clients.

Our number one role is greeting visitors and prospective homeowners in Nocatee. With more than 20 neighborhoods to choose from and over 14,000 acres to navigate, a visit to Nocatee can be a little daunting. Thus the need for the Welcome Center – we help visitors narrow down their search based on their parameters.

**Congratulations on your retirement! What special memory do you have of working at the Welcome Center?**

I would have to say hands down the relationships I've formed with the people I've come in contact with

here in the Welcome Center – both coworkers and new homeowners. Several have become new friends.

**What part of your job have you loved the most?**

Again, it would have to be educating visitors in the Welcome Center as to how they can "live the lifestyle" here in Nocatee.

**Is there such a thing as a "typical" work day for you? What does it include?**

That's funny! No day is typical; things change daily. We go with the flow, but always aim to magnify the beauty of Nocatee and the benefits of living in a master-planned community.

**What's something you want everyone to know about the work you do at the Welcome Center?**

That we all love helping people and we all believe in the Nocatee master-planned community.



# KIDS SUMMER FUN GUIDE 2016

**April 7th, 2016**

Special Section to:

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

**By Carrie Resch**  
The Recorder

Like peanut butter and jelly or chocolate and marshmallows summertime and camps are a natural pairing. When the nights get longer, the weather gets warmer, and kids are home from school for the summer, finding activities to keep them active and engaged can be tough. Luckily, the First Coast has a variety of summer camps to keep your little ones busy or even help them hone their talents or focus their studies.

Whatever your child's interest or needs, there is sure to be a camp that fits the bill. This is just a small sampling of the many camps our area has to offer. Registration for most camps is now open, so make plans to make this summer your child or children's best summer yet!

**Episcopal School of Jacksonville Summer Camps**

Episcopal School of Jacksonville offers sports, activities, arts and academics programs every summer for grades K through 12. Summer programs at Episcopal School of Jacksonville are all about fun and self-improvement. The classes give students the opportunity to enjoy the subject matter at a relaxed pace, with fewer students and greater teacher attention. The camps stress the love of the game, whether it be pole vaulting or dancing. The safe, secure environment at Episcopal allows students and parents to focus on what is important: improving academics, athletics and fine arts skills. The school prides itself on being a small, close-knit community that welcomes anyone to join us.

Camps run all season from May 22 to July 31. Subjects cover everything from theology and study skills to paintball, fishing, fencing and public speaking. Camps offered also include two football camps with former Jaguars quarterback Mark Brunell. Visit [www.esj.org](http://www.esj.org) for more information.

**Montgomery Presbyterian Center**

Summer is a wonderful part of childhood, a time to play outdoors, to explore, to learn and make new friends. Montgomery has over 50 years of experience in making summer a magical time for children, rich with opportunities for children to discover themselves in a supportive, Christian community.

Montgomery Presbyterian Camp, Conference and Retreat Center was established in 1957 on 167 wooded acres on three spring-fed lakes. Owned by the Presbytery of St. Augustine, Montgomery exists to provide unique programs in a setting which gives youth and adults the opportunity to experience the love of God through Jesus Christ in ways that deepen faith and increase the appreciation of and service to each other. The camping ministry at Montgomery is an

extension of the Christian education programs of the Presbytery of St. Augustine and of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Overnight camps up to two weeks begin June 19 and run through July 29. Camps are available for all ages starting with first graders, and including a "You and Me" camp for parents and kids and a family camp. On site camps begin June 26.

Montgomery is located at 88 SE 75th St., in Starke, Fla. Call (352) 473-4516 or visit [montgomerycenter.org](http://montgomerycenter.org) for more information.

**The Village Academy and The Village Academy North**

Village Academy and Village Academy North are offering specialty summer camps for children ages 4-13 with either full or partial day camps. Summer day camps begin June 8.

Camp Have-a-Blast includes daily swimming, field trips, overnight adventures, art, cooking, and science experiments during 10 themed weeks of fun at The Village Academy. This summer themes include: Hawaii, Hollywood, Pirates, Stars and Stripes, Christmas in July, Olympics, Sports, Wacky Tacky, and End of summer celebration. The academy also boasts two swimming pools, an indoor air-conditioned gym, arcade room, and arts and crafts room. A two-week minimum commitment for the camp is required. A version of the camp geared toward ages 4 and 5 called Junior Camp is available for younger campers.

Village Academy North is offering Boom Science, STEM, and Curiosity camps.

The Village Academy and Village Academy North are located in St. Augustine at 145 Lewis Point Rd. and 5970 US 1 N. respectively. For more information about The Village Academy, call (904) 797-5909 or visit [www.village-academy.com](http://www.village-academy.com). For more information about Village Academy North,



July 5-8 – Water Works

July 11-15 – All Star Sports

July 18-22 – Carnival

July 25-29 – Camp's Got Talent

August 1-5 – Summer Camp Olympics

For more information or to register online, visit [www.nocateesummercamp.com](http://www.nocateesummercamp.com).

[www.nocateesummercamps.cfm](http://www.nocateesummercamps.cfm). Please note: the camps are for Nocatee residents only; residency will be verified.

**Keystone Behavioral Pediatrics Summer Programming**

Keystone Behavioral Pediatrics in Jacksonville offers summer programming for special needs and typically developing children.

There are two programs for preschoolers: KCDC Summer Camp, an inclusion camp for typically developing kids and high-functioning kids with special needs from 18 months through kindergarten and KCDC Summer VPK, a free voluntary pre-kindergarten program for kids who reside in Florida and turned four by Sept. 1, 2015.

For more information about KCDC summer programs, call (904) 619-6071, ext. 139 or email [norton@keystonebehavioral.com](mailto:norton@keystonebehavioral.com).

There are also two different programs for ages 5 to 22 years old, including Keystone Success through Change Champs for typically developing and high-functioning kids with special needs. Five camps are offered that focus on specific mental health needs.

Keystone Summer Program is a newly redesigned program for children who have a range of special needs with fun and educational activities and learning goals. Personalized treatment goals can be developed for each child as well.

For more information about Keystone Success Through Change Camps and the Keystone Summer Program, call (904) 619-6071 or email [summercamps@keystonebehavioral.com](mailto:summercamps@keystonebehavioral.com).

**Crosswater Community Church**

For the second year in a row, Crosswater Community Church will bring the WinShape Camp for Communities program to Ponte Vedra. Camp will take place July 25-29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is for children who have completed first grade through eighth grade.

WinShape Camp offers 21 different activities for campers, including crafts, archery, flag football, dance, science, gymnastics and more.

call (904) 824-7997 or visit [www.village-academynorth.com](http://www.village-academynorth.com).

**Nocatee Summer Camps**

Nocatee is offering weekly themed summer camps for Nocatee residents beginning the week of June 6 through the week of Aug. 1. The camps feature a range of activities from unique art and craft projects to team building, nature walks on Nocatee's Greenway Trails, sports, swimming and water games.

Camps are for children ages 5-12. The weekly camps are scheduled Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The camp fee is \$175 per child, per week. A discount applies for siblings; the additional sibling fee is \$150 per sibling, per week.

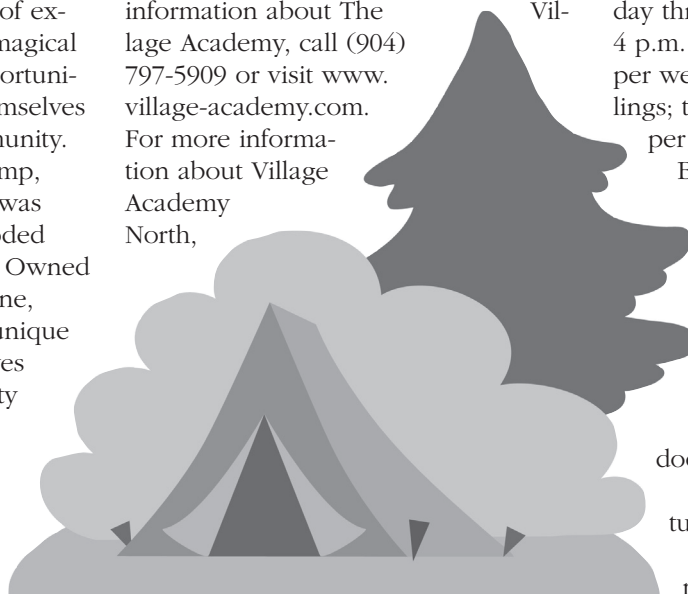
Before and after care is available for an additional fee in the morning from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and in the afternoon from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The fee is \$50 per week for before and after camp care.

June 6-10 - Artful Antics

June 13-17 – The Great Outdoors

June 20-24 – Science Adventures

June 27-July 1 – Fun and Fitness





# Camps

Continued from 16

Crosswater Community Church is located at 211 Davis Park Road, Ponte Vedra. For more information, call (904) 824-9800 or visit [www.crosswaterchurch.net](http://www.crosswaterchurch.net).

## Alhambra Theatre and Dining Summer Theater Camp

Is your child a tad dramatic? Help them hone their flair for theatrics with a two-week summer theater camp presented by The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach and Alhambra Theatre and Dining.

There are two separate camps, one for children ages 9-12 and one for children ages 13 and up. Experienced actors or newbies are welcome to attend camp. Camp will culminate in a three-course dinner and final performance from campers. A dinner ticket for the camper plus one family member is included with registration.

Ages 9-12: June 20-July 1, performance on July 5

Ages 13 and up: July 11-July 22, performance on July 25

Camp takes place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Alhambra Theatre & Dining, 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville.

To register for the camp, call the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach at (904) 280-0614. Visit [www.alhambrajax.com/events/summer-theater-camp](http://www.alhambrajax.com/events/summer-theater-camp) for more information.

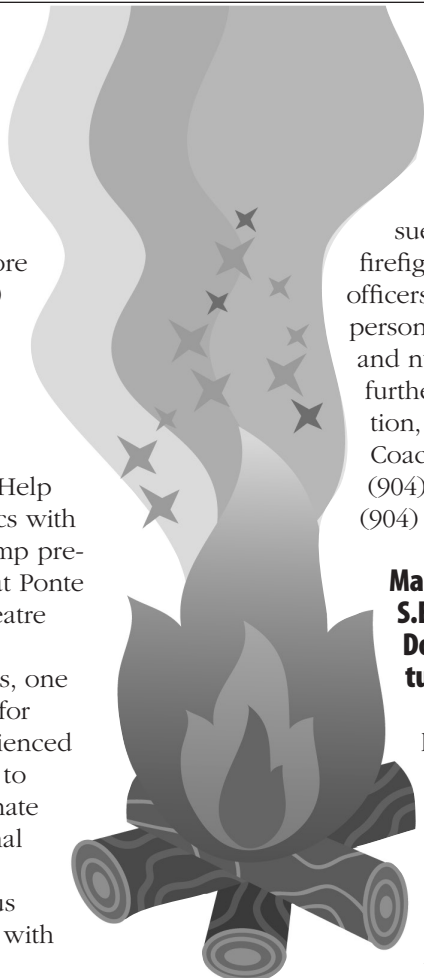
## Jacksonville Beach Junior Lifeguard Camp

The Junior Lifeguard program is a one-week, full-day camp for kids ages 9 to 15, and is sponsored by the City of Jacksonville Beach and the American Red Cross Volunteer Life Saving Corp.

Because the camp is held at the lifeguard station, the students can view how professional lifeguards handle beach emergencies and day-to-day operations. Camp runs all summer from June to August in six different sessions.

The Junior Lifeguard camp is an overview of the Ocean Rescue Lifeguard procedures which are in place to ensure the public's safety while visiting our beaches. The camp includes instruction in ocean rescue, first aid, CPR, weather patterns and environmental awareness. Campers will learn how to use lifeguard equipment such as the rescue tube and paddleboards. Campers must be good swimmers and comfortable in the ocean.

The program trains students to get a job as a lifeguard



when they turn 16 years old. Many of its lifeguards have pursued careers as firefighters, police officers, military personnel, doctors and nurses. For further information, contact Coach Paugh (904) 241-0806 or (904) 860-2175.

## Marineland S.E.A. Camp Dolphin Adventure

Marineland's S.E.A. Camp is a week-long camp for kids ages 7 through 12 and teens ages 13 through 16.

The program is filled with science, activities, exploration, beach combing and dolphins. Sessions run Monday through Friday from June through August. Space is limited.

Marineland is located at 9600 Oceanshore Blvd., St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 471-1111 or visit [www.marineland.net](http://www.marineland.net).

## Ponte Vedra Ballet & Dance Company and Fusion Performing Arts Academy dance camps

Special themed weekly dance camps run Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., June through August. Camps are for children ages 4 through teens for beginners, intermediate and advanced students.

- 2016 Dance Camp:
  - June 6-10 - Dance it All Camp
  - June 13-17 - Acro Blast Camp
  - June 20-24 - Ballerina Princess Camp
  - June 27-July 1 - Broadway Annie Camp
  - July 11-15 - Ballerina Princess Camp
  - July 18-22 - Dance it All Camp
  - July 25-29 - Hip Hop Acro Blast
  - Aug. 1-5 - Ballerina Princess Camp

Register online; space is limited. For more information or to register, call (904) 859-2223 or visit [www.pvballet.com](http://www.pvballet.com) or [www.fusionperformingartsacademy.com](http://www.fusionperformingartsacademy.com).

## Ancient City Explorers Summer Camp

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum presents Ancient City Explorers Summer Camp, a weekly kids' camp for children in grades

kindergarten through fifth grade. From folk art to shipwreck archaeology, campers will interact with history through science experiments, craft projects, field trips and more.

May 31-June 3 – Folksom & Jetsam

June 6-June 10 – Shipwreck Archaeology

June 13-June 17 – Shipwreck Survival

June 20-June 24 – Wickie Science

June 27-July 1 – Pre-Mouse Tourism

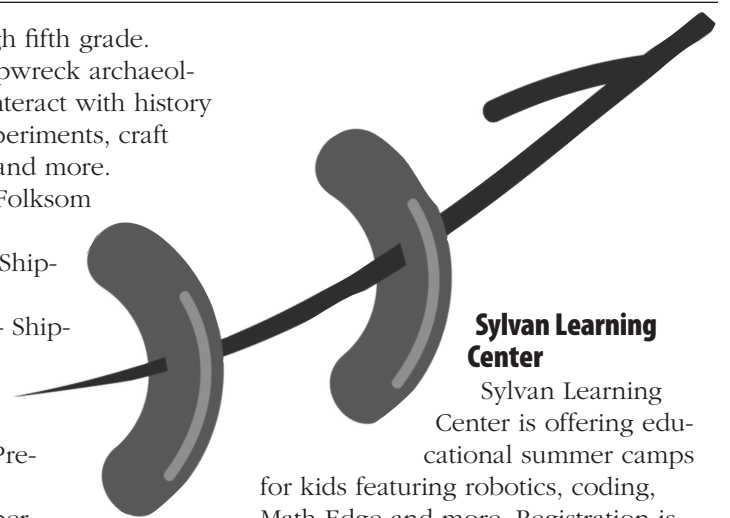
Camps are \$125 per week for non-members. Museum members receive 10 percent off. Cost includes a t-shirt, backpack, water bottle, field trips and lunch on Friday.

To register for camp, call (904) 829-0745 or visit [www.staugustinelighthouse.org/camp](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.org/camp).

## Summer arts camps and workshops at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach presents Summer Arts Camps and Workshops for young artists of all skill levels. Children ages 4 to 16 are encouraged to express their imagination using quality artist's materials with guidance from creative and talented art instructors. Supplies and snack included.

Campers must bring a brown bag lunch and dress for mess. To register, visit [www.ccpvb.org](http://www.ccpvb.org) or call (904)-280-0614 ext 204. Early registration discount ends May 16, 2016. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach.



## Sylvan Learning Center

Sylvan Learning Center is offering educational summer camps



for kids featuring robotics, coding, Math Edge and more. Registration is now open; sign up by May 15 and save \$25. Sylvan Learning Center Ponte Vedra is located at 2 Fairfield Blvd., Suite 5. For more information, call (904) 280-8410 or visit [www.sylvanlearning.com](http://www.sylvanlearning.com).

## Surf Into Summer Surf Camp

All children can learn to surf with help from the Ponte Vedra and Jacksonville Beach Surf Camps. Even kids who spent all season indoors will learn to hang 10 with ease. All sessions begin with introductory instruction on general water, ocean safety and surfing etiquette. Most of the time is spent in the water with instructors, learning to surf. The camp is open to ages six and older. Camps run all summer long beginning June 13 and running through Aug. 5. Camps run from 8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

The price is \$210 per camp and includes a money-back guarantee. The instructor to camper ratio is 1 to 3. The camp always has a lifeguard on duty, and instructors are some of the top surfers in North Florida.

CAMPS continues on Page 18

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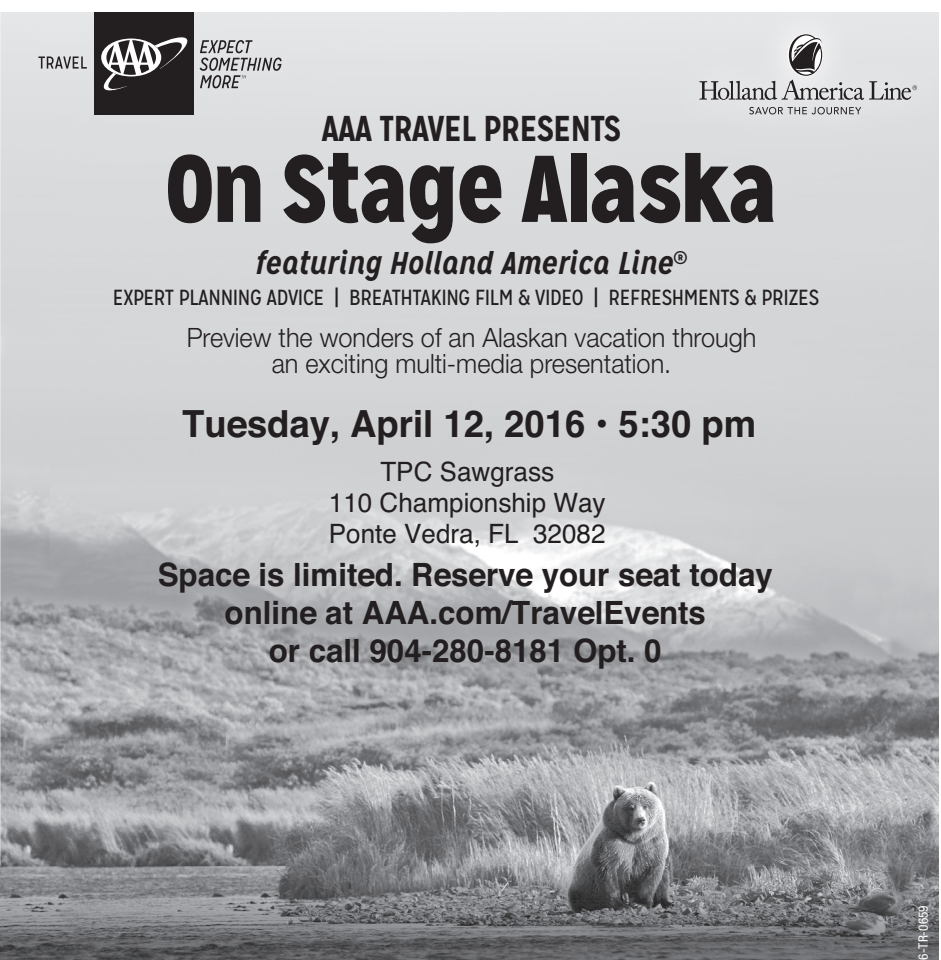
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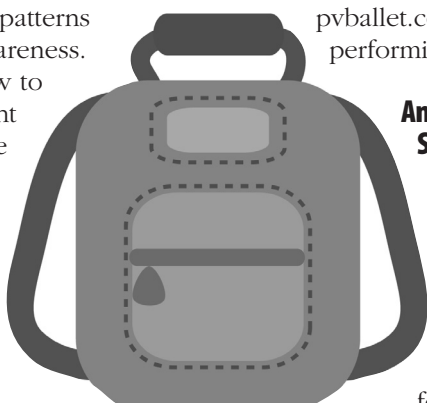
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# Camps

Continued from 17

The Jacksonville Beach camp is located at Seagate Avenue, across from Fletcher Middle School. The Ponte Vedra camp is located at Mickler's Landing.

All necessary equipment is provided, including both hard boards and soft boards, wetsuits, leashes, wax and more. Instructors and campers will be identified with same color rash guards. Visit [www.surfintosummer.com](http://www.surfintosummer.com) for more information.

## Ponte Vedra YMCA Summer Camps

Campers ages 5 through 12 can

travel around the world, visiting a different country each week. Summer camp begins May 31 and runs through Aug. 5.

Activities range from arts and humanities to math, science and literacy. Camps also include outdoor recreation play, reading activities and weekly field trips.

There are three Ponte Vedra area locations for camps: Ponte Vedra YMCA, 170 Landrum Lane; Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, 4510 Palm Valley Road; The Bolles School, 200 ATP Blvd.

Week 1 – South Africa

Week 2 – Australia

Week 3 – France

Week 4 – Greece

Week 5 – India

Week 6 – United States

Week 7 – Egypt  
 Week 8 – Thailand  
 Week 9 – Peru  
 Week 10 – Brazil  
 Week 11 – South Africa  
 For more information, call (904) 543-9622 or visit [www.firstcoastymca.org/programs/camp/summer-camp](http://www.firstcoastymca.org/programs/camp/summer-camp).

## Apex Theatre Studio camp and music theatre intensives

Camp Apex for ages 10 through 14 begins May 31 and runs through Aug. 5. Themed camps cover an array of stage genres including improv, comedy, Broadway to writing and publishing camps for screenwriting, storytelling, poetry, comic books, graphic novels and cartoons.

Music Theatre Intensives for ages 12 through 21: Camp options include The Boot, a 14-day intensive designed to challenge the intermediate to advanced level artist; or The Standard, a four-week experience for artists in the early stage of their craft.

Class sizes are limited. Apex Theatre is located at 5105 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit [www.apextheatrejax.com](http://www.apextheatrejax.com).

## Dansations

Dansations provides quality and technically challenging dance in a fun, creative environment. The studio has comprehensive curriculum for ages 3 to adult and summer programs are

available for children and adults. 14965 Old St. Augustine Road, suite 132, St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 880-0403 or visit [www.dansationsjax.com](http://www.dansationsjax.com).

## Bud Beech

Bud Beech Summer Camp has been running for nearly 30 years. A variety of activities are offered, including sports fitness, dance, basketball and more. The camp is open to boys and girls ages 6 through 13 and takes place Monday through Thursday from May 31 – July 30. All activities are indoors at Ponte Vedra High School.

Parent drop off is in the gym after 8:15 a.m. Monday through Thursday for full day and/or morning session campers. Afternoon campers drop off is at 11:45 p.m.

Both full day and half-day camp options are available. Full-day camps are offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and half day camps are from 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information, call (904) 686-4075 or visit [www.budbeech.com](http://www.budbeech.com).

Polly B Dance Academy For more than 43 years, Polly B Dance Academy has been teaching aspiring dancers the art of dance. Styles include ballet, lyrical, hip hop, jazz and more.

The studio is located at 240 23rd Ave. S., Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 246-6662 or visit [www.pollybdance.com](http://www.pollybdance.com).



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# Bud Beech Summer Camp 2016

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**Choose Full Day or Half Day**  
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 Half Day \$15/\$20 after June 1

Space Still Available - Register Today!  
**STARTING MONDAY June 6th and last day is July 28th.**

Morning session is 8:30am - 11:30am  
 Afternoon session is 12pm - 3pm

**Sports Fitness**  
 8:30am-11:30am and/or 12pm-3pm

**Dance**  
 8:30am-11:30am and/or 12pm-3pm

**Basketball**  
 12pm-3pm

**Full Day Campers**  
 Stay for Lunch 11:30-Noon  
 Open to Boys & Girls 6-13

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## Tommy Hulihan's Basketball Camp and Sports Camp

Tommy Hulihan's summertime activities are designed to get campers moving this summer while learning sports and basketball fundamentals. The camps take place at St. Paul's Gym, located at 212 Fifth St. N., Jacksonville Beach. There are three camp options to choose from:

Summer Sports Camp is open to girls and boys ages five through rising sixth graders. Camp runs May 31 – Aug. 5. Campers will participate in team sports and age appropriate activities.

Summer Beaches Basketball League is open to girls and boys ages 3 through rising sixth graders. The deadline to register is May 20. The league runs June 4 – Aug. 6.

Tommy Hulihan's Basketball Camp is open to girls and boys from third grade through eighth grade. Camps are divided into sessions.

The basketball camp runs from June 13-17.

For more information or to register, call (904) 349-2611 or visit [www.tommyhulihanbasketball.com](http://www.tommyhulihanbasketball.com).

# Local drama students attend Florida State Thespian Festival

By Jennifer Logue  
Editor

Drama students from Ponte Vedra and Nease high schools were among an estimated 5,000 students from across the state selected to participate in the recent Florida State Thespian Festival.

Held March 16-19 in Tampa, the festival featured four days of workshops and performance competitions by the state's most gifted drama and musical theater performers.

From Shakespearean stage combat

and character analysis to tap dancing and pantomime, festival workshops offered students a myriad of ways to develop their acting, dancing and singing skills.

The highlight for many students, though, was the opportunity to perform in the competition part of the festival. In order to compete at the state festival, students had to have garnered a "superior" rating at their local district competition.

"We took 24 students to State Thespians," said Joseph Kemper, drama teacher at Ponte Vedra High School.

"We received Superior ratings in Small Group Musical (Jessica Goldman, Kylie Giliberto and Olivia Wolford) for their performance of 'There's Gotta Be Something Better Than This' from 'Sweet Charity' and Ensemble Acting (Paxton Peterson, Janaya Banks, Alexa Sarci and Joe Sarci) for their performance of 'Andre's Mother.'"

Ponte Vedra students also received Excellent rankings in Monologue Performance, Duet Musical and Ensemble Acting.

Thirteen students from the Nease drama program attended the state festi-

val, including senior Gaby Greenwald, who earned a Superior ranking in the Solo Musical category for her performance of "Burn" from the Broadway musical "Hamilton."

Nease also earned Superior scores in Duet Acting (Gaby Greenwald and Suzanna Neal for "Spring Awakening") and Small Group Musical (Gaby Greenwald, Sarah Jacobs, Suzanna Neal, Elijah Reppert, Kathleen Reyes and Abby Watson for "Spring Awakening").

Excellent rankings, meanwhile, were achieved in Scene Design and Playwriting.



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July 25-29 • August 1-5

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5/31-6/3; 6/6-6/9;  
6/13-16 from 9am—2pm  
**Ages 13-17:**  
6/20-6/23 from 9am-2pm

If your child has a fascination for cooking, *Kid's Cooking Camp* is a great place for them to explore their creativity.

By preparing a variety of meals, campers gain hands-on experience combined with good nutritional practices, kitchen safety, proper use of appliances and basic food preparation, all in a safe and supportive environment.

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SUBMITTED BY STUART IMPEY

Members of the Landrum Middle School boys' soccer team and Ponte Vedra Storm U-14 Gold soccer players, soccer parents, team coach, Stuart Impey, and Ethan Branck and family, at the Run 13.1 and 5K April 3 at the Jacksonville Landing.

## Local boys' soccer team raises funds for fellow player diagnosed with rare bone cancer

By Carrie Resch  
The Recorder

"Nov. 5, 2015 our world fell apart."

Those seven short words are how St. Augustine couple Lisa and Michael Branck described the shock and pain of learning their 13-year-old son, Ethan, had a rare form of bone cancer.

One day their son was a happy teenager and aspiring young soccer player

who moved to St. Augustine with his family last year, started attending Sebastian Middle School, and tried out for the school's soccer team. But his father noticed that something was off. Ethan was tiring easily and not playing with the same intensity as he once had, so his father decided to take him to the doctor. After many doctor's visits and tests, Ethan was diagnosed with

metastatic Ewing's sarcoma, and as a result of this rare type of bone cancer, had to have his right leg amputated.

Ponte Vedra Beach resident and soccer coach Stuart Impey heard about Ethan and together, he and the two teams of boys he coaches wanted to do something to help.

"I have a 13-year-old son and it really got me because all us parents who have kids who play soccer, it could have been any of our boys," Impey said.

The head soccer coach at Landrum Middle School, Impey also serves as assistant coach of his son's soccer team, the Ponte Vedra Storm U-14 Gold. Many of the boys from the Landrum team and some members of the Ponte Vedra Storm had already decided to run the Run 13.1 and 5K half marathon on April 3 at The Jacksonville Landing. After hearing about Ethan's story, the group decided to turn the run into a fundraising opportunity to help Ethan's family with the mounting cost of medical bills. They set up a Go Fund Me page and managed to raise almost \$12,000 in one month. They named their fundraising group "EB's Toon Army" in honor of their fellow soccer player.

"We were just amazed that we got this call out of the blue and this generosity and forethought to help Ethan

out," Branck said. "It's just amazing what (Impey's) doing and the support and the overall attention that he's brought," Branck said.

The Brancks are especially touched by the outpouring of the community, considering the family is new to the area. The family also expressed appreciation for the local organizations that have stepped in to help, including The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund and the Tim Tebow Foundation. Ethan and his family were invited to attend the 2016 Tim Tebow Foundation Celebrity Gala and Golf Classic, where Ethan enjoyed a private meeting with Tebow, who signed and threw a football with him.

Ethan has also received good tidings from a number of other organizations. The Jacksonville Armada FC soccer team sent Ethan and his family tickets to a game and some Armada swag. He also received a letter from the personal assistant to the head coach of Ethan's favorite soccer team, Newcastle United, a letter from NBA star LeBron James, a visit from two of the Jacksonville Jaguars and a card signed by the Fruit Cover Middle School girls' varsity team.

"The community support," Branck said, "has been outstanding."

Donations to Ethan Branck's fund may be made online at [www.gofundme.com/27dusmmk](http://www.gofundme.com/27dusmmk) or [www.gofundme.com/ebtoonarmy](http://www.gofundme.com/ebtoonarmy).

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# Get outdoors this summer!

Stay and play this summer with free and low-cost summertime activities

**By Carrie Resch**

The Recorder

There are plenty of activities in and around town that the whole family can enjoy. Spend some quality time with your child and do an art project at a museum such as The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens or MOCA Jacksonville.

Grab a picnic blanket and snacks and take in a movie under the stars with Moonlight Movies presented by the City of Jacksonville Beach.

Blast off and visit a brand new exhibit at Ripley's Believe It or Not St. Augustine or go back in time and walk among the dinosaurs with Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens' Destination: DINO exhibit.

Whatever you choose to do, have a roaring good summer!

**The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens**

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Art for Two children's workshop is offered on select dates from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Art for Two is for children ages 3 through 5 and their favorite adult. Each month features a different art project based on The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens' permanent collection or an exhibition. The cost is \$15 per pair for members; \$20 per pair for non-members.

Upcoming Art for Two classes include:

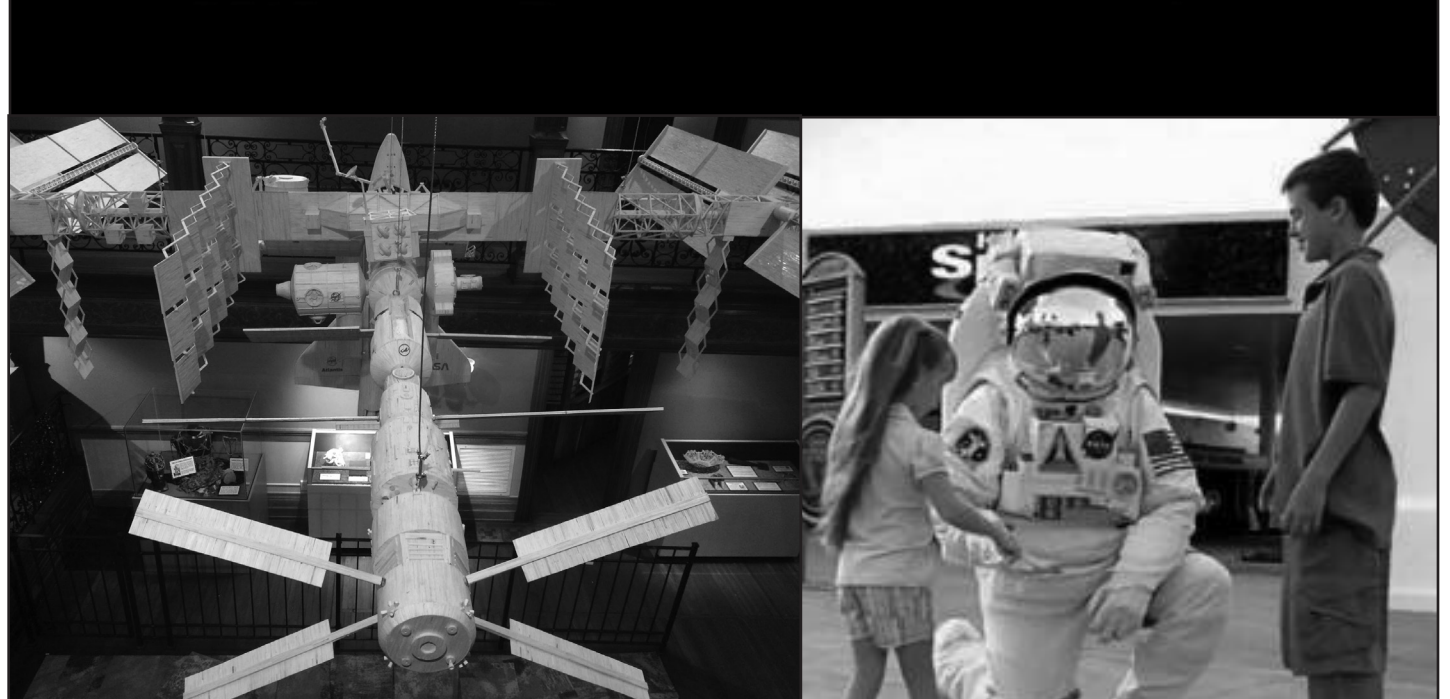
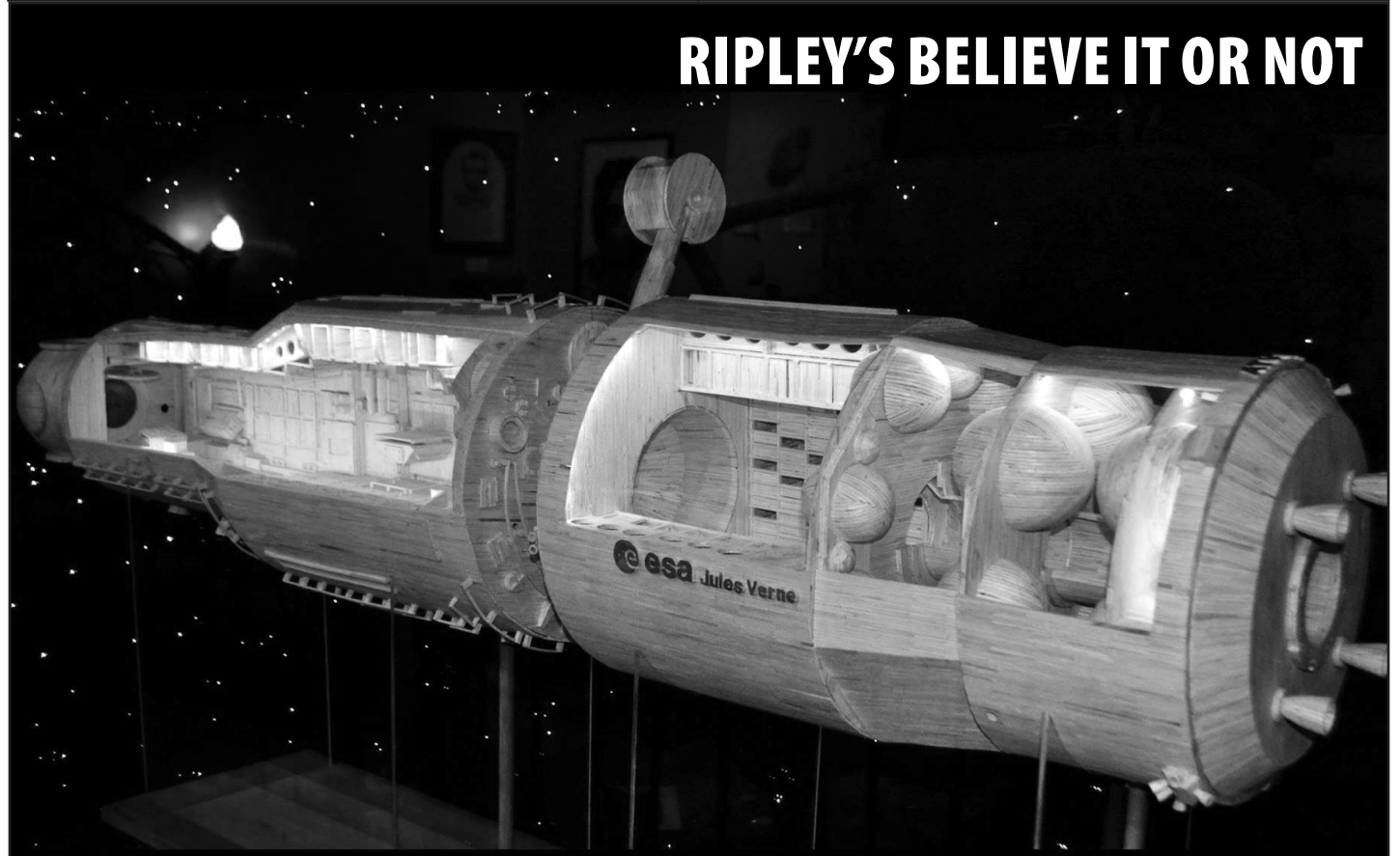
- April 16 – Florida Landscapes
- May 14 – Animal Hunt
- June 11 – Summertime Fun
- July 9 – Storms Coming
- Aug. 13 – Moonlight Cityscape

Art Adventures is offered the third Saturday of every month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Art Adventures is for children ages 6-12. Each month features a different theme and focus on different art techniques such as painting, printmaking, collage or construction. The cost is \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members.

Upcoming Art Adventures classes include:

- April 16 – Archipenko
- May 21 – Tactile Tactics
- June 18 – Jacksonville Parks
- July 16 – Printmaking
- Aug. 20 – Still Life

Class size is limited. For more information, call (904) 355-0630 or email [education@cummuseum.org](mailto:education@cummuseum.org). The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.



**RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT**

# St. Augustine Times

VOLUME XXI, NO. 22

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL., THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016

EST. 1265

## It is Official, The Pirate Ship Black Raven offers the Best Birthday Party

### Unanimously Voted by the Florida Birthday Council

No other attraction can live up to this exhilarating and unique pirate adventure. A treasure hunt, not with one pirate ship but with two, the Black Raven and the Queen Anne's Revenge.

This cruise starts off

with Blackbeard dashing on board the Black Raven, stealing the treasure and sword fighting his way out of the chaos he just created.

The crew of Black Raven quickly decides to set sail and chase him down out

in the bay. A sea battle is anticipated and the new crew needs to be trained in sword fighting. All the kids on-board are called to duty. They need to quickly be battle ready.

Pretty soon, Blackbeard's ship, the Queen Anne's Revenge will be spotted. She is flying her red battle flag signaling "No Quarter Given, No Mercy Shown".

After a successful sea battle with cannon fire,

broadsiding and sword fights, Black Raven's crew will win the battle and the commandeered booty will be shared among the young crew.

Let your child become a Pirate for the day and celebrate his/her birthday on-board this unique Spanish Galleon. To say the least, Black Raven's Birthday adventure can't be matched. Period. Nobody can match it, N-O-B-O-D-Y. It is just pure fun for the whole family.

## The Pirate Ship Black Raven BIRTHDAY ADVENTURE



The two pirate ships, Black Raven and the Queen Anne's Revenge are taking the old fashion birthday party to a whole new level. Our Birthday Adventure is an electrifying, full blown live and interactive Pirate Adventure that nobody can match, NOBODY, not even "Orlando".

The voyage is action filled from start to finish, a surprise attack by the Crew of Queen Anne's Revenge, sword fights between the crews, sword training for the kids, face painting, games, sea battle between the ships, cannon firing, booty sharing, cake time and, of course, the mandatory Happy Birthday Song.

Meet our Birthday Hostess, Jennifer Rice. She will greet you first in the store but you will also meet her on the ship where she will serve the cupcakes and beverages.



A Treasure Chest full of Gifts is handed over to a Birthday Child

We offer **COMPLETE BIRTHDAY PACKAGES** that includes group prices, gifts, cupcakes, beverages, Blackbeard's special delivery of the Birthday Chest full of Gifts and more. The Birthday Voyage leaves every Saturday at 11:00 am from the Municipal Marina in downtown St. Augustine. Reservation required. Please visit our web site for more information and our NEW BIRTHDAY VIDEO: [www.PirateShipBlackRaven.com](http://www.PirateShipBlackRaven.com)

**Ph: 877.578.5050**



## Play

Continued from 21

### ArtFusion at MOCA and Hemming Park

The Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville in downtown Jacksonville offers classes for children and their parents or adult caretaker during the Downtown Art Walk held the first Wednesday of every month from 5 to 8 p.m. The classes are held in the classroom on the fifth floor of the museum.

In addition, ArtFusion at Hemming Park takes place the first Sunday of the month from noon to 4 p.m. at the park (located directly across the street from the museum.)

ArtFusion is taught by one of MOCA Jacksonville's professional art educators and features an art project inspired by the museum's permanent collection or featured exhibition. Children who take part in Art Fusion

in Hemming Park receive free gallery admission.

MOCA is located at 333 N. Laura St. in Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 366-6911, email [education@mocajacksonville.org](mailto:education@mocajacksonville.org) or visit [www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu](http://www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu).

### City of Jacksonville Beach Moonlight Movies

Catch a movie under the stars. The Jacksonville Beach Moonlight Movie series kicks off April 22. The movies are free and are shown on a large screen on stage at the Seawalk Pavilion. Movies start at 9 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and picnic before the movie. A vendor will be on site selling popcorn, candy and beverages.

April 22: "Finding Nemo"

May 13: "Inside Out"

May 20: "Max"

For more information, including restrictions, visit [www.jacksonville-beach.org](http://www.jacksonville-beach.org).

### Ripley's Believe it Or Not

If you're looking for something out of the ordinary, make plans to visit Ripley's Believe it or Not this summer to see its brand new Space Oddities gallery which opened March 12 with an "Out of this World" grand opening party.

The Space Oddities gallery is a two-story exhibit featuring a giant replica of the International Space Station made entirely from matchsticks, the rover featured in the movie "Armageddon," an erector set model of the lunar landing pad and more.

"Star Wars" fans will want to check out the cast of the film carved into the heads of crayons, some of Chewbacca's fur from the original movie and a female Boba Fett replica.

Ripley's is open 365 days a year from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. with adjusted hours for Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

Ripley's Believe it Or Not is located at 19 San Marco Ave., St. August-

tine. For more information, call (904) 824-1606 or visit [www.ripleys.com/staugustine](http://www.ripleys.com/staugustine).

### Destination: DINO at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens

Like the "Land of the Lost," the dinosaurs made their triumphant return to Jacksonville on March 5.

Twenty-five species of life size and life-like animatronic dinosaurs will be on display at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens through July 4.

The cost is \$4 per person for non-members; \$3 per person for members. Zoo admission is not included. Zoo admission or membership must be purchased to enter Destination: DINO.

Once inside the zoo, a shuttle will transport you to the iconic gates of the dinosaur animal exhibit.

The zoo is located at 370 Zoo Parkway, Jacksonville. For more information, visit the zoo website at [www.jaxzoodinos.org](http://www.jaxzoodinos.org).

## A STAYCATION FOR SUMMER VACATION

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club 'Sharks & Crafts' promotional package can be a local's retreat

Looking to get away this summer without really going away? Then a staycation might be just what you are looking for.

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is offering a special "Sharks & Crafts" family getaway package. The package includes accommodations (the package deal requires a two-night minimum stay), daily one-hour rental of one paddleboard or one kayak, daily two-hour rental of two beach cruiser

bicycles, daily children's recreation activity, daily breakfast for children ages 12 and under, a shark tooth hunt and necklace, and one complimentary cocktail per adult.

Get away from the hustle and bustle and soak in the sunshine while building memories with your kids that will last a lifetime. The best part about packages? They include accommodations and enter-

tainment options that take the guess work out of planning daily activities and offer an opportunity to "stay and play" and be a tourist in your own backyard.

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is located at 200 Ponte Vedra Blvd. For more information, call (888) 839-9145, email [reservations@pvresorts.com](mailto:reservations@pvresorts.com) or visit [www.pontevedra.com/inn\\_and\\_club/packages\\_pvvc/sharks\\_crafts\\_package](http://www.pontevedra.com/inn_and_club/packages_pvvc/sharks_crafts_package).



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CAMPS RUN MON - FRI FROM 8:45 - 11:45 A.M.

May 30-June 3	June 27-July 1	July 25-29
June 6-10	July 4-8	Aug 1-5
June 13-15	July 11-15	Price: \$210
June 20-24	July 18-22	

Register at: [www.surfintosummer.com](http://www.surfintosummer.com)

## Girl Scouts to make history come alive at Ximenez-Fatio House April 9

The daily tasks and struggles of mid-19th century Florida women will be brought to life April 9, when local girl scouts take part in Living History Day at the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum in historic downtown St. Augustine.

Gateway Council girl scouts in 7th through 9th grade will portray women of the period, living their lives amid Indian uprisings, Yellow Fever epidemics and the Civil War. Working closely with the Colonial Dames – which owns and preserves the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum – the girls have trained and rehearsed extensively in preparation for Living History Day, which will occur from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the house, located at 20 Aviles St. Admission for the event is \$8 per person.

Listed on the National Register of

Historic places, the Ximenez-Fatio House was purchased by the Colonial Dames in the State of Florida in 1939 to use as their state house museum. One of St. Augustine's best-preserved Spanish colonial dwellings, the museum is considered one of the first American museums to interpret 19th century women's history, depicting the boarding house lifestyle of Florida's territorial and early statehood periods.

The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Tours of the buildings are available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; the museum is closed on Sunday and Monday.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$8 for students, seniors and the military. Admission is free for St. Johns County residents.

## Subscribe to the Recorder!

Call (904) 285-8831.



## Explore Scotland

Join us for an orientation to learn more — **Thursday, April 14, at 5:30 p.m. at JAX Chamber.** We invite you to discover the beautiful lands and historic landmarks of Scotland including Edinburgh, the Royal Yacht Britannia, Falkland, St. Andrews, Floors Castle, Glasgow, Wallace Monument and Melrose Abbey.

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Call (904) 366-6638 or email [ashley.lyon@myjaxchamber.com](mailto:ashley.lyon@myjaxchamber.com)

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- 5/31 - 6/3 Folksom & Jetsam
- 6/6 - 6/10 Shipwreck Archaeology
- 6/13 - 6/17 Shipwreck Survival
- 6/20 - 6/24 Wickie Science
- 6/27 - 7/1 Pre-Mouse Tourism

\$125/WK. NON-MEMBERS • 10% OFF FOR MUSEUM MEMBERS  
Includes T-shirt, backpack, water bottle, field trips and lunch on Friday.

NEW FOR 2016: ASK ABOUT OUR KEEPERS' AFTERNOON PROGRAM!

## Ocean Palms 'Reading Buddies' program makes reading fun

Ocean Palms Elementary School students are discovering that reading is fun – especially when you do it with a friend.

Through the “Reading Buddies” program, students in Mrs. Elizabeth McCall’s 2nd grade class and Mrs. Neeti Gregg’s 1st grade class get together once a week, pair up, and spend time reading with their reading buddy from the partnering class. The students take turns reading and then discuss the books they read. When both grade levels are studying the same topic in science or social studies, McCall said, the students focus their reading on that topic. Other times, the students may select books of their own choice to share with their partner.

“This is an activity that the students look forward to each week,” McCall said. “They have fun and have wonderful book recommendations for each other. This is a great way for students to read for enjoyment and model the pillars of Character Counts.”

The two classes have been working together since January, Gregg said, meeting every Friday at the end of the day for 30 minutes.

“If we can spark a love for reading, their reading skills will progress naturally the more they read,” Gregg said. “It is also a great way to end a hard-working week with spending time with a ‘buddy’ they enjoy.”



Second grade students Levi Usry and Brody Kaul enjoy reading with first grade student Lyla Peters through the “Reading Buddies” partnership between Mrs. McCall’s and Mrs. Gregg’s classes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEETI GREGG

## Ocean Palms PTO to hold 'Groovin' on the Tee' fundraiser

The Seventh Annual “Groovin’ on the Tee” fundraiser will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday April 15 at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse.

Sponsored by the Ocean Palms Elementary PTO, the event will include dinner, live entertainment and both live and silent auctions. The night will “tee-off” with a special performance from local favorite, The Chris Thomas Band. Featuring a “Sinatra to Soul” sound, The Chris Thomas Band aims to bring big band music back into the mainstream for all to enjoy.

A highlight of the evening will be the silent and live auctions featuring a variety of themed gift baskets, memorable experiences and big ticket items. Themed baskets include Star Wars, Gourmet Cooking, Legos and more.

Popular “experience” auction items include a lavish personal chef dinner party and “makeovers and mimosas” by Trish McEvoy makeup artists.

Live auction items, meanwhile, will include THE PLAYERS Championship ultimate package and a famed Lauter Piano.

Title Sponsors for this year’s “Groovin’ on the Tee” include Beaches Orthodontics and Fishman Pediatric Dentistry. Over the past seven years, the Ocean Palms Elementary PTO has raised more than \$175,000 to benefit the school’s educational projects.

Tickets to “Groovin’ on the Tee” are \$75 per person. To purchase tickets, visit [www.opepto.com](http://www.opepto.com) or contact PTO President Sheila Rice at (904) 403-7716 or [sheilatavaresrice@gmail.com](mailto:sheilatavaresrice@gmail.com) for more information.



## Ponte Vedra Branch Library Youth Highlights for May 2016

*Please Note: There will be no storytime programming in May due to anticipated building improvements and maintenance, so please come and enjoy our bright and cheery Children's Department complete with a Duplo LEGO table, Train table, Puzzle table, and, of course, all the books you can enjoy!*

### "On Your Mark, Get Set... Read, Play, Enjoy!"

All day, every day in the Children's, Tween, and Teen Departments, starting Monday May 2 and ending Saturday August 6! Though May and summertime programming will be specially chosen due to anticipated building improvements and maintenance, we are excited to offer non-stop opportunities to read, play, and enjoy in our recently spruced Children's, Tween, and Teen Departments! In celebration of our 2016 summer reading themes, On Your Mark, Get Set, READ (kids) and Get in the Game (teens), drop in anytime between May 2 – August 6 and read books, play board games, color (for all ages), and more with your friends and family. The board games, coloring sheets, and crayons will be out in the Children's, Tween, and Teen Departments on the tables for you to drop in and use anytime you wish! The Children's and Teen Departments and new Tween Zone have been updated with new furniture, rugs, and paint to make these places enjoyable to hang out. Thanks to the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library for making these opportunities possible. Bring your crew, beat the heat, and head on over to your Library!

**2016 Children's Summer Reading Logs and Teen Summer Reading Entry Forms will be available at your Library starting Wednesday June 1, 2016 for our Children's and Teen Summer Reading Programs running Monday, June 6 – Saturday July 23. Don't miss this opportunity to win prizes for reading!**

### Teen Gaming Club

Wednesday May 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. and Saturday May 21 from 2 to 4 p.m.  
Teens ages 13-18 are invited to have fun with friends at the library! Play "E" and "T"-rated games on the library's PlayStation 3 and two Nintendo WiiU's set up on three separate TVs for simultaneous playing! Snacks will be provided. These programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library and Sony. Thank you to our VolunTeens for assisting with these programs!

### Registration Now Open for Nature Detective Workshops & My Little Pony Club starting Monday May 16!

Children ages 6 - 12 interested in the Nature Detective Workshops, featuring butterflies and presented by the Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants and children ages 6 - 10 interested in our summertime My Little Pony Club are invited to register for these opportunities starting Monday May 16 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library by visiting the reference desk or calling 827-6950. Space and materials are limited, so pre-registration is a must to attend! These wonderful programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, and in the case of the Nature Detective Workshops, also sponsored by the Garden Club of St. Augustine.

### Bedtime Storytime with Ms. Suzanne

Wednesday May 18 at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Suzanne invites kids of all ages and their caregivers for a monthly Bedtime Storytime in our Children's Department! Join us the third Wednesday of every month for story time in reverse: Starting with a craft and ending with soothing stories and songs. Kids are encouraged to wear their jammies! Please contact the Library at 827-6950 with any questions.



## Exciting Summer Programs with Your Child in Mind

### Preschoolers, June 20-Aug. 5:

- KCDC Summer Camp - An inclusion camp for typically developing kids and high-functioning kids with special needs (ages 18 months through kindergarten)
- KCDC Summer VPK (free Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten) program

### Kids 5-22 years old, June 13-Aug. 5:

- Keystone Success through Change Camps - Five camps for typically developing and high-functioning kids with specific mental health challenges
- Keystone Summer Program - Our newly redesigned program for children who have a range of special needs



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JUNE 13-17	ACRO BLAST camp ages 5-7 & 8 + pre/teen	8:45am-1pm	\$175	beg/int/adv
JUNE 20-24	Ballerina Princess Camp ages 4-7 & 8+	8:45am-1pm	\$175	beg/int
JUNE 27-July 1	Broadway Annie Camp ages 4-7, 8+ pre/teen	8:45am-1pm	\$175	beg/int
JULY 11-15	Ballerina Princess Camp ages 4-7 & 8 + beg	8:45am-1pm	\$175	beg/int
JULY 18-22	DANCE IT ALL Camp ages 4-7, & 8+ pre/teen	8:45am-1pm	\$175	beg/int/adv
JULY 25-29	HIP HOP ACRO BLAST ages 5-7, 8+ pre/teen	8:45am-1pm	\$175	beg/int/adv
AUG 1-5	Ballerina Princess Camp ages 4-7 * 8+ beg/int			

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# 'Feel the Wheels'



Event to bring rigs,  
emergency vehicles  
to St. Augustine Outlets

The 5th Annual "Feel the Wheels" event will be held at St. Augustine Outlets from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 23. All proceeds from the event will benefit tag! Children's Museum of St. Augustine – a new museum scheduled to break ground at the new St. Augustine Shipyard in late 2016.

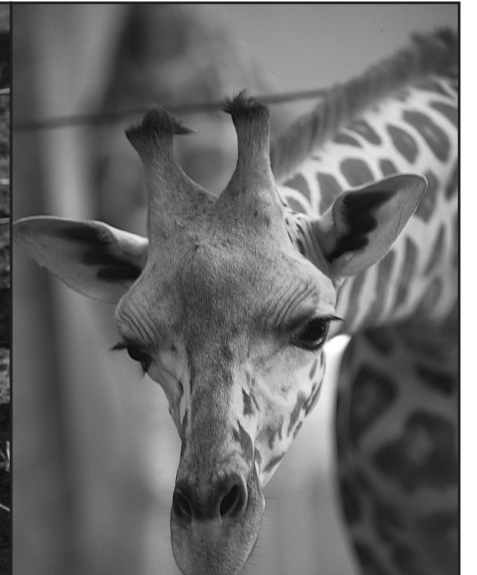
Presented by The Junior Service League of St. Augustine, Feel the Wheels is a one-day event that allows children to see, touch and explore big trucks and vehicles on display such as construction trucks, emergency responders, tractor trailers, utility trucks, boats and more. In addition, proceeds from the event will help further the mission of tag! Children's Museum of St. Augustine to create a place for discovery and imagination, sparking a passion for learning and innovation.

"We are happy to be able to help raise funds and interest for tag! Children's Museum of St. Augustine," said K.J. Hatfield, general manager of St. Augustine Outlets. "We encourage everyone to come out to this fun and incredibly unique event. This is really a great family event and one we're proud to host and look forward to each year."

Organizers say the museum was the vision of a group of parents and professionals looking to create a hands-on, interactive educational venue for children to explore, socialize and learn while they play. The museum was incorporated in May 2007 as the Children's Museum of St. Johns (CMSJ) and received its 501(c)3 designation. With more than 30,000 square feet of indoor space, the museum will also feature an outdoor learning experience. Theme areas for exhibits will focus on health and wellness, environment, culture, and science, technology, engineering, art and math. tag! is governed and its programs are run by a volunteer board of directors and many dedicated volunteers. For more information, please visit [www.tagmuseum.org](http://www.tagmuseum.org).

Tickets are \$5 per child 2 and up and adults are free.





# HEAL for the First Coast Zoo Walk April 24

**By Jennifer Logue**  
Editor

Registration is now open for the HEAL for the First Coast Zoo Walk for Autism.

To be held Sunday April 24 at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, the walk will raise funds to benefit autism programs and education across the First Coast.

Day-of-event registration will open at 7:30 a.m., with the Zoo Walk beginning at 8:30 a.m. Following the walk, First Coast News Anchor Patty Crosby will host "Party with Patty" on the Great Lawn. Children's events will include bouncy houses, face painting, music and more. First Coast News host Nick Loren will also be on hand to introduce his children's book series, "Farful Foolong of Oolong Panshoo."

The top four fundraising teams will win a prize, and may also designate a school, camp or program to receive funds from HEAL. The first place team will receive \$1,000, second place \$750,

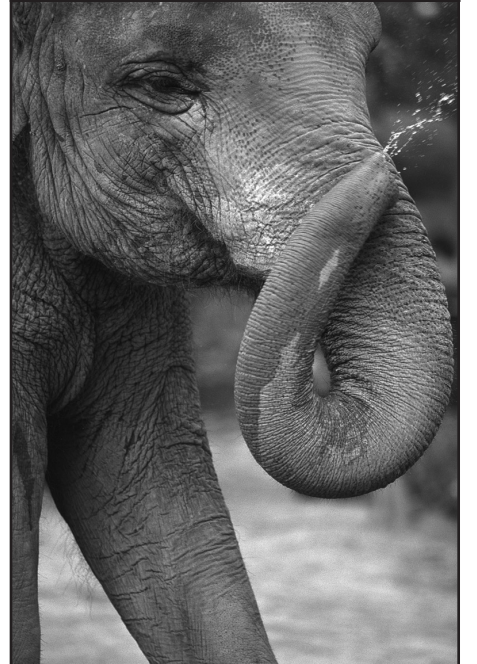
third place \$500 and fourth place \$250. The selected organization or school must fall under the HEAL grant guidelines directly helping those with autism in our community.

More than 1,500 walkers participated in last year's Zoo Walk, raising more than \$60,000 for autism programs.

To register online, visit [www.healautismnow.org](http://www.healautismnow.org).

The HEAL Foundation (Healing Every Autistic Life) is a Northeast Florida-based non-profit organization that serves individuals and families living with autism spectrum disorders. The foundation serves as an outreach organization, providing educational programs and camps tailored to the needs of the autism community.

In the past five years, HEAL has awarded more than \$1 million to support camps, classroom enhancements and education seminars as well as recreational and social events for families.





# Tickets on sale for St. Mary's Railroad's 'Superheroes Express'

Everybody has a favorite superhero, and it's a good bet their favorite superhero will make an appearance on the first ever SuperHeroes Express train rides in St. Mary's, Georgia, on May 14 and 21.

At 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. each Saturday, the SuperHeroes Express takes passengers on a journey through picturesque woodlands and marshlands to future-land where superheroes are competing to be the Number One Super Hero.

Actors from St. Mary's Little Theatre bring a futuristic adventure to life at the midway stage. Who will prove to be the super-est hero of all time? Superman? Batman? Captain America? Wonder Woman? As the train's locomotive reverses directions, superheroes board the train for the return trip, entertaining the young and young at heart.

"This theme was requested by numerous people whose children dote on superheroes," said Barbara Ryan,



entertainment director for St. Mary's Express. "The SuperHeroes Express will feature the most popular superheroes who will mingle with passengers and pose for photo opportunities.

"The SuperHeroes Express is great family fun," Ryan continued, "and adults will enjoy the entertainment as well as they conjure up fond memories of their childhood."

EXPRESS continues on Page 31

Registration fees waived if proof of registration fees provided from another school and child wishes to transfer



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# Express

Continued from 30

The SuperHeroes Express is the third series of themed train excursions for St. Mary's in 2016, having just conducted two full days of sold out trains for the Peter Cottontail Express. Upcoming excursions include America's Birthday Express, Catfish Express (that will depart from Kingsland to coincide with the Catfish Festival), Railroad Days, Halloween Express, and Santa Express.

"All rides usually sell out ahead of time," Ryan said, so she encouraged people to make their reservations early.

The exclusive St. Mary's Express "At the Throttle" experience will also be offered on the days of SuperHeroes Express. "At the Throttle" participants take the controls of a diesel locomotive,

having the opportunity to actually run a locomotive.

"Everyone who has experienced 'At the Throttle' loves it," Ryan said. "You have to be 16 to do it, but men and women alike really enjoy the adventure and they get their own certificate for bragging rights." Those interested in "At the Throttle" should call 912-729-1103 for more details.

The SuperHeroes Express departs from Theatre by the Trax, 1000 Osborne Street in St. Mary's, at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. May 14 and 21. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$14 for children 12 and under. Children 2 and under ride free.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.stmarysrailroad.com](http://www.stmarysrailroad.com) or by calling (912) 200-5235. Special group discounts are available for groups of 10 or more by calling (912) 729-1103 to get discount code.

A complete train schedule can be found at [www.stmarysrailroad.com](http://www.stmarysrailroad.com).



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**Summer Beaches Basketball League**  
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(Separated into 2 groups- 3rd-5th & 6th-8th)

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAWRENCE TAN

Lance Tan is training for the World Championships with Coach Sergei Golubitsky.

## Ponte Vedra fencer wins double bronze

Fifteen year-old Ponte Vedra resident Lawrence “Lance” Tan recently won team bronze in Y14 Foil and individual bronze in Y14 Epee at the North American Cup (NAC) fencing competition.

Held March 11-14 in Salt Lake City, Utah, the event was the last U.S. national tournament prior to the Cadet and Junior World Championships (Les Championnats du Monde D’Escrime) to be held next month in Bourges, France. Tan will compete April 1-10 in four events: Cadet Foil,

Cadet Epee, Junior Foil, and Junior Epee.

Tan, a dual national, will represent the Philippines at the international event. He has previously represented the United States and medaled in many international competitions in the Pan-American region and in Europe for Team USA, but began fencing for the Philippines as a heritage athlete dual national this season.

Tan said deciding to represent the Philippines instead of the USA was “a difficult decision.” After winning two



Lance Tan and Coach Sergei Golubitsky display the bronze medal at the North American Cup 2016.

gold medals at the National Youth Games held in the Philippines, Tan was invited to train with the country’s senior national team, where he met the coaches. He also had an opportunity to meet other American youths who are currently on the national Philippines team.

“When I won the national youth championship in Foil and Epee, I realized that it would be very special to represent the country of my heritage in international competition,” Tan said. “I talked it over with my coach and

my parents, and we came to the conclusion that it would be not only great for my fencing, but also a wonderful thing to represent the Philippines as an American-trained, third generation American athlete. It’s the best of both worlds.”

Tan currently trains in Orange County, Calif. at Golubitsky Fencing Center under Olympic Silver Medalist and three-time World Champion Sergei Golubitsky. When he is in Florida, he trains at the Jacksonville Fencing Club in Riverside.

*“When I won the national youth championship in Foil and Epee, I realized that it would be very special to represent the country of my heritage in international competition.” — Lawrence Tan*



# Ponte Vedra High School to present 'The Wedding Singer'

**By Jennifer Logue**  
Editor

Last year, Ponte Vedra High School students brought the 1960s to life with their musical production of "Hair-spray." This year, students will offer their take on the big hair and music of the 1980s through the spring musical production of "The Wedding Singer."

To be presented at 7 p.m. April 14 and 15 and 2 p.m. April 16 at Ponte Vedra High School, "The Wedding Singer" is based on the Adam Sandler movie that follows the romantic exploits of popular New Jersey wedding singer Robbie Hart (to be portrayed by sophomore Chase Pittman). When Robbie's fiancée leaves him at the altar, his career as a wedding singer seems all but over. Then he meets Julia (senior Sarah Stepp and sophomore Olivia Wolford), a waitress engaged to marry a Wall Street shark (sophomore Ian Deal).

With energetic dance numbers and an original score featuring songs such as "It's Your Wedding Day," "Grow Old With You" and "Move That Thang," "The Wedding Singer" features a cast of more than 60 PVHS students. The show is directed by Joe Kemper, with senior Anna Scheckenback serving as assistant director. Curtis Powell is the show's musical director, while Carole Dickens and Carl Liberatore serve as choreographer and technical director, respectively.

Admission to "The Wedding Singer" is \$15 general admission and \$10 for students. Ponte Vedra High School is located at 460 Davis Park Road in Ponte Vedra.



Nease drama students rehearse for the upcoming production of *The Crucible*. Standing: Sebastian Conte and Grant Burmeister. Seated: Brianna Sprague-Triplett and Jacob Alward.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER LOGUE/EDITOR

# Nease drama program to present 'The Crucible'

**By Jennifer Logue**  
Editor

The year is 1692, the place is Salem, Massachusetts and witchcraft hysteria is sweeping through the town, tearing apart families and ruining reputations.

When playwright Arthur Miller wrote his Tony Award-winning play "The Crucible" in the early 1950s, however, the fear and mob mentality of a 17th-century witch hunt seemed all too relevant, as anti-communist fears swept the nation and the House Un-American Activities Committee was actively seeking out writers and artists with leftist sympathies.

These are among the themes and undercurrents that will be explored in Nease High School's production of "The Crucible," to be presented at 7 p.m. April 14-16 in the school's Performing Arts Center. Considered to be among the most significant American dramas of the 20th century,

"The Crucible" is required reading for all local high school juniors, drama teacher Maria Laird noted. Nevertheless, the play's heightened emotions and serious subject matter present a challenge for student performers.

"I wanted to present a play that really pushed the students and challenged them," Laird said. "For the past few seasons, we've done really light plays and musicals like 'Cinderella.' This year, I wanted to give students the chance to portray something that was real."

The challenge for young thespians, Laird added, is to dig deep and draw on authentic emotions. "The Crucible gives them the chance to get up on stage and show true emotion instead of just pretending."

Junior Grant Burmeister, who portrays Rev. John Hale in the play, said the most challenging part of acting in "The Crucible" has been memorizing Miller's dialogue, which approximates

the more formal, verbose speech patterns of colonial Salem.

"Memorizing all the dialogue has definitely been the hardest part," he said.

Laird agreed.

"The language is so important to this play," she said. "I'm working with the students to help them understand the importance of every single word and every phrase."

Sophomore Abby Watson – who portrays Susanna Walcott – said the play's dark subject matter is a departure from typical student theatrical productions.

"The play really has no hope and it's just really difficult to portray that hopeless feeling," she said. "It's been very challenging for everyone, but I've really connected with everything we're doing here."

Admission to "The Crucible" is \$10; Nease High School is located at 10550 Ray Rd. in Ponte Vedra.

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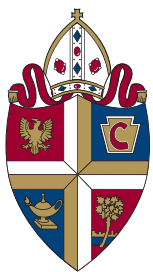
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PHOTOS BY CHRIS NORTON/FOR THE RECORDER

Shark center fielder Abby Zitello makes a diving attempt to catch a sinking line drive base hit by the Bears.

## Lady Sharks split pair

By Jerry Norton  
For The Recorder

The Ponte Vedra Sharks' softball team returned to action following the annual spring break with a non-district home game against Bartram Trail and lost to the Bears 4-2.

The Sharks saw no action over the break and that may have had a bit to do with their lack of offense on Tuesday night when they managed just four hits. Two nights later, the girls' bats came alive when they pounded out an 11-2 win over district foe Pedro Menendez.

Michelle Holder pitched the entire way for Ponte Vedra against Bartram and was touched for two first inning home run blasts. Shark shortstop Michelle Leone got one of those runs back on her bases empty drive over the left centerfield fence in the third inning.

Ponte Vedra tied the game in the fifth inning on a walk to Elizabeth Fox, a wild pitch, Abby Zitello's

perfect sacrifice but and a soft pop fly single to right by Lauren Struble that could not be played by either the Bartram second baseman or their right fielder.

The Bears regained the lead in the sixth inning on a pair of consecutive base hits leading off the inning, followed by a walk. A sacrifice fly scored one run and a squeeze bunt brought in the second run. Ponte Vedra avoided further damage when Taylor Bradshaw threw behind the runner at second and Leone's return throw home nailed the Bartram runner attempting to score from third.

The Sharks got back in the win column with the return of their power-laden offense in Thursday evening's district game at Pedro Menendez. Ponte Vedra hammered out 18 hits enroute to the 11-2 win, including triples by Quinlan Richmond and Abby Zitello and doubles by Michelle Leone, Farley Callaghan and Lauren Struble.

Ponte Vedra jumped in front with



Shark shortstop Michelle Leone makes a throw to second trying to force the Bartram baserunner.

a pair of first inning runs then added four in the second, three in the fifth and two in the seventh. Pedro was never in the game after the first inning.

Senior Nicole Johnson earned the win for the Sharks, allowing two runs on seven hits.

The Sharks now stand at 15-4 on the season and 6-2 in the district.

Quinlan Richmond of the Sharks slides safely into second on a steal.



## Ponte Vedra tennis teams advance

By Jerry Norton  
For The Recorder

The Ponte Vedra girls' and boys' tennis teams played in the Class 2A District 4 tennis playoffs at the Bolles School last week, and both teams advanced to regional action in early April.

The Shark boys finished first in the tournament, defeating Menendez, while the Lady Sharks finished in second place behind Bolles.

Singles final winners for the Ponte Vedra boys were Eric Gravelle, 6-1, 6-2 over Ridgeview and Chris Hewlett, 6-0, 6-3 over Ridgeview.

In boys' doubles final play, Hunter Law and Davis Massey teamed up to beat Bolles, 6-7, 7-6, (12-10).

### In girls singles final action

Ponte Vedra's Olivia Talbert defeated Elise Ballentyne of Bolles School 6-4, 6-3

Ashton Hanigan of Bolles School defeated Claire Olson of Ponte Vedra 6-2, 6-3

Julia Pruess of Bolles School defeated Rachel Doyle of Ponte Vedra 6-4, 3-6 (10-4)

Summer Schrener of Bolles School defeated Kendall McCall of Ponte Vedra 6-1, 6-2

Lily Edwards of Bolles School defeated Alyssa Hensley of Ponte Vedra 6-2, 4-6 (10-5)

### In girls final doubles play

Elise Ballentyne/Julia Pruess (Bolles School) defeated Olivia Talbert/Alyssa Hensley of Ponte Vedra 7-5, 3-6 (10-5)

Julia Pruess/Lily Edwards (Bolles School) defeated Rachel Doyle/Kendell McCall of Ponte Vedra 6-2, 6-1



PHOTOS BY JERRY NORTON/FOR THE RECORDER

Olivia Talbert of Ponte Vedra was the winner in her district title match against Elise Ballentyne of Bolles, 6-4, 6-3.



Ponte Vedra's Eric Gravelle helped lead the Sharks to the district title with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Ridgeview.

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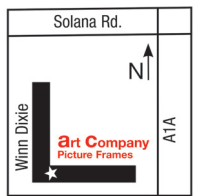
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# fab'rik to open 'pop-up shop' in Sawgrass Village

By Jennifer Logue  
Editor

Michael Itkoff and his wife, Cindy, had been thinking about opening a second location for their St. Johns Town Center boutique, fab'rik, but they weren't sure whether they were ready to commit to opening another full-fledged retail location.

That's when the couple decided to test the retail waters with a pop-up shop. From April 19 to May 15, a fab'rik boutique will take up residence in Sawgrass Village, offering local residents convenient access to fab'rik's merchandise that includes women's clothing, shoes, jewelry and accessories.

"We don't think anyone has ever had a pop-up shop in Ponte Vedra," said Michael Itkoff, a Ponte Vedra resident. "We thought it might be a great way to build some buzz in our home community, test the market and have some fun."

To be located at 280 Sawgrass Village Drive #930 (across from Caffè Andiamo), the pop-up shop will feature merchandise similar to that found at fab'rik's St. Johns Town Center location, plus additional items selected specifically for the Sawgrass Village boutique.

The shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

"We'll be stocking the Sawgrass Vil-

lage store with the same selection of women's clothing, shoes, accessories, denim and jewelry as our Town Center Store, but with a special emphasis on items perfect to wear to The Players or anywhere at the Beaches," Itkoff said. "Our concept is 'luxury clothing without the luxury price tag' and we appeal to a wide range of women, from 18-80."

With the exception of premium denim, Itkoff noted, everything in fab'rik costs under \$100.

"There are a lot of boutiques in Ponte Vedra Beach – but many of them are very expensive," Itkoff said. "The pop-up shop will give us a chance to see if there's a demand for a boutique that offers luxurious but affordable merchandise."

fab'rik's Sawgrass Village pop-up shop will feature merchandise similar to its St. Johns Town Center store (pictured here), but with added pieces selected especially for Ponte Vedra.

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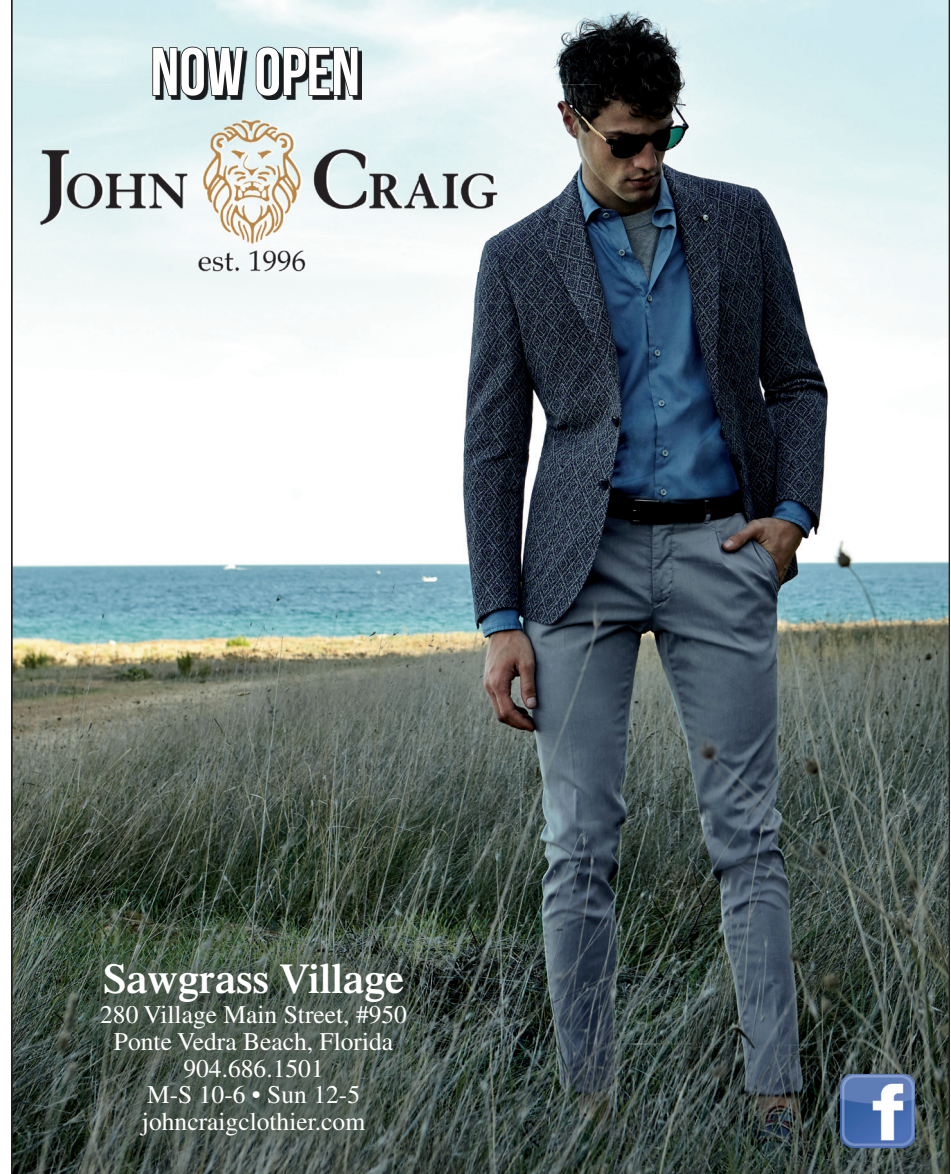
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# J. Johnson hosts final exhibit



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER LOGUE/EDITOR

Artist Carlos Betancourt joins gallery owner Jennifer Johnson (left) and Associate Director Wesley Gibbon for the opening reception of his exhibit, which will be the gallery's last.

## Community bids farewell to beloved art gallery

**By Jennifer Logue**  
Editor

First Coast art enthusiasts gravitated to the J. Johnson Gallery in Jacksonville Beach last week for the opening reception of its new exhibition of works by noted Miami artist Carlos Betancourt.

For many of those present, however, the reception was a bittersweet affair, as the evening marked the start of the gallery's final exhibition. After 15 years of presenting a myriad of modern and contemporary artists – many with Caribbean and Latin American roots – owner Jennifer Johnson is retiring and the gallery that bears her name will close.

"It's the passing of a tradition," said Mick Shea of Neptune Beach. "The art was always interesting – you may not have loved every single piece, but there was always something wonderful and the exhibits generated really good conversations."

During its time in Jacksonville Beach, exhibition guests said, J. Johnson became a beloved gathering place for the local arts community.

"It was a great place to run into all your friends who enjoyed art," said Lorraine Adams of Jacksonville Beach. "People here at the beach are really going to miss it."

Mary Neal and Jane Quinby came from Amelia Island to attend the gallery's



Joan Connors of Ponte Vedra and Mick and Sharon Shea of Neptune Beach

final exhibition.

"It's just the best gallery," Quinby said. "There's really no other gallery around here that's like it. It's like a gallery you'd find in New York City. I'm going to miss it."

Also present for the reception was the artist himself. Betancourt mingled with guests as they viewed his photographs and installations and later signed copies of a newly released book on his works.

Wesley Gibbon, J. Johnson's associate director, noted that Betancourt was one of the first artists to be exhibited at the gallery when it opened in 2001.

"Carlos Betancourt is a dear friend of Mrs. Johnson's and the gallery," she said. "We've done four solo shows with him, so it was really a conscious decision to make him our final show."

Betancourt's vivid, colorful style also complemented the mood that gallery



staff wanted to create for its final opening reception, which served as a benefit for Friends of Jacksonville Animals.

"Carlos's work is so vibrant and ebullient, we thought it would be perfect for our final exhibit," Gibbon said. "This is our last show after 15 wonderful years, and we just want to thank all of our artists, clients and friends for their support."

EXHIBIT continues on Page 40



Lorraine Adams of Jacksonville Beach and Jaime and Johany Calzada of San Marco



Lindsey Roobin of Atlantic Beach, Chris and Wendi Sutton of Southside and Rachel Belloit of Atlantic Beach



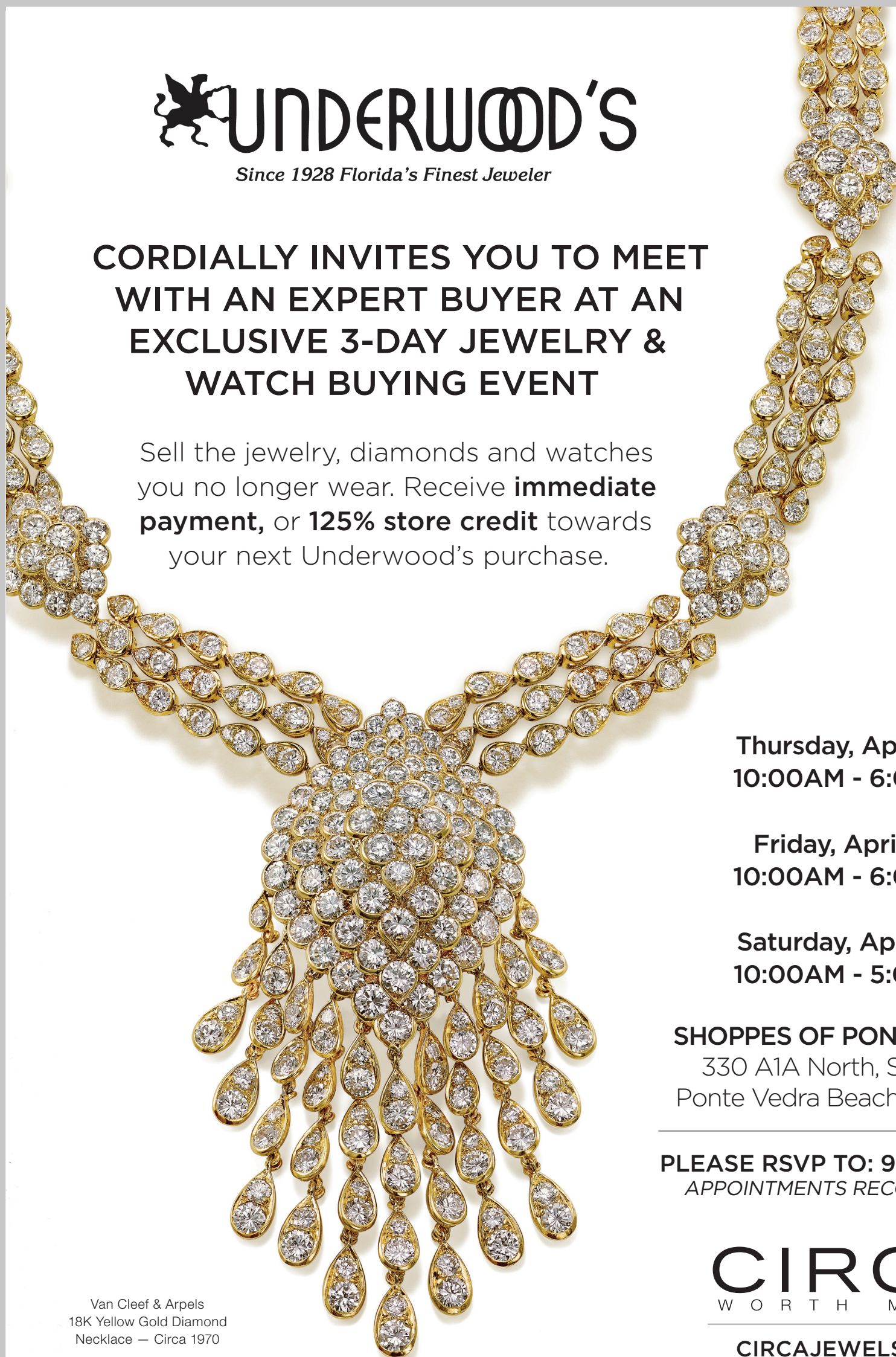
Lisa Collingborn, Kimberly Turner, Clyde Rader and Nan Jester, all of Jacksonville Beach



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## MAINSTREAM BOUTIQUE

# New PV boutique offers stylish clothes at affordable prices

By Carrie Resch  
The Recorder

A new boutique featuring stylish women's retail clothing and accessories at non-boutique prices has just opened in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Mainstream Boutique, a franchise boutique founded 25 years ago in Minnesota with store locations that now span the Midwest and Eastern states, markets themselves as a multi-generational fashion boutique that sells on-trend apparel.

"This has just been a dream of mine to own a clothing boutique," said Ponte Vedra store owner Carla Miles. "I've been chasing my husband's career all these years. We knew once we got to Florida, he would not be transferred anymore, so I could finally fulfill my dream of opening a store," she said.

Miles and her husband, Kurt Miles, moved to the area in January 2015. The couple resides in St. Johns.

This is the second Mainstream Boutique location to open in Florida. The other store is located in Tampa. Mainstream Boutique has been ranked in the "Inc. 5000" and "Franchise 500" as one of the fastest growing companies in 2015.

Miles was already a fan of Mainstream Boutique prior to her researching franchises and deciding on this particular company. Some of her favorite clothing lines include Papillon, Parsley and Sage, Clara Sun Woo, and the boutique's exclusive line, Mac and Me.

The store's inventory includes everything from that little black dress to flowing tops, jeans, ankle pants and harder-to-find items such as tank dresses, extenders and leggings. Nothing in the store is dry clean only, Miles points out, and all of the clothing is machine or



PHOTO BY CARRIE RESCH/THE RECORDER  
**Mainstream Boutique Ponte Vedra store owner Carla Miles. The boutique, located next to Beach Diner, opened March 26.**

hand washable and easy to manage.

"I've had a couple of ladies that were going on vacation and what they particularly liked was that everything was packable," Miles said. "You could just roll it and they wouldn't have to iron it when they got there."

Another facet of the franchise gives store owners the freedom to create fun and personalized shopping experiences for their customers. Groups of eight or more can also enjoy a private shopping experience: Whether it's a group of women from a local business or a group of family and friends, Miles will close the store for the shoppers from noon to 1 p.m. and provide lunch for the exclusive

shopping experience.

In addition, Miles is looking to partner with local businesses such as yoga, beauty or health-minded businesses for Thursday evening special shopping experiences, where customers can learn about a particular product or company or even take a yoga class right in the store. Thursday night events will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. and will be promoted on the boutique's Facebook page.

Mainstream Boutique is located at 880 A1A N., Suite 4, next to the Beach Diner. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call (904) 834-7708.

## Exhibit

Continued from 38

That sentiment was echoed by reception guests who, despite expressing disappointment at the gallery's closing, praised Johnson and her gallery for their contributions to the Beaches' cultural scene.

"It's a wonderful space," Lynn Thompson said. "It's been a great asset to the community."

Added Clyde Rader: "I just told Jennifer, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.'"

J. Johnson Gallery is located at 177 4th Ave. North in Jacksonville Beach. The Carlos Betancourt exhibit runs through May 19.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER LOGUE/EDITOR



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## Ponte Vedra Woman's Club to host 'Dance in Style' fashion show

The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club will hold its annual fashion show Saturday May 7 at the Sawgrass Country Club.

Titled "Dance in Style," this year's fashion show will incorporate an upbeat dance theme. The event will begin at 10 a.m. with boutique shopping from a variety of local vendors. A silent auction will also be held, with a variety of prizes available. The luncheon and fashion show will begin at 12:15 p.m., with

guests enjoying a sit-down luncheon of chicken marsala, salad, mashed potatoes, asparagus and chocolate lava cake.

Tickets for the fashion show are \$50 per person and may be purchased online at [www.pontevedrawomansclub.com](http://www.pontevedrawomansclub.com) (click on "fashion show"). Proceeds from the event will benefit the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. For more information, email Denice at [dzboss1@hotmail.com](mailto:dzboss1@hotmail.com).



**THEME: POPULAR EXPRESSIONS**

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71						72				73				

**ACROSS**

- Santa and Uncle Sam have this in common
- Be in a cast
- Plural of cecum
- "\_\_\_ beaver"
- "Pitching \_\_\_"
- Sacrificial spot
- Less than 90 degrees
- Grass bristle
- Had in mind
- "Retail \_\_\_"
- "\_\_\_ it"
- Bruin legend Bobby
- Forbidden fruit, e.g.
- "\_\_\_, humbug!"
- Ready and eager
- Foot part
- Mosque V.I.P.
- Indian restaurant staple
- Bodies
- Part of cathedral
- Binary digits code
- Interest \_\_\_
- Writer behind a writer
- Rodeo Drive tree
- Cold War's Warsaw Pact, e.g.
- Protective embankment
- "You \_\_\_ what you sow"
- King Kong, e.g.
- Kick out

**DOWN**

- India's smallest state
- \*Add this to injury?
- \*Disorderly person or thing
- Ice cream amount
- Roswell subject
- Figure with vertex and rays
- Coastal town in southern England
- Animal's nose
- Leg of lamb
- Actress Hathaway
- \*"A bird in the hand is worth \_\_\_ in the bush"
- Cardinal compass point at 90 degrees, pl.
- Quantity
- Vital life, in Sanskrit
- \_\_\_-Wan of "Star Wars"
- Server on wheels
- \*"\_\_\_-watch" a lot of TV
- Wet nurses
- \*"Wreak \_\_\_"
- Coarse file
- Kind of apple, gritty and acidic
- \_\_\_-\_\_\_-la
- Bar by estoppel
- \*"\_\_\_ of cake"
- Table in Mexico
- African river
- Idealized image
- Group of performers
- Afghan monetary unit
- Thick soup
- Dangerous movie trick
- Plural of amnion
- Desktop picture
- Lunch time?
- Worn from walking
- Great Depression drifter
- \*"Don't put these into one basket"
- Vegas bandit
- They make up a tennis match
- R&R spot
- "The \_\_\_. The Proud. The Marines"

**SUDOKU**

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# Shaping the story of my life in the world

“Acceptance in human psychology is a person’s assent to the reality of a situation, recognizing a process or condition, often a negative or uncomfortable situation, without attempting to change it, (or) protest. The concept is close in meaning to ‘acqui-

escence,’ derived from the Latin ‘acquiescere’ – to find rest in.” – Wikipedia  
I am certain that each of you who reads that definition can relate to it. And that is because life brings us situation after situation that bears “acceptance” and a host of other things like forbearance, tolerance, patience. All of us have had some “unbearable” situations in our

life, which, however, we have borne, and come through.  
The present “reality” “process” and “condition,” for those of you who follow this column, is...aging! And we are fortunate, indeed, to have arrived on these shores. But, there are most certainly uncomfortable parts of this time of life. In no other age or stage of life have I found the word “acceptance” more relevant

than in the process of growing old. Our losses are somehow more prominent, our loneliness more palpable, our body needs greater care, showing the wear and tear we’ve inflicted on it...our family and friendships, the jewels of our aging, are sometimes less available. So, we may well ask, “Now, what?”

STORY continues on Page 43

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# Story

Continued from 42

Atul Gawande, in his book, *Being Mortal* says, “As people become aware of the finitude of their life, they do not ask for much. They do not seek more riches. They do not seek more power. They ask only to be permitted, insofar as possible, to keep shaping the story of their life in the world—to make choices and sustain connections to others according to their own priorities.”

So, will these years be the “winter of our discontent” or will they contribute to a rousing last chapter to which we can dot the final i and cross the final t and feel we’ve written well? In other words, will they “keep shaping the story of ‘our’ lives in the world?”

It all comes down to the fact that we need to feel that our lives have meaning. We need to feel that we have mattered. That what we’ve done with

the life we were blessed with is, in some manner, of value, primarily, of course, to ourselves and then to the world around us. Trouble begins when we feel like a pawn in an uneven game of chance. Feeling that we are relevant makes it possible to go on and live a fuller, richer life.

The older I get, and the more things I let go of that do not form a part of the life I am living now, the more difficult it becomes to stay relevant. This column is one of the ways I am trying to do that. I am putting out to you my best contribution on the process of aging. I am also dedicated to finishing the novel I began in, whoaaa...1991. I am taking from my computer all the writings I have accumulated that I like and putting them into volumes for my children and grandchildren, should they be inclined to read them on a dark and stormy night. I am continuing to play the piano music I love despite arthritic fingers that prevent the fluidity they once gave me. I am teaching at OLLI. I

am still interested in finding new friends and staying in touch with those of long standing.

I am loving my children, grandchildren and my dog. I donate to causes that have special meaning to me. I am available to those who need me.

I am working to value the “now” and who I am in it and not look too far into the future. Because I have no idea what that will look like. But I do know one thing for certain. Whatever comes my way, and in whatever way possible, I will

dedicate myself to remaining relevant, and continue to shape my story in the world.

I leave you with this: “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of your life is to give it away.” – Pablo Picasso

For my readers: This is to let you know that I will no longer be writing this column for the Recorder. It’s been a true pleasure to have had this time with you. Be well, be happy, and treat yourself kindly.

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