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Weekend Edition

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Easter Events B 8

PONTE VEDRA LEADER

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Tax collector helps sheriff

Those visiting tax collector checked for warrants

by ANJALEE KHEMLANI
STAFF WRITER

Renewing a driver's license or vehicle registration could lead to an arrest if the driver has any outstanding warrants.

Through an interlocal agreement with the Sheriff's Office, the county tax collector's office is helping secure the arrest of those in trouble with the law.

The tax collector's office has a deputy on duty, for the past six years, with a single purpose — serve warrants or initiate traffic stops for those flagged in the system by the tax collector.

"We are not doing this to make anyone's life hard," said the tax collector, Dennis Hollingsworth, at a Ponte Vedra Beach Coalition (PVBC) meeting Monday.

Hollingsworth said it was to ensure the safety of residents.

"Why do we have laws if we are not going to enforce them?" he asked at the meeting. The audience responded by nodding in agreement.

Since the tax collector's office is the responsible body for all driver's licenses in the county, it is able to identify a suspended or revoked license of any taxpayer that walks through the door, said Hollingsworth at the meeting.

If a person was identified, "we would stamp the license and tell the people, don't drive, your license is suspended, you are not allowed to drive," Hollingsworth recalled about the first year the office was in charge of licenses, in 1998. He said the taxpayers would get irate and start yelling that the government could not do such a thing, and drive off anyway.

"Driving is a privilege," Hollingsworth said he would explain to those irate persons. "And you broke the

See WARRANTS, A-3 ►



Tracks leading to and from the ocean at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve show where a leatherback turtle made her nest March 24, the earliest nesting date on record for Florida's First Coast. The leatherback is the largest and deepest diving of all sea turtles and is listed as an endangered species.

Rare turtle makes rare early nest

FROM STAFF

Leatherback sea turtles are the rarest of those turtles common to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR), but nesting tracks from one of the 1,000-pound creatures was seen on March 24. Even rarer than the sighting is

the date, the earliest recorded in the area.

Only 1.28 percent of turtle nests recorded at GTMNERR are from leatherbacks, compared to 5.04 percent made by green sea turtles and 93.68 percent by loggerheads.

"This nest sighting is the earliest a leatherback sea

turtle has nested on the First Coast since the state began keeping records in 1987. It was definitely a little bit of a shock — I was surprised," said Scott Eastman, a state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) biological scientist in

See TURTLE, A-3 ►

TPC to spiff up bathrooms, parking and kids activities

Fan feedback prompted changes

FROM STAFF

In response to fan feedback from 2011, The Players has announced changes in parking, bathrooms and activities for kids for the 2012 championship in May.

The Players invested more than \$250,000 in upgrading public access bathrooms and the high-end units that grounds pass attendees can use.

In addition, the Kid Zone, for kids aged 18 and younger, will have a putt-putt course, an inflatable rock wall, bag toss, face painting and temporary tattoos for the kids, as well as a place for adults to relax while they watch their kids play.

Parking this year will be coordinated by Game Day Sports, a professional event parking coordinator to help ease the waiting times to and from the parking lots during the championship, organizers said.

The Players begins May 7.



photo by CHUCK ADAMS

Rawlings students help Wednesday morning as items for Goodwill's 16th annual Bag It Up drive arrive at their Ponte Vedra Beach school. Assisting Jim Wadsworth of Goodwill, third from right, are fifth graders Noah Silverstein, Kesia Ari, Sydney Perez, and Will Moore, joined by Will's second-grade sister, Bonnie Moore.

PV's pint-sized philanthropists assist Goodwill

School gets \$1,000 from charity

by STAFF WRITER
CHUCK ADAMS

Bags upon bags of clothing, and some filled-to-the-brim boxes, too, were delivered by students and parents March 28-29 to Ponte Vedra-Palm Valley/Rawlings Elementary for Goodwill's 16th annual Bag It Up.

PVPV/Rawlings, the first school at which clothing was picked up, traditionally has been a good donor, according to Karen Phillips of Goodwill Industries of North Florida, who has coordinated Bag It Up 12 of its 16 years.

Phillips was among the Goodwill staffers accepting donations at PVPV/Rawlings, a K-5 Ponte Vedra Beach school. She was assisted by others, including Amy Koebrick, a marketing manager who's been with Goodwill six months.

"We have 10 schools participating," Phillips said March 28. "Each school picks

their own date. Next week is spring break, so there won't be any drives. But, after that, we've got a couple drives a week."

PVPV/Rawlings is the second largest elementary school in St. Johns County with enrollment of more than 1,200 and usually 80 to 100 percent of the students participate in the donation drive.

Each student who donates receives a coupon for a three-ounce yogurt at YoBe, this year's sponsor.

After the drive, every school that has 60 percent student participation, or better, will earn a Goodwill raffle. One student will win four tickets to Disney World, one a Family Fun Pack to the Alligator Farm. This year, every school that reaches the 60 percent level will be presented with a check for \$1,000, "which the schools really appreciate," said Phillips.

See DONOR, A-3 ►

PV library to host a Titanic viewing party with contest

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Titanic along with National Library Week, the Ponte Vedra Beach Library will hold a movie event to watch "the biggest blockbuster of all time about the Titanic."

The event will be Thursday, April 12, at 2 p.m. in the Friends of the Library room, and light refreshments will be served.

All those who attend in period attire will be entered in a drawing for free copies of anniversary books about the legendary cruise ship.

For questions or more information call (904) 827-6950.

— FROM STAFF

Wine Tasting set to benefit charities and scholarships

A Wine Tasting Fundraiser event is planned for Thursday, April 12, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Urban Flats, 330 A1A N, in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The event includes unlimited selected wine tastings and hors d'oeuvres and is open to the public.

The cost is \$25 per person, and funds raised will benefit local charities and scholarship programs by the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club.

To purchase tickets send a check to: Marie DuBois, 368 Clearwater Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 or call (904) 687-5286.

— FROM STAFF



Photo by ANJALEE KHEMLANI

Third graders at Bolles Ponte Vedra Beach Campus present Fifty Nifty States on Wednesday on an outdoor stage. With the direction of music teacher Andrea Duke and drama teacher Brooks Ann Meierdierks, the musical play delivered a tour of the different regions and states in the U.S. by students in Nancy Baker's and Amy Coles' classes.



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