

Celebrating 50 years of the

PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

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Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

A HARE AFFAIR

Ms. Allen's class of 4-year-olds at Christ Episcopal Church Preschool enjoys an Easter parade with the Easter Bunny on Tuesday.



Flip to page 13 for more Easter happenings.

Photo by Jon Blauvelt

First Coast Register

INSIDE



Spring Home Design & Remodeling

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Business Weekly Pages 27-32



CAR OF THE WEEK

2018 MERCEDES-BENZ
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We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. Email submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

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Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.

WHAT'S THIS?

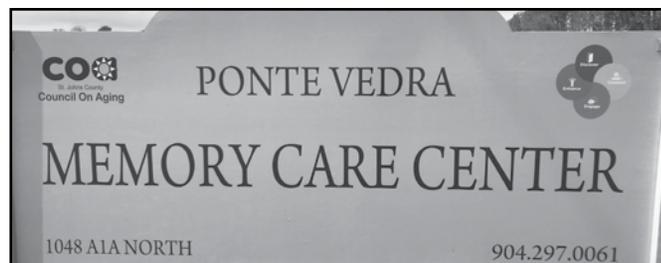


Do you know what this is?

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

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

No readers have correctly identified the sign over the past few weeks. The correct answer was the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center. Onto the next one!



ADOPT A PET



CAT OF THE WEEK

Neko was found and turned in by a concerned citizen. This male kitten is 8 months old, neutered, friendly and relaxed. Come visit Neko at the Pet Center today. #49054



DOG OF THE WEEK

Rock was found as an abandoned puppy. He is a 3-month-old, neutered male looking for a "forever" home. Come visit Rock today at the Pet Center. #49266

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

Discover something **NEW!**



AFRICAN FOREST



jacksonvillezoo.org



Exceptional Coastal Living at its Best!

Ponte Vedra Beach / Oceanfront

This 5-bedroom, 4+ bath, home is the epitome of southern charm with over 8,400 sq. ft. that showcase spectacular ocean views. The open living areas, including a large formal dining room with a grand fireplace, lend themselves to entertaining everything from large celebrations or simply enjoying intimate moments near a roaring fireplace.

5 bedrooms and 5.5 bathrooms \$6,100,000



Stunning Riverfront Estate

Riverfront / San Marco

Instantly makes you feel you've been swept away to a chateau in France. Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes, this 10,204-sq.-ft. Tudor-style home is a masterpiece in design and built for entertaining. **5 bedroom, 6 full bath, 5 half bath \$7,800,000**



A Sophisticated and Luxurious Retreat on Ponte Vedra Blvd

Ponte Vedra Beach / Oceanfront

This impressive oceanfront home reflects that magical merging of beach living and architecture. Situated on 220ft of Oceanfront and designed by Residential Designs by Kevin Gray, Inc and built by Elwood Collier, this estate is a masterpiece of design and craftsmanship. It's location atop one of the highest natural sand dunes along the Florida coast (with the finished floor elevation is approximately 33.5' above sea level) allows owners the ultimate beach living experience. **4 bedrooms, 5 and 3 1/2 bathrooms \$7,995,000**



Furnished Coastal Cottage

With direct beach access and an open floor plan, this is the ideal vacation home or rental property. Features new roof, 2 new AC units, no HOA, and is being sold furnished.

5 bedrooms, 4 baths \$1,225,000

Volunteers needed at COA

Volunteers are needed at the St. Johns County Council on Aging (COA) for the following:

Ponte Vedra Beach

- A volunteer is needed to help in the kitchen at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Volunteers are needed as coffee bar attendants at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 8:30 am to 11a.m./noon.

- Volunteers are needed to assist in the Dining Room at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 3 to 3:30/4 p.m.

- Volunteers are needed at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center to assist the front desk receptionist on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 12:30/1 p.m.

St. Augustine

- A volunteer is needed to help with Medicare-related questions and decisions.

- A volunteer driver is needed for Meals on Wheels every Monday.

- Volunteers are needed to assist with activities in Sunshine Center Adult Day Care.

If interested, contact Sandy Hollett by phone at (904) 209-3686 or by email at shollett@stjohnscoa.com.

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Congratulations 2018 Watson Realty Corp. Ponte Vedra Award Winners!

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The Beard Team



Missy DeKay



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Barbara Maple



John Richardson



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Patti Mohr

PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Denise Miles-Tagami



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Karen DeLoach



Stephen Falor



Doakes Team

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Locals honor deceased of 1942 Nazi submarine attack off Jacksonville Beach

Beaches residents dedicated a memorial plaque at Veterans Memorial Park on April 10 to remember the 19 men who died in the Nazi submarine attack on the SS Gulfamerica in 1942 off the coast of Jacksonville Beach.

The memorial event in Jacksonville Beach marked the 77th anniversary of the attack, which took place at 9:30 on a Friday night. Standfast Asset Management President and local historian Scott Grant provided a historical narrative of the event. The Ponte Vedra Beach and Jean Ribault chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution contributed to the memorial plaque. Ponte Vedra Chapter Regent Judy Delmar played a large role in orchestrating the event.

“Seventy-seven years ago, 19 brave Americans died off the coast of Jacksonville Beach by an act of war,” Grant said. “Hundreds, perhaps thousands of people, watched them die. We are thrilled that these 19 Americans are finally being remembered. For at least five of them, that marker is the only marker commemorating their lives.”



According to Grant, the marker is the only marker commemorating the lives of at least five of the 19 Americans who died in the attack.



ABOVE: Beaches residents dedicate a memorial plaque at Veterans Memorial Park on April 10 to honor the 19 men who died in the Nazi submarine attack on the SS Gulfamerica in 1942 off the coast of Jacksonville Beach.



LEFT: Standfast Asset Management President and local historian Scott Grant provides a historical narrative of the event.

Photos by Brad Biringer

Kate Amato Foundation raises \$85,000 at KATE KUP Triples Tournament

The Kate Amato Foundation raised \$85,000 at the second annual KATE KUP Triples Tennis Tournament April 5-6 at the Oak Bridge Club at Sawgrass.

The weekend kicked off Friday, April 5, with a VIP party at 3 Palms Grille. The event featured cocktails, food and beverages, live entertainment from The Band Be Easy and a silent auction and raffle. Thanks to the generosity of a loyal supporter, the foundation received a matching gift to double the proceeds from the evening.

The following day, over 100 spectators attended the KATE KUP Triples Tennis

Tournament. The Tournament Champion was awarded to team “Supreme Court” (Liz Burke, Margaret DeSaussure and Nandino Lango), and Second Place went to team “Anger Management” (Casey Cohen, Julie Henderson and Rob Wilcox).

The Mini-KATE KUP Champion (beginner division) was team “Three’s Company” (Brandy Fox, Tina Toomey and Sonny Smith), and Second Place was awarded to team “The Volley Girls” (Karen May, Finley White and Michelle Evanger). The Best Team Costume was



Photo courtesy of Kate Amato Foundation

Supporters of the Kate Amato Foundation gather at the KATE KUP Triples Tennis Tournament April 5-6 at the Oak Bridge Club at Sawgrass. The event raised \$85,000 for pediatric cancer research.

Area nonprofits eligible for up to \$10,000 with THE PLAYERS Championship's Red Coats' grant awards

Deadline set for April 26

While weeks have passed since THE PLAYERS Championship, the PGA TOUR's flagship event is continuing its year-round commitment to supporting community organizations that serve citizens in the areas closest to its Northeast Florida headquarters.

For 25 years, the Red Coats, a distinguished group of civic and corporate leaders who oversee and manage volunteer efforts for THE PLAYERS, have led the program that grants funding to nonprofit or-

ganizations in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties. Eligible organizations include those that lead programs and initiatives focused on promoting youth education, health and wellness, character development and improving the quality of life in the five-county area. Grant awards range from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

"THE PLAYERS and the Red Coats have a very strong and rich history in Northeast Florida," said Kevin Robbins, chair of the Red Coats' Charity Committee. "Our gold standard of excellence extends beyond the ropelines and includes recog-

nizing and supporting the incredible work being led by charities in our community. We look forward to reviewing this year's applications and helping organizations on the First Coast for years to come."

The deadline for grant applications, available online at <https://www.theplayers.com/charity/info/red-coat-grants.html>, is Friday, April 26 at 5 p.m.

In 2018, the Red Coats selected 72 nonprofit organizations from over 130 applicants. In September 2018, they continued their tradition of visiting several grant recipients including Special Olym-

pics Florida, Building Abilities of Special Children and Adults (BASCA), UF Proton Health Institute and the DePaul School.

Currently comprised of 45 members, the Red Coats is a group of past tournament chairmen who have managed and coordinated over 2,000 volunteers serving THE PLAYERS Championship. Each Red Coat has served on THE PLAYERS volunteer leadership team for at least six years and led all divisions within the volunteer program.

To learn more about THE PLAYERS, visit THEPLAYERS.com.

Local Rotary club to host 3rd annual Comedy for a Cause fundraiser

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset will hold its third annual Comedy for a Cause fundraiser Saturday, April 27, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at UNF's waterside Robinson Theater.

The event will feature performances by a handful of comedians, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and 50/50 raffle. Proceeds will support local and international charities, include Peace of Heart Community, a local home for young women with autism, and Rotary's International End Polio Now (funds matched by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation).

Comedian Danny Johnson, star of Comedy Central's "Laugh Riots," will lead a cast of characters. Tickets for the event can be purchased online at www.Comedy4aCause.org.

UNF's Robinson Theater is located at the UNF Fine Arts Center at 1 UNF Drive, Building 14A, in Jacksonville.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Comedian Danny Johnson entertains the crowd at the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset's Comedy for a Cause fundraiser in 2018. The 2019 event will be held April 27 at UNF's Robinson Theater.

LOCAL ABE STUDENT DONATES TO ROTARY CLUB



Photo courtesy of Carol Maurer

Fenn Greene, a student at Atlantic Beach Elementary (ABE), presents a check for \$446 to John Rutkowski, a member of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset. Greene, along with his other classmates, were recently challenged to create a fundraiser. Since his passion is cooking, Greene made chocolate-covered cake pops and chocolate-covered pretzels, which he sold to the public in front of Fresh Market. He donated his earnings to the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset. When Rutkowski, who is also the general manager of Underwood Jewelers in Ponte Vedra Beach, asked Greene why he chose Rotary, Greene said, "Because they help people."



ROTARY CLUB OF PONTE VEDRA ADDS NEW MEMBERS

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra has recently added new members, continuing its growth and impact in the community. Gathered at a recent meeting from left to right are the following new members and leadership: Past District Governor and honorary member Russ Miller, Linda Lomax, President Kelly Sastre, Corey Yates, Tyler Limbaugh, Eddie Sarnowski, Savannah Scherr, Kendra Shaw and Sean Smith. For more information on the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra, visit the club's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofpontevedra.

Photo courtesy of Karen Everett

Jackie Smith is the director of special operations for Congressman John Rutherford and a longtime resident of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Jackie Smith

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I was born in Chicago and grew up in Tampa. Both my husband David and I graduated from Florida State University and headed to Del Rio, Texas, for his flight training with the U.S. Air Force. Our daughter Erin was born there. David's assignments took us to Arizona and England. Erin and I returned home when David went to Vietnam; our son David was born at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. Next, we spent years at Homestead Air Force Base in Homestead, Florida, and then Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, where I began teaching junior high English. Teaching added the final leg of my life's education that prepared me for everything in the future. David's work took us to the D.C. area, where I continued to teach English and journalism. I left the classroom and graduated from American University with a master's degree in public administration and journalism. We covered The Hill, and I loved the energy and the reporting on those trying to find solutions to the nation's problems. Our kids were grown, and there I was in D.C. with the 1988 presidential campaign just beginning! My second career was about to take off.

What inspired you to embark on a career in politics, and how did your career progress?

I volunteered and then took a position with then Vice President George Bush's campaign. The political bug grew as I assumed more responsibilities. Organizing and establishing voter coalitions was like designing class lesson plans. Getting others to follow them was leadership born in the classroom. This was in the day when endorsements, letters to the editor and neighborhood walks were vital to a campaign. We took busloads of volunteers to New Hampshire in a massive snowstorm and beat Bob Dole. On to South Carolina, where Bush secured the lead for the nomination. I organized educators and made him the "Education President" on the trail. It was very exciting, and history will remember Bush 41 as one of our best. After serving in the administration as the deputy director of the Women's Bureau at Labor, I returned to Florida. My sister was involved with a governor's campaign and "gave" my services to her friend. He lost, but that was my introduction to Ander Crenshaw, who would several years later become my boss. I took a position at the University of South Florida as assistant to the dean of undergraduate studies until called back to politics.

When you reflect on your career, what are you most proud of?

I have been proud to work for the people in the 4th Congressional District for 18-plus years under two extremely bright, dedicated and honorable congressmen — Ander Crenshaw and John Rutherford. My job is to serve the people by helping them with issues relating to the federal government and to be in the community so folks feel a link to their representative. To do that, I have participated in community events and am active in Rotary, both Jacksonville and the St. John County's chambers of commerce, the USO and various military groups. I try to be the liaison between our D.C. office and the district, making sure that issues of importance here, such as shore protection, remain at the top of the agenda. I was proud of the 16 veteran recognition ceremonies I headed and the work with our extraordinary students on their military academy nominations and the Congressional Youth Medals.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

What is most challenging about working in the political arena?

The political climate has become so toxic that it is stressful. Some constituents refuse to have a civil discourse and simply want to yell into the phone and call the congressman names. Because many constituents do not seek news from legitimate sources and simply take the word of political parties or social media outlets as the truth, they try to sway opinion by intimidation instead of utilizing critical thinking skills. I am disappointed in journalists who do not remain neutral and seem to lazily use political party talking points rather than doing research.

What do you enjoy most about living in Ponte Vedra Beach?

We have lived in Ponte Vedra Beach since 1994 and have owned four homes, all of them with views of golf holes or water. My home now has both. The main attractions of Ponte Vedra Beach are golf and water. People move here because of the people, the restaurants, the proximity to health services and other amenities offered by Jacksonville, and the wonderful quality of life. We live on a no-name island with one major road, A1A. Traffic

is our one distraction. But, I think it is a small price to pay for living in paradise! I love the PGA TOUR, Atlantic Ocean, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, Sawgrass Village, Christ Church and our neighbors and friends.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to travel. David and I just returned from visiting Istanbul and then taking three safaris in Kenya. It was amazing. In Kenya, we saw hundreds of animals including Big Tim, the oldest elephant in the Kilimanjaro area. My daughter Erin lives there and has a company, Ocean Sole, that makes animal art from discarded flip-flops. Along with my fellow Rotarians, the USO and our chambers of commerce, I manage to stay busy in the community so often I like to spend time reading, doing crosswords and watching wildlife — ducks, eagles, ospreys, ibis and otters — and golfers — duffers, college kids and club champs — from my back porch. I also enjoy family gatherings with my son David, daughter-in-law Michele and granddaughter Greysen, all of whom live here in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Edited by Jon Blauvelt

Christ Church Preschool hosts Grandparents Day

Students at Christ Episcopal Church Preschool hosted their grandparents for a special chapel service and reception on April 10.

Grandparents were invited to visit their grandchildren in their classrooms, walk them to chapel and subsequently attend the special reception in the Parish Hall.

Established in 1955, Christ Episcopal Church Preschool is committed to providing exemplary early education in a warm, loving Christian environment. The Preschool has programs beginning from age 1 through kindergarten.

Visit www.christepiscopalchurch.org for more information.



Bear and Ty Robinson gather with their grandparents Tom and Cynthia Robinson on Grandparents Day April 10 at Christ Church Preschool.

Photos courtesy of Jamie Sarnowski



Grandkids Skylar and Sadie Miles and Forest Cover with their grandma and grandpa



Laura Young leads a class of 3-year-olds in a performance at Christ Church Preschool's Grandparents Day on April 10.

Donald A. Barnhorst Jr., MD
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1. To qualify for this offer, you must have a new or existing Platinum Savings account and enroll the account in this offer between 03/25/2019 and 05/31/2019. This offer is subject to change at any time, without notice. This offer is available only to Platinum Savings customers in the following states: AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, SC, TX and VA. In order to earn the Special Interest Rate of 2.08% (Special Rate), you must deposit \$25,000 in new money (from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates) to the enrolled savings account and maintain a minimum daily account balance of \$25,000 throughout the term of this offer. The corresponding Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for this offer is 2.10%. The Special Rate will be applied to the enrolled savings account for a period of 12 months, starting on the date the account is enrolled in the offer. However, for any day during that 12 month period that the daily account balance is less than the \$25,000 minimum, the Special Rate will not apply, and the interest rate will revert to the standard interest rate applicable to your Platinum Savings account. As of 02/15/2019, the standard interest rate and APY for a Platinum Savings account in AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, SC, TX and VA with an account balance of \$0.01 and above is 0.05% (0.05% APY). Each tier shown reflects the current minimum daily collected balance required to obtain the applicable APY. Interest is compounded daily and paid monthly. The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, standard interest rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is \$25. A monthly service fee of \$12 applies in any month the account falls below a \$3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. Interest rates are variable and subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo may limit the amount you deposit to a Platinum Savings account to an aggregate of \$1 million. Offer not available to Private Banking or Wealth customers. 2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective for accounts opened between 03/25/2019 to 05/31/2019. The 11-month New Dollar CD special requires a minimum of \$25,000 brought to Wells Fargo from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank N.A., or its affiliates to earn the advertised APY. Public Funds and Wholesale accounts are not eligible for this offer. APY assumes interest remains on deposit until maturity. Interest is compounded daily. Payment of interest on CDs is based on term: For terms less than 12 months (365 days), interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or at maturity (the end of the term). For terms of 12 months or more, interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. 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For bonus interest rates on time accounts, this change will occur upon renewal. If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the remaining unlinked Wells Fargo Portfolio Checking or Wells Fargo Prime Checking account will be converted to another checking product or closed.

St. Augustine Humane Society partners with WorkStarter to train, hire St. Johns County high school graduates

The St. Augustine Humane Society has partnered with the WorkStarter program for a second year to offer veterinary technician training positions to 2019 high school graduates in St. Johns County.

Established in 2018, WorkStarter seeks to create meaningful entry-level jobs for graduates who are not currently considering further or higher education, or career training.

To be considered for the vet tech positions, the graduate does not need prior experience. The successful candidate, however, should display compassion for animals, attention to detail, good communication skills and responsible work ethic. The candidate must also be a team player and physically fit to work with dogs and cats.

WorkStarter is designed to match recent graduates with local nonprofits that will employ them for a period of one year. According to Carolyn Smith, St. Augustine Humane Society's executive director, being a 2018 grant recipient has been very meaningful.

"The positions will afford each trainee the

opportunity to define a clear career path for continued growth and learning," Smith said. "The employment outlook for vet techs is excellent. Both of our first-year WorkStarter employees, Justina Bradley and Megan Burnett, learned valuable skills during their training as a pet groomer and veterinary technician, respectively. Our recent pet clinic expansion plans will create the opportunity for two new trainee positions, with one specializing in surgical assisting and dental techniques. Each vet tech will receive basic training."

WorkStarter donates the full cost of the year's employment to the nonprofit organization. The program has a number of opportunities in addition to the Humane Society's veterinary technician training positions available at www.WorkStarter.org.

For more information on the vet tech training positions, contact Carolyn Smith at (904) 829-2737 or email info@staughumane.org. You can also visit www.staughumane.org.



Photo courtesy of St. Augustine Humane Society

First-year WorkStarter employee Megan Burnett has learned valuable skills during her training as a veterinary technician at the St. Augustine Humane Society.

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KATE KUP

Continued from 4

awarded to two teams: "Baby got Back-hand" (Megan McGraw, Haze McCabe and Jen Cleek) and "Kick Cancer's Butt" (Karim Crowley, Carrie Molinari and Stephanie Cills). The KATE Award for Top Fundraising went to team "Eat Fuzz" (Kelly Burnett, Mike Burnett and Max Gainer) for raising \$5,850.

Several local businesses rallied to support the event as sponsors and in-kind sponsors for refreshments and entertainment. Multiple local families also contributed.

The Kate Amato Foundation was formed in 2017 in honor of Kate Amato, who battled cancer for over 2 years. At the young age of 9, Kate was diagnosed with Stage 4 alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma, an aggressive soft tissue cancer that attacks skeletal muscles. Kate's Foundation is dedicated to finding safer, more effective treatments for children with cancer, by fundraising and supporting innovative science that accelerates the pace of progress and saves lives. For more information, visit www.kateamatofoundation.org.

"We're so incredibly grateful to this community for the outpouring of love and support, and the commitment to helping us build Kate's legacy," said Kate's parents, Jeff and Lisa Amato. "It's humbling and inspiring. Our favorite part of these events is seeing the smiles, joy and laughter because we know Kate is with us and her spirit lives on."



Photos courtesy of Kate Amato Foundation

Lisa and Jeff Amato



The "Supreme Court" team of Liz Burke, Margaret DeSaussure and Nandino Lango was named the tournament champion.

CIA spy and self-proclaimed 'Tie Guy' shows off 17,000-piece collection of 'distinctive' neckties

By Amber Lake

Bolo, clip-on, ascot, bow, knit, neck and the father of ties, the puffy, pomp-fueled cravat, have all clutched at the throats of men (and sometimes women) since the dawn of dressing uncomfortably to impress each other.

In the very narrow dress code of menswear, a select few have been known to challenge wardrobe conformity with the flagrant act of defiance known as “the unusual neck tie.” Deviants clad in piano keyboards and unorthodox floral patterns have protested blind style obedience while silently sipping their morning coffees. Brooks Brothers beware.

The king of these office iconoclasts happens to be Ponte Vedra local Edward Mickolus, aka the “Gentleman Heretic,” the “Fashion Frondeur” and the “Vouge Guerilla.” While his true identity might be a shock in comparison to his affable nature, a trip to the garage of his quiet Nocatee home reveals a collection of over 1,700 wacky, eccentric and downright preposterous neckties.

Made from all different materials including aluminum, wood, rhinestone and rubber, the only thing that ties Mickolus' ties together are their unquestionably “distinctive” nature. He has one for just about every possible event and occasion — and he wears them often.

“I have 20 Christmas ties,” Mickolus said. “Twenty Halloween ties. I’m a little stuck for Saint Swithin’s day, but otherwise I’m covered.”

In addition to a few ties that simply, “cannot be worn comfortably,” Mickolus has a couple ties made of filmstrips, a tie signed by Rodney Dangerfield, a tie made of feathers, a tie decorated in hand-painted peanut shells, a tie signed by president George W. Bush, a “Baywatch” tie, and, his two personal favorites, a tie with a picture of his daughter and another with one of his wife on their first date. He also still owns his first tie, a tiny tie from when he was 4 years old.

As you can imagine, Mickolus' life is as colorful as his tie collection. The first full-time terrorism analyst for the CIA, Mickolus began collecting ties 25 years ago, after he began his career with the government. There, he became the directorate of intelligence, where he wrote psychiatric profiles of world leaders, collected intelligence on narcotics trafficking organizations and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), and spent time undercover gathering information on political and social issues in Africa. Mickolus has been interviewed by actors wanting to understand what real CIA analyst looks like, including Ben Affleck and Alice Krige.



Photo by Amber Lake

Ponte Vedra resident Edward Mickolus displays his collection of 1,700 wacky, eccentric and downright preposterous neckties.

In addition, he is a voiceover specialist, announcer, public speaker, actor, model, UNF instructor, business owner, comedian and author of over 20 books.

One could say the “Tie Guy” is always on the fly.

A few of his books include, “The Secret Book of CIA Humor,” “The 50 Worst Terrorist Attacks,” “Two Spies Walk Into a Bar,” and, of course, almost every collection, chronology and biographical nuance of terrorism, terrorists and counterintelligence one can imagine.

“Most of the books I write tend to be collections,” Mickolus said.

Which, obviously, makes sense given his affinity for compiling and assembling things, whether it be ties or detailed information.

“It’s just how people will collect clocks and show how there are different ways of being a clock, in essence,” Mickolus said. “(For example) there is a computer museum in Boston that shows the development of computers from the abacus on. That’s interesting, they are collectors ... a museum is just a collection with a really good PR department.”

These days, most of Mickolus' tie collection is accrued through close family and friends that will stumble on a tie or seek one out as a gift. He credits his wife, who is supportive of his collecting, with gifting him some of the best ties he owns. Because his collection has amassed so significantly, he now only accepts ties that are “really eye-catching.”

“If it’s garish, clearly it’s coming in the

collection,” Mickolus said. “If it’s made out of something weird — it’s in.”

Although when pressed for specific details he concluded, “You just know it when you see it.”

TIES continues on Page 10

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Photos by Amber Lake

Ponte Vedra resident Edward Mickolus displays his collection of 1,700 wacky, eccentric and downright preposterous neckties.



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Ties

Continued from 9

And yet, he said, his wife still seems to find these know-it-when-you-see-it, diamond-in-the-ruff neckties.

Mickolus does admit, however, the necktie itself is becoming a bit of a fossil. These days, people are less likely to don a tie at work, opting for an open collar and a more relaxed look.

"It started with casual Friday," he said. Although, he added with a smile, "It is a lot more comfortable."

At the very least, Mickolus' collection is incredibly well organized. Most of his ties hang in rows, zipped up in a plastic display case in his tidy garage. When carefully inspected, there is a certain method to the design. SpongeBob sits next to Dilbert and Homer Simpson. Fishing ties are grouped accordingly. There are a funky vintage section and celebrity-clad ties featuring Elvis, Marilyn Monroe and Mother Teresa casually milling about each other.

One day, he hopes that a museum somewhere will permanently secure his collection but has yet to find one. Ties this impressive deserve a proper home, one where they will be seen and admired. As of right now, he said, his daughter is going to get a LOT of neckties.

On a side note, Mickolus also has a pretty good assortment of interesting cufflinks.

Mickolus pointed out that some people just enjoy the act of collecting, saying, "you are either a collector or you're not." Once he participated in a "get together" for collectors hosted by the Washington Post. On either side of his ties was a collection of 6,000 shot glasses and 3,000 salt shakers.

While he enjoys ties, he doesn't turn his



nose up at other collector's objects. Mickolus can see the beauty of salt shakers as well. For him, the charm of the collection lies not in the object as a thing, but in the various ways people have come up with creatively expressing unique versions of it. A collection in its truest form celebrates the imagination of people — it's not just an object.

Although Mickolus' collection may seem bizarre, the aspiration to collect is far from abnormal. The behavior is linked to some of the earliest human societies and is apparent across cultural divides. As far back as humans began making things, they began collecting them as well. As to "why" people collect, there is a lot of speculation, but no studies seem to be able to pinpoint the motivation for the behavior.

"Maybe it's trying to impose order on things," Mickolus said. "In this little area, you can impose order."

Perhaps that is something a CIA analyst might find to be a meaningful undertaking — or, anyone, really.

For anyone interested in seeing Edward Mickolus' curious collection of distinctive neckties, his work will be on display at the St. Johns County Public Library Main Branch from May 14 through June 30.

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Photo courtesy of Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

The Cultural Center's ninth annual Home & Art Tour on May 11 will include five homes in Ponte Vedra Beach, including this house.

Cultural Center's 9th annual Home & Art Tour set for May 11

Five homes and an artist studio will be open to the public in the neighborhoods of Ponte Vedra Beach on Saturday, May 11, for the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach's (CCPVB) ninth annual Home & Art Tour.

To be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the day will start with a breakfast at CCPVB. A Benefactors Reception will kick off the event on Thursday, May 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. at a private home in Ponte Vedra Beach.

According to CCPVB, this annual event brings 1,000 community members to the Cultural Center and to Ponte Vedra Beach. All homes on the tour are open throughout the day and can be seen at leisure and in any order. A program with a map and additional information will be provided. Signage is available to assist in finding

homes on the tour. Light refreshments will be available.

All entry passes to the Home & Art Tour, breakfast and tickets to the Benefactors Reception can be purchased online at ccpvb.org. Tickets may be purchased and picked up CCPVB at 50 Executive Way. Proceeds benefit the Cultural Center's first national exhibition, "1 Cent Life," a pop art exhibition including works by Andy Warhol, coming in fall 2019.

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization that focuses on bringing the arts into the life of the community through arts education, exhibition and outreach, and by honoring a donor-driven philosophy. Exhibitions at the Cultural Center are free and open to the public, Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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91 San Juan Drive #D3
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OPEN HOUSE Saturday, April 20th from 1-4pm. Nestled in among Ponte Vedra Beach's most desirable real estate, this gorgeous 3BR/2BA second floor condo w/garage & magnificent water views is just steps to the ocean & across the lagoon via foot bridge from famed Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. Renovated kitchen, beautiful Florida room, updated baths, fireplace & new AC. MLS 960604



34 Sea Winds Lane
\$899,000

OPEN HOUSE Saturday, April 20th from 1-4pm. Walk to the ocean and The Lodge from this fabulous 3BR/3BA one level home. Wide open floor plan designed for entertaining with wood floors and high ceilings. Stunning kitchen with gas cook top and large island opens to gathering areas with fireplace and wet bar. Enjoy the ocean breezes from the large private deck. MLS 982289



2014 Palmetto Point Drive
\$575,000

OPEN HOUSE Saturday, April 20th from 1-4pm. Wonderful 3BR/2BA single level, lakefront home with courtyard entry. Inviting gathering room with high ceilings, fireplace and wall of French doors/windows to bring in the views opens to large screened lanai overlooking water and dock. Spacious kitchen has plenty of cabinets and counter space plus casual dining area. Delightful sun room off formal dining room. MLS 983128

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Easter Happenings



Kindergarteners at Chris Episcopal Church Preschool gather at the annual Easter parade on Tuesday, April 16.

Christ Church Preschool enjoys annual Easter parade

By Jon Blauvelt

Preschool students at Christ Episcopal Church kicked off Easter on Tuesday and Wednesday by participating in a parade around the school.

Parents watched as their children followed the Easter Bunny in a procession and showed off their cutest springtime attire, including Easter bonnets and top hats.

Students in attendance included the 2½-year-olds, 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds and kindergarteners.



ABOVE: The Easter Bunny engages with students before the parade.

LEFT: Preschool students at Chris Episcopal Church enjoy the annual Easter Parade.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt



St. Augustine Easter Parade to feature Halfway to Hazard

The St. Augustine Easter Week Festival will host national recording artists Chad Warrix and David Tolliver in Halfway to Hazard as grand marshals of the annual St. Augustine Easter parade on Saturday, April 20.

Warrix and Tolliver are known for their hit song, "Daisy," after a Nash-

ville club career and attention from superstar Tim McGraw, who helped launch the duo's big-name concert tour dates. Reaching the top of Billboard Magazine's Hot Country Songs, the two artists have also implemented their

PARADE continues on Page 14



Children can enjoy Peter Cottontail and other holiday characters on a special Easter season train excursion April 20 in St. Marys, Georgia.

Photo courtesy of St. Marys Express

Peter Cottontail Express returns to St. Marys April 20

Children of all ages can enjoy the antics of Peter Cottontail and other holiday characters on a special Easter season train excursion April 20 in St. Marys, Georgia.

At 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., St. Marys Express will take passengers on a journey through woodlands and marshlands with entertainment all along the way.

At the Midway stage, actors from St. Marys Little Theatre will bring a fun Easter Bunny story to life with characters including Snoopy and Peter Cottontail himself. Peter's will friends mingle with passengers for memorable photo opportunities on the return trip. Then back at

EXPRESS continues on Page 14

Easter at Palms PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Easter

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PONTEVEDRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Churchmen host annual Spring Fling

By Jon Blauvelt

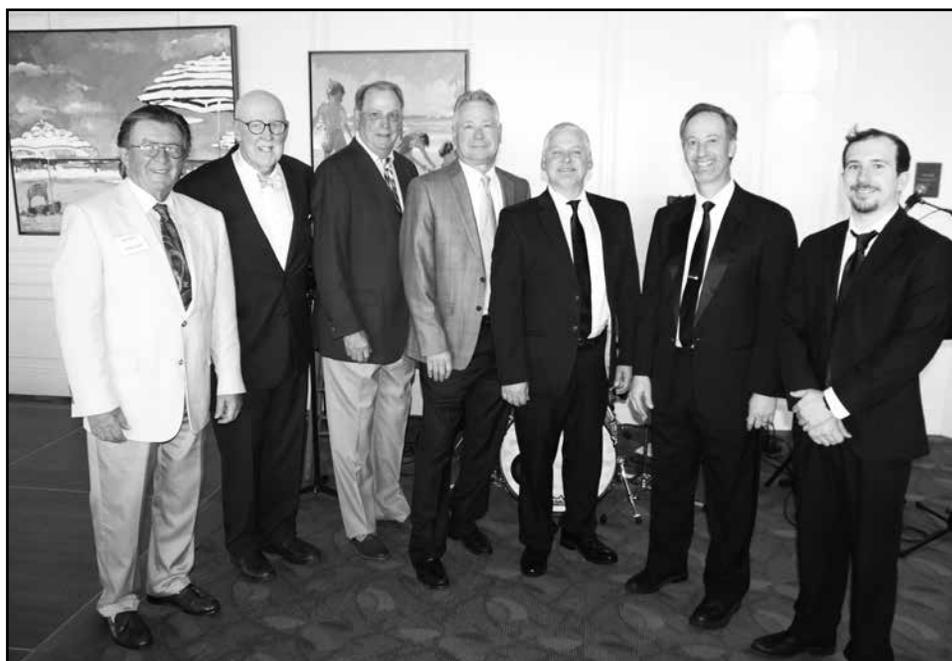
The Churchmen gathered with their spouses on Thursday, April 11, at Sawgrass Beach Club for the organization's annual Spring Fling.

Approximately 120 people attended and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and cocktails followed by dinner and dancing. Those in attendance enjoyed entertainment by the Steve Chapman Trio. The event is the Churchmen's only gathering of the year at which members bring their spouses.

According to Chairman David Gleason, the all-male organization of approximately 150 members meets 10 times a year on the third Thursday of each month, excluding July and August. The men meet for a luncheon at Sawgrass Beach Club that also includes an interesting guest speaker. Gleason said previous speakers have included Tod Booth, the former owner of the Alhambra and current creative director and producer, as well as Jaguars President Mark Lamping and every mayor of Jacksonville. An average of 90 to 100 men attend each luncheon.

"We have no rules. No guidelines or bylaws," Gleason said. "It's just a number of older gentlemen who have a lot of camaraderie and get together and hear some interesting speakers and facts"

The 42-year-old organization was started by Christ Episcopal Church and previously met at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, before moving to Sawgrass Country Club. The Churchmen is now non-denominational and led by a chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer and secretary.



ABOVE: Churchmen Secretary Jim Ross, Chairman David Gleason, Treasurer Bill Miller and Vice-Chair Bo Fedax gather with Ernie Ealum, Steve Chapman and Jack Miller of the Steve Chapman Trio at the Churchmen's Spring Fling on April 11 at Sawgrass Beach Club.



LEFT: Lennox (former chairman) and Margie Stuart, Judy and John Flynn (former chairman) and David (current chairman) and Jean Gleason
Photos by Jon Blauvelt



Craig and Kay Wantoch



Carole and Bob Blaine

OBITUARIES

Marlena Batalla

Marlena "Marli" Elyse Batalla, 26, died April 7, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

Audrey H. Freeman

Audrey H. Freeman, 85, of Jacksonville, died April 15, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Gregory William Gollar

Gregory William Goller, 68, of Jacksonville, died April 5, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre

James Leon Jackson

James Leon Jackson, 103, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died April 10, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Gyuri Nemeth

Gyuri Nemeth, 79, of Jacksonville, died April 12, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre

John Robert Cullen Scudder

John Robert Cullen Scudder, 50, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died April 13, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Georganna Stephens

Georganna Stephens, 92, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died April 9, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Jerry Walker

Jerry Walker, 70, formerly of Jacksonville, died April 10, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

Express

Continued from 13

the station, Peter Cottontail and Snoopy will host a special Easter Egg hunt for all the boys and girls.

According to event organizers, last year's Peter Cottontail Express sold out early, and they expect the same to happen this year.

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

Train passengers can enjoy the St. Marys

Railroad Museum featuring running model trains before or after each ride The Peter Cottontail Express departs from Theatre by the Trax at 1000 Osborne St. in St. Marys. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$14 for children 12 and under. Children 2 and under ride free on laps. Tickets can be purchased at www.stmarysrailroad.com or by calling (912) 200-5235. Special group discounts are available for groups of 10 or more by calling (912) 729-1103 to get a discount code.

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

Parade

Continued from 13

position with philanthropic efforts. They have raised more than \$1 million for music programs in their home state of Kentucky and more than \$500,000 for hurricane relief efforts in Florida and Texas.

Beginning at 9 a.m., the St. Augustine Easter parade route starts at the Old Jail Museum and runs through the historic district in downtown St. Augustine. Family friendly and fun aspects of the parade include prizes awarded to parade participants. Categories for prizes are open, historic and Easter divisions.

The St. Augustine Easter Parade began with the organization of the nonprofit, St. Augustine Easter Week Festival. The parade is known as the Parada de los Caballos y Coches, Parade of Horses and Carriages and features St. Augustine's Royal Family, the Easter Bunny, clowns, drill teams, community floats and marching bands. The St. Augustine Easter Week Festival culminates with the Parade, a tradition headed by Sandy Tilton, president of the St. Augustine Easter Week Festival.

For more information about the St. Augustine Easter Week Festival, contact St. Augustine Easter Parade Director Dave Chatterton at (904) 829-3800 or David.Chatterton@historictours.com.



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APRIL 18, 2019
SPECIAL SECTION

Celebrating 50 years of the
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Outdoor improvements that boost home value

Whether home improvement projects are designed to improve the interior or exterior of a house, focusing on renovations that make the most financial sense can benefit homeowners in the long run. The right renovations can be assets if and when homeowners decide to sell their homes.

So how does one get started? First and foremost, speak to a local real estate agent who is knowledgeable about trends in the community. While a swimming pool may be something coveted in one area, it may impede sales in another. It also helps to study generalized trends and data from various home improvement industry analysts to guide upcoming projects.

The following outdoor projects are just a few renovations that tend to add value.

■ **Fire pit:** A fire pit is a great place to gather most months of the year. Bob Vila and CBS News report that a fire pit realizes a 78 percent return on investment, or ROI.

■ **Outdoor kitchen:** Many buyers are looking to utilize their yards as an extension of interior living areas. Cooking, dining and even watching TV outdoors is increasingly popular. Outdoor living areas can be custom-designed and built. In addition, prefabricated modular units that require a much smaller commitment of time and money are available.

■ **Patio:** Homeowners who do not



Photos courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com



already have a patio will find that adding one can increase a home's value. Patios help a home look neat, add useable space and may help a home to sell quickly. The experts at Space Wise, a division of Extra Space Storage, said that refinishing, repairing and building a new patio offers strong ROI.

■ **Deck:** Deck can be as valuable as patios. A deck is another outdoor space that

can be used for entertaining, dining and more. Remodeling magazine's 2018 "Cost vs. Value" report indicates that an \$11,000 deck can add about \$9,000 in resale value to the home, recouping around 82 percent of the project's costs. Read page 18 for more on deck trends.

■ **Door update:** Improve curb appeal with a new, high-end front door and garage doors. If that's too expensive, a good

cleaning and new coat of paint can make an old door look brand new. These easy fixes can improve a home's look instantly.

■ **New landscaping:** The National Association of Realtors said an outdoor makeover that includes well-thought out landscaping can net 105 percent ROI. Installing a walkway, adding stone planters, mulching and planting shrubs are ideas to consider.

2019

Living Here

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From the publishers of the award-winning Ponte Vedra Recorder and First Coast Register,

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Issue Date

May 16, 2019

Advertising Deadline

May 2, 2019

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Emerging deck trends

Deck trends continue to improve on the form and function of outdoor living spaces.

Custom-built decks can expand usable outdoor entertaining spaces. Decks can surround pools and create outdoor patio areas that make it easy to establish multitiered living spaces, improving the functionality of outdoor areas.

Certain deck trends have emerged as industry experts' top picks for the upcoming remodeling and renovation season. For those thinking of revamping an existing deck, or building an entirely new one, these trends are on point.

■ **Established perimeters:** "Picture framing" is not a new trend, but one that has taken greater hold in recent years. The term refers to aesthetically appealing designs that conceal the ends of deck boards for a clean finish. Some designs feature contrasting material colors on the ends for even more impact. This helps create refined perimeters for a polished look.

■ **Roof-top decking:** Urban areas also can benefit from decking to create usable outdoor spaces. In fact, many new condominium and townhouse communities are incorporating roof-top decks into their designs, particularly in communities with water views or other impressive vistas. HGTV experts suggest roof-top decks feature light-colored materials and fixtures to help keep the area cool even in direct sunlight.

■ **Distressed hardwood:** Builder and

Developer, a management resource for professional homebuilders, said that the trend for using distressed hardwoods at home has migrated outside. Some decking manufacturers have recently introduced low-maintenance composite deck boards that mimic the look and feel of distressed, rustic hardwood flooring. This weathered appearance gives the look of age without the upkeep of real aged wood.

■ **Wooden walkways:** Decking can be the more traditional design people envision with a patio table or outdoor furniture. But it also can consist of wooden walkways or a low-laying patio to accentuate the yard.

■ **Mixed materials:** Homeowners may be inspired by commercial eateries, breweries and urban markets in their exterior design choices. Decks featuring composite materials and aluminum railings blend sophistication, urban appeal and comfort.

■ **Personal touches:** Homeowners can customize their decks with personal touches. It's not unheard of to wrap columns in stone or glass tiles for more impact. And a vast array of decking colors now enables fun interpretations for outdoor areas.

■ **Fire-pit conversation area:** Many decks can incorporate water or fire elements for visual appeal. Gas-fueled fire elements can expand the functionality of decks beyond the warm seasons, or make enjoying them practical on nights when the temperature plummets.



Photos courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

Deck trends continue to improve on the form and function of outdoor living spaces.



Photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

How tree services can protect your property

Tree services provide a host of services. While fall is a popular time to remove trees from a property, doing so in spring is not unheard of, especially if trees were affected by winter storms and now pose a threat to a home and the people who live inside it.

Homeowners considering tree services can explore the following ways that some professional arbor attention can protect them and their homes.

■ **Tree services can help protect a home's foundation.** Old trees that stretch well into the sky can be captivating, but they also can pose a threat to a home's foundation. Such trees may have especially large root zones that may extend beneath walkways and even a home. In the latter instance, foundations may crack as roots try to stake their claim to the ground beneath a home. According to the home improvement resource HomeAdvisor, homeowners pay an average of just over \$4,000 to repair foundation issues, though major problems can cost considerably more than that. A professional tree service can remove aging trees that might be beautiful and

awe-inspiring but still pose a threat to a home and the areas surrounding it.

■ **Tree services can improve visibility.** Trees that have aged a bit since their last trimming might affect the view of a property from inside a home. Overgrown branches can compromise residents' ability to see and experience the natural beauty just outside their windows. The average homeowner may be able to trim short trees on his or her own, but if views from the second floor of a home or higher have been compromised, it's much safer to call a professional tree service. Such services have the right tools and experienced personnel necessary to safely trim high branches on tall trees.

■ **Tree services can help prevent future damage.** According to BNC Insurance and Risk Advisors, homeowners may be liable if a tree they knew posed a threat falls onto a passerby or a neighbor's property and causes damage or injury. Having all trees properly trimmed each year, but especially those that can fall on your home and your neighbors' homes, may prevent future damage and legal issues.

SPRING CLEANING

Time to clean out medicine cabinets

Spring cleaning takes on an entirely new meaning when getting rid of expired or unsafe medicines. Even though people may be quick to toss out expired foods or even clean closets of ill-fitting clothing, few individuals exercise such diligence with their medicine cabinets.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the medicine expiration date is critical when determining if a product is safe to use and will work as intended. Medications past their expiration date may not be as strong as intended, and even their chemical composition may change, making them risky to keep around. Furthermore, keeping too many medications in a home — particularly pain prescriptions — can lead to misuse and abuse, as the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said that rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States have risen considerably in recent years.

Some old medications, such as children's cough and cold products, may no longer be recommended for certain ages. Having such medications in the house could prove harmful.

Taking inventory and cleaning out medicine cabinets frees up space and creates a safe home environment. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- **Toss away any expired products,** whether they are prescription or over-the-counter medicines. The best way to do so is to bring the medication to a pharmacy for disposal rather than throwing it in the garbage or flushing medicines down the toilet.

- **Discard any unmarked containers or pill foils** that are not in their original packaging.

- **Test any medical devices,** such as a nebulizer, blood pressure monitor and glucose testing equipment to ensure they are in working order.

- **Replenish commonly used items,** such as fever reducers or headache medicines. Make sure there is a supply of bandages and first aid equipment on hand at all times.

- **Relocate medical supplies** to an area that isn't high in humidity, as steam from showers can speed up the expiration of medication. Storing medicines in the refrigerator won't help, as that is a high-humidity area, too.



Photos courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com



Must-haves for an amazing kitchen remodel

Kitchen remodels are among the most popular home renovation projects, whether they consist of swapping out cabinet hardware or doing major demolition.

Due to the sheer amount of time families spend in the kitchen, not to mention the number of tasks performed in this space, it is easy to see why Remodeling magazine consistently ranks kitchen renovations as projects that will enable homeowners to recoup a high percentage of their investments. In the magazine's 2018 "Cost vs. Value" report, midrange major kitchen remodels costing an average of \$63,829 recouped 59 percent of that investment.

When investing in a kitchen project, it is important to incorporate items that are coveted.

- **Deep, double sinks:** Having a double

sink enables you to soak dishes in one side and then wash on the other. It also makes it easy to wash and prep produce for meals.

- **Kitchen island and bar stools:** Even though many meals are enjoyed around the table, there's something to be said for the convenience of a kitchen island and some well-placed bar stools for quick breakfasts or snacks.

- **Smart kitchen storage:** Work with a contractor to include storage solutions built into cabinetry and the pantry. Slide-out shelving, nooks for a paper towel roll and custom-designed areas to store stand mixers and other necessities can make kitchens more functional.

- **Outdoor access:** If possible, design a kitchen so it is easy to access the backyard via sliding doors. This can make outdoor

entertaining or even coffee on the deck much easier.

- **Under-cabinet lighting:** Fixtures installed under cabinets provide both ambient lighting and task lighting. Such lighting makes it easier to see what you're working on as well, as even well-placed overhead lighting can fail to illuminate dark corners and spots on the counters.

- **Convenient warming drawer:** This appliance provides backup to the oven. It's a slide-out drawer that can keep prepared foods out of the way and warm until they are ready to be served. This is particularly handy for holidays and other entertaining.

- **Beverage station:** Designate one area of the kitchen to beverages, such as coffee and tea. Or make the area an informal bar. This can limit traffic in the kitchen to a

InvisaCook launch creates buzz in home furnishing industry

Since the release of InvisaCook six months ago, the new kitchen invention has created significant buzz in the home furnishing industry, according to a press release from the Palm Coast-based company.

The InvisaCook system allows customers to utilize their own countertops (such as granite, marble or tile) as cooking surfaces, and works faster than gas and electric cooktops, with no direct heat coming from the device itself.

In February, InvisaCook had its first worldwide public launch at the International Builders Show and Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (IBS and KBIS). Since the show, the company said in the press release that it has 12 new dealers in the U.S. InvisaCook plans to have over 100 dealers across the U.S. within the next year.

In addition to the home market, InvisaCook is targeting the RV market, boats and other small recreational vehicles.

InvisaCook is launching its new cooktop accessories, InvisaCook-WARE, in May.

For more information on InvisaCook, visit invisacook.com.

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SPRING CLEANING

Responsible ways to reuse, recycle, donate and discard your stuff

By **Barbara Trapp**
Special to the Recorder

With the popularity of Marie Kondo's show, "Tidying Up," many along the First Coast are clearing out closets, garages, storage units and kitchens. So much so that for a brief time some local Goodwill stores had to stop taking items at the beginning of the year! Here are some ways to purge (or reuse) your stuff responsibly and help your community.

REUSE

According to Aaron Enos, founder of Sensible Recycling, a local veteran-owned and operated business, "Plastic is cheaper to make than to recycle, and reusing is always better than recycling." Here are some ways to pass along your items for reuse:

Hangers:

- Donate along with clothes or search

online for "creative uses for _____" to find ways to reuse these things and more.

Books:

- Offer to schools and local libraries. Older, historical books with maps are helpful to students and others for research.
- Sell to a used book store.
- Sell online.

Clothing:

- Consign at local shops or sell online.
- Donate like-new women's office-appropriate clothing to women's shelters.
- Donate to local charitable organizations such as BEAM or churches who will make sure your clothing will get to those in need.

Furniture and building supplies:

- Habitat for Humanity's ReStore is a good place to keep in mind.
- Local churches may provide referrals.

Personal care items and toiletries:

- Store in your suitcase for your next trip.



Photos courtesy of Barbara Trapp



- Place in a pretty container for house-guests.
- Donate to women's shelters (full-size), Jacksonville Beach's Mission House (small size).
- For eyeglasses, keep the Lions Club, LensCrafters, Costco and Walmart in mind.
- Lend An Ear (lendanearoutreach.org) and the Lions Club take hearing aids.

Boxes and packing materials

- Join a neighborhood app such as NextDoor or Freecycle and post a "curb alert."
- Offer to your mover or office supply store.
- Ask a friend. Someone you know knows someone who is moving!

Computers, printers and more

- Staples, Office Depot and numerous local companies (search online for "computer recycling") are good options.
- Tip: The safest way to remove your data from a device is to remove the hard drive or have someone else do it in your presence. Then you can take a hammer to it or have it professionally shredded, a service Sensible Recycling offers.

Rechargeable batteries, unbroken CFL bulbs

- Consider Lowes.

Cell phones

- Your cell phone's manufacturer or carrier will take them.
- Some local charitable organizations for battered women, seniors or service personnel will take old cell phones. Search online for "donate cell phone."
- Tip: Be sure to "wipe" (remove all your data) and then "unlock" your phone (includes turning off the "Find My Phone" feature). Not sure how to do this? Contact the manufacturer or your carrier.

Plastic bags:

- Publix and Winn Dixie, Lowes all take plastic bags.

Styrofoam food trays, packing materials and egg cartons

- Publix (as of now the only place to recycle Styrofoam!) takes them.
- Not sure who takes what? Call your favorite charitable organization and ask for a list of what they regularly need.

CLEANING continues on Page 21



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Cleaning

Continued from 20

RECYCLE

So, you've finished off that last slice of pizza and now need to destroy the evidence: the pizza box. It's cardboard, so it goes in the recycling bin, right? Wrong. This is one item that can't be recycled. Here are other items that are ending up in recycling bins and shouldn't be there:

- Hangers and plastic bags (these get tangled up in the sorting machines)
- Styrofoam ("plastic #6")
- Garden hoses (it's not even plastic)
- Plastic wrap and wrappers from bottles

■ Small items such as plastic spoons and straws (small things fall through the screens used for sorting)

■ Any aerosol can, including for whipped cream

Confused? According to Diane Warren, president of North Florida Recycling, most bottles, cans, jugs and jars are safe to recycle, but contamination can cause otherwise acceptable recyclables to go to the landfill. Here's how to prep/decontaminate items for recycling:

■ **Separate combined materials:** Remove foil tops from yogurt, containers, plastic wrap from plastic bottles, etc. Labels can remain.

■ **Empty:** Have a little left in that soda can or potato salad container? Empty it out. The same goes for detergent bottles.



■ **Clean:** Rinse out the item (a Styrofoam food tray covered in oil may need a little soap to remove the layer).

■ **Dry:** Rinsed out a can? Let it sit upside-down for a while to air-dry before placing in your recycle bin.

Still not sure what you can recycle? Check your recycling company for guidelines. Sometimes the list of what's acceptable versus not acceptable items is on the lid of your bin!

DISCARD

■ **Outdated/unused prescriptions:** Do not flush or discard in the trash! Take to a disposal kiosk at any of these locations:

■ Walgreen's Pharmacy, 6006 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida 32216

■ Walgreen's Pharmacy, 24 hours a day, 1801 N. Davis St., Jacksonville, Florida 32209

■ Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Police Memorial Building, Forsyth Entrance, 501 E. Bay St., Jacksonville, Florida 32202

■ Neptune Beach Police Department, 200 Lemon St., Neptune Beach, Florida 32266

Household hazardous wastes cannot be disposed of curbside and must be taken to the hazardous waste facility in your area:

Duval County:

■ 2675 Commonwealth Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32254

St. Johns County:

■ Tillman Ridge Transfer Station, 3005 Allen Nease Road, Elkton, Florida 32033

■ Stratton Road Transfer Station, 250 North Stratton Road, St. Augustine, Florida 32095

Hazardous items include:

■ Aerosol cans

■ Pesticides, pool chemicals, acids or other chemicals

■ Fuel/fuel tanks

■ Fluorescent or compact fluorescent lights, tubes, or bulbs

■ Fireworks and flares

■ Car parts and scrap metal

■ Paint, paint cans and paint thinner

■ Fireworks, flares and fire extinguishers

■ That empty pizza box? Use it to contain broken glass before placing in the trash bin.

REDUCE

To maintain all your work downsizing, don't forget to reduce. Stop the flow of things in and out of your home and the landfill by:

■ Using refillable bottles for your water and reusing the existing ones (they make great ice packs for your cooler).

■ Using your own coffee mug at the office.

■ Considering reusable straws (that plastic straw ban is coming!).

■ Reducing your use of plastic bags by using your own reusable bags. Keep them in the car. Once you've unloaded your groceries, put the bags by your door so you don't forget to put them back.

Your community and earth will appreciate it!

Barbara Trapp is a certified professional organizer®, productivity consultant and life coach serving clients in Northeast Florida. Visit her website at zenyourden.com.



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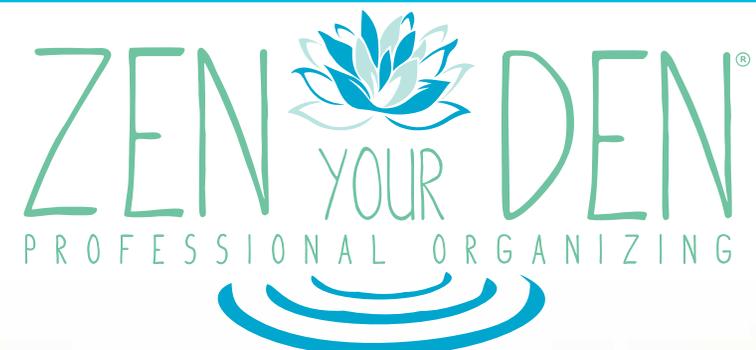
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Thursday, April 18	Friday, April 19	Saturday, April 20	Sunday, April 21
<p>Dinner and a movie at River House * Cinephiles can enjoy the third Thursday of each month at River House for dinner and a movie. The movie begins at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 for River House members and \$20 for non-members. In addition to dinner, guests will receive a soft drink and popcorn. Beer and wine available at additional cost. Advanced payment and registration are required. Please call (904) 209-3655 to reserve a seat today. This week's film for April 18 will be "Second Act." The River House is located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Great Chefs of Jacksonville IX The ninth annual Great Chefs of Jacksonville returns April 18 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Lexington Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk. In an effort to keep the event fresh and delicious, there will be some exciting changes and additions to the evening's program. Patrons will still get to pick whose cuisine reigns supreme, and guests can look forward to a championship at the end of the year. To purchase tickets, visit www.904tix.com. The Lexington Hotel & Conference Center is located at 1515 Prudential Drive in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Grief Support A grief support group meets on the third Thursday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church, in Room 202 of the Family Life Center. The group is for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting is Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. For information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665.</p> <p>'School of Rock' Based on the hit film, this hilarious new musical follows Dewey Finn, a wannabe rock star posing as a substitute teacher who turns a class of straight-A students into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping, mind-blowing rock band. The show features 14 new songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber, all the original songs from the movie and musical theater's first-ever kids rock band playing their instruments live on stage at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. Shows run from April 17 to 20. For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.fscjartistseries.org.</p>	<p>'A Toast to the Coast' On April 19, the Anastasia State Park will host "A Toast to the Coast," featuring live music from reggae-rock duo, The Wheeland Brothers, food trucks, concessions and more. The "Toast to the Coast" will raise funds for the Friends of Anastasia State Park, whose mission is to enhance protection of natural and cultural resources of Anastasia State Park. The "Toast" will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and is open to all ages and is free to the public with regular park admission. Food and alcohol will be available for purchase. Anastasia State Park is located at 300 Anastasia Park Rd. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Charity Cart Night at Dicks Wings Join the NasCarts family for their monthly Charity Golf Cart Night at Dicks Wings Nocatee on April 19. Proceeds will go out to benefit the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation. There will be a 50/50 drawing, raffles, live music, entertainment for children and more. The event runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Come help NasCarts raise money for a good cause. Dicks Wings Nocatee is located at 100 Marketside Ave. in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>Natural Egg Dyeing at Native Sun* Native Sun Natural Food Markets is hosting its annual "Natural Egg Dyeing" event on April 19 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at all three stores. Using all-natural egg dyeing kits, Native Sun will decorate and color organic, free-range eggs that kids can take home just in time for Easter. Each child will be able to color two hard-boiled eggs. Native Sun will provide recipes for natural dyes available for parents to take home. For all Native Sun locations and more information, visit www.nativesunjax.com. Native Sun at the beaches is located at 1585 Third St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Collective Con Jacksonville's three-day pop culture convention returns April 19 through April 21 at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium. Collective Con is a comics, sci-fi, horror, anime, gaming and music event in Jax. For tickets, hours, guestlist and more information, visit www.collectivecon.com. The Morocco Shrine Auditorium is located at 3800 St Johns Bluff Rd. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Shredding Hunger food drive Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Realty will host Shredding Hunger, a free curbside shredding event and food drive, on April 20 at the Berkshire Hathaway Mandarin/St. Johns Office from 9 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome to bring personal documents and other sensitive materials, which will be securely shredded free of charge by First Coast Shredding during the event. Please bring a non-perishable food donation in addition to materials to be shredded. All food donations will go to Feeding Northeast Florida, a regional food bank network. The Berkshire Hathaway Mandarin/St. Johns office is located at 11576 San Jose Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>51st Annual Mandarin Art Festival An annual art event, the Mandarin Art Festival is a venue for local and national artists of various media to display and sell their work. There will be a Green Market of locally-made consumable products, a Children's Art Show with work from local students, art workshops, a bake sale, prizes donated by local businesses and live music throughout the two-day event. The festival runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. This annual festival is a funding source for the Mandarin Community Club's preservation, education and beautification work in the community. Visit www.mandarinartfestival.org for more information. The Mandarin Country Club is located at 12447 Mandarin Road in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Earth Day celebration at Rockaway Celebrate Earth Day at the Garden Center on April 20. There will be specials throughout the day while What's the Catch food truck will have tacos, shrimp and more from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The first 20 customers receive a free 4" strawberry plant. All paying customers will receive a free 3" succulent. Rockaway is located at 510 Shetter Ave. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Lenten Labrynth Walk at Palms Palms Presbyterian Church invites the community to its Lenten Labyrinth facilitated walk on April 20 from 10 a.m. to noon. A labyrinth walk is a contemplative way to deepen the Lenten experience. Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 Third St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>Sundays at Surfer the Bar Every Sunday, join Big Fish Power Yoga for a free Music & Flow class at Surfer the Bar. The class is held upstairs at the bar and runs from 10 to 11 a.m. every week. Bring friends and family and enjoy brunch and mimosas downstairs following class. Register under classes on bigfishpoweryoga.com. Surfer the Bar is located at 200 First St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Swing Dance Sundays Swing Dance Sundays is a weekly event with free lessons starting at 7 p.m. at The Volstead. Attendees can either bring a partner or come alone. The Volstead is located at 115 West Adams St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Family open studio: Spring has sprung This is a fee art-making activity in the Art Connections studios for all ages. Visitors can create cards inspired by spring using a variety of different mediums. The open studio is on April 21 and is free with admission. No registration is required. The studio will run from 1 to 3 p.m. For further information, please email education@cummuseum.org or call (904) 355.0630. The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Good Shepard Easter service Join Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on April 21 for Easter worship services at 7 a.m. (outdoors) and 10 a.m. (indoors). Between services, Good Shepherd will host an Easter egg hunt for kids. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is located at 6551 Argyle Forest Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Easter brunch with One Ocean Resort & Spa One Ocean Resort & Spa will serve Easter Brunch on April 21, offering a fine-dining option for guests to enjoy along the coast at signature restaurant, Azurea. Selections include Crab Cake Benedict, Lobster Brie Omelet, Roasted Florida Beet Napoleon and more. Brunch will be served from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling (904) 249-7402 or through www.OpenTable.com. Azurea is located at 1 Ocean Blvd. in Atlantic Beach.</p>

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Monday, April 22	Tuesday, April 23	Wednesday, April 24	Thursday, April 25
<p>Earth Day beach clean-up In honor of Earth Day (and every day), join in and help clean Mother Earth and the beaches community on April 22 from 9 a.m. until noon. Get zen after a day of hardcore cleaning and enjoy some yoga on the freshly-clean beach. Meet-up will be located at Sixth Ave. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Jewelry beading class Join instructor Shirley Nacey at River House to make bracelets and necklaces with unique and intriguing beads to enhance one's style or as a gift to a family member or friend. Classes are held every Monday until April 29. Class hours are 1 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$40 for River House members and \$50 for non-members. Please call (904) 209-3655 to make a reservation. River House is located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>First Coast Newcomers Club beach event Take a leisurely walk on the beach or join in on the shark teeth scavenger hunt with the First Coast Newcomers Club of NE Florida's special beach event on April 22. There will also be a dinner at a Vilano Beach restaurant at 6 p.m. For information about beach location and time, call (904) 829-0653.</p> <p>Earth Day Farm Fresh Feast Join Chef Rosaria for a 2019 Farm Fresh Feast Dinner, where incredible local chefs will come together to create artfully prepared dishes using produce sourced from local farms. This will be a one night multi-course event where a host of amazing local chefs create delectable dishes with the produce that is in season. The majority of the proceeds from this event will benefit the local charity, Waste Not Want Not. Waste Not Want Not rescues unmarketable, but still wholesome, food from supermarkets, restaurants, and other businesses daily and distributes that food to people in need. This event will be held at Atlantic Beach Urban Farms on April 22 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Visit the Farm Fresh Feast Dinner for more information and to purchase tickets.</p>	<p>Florida Blue free Tuesday at the Cummer Each Tuesday evening from 4 to 9 p.m. enjoy free admission to the Cummer Museum and its historic gardens, thanks to the generous support of Florida Blue. Guests can enjoy free admission to the galleries each Tuesday evening and the Cummer Café is also open for Tapas Tuesday sponsored by VyStar Credit Union. The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Bingo Tuesday with Mellow Mushroom Tuesdays are made for Bingo at Mellow Mushroom Jax Beach. Join Mellow Mushroom every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. for food, drinks, fun, and prizes. It's always free to play, so grab some good friends and family, and get ready a groovy time. Stick around after for late-night happy hour specials. Mellow Mushroom is located at 1018-2 Third St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Zero Waste Jax Club hosts Make Your Own Toothpaste workshop Zero Waste Jax Club will be hosting a workshop at Murray Hillbilly on April 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. The club will be having a short conversation on the waste created by mainstream company's product packaging and what attendees can do to make a difference. This event will end with a hands-on workshop where attendees will be able to make their own toothpaste. All ingredients and containers will be provided for attendees by the Zero Waste Jax Club, although a \$5 fee will be collected to be able purchase all bulk goods necessary. The Murray Hillbilly is located at 1044 Edgewood Ave S. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Cocktails and Conversation at River City Brewing Company Connect with community leaders at Atlantic Circle's signature networking event. During this event, attendees can gain insight from respected honorees who lead table discussions on personal, professional and philanthropic philosophies. The event will be held on April 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. River City Brewing Company is located at 835 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Greenhouse Yoga Join Maggie's Herb Farm every Wednesday and Friday morning from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for a mindful Kripalu flow yoga practice in the greenhouse at Maggie's Herb Farm. Practice yoga surrounded by beautiful greenery, butterflies, herbs, hummingbirds and free-range chickens. Attendees are encouraged to bring their yoga mat, towel and water bottle. Pre-registration is not required. Maggie's Herb Farm is located at 11400 Country Road 13 N. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Legendary women Storytellers, Margaret Kaler and Kathy Duffy will present "Legendary Women," a 90-minute program at the Art Studio on the Pier at St. Augustine at 7 p.m. Performances are done in costume and portray Emma Thompson who fought in the Civil War as a man, Gertrude Bell, who travelled the Middle East and taught Lawrence of Arabia what he needed to pull off the raid at Aqaba, and more. Entrance is \$10 at the door. For more information, email Kathleen Duffy at irishlibrarian722@att.net. The Art Studio is located at 370 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach.</p> <p>Family Bingo Join Trasca & Co Eatery for a family-fun evening every Wednesday. The popular restaurant will feature Family Bingo with pizza specials, craft beer specials and tons of fun. Bingo starts at 6 and runs until 8 p.m. Trasca & Co Eatery is located at 155 Tourside Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>The Chris Thomas Big Band at the Casa Marina Hotel The Chris Thomas Big Band will perform a 3-hour show featuring their full 18-piece big band outside in the courtyard at the Casa Marina Hotel on April 24, from 7 until 10 p.m. Dance the night away with Chris Thomas and the band or sit back and enjoy the exciting sound of big band as they perform favorites from the Rat Pack era through Motown and onto today. Tickets are \$15-20 for reserved seating. Tickets will be distributed at the door. The Casa Marina Hotel and Restaurant is located at 691 First St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>Savvy Job Hunters Ministry workshop Learn about working for the federal government with Steve Toomey, Employment Coach for the Florida Employment Support Program, who will be presenting an overview of federal employment. The presentation is on April 25 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Christ Episcopal Church Parish Center Conference Room. Landstar System Inc. will be the featured employer and will present job opportunities and application procedures. Buddy Webster of LEADERS Professional Recruiting will be reviewing resumes, so bring several copies just in case. Email pottesen66@gmail.com for more information. Christ Episcopal Church is located at 400 San Juan Dr. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Celebrity Bartending at Brewz Filling Station Come out to Brewz in Atlantic Beach to help support the American Lung Association on April 25, from 6 to 9 p.m. Phi Eco Salon employees will be guest bartending to raise money for the ALA Lip Sync for Lungs Live Battle event. Come out and show your support for a good cause. All cash tips received will be donated to the event. Brewz Filling Station is located at 1011 Atlantic Blvd. in Atlantic Beach.</p> <p>Cookie dough beer pairing Skip dinner and head straight for dessert. Hyperion Brewing will have four delectable cookie doughs presented by Chef Sarah Copeland of Craft Catering and four strategically paired craft beers from Hyperion Brewing Company on April 25. Join Hyperion anytime between 6 to 9 p.m. to redeem your pairing. Tickets are strongly encouraged as tickets typically sell out before the event and only a few on-site pairings available for sale. Hyperion Brewing Company is located at 1740 N. Main St. in Jacksonville. Tickets are \$30 and sold on Eventbrite.com.</p>

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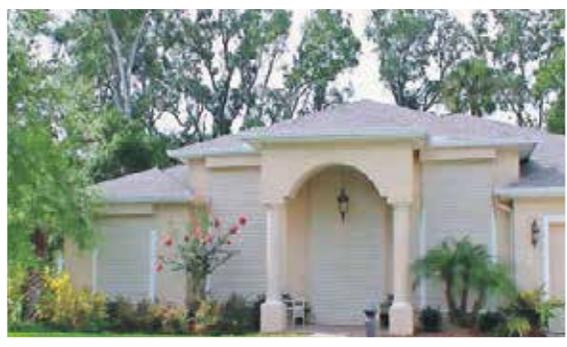
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EARTH DAY

Keepers of the Coast to hold 2nd annual Full Circle Fest April 27

Sustainable living ideas about alternative energy, gardening, recycling and conservation will be among the topics discussed by speakers at the second annual Full Circle Fest on Saturday, April 27, on the Front Porch at the Amp (previously St. Augustine Amphitheatre).

To be held from 3 to 8 p.m., the event will be hosted by Keepers of the Coast, a local nonprofit organization focused on providing a safe and sustainable coastal environment for residents and visitors.

“Every aspect of Full Circle Fest is designed for a family-friendly day celebrating our community, and how we can ensure the coastal systems of Northeast Florida remain a beautiful part of our local environment,” said Tara Dodson, founder of Keepers of the Coast. “Bring refillable containers and stay



FULL CIRCLE FEST continues on **Page 26**



Keepers of the Coast is hosting its second annual Full Circle Fest April 27 on the Front Porch at The Amp. The event will include speakers highlighting different sustainable living ideas about alternative energy, gardening, recycling and conservation.

Photos courtesy of Keepers of the Coast



Photo courtesy of Full Circle Resource Management

A sustainability workshop will be held for professionals in the hospitality industry April 26 at Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort.

Full Circle Resource to debut sustainability workshop April 26

Before Full Circle Fest kicks off, a sustainability workshop for professionals in the hospitality industry will take place Friday, April 26.

To be held at Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the event, titled “Making Sustainability Work for Your Business,” is ideal for hospitality business owners, hotel management teams, procurement specialists and sustainability professionals. The event is

being organized and hosted by Full Circle Resource Management, which has teamed up with Travel Without Plastics, Keepers of the Coast and Recycle Across America.

Speakers will include JoAnn Hendrickx of Travel Without Plastics, Alexa Green of Recycle Across America, Tara Dodson of Full Circle Resource Management and Ryan Murphy of The Amp and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

WORKSHOP continues on **Page 26**

Office Paper Shredding And Recycling Event

Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity to recycle and shred all of your confidential documents for FREE.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY

When? Saturday, April 20th

Where? Republic Services Facility
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Time? 10:00am to 2:00pm

RESIDENTIAL OFFICE PAPER ONLY No Other Material Allowed

All materials will be received, loaded and transported to our Jacksonville shredding facility for final destruction.



For more information:
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EARTH DAY

SJC residents invited to upcoming document-shredding events

St. Johns County (SJC) is inviting residents to two free document shredding events on Saturday, April 20.

From 8 a.m. to noon, Advanced Disposal will host residents for a shredding event at the Anastasia Square Shopping Center in St. Augustine at the corner of SR 312 and A1A. Acceptable items include personal documents, white or colored papers, stapled or paper-clipped documents and file folders and file hangers. Three-ring binders, cardboard and items generated by commercial activities will not be accepted.

According to Advanced Disposal, reasons to participate

in such an event include minimizing the potential for loss of confidential documents, reducing the risk of identify theft, eliminating the potential for misuse of sensitive information and more.

Also on April 20, Republic Services will host an office paper shredding and recycling event at its facility at 445 Republic Drive in St. Augustine from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Only residential office paper is allowed; no other materials will be accepted.

For more information, call (904) 827-6980.



Photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

Meaningful, fun ways to celebrate Earth Day

People may wonder what they can do at a local level to make Earth Day a larger part of their lives. Here are just a few great ways to embrace Earth Day:

- Make it a point to bike or walk to school or work. If conditions are prohibitive, carpool to cut down on traffic. The fewer cars on the road, the less emissions in the air.

- Recycle e-waste in your home. E-waste is considered outdated electronic appliances that are no longer used. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests e-waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the world.

- Invest in a reusable coffee cup or water bottle. This can reduce the amount of trash that ultimately ends up in the environment.

- Connect with nature by turning off electronics for the day and getting outside. Head to a park or nature trail and immerse yourself in the great outdoors.

- Do something as simple as switching paper statements and bills to e-bills and online invoices. This reduces reliance on trees for new sources of paper.

- Grow some food in your home garden or even on a windowsill. This is a fun, eco-friendly way to control the foods you consume at home and a great way to save money as well.

- Reusing and recycling does not just pertain to water bottles and aluminum cans. Find out ways to repurpose or share items with others so they get more mileage. Also, make use of sharing services such as bike sharing kiosks or Yerdle, an online community sharing marketplace.

- Volunteer your time at an organization that has an environmental focus. Or suggest a task with an eco-friendly slant, such as picking up trash from a beach, to a local community group or club.

Full Circle Fest

Continued from 25

hydrated at the many Amp water bottle filling stations. We'll also have adult libations available for purchase such as cold beer from Dog Rose Brewing and sangria from San Sebastian Winery."

Guests are encouraged to bring their own bag and shop for unique, plastic-free, eco-conscious gift items. Culinary creations by Arepa Life, Late Risers Food Truck and The Silver Bullet will be on site.

Live music at Full Circle Fest begins with Theo Moon from Orlando. That will be followed by an educational/interactive lecture and African drum performance by Nan Nkama of Jacksonville. The evening ends with Brett Bass and Melted Plectrum.

Admission to the event is a suggested donation of \$5 per person. Guests are encouraged to bike, walk or carpool. Those who ride their bikes can park at



Photo courtesy of Keepers of the Coast

Keepers of the Coast is hosting its second annual Full Circle Fest April 27 on the Front Porch at The Amp.

the VeloFest bike station to be entered into a raffle to win a prize.

Full Circle Fest is sponsored by The Amp's Green Hands Program, in addition

to several other local organizations and businesses.

For more information on Keepers of the Coast, visit keepersofthecoast.net.



Photos courtesy of Full Circle Resource Management

A sustainability workshop will be held for professionals in the hospitality industry April 26.

Workshop

Continued from 25

Topics for discussion will include how to be a green venue and profitable business; minimizing single-use plastics and Styrofoam while meeting health, safety and quality expectations; how to position sustainability communications to successfully market to your target customer; and more.

"This workshop was designed for hospitality professionals looking to reduce resource use and associated costs while still providing a fantastic customer experience," said Tara Dodson, founder and president of Full Circle Resource Management. "Doing business can be good for the planet and good for its people while still increasing profit."

The event is part of the second annual Full Circle Fest, which will



be held Saturday, April 27, at The Amp. The cost for the workshop is \$100 per person and includes lunch and a Green Drinks networking event. Space is limited. To learn more, contact Tara Dodson at fullcircleresource@gmail.com. Register online at keepersofthecoast.net/event/sustainability-workshop.

Business Weekly

V Pizza orders wood-fired ovens from Italy for new Palm Valley location

Page 30

PAGE 27

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photos by Amber Lake

Sara Frasca, Karina Coryell and the Trasca team celebrate the fourth anniversary of Trasca & Co Eatery.

Trasca & Co Eatery celebrates 4th anniversary

By Amber Lake

Trasca & Co Eatery celebrated its fourth anniversary on Saturday, April 13. The restaurant opened its doors with a family-friendly birthday party and invited the whole neighborhood.

The event featured balloon artistry from Niko Magnifiko, face painting by Jennifer Tucker, beer samples from Wicked Barley, free panino sticks and live music.

Although the Ponte Vedra Beach Trasca & Co Eatery opened just four years ago, the restaurant's history traces back to 1974, when the Frasca family invented its signature "Panino" sandwich. Since the fast-casual style business opened in 2015, it has become a staple of the area, participating in many community functions and donating to local schools.

TRASCA continues on Page 29



Attendees get their faces painted by Jennifer Tucker at the anniversary celebration.



Niko Magnifiko makes a jet pack for an excited attendee.

NOCATEE HAPPENINGS



Photo by Ed Johnson

Dr. Casey Means, Dr. Erika Hamer (owner) and Dr. Lundy Tacti of Ponte Vedra Wellness Center gather at the celebration of the business' third year of operation in Nocatee on April 11.

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center celebrates 3rd anniversary in Nocatee

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosted an anniversary party and community appreciation event on Thursday, April 11, to celebrate its third year of operation in Nocatee.

In addition to food, beverages, fitness demos and chair massages, the event featured a special children's area with activities and face painting courtesy of Sunshine Play + Learn. Held at the business' Nocatee office, the event also showcased many of Ponte Vedra Wellness Center's Nocatee business neighbors and the services they provide.

In addition, guests received a complimentary ticket for a Kona Ice treat, as well as a ticket to be entered into the raffle drawing for a beach cruiser. The first 50 guests received a gift bag.

Some of the businesses that participated in the event included Crosswater Dental Care, Barnhorst Eye & Laser Center, Dieticians of Palm Valley, Forever Vets, Little Crumb Cupcakes, NasCarts, Orangetheory Fitness, Pink Zebra, the Ponte Vedra Recorder, Ponte Vedra Training Company, Ponte Vedra Pediatric Dentistry, St Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Sunshine Play + Learn, Trelor Park and UF Health.

WELLNESS continues on Page 29

Waste Management to acquire Advanced Disposal for \$4.9 billion

Waste Management is acquiring Ponte Vedra-based Advanced Disposal, according to a press release distributed by both companies on Monday.

The companies have entered into a definitive agreement under which a subsidiary of Waste Management will acquire all

outstanding shares of Advanced Disposal for \$33.15 per share in cash, representing a total enterprise value of \$4.9 billion when including approximately \$1.9 billion of Advanced Disposal's net debt.

The per share price represents a premium of 22.1 percent to Advanced

Disposal's closing share price as of April 12, 2019, the last trading day prior to the announcement, and a premium of 20.9 percent to Advanced Disposal's 30-day volume weighted average price as of the same date.

According to the release, this acquisi-

tion grows Waste Management's footprint and allows the company to deliver to Advanced Disposal customers "unparalleled access to differentiated, sustainable waste management and recycling services."

ADVANCED continues on Page 31



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Survival planning is never an easy topic but certainly necessary



Ric Schilling
 Columnist

By Ric Schilling

Survivor planning is a tough topic for most to think about.

It, of course, means that we have to give thought to the fact that our loved ones and we will die at some point. Remember the old saying about death and taxes? They are the two things in life that are certainly unavoidable. Well, we know not everyone pays taxes, BUT we all certainly do “expire.”

Many people wait until they have children to start survivor planning. Don't think you are too young to start planning. In addition to the income aspects, you also want to ensure other financial-related information doesn't die with the deceased. For instance, how are bills paid? By checks, credit cards or automatic bill pay? What about online usernames and passwords?

Here's a checklist of items to consider:

- Identify how much income is required to maintain a lifestyle for your survivors and for how long.
- Identify the permanent income sources remaining upon your death and the amounts (insurance annuities, Social Security survivor or retirement benefits, military

or civilian survivor benefit programs, etc.).

- Provide your would-be survivor with a list of all savings, checking and investment accounts. List and give contact information of the firms, advisors, account numbers, types of accounts, usernames/passwords, etc.

- Discuss life insurance and whether or not you have enough and how to factor in the life insurance proceeds to the survivors' (beneficiaries) income. If after discussion you find you do not believe you have adequate life insurance coverage, speak with a licensed life insurance professional and learn of the various types of life insurance available on the market today and which best suits your needs and the needs of your family.

- Speak to the possible need after the death of a spouse of needing to downsize and difficult yet so very important life decisions such as this.

- Discuss who is the one person the survivor can turn to to go over their financial needs and obligations and who can help manage their assets going forward.

Survivor planning and discussion is rarely easy but is certainly necessary and not a discussion to be put off. We all hope to live a long, full, perfectly healthy life, passing

SCHILLING continues on **Page 32**



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Bacon Egg & Cheese Quiche	\$11.95
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Eggs Benedict with Potato Hash & Fruit	\$12.95
Crab Cake Benedict with Potato Hash	\$15.95
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Underwood Jewelers supports Ayla's Acres with 5th annual trunk show

By Amber Lake

Now in its fifth year, Underwood Jewelers hosted its three-day trunk show benefiting Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue April 11-13.

The event featured a cocktail party, raffle, Lagos-designed jewelry and some very enthusiastic furry friends looking for a home.

During the trunk show, Underwood Jewelers donated a portion of all Lagos jewelry sales at their Ponte Vedra Beach location to help support Ayla's Acres' 45-acre sanctuary for animals in need. In addition, the event hosted a meet-and-greet for community members to adopt pets featured at the rescue and learn more about the organization.

"(This event) helps in a few ways," said Fran Charlson, Ayla's Acres executive director. "It enables the community to learn more about us and our processes. We have a sanctuary with 160 unadoptable animals, and we work to support all of that. We go through 500 pounds of dry dog food a week at the sanctuary. Our horses during the winter months have to have hay and the vet care for all our animals runs between \$3,000 and \$4,000 a month."

In addition to Underwood Jewelers' contribution to the no-kill animal shelter, renowned designer Lagos donated a \$2,500 bracelet that was raffled off during



Photos by Amber Lake

Charlie, a coonhound, is brimming with energy to meet everyone that passes by at the adoption event at Underwood's.



A young attendee gets to meet Scooby the chihuahua at Underwood's trunk show for Ayla's Acres.

the event. Featured guest and actor, artist and animal advocate Loretta Swit also made an appearance in support of the rescue.



ABOVE: Ayla's Acres Executive Director Fran Charlson, Underwood's general manager John Rutkowski and actor, artist and animal advocate Loretta Swit gather at the cocktail party held at the local jeweler on April 11.



LEFT: Jen Holloway and Joan Guglielmo man the Ayla's Acres table at the cocktail party.

Photos by Susan Griffin

"Underwood has been absolutely terrific to us," Charlson said. "They've raised money for us and helped the Ponte Vedra community become familiar with us. We love coming here. There is a lot of animal lovers at Underwood and a lot of jewelry lovers in Ponte Vedra so we just thought it was a great combination."

For anyone interesting in showing

support for the organization, Ayla's Acres is hosting a Community Outreach Night Out at the Colonial Oak Music Park in St. Augustine on April 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. The inaugural spring fundraiser is held in conjunction with St. Augustine Youth Services and will feature live music, dinner, drinks, raffle and silent auction. For more information, visit Aylasacres.org.



Photo by Amber Lake

Attendees enjoy face painting and balloon art at the Trasca & Co. anniversary event.

Trasca

Continued from 27

"Celebrating the fourth anniversary is a proud moment," owner Sara Frasca said. "In some ways it seems like we have been here forever, but in other ways it seems as if it was only yesterday that I was opening the doors each morning and introduced the Panino to a new audience. I've made many friends and, honestly, I have en-

joyed each moment."

In addition, this year the restaurant announced it was merging ownership with Karina Coryell, former owner of the local catering company, KC's Kitchen. Today, Trasca & Co. has expanded its services and is operated by both Coryell and Frasca.

"The future of Trasca has never been brighter," Frasca said. "With the infusion of healthier options from Karina and her catering expertise, we are able to serve the community in more ways than ever."

Wellness

Continued from 27

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosts Chamber 'Before Hours' event

In other Ponte Vedra Wellness Center news, the local business additionally hosted a "Before Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on April 3.

The event was also held at the business' Nocatee location. Guests enjoyed networking and breakfast before work.



ABOVE: Gloria Dongara and Ponte Vedra Wellness Center owner Dr. Erika Hamer gather at a Chamber "Before Hours" event held at the business on April 3.



LEFT: Traci Lewis, Rachel Douglas, Trudy Toche, Kent Justice and Jackie Smith gather at the "Before Hours" event.

Photos by Susan Griffin

Popular V Pizza restaurant makes progress on Palm Valley location

V Pizza/Julep set to open in early July

By Amber Lake

V Pizza in Palm Valley is making strides, according to co-owner Paul Scott.

The authentic Italian eatery has recently ordered its signature wood-fired pizza ovens from its supplier in Naples, Italy. The suppliers, the Ferrera family, have been making pizza ovens in Naples for four generations and have hand-built them for all the V Pizza locations. The ovens, named La Valle and Amore, are currently headed to the shipping containers to begin their journey across the Atlantic Ocean in anticipation of their new home in Ponte Vedra.

The location is tentatively set to open on July 1, Scott told the Recorder. The new V Pizza will be located off Canal Boulevard, near the intersection of Roscoe Boulevard, next to the fire station and Community Center.

The design of the new location is intended to reflect both the flavor of Italy and the history of Palm Valley. Scott said the building will have two sections in congruence with its other locations — the “pizza” side and

the “bar” side. The bar half will be called “Julep.” Julep will have 36-foot ceilings, 600 to 800 bottles of liquor, a fireplace and a 6-foot catwalk.

“It’s going to be a very upscale cocktail bar,” Scott said.

In addition, the exterior design will pay homage to old Palm Valley farms by replicating an old-fashioned horse barn. On the side, the V Pizza kitchen will be “the most authentic to Italy,” compared to any of the other locations. Scott said they are planning to have Italian-style murals on the walls and Chicago brick.

The Palm Valley location will be the sixth location opened in North Florida, since the first V Pizza opened in San Marco in 2004. The idea for the restaurant is rooted from a trip to Italy that inspired the owners to create truly authentic Neapolitan-style pizza outside of Italy. Scott, Kris Williams and Mark Turner partnered for the idea and brought the concept to Jacksonville. Since its inception, V Pizza has won numerous awards from publications across the region, including everything from “Best Pizza” to “Best Cocktails” to “Best Wings.”

Part of the success is stemmed from the

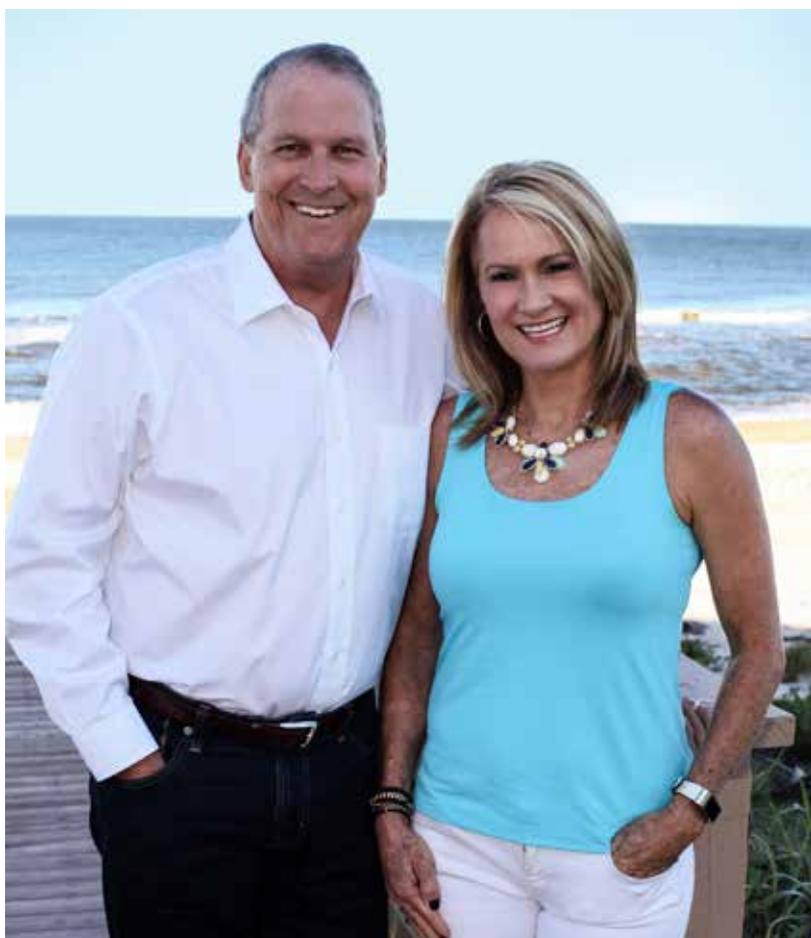


Photo courtesy of V Pizza

V Pizza owners meet with the Ferrera family of Naples, Italy, to secure the new ovens for the new Palm Valley location, which is set to open in early July.

V PIZZA continues on Page 31

The #1 Real Estate Team for 2018! Watson Realty, Ponte Vedra Office



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Photos courtesy of V Pizza

The ovens, named La Valle and Amore, are currently headed to the shipping containers to begin their journey across the Atlantic Ocean in anticipation of their new home in Ponte Vedra.

V Pizza

Continued from 30

restaurant's unwavering focus on recreating the Neapolitan pizza in the most authentic way possible. Everything from the "00 flour," mozzarella, sauce, ovens, prosciutto and peppers, are imported directly from Italy.

"We found out that about 85 to 95 percent of every restaurant in Italy uses (Caputo 00 flour) in Italy," Scott said. "So that was that."

In addition to the ingredients, the Ferrera artisan ovens reach up to 900 degrees

and cook a pizza in only a minute and a half.

"It is widely regarded as the best wood-fired oven in the world," Scott said. "They take a couple of weeks to make once we order with them. They make them right there on site and we have them shipped directly from Italy to us. (After it arrives) it takes us approximately 10 days from when we light the oven to get it to temperature."

As well as opening a sixth store in Palm Valley, the business is already working on plans to open a seventh in St. Augustine, although they are currently still looking for a specific location in the area.

Advanced

Continued from 27

With 2018 revenues of \$1.56 billion, adjusted Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) of \$427 million and approximately 6,000 employees, Advanced Disposal serves more than 3 million residential, commercial and industrial customers, including over 800 municipalities primarily in 16 states in the Eastern half of the United States. Advanced Disposal's solid waste network includes 94 collection operations, 73 transfer stations, 41 landfills and 22 owned or operated recycling facilities.

"We are pleased to have reached this milestone agreement with Waste Management to deliver an immediate cash premium to Advanced Disposal stockholders," said Richard Burke, chief executive officer of Advanced Disposal, in the release. "We view Waste Management as an industry leader with one of the most respected brands in the nation.

This acquisition stands as a testament to the strength of the Advanced Disposal business and brings together two strong waste management teams with extensive environmental services expertise to better serve our customers and communities. We look forward to working with the Waste Management team to complete the transaction and ensure that we continue to deliver the highest quality service to our customers."

The transaction, which was unanimously approved by the boards of directors of both companies, is expected to close by the first quarter of 2020, subject to the satisfaction of customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals and approval by a majority of the holders of Advanced Disposal's outstanding common shares.

In connection with the definitive agreement, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, which owns approximately 19 percent of Advanced Disposal's outstanding shares, has, under the terms of a voting agreement, agreed to vote its shares in favor of the transaction.



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Girl Scouts of Gateway Council unveil 2019 Women of Distinction honorees

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council (GSGC) recently announced its Women of Distinction 2019 honorees. Influential female business leaders who positively impact and support their communities, the honorees are as follows:

- Kathleen Brandt, senior vice president and chief information officer, CSX
- Lis'e Everly, community volunteer
- Paige Hakimian, Hakimian Holdings
- Paola Parra Harris, founder/owner, Parra Harris Law
- Ann-Marie Knight, community engagement administrator, Mayo Clinic
- Ellen Wiss, community volunteer

The honorees will be honored Tuesday, April 30, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the University of North Florida University Center.

Women of Distinction is celebrating its 30th year as GSGC's signature event, honoring outstanding women in Northeast Florida for their professional accomplishments, service to others and community impact.

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities support the council's mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. To become a sponsor or to purchase a ticket, visit www.girlscouts-gateway.org/wod2019 or contact TriciaRae Stancato at tstancato@girlscouts-gateway.org or (904) 421-3484.



Kathleen Brandt,
Senior VP and chief information officer, CSX



Lis'e Everly,
Community volunteer



Paige Hakimian,
Hakimian Holdings



Paola Parra Harris,
Founder/owner, Parra Harris Law



Ann-Marie Knight,
Community engagement administrator, Mayo Clinic



Ellen Wiss,
Community volunteer

Schilling

Continued from 28

peacefully in our sleep. Unfortunately, most of us know all too well that this is not the norm. Make time to speak of this now, before there's a time of crisis. Have a plan. Be prepared.

Frederic "Ric" Schilling is a Florida native, born in Jacksonville, Fl. Ric is President of Senior Guardians of America, a local North Florida firm specializing in tax reduction, long term illness planning, asset protection, probate avoidance and life income planning. Ric is a National Speaker and Advocate on Senior Issues and has been featured by the Florida Times Union and WJXT, TV-4 in Jacksonville as an authority on Estate Planning and Retirement Issues. Senior Guardians has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and is a member in excellent standing with the National Ethics Association. Contact Frederic: 904-371-3302 or 888-891-3381 Please visit: www.seniorguardian.com
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THEME: OFF TO THE RACES

ACROSS

1. Goes with flows
5. Worry excessively
9. Occasional heart condition
13. Well-____ machine
15. *War Admiral's 1938 experience
16. Sudan's neighbor
17. a.k.a. Pleasant Island
18. Great Salt Lake state
19. Marching band member
20. *Unlikely champion during Great Depression
23. Shiny wheel part
24. Religious Wednesday
25. Don't just stand there!
27. A cool _____, as in money
28. Come off
30. Type of cabbage
33. Never without "n"
35. Infection of the eyelid, pl.
38. Ethiopian currency
39. Sea swallows
41. Arm bone
42. Best of the crop
44. Aid in crime
45. Away from wind
46. Sourly
48. Snakelike reef dweller
50. Winter glider
51. _____ as a fiddle
52. Peter of the Lost Boys

53. *"The Most Exciting _____ in Sports"
59. December 24 and 31
61. Bear's hang-out
62. Retire from military
64. *Official flower of the Kentucky Derby
65. Attention-getting interjection
66. Napoleon's stay on St. Helena, e.g.
67. Bear constellation
68. Play on words, pl.
69. *Between walk and canter

DOWN

1. Longest division of time
2. Objectivity preventer
3. Like most-desired ribbon
4. Evening in Roma
5. Turn red
6. Co-eds' military org.
7. Isaac's firstborn
8. Informal wear
9. Part of play
10. *_____ Downs
11. Olden day women's riding garb
12. Dutch cheese
14. Home to Burj Khalifa
21. Florida Key, e.g.
22. Steeped beverages
26. Opposite of potential
27. Caribbean rattle

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

28. *Race, literally
29. European sea eagle
30. *Official Kentucky Derby broadcaster
31. Lungful
32. *Second leg of the Triple Crown
34. Calf at a grocery store
36. Between NE and E
37. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
40. Beer garden mug
43. Catcher's catcher
47. Drooping neck skin
49. Chopin's composition
50. Relish tastebuds' sensation
51. Law business entities
52. Paddington Bear's homeland
54. Pearl Harbor island
55. Demeanor
56. SMS
57. Chieftain in Arabia
58. Aria, e.g.
60. Poseidon's domain
63. *Trifecta or Exacta

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Sands Film Festival makes successful debut at Players by the Sea theater

By Daniela Toporek

A man searches for love with an online Russian bride. A young woman faces the chance of avenging her father's death. A St. Augustine priest is murdered, and a boy in love with a girl ruins his chance by punching her in the face. Films on these stories and more were shown at the first Sands Film Festival April 13-14 at Players by the Sea theater in Jacksonville Beach.

The festival was created by brothers Irhad and Alen Mutic, who said they have been cinephiles for as long as they can remember.

"Kids skip school for many different reasons," Alen Mutic said. "I skipped school because I wanted to watch movies."

Alen directed the festival while his brother, Irhad, handled the media and marketing.

Small, but mighty, the Sands Film Festival captured filmmakers' attention online and many reached out. After over 300 submissions later, the Mutic brothers found their festival selections. Alen and Irhad chose over 30 films from around the world that they believe showed quality and potential. Some have even been Oscar-nominated and internationally awarded.

The festival was a unique and successful experience for the Beaches community. Curious guests freely wandered in and out of the theater as they decided which film they wanted to experience next.

Free snacks and beverages were provided, along with pizza and thoughtful discussions during the hour breaks. Even a photo area was designated with an elaborate Sands Film Festival photo wall to add some red-carpet flare to the event and fun memories for the guests and filmmakers.

"Our focus is to just bring that experience that's either in like LA or New York City and really be another outlet for film," Irhad explained. "I think a lot of people here are hungry for that," he added, showing a little hunger in his own voice.

Alen and Irhad don't just watch films, they hunt for them — quality, independent films that people wouldn't even imagine existed since they're not in the public eye.

"A lot of these films get overlooked," Irhad said. "Like the really good movies that are out there, just because they don't have a marketing budget to submit to festivals. If you don't have a big budget, your creativity can kind of only take you so far, so we wanted to be that bridge. If your movie is good, our submission rates



Photo courtesy of Alen and Irhad Mutic and the Sands Film Festival.

Sands Film Festival creators Irhad and Alen Mutic pose in front of the Sands Film Festival wall. The event was held April 13-14 at Players by the Sea theater in Jacksonville Beach.

are really low. You're not being charged for every single thing."

The Mutic brothers pride themselves on being loyal to the phrase, "quality over quantity." They spoke of options on how they could reach the Jacksonville community and intrigue them to attend Sands Film Festival without using films to attract the audience simply because of a local name or fad.

"The majority of film festivals select films from their own town," Irhad explained. "I don't think quality comes into play a lot. It's usually just because they want to fill up a theater, so they select filmmakers from there because the majority are going to show up.

"Not only for screening, but also for awards," Alen added, mentioning that the more that local movies are featured, the

higher the chance a local movie will be voted the best because of the local audience.

Coincidentally, "Where There is Darkness," a featured film and documentary on the murder of St. Augustine priest, Father Renee Robert, won best feature film at the Sands Film Festival, not because of the

SANDS continues on Page 35

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John Oates of Hall & Oates to perform at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Nov. 24

John Oates of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame duo Hall & Oates will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall with The Good Road Band on Nov. 24.

Not only is John Oates one-half of the best-selling duo of all time, Hall & Oates, but he is also an accomplished solo artist and a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

According to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, Oates met Daryl Hall while attending Temple University in Philadelphia. The two began collaborating and playing music together, marking the beginning of their historic partnership. Since their formation in the early 70s, Hall & Oates have gone on to record 21 albums, which have sold over 80 million units, making them the most successful duo in rock history.

Since embarking on a solo career in 1999, Oates has recorded five solo albums, "Phunk Shui," "100 Miles of Life," "Mississippi Mile," a live album called "The Bluesville Sessions," and "Good Road To Follow," (which featured col-

laborations with Ryan Tedder of OneRepublic, Vince Gill, Nathan Chapman, Jim Lauderdale and Jerry Douglas).

Now he has teamed up with a number of accomplished Americana musicians, known as The Good Road Band, to deliver his sixth solo album, "Arkansas," which was released in February 2018 on Thirty Tigers/PS Records. Originally inspired by the music and legacy of the legendary Mississippi John Hurt, the project expanded to encompass other artists and styles that represent the dawn of American popular music from the early 1920s and 30s. Assembling a band of all-star Nashville musicians, Oates shines a light on music from America's past long before the birth of rock 'n' roll.

Fresh interpretations include the Emmett Miller classic "Anytime" from 1924 as well as the Jimmie Rodgers tune, "Miss the Mississippi and You," from 1932. Reimagined traditional Delta, country blues and ragtime selections salute legendary artists such as Mississippi John Hurt and Blind Blake. Arkansas made

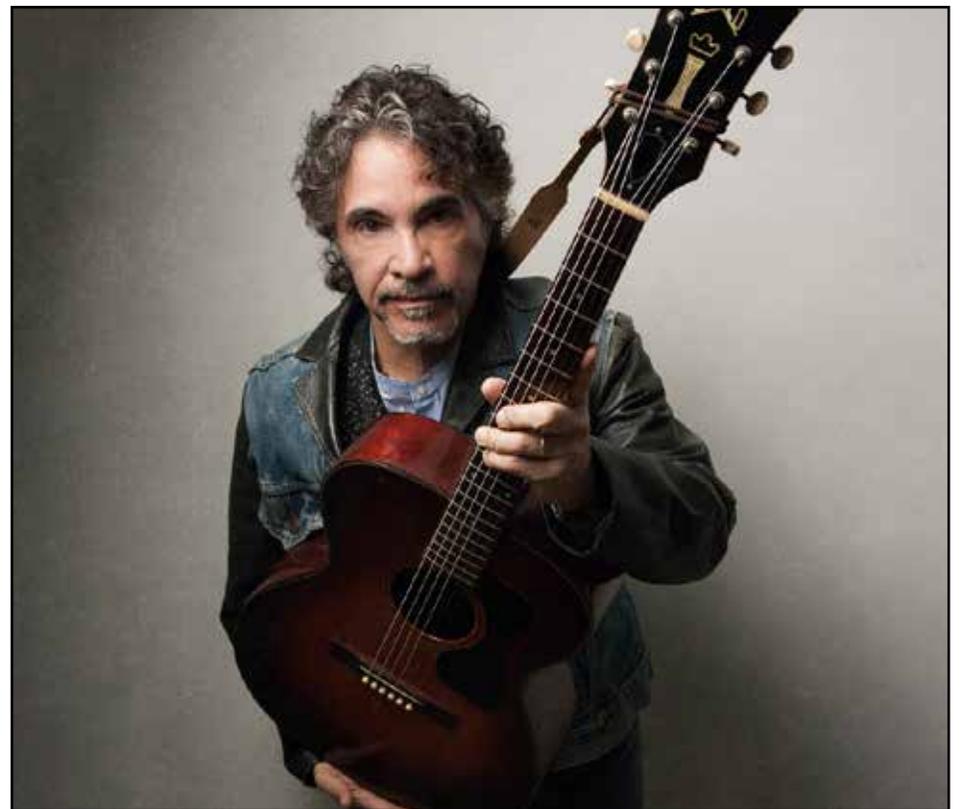


Photo courtesy of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

John Oates of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame duo Hall & Oates will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall with The Good Road Band on Nov. 24.

Rolling Stone's 30 Most Anticipated Country Albums and Tours list for 2018.

The title track "Arkansas" and "Dig Back Deep", both Oates' original compositions, blend seamlessly with the traditional roots material. Taken together, this record becomes a retrospective of American popular song from the early 1920s to

30s. When asked to describe the sound, Oates said, "It's like Dixieland, dipped in bluegrass, and salted with Delta blues."

Tickets ranging from \$48 to \$58 are available for purchase at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and The Amp St. Augustine Box Offices, ticketmaster.com or by phone at (800) 745-3000.

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<p>THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS ROYSTON LANGDON APRIL 23</p>	<p>ART GARFUNKEL SOLD OUT MAY 30</p>	<p>JOHN OATES THE GOOD ROAD BAND NOVEMBER 24</p>
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Photo courtesy of Alen and Irhad Mucic and the Sands Film Festival.

The crowd awaits for the final movie of the festival.

Sands

Continued from 33

local connection it made with the audience, but because of the content within the film itself.

“I think that might be one of the best films we have,” Alen said. “It’s a story that needs to be told.”

After a successful debut, it’s crazy to think that the Sands Film Festival wasn’t even on the Mucic brothers’ agenda six months ago.

“Four months ago, we were sitting in the backyard just thinking, ‘How can we channel this love for film and how can we bring it to the public eye?’” Alen said.

As Irhad reminisces on the last few months of hard work and film critiquing, he thinks what he and his brother accomplished was “phenomenal,” especially considering the fact that their marketing budget was under \$500.

“I think we’re really going to be that



The first Sands Film Festival debuted April 13-14 at Players by the Sea community theatre.

place (festival) in the Southeast area that people will want to be a part of,” Irhad said. “It’s not just about selecting films so people show up, it’s selecting great films so people show up, if you know what I mean. I think that was a good quote, so you may want to quote that one.”

Ponte Vedra Writers meeting to host award-winning author for workshop on stage play

The FWA Ponte Vedra Writers meeting will host Walter Schenck Jr. April 27 for a workshop titled, “How to Correctly Format a Stage Play.”

To be held at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, Schenck’s presentation will illustrate how to adhere to precise mathematical measurements of writing a stage play acceptable by all producers. Among the subjects covered will be:

- How to open an act followed by scenes
- How to construct the play in a precise manner with character indicators, dialogue and action placements
- How to use Microsoft Word application to create the stage play versus using Final Draft

Schenck is a multiple award-winning author honored for his novels, his poetry and his stage plays. His novels and writ-



Walter Schenck Jr.

ing style have been compared to Hermann Hesse, James A. Michener and Walter Wangerin. His existential novel, “The Birdcatcher,” which uses the Vietnam War as a backdrop, achieved “Feature Author” status in Publishers Weekly, as well as outstanding critical acclaim

in Kirkus Book Reviews. Schenck’s play, “Hamlet, Reimagined,” won the top prize in its category in the 2018 Royal Palm Literary Awards competition.

The Ponte Vedra Writers group is part of the Florida Writers Association (FWA), a statewide, nonprofit organization with nearly 1,500 members dedicated to the support of both aspiring and published writers in any genre. The April 27 meeting is free and open to FWA members and non-members alike. For information on FWA, visit www.floridawriters.net.

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Sports

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PVHS drops Bartram Trail in District 6 playoffs



ABOVE Junior midfielder and Georgetown commit Dylan Hess carries the ball for the Sharks in Ponte Vedra's 15-2 win over Bartram Trail on Tuesday. Hess led the team with three goals.

RIGHT: Junior midfielder and Notre Dame commit Carter Parlette drives toward the net for the Sharks.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt



Sharks to play Creekside Thursday in District 6 championship

By Jon Blauvelt

The Ponte Vedra boys lacrosse team continued its dominant season on Tuesday with a 15-2 win over Bartram Trail in the semifinals of the District 6 playoffs at home.

Junior midfielder Dylan Hess led the Sharks (18-1) with three goals.

"I know that in our offense we all have each other's backs," said Hess, who has committed to play lacrosse at Georgetown University. "When I'm scoring, everybody's scoring. When they're scoring, I'm scoring. So, it's really just a loop. (It's) an offense that works together."

Head coach Tom West said Hess is the leader of the team who settles everyone down.

"We kind of feed off of him," West said. "He's so smart. He plays with poise like a veteran."

In addition to Hess, senior attack Jack Dowd, junior attack Cam Welch, sophomore midfielder Joe Taraboletti, senior midfielder/attack Tony Rossi and junior long-stick midfielder Tommy Zitiello each contributed two goals. Ponte Vedra also won 17 out of 19 faceoffs.

Freshman goalie Nolan Parlette finished the game with seven saves, which he attributed to the efforts of his team.

"Everyone just contributed to the team," Parlette said. "Taking accountability. Everyone hopping on the bus for the state championship."

West said the game provided the Sharks with an opportunity to play their depth, noting that all Sharks midfielders and defenders played in the contest.

According to MaxPreps, Ponte Vedra is ranked No. 1 in the state of Florida and No. 5 in the country. On Saturday, the

SHARKS continues on **Page 38**

Lady Sharks beat Nease in District 5 playoffs

The Ponte Vedra Lady Sharks lacrosse team (13-3) defeated Nease (8-9) 16-5 on Tuesday in the semifinals of the District 5 playoffs at Creekside High School.

The Lady Sharks came out strong and never looked back against the Panthers. After the first half, Ponte Vedra was ahead 10-2. The Sharks continued the pressure in the second half.

Sophomore attack Taylor Rocha led the team with six goals, two draw controls and six groundballs. Sophomore midfielder Megan Rolison had three goals, four draw controls and two groundballs, while sophomore midfielder Sami Lowinger contributed three goals and one groundball.

Junior goalkeeper Lexie de Roziere continued her strong play between the pipes stopping 10 Panthers shots.

According to MaxPreps, the Lady Sharks are ranked No. 3 in the state of Florida and No. 19 in the country.

Ponte Vedra will play Bartram Trail in the District 5 Championship on Thursday, April 18 at Creekside High School.



Photo by Jeff Heinemann/www.theimagecaddy.com

The Ponte Vedra girls lacrosse team gathers for the national anthem on Friday, April 12, before playing Bishop Moore. The Lady Sharks defeated Nease on Tuesday, April 16, in the District 5 playoffs.

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Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Sophomore FOGO Andrew Ewalt brings the ball upfield. The Sharks won 17 out of 19 faceoffs against Bartram Trail.

Sharks

Continued from 36

Sharks defeated Oxbridge Academy of West Palm Beach, the second-ranked team in the state, 11-9. Junior midfielder Freddie Amato led Ponte Vedra in that game with five goals. Nolan Parlette had another strong game in net with 13 saves. Senior FOGO (Face Off Get Off) Jimmy Burns won 14 out of 21 faceoffs. The previous Thursday, Ponte Vedra beat Oak

Hall of Gainesville, the 11th ranked team in the state, 19-2.

The Sharks will play Creekside (16-2) on Thursday, April 18, in the District 6 championship at 6 p.m. at home. Ponte Vedra defeated the Knights 20-7 earlier in April.

Hess said moving forward, the Sharks can't take anything for granted.

"We have some tough games ahead," Hess said. "We have some easy games ahead. Just play every game like it's the game, like it's the state championship."

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