



Ned Hickson

Samsung now offering free fire extinguishers with cell phone purchase

Technology is great. Except, of course, when it explodes in your pants. I've never really liked cell phones to begin with, and now that they've started self-detonating, I like them even less. According to a news article sent in by Susan Grigsby of Alpharetta, Ga., Samsung has launched an investigation into why its Note 7 phones are bursting into flames — a feature Samsung officials say wasn't supposed to become available until next year.

flaming lap dance and an appearance on *The World's Wildest Police Chases*. It would be different if exploding cell phones were an optional feature, i.e., for an extra charge, you, as a cell phone customer, had the option of detonating someone else's cell phone with the press of a button when they get annoying. "Hello? That's okay—the movie just started. What? Really? No way. And what did SHE say?" "WARNING! DETONATION SEQUENCE HAS BEEN INITIATED! BEGINNING COUNTDOWN! FIVE..! FOUR..!" "Hey — you mind if I call you back? My phone's about to explode." While Samsung officials are blaming defective batteries as the root cause of Exploding Cell Phone Syndrome, I have to disagree. The fact is, cell phones are simply being asked to do too much and, because of it, are

having a total melt down. I've had my cell phone for five years, which by today's standards means it should be part of a traveling history exhibit for school children. However, I've kept it because it provides me with all the functions I need in a cell phone: I can call people. People can call me. I can hang up on people. That's all I'm really looking for in a cell phone. If I wanted to play games and Facebook my friends, I'd just stay at work. Comparatively, the life expectancy of today's cell

phones is about one year. That's assuming everything goes well and you don't go blind trying to use it, and out of sheer frustration while trying to place a call to your ophthalmologist, end up crushing it in your fist like a grape. In most cases, this isn't covered under warranty. The same thing goes for any damage your phone might incur after accidentally triggering a gas-station explosion. That's right, according to a recent warning from AAA, static discharge from cell phones "has the potential to ignite gas vapors, although it's still

safer than if your cell phone actually explodes." Because of this danger the National Fire Protection Association has offered the following tips to motorists: 1) Avoid using cell phones, laptop computers or portable radios while refueling. And if you happen to be using them all at once, you're just asking for trouble. Be safe; at least wait until you're back on the highway. And most importantly, if a

fire starts, don't try to stop it. Leave the area and call someone. Unless of course that's the reason the fire started in the first place.

Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His latest book, "Pearls of Writing Wisdom: From 16 years as a shucking columnist" is available online at Port Hole Books.

Fanny wants to 'Put a Spell On You' at Oct. 28 show

Florence's first drag queen, Jason Wood's Fanny Rugburn, is playing her next show, "I Put A Spell on You," on Friday, Oct. 28, at Class Act Theatre, 509 Kingwood St. No children will be allowed at this uncensored event.



Jason Wood as Fanny Rugburn

Tickets are \$10 at the door, cash only. Themed concessions will be available to enjoy in the lobby before and after the show.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m., leaving plenty of time after the one-hour show for people to head to City Lights Cinemas, 1930 Highway 101, to buy tickets for "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," playing at 9 p.m.

Prepare for quite the trick-or-treat with Fanny as she "casts a spell" in the kitchen, enchants you with her voice, curses people's Halloween costumes and more.

Join Fanny for some Halloween fun, demonstrations and audience participation. Costumes are encouraged. Wood debuted Fanny at

several events throughout the past year, including at Three Rivers Casino Resort, Old Town Barbershop and on Fanny's YouTube channel. He looks forward to the next show in November. Wood describes Fanny as unrelenting, loud-mouthed and the "hungriest drag queen in the world." "Be ready to laugh your 'fanny' off," Wood said. "There's a lot of entertainment in this town, but it's not adult entertainment. This is an unedited night for people 18 and up."

For more information, go to catproductions.org.

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Keeping Florence Beautiful by Catherine J. Rourke

Dave and Lynne Twombly face a monumental task when they rise each day. As the owner-operators of Central Coast Disposal, their work involves the removal and recycling of tons of waste from the city.

Originally from Milwaukee, Ore., Dave traces the roots of his pioneering Oregon family back to 1846. He and Lynne, who hails from Portland, came to Florence in 1991, while Dave was still in college, to start a new life.

"We came here because we love the area and thought it would be a great place to raise our kids," Dave said.

Prior disposal experience and fluency in DEQ regulations, along with skills in truck mechanics, business management and construction, meant Dave possessed all the requirements to start a waste-management operation. The Twomblys rolled out their first truck in 1999.

"Our family business requires time, patience and investment," Dave said. "It took three years before we saw any return."

It also took seven-day weeks and 12-hour days while raising a family at the same time. Lynne managed the office while their four children, now ages 17 through 28, all lent a hand in building the business.

Their hard work paid off. Today, the family business has grown into a 9,600-square foot facility with 11 employees, including their daughter, Clarita, and her husband, Cameron.

"We treat everyone like family," said Dave, who notes that "having a spouse who believes in you makes all the difference."

So does friendly, personal service. The company follows up if

a customer forgets to put out the trash and encourages drivers to go the extra mile.

On average, Central Coast Disposal hauls 116 tons of refuse and recycling per week. Dave and Lynne tackle the load with a fleet of six trucks. They also "give back" by supporting many local nonprofit events.

"We believe in doing things for the community, without making any capital gains," Dave said. "We love Florence and the volunteer spirit here."

As Florence continues to grow, so does this family business, proving the truth behind the adage "One man's trash is another's treasure."



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