

## UNHEARD WORDS

Open-mic poetry is held from 8-11 p.m. every second and fourth Tue. of each month at Tamerry's Sports Club, 10696 Lem Turner Road, Jacksonville. Admission is \$3 for students, \$5 for general audiences. Poets are admitted free. 722-1647.

## comedy

### THE ATLANTIC THEATRES COMEDY CLUB

National comedians appear every weekend · Women and members of the military are admitted free every Thur. · 751 Atlantic Blvd., Atlantic Beach. 249-7529.

### THE COMEDY ZONE

Cowboy Bill Martin performs March 14-18 · National comedians perform every Tue.-Sat. · Admission ranges from \$6-\$14 unless otherwise noted · Located in the Ramada Inn Mandarin at I-295 and San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville. 292-HAHA.

### GYPSY COMEDY CLUB

Professional comedians appear at 8 p.m. every Thur., at 9 p.m. every Fri. and at 9 p.m. every Sat. at Gypsy Comedy Club, 828 Anastasia Blvd., St. Augustine. Admission is \$10.50. For reservations, call 461-8843.

### HOT RODS GRILL COMEDY PARK

David Ashley is in on March 16-18 · Professional comedians appear at 8 p.m. every Thur., and at 8 and 10 p.m. every Fri. and Sat. Admission is \$5 on Thur. and \$12.50 on Fri. and Sat. 789 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park. 272-6010.

### improv JACKSONVILLE

Improvisational comedy is featured at 8 p.m. every Wed. and Thur. and at 8 and 10 p.m. every Fri. and Sat. · Brown Bag lunch shows are held the first and third Fri. of each month · Located in The Jacksonville Landing, 2 Independent Drive, Jacksonville. 361-5779 or 535-0670.

## sports

### GRAND SLAM HIGH SCHOOL DOUBLE-HEADER

Jackson takes on Ribault at 4:30 p.m. on March 17 at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville, located in the Sports Complex, downtown Jacksonville. Mandarin takes on Fletcher at 7 p.m. on March 17. Tickets are \$5. 358-2846.

### CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

St. Johns County Recreation and Parks Department is registering players for A and B League volleyball at Ketterline Gym, 60 Orange St., St. Augustine. 209-0377.

### TENNIS LEAGUE

Senior men's and women's, junior and adult leagues are forming at Huguenot Tennis Center, Jacksonville Beach. To sign up, call 247-6221.

### JACKSONVILLE LADY JAGUARS FLAG FOOTBALL

The women's and girls' teams of the Jacksonville Lady Jaguars Flag Football are looking for new members. Programs are for girls ages 7-11, 12-14 and 15-18 years old, and women 19-36 or older. 949-0934.

### FENCING CLUB

The FCCJ Fencing Club meets from 7-9 p.m. every Tue. and Thur. in Room C202 at FCCJ's Kent Campus, 3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville. 381-3691.

## kids' stuff

### THUMBELINA

Bits 'N' Pieces Puppet Theatre presents this kids' classic at 2:30 p.m. on March 18 at Thrasher-Horne Center for

the Arts. Located at St. Johns River Community College Orange Park Campus, 283 College Drive, Orange Park. 276-6750.

### STORY TIME AT THE LIBRARY

Toddler story time is held at 10 a.m. every Wed. and Thur., preschool story time is held at 11 a.m. every Wed. at Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 S., St. Augustine. Admission is free. 827-6900.

### CHILDREN'S TRIBAL BELLY DANCE

Classes are forming for girls 5 and older at Riverside Children's Art Center, 2841 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville. The first session runs from 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Thur. through May 25. 389-1751.

### GIRLS ON THE RUN

Spring registration is open for Girls on the Run of Northeast Florida, an after-school program for third through sixth grade girls that combines running and training for a 5K (3.1 mile) run/walk. Spring programs begin in February, held at various locations throughout Northeast Florida. 321-4315.

### BORDERS STORYTIME

Storytime for kids is held at 10:30 a.m. every Fri. at Borders Books and Music, 8802 Southside Blvd., Jacksonville. 519-6500.

### RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Free lessons in rhythmic gymnastics are offered for children 5 and older at 11363 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville. 537-1888.

### SWIM TEAM DEVELOPMENT

A development course for children in competitive swimming is offered at various times throughout the week at the Church of the Good Shepherd pool, 1100 Stockton St., Jacksonville. To register, call 403-4007.

### TREE HILL NATURE CENTER

Nature tours are featured from 10 a.m.-noon on the first Sat. of each month · Hours: Mon.-Sat., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$1 for adults, \$.50 for children. Children younger than 4 are admitted free · 7152 Lone Star Road, Jacksonville. 724-4646.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT CLASSES

"Creative Movement" (ages 5 and 6) is offered from 4:30-5:30 p.m. every Mon. at The Florida Ballet, 123 E. Forsyth St., Jacksonville. For registration, call 353-7518.

## business events

### AARP TAX ASSISTANCE

AARP tax assistance is available from noon-4 p.m. on March 14, 15, 18, 20-22, 25, 27, 28 and 29 and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on March 17 at the Main Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine. 827-6940. Assistance is also available from 3-7 p.m. on March 16, 23 and 30 at Hastings Branch Library, 6195 S. Main St., Hastings, 827-6970; and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on March 16, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31 at the Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 S., St. Augustine. 827-6900.

### DOWNTOWN COUNCIL

St. Johns Riverkeeper Neil Armingeon speaks at 7:30 p.m. on March 17 at River City Brewing Company, located on the Southbank, downtown Jacksonville. 398-8034.

### OPPORTUNITIES IN EMERGING MARKETS

Tony Lucente speaks at this event from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on March 17 at San Jose Country Club, Jacksonville. Admission is \$30 and \$35. 821-8238.

### BREAKFAST MEETING

Jennifer Connell, founder of Joyful Evolution, speaks from 8-9:30 a.m. on March 15 at The Allegro at Fleming Island, 3651 Highway 17, Orange Park. 371-5494.

## inyourcorner

# TAKE TWO AND CALL ME IN THE MORNING



BY EDDIE FARAH

**P**ersonal injury law—and doctors. Like cats and dogs, oil and water. Generally speaking doctors loathe those of us who practice personal injury law as medical malpractice usually tops the list of plaintiff's claims.

Why? Because we call doctors and hospitals on their mistakes. And there, unfortunately, is no shortage of mistakes made by conventional medicine. Most are made by a few bad doctors. If the medical regulatory boards spent more time doing their job, and took licenses from those bad practitioners, the public would be better protected.

But they don't, so guys like me have plenty to do.

Now during this years legislative session comes another glaring example of how doggedly determined conventional medicine is to protect its own turf. Two bills, Senate Bill 2678 and House Bill 1261, have been introduced that would allow naturopaths to licensed in the state for the first time in nearly 50 years.

A Naturopath is a graduate of a specialized school who has received at least four years of post-graduate training in a form of medicine that finds and treats the source of disease and emphasizes health maintenance rather than suppressing symptoms with drugs. Naturopaths work with the natural systems of the body's balance in eradicating chronic conditions that make us sick and age us. The naturopathic scope of practice includes laboratory and clinical diagnosis, botanical medicine, nutrition, homeopathy and more.

And they are the least sued medical professionals.

Almost as if on cue, the Florida Medical Association vehemently opposes the move to have Florida join 14 other states that already recognize and license Naturopaths. The FMA and its legion of lobbyists will be in Tallahassee this session to claim that Naturopaths are practicing medicine without a license. Don't tread on my turf, despite the evidence that the public is served.

Consider the case of Christine Hankins. The Pensacola area woman was diagnosed by three doctors with leukemia. Despite their treatment, her condition worsened. Hankins had some influential friends who flew her to the University of

Kansas where she was treated at the Program in Integrative Medicine with among other things infusions of IV-Vitamin C, a protocol being recognized for its success by the National Institutes of Health.

Today Hankins is considered free of leukemia.

Former Florida state legislator Ted Alvarez suffered from debilitating back pain for 15 years. Chiropractic helped him partially back to health. Then his health took a turn for the worse when a leg wound wouldn't heal. Three doctors later and Alvarez was referred to an oncologist. "I said doc I don't have cancer, if you don't know just say you don't know," he told them. Alvarez then sought treatment from a homeopath in Michigan who diagnosed his leg problem as a spider bite.

Two weeks later with a little pill under his tongue his leg pain was gone. His search for alternative remedies lead him to special oils that cured the remainder of his back pain.

"Now they were going to cut off my leg! So you don't think I'm a believer in alternative? Twice. Twice in my lifetime," he says today.

But Alvarez can't legally tell doctors about his health turnaround. In Florida it's a felony to practice medicine without a license. So Doctors of Naturopathy can't put up a shingle here even though the I.W. Lane College of Integrative Medicine in Orlando that is training Naturopaths.

As things stand now, those graduates will have to practice elsewhere.

Studies show that approximately 150 million Americans turn to complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) every year. At least 1/3 of cancer patients turn to CAM in combination with conventional treatment.

While conventional medicine, drugs surgery and modern technology is absolutely necessary when you are in the emergency room for a critical care, allowing Floridians a choice in keeping and staying healthy care would likely reduce the number of medical malpractice cases that come into my office.

That is a trade-off I'd gladly welcome. EF

**Be sure to catch Eddie Farah's live call-in radio show noon to 1 p.m. every Saturday on 690 WOKV AM! The call-in number is 340-0690.**