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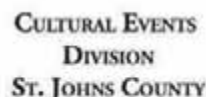
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GOING GREEN

Going green in Jacksonville doesn't have to be hard if you have the right information. While we're always concerned about green issues, in this edition of EU we've covered the upcoming Green Expo, recycling woes, green cleaning alternatives, where to get green home goods, local green spaces and more. Armed with the right info, we hope you can get started on getting green.

Recycle Jax by erin thursby

EU had the chance to speak with Chris Pearson, Solid Waste Division Chief, about Jacksonville's recycling program. We asked about the lack of apartment dwelling recycling, about why the satellite recycling bins were 86'ed and about what happens to your recyclables.

On the local blogosphere and in the news this year questions have been raised about cutting the recycling program. Because of a down economy, recyclables aren't as in-demand as they were a few years ago.

But if you're putting out recyclables at curbside and they can be recycled, they will be, according to Pearson. The city is not in the business of recycling, instead they sell the recyclables to companies that process them or resell the material to be recycled. "They'll just stockpile it until the market rebounds... There's no incentive for them to dump it because they pay us for it." He also says that the city has no plans to ever drop the recycling program.

Jacksonville has 110,000 apartment or condo dwellers, according to 2000 census figures. Most don't have the option for recycling. That's because the city isn't responsible for pick ups from multi-family dwellings. "We're currently not picking up from anything more than four dwelling units per parcel under the ordinance code... those have to subscribe to a commercial garbage service and if they want to recycle, they have to do the same thing through a commercial recycling service."

Most cities don't handle trash pick up from condos and apartments, so Jacksonville isn't unusual. While cities such as Seattle have mandated



that every apartment complex face fines if they don't recycle, most cities haven't taken that step (it tends to drive up the cost of renting). And as there are no longer satellite drop offs for recyclables here in Jacksonville that leaves most apartment dwellers unable to recycle.

So what's a renter to do? First, you can make recycling a priority when renting. Ask about recycling when you're looking to rent. If enough people ask, it will make local companies sit up and take notice. Secondly, if you already live in an apartment, you can organize an apartment recy-

recycling rules according to coj.net

Single-family residents can recycle all of these items curbside in their blue bin:

- Plastic food, beverage, detergent bottles and jugs with narrow necks and screw-on tops that are labeled with a 1 or 2 (please place tops/lids in garbage; no buttermilk tubs or similar items)
- Glass bottles and jars (green, brown, and clear; please place tops/lids in garbage)
- Metal & aluminum cans
- Newspapers & inserts (on rainy days, please hold until next collection day)
- Magazines, catalogs & telephone books
- Brown paper bags (can also be used to hold excess recyclables)
- Corrugated cardboard (flattened and cut in pieces 2' by 3' or smaller)

- No plastic bags, milk cartons, or juice boxes**
- No motor oil, pool chemical, pesticide or fertilizer bottles**
- No shredded paper**

*Note: For all items, labels do not need to be removed.



cling program. Gather all the info you can on the costs and benefits to recycling. Know that you will end up paying for it. Get as many residents on board as you can. Point out that going green can be marketing gold for a renter's complex.

Pearson suggests that if an apartment renter wants to recycle they can "talk to a property manager. Because although recycling does not pay for itself, there is a slight cost benefit to doing it."

You can also go to the trouble of saving your recyclables and dropping them off at one of Jacksonville's recycling companies such as Smurfit-Stone Recycling (1580 W Beaver St, 356-7789).

Once upon a time, the city did have some recycling drop-off points, but they discontinued the program because of a public that had trouble putting the right stuff in the right bins. "We had satellite drop-off and the problem we had and a lot of other cities have had is contamination," says Pearson. People would drop all sorts of things in the bins that weren't recyclable, from old clothing to regular trash. Asked if the city would ever go back to this method, Pearson replied "I don't see us going back to unattended drop-offs."

Businesses produce tons of recyclable material, most of which falls into the paper category. The city is not responsible for the pick up or recycling of most of these businesses. Nonetheless, many of the largest cardboard waste producers tend to have commercial bins set up for recycling.

Some Jacksonville residents who live in apartments save their cardboard and dump it in commercial bins (such as those you might find behind a supermarket) so that they can recycle. Although the legality of this is somewhat fuzzy, at least they're trying.

Curbside, the city recycles cardboard and paper items, but not all of it meets their standards. Anytime it looks rainy, homeowners with a blue bin are advised to hold their paper items so they it don't get wet.

Those who have a have a blue bin might notice that not all of the items are picked up. Pearson indicates that they pick through the items at the curb and if some of them aren't in the program (certain types of plastics or fiber board cardboard) then they'll get left in the bin.

Pearson says that glass is one of the recyclables that they have more of than anything and the demand for it isn't as high. Glass jars and bottles are actually one of the few items you can recycle yourself by finding a reuse for them at home.

There are a myriad ways for repurposing glass jars and wine bottles at home. Use them for storage of utensils, as small vases or even

as bookends (fill them with colored sand or shells and place felt or rubber on the bottom to keep them from slipping.) You can also keep them throughout the year and fill them with the dry ingredients for a sauce or cookies and give them as Christmas gifts.

On the other end of the spectrum is aluminum, which is one of most saleable items in your bin. Recycling aluminum has always been the most cost effective out of the bunch.

Plastics are the last thing you'd want to end up in a landfill, but it's a tricky thing to recycle because there are so many different types of plastic. Look for the required recycling logos to be sure you're putting in plastic that can be recycled.

The city recycles more than just what you put in the blue bin. Ever wonder what happens to all those tons of yard waste you put curbside after a hard day's mowing, tree trimming or leaf raking?

"We ran a separate yard waste facility from 1990 until about 2006 but we never really were able to market any of the products."

While the end product was suitable for home gardeners, it wasn't right for retail because they didn't have the technology to remove 100% of the plastic in the yard waste. Consequently the city ended up with a huge amount of yard mulch they couldn't sell.

Today your yard waste helps lower the cost of the maintenance at a local landfill. It's used as a sort of infill where soil would be bought to cover the waste in the landfill.

The big lesson for everyone that can recycle and wants to make Jacksonville a greener place is that you should always make sure everything is well-sorted. The satellite bins were cut from the program because of user error. Extra sorting for the city means extra cost, and if something gets missed in the sorting process, it can contaminate an entire batch. By making things easy for the city and the recycling companies that buy our recyclables, these programs are more likely to continue and grow.

If you live in a house here in Duval, you probably have city pickup and are eligible for recycling pick up. While the blue bins were on back order because the demand was so high last year, right now the wait for a blue City of Jacksonville recycling bin is about a week. Your friendly neighborhood waste disposal dude will drop your bin curbside. It should come with a handy guide as to what you can recycle, but you can also access it online in PDF format along with simple rules on what to recycle and how to sort it at coj.net/Departments/Public+Works/Solid+Waste/Curbside+Recycling.htm Call (904) 630-CITY (2489) to get your blue bin.



photo by daniel goncalves

growing education

where to trash your tv and electronics

by erin thursby

Keyboards, monitors and electronic waste are often the seeds for a new beginning in impoverished countries. What's old to you can be new to students in desperate need of technology to train on.

One place you can drop off your TV and electronics for recycling is E-Scrap, 1429 W. 16th Street (Off 20th & Myrtle-by Stanton). They take most of the stuff for free and might even pay you a few dollars. If you can't make it to their location, take your old electronics and TVs to the Jacksonville Green Expo this month, where they'll have a booth. Check out their website for a list of pricing at scrapcomputers.com.

DTV transition

You've had your TV for years. You've been meaning to get a new one, but the switch to digital has made it definite. The question is: what to do with your old set?

You can put it curbside and it will be picked up, but that's not very eco-responsible, since the items won't be recycled as they would if you took it to one of the Solid Waste Division's mobile collection events (below) or to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility (2675 Commonwealth Ave.) open Monday- Saturday, 8 am until 5 pm.

There is a limit of 3 Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) and televisions per customer. Other e-waste and household items include computer monitors, terminals, CPUs, keyboards, printers, scanners, small appliances, power tools and phones.

Check coj.net/Departments/Public+Works/Solid+Waste/default.htm for a full list and more info.

mobile collection events

Saturday, April 4, 2009, 8:30 am-3 pm

Mandarin Park, 14780 Mandarin Road

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For additional information call 904.235.9966 or email info@jacksonvillegreenexpo.org
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If you can, please carpool, vanpool or ride your bicycle or the bus to the Green Expo!

a greener home

reducing chemical exposure by jennifer mcharen

Throughout your house, hiding in their crisply designed bottles and jars, are toxic, noxious chemicals. Why are they here? You've invited them in, one by one, while trying to keep your bathroom sparkling, your kitchen disinfected, and your laundry smelling fresh. Most cleaning products are labeled clearly enough that you'd never mistakenly eat them, but they aren't the only chemical intruders in your own personal environment. Carpets, plastic water bottles, and anything made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) can be added to the list of innocuous objects that invisibly compromise your health.

Your child's vinyl toys are slowly, microscopically deteriorating, offgassing endocrine disrupting phthalates (pronounced "thay-lates"). That nonstick skillet, when heated, releases enough poisonous fumes to kill pet birds and give sensitive humans a passing illness referred to as "teflon flu." Even the carpet your baby rolls around on is held together with harmful substances that, over time, make their way into the atmosphere of your humble abode.

Why do common products contain these frightening compounds? There's no simple answer. Policy in the United States allows it to happen, and manufacturers tend to stick to business-as-usual. The European Union has stricter regulations on chemicals, and to the extent American factories hope to sell their goods in the EU, they will have to clean up their processes. Until then, consumers will have to pay attention on their own, and choose products carefully to avoid unnecessary exposure.

--Replacing cleaning products is easy. You probably have what you need in your kitchen right now. Simply use lemon juice, baking soda, vinegar, and good old-fashioned elbow grease. Lemon and vinegar are solvents and can disinfect surfaces. Baking soda can be used as a gentle scrub for tougher stains. Always test small areas of sensitive surfaces before coating them with acidic juice, and don't use vinegar to clean marble or granite.



--The best skillets are stainless steel or cast iron. For kicks, try to say this three times fast: perfluorooctanoic acid. That is the chemical released by Teflon when it is heated above 400 degrees. Any molecule with four o's in its name and dozens of online forums filled with awful stories about how it has killed beloved budgies and canaries does not belong in my house.

--Just avoid PVC. Poisonous phthalates are added to improve the compound's flexibility, so the softer the vinyl the more it contains. Pipes, for example, are stiff, and contain fewer phthalates. These chemicals are released easily into the surrounding air. They disrupt our hormones and can cause the early onset of puberty, as well as a host of other problems that are too disturbing to dwell upon. Get rid of that stuff already! Be particularly careful to avoid children's toys containing PVC (which are often chewed on), or anything used to prepare or store food.

--Synthetic carpet off-gasses many toxic chemicals, such as toluene and xylene, known neurotoxins. The familiar "new carpet smell" is caused by 4-phenylcyclohexene, an eye and lung irritant. Thankfully carpet off-gassing reduces with time, but choosing a carpet made from natural fibers like wool or jute would be a safer alternative.



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be green

(it is easy being green) by morgan henley

The green movement is in full swing and gaining even more momentum this spring. In these times of economic uncertainty, it's getting easier to imagine similar events happening to our environment. Actually, helping out the environment really is not all that difficult. Here are some pretty easy ways to "green" your life that will go a long way for only half the effort.

1. Eat less meat and dairy. Did you know if you cut your meat and dairy consumption by 20% it has the same environmental effects as switching from a normal car to a hybrid? When cows pass gas, they are emitting methane into the environment. According to the EPA, they contribute up to 28% of the methane emissions from human-related uses in the world. Their waste products are also very dangerous and toxic. There has been talk of turning cow excrement's into a new energy source, but until this is done, cow waste is a huge environmental concern.

2. Compost. You probably didn't know that if you throw away a banana peel and that trash is put into a landfill (as it probably will if you live in Jacksonville) that it won't decompose? That banana peel will mummify and will be in tact for an archaeologist in 2100 to find. If you were to compost your food matter, not only would you eliminate excess garbage from filling landfills, you also have a new source of fertilizer. Fertilizers are normally synthetic and can put harmful chemicals into the soil. Things that are good to compost with include vegetable or fruit, egg shells, coffee grinds, weeds, grass clippings, paper, vacuum dust, and animal manure.

3. Be proactive. The reason many of our country's ways tend to be on the less environmentally friendly side is because many people in our government don't care or think their constituents don't care. Make sure you know what your representatives support and don't support when it comes to environmental legislation. The League of Conservation Voters (lcv.org) is very helpful in providing scores for how "green" your representatives are. Remember, we put these people in office and it's our responsibility to make sure our priorities are theirs also.

4. Use your Windows. Opening your windows and doors instead of using your air conditioner can really cut down on your energy usage. This can also lower your energy bill. Fans are also much less energy intensive than air conditioning. Make sure all of your doors are lined so there are no gaps that cool air can escape through or hot air can enter into. Your curtains should be a light colored heavy material that reflects the heat from entering into the house. Plant trees on the northern or southern side of the house to shade the house from the glare of the sun.

5. Research. Look at the things you're buying and see how far they've been shipped and notice what kind of packaging they're coming in. Just because



photo by erin thursby

a mango is organic does not mean that it didn't travel hundreds of miles in large semi trucks to get to you. Buying your products and foods from local North Florida companies is a good way to insure this. Buying used is also a great way to eliminate the excesses that often come in the production of new clothing. Reusing is the ultimate way to recycle- no energy was put into the production of the item! Jacksonville has lots of thrift stores and vintage shops, take advantage of them. For food options, many people are now investing in Community Supported Agriculture programs (CSA's). Consumers invest into the farm and share the crops that are grown on the farm. There is one in northeast Florida called Palmetto Organics that offers a CSA with fruits and vegetables that are all organic. Not only does this insure the quality of the produce, it also insures that it came from a local, dependable farmer. In addition to keeping your body and the environment healthier it also helps support our local economy! Go to palmettoorganics.com for more information.

Being green has come along way from the images of yesteryear where you'd imagine a dreadlocked hippie who lived in a tent and didn't believe in indoor plumbing. We all love having a beautiful environment to call home so we better try to protect what we can.

green myths

Everyone wants to do their part to help the environment but some of the ways we've been taught to go green have proved to be less than effective. In fact, certain actions widely regarded as eco-friendly are actually hurting the environment. Here are a few green myths that you shouldn't fall for. by kellie abrahamson

Myth 1: Organic food is better for you

Reality: Sometimes buying organic makes a difference, other times not so much. Organic products are defined as being produced without antibiotics, growth hormones, conventional pesticides or fertilizers made with synthetic ingredients. While the jury is still out on the nutritional benefits of organically grown foods (at least in the eyes of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), going organic will cut back your pesticide exposure. Certain fruits and veggies, such as peaches, grapes, celery, cherries, spinach and strawberries, retain more pesticides and should always be bought organic. Others, like avocados, bananas, broccoli, kiwi, mangos, onions, pineapples and sweet peas, are less likely to have increased chemical exposure and are ok to buy non-organic. For a complete list of what's safe and what's not, visit foodnews.org/fulllist.php.

Myth 2: Organics are better for the environment.

Reality: It's really all about where your food comes from. If you're buying locally-grown organics then you're helping. If your fruit was jetted in from South America, then you're not. The shorter the distance it takes for something to go from the farm to your plate, the less energy is consumed and the less pollution released. That goes for organics as well as their conventional counterparts. Get inspired to eat locally by checking out 100milediet.org.

Myth 3: Buy a Hybrid.

Reality: Hybrids are a great way to preserve our dwindling natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions but don't go out and trade in your car just yet. It takes the equivalent on a year's worth of fuel to build a new vehicle according to scientists at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. If your car is fairly new (less than 8 years old), altering your driving habits and keeping up with maintenance is all you need to do to help make an impact. For ways to drive green, visit greencars.org/drivinggreen.html.

Myth 4: Don't buy CFLs, they contain mercury.

Reality: This is a topic that caused quite a debate at EU. On the one hand, the tiny amount of mercury contained in CFLs can, if released from its glass tubing, contaminate up to 6000 gallons of water. And, because of the potential hazards of mercury exposure, cleaning up a broken bulb is an arduous process. But, on the other hand, CFLs reduce greenhouse gasses and landfill waste (because they last so long) and save 70% more energy than regular bulbs. Should you choose to switch to CFLs, the most important thing to keep in mind is that proper disposal of the bulbs is key. For more info on CFLs and to find a place near you to recycle them, visit earth911.com/hazardous/cfl.



live life green locally

at the Green Expo by erin thursby

Maybe you've got a burning desire to live green but you've no idea where to start here in Jacksonville. It's time to go to the Jacksonville Green Expo.

The Expo grew out of one couple's zest for a great cup of coffee and making the world a better place. Martin Kabaki and Purity Gikunju both came from Kenya. They spent their childhood on Kenyan coffee farms before coming to America for their education.

Purity noticed a disparity between the cost of a cup of coffee here in the U.S. and the minuscule amount Kenyan farmers were paid per pound. Together, she and her husband began a farm called Growers Alliance, which purchases coffee from Kenyan growers at a higher price than they usually receive. The farmers grow organically, not because they're striving to be green, but because the cost of fertilizer and pesticides are prohibitive.

The organic, quality beans are then processed here in Jacksonville, where you can find them at all of the local farmer's markets and at Publix. Ten percent of the proceeds go into the Growers Alliance Fund. With the money they've built a school and dug wells to supply families in Kenya with clean water.

"Purity and I are passionate about two things: helping the coffee growers in Kenya and raising green awareness," says Martin. Starting from nothing and accomplishing so much for a community is what gave the couple the confidence to launch the Green Expo. They wanted to change Jacksonville for the better because they live here and have a vested interest in making things better. As Martin says: "We have a son; we have a home here."

Everything changed for them when they went to an Orlando green expo. They saw *An Inconvenient Truth* and were stunned by the revelations of the film. On the way home, Purity acknowledges, "We barely talked in the car for those two hours," but they knew they had to do something. Educating people on a small scale proved frustrating, but once they began organizing the Expo they saw changes in friends and family. Since the first expo, some of their friends and family have gone vegan and others have opened an organic produce store.

The couple saw a great need here in Jacksonville. Despite a number of earth-friendly companies here in the area, most people didn't have a place to find out about these green businesses and services. Jacksonville has a surprising number of green corporations you might not know about, some of which have been around for years. At the Expo, you'll find them.

While showcasing these green businesses is important, they wanted to do more to recognize local people who support the environment. That's why this year they're launching the Green Awards Breakfast, where awards will go to "one individual, one non-profit and one business that has shown a proven track record of keeping Jacksonville green."

Over 100 green exhibitors will be at the expo. Almost every energy and green concern is addressed. Green transportation alone is a big part of the fest. You'll find hybrid cars on display from Arlington Toyota, BikeJax, which aims to make the city more bike friendly and the First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization, which encourages car pooling. You can find out about three local solar power companies, a wind company, green cleaning products and even green pest control from Natures Way Pest Control! You can bring batteries in to be recycled at the Batteries Plus booth and you can also bring in used electronics such as computers, laptops and keyboards to the Recycling Escrap booth.

Sustainability is part of everyday life in Kenya. They eat locally out of necessity, use less energy and

reuse their resources. In order to live a sustainable life in America, you've got to have knowledge. Besides bringing together local green commerce, they'll also be plenty of information there, from speakers coming from JEA with energy-saving tips to the Duval County Extension Office with a tutorial on how to build a rain bucket so that you can cut the amount of water used from the aquifer for gardening and your yard. Informational pamphlets and books on living the green life will be available at the Expo. If you've got kids, don't miss the Green Kids Zone, where kids can have fun and learn how to be green.

The Jacksonville Green Expo will be at the Prime Osborne Center on April 25-26. From 10 am -5 pm. Entry is just \$5. Check out their website for more info on this bi-annual Expo at jacksonvillegreenexpo.com.

weekend excursion

Jacksonville Arboretum by erin thursby

Jacksonville doesn't lack greenspace or outdoor activities, you just need to go out and find them. Right now, the weather is perfect. It's stopped being unbearably cold, and it's not yet humid and hot.

One of the newest parks to open is the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens. It's just open on the weekends from 9 am-5 pm. If you like hiking in Florida nature but you want easy-to-walk trails, this is a great place to go on the weekends.

The topography of the landscape is not entirely natural. You might find that it's more reminiscent of forested areas further north. That's because it was once mined for several years until about half a century ago. This mining effort created the varied landscape and mini ravine-like structures within the park. It was also part of the citrus railroad prior to that. In the 1970s it was set aside as a passive park, not open to the public. It was just opened to the public in November of last year. Much of the park's history is available to visitors on the informational placard prior to the trails.

None of the terrain is treacherous, particularly if you stay on the trail. In fact, it's a favorite place for moms and dads with strollers to take their kids.

There are three different trails to choose from. These trails intersect to form a tiny network. While the Ravine Trail is supposedly the most challenging of the three trails offered, it's unlikely to make most people break a sweat, although part of it is too narrow for a stroller. It does offer some great views of spring-fed streams and intriguing topography. The Lake Loop takes you around a charming two acre lake and the Jones Creek Trail takes you over a number of shallow streams in a natural flood plain.

One of the interesting things about the park is that they let dead trees lie where they fall, unless they fall across a trail. If they do, they are merely segmented and the portion that lies across a trail is removed. So you'll have the surreal experience of passing between two ends of a large fallen tree. They leave the fallen trees there, no doubt, to ensure that the ecosystem is more natural, as it might be in a more untouched area.

There are also placards along the trails that note the type of vegetation growing there. Sometimes more than one thing is growing near the placard so it's hard to tell which plant is being referred to, but it's actually fun trying to figure it out.

Check out the park's website at jacksonvillearboretum.org to see what activities they have planned for the future. Sign up for their newsletter on the site and any new developments will come right to your inbox.

jacksonville arboretum hours & location

9 am -5 pm Saturday and Sunday only

1445 Millco Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32225

Entry is from Monument Rd. only. Some online direction services incorrectly show Millco Rd. connecting to Merrill/Ft. Caroline Rd.

two arboretum events in april

City of Jacksonville Easter Egg Hunt -April 10th at 6 pm

For kids ages 3 yrs -8 yrs of age. Bring the kids out on this Friday evening for music, fun -and of course candy! 3-5 year old hunt begins at 6:20 pm. 6-8 year old hunt begins at 6:30 pm. Arts and Crafts from 6:30-7:45 pm. Prizes awarded at 7 pm

Jacksonville Storytellers Under the Big Oaks - April date T.B.D.

Bring a chair and enjoy the spinning of a good tale. More details soon on the website.



tree hill nature center

best kept 50 acre secret in jacksonville by sam kare

Looking for a respite from the daily pressures of the frantic pace? If just for a brief visit, there is one haven of peaceful tranquility simply known as Tree Hill that will lift your spirits.

Located in the center of Jacksonville and 5 minutes from downtown, Tree Hill is home to 50 acres of trails, a Florida Natural History Museum, butterfly and hummingbird gardens and native animals. Tree Hill has provided the best in environmental and energy education for the Jacksonville community for over three decades. Nature walks, a natural history museum, live animal displays and a butterfly house provide fun learning experiences for visitors of all ages.

"We were green before green was cool," Executive Director Lucy Cortese often tells visitors. "As we move into an exciting year, we're inviting the community to visit Tree Hill to experience first-hand that eco-education is creative & fun. In fact, our mantra for 2009 is Green Your Imagination at Tree Hill! We're celebrating 38 years as a community resource for environmental education and experiences staying current with our new web site - www.treehill.org - where there's a variety of fun eco-activities for families, schools and business groups."

Lucy Cortese, who has been at Tree Hill long enough to have planted acorns that are now trees, has the help of a very dedicated staff, a roster of eager volunteers, corporate supporters and individual benefactors that make their operations possible. With the economic challenges that are even more daunting with State funding cut-backs Tree Hill needed an angel, and they found one.

"With the addition of our beautiful Joseph A. Strasser Amphitheater we're able to expand our presence, our programs and our revenue. We've become a true destination venue for events, receptions and corporate team building. Weddings will be particularly memorable for those who appreciate a peaceful, natural setting. Joseph A. Strasser is Tree Hill's angel and we're so fortunate to have his support. He supports us on multiple levels, most recently as the title sponsor of our 8th Annual Butterfly Festival on April 25. Mr. Strasser has made it possible for Tree Hill to survive the challenges that all non-profits face in a difficult economy. With his support and the support of our many corporate and community partners, we'll grow."

Tree Hill has a special way with kids that transforms the great outdoors into a classroom of limitless discovery without walls or boundaries for their imaginations. Decades of Duval County school students have enjoyed elementary school field trips that focus on environmental education and a walk through three ecosystems. There are beautiful flowers and butterflies that all little girls enjoy and plenty of squirming, climbing and crawling creatures to entice the boys. Students and teachers have the opportunity to attend field study by Master Naturalists, Jamy Rose and Mark Mummaw, on a variety of environmental topics.

The sights, smells and sounds of nature in harmony ignites creativity in people. Many of our local artisans follow that theme capturing nature's most beautiful scenes. Visitors can enjoy an alluring gallery of nature art displayed beneath their giant glass pyramid. Tree Hill has recently enhanced their artistic environmental programs with a multitude of creative opportunities to experience the arts affordably in a natural setting. One new offering is a \$20 Artist Membership with benefits that include: free submission in an annual art exhibition, the opportunity for artists to sell their art in the Tree Hill Gift Gallery, a listing and exhibition announcements on the new Tree Hill web site and more. This year, the Tree Hill Artist Exhibition will be featured at the Downtown Library in August 2009 with the exhibition opening during the August 5 Downtown Art Walk. The public is invited to attend and meet these talented artists who share a love of nature.

Tree Hill's inaugural Artist in Residence Joanelle Mulrain is a well-known regional artist whose work features unique ways to view nature. From historic cows to gorgeous willows to Dancing Birds and Tree Hill goats, Mulrain shares her artistic impressions through a variety of mediums.

This year Tree Hill is enthusiastically showing off their new amphitheatre and offering some exciting fun outings. There are new Family Saturday programs as a creative opportunity for families to enjoy arts and crafts projects in a natural environment.

With the early mornings around Tree Hill there's only one thing that will turn squawking birds and sticky dew damped leaves into paradise and that's a good cup of coffee. So, fittingly, Fazzini Coffee & Tea has launched a Tree Hill fundraiser called Sip & Support. Fazzini's will donate a generous percent of all gourmet coffee sold with Tree Hill's logo back to the organization.

Ever thought about naming star for your kids or sweetheart as a birthday gift? Its nice, but you probably can't see it, your certainly will never touch it and the gesture will be forgotten before the candles get



cold. Name Your Tree is an opportunity to adopt a Tree(Hill). For \$5, Tree Hill will send you the latitude and longitude of an on-site tree. You may find your tree, name your tree, take a photo of you and your tree, send the photo and name to Tree Hill where you and your tree will be listed on a special online Tree(Hill) Gallery for one year. If you identify the kind of tree you've adopted, your listing will be in bold. Visit treehill.org for more information about this and other Tree Hill Fun(d) programs. Tree Hill Marketing Director Chris Robertson will facilitate adding your image to the web site and can be reached through the contact for located on the web site.

There's so much to see and experience at Tree Hill. It's a hidden treasure you should discover. It will enlighten your mind and refresh your soul. Stop by 7152 Lone Star Rd. in Arlington. It's the big glass pyramid nestled in a forest of giant oaks just east of Arlington Road.

looking ahead in 2009

Saturday April 25 from noon-5 pm **8th Annual Joseph A. Strasser Butterfly Festival** Bring the family for an afternoon of Springtime fun. There's a Jax4Kids Fun Zone this year along with more arts activities, a steel drum workshop, live music and Simon the Goat. Jacksonville's Green Leaders will share eco-info, native plants and more. The day will end with the release of a thousand butterflies.

Saturday, June 6 **From Nashville to Tree Hill: Songwriters and Songbirds Festival** with legendary Nashville producer, Michael Knox. Partnering with VI Productions

Wednesday, October 14 **Playwright's Festival**

Friday, October 23 **Harvest Festival - Green Your Imagination in 2009** by participating in Tree Hill Nature Center programs, events and membership opportunities. (Open to the public Monday through Saturday from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Closed on Sunday and Holidays.)

Salt in the St. Johns by erin thursby

Some of the most important ecology goes on in those hidden areas and transition between one environment and another. Because such areas aren't clearly delineated and change from season to season as conditions change, it's hard to know what kind of impact these places have. We do know for certain that these in-between environments often serve as a place to raise young and very often support species that can adjust between the two environments or are specific to the transitional environment.

Nowhere is this truer than in the brackish estuary waters at the mouth of the St. Johns. Courtney T. Hackney, Director of Coastal Biology and Biology Department Chair, is particularly interested in this little studied in-between environment.

"For a lot of years scientists either spent their time in the swamps with the cypress trees or down in the salt marsh, because they're a little more glorious than the places that are in between, going back and forth," says Hackney.

The study of these transitional waters is even more important, now that water usage and sea level rise has quickened the changes between salt and freshwater.

"With the sea level rise, what has happening is that there is a change from cypress swamps into salt marsh. The process by which that happens is very poorly known...If sea level rises and more of these swamps get flooded, there's a potential that more of these swamps can actually function like salt marshes did."

The changes are happening so quickly that it's difficult to tell how the flora and fauna will react and if they will be able to adjust and bounce back.

Salt in the St. Johns where salt has never been can have a detrimental effect on native wildlife. Vegetation not equipped to deal with salinity dies, as does the animals that feed on that vegetation.

Freshwater fish move further upstream or die and are replaced by marine creatures.

Other contributing factors are drought, the removal of water from the St. Johns and our own water usage here in Jacksonville.

Fishermen who are finding saltwater or brackish types of fish in places they've never caught them shouldn't necessarily attribute the change to a rapid sea level rise, but as a result of what we have done locally. Fish kills, sometimes attributed to pollution, are sometimes the result of a rapid change in salinity.

"When we widen and deepen rivers, like we're doing here in the harbor and channels in Jacksonville, what happens is that it allows more salt water upstream. So when we manipulate the river at the mouth, we cause a lot of changes upstream that aren't apparent...That's been happening all over the world...It sort of makes the sea level rise seem to be happening much faster than it actually is."

If we keep our aquifer at a higher level, the St. Johns will stay balanced as far as salinity is concerned. But if we wantonly water our lawns, deepen the river and sell our water, we might find that the ocean will eat our river, bite by bite and fishing hole by fishing hole.



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exploring fleming island

If you're heading down Highway 17 through Orange Park, you'll eventually cross over the St. Johns and be in a new place altogether. For years the area was known as just another part of Orange Park, but a zip code change in 2004 renamed the community what residents had been calling it for some time: Fleming Island. Home to posh residential neighborhoods such as Eagle Harbor and Fleming Island Plantation, the area has been dubbed by some as the "Ponte Vedra of Clay County." Whether you think that's something of an overstatement or not, what's abundantly clear is that over the past decade Fleming Island has enjoyed explosive growth both residentially and commercially. What was once a sleepy rural area has become a destination for shopping, food and fun for Clay County residents. **by kellie abrahamson**

history

Back in 1790, Spanish governor Enrique White gave early Florida settler George Fleming 1000 acres of land. Fleming named his plantation "Hibernia," the Latin word for Ireland, in honor of his home country. Upon his death, the land was passed down to his son, Lewis, who continued to tend to the orange groves and other crops with the help of his wife, Margaret. Hibernia Plantation would be destroyed twice during the 1800s, once by Indians, and later during the Civil War. On both occasions the plantation was rebuilt and today many of the area's communities, including Hibernia Plantation, Margaret's Walk and Fleming Island Plantation, are named after these early settlers.



St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

today

George, Lewis and Margaret wouldn't recognize today's Fleming Island. Gone are the orange groves and herds of cattle they tended. Instead the area consists of shopping centers and large residential communities with every amenity imaginable. Families are flocking to Fleming Island in part because of its top-notch schools. According to the Florida Department of Education, of Florida's 67 school districts, Clay had the 9th highest test scores in the state (Duval, conversely, ranked 52nd). Fleming Island schools outranked all other schools in the county with their high test scores and even higher graduation rates.

Despite the rapid development of the area, Fleming Island has kept some of nature's beauty intact as well. Hundred-year-old oak and magnolia trees can be seen as you drive down the streets of some of the older communities and many of the area's wetlands and waterways remain untouched and protected.

things to do

Fleming Island is a relatively small area but there is still quite a bit to do. Your first stop should be **St. Margaret's Episcopal Church and Cemetery** (6874 Old Church Rd), which is among the five oldest wooden churches still standing and in use in Florida. Commissioned by Margaret Fleming in 1875, the site is a fine example of well-preserved Carpenter Gothic style architecture and is truly beautiful. Next, go for a hike or bike ride on **Black Creek Trail**



(7890 Highway 17). The trail is approximately 7 miles long and is mostly shaded, making it ideal for running, bike riding or just a casual stroll. Boating is a big part of life on the First Coast and folks on Fleming Island love it too. Swing by the **Fleming Island Marina** (3027 Highway 17, 269-0027) to check out the boats and the killer views, or to pick up your own sea-worthy vessel. Last but certainly not least, Fleming Island recently became home to a brand new Carmike movie theater. The **Fleming Island 12** (1820 Town Center Blvd, 621-0221) is sure to be a hit with residents from all over Clay County. For more information on this exciting new addition, see our story on the next page.



Weaver and Caitlin at Mellow Mushroom in Fleming Island

night life

While Fleming Island is growing, it's still a fairly quiet community and most nights everything is closed by 11. Still, night owls can find something to do if they look hard enough. Grab a slice and a beer and hear some live music at **Mellow Mushroom** (1800 Town Center Pkwy, 541-1999). You can also grab a bite and hear some live tunes at **Whitey's Fish Camp** (2032 CR 220, 269-4198) or **Mercury Moon** (2015 CR 220, 215-8999). Sports bars like **Box Seats** (2245 Plantation Center Dr, 637-0152) **Hurricane Grill and Wings** (1810 Town Center Blvd, 644-7315) are other late-night hotspots worth checking out. In addition to the above,



Whitey's Fish Camp

a promising new addition to the area opened late last month. Fleming Island's first night club, **Club Myth** (1809 Eastwest Pkwy, 264-9955), promises to shake things up a bit in the sleepy suburb!

restaurants

Good eats are essential to civilized life and Fleming Island restaurants know how to serve some up! If you're in the neighborhood be sure to check out **Blu Grotto** (1811 Town Center Blvd, 278-7250), a yummy blend of Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. The restaurant is known for its delicious and healthy fare and its use of organic, all natural ingredients. If it's barbeque you crave, head across the street to **Mojo BBQ & Blues** (1810 Town Center Blvd, 264-0636). This is the local chain's third location and both the food and the atmosphere live up to the Mojo name. Finally, **Whitey's Fish Camp** (2032 CR 220, 269-4198) is well-known for dishing out some of the best seafood in Northeast Florida. Try their celebrated catfish dinner and find out what fresh fish should really taste like!

shopping

Chains and big-box stores are commonplace in most suburban communities and Fleming Island is no exception. But there are some exceptional locally-owned retail locations that you should also check out. **Grassroots Natural Market** (1915 Eastwest Pkwy, 541-0009) opened a terrific Fleming Island location last year. The store sells organic and healthy snacks, dietary supplements, homeopathics and so much more. Gifts for mom are easy to find at **Patches Gifts** (1700 Hwy 17, 278-8400), a charming little store that sells Yankee Candles, Willow Tree figurines and Vera Bradley bags. Nearby **Peterbrooke Chocolatier** (1544 CR 220, 278-8828) has tempting goodies for sale for when you need a chocolate fix. Finally, work off those Peterbrooke pounds by picking up a new bike at **Open Road Bicycles** (1560 Business Center Dr, 541-1816).

The businesses and locales mentioned above are just a glimpse of what Fleming Island has to offer. Come explore the area for yourself and see what you can find!



Peterbrooke Chocolatier



carmike's fleming island 12

by kellie abrahamson

When Carmike's Fleming Island 12 movie theater opened on March 20th you could almost hear Clay County residents breathe a collective sigh of relief. Not having to battle Blanding Boulevard traffic to get to a movie theater is enough to make any person want to do a happy dance! But beyond its location, the new theater has plenty of other things to offer that will please area moviegoers.

The new theater's twelve screens are all equipped with digital projectors and digital sound. Several of them also have 3-D capabilities. Movie lovers will get to watch flicks in comfy, ergonomically-designed chairs complete with cup holder armrests that lift up if you want to get a little closer to your neighbor. All of the theaters have stadium seating and wall-to-wall screens, so every seat in the 1,905-seat building is the best in the house.

Take a trip to the snack bar and you're in for a real treat. The Fleming Island 12 serves up gourmet popcorn in flavors like caramel, cheddar, chocolate, blue raspberry and cherry. They also have kettle corn and regular buttered popcorn for the less adventurous. Your favorite movie theater candy and Coke products round out the refreshments. Tuesdays are a good time to come to the Carmike 12, especially if you want to save some cash on concessions. The theater offers \$1 drinks and \$1 popcorn in a promotion fittingly called "Stimulus Tuesdays."

In addition to your run-of-the-mill, big budget Hollywood flicks, the Carmike 12 will also be showing art house and independent films regularly, giving true cinephiles even more to look forward to. For current show times and to buy tickets, visit carmike.com.

Theatres are experiencing their highest attendance numbers in years. It's sure to be even higher with the summer line-up of blockbusters like: *Star Trek*, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, *Night at the Museum 2*, *Transformers 2: Rise of the Fallen*, *Harry Potter & The Half-Blood Prince*. With the addition of the 3D experience the season looks golden.

The opening of this new theater is a huge step forward for Fleming Island and Clay County as a whole. It took a while, but the area now has a brand new facility with cutting edge technology and every amenity you could ask for. I think it's time for you to go to the movies! The Carmike Fleming Island 12 is located at 1820 Town Center Blvd, just behind Mellow Mushroom and Mojo BBQ & Blues. For more information, please call 621-0221.



FREE for you in april

Looking for an activity that's free to do this month?
Here are some First Coast freebies in the month of April.



local art walks

-First Wednesday ArtWalk, April 1, Downtown Jacksonville
-First Friday Riverside ArtWalk, April 3, Historic 5 Points
-First Friday St. Augustine Art Walk, April 3, Historic Downtown St. Augustine

-Third Thursday North Beaches ArtWalk, April 16, Atlantic and Neptune Beach Town Center

movies in the park

Check out page 39 for the skinny on free movies at Treaty Oak Park on the Southbank, the Downtown

Library and St. Augustine Amphitheater.

the detective, the detective scholar and the spy

(Through April 30) Exhibit featuring original manuscripts related to the literary genres of detective

and spy fiction. Includes pieces by Arthur Conan Doyle, Dorothy L. Sayers and Ian Fleming. Admission is free. Karpeles Manuscript Museum in Springfield. The museum is open from 10 am – 4 pm and closed on Mondays. karpeles.com

javier marín: new sculptures

(Through April 24) At the J Johnson Gallery in Jacksonville Beach. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10-5 and Saturdays from noon-5 pm. jjohnsongallery.com

tai chi gung

(Tuesday Nights 7 pm – 8 pm) While you can get in for free at the Unity Church for Creative Living at 2777 Race Track Road, St. Johns County. There is a suggested (but not required) donation of \$10. Tai Chi Gung is a 3,000 year old practice from Tibet. There is a self-healing aspect which is part of every person's body, mind & spirit. Get in touch with your essence, your true self, as you bring increased health, balance and vitality to your life through the practice of focused gentle movement and breathing. Call for info 287-1505 unityinjax.com

free salsa/ latin dancing

classes at the grape
Tuesday April 7 & 21 (the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month) Join The Grape and Curtis J. Williams (Florida Ballet), instructor and choreographer, for free Salsa and Latin dancing classes for couples and singles. No reservations or prior Salsa dancing experience required. thegrape.com

preschool family storytime

(Wednesdays 11 am) The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library present this weekly program for caretakers and preschool children, 3 – 5 years old. friendspvlibrary.org

nature walks at fort clinch state park

(Saturdays, daytime) Call for info at 277-7274

ted lane and friends

(Saturdays) Ted Lane and Ego Killer cohorts Dr. Strangelove, Eowyn, Justin Shurman, DJ SK and others turn out at this caffeine haven with Techno, House, Progressive, Breaks and more from the 80s til the present every Saturday night at the Coffee Grinder on the Southside. egokiller.net

world gold village spring art & home tour

(Saturdays & Sundays at 1 pm- 5 pm) Neighborhoods of World Golf Village presents its third annual Spring Art & Home Tour, to be held every weekend during the month of April 2009. The free tour will feature four beautiful homes with artwork displays from local professional artists, along with works from area students. Homes will be open every Saturday and Sunday in April from 1-5 p.m. All artwork on tour will be available for purchase. Info: Davidson Realty, Inc. at 940-5000, worldgol-frealestate

sunday family free days at the moca

(Sundays, noon-4 pm) Free admission for families at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Downtown Jacksonville. Children under the age of 18 and accompanying adults are free. Sponsored by Bank of America. Info: mocajacksonville.org

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art fusion

(Sundays, noon-4 pm) ArtFusion is a free Sunday afternoon drop-in program for families at the MOCA Downtown, providing a creative and supportive environment for children to work with their parents or adult caregivers, exploring exciting themes and hands-on projects related to exhibitions or collections you can visit together in the galleries. Info: mocajacksonville.org, or contact Kelly Eason 366-6911x207 or keason@mocajacksonville.org

native sun's 2nd annual earth day celebration

(Saturday, April 18 noon – 4pm) Join Jacksonville's local organic grocer Native Sun Natural Foods Market as we celebrate Earth Day the Native Way! Info: nativesunjax.com/events.html

bach's coffee canata

(Friday April 3, 11 am- 12:30 pm) An encore performance! J. S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 and The Coffee Cantata staged in English with Rhonda Tinin, Pablo Pomales-Ojeda and Jim Goodell with the Mary L'Engle Ensemble. fridaymusical.com

george's music springing the blues festival

(Friday-Sunday, April 3-5) Springing the Blues is a free outdoor blues music festival designed to celebrate America's indigenous musical form and promote support of the arts. The three-day oceanfront event features a number of renowned blues performers as well as numerous displays and activities geared for the entire family. The festival features performers on two different stages. Friday night kicks the blues off with the John Miller Band followed by J.P. Soars & the Red Hots, Regi Blue, and Chubby Carrier & the Bayou Swamp Band on the main stage. The West stage features Tommy Thunderfoot & the Acceleratots, Toots Lorraine & the Traffic and 15-year old guitar avatar Conrad Oberg as headliner. On Saturday, the blues fill the sunshine with the great sounds of Skinny Legs & All, WSNB, Marquise "Manchild" Knox, E.G. Kight, Dave Herrero featuring Felix Reyes, Cedric Burnside & Lightnin' Malcolm, Eddie Shaw & the Wolf Gang, the Legendary JC's and Lucky Peterson. The Sunday lineup showcases Willie Mae, Samuel James, Nicole Hart & the NRG Band, Jim McKaba & the After Hours Band, Ed Cotton & the Smashed Ramblers, Robin Rogers, Roger "Hurricane" Wilson and Greg Baril closes the festival fun as the sun sets. Other activities include movies, a surf contest and much more. SeaWalk Pavilion, springingtheblues.com.

bright young things 2009 opening reception

(Friday, April 3 at 6 pm-9 pm) Jane Gray Gallery is pleased to announce the biennial 2009 Bright Young Things exhibit. Bright Young Things is a

biennial exhibit featuring new works by a group of emerging contemporary artists living and working in Jacksonville. These hot young artists are on a meteoric rise in the contemporary art scene in Northeast Florida and beyond. Featured artists are MactruQue, Heather Blanton, Christina Foard, Dustin Harewood, Madeleine Peck, and Sharla T. Valeski. janegraygallery.com

jim pearce exhibit opens at the jca vandroff art gallery

(Friday, April 3) Jim Pearce works mainly in watercolor and though his subjects are eclectic, he focuses mainly on the landscapes of Florida. Jewish Community Alliance in Mandarin. jcajax.org

easter egg hunt

(Saturday, April 4 at 10 am- 12:30 pm) This year, the Easter Bunny is bringing more than 8,000 candy and prize-filled eggs for you to find at MOSH! Children will be divided into age groups; 2 & under, 3-5 and 6-8. After the egg hunt, children can enjoy fire engine tours by Jacksonville Fire & Rescue, meet the Easter Bunny and take part in activities from promotional booths. Once the hunt is over, children can get into the Museum free with a paid adult's admission (one child per adult, please). The hunt will begin promptly at 10 am, and activities will end at 12:30 pm. themosh.org

practice world peace

(Sunday, April 5 at 10 am- noon) Bring a blanket and a smile as we practice breathing and moving mindfully and peacefully in Memorial Park.

the blessing of the fleet

(Sunday, April 5 at 2 pm) Have your boat blessed for the upcoming navigational season! Arrive at Downtown Jacksonville at 1:30 pm and tune to VHF channels 16 and 72 for parade instructions. The parade will be blessed by Father Kamal Al-Rahil of the St. George Antiochian Church. Call 630-3690 for more info. makeascenedowntown.com

yoga for stress reduction

(Tuesday, April 9 noon-1pm) Join Kate Cordell of Ocean Yoga at the Women's Center of Jacksonville. Bring a large beach towel or yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing. Learn how, through restorative Yoga, you can revitalize your life each day. Call 525-3368 to reserve your space. womenscenterofjax.org

'bama girl

(Tuesday April 14 at 7 pm) The Crimson Tide's homecoming has a rich history, tied into centuries of privilege, old money and racial exclusivity. The powerful and enlightening documentary follows Jessica Thomas's quest to become Homecoming Queen at the University of Alabama. At the FCCJ Wilson Center. artistseries.fccj.org

netscapades

by brenton crozier



office-forward fodder edition

At this point in time, it's hardly worth separating blogs and traditional websites. Nevertheless, the blogosphere is burning up and there are some fantastic sites recently brought to my attention that produce daily office-forward fodder and copious amounts of laughter. So forget your financial woes, forget the impending lonely weekend, forget the sermons of impending doom from D.C. and become the office MVP as you add these bad boys to your list of favorites. All absurd and largely focusing on our human fiascos both large and small, it's high time to add a little break into your day to visit these and similar websites for a good guffaw. That's right, I'm advocating for a guffaw break.

<http://pictureisunrelated.com>

Enjoy a foray into the bizarre and at times disturbing at Picture is Unrelated: WTF Pictures & Videos. It's all pictures and it is certainly all unrelated. The only cohesive bond from image to image is their utterly bizarre nature. They will make you laugh, and they will garner a WTF? Have an eye-crossing picture in your collection? They are always looking for new additions.

<http://failblog.org>

This may be the funniest website in existence (at least that's what I think this week). A treasure trove of the types of things that make you go, "Now wait just one second." Fail Blog is a collection of images and videos that range from delicious hypocrisy like a driver on a cell phone despite bumper stickers stating, "Hang Up And Drive" and "Guns Don't Kill People Drivers With Cellphones Do," to foreign hilarity like a T-shirt that states I (picture of Eiffel Tower) London. That's right, the Eiffel Tower is in Paris. It is hilarious at every turn and is the ultimate hub of laughing at others' failures. Yeah, it shouldn't make you feel good, but you know it does.

<http://cakewrecks.blogspot.com>

Who would have known that there would even be enough cake wrecks to create an entire website with botched or creepy cakes? Not I. With a tag line of "When Professional Cakes Go Horribly, Hilariously Wrong," your first thought may not be, "Wow, I've got to see that!" But have no doubt my friend, you do want to see this. Whether a creation of a good-intentioned but culinary challenged folk or a misguided attempt by a professional, you'll be shocked at these confectionary calamities.

<http://fuckyoupenquin.blogspot.com>

As you can probably recognize from the URL, this site artistically weaves crass language through each and every uproarious description. This is "A Blog Where I Tell Cute Animals What's What." That's right. Are you sick of cute animals getting undue attention, awww after awww and the overarching supposition that they must be great simply because they are cute? Get your revenge by visiting this gentleman's angry site where he takes adorable animal after adorable animal to task for a bevy of transgressions. Classics such as "The Tibetan fox thinks he's better than you" about a rather pompous looking fox prompting the writer to ask, "Have you ever seen such a holier-than-thou look on a non-dolphin before?" are par for the course. A particular favorite is when he calls out baby flamingos for their oversized legs in "Baby flamingos make my job less fun." It's all good, it's all patently ridiculous and it all puts those sanctimonious cute animals in their place—it's about time somebody did it.

Enjoy your upcoming guffaw break with these blogosphere gems. And if your boss gets on your back for it, threaten to take him or her off of your e-mail forward list. That's right, get mean.

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Thursdays

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Ladies \$1 Drinks

Fridays

1/2 Price Appetizers
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Fridays

5-9pm: Deck Music

- 9:30-1:30am - Great Entertainment

April 3: *Burning Daylight*

April 10: *Boggie Freaks*

April 17: *Susie Kite*

April 24: *Spanky*

Saturdays

5-9pm: Deck Music

- 9:30-1:30am - Great Entertainment

April 4: *Yankee Slickers*

April 11: *Boogie Feaks*

April 18: *Susie Kite*

April 25: *Spanky*

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where to get your green grub

Eco-foods in Jacksonville by erin thursby



Here are some of the local places where you can pick up a quick bite or sit down to a full meal knowing that you're getting a healthy, green-conscious repast.

grassroots

Nestled in the bosom of 5 Points is Grassroots (2007 Park Street, 384-4474). They also have a new location in Fleming Island (1915 East West Parkway, 541-0009). It's long been the go-to spot for the organically inclined. Besides getting your grocery shopping done, you can also pick up a vegan or vegetarian sandwich along with a healthy smoothie.

healthy way

Organic fast food might not be an entirely new concept on the West Coast but it's still a fairly fresh idea here in Florida. At the Healthy Way Café (10281 Midtown Parkway, 642-2951) in the St. Johns Town Center you'll find an emphasis on organics and simple recipes. The majority of the menu features items that most of us are used to eating: wraps and salads.

Salmon-lovers simply must try the Healthy Way Wrap, a delicious combination of wild salmon, organic romaine, lettuce, tomatoes and spouts. I'm also a fan of the Healthy Way fruit salad.

the manatee café

In St. Augustine, you can find The Manatee Café (525 S.R. 16 #106 Westgate Plaza, St. Augustine, 826-0210), a favorite spot for vegetarians. They serve a veggie burger, veggie omelet and tofu chili, among other tasty selections on their menu.

Breakfast is very popular. Besides the omelets, you can also get a waffle made with Spelt flour, get a breakfast burrito or scrambled tofu. Lots of people get health conscious food to go here, but they have a large sit-down area. Café patrons range from tourists hungry for healthy stuff to local vegetarians who are regulars. Think of it as a healthy diner. There is also a very small market, but the emphasis is on the food area.

native sun market

Native Sun, is of course, my hands-down favorite source of organic and natural produce. The location in Mandarin (10000 San Jose Boulevard, 260-6950) is smaller than the huge place they've got at Baymeadows and 9A (11030 Baymeadows Road, 519-2997), so if you haven't gone down to take a gander at their newer locale, it might be time to do so.

Both Native Suns in the area have a good deli, but the one at Baymeadows and 9A is fantastic, proving that healthy food can sometimes be more delectable than the stuff that's bad for you. Every item is made fresh in the store by the Native Sun staff using only all-natural and organic ingredients to ensure their foods are as healthy as they are delicious.

Most people take their food to-go, but there is a sit-down area at the front of the store. If you're on your way home and looking to feed your family, head to the hot bar section and pick up one of their rotisserie chickens.



Present Moment Cafe

While you can feed an army with their organic goodness, I like to go there to pick up lunch for myself. I adore their wraps and their rye berry and raisin salad. Sometimes I pick up something from their bakery for later, such as zucchini or banana date muffins. There are single servings of desserts available, so you can make sure you don't gorge on their carrot cake or delish raspberry bars.

olives & oils

Near the corner of Park and King you can find Olives & Oils (1506 King Street, 619-6187), a little market that supplies the green-conscious here in Jacksonville.

From the market you can pick up vegetarian baguettes, gluten free beers, organic wines, olive oils, produce and local coffee. If you'd like to pick up a quick, delish lunch, they have sandwiches that include cruelty-free meat and they always have some sort of vegetarian option in their soups and sandwiches. All of their to-go sandwiches are wrapped in recycled paper and all of their containers are compostable, breaking down in a short time in a landfill.

present moment café

Present Moment (226 W King Street, St Augustine, 827-4499) in St. Augustine advocates the Raw Food Movement. Though there are Raw Foodists who advocate eating raw meat, Present Moment promotes Raw Veganism. Even if you're a dedicated carnivore, the food at Present Moment will win you over with its vivacious flavors. They start with organic ingredients, and nothing is cooked. When you eat their "breads" or crackers, even those aren't cooked, but dehydrated with heat.

One of the most popular dishes on the menu is the Tacos of Life. Two Romaine shells are home to pine-nut chili and walnut puree, fresh salsa, guacamole with coconut sour cream and a jalapeño vinaigrette. I watched this attractive dish go out to a number of different tables as I sat at the bar, drinking my carrot apple juice with a touch of ginger. Presentation is key here. Not only are the dishes tasty, but they're placed on the plate with delicate care.

shakti life kitchen

The Shakti Life Kitchen (590 Sturdivant Street, Atlantic Beach, 247-7116) opened late last year in Atlantic Beach, so it's possible that you haven't heard of it yet. Like Present Moment in St. Augustine, they feature a menu of raw vegan foods. I can't wait to check it out!

turtle island natural foods

Turtle Island Natural Foods (363 Atlantic Boulevard, Atlantic Beach, 247-6400) is a favorite to-go place for health conscious beachgoers. It's a small health food and organic market, but it buzzes with folks at lunchtime, ordering from their deli case. They serve fabulous sandwiches with creative names, all of which seem to come from songs. There's Blue Sky, made with roast beef and boursin-style cheese with lettuce, tomato and onion on sourdough bread. Also a favorite is Whole Lotta Love, made with fresh veggies, avocado, apple and almonds with sharp cheddar and Dijon mustard on organic whole wheat bread. My personal favorite is the Mayport shrimp salad sandwich: Come Sail Away.

Vegetarians and vegans have their own separate case, so if meat turns your stomach, you won't have to look at it as you try to make your selection. Similarly, if you're avoiding meat, it's convenient to have those selections in a separate case.

If you're into the sweeter things in life, do not miss their dessert case. It's always changing. From strawberry lemon tarts to chocolate decadence, their desserts not only look fabulous, they also taste fabulous.

whole foods

The prospect of getting a Whole Foods (10601 San Jose Boulevard, 288-1100) in Jacksonville had been setting the granola-crunching population aflame for years before we finally got one. I think it was a bit of a let down when they settled on the suburban Mandarin neighborhood, far from the neighborhoods of the most ardent Whole Food advocates, who mostly lived near Downtown or somewhere in Riverside or the Beaches. While their prepared foods aren't certified organic, they do avoid hydrogenated oils, preservatives and a host of other baddies. Each prepared dish has a placard with all the ingredients on it, so you know exactly what you're eating. Their selection is HUGE, with a hot bar featuring every ethnic food you can probably think of. It's a great place to grab a hot lunch or meal on the way home if you happen to be in the Mandarin neighborhood.

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dish update

where to eat, drink & be merry by erin thursby

Opening up in the space where Tokyo Bay used to be in 5 Points is the Fu Hao Bistro (1003 Park St). While they've got a distinctly Chinese décor, their menu is pan-Asian and they have quite a few Thai menu items. Rumor has it they're hiring Thai chefs. This will be great for the Thai-hungry over on the Westside. (Just so I don't get hate mail from real estate agents, the Westside is a general term for a collection of more specific neighborhoods, including Riverside and Avondale).

While Westsiders don't have their own Indian joint, they can eat Indian food on their side of town, if they plan in advance. The folks from Cozy Tea (1029 Park St, 329-3964) hold an Indian dinner once a month on first Fridays in 5 Points.

Closed this month in San Marco is Cafe Carmon, which had been part of the Jacksonville foodscape for over 20 years. Also closed is Plaza III.

Meanwhile, this month in Springfield, the City Kidz Ice Cream Cafe, located at 3rd & Main Street is scheduled to have their grand opening. Surprisingly, they won't just be serving ice cream. City Kidz serves various sandwiches on a signature pretzel roll with organic lettuce and tomatoes. Also on the menu are a shrimp cocktail, gourmet kosher baked goods, frozen desserts, all natural fruit smoothies with options to add vitamin supplements, coffee and espresso based drinks with organic syrup and flavors. They're a green restaurant with a social conscience. Their slogan is: "An Inner City Enterprise Fostering Financial Literacy." Catchy isn't it? To learn more about their food and social causes go to citykidzicecream.com/mainstreet.

Riverside Arts Market

Every Saturday from April 4th through Christmas.

They're calling it the Riverside Arts Market, but it's technically right on the dividing line between there and the little-known neighborhood of Brooklyn. It's located on Riverside Avenue as it passes underneath the Fuller Warren Bridge, on the Northbank Riverwalk. Live entertainment can be heard from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm on the River Stage. Over 150 artists, farmers and food vendors booths. Info: RiversideArtsMarket.com

Rhythm & Ribs Festival

Friday- Sunday, April 3-5

Smack your lips and stomp your feet at this annual festival featuring championship barbecue dishes from around the country. A variety of outstanding entertainment throughout the weekend will be presented. The Red River Band starts the rhythm on Friday followed on Saturday by Sherry & the Psydelics, Spectra, J.W. Gilmore & the Blues Authority and headliner Leon Russell. Sunday features ribs and Funk Shui & the Falling Bones. Admission is \$2 and \$5 Saturday. Friday 5- 10 pm, Saturday 11 am- 10 pm and Sunday 11 am- 5 pm. St. Augustine's Francis Field Info: rhythmndribs.net.

The Cowford Ball 2009: Wranglers, Rustlers & Renegades

Saturday, April 4 at 6:30 pm

This year's wranglin', rowdy gang of 165 dedicated committee volunteers are busy rustlin' up gourmet western fare; live and silent auction gems; the most wanted midway games; entertainment and high kickin' dance hall girls that'll make renegades hoot and holler; and a herd of other surprises! The Cowford Ball is the largest single fundraising event for the Duval Unit of the American Cancer Society raising more than \$4.7M since its inception in 1995. Info: 391-3613.

Casa Marina Easter Brunch

Easter Sunday, April 12 at 10 am – 2 pm

With foodies today choosing variety and a mixture of stylistic preparations, the Family-Friendly Brunch Menu will include many signature Casa Marina dishes. \$38.95 per person plus tax & gratuity. Please call for reservations Info: 270-0025

Spicy Asian Cocktail Fare Cooking Class

Friday, April 17 at 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm

Williams-Sonoma classes (St. John's Town Center, 998-4304) include demonstrations and samples of featured dishes, as well as printed recipes to take home with you. Be sure to have plenty of cool drinks on hand when you serve these spicy Asian-inspired hors d'oeuvres from the *Essentials of Asian* cookbook. They're perfect for a cocktail party or as small plates for a dinner party. \$30 per class, which includes a 10% discount on in-store purchases. On the menu: Fresh Spring Rolls with Shrimp, Chicken Satay with Peanut Sauce and Lemon-grass Beef Skewers

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 30th Annual Fish Fry and Oyster Roast

Saturday, April 18 from noon to 4 pm

Sit under the old oak trees along the St. Johns River and enjoy Food, Family Fun, Fellowship and Live Gospel Music! All You Can Eat meal tickets are \$12 (adults)- \$8 (children) for fish dinners and \$15 (adults) – \$10 (children) for oyster dinners. Free Parking. In St. Augustine. Proceeds go to the Mission Fund. INFO:

Bradford County Strawberry Festival

Saturday & Sunday, April 18-19

So you missed the Florida Strawberry Festival in Plant City. Don't cry, dry your eyes and schedule a drive to Downtown Starke, which has its own festival for these fabulous little fruits. See arts, crafts as well as "The Legends Show" featuring Elvis, Patsy Cline & more. Info: mainstreetstarke.com.

Thursday Tasting at Urban Flats

Thursday, April 30 at 5:30 pm- 7 pm

Gather your friends for food and wine at the Ponte Vedra Urban Flats to support children suffering from childhood cancer. Tickets on sale now for \$25 each. You can purchase them at the event or by calling. Info: 396-4223 or childcancerfund.org

46th Annual Isle of Eight Shrimp Festival

Friday & Saturday, May 1-3

The Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival includes dozens of food booths featuring shrimp specialties. The Fine Arts Show has been ranked 38th in the nation by Sunshine Artist Magazine as part of their 200 Best Shows in the United States. Each year, the Festival is held in the historic Downtown Centre Street business district in Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island. The festival is a lively mixture of fun including an annual "Pirate Parade" to kick things off on Thursday and features juried fine arts and crafts show, antiques, live entertainment, Southwest Airlines Kids Korner, contests, pirates, free admission and 25 food booths featuring shrimp prepared every way possible by local non-profit organizations. Info: shrimp-festival.com or call toll free (866) 426-3542



ingredient secrets

Asparagus

While you'll find asparagus in stores year round, late April through mid June is a good time to buy it since it's in season here in the US. The major cultivator of asparagus in this country is Michigan, California and Washington State. Peru is the largest exporter in the world.

This veggie has a long history and even appeared in one of the first cookbooks ever written. You'll find it in different cooking cultures: the French like it with hollandaise, the Chinese with eggs and the Brits with beef.

Asparagus takes very little time to cook and can be prepared in a variety of ways. The bottom is often a bit sandy, so do make sure you clean it thoroughly before cooking. It can be steamed or boiled. If you're going to use boiling water to cook the asparagus, make sure the delicate tips are up out of the water, as they can easily turn to mush. There are specialized asparagus cookers you can use for this. The stir-fry method is the easiest. Cut up the asparagus into 1/2 inch pieces, leaving the tips intact. Use a wok or pan on medium high heat with a bit of butter or a little oil. It should only take about 3-5 minutes.

I like to use my asparagus right away, but if you want to store it, use it within three days and always refrigerate. The best method of storing is to keep the stem ends moist while protecting the tips from moisture, if possible. Secure wet paper towels around the ends or just store the asparagus in the fridge upright in glass with an inch or two of water.

The question most people have about this vegetable is about asparagus pee. That is, the very distinctive smell of urine after asparagus is consumed. The smell comes from unique compounds and amino acids within the asparagus, which, when broken down by the body, produces the particular smell. Scientists are still arguing about exactly which compounds the smell is produced by.

Health-wise, asparagus has always had a reputation as a medicinal vegetable. Since it was cultivated, presumably by the Greeks, it has had status as an aphrodisiac. Kidney stones, urinary tract infections, heart disease and even rheumatism are all said to be helped by consuming it. It will inflame gout, so if you have this condition it's best to avoid it. It's one of the healthiest veggies out there, with plenty of folic acid, vitamin C and Thiamine. It's also a good source of B6, potassium and is a rich source of rutin, a compound which strengthens capillary walls.



hip asian comfort food

Dennis Chan's Cookbook by erin thursby (photos by linda blakely)

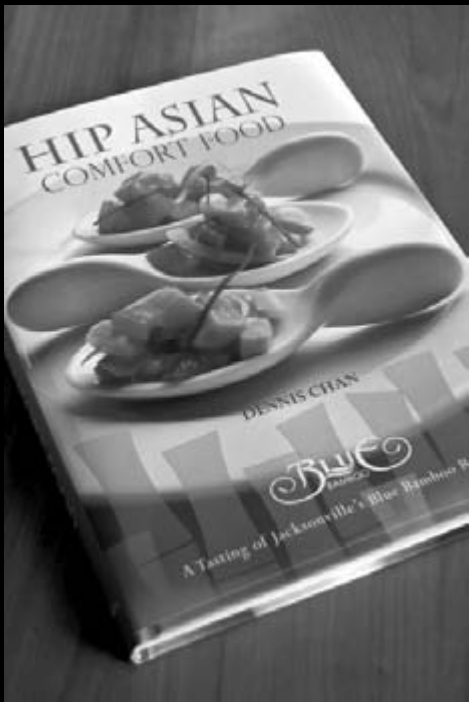
Restaurant cookbooks are about more than just recipes. They're a window into the secrets of the cuisine they serve. That's why I was eager to get my hands on a new local cookbook by Dennis Chan, the chef and owner of one of my favorite restaurants, Blue Bamboo. The gorgeous book is titled *Hip Asian Comfort Food*.

Not only does it have beautiful pictures (kudos to photographer Linda Blakey) and easy to follow recipes, it gives you a peek as to what goes on in Dennis Chan's wok. Lots of the restaurant favorites and signature items are included.

Chan's East-meets-West recipe stylings are endorsed by none other than Ming Tsai of Food Network fame, who hosted East Meets West and is currently hosting two cooking shows on Public Television and on Fine Living.

Dragon Whiskers are an appetizer that we always order at Blue Bamboo, so we were happy to see a recipe in the book. While ours were pretty good, I'll be coming back to Blue Bamboo instead of making them at home.

Unfortunately, we don't have a deep fryer or a fry basket, so we weren't able to reproduce it exactly. I also think that his whiskers are cooked much more briefly and at a higher temperature than we tried to cook ours. It was more failure of lack of equipment than a failing of the recipe. That being said, if I had never had Dennis' version, I would have been plenty happy with our slightly crispier, messier version.



Ginger Mojito

Thumbing through the book, I found that most of the dishes required very little in specialized equipment and most were simple enough that even a novice could pick up the book and serve some excellent cuisine.

The Honey Soy Glazed Burger is a marriage of something quintessentially Western, cooked with Eastern flavor and it looks easy but tasty to undertake.

My husband tried his hand at the Rama Thai Delight. He rarely cooks and is generally unsure of himself in the kitchen, but he was able to execute it with little trouble, thanks to the easy instructions. It's a red Thai curry and peanut recipe that you can use as a base for chicken, beef or shrimp. We expected the dish to bring more heat than it did, but it was flavorful and easy to execute. It's a great dish for those that like a little heat and want to try something slightly exotic.

One of the recipes in the book that I was excited to see was the Coconut Lemongrass Crab Cakes. I had actually tried to reproduce my own version at home after tasting the crab cakes at Blue Bamboo before I knew about the recipe

book. It settled an argument as to whether or not there was coconut cream in the crab cakes, or just in the sauce. (Score one for me, I was right! It's just in the sauce.) I had nearly everything right, though I didn't catch the crab boil seasoning, and instead added a little sriracha chili sauce. I'm glad to be able to reference the real thing.

While the baking recipes are precise in measurement, the cooking recipes are sometimes a little looser, although they're still easy to follow.

Thai Tea Crème Brulee is the dessert that I keep coming back to at Blue Bamboo. Now I can make it at home thanks to the recipe on page 170. Another Blue Bamboo classic is the Mandarin Orange Cake, which is a great balance between creamy sweetness and citrus tartness. The secret might be the pineapple crème cheese frosting.

If you're looking for yummy and unique drinks to serve at your next cocktail party then look no further than the Potables section of the recipe book. Eastern flavors make Western-style cocktails fresh and new again, as with the Vietnamese coffee martini, the lemongrass infused vodka martini and the cucumber lime saktail (which is made with smooth cold sake instead of vodka.) There are also some interesting non alcoholic options, such as a classic red thai tea and a yummy sounding ginger milkshake.

You can order *Hip Asian Comfort Food* (\$34.95) on the website hipasiancomfortfood.com or just go to Blue Bamboo itself on Southside Blvd. You can also find it at Cork and Keg in Julington Creek, Wine Warehouse in Atlantic Beach, The Book Mark in Atlantic Beach, and Hong Kong Trading Co, next to Blue Bamboo.

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April 3 Children's Day Families are invited to celebrate Children's Week, with a special Children's Day. There will be crafts, games, Radio Disney, special guests, and vendors with health information for parents and children. Children's Medical Services, 910 North Jefferson St., 9 am to 2 pm, 360-7070 x 313

April 4 Author Signing Juvenile fiction author Jane Wood, who was recently awarded the Mom's Choice Award, will be reading and discussing her book *Trouble on the St. John's River*. The book is written for ages 9-13. Barnes and Noble, 11112 San Jose Boulevard at 4:30 pm, 886-9904

April 4 Easter Egg Hunt Free annual MOSH Easter Egg Hunt. After the egg hunt, children can enjoy fire engine tours by Jacksonville Fire and Rescue, meet the Easter Bunny and take part in fun activities. Once the hunt is over, children can get into the Museum free with a paid adult's admission (one child per adult). The hunt will begin promptly at 10am and activities will end at 12:30pm. MOSH, 1025 Museum Circle, 396-7062

April 4 Easter Festival at the World Golf Hall of Fame The World Golf Hall of Fame will host a special Easter Festival for children and families outside the Hall of Fame. The Easter Festival will include egg hunts, bounce houses, clowns, train rides and more. Admission to the event includes all activities and a ticket to the World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater for \$8 per person. To purchase tickets, call 904-940-4010. World Golf Hall of Fame, 1 World Golf Place from 9 to 11 am, 940-4123

April 4 Eggstravaganza Third annual Eggstravaganza at O2B Kids will feature Easter Egg Hunts, a petting zoo and more. O2B Kids, 1821 Town Center Blvd, Fleming Island from 9:30am to 1:30pm, 264-4202

April 4 Fancy Nancy Party All ages invited to celebrate the release of the new Fancy Nancy book, *Explorer Extraordinaire*. Be sure to dress in your fanciest Nancy attire! Registration requested. Barnes and Noble, 11112 San Jose Blvd at 10:30am, 886-9904

April 4 – 5 High School Musical Auditions The Gathering Dinner Theatre is holding auditions for their upcoming performances of *High School Musical*. All positions are needed, and all types are encouraged to audition. Seeking quality singers and skillful dancers but also strong actors. Auditioners are to bring sheet music or a cd and are required to do a 1 - 4 minute monologue. Resume and at least 1 Headshot are required. Saturday, 12 noon to 4 pm and Sunday, 4 to 6 pm, Gathering Dinner Theatre, 11570 San Jose Blvd, 638-8412

April 4 Monster Energy Supercross Race Doors open at 12:30 pm for practice and qualifying. There will also be a Pit Party from 12:30pm – 6 pm, featuring the top supercross riders in the world. The main event race starts at 7 pm. Ticket Prices: \$40 - \$10 Child. Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, 1 Alltel Stadium, 633-2000

April 6 and 7 Junie B. Jones For Grades K-5. FCAT connection: Reading List, Communications and Language Arts, Relationships and Family, Music. Tickets \$7. Florida Theatre, 128 East Forsyth Street, 346-5620

April 8 National Start! Walking Day St. Vincent's Healthcare invites all ages to participate in the National Start! Walking Day, featuring a one mile walk from Hemming Plaza to River Walk. A free brown bag lunch will be provided. Hemming Plaza at 12:15 pm. First Coast American Heart Association, 739-0197

April 9 - 18 Jacksonville Suns vs. Tennessee with Opening Night Commemorative Coin Giveaway Jacksonville Suns take the field on April 9 in search of their first league title as a Florida Marlins affiliate. The first 3,000 fans get a Silver Anniversary commemorative coin to celebrate 25 years of Bragan family ownership of the Suns! The Suns play Tennessee on April 10 with Friday Family Fireworks after the game, April 11 at 7:05 pm and April 12 at 3:05 pm with an Easter Egg Hunt on the field at 2 pm and a special appearance by the Easter Bunny. Stop by area Gate locations to pick up a free kids' ticket while supplies last. School kids from all over the Jacksonville area are invited to a special late morning game on April 13 at 11:05 am. The Suns play again April 14, 17 and 18 at 7:05 pm. Tickets start at \$6.50 per game. Season tickets are also available. The Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville, 301 A Philip Randolph Blvd, 358-2846

April 11 – 12 41st Mandarin Art Festival Includes a Children's Art Show, Food, Live Music and works of Art from award-winning artists from around the country in many mediums. \$1 voluntary donation for admission and Free shuttle from the Mandarin Presbyterian Church West Campus 12001 Mandarin Road. Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 11 am – 5 pm with an Easter Egg Hunt for children 10 and under, at 1:30pm. Mandarin Community Club and Walter Jones Historical Park, 12447 Mandarin Rd, 268-1622

April 11 Adventure Landing Egg Hunts Adventure Landing will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunts on April 11. Search the golf courses for eggs filled with prizes. A \$3 per child donation will benefit the Boy and Girls Club of Northeast Florida. 9 am to 2 pm at all Adventure Landing locations, 1944 Beach Blvd, 246-4386, 4825 Blanding Blvd, 771-2803, 2780 State Road 16, St. Augustine, 827-9400

April 1 Fleming Island Rotary Fun Run One Mile Fun Run begins at 8:30 am; there is also a 5K, that begins at 7:30am. The Fun Run will be held at the Fleming Island High School football stadium. There will be medals awarded to All Finishers. The Fun Run is free for all children 13 years and younger. This race welcomes all participants including those in wheel chairs or using strollers. There is no pre-registration required for the Fun Run, but participants will need to fill out and submit a form. Fleming Island High School, 2233 Village Square Pkwy, at 8:30 am



eujacksonville.com

April 11 **Spring Fling** The Spring Fling will feature crafts, games, hotdogs, popcorn, snow cones, and an egg hunt. This is a free event that is open to everyone. First Baptist Church, 324 North 5th St, Jacksonville Beach, from 10 am to 12 noon, 249-2314

April 18 **Earth Day at MOSH** The City of Jacksonville will again team up with MOSH to present conservation and preservation programs at the Jacksonville Landing. At the Museum, a special workshop will allow Brownies to earn an "Earth is Our Home" badge. MOSH, 1025 Museum Circle, 396-7062

April 18 **2009 Earth Day & Ecology Fair** This annual event will feature more than 80 booths of educational and interactive displays for the entire family. Live entertainment takes place throughout the day on the main stage and a Children's Stage is added near the Andrew Jackson Statue. Jacksonville Landing, 10 am - 4 pm, 630-3692

April 18 **The Inside and Out Earth Day Affair** Native Sun Natural Foods Market hosts their 2nd Annual Earth Day Celebration, featuring free all-natural and organic food, live music, local vendors, kids activities, education, prizes and more. Free. Native Sun, 10000 San Jose Blvd from 12 noon to 4 pm, 260-6950

April 18 **Puss in Boots** For ages 5 and up. Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre presents an original adaptation from the Mother Goose Tales. Tickets \$8. Thrasher Horne Center for the Arts, 283 College Dr, Orange Park at 3 pm, 276-6750

April 18 and 19 **2009 Cecil Field Airshow** Performances at the 2009 Cecil Field Airshow will include everything from skydivers to wing-walkers and military aircraft to simulated aerial dogfights. In between performances, spectators can enjoy food vendors and event extras such as a Poker Run, antique car show and a Kid Zone. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids twelve and under, and free for kids six and under. Cecil Field, 13365 Aeronautical Circle from 10am to 5pm, 741-2721

April 19 **Yappy Hour at The Landing** B.Y.O.D. (bring your own dog) and enjoy live music with the George Aspinall band, prizes, pet expo, drink specials and more! Yappy Hour is a free event for dog owners and their dogs. It takes place each month on the third Sunday. Jacksonville Landing, 2 - 5 pm.

April 23-25 **Let Us Play Junior 2K and Expo** Enjoy the Expo on April 23 and 24 at the East Club of Jacksonville Municipal Stadium from 3-8 pm. The Expo is a fun, family friendly event where sponsors and local businesses come together to support all of those who participate. April 25 is A Day For Kids! This 2k running event is for ages 5-13. Runners will start and finish inside Jacksonville Municipal Stadium on the football field. Every runner gets a cool shirt and a finisher's medal. 5000 children are expected to participate in the FOX 30/Let Us Play Junior 2k. Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, 1 Alltel Stadium Place. Enter through Gate 4.

April 25 and 26 **Earth Day Celebration - Party for the Planet** Celebrate Earth Day at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Party for the Planet! Guests can learn how to take care of our earth by visiting environmental and animal conservation booths. There will also be children's activities and live entertainment. Admission to the event is included with regular Zoo admission. Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, 370 Zoo Parkway, I-95 and Hecksher Dr, 757-4463

April 25 **First Coast March for Babies** This year's March for Babies will feature many activities for children and families including bounce houses, clowns, balloon art, face painting and snow cones. Breakfast, lunch and beverages are served to all walkers. A donation of \$10 is requested for all participants. Registration and festivities begin at 8am and the walk kicks off at 9am. Metro Park, 1410 Gator Bowl Blvd, 514-5063

April 25 **Super Scientific Circus** The Super Scientific Circus uses circus skills and magic tricks to explain scientific principles. With everything from boomerangs to bullwhips, and students floating in mid air, The Super Scientific Circus demonstrates and explains concepts like gravity, magnetism and more. Wilson Center for the Arts at 11 am & 2 pm. FCCJ Artists Series Info: 632-3373, artistseries.fccj.org

April 27 and 28 **Nate The Great** For Grades K-4. Monday, April 27 - St Augustine Amphitheatre, 10 am Only, Tuesday, April 28 - Florida Theatre, 10 am and 12 noon, FCAT connection: Literature Based, Communication and Language Arts, Music, Visual Arts, Relationships and Family. Tickets \$7. Theatreworks, 353-3500

April 9 through 12 **Disney On Ice: Worlds of Fantasy** Tickets range from \$15 to \$47. Ages 0-23 months admitted free on ticket holder's lap (no ticket required). If child has celebrated their 2nd birthday, they must have a ticket to enter. Use the code "4KIDS" online to save \$4! Tickets are also available at FYE at Regency Square Mall, St. Johns Town Center and the Avenues Mall. For Group sales, call 866-248-8740. Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd, 630-3900



Now On Display- **MOSH's The Body Within Exhibit** MOSH's newest permanent exhibit features a realistic, yet humorous, look at the human body. As visitors enter the mouth, they will see the skeletal system overhead, and organs and body systems below. They will also be able to see how various organs, such as the heart, function within the body. MOSH, 1025 Museum Circle, 396-7062

Love Mother Earth Get outdoors and close to nature to check out these fun events all month at Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park (7000 Roosevelt Blvd): April 1 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm **Owl Encounter** A study of these popular birds with special guest, Merlin, a non-releasable Barred Owl. April 1 from 10:30 to 11:30 am **Wee Workshop: Our Feathered Friends** Activities for children 7 and under; includes a take home craft. April 2 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm **Animal Detective** Identification of animals by the clues they leave. April 3 from 9 to 10 am **Coffee With the Birds** Observation of birds and butterflies; beverages provided. All ages welcome. April 9 from 3 to 4 pm **Birds, Nests and Eggs** A study of types of nest construction and hands on construction of a decorative nest. April 15 from 3 to 4 pm **Birding For Beginners** Tips for how to watch and identify birds. April 18 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm **Animal Detective** Identification of animals by the clues they leave. April 25 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm **Bones and Skulls** A study and identification of animal bones. April 29 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm **Butterfly Biology** A study of the butterfly life cycle.

For more information on outdoor activities in Jacksonville's Parks visit www.jaxparks.com

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so new, the paint's still wet

Jane Gray's Bright Young Things '09 by madeleine peck

This April 3rd, the biennial Bright Young Things Show (2009) at Jane Gray Gallery takes another look at some of Jacksonville's emerging and evolving local talent. Included in that pool is this writer.

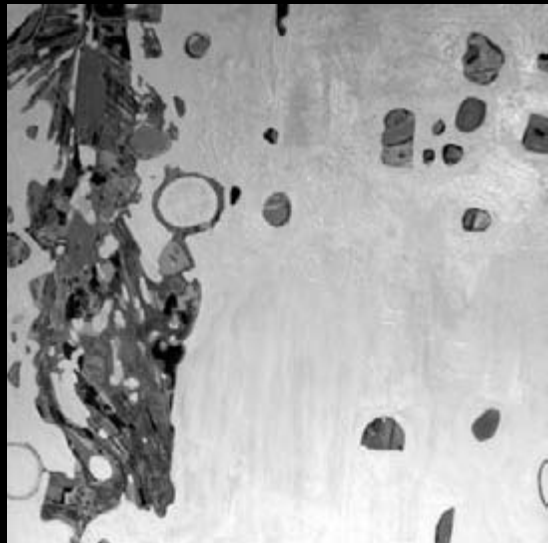
Since it would be impossible for me to make an objective assessment of a show I am actually in, I thought it best to start with a quote from Gallery Director Missy Hager, who has said of the current crop of artists: "Featured artists are MactruQue, Heather Blanton, Christina Foard, Dustin Harewood, Madeleine Peck, and Sharla T. Valeski. This visually exciting exhibition will showcase a variety of media including painting, drawing, and manipulated photography and is not to be missed."

Of course, for followers of the art scene here, most of the above names will probably be familiar. Hager says this is because her criteria not only looked at the work itself, but also the contribution of many of the above-mentioned artists to the vitality of the Jacksonville community.

As with any group of people, the artists have a variety of techniques, goals, and ideas they are wrestling with. So, in their own words, here are what these artists have to say:

Christina Foard comments that her works are "Process mixed with play and with intuitive correction. I begin with something representational and move into abstraction by pushing past my comfort zone. I detach from known outcome and leave a trail of decision changes in paint. Risk, decision-making, and influence is actually my subject matter as well as my process."

All of Foard's pieces have been completed in the last six months, and the artist says her goal is: "[To] intrigue the viewer enough to want to see another painting, thus allowing the visual conversation to begin. Solo painting in my studio has its limits in excitement."



C. Foard's Trust

Sharla T. Valeski's current works share an aesthetic sympathy with Beatrice Mandelman (1912-1998) whose piece, "Winter Birds #2," though different in palette, is similar in reductive process.

Of her approach, Valeski reflects: "I like repetition and feel that by painting or drawing the same subject matter or repeating a scenario over and over... something sublime will emerge. I enjoy creating systems or a group of processes. Once I have a system in place, I will repeat the process many times until I can't do it anymore."

She goes on, explaining: "I begin by creating a huge mess with paint and then I slowly eliminate areas by adding white. It's like chipping away at the color until some kind of form emerges. This type of painting feels more natural to me than anything I've ever done in the past."

Dustin Harewood is also presenting new works, works that are so new, that he jokes, "Some of the paint might still be wet at the show."

Harewood moves between complex abstract compositions and portraits of reggae and hip hop artists. He explores the roots of these music forms seeing them both as extraordinary creative efforts and as a system whereby men of the African Diaspora can define their own trajectory.

Of these new pieces (portrait and abstract), Harewood remarks, "My approach (mind state) is that of a designer more than a fine artist. Arranging and re-arranging visual elements... I have no goal other than to make cool and beautiful things. Hopefully my art will make the world a slightly more interesting place to live in."

Heather Blanton's work is less informed by a painterly approach; rather, hers is one that explores the implications of archaic technology fused with new methods. "I use out dated Polaroid sx-70 film for my images; I try to take photos of ordinary things and transform the perception of the viewer in a more softer, surreal state," she says.

Currently working on cultivating corporate clients, Blanton is especially excited about a panoramic shot of Jacksonville, "I am excited about it, I am using a Dutch process called diasec that entails printing the image and then archivingly fusing it to plexi-glass for a very contemporary feel."

The artist MactruQue, who will also be showing was unfortunately unavailable for comment for this article.

And as for myself, suffice to say that the new works--though using the iconic form of the horse--are really about the intimacy of drawing and making marks. The equine forms are merely a vestige of childhood, and a method by which to convey these marks. About my process it might be best to say that if one that relies upon deliberate and happenstance marks, that are themselves evidence of my ongoing internal dialogue, one that is rife with petty grievances and vainglorious imaginings.

Bright Young Things '09 opens on April 3rd, 6-9 p.m., and runs through June 5th

Jane Gray Gallery, 643 Edison Ave., Jacksonville, 762-8826

art events



"Feel the Rythm" Annelies Dykgraaf, the Featured artist at the Art Center

April 1 **First Wednesday Art Walk** Downtown Jacksonville 5-9 pm Rain or Shine. Paint Downtown! Bring your artistic skills to the corner of Laura and Adams Street for a Downtown streetscape improvement project. Downtown Vision and ALGA are hanging a canvas and providing paint, so you can express what Downtown means to you. Discover The Big Read: The Big Snowy Day. Come explore as the Main Library is transformed into the Yukon, just like in the book. Enjoy story time with special guest, Kathryn Peyton, and live music. At Hemming Plaza be one of the first to visit the Earth Day Jacksonville, Inc. table to receive a free, collectible 2009 Earth Day t-shirt or poster designed by local artist, Mike Berndhart, in honor of the annual Earth Day Ecology Fair. See Annelies Dykgraaf's show "Let's Dance" at the Art Center located in the Carling, 31 W. Adams. www.downtownjacksonville.org

Through April 5 **Why Look at Animals?** *Why look at Animals?* is a major exhibition of historical and contemporary photography that surveys the various ways animals have been depicted photographically for the last century and a half. The more than 200 photographs have been drawn from the George Eastman House archive and from studios of contemporary artists around the world. MOCA The Museum of Contemporary Art, 333 North Laura St. Info: (904) 366-6911 or www.mocajacksonville.org.

Through April 6 **Roopali Kambo: Images of Entrancement** A gallery exhibit with works by India born artist Roopali Kambo. Accompanied by a free educational resource guide, *Images of Entrancement*, features Kambo's brightly colored canvases, offering gallery visitors a unique perspective on the relationship between human condition, emotion the role of daily environment. Admission is free. Gallery hours are Monday- Friday, 10 am - 4 pm and Thursday evenings until 7 pm. Galleries are also open two hours prior to all performances, and will remain open through intermission. Lee Adams Florida Artist Gallery in the Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts, 283 College Drive, Orange Park.

Through April 11 **New Visions Jim Draper Exhibition** The Cultural Center presents the upcoming exhibition of Jim Draper's latest series of work, *New Visions*. Draper's work captures significant qualities of urban and rural life and the individual's place within it, the evocation of time passing, and a vivid representation of the real world. Meet the artist at the opening reception on February 27 from 6:30 to 8pm. Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, 280-0614 ext 203

Through April 11 **Florida Highwaymen Exhibit** Beaches Museum & History Center, 380 Pablo Ave, Jacksonville Beach, 904-241-5657 www.bm-hc.com

Through April 12 **Georgia O'Keeffe and Her Times: American Modernism from the Lane Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston** Featuring masterpieces by Georgia O'Keeffe, Charles Sheeler, Arthur G. Dove, Stuart Davis, and Marsden Hartley, the Lane Collection is considered to be one of the greatest collections of American modernism. This exhibition of 45 paintings traces the development and diversity of American Modernism through the eyes of a passionate collector. April 4 **Clay Workshop at The Cummer** Join master potter Vance Shrum for a clay workshop in The Cummer studios, 10 am to 4 pm. All levels of experience are welcome and participants will construct and glaze a clay vessel. Discussion will focus on hand-building techniques and glaze secrets. To register, call (904) 355-0630. April 6 - 9 **VSA Arts Festival 2009** Four-day arts festival for more than 2,500 students with disabilities to experience art projects in The Cummer Gardens, Art Connections and galleries. This very special event will bring the power and joy of the arts to students with disabilities. If you are interested in volunteering for this year's VSA Arts Festival, please call Hope McMath at (904) 355-0630. April 15 - May 31 **Folio Weekly Invitational Artist Exhibition** In conjunction with Folio Weekly, The Cummer will present a selection of works by some of the area's top artists. The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens will be closed to visitors beginning April 22 - 28 for the Annual Cummer Ball & Auction. The museum will reopen at 4 pm on Tuesday, April 28 for THE PLAYERS Free Tuesdays. April 25 **Cummer Ball & Auction natural abstractions ~ A Gala in The Gardens** The Cummer Ball features delectable hors d' oeuvres beginning at 6 pm, a live and silent auction, seated dinner and riverfront dancing until 1 am. Proceeds to benefit The Cummer Art Acquisitions Fund. For information and reservations, visit the website at www.cummer.org or contact the Council Office at (904) 899-6038. The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue, 904-356-6857 www.cummer.org

Through April 31 **Richard McMahan's Mini Museum** Favorite classic and modern works of art are now on display at MOSH through April. Florida artist Richard McMahan created a collection of more than 1,100 miniature reproductions that will astonish you. A few of the works included are da Vinci's Last Supper, van Gogh's Starry Night, and Botticelli's The Birth of Venus. He has not missed any of the details, down to the brushstrokes and the historically accurate frames. MOSH, 1025 Museum Circle, 904-396-7062

Through September 30 **Africa's Living Arts** This exhibition features beautiful handcrafted and factory printed textiles that tell stories of Africa's heritage, politics and social values using color, pattern and form to explore the traditional art of communication through adornment and display. Ritz Theatre & LaVilla Museum, 829 N. Davis St., 632-5555

April 3-30 **Bright Young Things** Jane Gray Gallery hosts the 2009 iteration of Bright Young Things, a group show designed to showcase some of Jacksonville's emerging artists. Curated by Missy Hager, she attempts to keep one eye on the future, while occasionally checking in with artists she has known in the past. The result is a mixture of artists who returning to making art after a hiatus, and those finding their voice. See article on page XXX. Jane Gray Gallery, 643 Edison Ave. 904-762-8826. Janegraysgallery.com.

April 3 thru May 2 **Laura Lacambra Shubert Exhibit** Fine art painter Laura Lacambra Shubert will be

featured at the opening of her newest exhibit at Stellers Gallery in Ponte Vedra on April 3 from 6 - 9 pm. According to Hillary Tuttle, Stellers at Ponte Vedra gallery owner, Shubert's use of light and shadow, and intense colors are key elements in her work. Stellers Gallery at Ponte Vedra, 240 A1A North, Suite 13, Ponte Vedra Beach, 904-273-6065

April 3 **Flourish** Phyllis Bachand, painter and mixed media sculptor will launch her inaugural show of new paintings during the First Friday Artwalk at Butterfield Garage Art Gallery. Her work has been strongly rooted in nature with an emphasis on the seed/pod viewed as a vessel that provides warmth and nourishment for life to form. In these new paintings she has carried the process to the next step - the flower as it shows life at its fullest. The gallery will host an opening show of Bachand's exhibit from 5 - 9 pm at 137 King Street in historic downtown St. Augustine. Butterfield Garage Art Gallery, 904.825.4577 www.butterfieldgarage.com.

April 3 **St. Augustine Art Walk** First Friday of every month from 5 - 9 pm, Tours begin at Rembrandtz Fine Gifts for Fun People, 131 King Street, St. Augustine, (904) 829-0065 or staugustinegalleries.com

April 3 - May 31 **George Long "D : All of the Above" Art Exhibit** George Long returns to the Gallery at Screen Arts for yet another mind-altering, consciousness expanding art show entitled 'D : All of the Above'. His shows run the gamut of drawings, sculpture, assemblages, paintings and installations. Mr. Long never fails to surprise us with every turn of his palette and we are certain this show will be no exception. Opening Party April 3, 5 - 10 pm. The Gallery At Screen Arts, 228 W. King St, St. Augustine, 904-829-2838

April 17 - May 12 **Fletcher Memory Lane** On display a wide collection of Duncan U. Fletcher memorabilia. Beaches Museum & History Center, 380 Pablo Ave, Jacksonville Beach, 904-241-5657 www.bmhc.com



Eclectic Galleris Artisan Jewelry Trunk Show at the Beaches Gallery Tour



Two Headed Ass by George Long. Gallery at Screen Arts

April 18 **Beaches Gallery Tour** Galleries located from Atlantic Beach to Ponte Vedra Beach have united for the 6th year of the original Beaches Gallery Tour. The galleries invite you to stop by between the hours of 10:00 am and 5:00 pm to view the work of international, regional, and local emerging artists. The roster of 9 galleries will have artists on site for demonstration and discussion. Maps and refreshments are available at each location. The Artistree is showcasing the artwork of owner William Meyer, acrylics by Gary Mack, and oils on canvas by Joe Coggins. Archway Gallery & Framing welcomes Jacksonville artist Mary St. Germain for a personal appearance. The J. Johnson Gallery presents Miami artist Carlos Betancourt. Eclectic Galleries presents its 7th Annual Artisan Jewelry Trunk Show, showcasing handcrafted jewelry from 15 American artisans working in glass, pearl, copper, semi-precious stone, and fine metals. Stellers Gallery at Ponte Vedra pres-

ents renowned abstract painter MacTruque. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach presents Mapped Choices: Transparency U Wear featuring the work of Christina Foard. Village Arts in Sawgrass Village presents the works of Ponte Vedra Beach native Bruce Ann Ferguson. Fairfax Gallery is featuring the works of St. Augustine artist Mary Hubley. For more info contact Eclectic Galleries, 2405 3rd St S, Jacksonville Beach, 904-247-3750, www.eclecticgalleries.com

April 18 -19 **The St. Augustine Art Association's Spring Art & Craft Festival** Over 100 top national artists will be displaying glass, jewelry, woodworks, paintings, watercolors, photography, sculpture, pottery, fiber and more. New additions to this Spring's Festival are: The Kids Art Zone; Cultural Activities and Demos; and Main Stage Entertainment featuring a line-up of popular local performers. \$1 gate donation includes a raffle ticket for a variety of prizes drawn daily. Gates will be open from 10 am to 5 pm. Special Events Field next to the Visitor's Center at U.S.1 and W. Castillo Drive. To learn more about the St. Augustine Art Association or for information about the Spring Art & Craft Festival, call (904) 824-2310 or visit www.staaa.org.

April 25 **Art! at the St. John's Town Center** Many diverse forms of art for sale and display. Live acoustic music in the Park Garden. www.simon.com

If you have an art event you would like to have listed in EU Jacksonville, please send information to: info@entertainingu.com by the 20th of the month prior to the event.

riverside arts market grand opening april 4

The Riverside Arts Market (RAM) is Jacksonville's spectacular new riverfront artists' market. Beneath the sheltering expanse of the Fuller Warren Bridge structure, this huge all-weather weekend artists' market has over one football field's covered area and will feature up to 150 artists displaying their wares, accompanied by musical entertainment, street performers, food vendors, and a fresh produce market. There will be a broad spectrum of art and artists on display. All of the art at RAM will be hand-made, no mass-manufactured or assembled products will be sold. The artist who makes the art will be there to display and sell the art. The market will be open every Saturday from April 4 to December 19. Riverside Arts Market is located on Riverside Avenue as it passes underneath the Fuller Warren Bridge. There is plenty of FREE parking in the Fidelity National parking deck next to the arts market and immediately across the street. www.riversideartsmarket.com

wicked

Marcie Dodd (Elphaba) of *Wicked* by kellie abrahamson



Broadway's smash musical *Wicked* is finally on its way to the First Coast. After months of waiting patiently, fans of the show will at long last see their favorite characters take to the Times-Union Center stage on April 23rd. To help bide the time, EU spoke with Marcie Dodd, the actress who plays leading lady Elphaba "Wicked Witch of the West" Thropp, in the show. Here's what she had to say about the performance, her green alter ego and what it's like to defy gravity.

EU: Tell our readers about the general plot of *Wicked*.

Marcie Dodd: The best way I've heard it explained is, you know *The Wizard of Oz* movie, if you have that camera angle when you're looking at the movie and you shift to your right, there's a whole [different] story happening within that story. It's not considered a prequel by any means, it's happening within that story. So it's the actual story of the Wicked Witch of the West, the green witch, and Glinda the good witch... and what made them "wicked" or "good" and what happens along the way and the building of their friendship and how it started.

EU: Who do you think Elphaba is at her core?

MD: At her core she's a good person who has lots of passionate values: passion for animals and passion for people and passion for life. But she's green obviously, so she has this thing about her that makes her different and makes people make fun of her or laugh at her or stare at her oddly so it kind of builds this defense mechanism in her which sometimes comes across as angry or comes across as sarcastic. She has this sense of humor that she just covers things up with but at her core she really is a good person. Some of the fans have come up to me after the show and they said "Oh my goodness, you're not really wicked, you're just misunderstood!" [Laughs]

EU: Elphaba's a very complex character.

MD: Very. It's really exciting as a woman to be able to have a character like this to play. You don't get many opportunities as a woman in this business to play such a complex character so it's pretty exciting.

EU: *Wicked* has a pretty rabid fan base. Is it intimidating to come into such an established and beloved role?

MD: It's a little intimidating in the beginning but this company has been really great about me kind of being able to make the role my own, [adding] something a little different. The core of the character is the same but each person brings their selves to it, and something new. From what I've been told I'm a little different [laughs]... I was fortunate enough to be able to work with [director] Joe Mantello during this [touring production's] rehearsal process. He came in a couple of times and so you got to hear his vision of what he wanted the role to be and then he gave you your freedom to make the role your own... They're not trying to just carbon copy Idina [Menzel, Broadway's original Elphaba], they're trying to recreate the character with your truth behind it. So that was exciting. It's intimidating because there are a lot of fans who are really connected to the original company but most of them are pretty willing to open up and see something new... They've been very welcoming to me. [Laughs]

EU: So switching gears a little bit, you're green in this show.

MD: [Laughs] I'm very green, yes, and it kind of follows you around your whole life. You have a little bit of green in your hair-line, you have green

pores here and there and green fingernails, so, yeah. [Laughs] On off days you have this green hue to you, people are always asking if you're feeling ok!

EU: What is that make-up process like?

MD: You get in the chair about a half hour before the show starts; you have to be all prepped and warmed up and ready to go. We have an amazing artist that's traveling with us, Joyce [McGilberry]. She starts with the base of the green makeup on your face and your hands and part of your chest and then they do a natural makeup on top of that which is actually pretty incredible. You just have this natural look on top with the mascara and the eye shadow and the lipstick but everything is kind of [matched to a] green hue [rather] than a peach one. [Laughs] So you have your purples and your blacks and your stuff like that. It's really quite calming for me. I know for some girls it's uncomfortable; I don't know anyone who has loved being green in their daily life [laughs], but being green in the show is actually pretty calming for me. Just sitting there and having people play with your face and hair, it's great.

EU: And you get to fly in *Wicked*.

MD: Yeah! I get to fly, that's pretty cool. [Laughs]

EU: That's REALLY cool. What's that like?

MD: It's exhilarating. Each night you still feel that rush as you're lifted into the air. You have the smoke and the lights and the music and the sound and the orchestra swells underneath you... Some people ask me "Does that get old? Do you just get used to it?" and I say "No, not really." Each night it still moves me.

EU: What's your favorite moment in *Wicked*?

MD: Oh no! If I had to pick one? Oh, goodness, when you get to fly, that's just pretty exciting. Actually, people laugh at me though because I really like 'Popular.' When Glinda kind of takes [Elphaba] under her wing and has this moment of "I'm gonna make you over and I'm gonna be your friend and I'm gonna invest in you," I think it's fun for me. I don't do anything really except sit there and watch her [laughs] and it's actually one of my favorite moments because I get to see the Glindas create this whole little moment. I know nobody believes me but it's true.

EU: What do you hope people come away with after seeing the show?

MD: That it's ok to be different. I think everyone can relate to that, I definitely could... Everybody had that moment in their lives when they feel a little out of place, something about them doesn't quite fit in. There are so many moments in the show where every character has this kind of flaw to them, there's something not quite right that everybody has, especially Elphaba because she's green. It's ok to be different, we can accept people with their differences that they have and they're not all flaws. I love that message because it's something I really related to... Everybody has those junior high years that you just hated, right? [laughs] In junior high where you're just like "I can't stand this, I feel so out of place!" [Laughs]

Wicked will be at the Times-Union Center's Moran Theater April 23rd through May 10th. Tickets are on sale but this is a show that often sells out so get your seats while you still can. For more information, visit artistseries.fccj.org or call 632-3373.

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June 3
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theatre and cultural events



Cheech and Chong

Now through April 5 **Singing in the Rain** If you know and love the movie, you'll love this stage musical adaptation. It has everything the movie has plus extra songs by Gershwin, Mercer and Cole Porter. Alhambra Dinner Theatre 12000 Beach Blvd., 904-641-1212, alhambradinnertheatre.com

April 3 **Neil Berg's 100 Years of Hollywood** This rip-roaring, tune-filled tribute to cinema's best features songs from classic films including Breakfast at Tiffany's, Casablanca, The Wizard of Oz, Rocky Horror Picture Show, Dreamgirls and more. Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Dr., Orange Park at 7:30 pm, 276-6750, thcenter.org

April 3 **Clean Comedy Night with Comedian Gilbert Esquivel** Gilbert's comedy is uniquely clean, urban and edgy. Gilbert shares stories about himself and those around him, sharing anecdotes as he grew-up and traveled across the United States. Theatre Dinner Show - Doors Open 5:30 pm, show starts at 7:00 pm. Dinner & Show \$45.00 for adults. Jacksonville's Gathering Dinner Theatre, 11570 San Jose Blvd. For reservations and info: 904-638-8412, www.JacksonvilleDinnerTheatre.com

April 3 **John Edward** Internationally acclaimed psychic medium John Edward has captivated audiences worldwide using his unique abilities to connect people with loved ones who have passed on. Deeply compelling, often startling and occasionally humorous, Edward's down-to-earth approach has earned him a vast and loyal following. You can see John on Cross Country Saturday's at 10:00pm on the WE Network. Ticket Price: \$82.50 The Florida Theatre, 128 East Forsyth St, 7 pm, 904-355-2787

April 4 **Cheech and Chong Light Up America Tour** Successful beyond their wildest dreams, the iconic comedy duo Cheech & Chong defined an era with their hilariously irreverent, satirical, counter-culture, no-holds-barred comedy routines. Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong's phenomenal success began on the stand up comedy circuit which led to 9 hit comedy albums and 8 hit films, breaking box office records, shattering comedy album sales, garnering multiple Grammy nominations and mesmerizing fans for more than a decade. This is their first tour in over 25 years! Ticket Prices: \$61, \$41. The Florida Theatre, 128 East Forsyth St, 8 pm, 904-355-2787

April 2 thru 5 **Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)** In this comedy, Constance Ledbelly, an English literature professor, goes on a subconscious journey of self-discovery. She theorizes that Shakespeare's tragedies Othello and Romeo and Juliet were originally comedies, and believes the ideas for the plays originate from the indecipherable Gustav Manuscript. Jacksonville University, 2800 University Blvd. N., 256-7345, ju.edu

April 3 thru 5 **Enchanted Sleeping Beauty** "Enchanted Sleeping Beauty" is filled with a variety of singing, dancing characters and is appropriate for all ages. Performances will be held at the Flagler College Auditorium's main stage April 3 at 7 pm, April 4 at 1:30 pm and April 5 at 5 pm. Tickets are \$5 for children and college students, \$8 for adults. A tea party with characters, food and drinks will follow the April 4 matinee and costs \$5 per child. For more information and reservations for the tea party, please call Phyllis Gibbs, (904) 819-6217. Flagler College Auditorium 14 Granada St., St. Augustine, www.flagler.edu

April 3 thru 11 **Hughie** Leonard Alterman and Jack Barnard star in the Pulitzer-Prize-winning playwright Eugene O'Neill's drama, *Hughie*. One of Eugene O'Neill's last works, originally intended as part of a series of short plays, but became the lone survivor when O'Neill mysteriously destroyed the others. This Stage II production is under the direction of Merrylin Opendo. All tickets are \$10, reservations are recommended by calling 249-7177. Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre 716 Ocean Blvd., Atlantic Beach, abetheatre.com

April 4 and 5 **Auditions for High School Musical** The Gathering Dinner Theatre is casting for their upcoming musical *High School Musical - On Stage!* High School musical will be running at The Gathering Dinner Theatre from June 4 - July 26, 2009. Auditions are Saturday, 12:00 - 4:00 pm & Sunday, 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Gathering Dinner Theatre, 11570 San Jose Blvd, 638-8412

April 4 thru May 3 **Nunsense** Nunsense begins when the Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally poisoned 52 of the sisters, and they are in dire need of funds for the burials. The sisters decide that the best way to raise the money is to put on a variety show, so they take over the school auditorium, which is currently set up for the eighth grade production of "Grease." Featuring star turns, tap and ballet dancing, an audience quiz, and comic surprises, this show has become an international phenomenon. Jacksonville's Gathering Dinner Theatre, 11570 San Jose Blvd. Thursdays thru Sundays, 5:30 pm - 10:00 pm. For reservations and info: 904-638-8412, www.JacksonvilleDinnerTheatre.com

April 5 **Barrage - High Strung** A fiddle-fest that features an international cast performing a mix of music, song and dance. Tickets \$20 to \$30. Florida Theatre, 128 East Forsyth Street at 7:30pm, 904-355-2787



Barrage - High Strung

April 6 **In The Mood** In the Mood presents a retro 1940s musical revue featuring the sensational String of Pearls Big Band Orchestra, boogie-woogie singers and swing dancers. The music and the arrangements in this stage show are as authentic as it gets. FCCJ Artist Series Times-Union Center, 300 W. Water St. at 7:30 pm, 904-632-3373 artistsseries.fccj.org

April 8 thru May 31 **Footloose** In this lively adolescent-oriented musical, a city kid attempts to adapt to life in an ultra-conservative backwater Midwestern town. Once there he ends up leading the repressed teenagers into a rebellion against the town fathers who have outlawed rock & roll and dancing. This energetic show includes such hits as "Let's Hear it for the Boy", "I Need a Hero" and "Almost Paradise". Alhambra Dinner Theatre, 12000 Beach Blvd., 641-1212, alhambradinnertheatre.com

April 9 and 10 **Spring Dance Gala** Florida School of the Arts will present a high-energy performance of original choreographed dance. The Spring Dance Gala features the talented students and guest artists from Florida School of the Arts. 7:30 pm Thrasher-Horne 283 College Dr., Orange Park, 276-6750 thcenter.org

April 16 **Larry the Cable Guy** "Eat, Drink and Be Larry" Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena 300 A. Phillip Randolph Blvd, 904-630-3998 904-353-3309

April 16 thru 26 **Holy Ghosts** *Holy Ghosts* is an honest, funny, and ultimately moving study of a Southern religious cult. Rich with atmosphere and the feel of Southern rural life, *Holy Ghosts* blends humor and poignancy as it probes into the circumstances and stories of the various cult members and the meaning of faith. The FCCJ DramaWorks production of *Holy Ghosts* features 15 student actors and 10 crew members from all areas of the First Coast. It is directed by Professor of Theatre Ken McCulough and features set and lighting designs by Director of Technical Theatre Johnny Pettegrew. FCCJ Wilson Center-FCCJ South Campus, 11901 Beach Blvd, 646-2222, fccj.edu/campuses/south/wilson/events.html



David Sedaris

April 17 **David Sedaris** David Sedaris, author of the bestsellers *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day* and *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* and National Public Radio contributor will be appearing for one night only at the Florida Theatre. Following the much anticipated release of his brand new collection entitled "When You Are Engulfed in Flames"; David will visit Jacksonville for an evening of engaging recollections and readings. Ticket Prices: \$62.50, \$47.50, \$40. The Florida Theatre, 128 East Forsyth St, 8 pm, 904-355-2787

April 17 thru May 10 **Shipwrecked!** A young man escapes his dull life for adventures that are spellbinding: a pearl hunting expedition, a catastrophic storm on the Coral Sea, searching for gold in New Guinea, being lost at sea and more. Hippodrome, 25 SE 2nd Pl., Gainesville, 352-375-4477, thehipp.org

April 17 thru May 2 **The Price** Arthur Miller's deeply moving play explores the relationship of two long-estranged brothers who meet after many years to dispose of their late father's belongings. Players by the Sea, 106 Sixth St., Jacksonville Beach, 249- 0289, playersbythesea.org

April 18 **Kiss Me, Kate** This Cole Porter classic directed by Lee Beger, Ph.D. Douglas Anderson School of the Arts 2445 San Diego Rd. at 7:30 pm, 346-5620 ext. 122, da-arts.org

April 19 **Auditions for HAIR: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical** Show Dates July 30, 31, Aug. 1, 6, 7, 8. Rehearsals will start end of May. Prepare 16-32 bars of a song. Accompanist will be provided. Players by the Sea, 106 Sixth Street North, Jacksonville Beach, (904) 249-0209

April 19 **Death Plays the Market** When Aloiicious Snee has to tell his investors they are flat broke, the market isn't the only thing that crashes in this fun-filled interactive murder mystery. Murder Mystery Theatre-Dave and Buster's Restaurant, 7025 Salisbury Rd. at 6 pm, 296-1525 (reservations required), mysteryplayers.com

April 23 thru May 10 **Wicked** Long before that girl from Kansas arrived in Munchkinland, two girls met in the Land of Oz. One - born with emerald green skin - is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. See how these two grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch. FCCJ Artist Series Times-Union Center, 300 W. Water St, 632-3373, artistsseries.fccj.org

April 24 thru May 9 **Playing Juliet / Casting Othello** The multi-ethnic acting company New Vistas Theater deals with race and relationships while rehearsing two of the Bard's most famous works. Theatre Jacksonville, 2032 San Marco Blvd, 396-4425, theatrejax.com

April 30 **The Color of Justice** In a time when many schools were segregated and the practice of "separate but equal" was common, Thurgood Marshall and a courageous eight-year-old begin a battle that ultimately changed the lives of black school children all over America. Based on the actual events surrounding Brown v. Board of Education. Theatreworks - Florida Theatre, 128 E. Forsyth St, 10 am & 12 pm, 904-353-3500, theatreworksjax.com

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PRESENTS

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by CALEEN SINNETTE JENNINGS

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the luster of the blues

Break out the sunscreen and folding chairs. The largest free outdoor music event in Florida, the George's Music Springing the Blues Festival (GMSTB), is coming for three solid days of great music to grace the Jacksonville Beaches' Seawalk Pavilion, April 3 – 5. **by rick grant**



Sam Veal is the venerable brain trust and executive producer of the GMSTB. Every year at the press party the second week of March, Sam is genuinely excited by the festival lineup. He's a tireless promoter of this free event and is ubiquitous at the Festival, running around making sure everything is on schedule.

Over the years, the festival has received accolades by various blues authorities. It was named by *Downbeat Magazine* as one of the top 50 Music Festivals in the world. Also it was named by the Southeast Tourism Society as one of the top 20 destination events in the country. The fact that the festival is free and right on the ocean in the cool breezes of Spring makes it very attractive to tourists.

Throughout its 19 year history, (since 1991) I've trudged out to the GMSTB for every event. The shows that stick in my memory go back to before the Seawalk Pavilion was built. The festival was presented at the same spot on the small concrete slab and outlying grounds facing the ocean. At that time, it was a much smaller festival. It was during that early period that I remember Susan Tedeschi's debut performance at the event with her first band that included another female guitarist.

Since then, Susan Tedeschi has gone on to glory and multiple Grammy nominations. Along with Susan, I remember witnessing the greats of blues at the festival. I caught Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown before he passed away and a legion of other original blues artists.

Alas, a lot of the blues legends are gone, but a new breed of dedicated blues artists carry on the tradition and are willing to make the sacrifices in a genre that has its ups and downs. Senior blues icons such as Buddy Guy, (73) Koko Taylor, (80) and B.B. King (83) are still touring on a limited basis. The young Turks of blues include Greg Baril, Conrad Oberg and Tommy Castro, another inspiring blues artist. One year, Tommy Castro and Tab Benoit played on the Seawalk Pavilion stage during the Saturday's main event. That was a great show.

This year the fest is presented on two stages—the Seawalk Pavilion stage and the West Stage across from the Beaches City Hall. Performances kick off on Friday, April 3 at 5 pm with the John Miller Band. Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band will headline the Friday event. Chubby has presented his Bayou Zydeco music at several other festivals at the Seawalk Pavilion in previous years.

The awesome Saturday schedule features variety of blues artists performing from 11:45 am to 8:45 pm, with Lucky Peterson ending the night. One of the highlights of the Saturday schedule is E.G. Kight at 2:45 pm. E.G. is getting tons of ink for her masterful guitar work, full range voice, and songwriting skill. She is a must see.

Plan to go early and stay late to catch all the great blues artists. There's much to see and do, with vendors serving a variety of food and plenty of beer.

The buzz for Sunday afternoon is Nicole Hart and the NRG Band at 2 pm. I was so impressed with her last year, I called her for an update and asked Nicole how her career was going.

"2008 was my best year yet, starting with my performance at the 2008 GMSTB. It was a milestone event. I did a recording session for 2008 Blues Music Award nominee, Albert Castiglia's CD *These are The Days*. During that session, I met Blues Leaf Records label president, Joseph Morabia who signed me to his label.

"Consequently, I recorded my Blues Leaf label debut CD *Treasure*, which will be released nationwide April 14, 2009. On the recording, I did a duet with Albert Castiglia and it was produced by Jack Kriesberg (Paquito D'Riviera, Elvin Jones). I'm thrilled by how the CD came out. Last year I inked an endorsement deal with EM Acoustics. And of course, I'm excited about returning to the GMSTB,"



Nicole says.

At the press conference on March 11th, Sam announced the new festival motto: "Let's boogie." He also announced the new fun features this year such as a Meet the Musicians booth.

Sam said that there will be a photo and video contest as well. Ed Cotton will host a guitar workshop at the Seawalk Hotel indoor stage Saturday at 2 pm as well as spearheading the "George's Music Blues-In-The-Schools" outreach program. Sunday, Roger "Hurricane" Wilson will hold an electric blues guitar workshop in the same location at 5 pm.

The peripheral events include a surfing, running, and bicycle blues events at various times and locations. Sam went on to say that this year the festival will have reduced prices on food and beverages

At the Press Conference, Toots Lorraine and the Traffic plus Ed Cotton performed live. Toots will be performing on the West Stage Friday night at 6 pm. Ed Cotton performs on the West Stage Sunday, at noon. The official festival restaurant, Mojos Kitchen provided the delicious lunch and will hold after hours jams featuring various GMSTB performers each night from 10 pm until late.

For me, after 19 years, the festival hasn't lost its luster. I still enjoy going out to all the festivities. For the diehard blues fans to avoid the parking hassles, check into a hotel for the weekend and make it a mini-vacation. Go to springingtheblues.com for everything about Goerge's Music Springing the Blues festival.

show schedule

Friday, April 3

Main Stage Schedule*

- 5:00 John Miller Blues
- 6:00 J.P. Soars and the Red Hots
- 7:30 Regi Blue
- 9:00 Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band

West Stage Schedule*

- 5:00 Tommy Thunderfoot and the Accelerators
- 6:00 Toots Lorraine and the Traffic
- 7:30 J.P. Soars and t

Saturday, April 4

- 11:45 Skinny Legs and All
- 12:45 WSNB
- 1:45 Marquise "Manchild" Knox
- 2:45 E. G. Kight
- 4:00 Dave Herrero featuring Felix Reyes
- 5:00 Cedric Burnside and Lightnin' Malcolm
- 6:15 Eddie Shaw and the Wolf Gang
- 7:30 Legendary JC's
- 8:45 Lucky Peterson

Sunday, April 5

- 12:00 Willie Mae
- 1:00 Samuel James
- 2:00 Nicole Hart and the NRG Band
- 3:00 Jim McKaba and the After Hours Band
- 4:00 Robin Rogers
- 5:00 Greg Baril
- 6:15 Shane Dwight

april music events

APRIL 2 AJ Roach San Francisco-based folksinger AJ Roach grew up listening to bluegrass and traditional mountain music and that background is reflected in the music he makes today. His songs are an endearing anthology of life stories, colored with hearty, twangy vocals, plenty of strings and that unmistakable bluegrass spontaneity. See him perform live at European Street this month. Tickets: \$10. European Street Listening Room (San Marco), 399-1740

APRIL 3 The Besties The Brooklyn-based twee trio of The Besties creates impossibly catchy pop songs about everything from zombie to cowboys. Their super-cute indie sound will be coming to you at TSI on April 3rd. If you love them, (and you might) buy their newest album *Home Free*, just released in February. TSI, 424-3531

APRIL 6 Maria Taylor Maria Taylor, one-half of celebrated dream pop band Azure Ray, will unveil her third solo record, *LadyLuck* later this month. The ethereal-voiced songbird was inspired by a breakup this time around and manages to strike a balance between melancholy and empowerment with this new musical offering. Hear some selections from *LadyLuck* as well as some of Taylor's older songs when she plays Jack Rabbits on the 6th. Whisptown 2000 and Christina Wagner will also perform. Tickets: \$10/advance, \$13/day of show. Jack Rabbits, 398-7496

APRIL 8 One Night of Queen Gary Mullen along with his band 'The Works', delivers the look, the sound and the showmanship of arguably the greatest live band of all time. Over the past 7 years *One Night of Queen* has toured virtually non-stop around the UK, Germany, Portugal, Holland, Belgium, France and New Zealand, playing theatres, arenas and festivals to sell-out crowds everywhere. They will be in Jacksonville for one performance only at the Times Union Center's Moran Theater at 7:30. Tickets \$30.50 to \$80.50. FCCJ Artist Series, 904-632-3373

APRIL 10 Hall and Oates Hall & Oates redefined genre with their smooth rock n' soul sound from Philly in the mid '80s. You might know them from hits such as 'Maneater' and 'Kiss On My List.' Catch them at the Amphitheatre on April 10th. Tickets: \$35-\$95. St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965



Old Crow Medicine Show

APRIL 11 Old Crow Medicine Show Started as an Appalachian string band of street musicians, Old Crow Medicine Show has evolved into a tightly meshed ensemble with keening vocal harmonies, fiddles and banjos. The band play pre-World War II blues and fiddle tunes with a decisive brazenness, and the fiery result equally impresses old-time music fans and modern day roots musicians. Tickets: \$31.50. Florida Theatre, 8 pm, 355-5661

APRIL 12 Applesseed Cast With a recently wrapped headlining tour and new album under their belts, Lawrence, Kansas's Applesseed Cast are heading out on the road again this month to share their new songs with East Coast fans. Known for their inventive, intricate drumming, subtle guitar arpeggios and impassioned vocals, the band has long been an indie rock staple and their latest release, *Sagarmatha*, proves that they still have the goods. Opening acts will be An Horse and City Lights Bloom. Tickets: Jack Rabbits, 398-7496

APRIL 12 FACT A blend of melodic hardcore, punk and contemporary pop music makes FACT one of the most unique bands to come out of Japan in a long time. It's the union of these genres and more that make this five-piece's music not only compelling, but surprisingly broad in its appeal. Often donning traditional Japanese masks, FACT puts on an incredible live show that must be seen to be believed. Check them out on the 12th at the Pit. I Wrestled a Bear Once is also on the bill. The Pit, 223-9850

APRIL 17 Tiempo Libre Grammy-nominated Tiempo Libre is one of the hottest young Latin bands today. This Miami-based group is known for their



One Night of Queen at the Times Union Center on April 8

incendiary, joyful performances of timba—an irresistible mix of high-voltage Latin jazz and the seductive rhythms of traditional Cuban son. The Cuban music ensemble will join forces with the UNF music ensembles in a special performance of Rumba Sinfonica (Symphonic Party). An exciting and spirited piece, it fuses the urban rhythms of Cuban music with orchestral instrumentation to depict danzon, cha-cha-cha, afro, son montuno and timba. Tiempo Libre tops off your evening with an explosive mix of irresistible, dance-inducing tunes. Tickets: \$32, \$28, \$24; Students: \$10. UNF Fine Arts Center, 1 UNF Dr., 7:30 pm, 904-620-2878 www.unf.edu/fineartscenter

APRIL 17 Yanni: Voices Yanni will always surprise you. Fans of his music are always sure to come out to his live performances if only to see what he'll come up with next. This time around Yanni is bringing with him additional vocalists to create a hypnotic, enchanting performance that will transport the audience into a world of romance, passion and sensuality. See the spectacle on the 17th. Tickets: \$24-\$84. Jacksonville Memorial Arena, 353-3309

APRIL 17 Stevie Ray Stiletto Stevie Ray Stiletto (aka Ray McKelvey) has been an institution in the Jax music scene for 25 years. His band, Stevie Stiletto, played their final show last year, after over two decades of touring the US, Canada, and Europe, and opening for some of the biggest names in punk rock. Though the band is finished, Ray continues to make music and will unveil some of his new work at Club Fusion in St. Augustine this month. Lazaras will also be performing. Club Fusion (St. Augustine), 829-8333

APRIL 18 Wing & Rock Fest: Skytrain / Coda / Dirty Gringos / Proudest Monkey Chow down on some wings and listen to some tunes at the Arena this month when 96.9 The Eagle kicks off their first Wing & Rock Fest. The day-long party includes hot wings, cold beer and great music from cover bands Proudest Monkey (honoring Dave Matthews Band), Dirty Gringos (classic rock covers), Coda (Led Zeppelin tribute) and Skytrain (covering Lynyrd Skynyrd & Eric Clapton). Admission to this event is free! Jacksonville Memorial Arena, wingandrockfest.com

APRIL 24 The Beach Boys Cars, surfing and summer fun are all part of the nostalgia of the Beach Boys. When you think of American Rock, these guys are one of the defining bands. Listen to them live at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on April 24! Tickets: \$33-\$73. St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965

APRIL 24 Mike Watt & the Missingmen Mike Watt is the living embodiment of the punk rock spirit. As a founding member of the highly influential Minutemen, he created one of the most important bodies of work in the American underground canon, delivering adventurous, fiercely polemical music informed by such disparate traditions as funk, folk, and free jazz. Watt goes back on the road with his band the Missingmen this month and will be making a stop at the Freebird on the 24th. Dinosaur Jr. will also be performing. Tickets: \$21. Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

APRIL 26 Sound Effects: Music at MOCA MOCA will be giving people a chance to discover the joys of chamber music with their Sound Effects concert series. This month UNF's professor of clarinet Dr. Guy Yehuda will perform with violin virtuoso Philip Pan, cellist Alexi Romanenko and pianist Paul Marquardt. This user-friendly musical event is free for MOCA members and just \$8 for non-members. MOCA Jacksonville, 366-3911

APRIL 28 Ray LaMontagne With his achingly intimate ballads, this iconoclastic artist also crafts rustic, gritty tales revealing the tragic flaws of their hardscrabble antiheroes and channeling his reverence for Otis Redding and other southern soul greats into a style that has suited him as well as the confessional and the narrative modes. Ticket Prices: \$41, \$31. Florida Theatre, 8 pm, 904) 355-2787

APRIL 28 Peelande-Z New York City's Japanese "action comic" punk band, Peelande-Z, is releasing their fifth full-length album *P-Pop-High School* this month. The album is distinctive for Peelande-Z's unique energy and love for happy, danceable music. Concert-goers can expect to see the band in colorful costumes reminiscent of the Power Rangers and are guaranteed intense audience participation with human bowling, limbo dancing, wrestling and karaoke competitions. Tickets: \$6/ages 21 and up, \$10/under 21. Jack Rabbits, 398-7496

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July 13-17 **Ninja Camp**
July 20-24 **Fit Camp**
July 27-31 **Stranger Danger Camp**
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APRIL 29 Copeland Florida indie rock trio Copeland have been making sweet, mellow music since 2000. They change things up this year with their new record *You Are My Sunshine*, an experimental journey that frontman Aaron Marsh describes as walking a "line between lovely and creepy." Driving guitars and rousing, poignant lyrics show just how much these Lakeland boys have grown over the years. Copeland will be playing the Freebird on the 29th with This Providence, Paper Route and Brooke Waggoner. Tickets: \$15/advance, \$20/day of show. Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

APRIL 30 311 Hometown heroes Red Jumpsuit Apparatus will rock out with none-other than the reggae punk-hop band 311 at the Amphitheatre on Thursday April 30th. It remains to be seen which band will attract more fervent fans-- the 311 heavyweights or the home-grown RJA. Tickets: \$33-\$43. St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965



The Besties super-cute indie sound will be coming to you at TSI on April 3

day-to-day music

APRIL 1
SunTrust Business Night at the Symphony Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Before We Sleep / The Windtalkers / Paxico Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Teddy Washington Jacksonville Landing, 354-9110

APRIL 2
Great American Jazz Series: The Mingus Big Band UNF's Robinson Theater, 620-2864
Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition Florida Theatre, 355-5661
Stellar Kart Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179
AJ Roach European Street Listening Room (San Marco), 399-1740
As Darkness Shines / Unlicensed / Minor Infection Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Weaver and Caitlin Mellow Mushroom (Fleming Island), 541-1999

APRIL 3
Neil Berg's 100 Years of Hollywood Thrasher-Horne Center, 276-6750
JSO: POPS Film Fantasy Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Bella Voce Singers and Mary L'Engle Ensemble Friday Musicale, 355-7584
Spring Choral Concert: Deep River JU's Terry Hall, 256-7345
Riley Lee UNF Recital Hall, 620-2864
Green Eyed Stare Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Stereomud / Down Theory / Marion Crane / Raw & Anonymous / 2012 / Perfect Existence The Pit, 223-9850

Amateur Night at the Ritz Ritz Theatre, 632-5555
Matt Brouwer San Jose Episcopal Church and Day School, 733-1811
Chroma Landshark Café, 246-6024
The Riff Raff / Full Stop / Blood on the Dance Floor / After Play Rewind Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Tony Smotherman Project / Braxton Adamson Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Besties TSI, 424-3531
Spring the Blues: Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band / Conrad Oberg Seawalk Plaza (Jacksonville Beach), springingtheblues.com
The Gator Country Spring Concert Series: Jamie O'Neal / Bombshel Jacksonville Landing, 354-9110
Don Miniard Culhane's Irish Pub (Atlantic Beach), 249-9595
The Red River Band St. Augustine's Francis Field, rhythmandribs.net

APRIL 4
Ben Folds University of North Florida Arena, 620-2878
JSO: POPS Film Fantasy Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Ritz Jazz Jam Ritz Theatre, 632-5555
Another Way of Life / Echoes Through Chaos / None Like Us / Karma for Liars Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Grandpa's Cough Medicine Landshark Café, 246-6024
Spring the Blues: Legendary JCs / EG Kight Seawalk Plaza (Jacksonville Beach), springingtheblues.com
George Aspinall Band / Artisan Jacksonville Landing, 354-9110

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JOE COCKER
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BEACH BOYS BAND
FEATURING MIKE LOVE & BRUCE JOHNSTON
FRI. APRIL 24TH 7:30PM

311
RED JUMPSUIT APPARATUS
THU. APRIL 30TH 7:30PM

JAMES TAYLOR
FRI. MAY 1ST 8:00PM

KINGS OF LEON
AND THE WALKMEN
MON. MAY 4TH 7:30PM

BONNIE RAITT
AND RYAN SHAW
SAT. OCT. 24TH 8:00PM

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MARCH 27TH NEVERENDING STORY (PG)
APRIL 3RD THE WIZARD OF OZ (G)
MAY 15TH HARRY POTTER & THE SORCERER'S STONE (PG)
JUNE 5TH DIRTY DANCING (PG-13)
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Shoofly European Street Cafe (Southside), 725-3929
The Psydelics, Spectra, J.W. Gilmore & the Blues Authority and Leon Russell St. Augustine's Francis Field, rhythmandribs.net

APRIL 5
Barrage- High Strung Florida Theatre, 355-5661
JU Ensembles Concert JU's Terry Hall, 256-7345
Chris Tomlin / Israel Houghton Jacksonville Memorial Arena, 353-3309
Chicago St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
Dead Commuter Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Among The Broken / I Am Goodwin / For You And I The Pit, 223-9850
Ivan Neville's Dumpstaphunk Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Spring the Blues: Greg Baril / Shane Dwight Seawalk Plaza (Jacksonville Beach), springingtheblues.com
Rezolution Jacksonville Landing, 354-9110
Michael Funge Culhane's Irish Pub (Atlantic Beach), 249-9595
Funk Shui and the Falling Bones St. Augustine's Francis Field, rhythmandribs.net

APRIL 6
In the Mood Times-Union Center: Moran Theater, 633-6110
Maria Taylor (of Azure Ray) / Whispertown 2000 / Christina Wagner Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
We Shot the Moon / The Fold The Pit, 223-9850

APRIL 7
First Coast Wind Ensemble: Family Concert with St. Johns Country Day School Chorus St. Johns Country Day School (Orange Park), 646-2222
JU Orchestra Spring Concert JU's Terry Hall, 256-7345

APRIL 8
One Night of Queen Times-Union Center: Moran Theater, 633-6110
Ritz Chamber Players Final Concert Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Music @ Main: UNF Clarinet Choir Main Library, 630-2665
Texas in the News / Royalist / Forgetting November / Apollo's Lyre The Pit, 223-9850
Lisa's Sons Jack Rabbits, 398-7496

APRIL 9
Lavilla Piano Concert Lavilla School of the Arts, 633-6069
Marcy Playground The Pit, 223-9850
Millions of Dead Cops / White Trash Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Love as Laughter / Arbouretum Café Eleven, 460-9311
Weaver and Caitlin Mellow Mushroom (Fleming Island), 541-1999
The John Carver Band European Street Cafe (San Marco), 399-1740

APRIL 10
UNF Summer Family Foundation Chamber Music Series - Riley Lee UNF Recital Hall, 620-2864
Unit Shifters Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Riggs / Scum of the Earth / Ghostwitch Family Band / M3RD The Pit, 223-9850

Maybe you saw him recently on SNL. Hear Ray Lamontagne at The Florida Theatre on April 28



Hall and Oates St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
Killer Robots TSI, 424-3531
The Fritz Landshark Café, 246-6024
The JeanMarie / Fit For Rivals / Antique Scream / Storebought Bones Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Surfrider Summer Kickoff: Senate / Shut Up & Dance Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Sean Simmonds / G-Notes Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179
Tom Gabel / Dan Andriano Café Eleven, 460-9311
Captain Hook Box Seats, 908-7328
Fats Lewis Jacksonville Landing, 354-9110
Green Eyed Stare Culhane's Irish Pub (Atlantic Beach), 249-9595

APRIL 11
Gear Down The Pit, 223-9850
Rusholme Ruffians / Nightporter Landshark Café, 246-6024
Old Crow Medicine Show Florida Theatre, 355-5661

Spider Fest 2009 Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Not Tonight Josephine / Ghost of Gloria Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Eclipse Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Corey Crowder / Abandon Kansas Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179
Captain Hook Shellfish Grille & Lounge (St. Augustine), 940-4700
George Aspinall Band / Radio 80 / A1A North Jacksonville Landing, 354-9110
Willie Mae European Street Cafe (Southside), 725-392
Riverboat Gamblers Lady St. John's Riverboat, 306-2200

APRIL 12
Appleseed Cast / An Horse / City Lights Bloom Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
FACT / Wrestled a Bear Once The Pit, 223-9850
Captain Hook Trade Winds Lounge (St. Augustine), 829-9336

george's music springing the blues

April 3-5

George's Music Springing the Blues, the Beaches annual outdoor music festival, will be going down on the 3rd through the 5th. This year's fest promises to be one of the best yet with its stellar lineup and numerous activities for the whole family.

This year George's Music Springing the Blues will have two stages, each with world-class blues musicians. On Friday, April 3rd John Miller Blues, Regi Blue, Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band, Toots Lorraine and the Traffic, J.P. Soars and the Red Hots, Conrad Oberg and many others will perform. Day 2 is filled with even more acts, including Skinny Legs and All, E. G. Kight, Legendary JC's and Lucky Peterson. The final day of the fest will bring Willie Mae, Robin Rogers, Greg Baril, Shane Dwight and others will take to the stages.

While good music is this festival's main focus, there are plenty of other things to do. Games and activities will keep the kids busy and the surfing contest and 5k run are just a few of the things to keep grownups entertained. Good eats will be available at vendors as well as alcoholic beverages (be sure to bring your i.d.).

George's Music Springing the Blues Festival is free and open to the public. Coolers, pets, umbrellas, tents and backpacks are not allowed at the festival so leave those at home. For more information, visit springingtheblues.com. Seawalk Plaza, Jacksonville Beach.



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**-Atlanta Journal
 Constitution**

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Florida indie-rockers Copeland are playing Freebird Live on April 29

APRIL 13
Mike Hale / Ninja Gun Jack Rabbits, 398-7496

APRIL 14
UNF Chamber Orchestra - Dr. Simon Shiao, conductor UNF's Robinson Theater, 620-2864
Shai Hulud The Pit, 223-9850

APRIL 15
JSYO: CSX Major/Minor Concert Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Music @ Main: UNF String Ensemble Main Library, 630-2665

APRIL 16
JSO: Mozart Requiem Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Jacksonville Children's Choir presents Carmina Burana First Methodist Church (Downtown), 346-1636
Bare Knuckle Conflict The Pit, 223-9850
Arvid Smith European Street Listening Room (San Marco), 399-1740
Lost July Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Weaver and Caitlin Mellow Mushroom (Fleming Island), 541-1999

APRIL 17
Old School Freight Train Church of the Good Shepherd, 387-5691
Tiempo Libre UNF's Lazzara Hall, 620-2864
JSO: Mozart Requiem Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Piano Studio Recital JU's Terry Hall, 256-7345

Yanni: Voices Jacksonville Memorial Arena, 353-3309
Bamboozle Road Show: Forever the Sickest Kids / We the Kings / The Cab Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Bare Knuckle Conflict / Legions of Fire Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Joe Cocker St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
Hoods / Beg for Life The Pit, 223-9850
Park Street Jacksonville Landing, 354-9110
Stevie Ray Stiletto Club Fusion (St. Augustine), 829-8333
Another Story Culhane's Irish Pub (Atlantic Beach), 249-9595

APRIL 18
Classic Albums Live: The Doors- The Doors Florida Theatre, 355-5661
JSO: Mozart Requiem Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Mozart's Cosi fan tutte Church of the Good Shepherd, 387-5691
Southern Fried Funk Landshark Café, 246-6024
Fall of Envy / Shattered Spine The Pit, 223-9850
St. James Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Dave Matthews Tribute Band Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Trains Followed Us / There for Tomorrow / Mechanical Shark Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
With Blood Comes Cleansing / Until the Day / Moths of Lions Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179
American Cancer Society Relay for Life: Captain Hook Fleming Island High School Football Field
Hipp Street / Jay Garrett Band Jacksonville Landing, 354-9110

Larry Mangum's Songwriters' Circle: Mike Denny / Mike Saffer / Dan Taylor European Street Cafe (Southside), 725-3929
Wing & Rock Fest: Skytrain / Coda / Dirty Gringos Jacksonville Memorial Arena, wingandrockfest.com

APRIL 19
Grand Finale Concert UNF's Robinson Theater, 620-2864
First Coast Wind Ensemble: Family Concert with St. Johns Country Day School Chorus JU's Terry Hall, 646-2222
Riverside Fine Arts Series: Alan Morrison Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 389-6222
Mozart's Cosi fan tutte Church of the Good Shepherd, 387-5691
Johnathan Appleseed / The Wandas Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Michael Funge Culhane's Irish Pub (Atlantic Beach), 249-9595
4/20
Left Alone / Black President / Deadly Sins Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Carl Denson's Tiny Universe Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

APRIL 21
The AP Tour: Family Force 5 / 3OH!3 / The Maine / Hit the Lights Freebird Live, 246-BIRD



The Waybacks Live at Sun Dog Diner April 21

Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition Florida Theatre, 630-3690
The Waybacks Sun Dog Diner, 241-8221

APRIL 22
JSO: Musician Pension Benefit Concert Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Nickelback / Seether / Saving Able Jacksonville Memorial Arena, 353-3309

APRIL 23
REO Speedwagon Florida Theatre, 355-5661
Rock By The Sea Music Festival Harry A's (St. George Island), rockbythesea.org
Farewell / Red Car Wire / Vice on Victory The Pit, 223-9850
(hed) P.E. / The Dirtball / Mower / DGAF Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Weaver and Caitlin Mellow Mushroom (Fleming Island), 541-1999
Valerie Smith & Liberty Pike European Street Cafe (San Marco), 399-1740

APRIL 24
JSO: Doc Severinsen and El Ritmo de la Vida Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
James Stewart Café Eleven, 460-9311
The Beach Boys St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
Rock By The Sea Music Festival Harry A's (St. George Island), rockbythesea.org
Jacksonville Jazz Festival Laura Street Corridor (Downtown), 630-3690

Electric Six / The Living Things Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Judi Chicago TSI, 424-3531
Paris is Burning The Pit, 223-9850
River City Rebels / F.F.N. Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Dinosaur Jr. / Mike Watt Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
The Ember Days / Until Dawn Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179
Delta Moon Mojo Kitchen (Jacksonville Beach), 247-6636
Captain Hook Chicago Pizza Bakery (St Augustine), 230-9700
Little Green Men Jacksonville Landing, 354-9110
Box 543 Culhane's Irish Pub (Atlantic Beach), 249-9595

APRIL 25
JSO: Doc Severinsen and El Ritmo de la Vida Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
North Florida Fine Arts Festival: River City Band UNF Conference Center, 724-8326
Rock By The Sea Music Festival Harry A's (St. George Island), rockbythesea.org
Anchor Arms / Assassinate the Scientist Landshark Café, 246-6024
The Supervillians / The Bastard Suns / The Sweet Kings The Pit, 223-9850
Sara Mac Band / Johnathan Appleseed Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Captain Hook Chicago Pizza Bakery (St Augustine), 230-9700
Lisa and the Mad Hatters Jacksonville Landing, 354-9110
Chroma European Street Cafe (Southside), 725-3929

vinyl phoenix

Weird Wax by erin thursby

Seems like everyone is into vinyl, vintage and otherwise. Some modern artists are even cutting their stuff on the old recording medium. Like a phoenix, Vinyl Frontier has been resurrected, rising from the ashes to form anew in a slightly different location, under a new name—Weird Wax (2128 Atlantic Blvd, 399-3004).

Vinyl records looked to be a thing of the past, like 8-track records. But sound purists maintain that the sound on vinyl is far richer, warmer and more complex than the sound on a CD. Some of these purists have founded bands, who want their work available on vinyl. Not only that, but because of the number of people downloading music, the demand for CDs have been drastically reduced. People will buy vinyl when they wouldn't dream of buying a CD.

At Weird Wax you'll find everything from vinyl Thriller and Billy Idol to Tiger Beat Teen Bands and new cuts from artists who like their sound on vinyl. You'll find Weird Wax just off the I-95 Atlantic Blvd. exit, just off the exit before the Dollhouse and on the same side of the street. It's very easy to pass, so be sure and keep a sharp eye out for it.

They also have a small place up front for bands to play and they hope to have artist exhibitions. (Contact Steve Parker, 399-3004 if you want to display art or if you'd like your band to play in their space.)

You can also catch them at the Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival on Amelia Island in Fernandina, where they'll be holding a vintage vinyl show on May 1-3 as part of the festivities there. They also have booths at two antique malls, Trailerpark Collectibles in Fernandina and the Tin City Antique Mall.

This month they have a number of events planned at the store, including an infinitesimal records after party with child abuse (n.y.), D.M. Waltz and telepathic friend on April 11th at 9 pm.



Jamie Stewart (XIU XIU-pronounced shoo shoo) will be at Cafe 11 in St. Augustine on April 24

Jacksonville Pipes and Drums Culhane's Irish Pub (Atlantic Beach), 249-9595
Birth of the Blues w/Soul Slinkee, Stormy Weather Blues Band, Regi Blue, Al Stone Band and Kevin Marcus Dillon Band St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965

APRIL 26
Hilary Van Wagenen Henry Thrasher-Horn Center, 276-6750
Bella Voce Cabaret Annual Free Concert Flagler College Auditorium, 797-2800
Sound Effects: Dr. Guy Yehuda / Philip Pan MOCA Jacksonville, 366-3911
Rock By The Sea Music Festival Harry A's (St. George Island), rockbythesea.org
Cold / Killer and the Star / The Drama Club Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Glas Tara Irish Dancers / Bobby Flynn Culhane's Irish Pub (Atlantic Beach), 249-9595

APRIL 27
Cannibal Corpse / The Faceless / Obscura / Neuraxis Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

Sleepytime Gorilla Museum Jack Rabbits, 398-7496

APRIL 28
Ray LaMontagne Florida Theatre, 355-5661
Music @ Main: enhak (in-HA-kee) Main Library, 630-2665
Peelander-Z Jack Rabbits, 398-7496

APRIL 29
The Movement / Molta Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Copeland / This Providence / Paper Route / Brooke Waggoner Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

APRIL 30
311 / Red Jumpsuit Apparatus St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
Weaver and Caitlin Mellow Mushroom (Fleming Island), 541-1999
Gamble Fest Kickoff Concert: Larry Mangum / Bob Patterson / Charley Simmons / David Russell European Street Cafe (San Marco), 399-1740

upcoming shows

- May 1 **James Taylor** St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
- May 1 **Taylor Swift / Kellie Pickler** Jacksonville Memorial Arena
- May 2 **Black Kids** Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
- May 3 **Pennywise / Pepper** Plush, 743-1845
- May 4 **Kings of Leon** St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
- May 6 **Enter the Haggis** Café Eleven, 460-9311
- May 7 **Gavin Degraw** Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
- May 8 **G. Love / Flyleaf / Snoop Dogg** Francis Field (St. Augustine), ancientcitycrawfishboil.com
- May 9 **Candlebox / Hinder / 3 Doors Down** Francis Field (St. Augustine), ancientcitycrawfishboil.com
- May 16 **LeAnn Rimes w/ JSO** Starry Nights at Metropolitan Park, 630-3690
- May 24 **The Ten Tenors** Times-Union Center: Moran Theatre, 633-6110
- August 7 **Kenny Chesney w/Miranda Lambert and Lady Antebellum** 800-745-3000
- October 24 **Bonnie Raitt** St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965



Taylor Swift will play to a sold out crowd at the Jacksonville Memorial Arena on May 1.

44th Annual Palm Sunday MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA

Mark Hart · Just Wade · Colleen Murphy
 Keith Godwin · Rotageezer · Matanzas
 US · Lisa & Madhatters · Spanky
 Red River Band · The Sound

Hosted by Troy Locke

APRIL 5 1PM to 1AM

44TH ANNUAL EASTER SUNDAY MUSIC EXTRAGANZA

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Hosted by Troy Locke

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 Friday & Saturday, April 17-18 **SPANKY**

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**TOM GABEL (AGAINST ME!)
DAN ANDRIANO (ALKALINE TRIO)**
APR 10TH \$10 8:30 PM

**JAMIE STEWART
(XIU XIU)**
APR 24TH \$8 8:30 PM

ENTER THE HAGGIS
MAY 6TH \$10 8:30 PM

SOUND CHECK

local music news

Black Kids and **SUNBEARS!** will be hitting the road this month with Mates of State. Here's hoping our favorite as yet undiscovered electro pop duo turns heads during this high-profile outing! • Five Broadway stars are giving away the chance to join them on stage in Neil Berg's 100 Years of Hollywood at Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts in Orange Park on Friday, April 3rd. Want your chance at stardom? Visit singingwiththebroadwaystars.com for more info. • **Dark Castle** returns to the First Coast on April 5th after a cross-country tour and will have their homecoming show at Doozers Pub. Be there to welcome the guys back. • Missed a good show at The Pit? If so, check out TFC Web Ads' MySpace page (myspace.com/tfcwebads). The company has been shooting footage of bands performing in the venue for some time now and performances by locals like **Simplex 1**, **Mindslip** and **Marion Crane** are all there.



Black Kids



get outta town!

Sometimes good bands don't come to us, so we have to go to them! Here are a few road trip-worthy shows to check out this month:

APRIL 5- **Unwed Sailor / Pielos** New World Brewery; Ybor City, FL

APRIL 8- **Flight of the Conchords** UCF Arena; Orlando, FL

APRIL 18- **Ladytron / The Faint** Variety Playhouse; Atlanta, GA

APRIL 20- **Wilco** Classic Center; Athens, GA

APRIL 26- **Bruce Springsteen** Philips Arena; Atlanta, GA

APRIL 28 & 29- **Dave Matthews Band** Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre; Alpharetta, GA

APRIL 29 & 30- **Cursive** The Social; Orlando, FL

venue of the month



club tsi discotheque

424-3531, clubtsi.com
333 East Bay St., Downtown Jacksonville

Considered Jacksonville's premiere underground nightclub and venue, TSI has been the best place to hear the newest music since it opened back in 2004. The club has hosted acts like Bonde do Role, Black Lips and Busdriver and continues to bring in phenomenal local, national and international bands each month. TSI serves import and domestic beer, wine, ports and champagnes. For a complete list of their selections, visit their website.

weekly happenings:

Tuesday
Karaoke with Ugly Ed

Thursday
Gameshow Retro Super Party with SUNBEAR DJs, DJ Fryza, and DJ Pack (beer pong/prize wheel)

Friday
Get Loose with DJ Nick Fresh (old and new dance floor hits)

Saturday
Intermission with DJ Dan (all night dance party)

Sunday
Factory with DJ Ryan Black (industrial/dark wave/goth)

the spotlight



Each month EU will introduce our readers to one of the many local acts working hard to get their music heard. For our inaugural edition of Sound Check we chose Fit for Rivals, a new band that will not fly below the radar for long.

The group formed last summer and consists of musicians who are no strangers to Florida's music scene. Renee Phoenix fronted the now defunct punk outfit The Explicits and brings her unique vocals to this new project. Thomas Amason, founding member of Middleburg darlings The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, serves as FFR's lead guitarist. The rhythm section is made up of Jesse Carroll on bass (formerly of Veronica's Veil) and Ben Nelson on drums (ex-Madelyn). As you might expect from a band with such diverse roots, Fit for Rivals produce a unique sound that's not easily categorized.

"For as much punk influence as the band [appears] to have, I'd say it's just rock and roll," Amason recently explained to EU. "I feel like our sound changes from song to song, and I like that. Some people call that inconsistency, I call it fun."

The band is currently wrapping up their first record, which is tentatively scheduled for release in late spring. Amason and the rest of Fit for Rivals have a great deal of confidence in what they've put together.

"Out of the 15 combined bands we've ever been in, we unanimously agree this is the best thing any of us have ever done."

In addition to the record, FFR is gearing up for a tour. Details are scarce right now but there's talk that they could be joining Amason's old band Red Jumpsuit on the road in the near future. If you can't wait for that reunion, Fit for Rivals will be co-headlining at Jack Rabbits on April 10th. This is the perfect time to see them before they become the next big thing.

To listen to a few of their songs and to track their success, befriend Fit for Rivals at myspace.com/FitForRivals.

Want to have your band or venue featured in Sound Check?

Email kellie@eujacksonville.com with your info!



Album: Bouquet
Artist: Caravan of Thieves
Label: None
Release Date: November 2008

The music of *Bouquet* from Caravan of Thieves will catch hold of your soul, it's languidly frantic, with sensuous backbone to it and something just a little sick hiding behind it all. It proves that acoustic doesn't have to be boring. Instead, it's bold. Even though the sound is borrowed from all sorts of musical traditions and eras, the gypsy jazz mishmash of retro and a hint of gothica somehow come together for its own immutable sound.

If you like World War II harmony heavy torch songs, down and dirty gypsy fiddle music, folk music, Old Crow Medicine Show or even the Winter Sounds then you might also dig Caravan of Thieves. It's difficult to compare them to anything because it's an intersection of styles and time periods.

'Butcher's Wife' is apt to be a favorite of those who dug *Sweeney Todd* as it follows the fate of several men who end up in a freezer, possibly next to some tasty veal cutlets.

The harmony of the singers holds together songs that appear, on the surface, to be almost chaotic. They work seamlessly together.

'Ghostwriter', the first song on the CD, tends to remain in your head. It will stick to your consciousness long after your last listen. Innocence plays off a wry, slightly strange sense of humor and greed on some of the tracks, as in 'Angels in Cages' and 'Box of Charms.'

There's a palpable fear of sweeping emotion throughout the album. It's based upon the notion that passion might just carry you away, but a distinct headiness and enjoyment at the suspicion that such lust or love might just destroy. Here's a few lines from 'Butcher's Wife' that encapsulates this feeling:

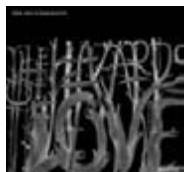
*This scene can have, no happy ending/ But in the while, it's worth pretending
 If you care, not to tango with the knife/ And be the next in line/ If you care not meet
 the afterlife/ Then don't get friendly with the butcher's wife.*

The bass beat barely keeps the emotion and music grounded, but does, *just*. And that *just* is what makes the music so awesome. Because it skates a dangerous edge and exalts the extreme.

And they do it retro style. Not just that, but these tunes are catchy. I found myself singing them in the shower. I can't believe these guys haven't taken the mass market by storm yet.

- ERIN THURSBY

ALBUMS



Album: The Hazards of Love
Artist: The Decemberists
Label: Capitol
Release Date: March

Colin Meloy and his gang of Portland, OR based troubadours, The Decemberists, are among a handful of bands who refuse to write songs destined for the shuffle and humbly cling to the album concept.

Their latest creation, *The Hazards of Love*, is not a mere collection of singles, but a 17-song suite with a single dramatic theme. Every track tells a tale, intertwining to develop one tragic story of love and loss; replete with archetypal characters including star-crossed lovers, a vengeful forest queen, a murderous rake, and the ghosts of his children.

In *Hazards*, The Decemberists have taken the folk songs and sea shanties synonymous with their sound and applied methods of theme and variation, a concept they've experimented with on albums like *The Tain* and *The Crane Wife*. Creating something at once unique and nostalgic, *The Hazards of Love* is an album that begs to be listened to from start to finish - lyric sheet in hand. Mirroring that of reading a book or watching a movie, this album demands your full attention and unmercifully reminds us that great music was not created to be simply background noise.

Even though the album is intended to be heard in its conceptual entirety, there are tracks capable of standing alone. "The Rake's Song" has already made waves and does not require any prior knowledge of the album's story to relish and enjoy. Its contagious chorus and head-nodding beat make it a single destined for a top spot on the indie charts.

What's most impressive though, is how the band has proven that it's not limited to traditional ballads but can gracefully shift gears to churn out foot-stomping distorted metal breakdowns with well-oiled execution.

When the queen speaks in "The Queen's Rebuke / The Crossing", she is accompanied by sludgy guitar riffs as Shara Worden of My Brightest Diamond lends her voice to channel the ghost of Grace Slick. What initially seems to be an absurd fusion of heavy metal and folklore, in hindsight makes perfect sense when you consider the work of early metal pioneers such as Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, and Jethro Tull.

Granted it is early but I can already tell you that this is Grammy-worthy stuff and my premature pick for album of the year, so do yourself a solid and pick it up (preferably on vinyl)!

-JACK DIABLO

april releases

APRIL 7 - *Unstoppable* by Rascal Flatts, *Fork in the Road* by Neil Young, *The Last Kiss* by Jadakiss, *Jigsaw* by Lady Sovereign, *Life and Times* by Bob Mould

APRIL 14 - *Swoon* by Silversun Pickups, *Sometimes I Wish We Were an Eagle* by Bill Callahan, *FACT* by FACT

APRIL 21 - *Sounds of the Universe* by Depeche Mode, *Yes* by Pet Shop Boys, *My*

Maudlin Career by Camera Obscura, *A Cabinet of Curiosities* by Jane's Addiction, *Dark Days/Light Years* by Super Furry Animals

APRIL 28 - *The Rebirth of Venus* by Ben Lee

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damnation and fury, sweetness and light

Ben Prestage, a one-man-band by madeleine peck

It is somewhat incongruous, in these technology-defined times, to stand outside a juke joint discussing the musical merits of the diddy-bo versus the cigar-box guitar. But, as the latter was predicated on the former, perhaps it makes a little more sense, and even more sense when the conversation is with a self-styled/self-taught one-man-band.

Ben Prestage is a musician originally from Mississippi (where his grandfather sharecropped), who's a self-styled one-man-band. "I do real roots-oriented stuff," said the performer, half-smiling through a big beard.

Growing up in rural south central Florida, Prestage said he was exposed to the "swamp music" of Florida, as well as the sounds of Mississippi country blues. The result is music that can be stretched and pulled in as many different directions as the artist sees fit, while always returning to classic, achy/belligerent blues chords.

Meeting the artist prior to his performance and then seeing him onstage confound the laws of nature. Offstage, Prestage is a sweet-natured, articulate musician willing to patiently explain the nuances of his craft to a relative neophyte. Onstage though, through some particular alchemy, he is both himself and all those who have come before him. This is not to place him as their equal, but perhaps as an acolyte, dedicating himself to an obscure calling, best transmitted live and onstage. It is to say his is another manifestation of mystical talent, in this case: Florida and Mississippi by way of Memphis.

"Call me Money, 'cause I always got mine. Call me Lover, 'cause I take my time" – Ben Prestage, a one-man-band

It was in Memphis, that Prestage really brought his one-man-band act together. Busking on Beale Street, with Robert Belfour (of Fat Possum Records), and Richard Johnston (2001 International Blues Competition winner), made Prestage evaluate what he was interested in, and his own personal sound. It also probably helped that his neighbor was John Lowe, a Memphis legend famous for his handmade cigarbox guitars.

The cigarbox guitars Prestage plays are strung for both stereo guitar and bass, and Prestage plays them at the same time. Initially he said it was out of curiosity that he began playing the oddity, but soon, its possibilities became clear to him. Later, after mastering the intricacies of playing bass and guitar together, he added a drumkit that he plays by manipulating four pedals on the ground. "I could get the same power and energy as a full band."

Watching him perform in his stocking feet onstage (white athletic socks if you're into that kind of detail), what seems as if it could veer towards the gimmicky—it's hard to think of a one-man-band and not think of Shel Silverstein's eponymous poem and apply the line, "we'll whirl and twirl, jiggle and prance so let's start the music and give him a chance..."—becomes natural and even mesmerizing. Switching between guitars, banjos, and cigarboxes, all the while chattering away to the audience, he lets them have a little input (holler at the stage) and then says, "I'ma play a couplea banjo songs then we gone do blues all night long." The crowd shouts its approval (especially the Georgian with the diamond-bezel watch and Parrothead shirt), and Prestage launches into a song that includes a sidebar of what a blunt is, and how to construct one at home.

Silverstein's poem was illustrated with a picture of a guy, all knees and elbows, marching stalwartly along, to one can only assume, his own drum—attached to his chest like an extra belly. An image of absurdity not exactly designed to inspire anything beyond hilarity.

But Prestage transcends popular imagery the one-man-band as a kind of half-baked quack marching through town square making "music" and brings the thunder and the pain. On his right hand, he's got a bunch of hot-rod-esque flames, "Is that because you tear it up?"

"No," he answers with a sheepish grin, "It's because I thought it was a good idea when I was eighteen."

The truth though is that he handles the strings like they're on fire, and the drums kick like his granddaddy's mule. Bass vibrates in the chest as Prestage howls on about the kind of love his woman likes, and how much he likes to give that love to her.

Eyes rolling in his head and tongue hanging out, Prestage sings about sex and love, marijuana and booze, in short, all the things that make up a full, funny life. If you get a chance, go see him. This time around he was well-worth the eight dollar cover charge at Mojo's Kitchen on Beach, Blvd. Prestage will be appearing again here in NE Florida at the Gamble Rogers Folk Festival, May 1-3 at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds. Currently signed to Bluesboys and Divas out of Tallahassee, he's got five albums out, including his latest, *Real Music*. You can also check him out on myspace: myspace.com/bprestage.

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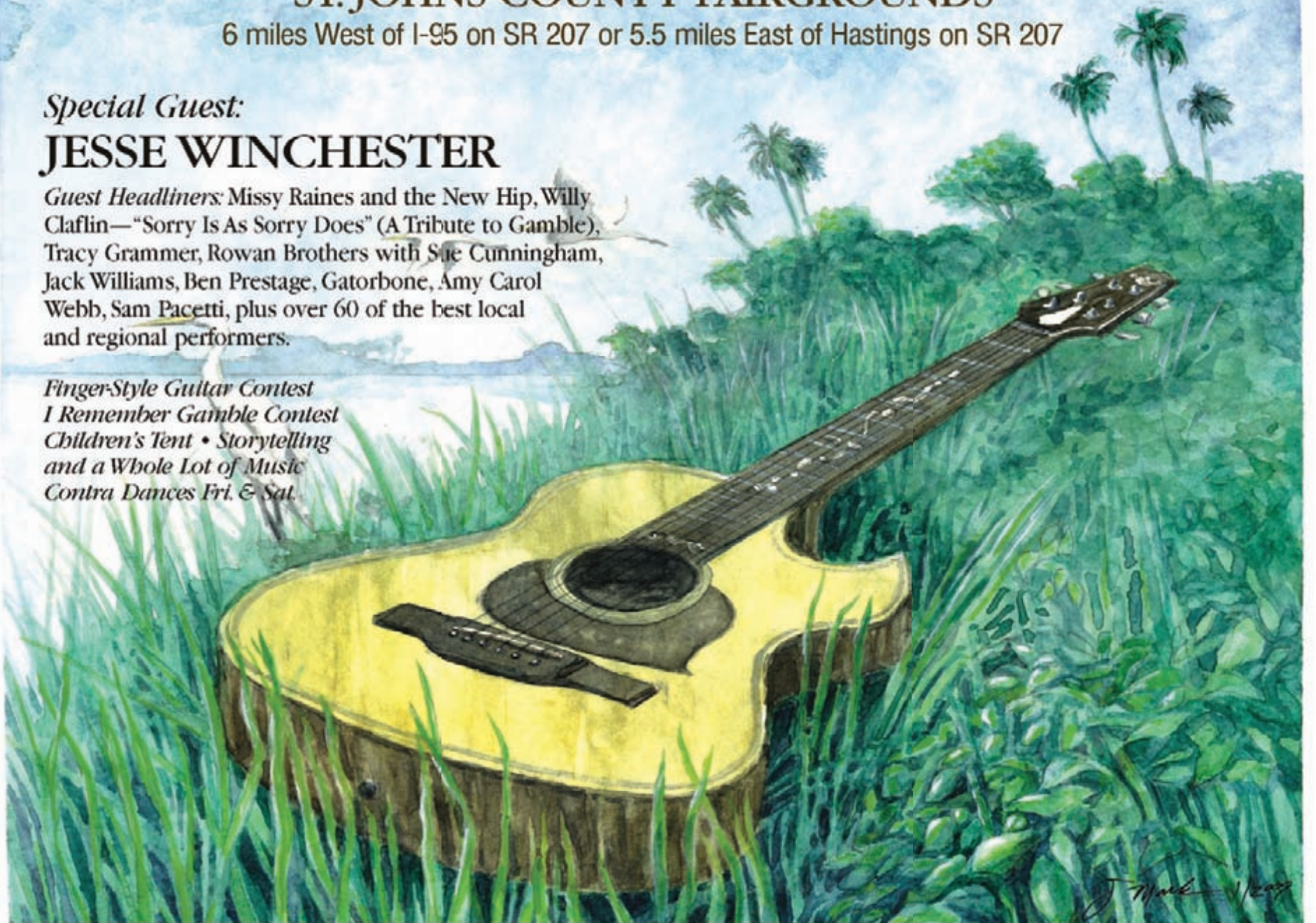
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Bob Saget and Cynthia Stevenson star in ABC's new half-hour comedy **Surviving Suburbia** which premieres on the 6th. The show, which was originally supposed to air on The CW, is about a cynical dad who openly questions the day-to-day idiosyncrasies of life in the suburbs. © ABC will unveil its new cop dramedy, **The Unusuals** on April 8th. The series focuses on a group of quirky NYPD detectives who all have secrets and eccentricities the both help and hinder their job performance. © Over on CBS, things get creepy on **Harper's Island**. The 13-episode mini-series has a group of 20-some-things, visiting the island for a wedding, being killed off one by one by a serial killer. Part **Scream**, part Agatha Christie, the show promises to, at the very least, be something different in the vanilla TV landscape. Harper's Island premieres on the 9th. © Also airing on the 9th is NBC's new comedy **Parks & Recreation**. The Amy Poehler vehicle takes a look at the mundane but often times hilarious world of local government. © Right after that new comedy comes **Southland**, NBC's newest police drama. The series follows a seasoned cop whose no-nonsense approach to the job leaves his rookie partner questioning whether or not he has what it takes. The show also premieres on the 9th. © Fox is adding another animated comedy to its line up with **Sit Down, Shut Up**, a series based on an Australian show of the same name. Created by **Arrested Development** helmer Mitch Hurwitz along with Eric Tannenbaum and Kim Tannenbaum from **Two and a Half Men**, the show promises to bring the laughs as it follows the lives of a group of unconventional high school teachers and the students who must put up with them. **Sit Down, Shut Up** premieres April 19th.

rent this!

Twilight (starring Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Ashley Greene)
Rated PG-13 for some violence and a scene of sensuality.

Stephanie Meyer's young-adult novel series **Twilight** became something of an overnight sensation with teens (oh, alright, we loved it too!) when the first volume hit shelves in 2005. Like any wildly successful book, the story was adapted into a movie that brought fans to the theater in droves when it was released last fall. The little film (the budget was \$37 million- chump change in Hollywood) ended up making over \$370 million worldwide during its theatrical run.

The story follows the whirlwind romance of Bella (Kristen Stewart), a normal teenage girl, and Edward (Robert Pattinson), a tortured vampire. The two are drawn to one another despite the fact that Edward must use every ounce of willpower he has not to devour our heroine. Their love potentially turns deadly when a group of nomadic vampires comes to town and sees Bella as the ultimate snack.

Okay, so we freely admit that the book is way better, but **Twilight** does have its good points. First, the casting is spot on. Each character is brought to the screen looking exactly how most of us pictured them (with the exception of Peter Facinelli as Carlisle- he just looks off). Second, unlike most book-to-film adaptations, the filmmakers did take care to stick to the story as best they could. Meyer herself played a big part in ensuring that her vision faithfully translated to the screen and fans the world over thank her for it. Finally, Bella and Edward's steamy first kiss? HOT!

Fans of the book and the movie will be pleased with last month's **Twilight** DVD release. In addition to the film that had teen girls lining up at the box office for months, the release offers plenty of bonus features to sink your teeth into (get it?!). The single-disc edition an audio commentary track with director Catherine Hardwicke, Stewart and Pattinson, music videos from Muse, Paramore and Linkin Park and five extended scenes with director introductions. Spring for the two-disc special edition and get all of that plus five deleted scenes with director intros, the seven-part production documentary **The Adventure Begins: The Journey from Page to Screen**, **The Comic-Con Phenomenon** featurette and a look at some of the ways they promoted the film.

If you haven't seen **Twilight** or read any of the books, this is your chance to see what all the fuss is about. While not Oscar-worthy, the film is a great escape from a dull afternoon and would make a decent date night selection.

dvd releases

April 7

Doubt (Rated PG-13)
The Tale of Despereaux (Rated G)
Bedtime Stories (Rated PG)
The Day the Earth Stood Still (Rated PG-13)

The Spirit (Rated PG-13)

April 21

Frost/Nixon (Rated R)
The Wrestler (Rated R)

April 28

Bride Wars (Rated PG)
S. Darko (Rated R)

April 14

The Reader (Rated R)

inspired by...

Your monthly guide to lit-based entertainment

by kellie abrahamson

Once again it's time to take a look at the upcoming plays and films that borrow from literature. Head to the library and pick up a few of these interesting reads.

on stage

Junie B. Jones (April 6 and 7, Florida Theatre, 353-3500)

Inspired by: the Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park

Junie B. is a spunky kindergartner (and, later in the series, first grader) who always speaks her mind, even when it can, and often does, get her into trouble. Her adventures usually revolve around things your average young student goes through: riding the bus for the first time, having a crush on a boy, going on field trips. As a result of these relatable storylines, Junie B.'s very believable narration ("My name is Junie B. Jones. The B stands for Beatrice. Except I don't like Beatrice. I just like B and that's all."), and characters we all can identify with, Park's books are a hit with kids and parents alike.

In this month's Theatreworks production Junie B. finally graduates from kindergarten and finds out what it's like to be in first grade.

Wicked (April 23 to May 10, Times-Union Center, 632-3373)

Inspired by: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum; Wicked by Gregory Maguire

L. Frank Baum inspired many people with his tales of Oz but Maguire's take on the land found over the rainbow has outshined most other attempts. Instead of continuing where Baum left off, Maguire went back to the very beginning to explore another person's side of the story, that of the Wicked Witch of the West. How she became the person Oz feared the most is the basic plot of Wicked but the story also touches on politics, sex, growing up, growing apart and dealing with loss. This is not a book for children, despite its literary roots, so delve into Maguire's Oz after you tuck the kids into bed!

Broadway's version of *Wicked* is much more family-friendly and focuses mostly on the friendship between Elphaba, the future Wicked Witch, and Glinda, who we'll come to know as Glinda the good.

on screen

Forbidden Lie\$ (in select theaters April 3)

Inspired by: Forbidden Love by Norma Khouri

Khouri's book tells the supposedly true story of a Muslim woman and her chaste love affair with a Christian soldier, who is later stabbed to death by the woman's father in a so-called honor killing. The book became an international bestseller when it hit shelves in 2003 but was later revealed to be a complete fabrication. *Forbidden Lie\$* is an Australian documentary that follows the disgraced author as she tries to prove that her book was not a work of fiction. The fascinating film has won a number of awards while making the rounds in the film festival circuit.

The Informers (in theaters April 24)

Inspired by: The Informers by Bret Easton Ellis

Known for penning *Less Than Zero*, *American*

Psycho and *The Rules of Attraction*, Ellis is no stranger to the book-to-film phenomenon. This time around, Hollywood is taking on the author's 1994 short story collection *The Informers*. Set in 1980s Los Angeles, the film consists of seven stories taking place over the course of a week, following the lives of movie executives, rock stars and other morally challenged characters. Ellis is known for weaving past characters into his newer

works, so fans should be on the lookout for those references.

The Soloist (in theaters April 24)

Inspired by: *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music* by Steve Lopez.

Inspiration can come from the written word in virtually any form. Case in point, *The Soloist*, a film

based on Los Angeles Times articles by Steven Lopez. The journalist wrote a series of columns about Nathaniel Ayers, a schizophrenic homeless man who once attended Julliard and is a gifted violinist. Lopez chronicled his growing friendship with Ayers' and his slow transition out of homelessness. The story was so inspiring to readers that Lopez turned his articles into a book that is now a film starring Jaime Foxx and Robert Downey Jr.



The Soloist

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12 ROUNDS Can you say wupp-ass? WWE champion John Cena is New Orleans Police Detective Danny Baxter. When Baxter stops a brilliant thief from getting away with a multi-million-dollar heist, the thief's girlfriend is accidentally killed. After escaping from prison, the criminal mastermind enacts his revenge, taunting the cop with a series of near-impossible puzzles and tasks ...12 rounds...that Baxter must somehow complete to save the life of his fiancée. Starring: John Cena, Ashley Scott, Brian J. White, Taylor Cole and Aidan Gillen. Rated PG13

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT The astounding, well-documented story of a family forced to relocate near a clinic where their son was

being treated for cancer. Based on a chilling true story of one family's terrifying, real-life encounter with the dark forces of the supernatural. When the financially strained and emotionally distressed Campbell family moves to upstate Connecticut, they soon learn that their charming Victorian home has a disturbing history: not only was the house a transformed funeral parlor where inconceivable acts occurred, but the owner's clairvoyant son Jonah served as a demonic messenger, providing a gateway for spiritual entities to crossover. Now unspeakable terror awaits, when Jonah, the boy who communicated with the powerful dark forces of the supernatural, returns to unleash a new kind of horror on the innocent and unsuspecting family. After experiencing violent supernatural events both inside and out of the house, the family seeks the help of ghost hunters and the Catholic Church, which performs an exorcism. Starring: Virginia Madsen, Brooklynn Proulx, Elias Koteas, Kyle Gallner and Martin Donovan. Rated PG13

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS When California girl Susan Murphy is unwittingly clobbered by a meteor full of outer space gunk on her wedding day, she mysteriously grows to 49-feet-11-inches tall. Alerted to the threat of this new monster, the military jumps into action and Susan is captured and secreted away to a covert government compound. There, she is renamed Ginormica and placed in confinement with a ragtag group of other monsters: the brilliant but insect-headed Dr. Cockroach, Ph.D.; the macho half-ape, half-fish The Missing Link; the gelatinous and indestructible B.O.B.; and the 350-foot grub called Insectosaurus. Their confinement is cut short, however, when a mysterious alien robot lands on Earth and begins storming the country. In a moment of desperation, The President is persuaded by General W.R. Monger to enlist the motley crew of Monsters to combat the Alien Robot and save the world from imminent destruction. Featuring the voice talents of Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie, Seth Rogen, Will Arnett, Rainn Wilson, Kiefer Sutherland and Stephen Colbert. Rated PG

APRIL 3

ADVENTURELAND SUPERBAD's Greg Mottola directs this comedy about a floundering college grad (Jesse Eisenberg) who decides to work at an amusement park when his post-graduation plans fall through. ADVENTURELAND's... SUPERBAD's Greg Mottola directs this comedy about a floundering college grad (Jesse Eisenberg) who decides to work at an amusement park when his post-graduation plans fall through when he realizes he cannot afford his European dream vacation, he is forced to take a minimum-wage job. Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Ryan Reynolds, Kristen Stewart, Martin Starr and Bill Hader. Rated R

FAST & FURIOUS Tank up with high test and get ready to loose some paint. When a crime brings them back to L.A., fugitive ex-con Dom Toretto reignites his feud with agent Brian O'Conner. But as

they are forced to confront a shared enemy, Dom and Brian must give in to an uncertain new trust if they hope to outmaneuver him. And from convoy heists to precision tunnel crawls across international lines, two men will find the best way to get revenge: push the limits of what's possible behind the wheel. Buckle up! Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez, Jordana Brewster, John Ortiz, Liza LaPira, and Laz Alonso. Rated PG13

APRIL 10

OBSERVE & REPORT Is this *PB:Mall Cop* all over again? These genre comedies run in packs. At the Forest Ridge Mall, head of security rent-a-cop Ronnie Barnhardt patrols his jurisdiction with an iron fist, combating skateboarders, shoplifters and the occasional unruly customer while dreaming of the day when he can swap his flashlight for a badge and a gun. His delusions of grandeur are put to the test when the mall is struck by a flasher. Driven to protect and serve the mall and its patrons, Ronnie seizes the opportunity to showcase his underappreciated law enforcement talents on a grand scale. Missile with a whistle thinks solving this crime will earn a coveted spot at the police academy and the heart of his elusive dream girl Brandi, the hot make-up counter clerk who won't give him the time of day. But his single-minded pursuit of glory launches a turf war with the equally competitive Detective Harrison of the Conway Police, and Ronnie is confronted with the challenge of not only catching the flasher, but getting him before the real cops do. Starring: Seth Rogen, Anna Faris, Michael Pena, Ray Liotta, Jesse Plemons Rated R

DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION Based on the popular Japanese manga created by Akira Toriyama and whose work spawned best selling graphic novels, video games and a phenomenally successful television series. The live action adventure centers on a team of warriors, each of whom possesses special abilities. Together, they protect Earth from a force bent on dominating the Universe and controlling the mystical objects from which the film takes its name. Goku and a handful of friends battle for the Earth against the deadly forces of the Saiyans, who are sweeping across the universe, leaving a path of destruction. Goku and his friends' best chance for survival rests with the Namekian DragonBalls, which provide them the power to summon a mighty dragon. Starring: Justin Chatwin, James Marsters, Jamie Chung, Emmy Rossum and Chow Yun-Fat. Rated PG

HANNAH MONTANA MOVIE As Hannah Montana's popularity begins to take over her life, Miley Stewart, on the urging form her father, takes a trip to her hometown of Crowley Corners, Tennessee to get some perspective on what matters in life the most. Starring: Billy Ray Cyrus, Miley Cyrus, Emily Osment, Jason Earles and Mitchel Tate Musso. Rated G

APRIL 17

STATE OF PLAY Handsome, unflappable U.S. Congressman Stephen Collins is the future of his political party: an honorable appointee who serves as the chairman of a committee overseeing defense spending. All eyes are upon the rising star to be his party's contender for the upcoming presidential race. Until his research assistant/mistress is brutally murdered and buried secrets come tumbling out. D.C. reporter Cal McCaffrey has the dubious fortune of both an old friendship with Collins and a ruthless editor, Cameron, who has assigned him to investigate. As he and partner Della try to uncover the killer's identity, McCaffrey steps into a cover-up that threatens to shake the nation's power structures. And in a town of spin-doctors and wealthy politicians, he will discover one truth: when billions are at stake, no one's integrity, love or life is ever safe. Starring: Russell Crowe, Rachel McAdams, Jeff Daniels, Jason Bateman and Rachel McAdams. Rated PG13

CRANK: HIGH VOLTAGE For those who thought



APRIL 24

there couldn't possibly be a sequel to CRANK, this adrenaline-fueled film marks a return for the character of Chev Chelios (Jason Statham) who tears through Los Angeles as he searches for the Chinese criminal who has stolen his nearly indestructible heart and replaced it with a battery-powered ticker that requires regular jolts of electricity to keep working. Starring: Jason Statham, Amy Smart, Clifton Collins Jr, Bai Ling and Dwight Yoakam. Rated PG13

17 AGAIN How many angles can they strain out of one story line? What would you do if you got a second shot at life? *Class of 1989*, Mike O'Donnell is a star on his high school basketball court with a college scout in the stands and a bright future in his grasp. But instead, he decides to throw it all away to share his life with his girlfriend Scarlett and the baby he just learned they are expecting. Almost 20 years later, Mike's glory days are decidedly behind him. His marriage to Scarlett has fallen apart, he has been passed over for a promotion at work, his teenage kids think he is a loser, and he has been reduced to crashing with his high school nerd-turned-techno-billionaire best friend Ned. But Mike is given another chance when he is miraculously transformed back to the age of 17. Unfortunately, Mike may look 17 again, but his thirtysomething outlook is totally uncool in the class of 2009. And in trying to recapture his best years, Mike could lose the best things that ever happened to him. Starring: Zac Efron, Leslie Mann, Matthew Perry, Michelle Trachtenberg and Melora Hardin. Rated PG13

EARTH The first film in the DisneyNature series beautifully tells the remarkable story of three animal families and their amazing journeys across the planet we all call home. On the screen amazing photography combines rare action, unimaginable scale and impossible locations by capturing the most intimate moments of our planet's wildest and most elusive creatures. Directors Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield, the acclaimed creative team behind the Emmy Award[®]-winning "Planet Earth," combine forces again to bring this epic adventure to the big screen, beginning Earth Day on April 22. Narrated by James Earl Jones Rated G

THE SOLOIST This highly acclaimed film circles around a statue of Mozart as journalist Steve Lopez discovers Nathaniel Anthony Ayers, a former classical music prodigy, playing his violin on the streets of L.A. As Lopez endeavors to help the homeless man find his way back, a unique friendship is formed, one that transforms both their lives. Starring: Catherine Keener, Tom Hollander, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Jamie Foxx and Nelsan Ellis. Rated PG13

OBSESSED Derek Charles, a successful asset manager who has just received a huge promotion, is blissfully happy in his career and in his marriage to the beautiful Beth. But when Lisa, a temp worker, starts stalking Derek, everything he's worked so hard for, are placed in jeopardy. Starring: Beyonce Knowles, Idris Elba, Ali Larter, Jerry O'Connell and Christine Lahti. Rated PG13

— SPECIAL MOVIE SHOWINGS —

AROUND THE WORLD IN FILM AT THEATRE MOCA MOCA will be showing its last film presentation of the Spring Series or award-winning films from the Jacksonville Film Festival on Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 pm. Cost is \$6 for Members; \$8 for Non. The Double Feature will begin with **Fields of Demeter** (48 min) *Fields of Demeter* is a voyage through the visible and invisible European cultural landscape. With the power of the eagle two young girls set out on a journey to experience the history, diversity, myths and people in the cultural landscape. The second film of the evening will be **The Birthday** Winner for Best International Feature documentary at the 2008 Jacksonville Film Festival. Iran's surprisingly liberal policies regarding transsexuals are explored in this illuminating documentary profiling male-to-females and one female-to-male in the Islamic society. Because the Koran doesn't say anything about transsexuals, unlike homosexuality, it is not forbidden. Ayatollah Khomeini himself granted religious permission for surgeries. The Birthday focuses on one male-to-female's transition and her relationship with family members who question why a man would willingly take on a female's subservient position in Iranian society. The Museum of Contemporary Art, 333 North Laura St., 904-366-6911 x208 www.mocajacksonville.org.

NOT JUST FOR BABY BOOMERS FILM SERIES Enjoy free showings of Boomers' favorite films on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month at 5:45 p.m. in the Main Library's Hicks Auditorium. Info: (904) 630-1741. April 9 **Raiders of the Lost Ark** (1981) Armed with his wits and a whip, dashing archeology professor Indiana Jones travels three continents and battles Nazis, snakes, and supernatural forces to rescue the ancient Ark of the Covenant, the sacred box that contains the original Ten Commandments. Steven Spielberg directed Harrison Ford and Karen Allen. April 23 **Lady and the Tramp** (1955) In this delightful Disney favorite, a gorgeous redheaded cocker spaniel from a lovely home is romanced by a rakish mutt-about-town. When she learns of his reputation in the song "He's a Tramp," from a slinky showgirl dog, she tells him to leave forever. Plot twists and a cadre of canine characters lead to a Darling family ending.

April 3 **Night Owl Cinema – The Wizard of Oz** The St. Augustine Amphitheatre will show the classic film, *The Wizard of Oz* on Friday, April 3. Its rated G but those flying monkeys are really creepy. Doors open at 6:30 pm and movies begin at 8 pm. Food is available from local restaurants. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, A1A South in St. Augustine. www.staugamphitheatre.com/cinema.php

April 14 **'Bama Girl** The Crimson Tide's homecoming has a rich history, tied into centuries of privilege, old money and racial exclusivity. This powerful and enlightening documentary follows Jessica Thomas's quest to become Homecoming Queen at the University of Alabama. Final film in the FCCJ Artist Series 2008-2009

Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers. Florida Community College, South Campus-Wilson Center, 7 pm - 8:15 pm, Free Admission, Info: 632-3373 or www.artistseries.fccj.org

April 18 **Don Carlo Opera** Don Carlo is possibly the most intense, deep, nuanced, rich, and masterful work of the "mature" Giuseppe Verdi, an extensive and monumental showcase of everything Verdi. It is also the Verdi opera that exists in the most number of versions. 5 Points Theatre, 1028 Park St, 904-359-0047

April 19 **Laurel and Hardy Film Tribute Festival** Sons of the Desert Laurel and Hardy film tribute festival will feature several films immediately following the group's monthly meeting. Admittance is free to MOSH members, "Any Old Port Tent" members, or with paid museum admission. MOSH, 1025 Museum Circle at 2 pm, 904-396-7062

April 20 **Monthly meeting of the Leave 'em Laughing Tent** The local chapter of the Laurel & Hardy Appreciation Society (a/k/a Sons of the Desert) will screen the following films: *Slipping Wives*, *Love 'em and Weep*, *Why Girls Love Sailors*, *With Love and Hisses*, and *Sailors, Beware!* (all from 1927) and the 1928 short *Flying Elephants*. Pablo Creek Branch Library, 13295 Beach Blvd. (between Kernan and Hodges Blvds.), 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Info: Steve Bailey, 246-0312 www.leaveemlaughtingtent.com

IMAX at the World Golf Village

The 300-seat World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater houses an 80-foot-wide by six-story-high screen. The World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX® Theater now provides closed and descriptive captioning services at no charge for hearing and visually impaired guests for a selection of films. Now Showing: *Dinosaurs: Giants of Patagonia*, *Bugs: A Rainforest Adventure* (Closed caption), *Wild Ocean* (Closed Caption & Audio Description), *Under the Sea 2D* (Closed Caption & Audio Description), *Mysteries of the Great Lakes* (Closed Caption). Coming April 10: *Coral Reef Adventure*. 904-940-IMAX www.wgv.com



movies in the park 2009

by kellie abrahamson

The economy has everyone looking for ways to save some cash and entertainment is one thing most families are simply living without. Thankfully as the weather gets warmer, cheap and even free things to do will begin to pop up all over our fair city. Enter Movies in the Park, a free, family-friendly film series that will kick off for the second year at Treaty Oak Park.

Free movie events are nothing new to the First Coast, but Movies in the Park is something special. For one thing, the location is great. The park is nestled among the Southbank high-rises, giving the whole event a completely different vibe from free movies at the beach or in St. Augustine. It's also right in the middle of Jacksonville, saving you a very long drive when compared to the aforementioned movie events. Another thing unique to Movies in the Park is the films themselves. While not particularly new, the movies chosen were picked by the audience. Back in January, event organizers asked the community to choose from a long list which films they would like to see this year. The result is a fine list of terrific G- and PG-rated movies that a wide range of people are sure to enjoy. Here's this year's schedule:

APRIL 17: *Indiana Jones And The Temple of Doom*, Rated PG

APRIL 24: *E.T.: The Extra Terrestrial*, Rated PG

MAY 1: *Finding Nemo*, Rated G

MAY 8: *Beetle Juice*, Rated PG

I attended Movies in the Park last year with my family and we had a terrific time. In addition to your blankets and lawn chairs, I highly recommend packing a picnic dinner and bringing it along (one rule: no alcohol). It's a fun way to make the evening an event rather than just a night at the movies, especially if picnicking isn't something you do often. If there's just not enough time in your Friday to prepare something like that be sure to stop at an ATM before the show so you can partake in some of the tasty snacks vendors will be selling.

While the movies begin at 8 pm, it would be a good idea to arrive early since traffic definitely slows to a crawl as it gets later and good spots on the lawn get grabbed up quickly. Sponsor 96.9 The Eagle will be there for your listening pleasure and free lawn games will be available for the kids before the movie to keep them busy.

With most events Downtown, parking will cost you an arm and a leg. Not at Movies in the Park! Free parking will be available in the Suddath garage on Flagler Street across from the Hampton Inn. Garage gates will open at 5:30 pm and stay open until 1 am, giving you plenty of time to hang out and explore the Southbank or grab a bite to eat at one of the restaurants nearby.

Treaty Oak Park is located on the Southbank on Prudential Drive. For more information on Movies in the Park, visit coj.net or call 451-3344.

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