



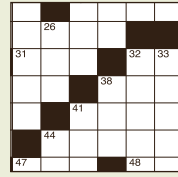
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## Library patrons support Food for Fines

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

St. Johns County Library patrons were exceptionally generous this holiday season, donating nearly 9,000 non-perishable food items for the county's Health and Human Services Food Pantry. Food for Fines, an annual program in place from Thanksgiving through New Year's, enables patrons with overdue fines to instead donate food for families in need.



Photo courtesy St. Johns County Library  
Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library staff with some of the items donated by patrons during the Food for Fines drive.

"It's a real benefit to the community we serve to have the Food for Fines Program," said Tracy Dillon, Social Services Manager for St. Johns County. "The food donated by library patrons replenishes our dwindling food supplies and allows us to operate our Food Pantry for nearly the whole year. It's the most effective county-wide food drive that we have."

Health and Human Services provides a wide variety of services for ap-

Food for Fines cont. on pg. 17

## Special delivery service brews smiles

By Heidy Brososky-Weaver  
mail@floridanewsline.com

For coffee connoisseurs, there are few things better than that morning cup of joe.

Thanks to a new Bitty & Beau's Coffee delivery service offered at Creekside High School, that is exactly what staff members receive: A customized cup of fresh-brewed coffee ... and a friendly smile to start the day.

"It's fun to make coffee," said Creekside senior J.J. Jordan, who comes in early to prepare the coffee. "I like to help people and see them smile."

"I have learned a lot about being a barista," said senior Bryan Santos meticulously measuring the exact water needed for a perfect pot of coffee.

Both Jordan and Santos are part of the school's Access Points program. This offers students opportunities to work on their high school diploma while gaining real-world job experience.

According to teacher Michelle Joyner, participation in the Bitty & Beau's activity provides various skills and "allows students to determine if this might be something they would like to pursue as a job after they complete their schooling." She said several students now consider themselves baristas, and the job "gives them a great sense of pride."

In addition to this three-day-a-week coffee endeavor, which kicked off in December, seniors in the Career Experience class receive community-based instruction working at local businesses



Photos courtesy Heidy Brososky-Weaver

such as Publix and PDQ. Furthermore, these dedicated students run the recycling program at Creekside High School, and they were recently involved in making and selling customized



doormats before the holiday season.

The Access Points courses teach "self-determination and self-advocacy as well as job skills and community work experience, preparing them for employment," Joyner

said.

This same philosophy is also at the heart of Bitty & Beau's Coffee, which opened its first store in Wilmington, NC, in 2016. Founder Amy Wright wanted to provide Bitty and Beau, her two children with special needs, job opportunities that celebrated and showed appreciation for their diversity.

In addition to employing people with varying disabilities at her coffee shops, Wright, who was named 2017 CNN Hero of the Year, implemented the Bitty & Beau's Coffee Cart program, too.

Creekside paraprofessional Michele Stubbs said local business GradePower Learning partnered with the school to purchase the initial cart supply kit, including a brewer, caps, and aprons. Stubbs, who helps supervise coffee production and delivery, added that proceeds will more than likely go toward a celebratory field trip at the end of the school year.

Meanwhile, teachers and students are making memories.

"We have a Spanish teacher who orders from us, and just the other day, one of our students who speaks fluent Spanish delivered her coffee," said Joyner. "They started talking in Spanish, and all the students were just mesmerized and impressed by how well they conversed together."

Although it takes a lot of time to prepare for delivery, it's time well spent, said JoJo Morgan, a senior who is also the first Miss Royal Knight pageant winner. "The staff is grateful, and it puts a smile on their faces." To her, that's the best reward of all.

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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

**Meet Ruby!**

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Silky Yorkie

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**  
Riding the bike in a basket

**FAVORITE TREAT:**  
Celery

**FAVORITE FRIEND:**  
Sugar..... a shih tzu

**HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**  
We rescued her and that was her name

**This month's sponsor:**  
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www.palenciapetclinic.com

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answers to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and you could win a Gift Certificate!  
**Does your business cater to pets? Would you like to sponsor our contest?**  
Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet or sponsor the BFF contest.

## Love & Marriage Guide

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**Feb. 1**  
**Read to Rover (beginning readers practice reading to therapy dogs)**

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Bartram Trail Branch Library  
(904) 827-6960

**Feb. 4**  
**Current Events Discussion Group**

10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)  
Amenities Annex, 625 Market St., Palencia  
adsilby@yahoo.com

**Feb. 4**  
**First Coast Card Club - adult card players**

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
St. Augustine Main Library, 1960 Ponce de Leon Blvd.  
(904) 829-0643

**Feb. 4**  
**World Golf Village Toastmasters**

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Road 210W  
Worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org

**Feb. 5**  
**Jewish Java**

9 a.m.  
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
RSVP (904) 224-1408

**Feb. 6**  
**Rotary Club of Bartram Trail**

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)  
Westminster Woods, 25 State Road 13  
www.bartramtrailrotary.org/

**Feb. 6**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7**

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse  
pa@mysafeboating.com

**Feb. 7**  
**Bartram Friday Book Club: "Unsheltered" by Barbara Kingsolver**

10 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.  
Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd.  
(904) 827-6960

**Feb. 7**  
**Coffee Club current events discussion, hosted by Deborah Lennon with Edward Jones**

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
YMCA, 98 Turin Terrace

**Feb. 7**  
**Rotary Club of St. Johns meeting**

7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Fridays)  
St. Johns Golf and Country Club Clubhouse  
www.rotarystjohns.org

**Feb. 8**  
**Friends of the Library Book Sale**

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Bartram Trail Branch Library  
(904) 827-6960

**Feb. 8**  
**Family seining**

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Guana Dam, 505 Guana River Road  
(904) 823-4500

**Feb. 10**  
**Northwest United for Progress Club**

Social 6:30 p.m./Meeting 7 p.m.  
2777 Race Track Road  
nwsjcp@gmail.com

**Feb. 11**  
**Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club luncheon featuring Sammy Previte of Palm Valley Dietitians**

11 a.m.  
St. Johns Golf and Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive  
RSVP by Feb. 5; bartramtnc@gmail.com

**Feb. 11**  
**Bartram Tuesday Book Discussion: St. Johns Reads "Where the Crawdads Sing"**

6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd.  
(904) 827-6960

**Feb. 12**  
**Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Support**

3:30 p.m.  
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
Repeating event on the second Wednesday of each month

**Feb. 13**  
**Shorebird Walk at Matanzas Inlet with St. Johns County Audubon Society**

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Matanzas Inlet West Parking Lot, 8655 A1A S., St Augustine  
www.stjohnsaudubon.com

**Feb. 15**  
**Fruit Cove Cruise In sponsored by Sunshine State Chevelles**

4 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
PDQ parking lot, 194 State Road 13  
Repeating event on third Saturday of each month

**Feb. 17**  
**All Star Quilt Guild general meeting**

10 a.m.  
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.  
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 735-0506

**Feb. 18**  
**North Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce**

8 a.m. - 9 a.m.  
Westminster Woods on Julington Creek, 25 State Road 13  
Register at www.sjchamber.com or call (904) 829-5681

**Feb. 18**  
**Happy Hookers crochet group**

6 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.  
Bartram Trail Branch Library  
(904) 827-6960

**Feb. 18**  
**St. Johns CARES planning meeting**

6:30 p.m.  
Celebration Lutheran Church, 810 Roberts Road  
www.stjohnscares.org

**Feb. 18**  
**All About Driving Evaluations, presented by Dr. King, UF**

11:30 a.m.  
River Garden - 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
RSVP for lunch: (904) 288-7855

**Feb. 19**  
**Jacksonville Camera Club**

6:45 p.m.  
Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6595 Columbia Park Ct.  
www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)

**Feb. 20**  
**Wm. Bartram Scenic Highway Management Group meeting**

6:30 p.m.  
St. Johns County NW Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd.

**Feb. 25 - March 31**  
**Free Tobacco Free Florida Quit Your Way Program**

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Flagler Health+ Wellness Center, 120 Health Park Blvd., St. Augustine  
Call Florida AHEC to register (904) 482-0189

**Feb. 27**  
**All About Ortho, presented by Dr. Bell, JOI**

11:30 a.m.  
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
RSVP for lunch: (904) 288-7855

**Have an event coming up?**  
Email us at  
[calendar@floridanewslines.com](mailto:calendar@floridanewslines.com)

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# take 5

## Porch Talks to be held at Alpine Groves Park

St. Johns County Parks and Rec has partnered with the Stetson Kennedy Foundation for Porch Talks, and the next one will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. At Porch Talks, local experts discuss local issues focused on art, history, environmental issues, and interesting personalities. Learn about the Northwest part of St. Johns County, including notable landmarks and the historical richness of the area. This month's part of the Porch Talks series is titled, "The Ladies of Tea: 1700s-1900s." This program is free and open to everyone. Alpine Groves Park is located at 2060 State Road 13 in St. Johns. Contact AyoLane Halusky at [ahalusky@sjcfl.us](mailto:ahalusky@sjcfl.us) or (904) 209-0348 for more information.

## St. Johns County groups to host Mentor Fair

The St. Johns County School District, RSVP of St. Johns County and other local mentor groups will host a mentor fair on Wednesday, Feb. 5 from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., at the Fullerwood Center Auditorium, 10 Hildreth Drive in St. Augustine. Representatives will be on hand to provide information about mentoring students in the St. Johns County School District. Mentor train-

ing will also be provided to interested individuals and a continental breakfast will be available. Mentors give approximately 45 minutes per week to meet with a student and support him/her in academic pursuits and other goals. No prior experience is required and background screening and training are provided at no cost. Contact RSVP/Volunteer Services at or Cheryl.Freeman@stjohns.k12.fl.us or (904) 547-3945 for more information.

## Women entrepreneurs conference to be held in February

SCORE Jacksonville, in cooperation with the Business and Leadership Institute for Early Learning and Children's Home Society of Florida, will host a conference specifically geared towards women entrepreneurs on Saturday, Feb. 8 in the Advanced Technology Center on the Downtown campus of the Florida State College of Jacksonville. The theme of the conference is "Engage, Educate, Empower" and will feature several presentations, panel discussions and breakout sessions offering guidance as to how best to launch and operate a business. Among the list of scheduled speakers is Pamela Starr, a leading authority on building customer loyalty and a professional speaker for Grow

with Google. Visit [www.jacksonville.score.org](http://www.jacksonville.score.org) for more information.

## First annual Lace Up for Libraries 5K scheduled

The Friends of the Library of St. Johns County, Inc. is hosting the first annual Lace Up for Libraries 5K Run/Walk, to be held on Feb. 29 in Nocatee. In addition to the 5K, the event will include a one-mile run/walk and have a Virtual Race option as well! The first 200 5K registrants will receive a commemorative shirt. All proceeds raised from the Lace up for Libraries 5K Run/Walk will benefit St. Johns Reads, a county-wide "One Book, One Community" initiative that targets all ages and in the community. The group's mission is to enrich lives and build community by providing opportunities to Connect, Learn, and Enjoy at Your Library. Volunteers and sponsors are needed for the race; contact Mary Rice at [sjfolmr@gmail.com](mailto:sjfolmr@gmail.com) for more information. Visit [laceupforlibraries5k.itsyourrace.com](http://laceupforlibraries5k.itsyourrace.com) to register for the race.



Photo courtesy Metro Creative

## Owl + Sunset Symphony coming to Fruit Cove

On Friday, Feb. 7 from 5:45 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Beluthahatchee Park, 1501 State Road 13, St. Johns County Parks and Rec will host an Owl + Sunset Symphony. Attendees will learn about owls and enjoy nature's symphony as they experience the transition from light to dark. Water birds and owls often come out to join the evening symphony. A representative from the Stetson Kennedy Foundation will also share some local history. This program is free, but registration is required; contact AyoLane Halusky at [ahalusky@sjcfl.us](mailto:ahalusky@sjcfl.us) or (904) 209-0348 for more information.



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14550 Old St. Augustine Rd.  
904.271.6060





**with St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes**

**Q: What is the focus of your office for the month of February?**

A: Keeping in mind that the March 17 Presidential Preference Primary is a closed election, it's important for voters to note that only registered Republicans and Democrats can vote. Of the 193,540 registered voters in St. Johns County, 45,562 of them are registered with no party affiliation or with a minor political party and, in accordance with state law, are not eligible to vote. These voters can change their party affiliation easily online or by calling our office. The deadline to change party affiliation to vote in the March 17 election is Feb. 18.

**Q: What else is happening in February?**

A: Vote by Mail ballots, for those voters who requested them, are scheduled to be mailed out on Feb. 6. It's not too late to request a Vote by Mail ballot; simply call our office or go online to do so. If you don't remember if you have made a request, go to the "My Voter Status" tab on our website to check.

**Q: How long does a Vote by Mail request last?**

A: This request lasts for two general elections, which would be four years. We ask voters to specify if they'd like the request for a shorter period of time.

**Q: Are there any polling place changes for the March 17 election?**

A: Yes, since the last election, in the Northwest we have had a couple of changes. Precinct 102, which covers a large portion of Julington Creek Plantation, will now vote at Unity Church, 2777 Race Track Road. (Precinct 105 still votes at Creekside Christian Church.) Also, Precinct 109, which used to vote at Bartram Trail High School, will move to the Shearwater Amenity Center. We have already mailed out new Voter Information Cards to all affected voters.

**Q: Do you have anything else to share about the Presidential Preference Primary?**

A: There are 16 Democrat candidates and four Republican candidates on the ballot. We prepare the ballot based on when the state certifies, which has already occurred. Voters need to pay attention and be aware of which candidates have recently suspended their campaigns. These candidates will still be on the ballot due to the earlier date of the state certification.

**Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?**

A: Readers can email me at voakes@votesjc.com or call me at (904) 823-2238. Our website, www.votesjc.com also has a wealth of information.



**with Florida State Representative Cyndi Stevenson, District 17**

**Q: When did session begin and what is on the schedule at this time?**

A: Session began on Jan. 14. All bills have been filed and the next thing approaching is the budget. Leadership decides the big pieces, basically the five major categories of the budget, and then it's up to the budget chairs to get everything to fit in. Eventually, the budget will be sent to the governor, who has a line item veto. He can take items out of the budget, but not put them in.

**Q: Can you give an overview of Florida's budget?**

A: First, money is very limited and entitlement costs are growing rapidly. It used to be that K-12 funding was the largest part of the budget, but now healthcare is largest.

**Q: Can you expand upon how limited the money is?**

A: I don't think people realize how slow the recovery since the recession has been for the State of Florida. The state's general revenue didn't recover to its pre-recession level, on a per-person basis, until 2018. Put another way, we are in the 11th year of economic expansion, but it took nine years to get revenue to pre-recession levels. Recovery has been slow. Yes, revenues have increased, but demands have grown as well. It's only in the last two years that we have been able to spend funds on non-obligations, like water resources and land acquisition (i.e. Florida Forever).

**Q: So, the amount of entitlements (obligations) make it challenging to fund other items?**

A: Yes. From 2000 – 2015, 91 percent of revenue went to obligations rather than discretionary spending. Entitlement costs are consuming more and more of our budget and putting pressure on everything else. We have kept Florida a relatively low-tax state and kept our pension funds funded, but it makes it harder to fund other items like infrastructure. And when voters pass Constitutional Amendments that either give tax breaks to certain groups or pin down part of the budget for certain things, these give us even less flexibility.

I think we need to be very careful with Constitutional Amendments, as these are forever.

**Q: What do you see as the top priorities in funding this year?**

A: The governor has advocated for affordable workforce housing, so I believe that is a priority. I believe teacher funding is a need and will be a priority in session, along with prison funding and mental health and substance abuse funding. We still have a lot of work to do, but we will keep chipping away at it.

**Q: What insight can you give us on St. Johns County?**

A: It's interesting that, statewide, tourism led us out of the recession and housing has been very slow. This is hard for us in St. Johns County to believe and why it's important for our local delegation to advocate for us because we are different. St. Johns County is a bit of an aberration in the state as it grew throughout the recession and attracted more and more families. The legislature needs to advocate for line items to help our high growth areas, because we still have unmet needs in St. Johns County: we need more judges to service our increased population, we need more mental health services and on top of that, we've had major hurricanes.

**Q: Do you have any bills that you are sponsoring?**

A: Yes, I have several. There are two bills related to mental health (one for early identification and treatment for those with psychosis and one for Baker Act reforms); a bill to allow physical therapists to more fully practice; a bill for recovery care centers to provide a more affordable option for those who don't have enough care at home; and a bill that will help us have a state estimate for resiliency projects related to sea-level rise.

**Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?**

A: Readers can email me at Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov or call my local office at (904) 823-2300.




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**with State Attorney, 7th Judicial Circuit,  
R.J. Larizza**

**Q: What is happening of interest in the State Attorney's Office?**

A: I'd like to bring something important to people's attention. Recently, we were prosecuting a man who managed to obtain the Florida Bar Association numbers for two of the prosecuting attorneys working his case for our office. He then fraudulently created an email account and electronic files and sent a case dismissal through the attorney portal to the clerk of court's office. Someone from the clerk's office contacted us about it and we have since charged this man with theft of personal information and forgery among other counts. We have also corrected and strengthened the attorney portal to make it more secure.

The takeaway from this is ... no one, not even the State Attorney's Office, is immune from electronic fraud.

Everything from mobile deposit of checks to online shopping is actually a risk. All the technological things that make life easier create an opportunity for tech savvy criminals to use to their advantage. Florida is the number one state in the country right now for fraud.

**Q: As pertains to electronic fraud and personal identity theft, do you have any tips to share?**

A: First, check with all three credit reporting agencies, as they can be different, for unauthorized activity. You get one free credit report per year for this purpose. You can subscribe to a service that monitors your credit or do it yourself. You can also freeze your credit.

If you are using wireless internet, invest in a firewall product to protect your computer and any credit card information that you might have stored.

Be sure to do your due diligence about whether you want to share your phone number or email address, even for things like store rewards programs, but especially for things like sweepstakes.

Be aware of what technology can do for you as well as for the pitfalls. It's important to balance the convenience of technology with security.

Readers can visit our website, [www.sao7.com](http://www.sao7.com) and look under the "Protect Yourself" tab for more tips.



**with St. Johns County Commissioner  
Jimmy Johns, (District 1)**

**Q: As of last month, Hunter Conrad had just been hired as the county's interim county administrator. Can you give an update on the search on for the permanent county administrator?**

A: The Board of County Commissioners is responsible for the determination of the interim county administrator as well as the permanent one. We want to demonstrate that whoever gets the permanent position is the correct person with the best fit for St. Johns County. I advocate for whatever is necessary, including possibly a nationwide search, to demonstrate that we've performed our fiduciary responsibility to our constituents. Representing the interests of the people and not taking short cuts for this long-term decision is what I call good government. [Editor's Note: On Jan. 21, the Board of County Commissioners voted 5-0 to hire Hunter Conrad as the permanent county administrator.]

**Q: Do you have any new information about beach renourishment?**

A: My understanding is that the federal government has recently approved money for St. Johns County beach renourishment. In order to receive these funds, a local funding source for a small percentage of the total is needed. We would have to find and provide these funds. What I hear the most is that we should use some of our reserve funding, and that might happen, but it's important to note that in that case, these funds would then not be available for

current maintenance needs — and also it would hinder our potential bonding capacity. This is all something we will need to consider and discuss. Federal funds sound like a great deal for us; we just need to make sure that this is where the majority of our St. Johns County residents would like their local dollars spent.

**Q: Do you have anything else to share with NW St. Johns County?**

A: I regularly hear people question, with concern, the pace of growth in our county, so I am currently having staff put together some numbers so that we can see factually if growth has spiked in recent years. They will provide numbers on population (I do know that we have netted an increase of between 5,000 – 7,000 people each year for the past few years) as well as the number of platted and approved (but not yet constructed) residential lots. One fact I'm aware of is that in 2019, we had 10 percent fewer residential building permits issued than 2018. It's important to understand and consider all these numbers. We don't want to contract too quickly, because that would raise demand and the cost of housing, making it unaffordable, just as too much availability will drive housing prices down. When I get these numbers from staff, I will share them — hopefully by the next issue of The CreekLine.

**Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?**

A: Readers can email me at [bcc1johns@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc1johns@sjcfl.us) or call me at (904) 615-7437.

**FYI Contact Numbers**

**St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcfl.us)**  
**Sheriff's Office:** Sheriff David B. Shoar, [dshoar@sjso.org](mailto:dshoar@sjso.org), (904) 824-8304  
 Julington Creek Field Office: (904) 209-2150  
**Property Appraiser:** Eddie Creamer, [sjcpa@sjcpa.us](mailto:sjcpa@sjcpa.us), (904) 827-5500  
**Supervisor of Elections:** Vicky Oakes, [voakes@votesjc.com](mailto:voakes@votesjc.com), (904) 823-2238  
**Tax Collector:** Dennis Hollingworth, [taxcollector@sjctax.us](mailto:taxcollector@sjctax.us), (904) 209-2250  
**Clerk of Court:** Hunter S. Conrad, (904) 819-3600  
**St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners**  
 District 1: Jimmy Johns, [bcc1johns@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc1johns@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0301  
 District 2: Jeb Smith, [bcc2jsmith@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc2jsmith@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0302  
 District 3: Paul Waldron, [bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0303  
 District 4: Jeremiah Blocker, [bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0304  
 District 5: Henry Dean, [bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0305  
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 District 1: Beverly Slough, [beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us), (904) 547-7510  
 District 2: Tommy Allen, [tommy.allen@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:tommy.allen@stjohns.k12.fl.us), (904) 547-7510  
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 State House District 17: Representative Cyndi Stevenson, [Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov), (904) 823-2300  
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**with St. Johns County Property Appraiser  
Eddie Creamer**

**Q: It's the new year ... what is happening at the Property Appraiser's office?**

A: Yes, it's 2020 and property taxation is kicking off another year. We are now in the assessment process and will be until June.

**Q: What do you recommend property owners do at this time?**

A: We currently have "working values" for properties on our website. I recommend that homeowners review their numbers and if they have any issues they can contact our office now to discuss. The same thing goes for exemptions — they can review them online and make sure the proper exemptions are applied.

Finally, especially if a homeowner is considering selling, they should check their portability on the website for accuracy. The courts have ruled that once a home is sold, you have no standing to appeal the portability amount.

**Q: Can you give us some more information about portability?**

A: If your property is homesteaded, the most its value can increase is the lower of 3 percent or the increase in the state's cost of living. The state of Florida just released its CPI (Consumer Price Index) and it is 2.3 percent, so this will

be the cap for this year (since it is lower than 3 percent).

**Q: Is it also time to consider homestead and other exemptions?**

A: If you have existing exemptions on your property, they will be automatically renewed for this year unless you notify us. If you are applying for new exemptions in 2020, such as homestead, veteran, senior, or widow/widower, you must do it before the deadline date of March 1, 2020. Homeowners can go online to apply or call our office with questions. The required documentation for each exemption is also available online.

One other note on exemptions: the senior exemption is a low income exemption. The state of Florida just released the required maximum income to qualify; for this year it is \$30,721 adjusted gross income.

**Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?**

A: Our office is located at 4030 Lewis Speedway Ste. 203, (904) 827-5500. It is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Also, readers can email me at [Eddie@sjcpa.us](mailto:Eddie@sjcpa.us) or call me at (904) 827-5500.

**The Sheriff Reports**

By St. Johns County Sheriff David B. Shoar

**9-1-1**

St. Johns County implemented the 911 system 33 years ago this month. In order to report crimes in progress or an emergency that is — or could become life threatening — you should use the 9-1-1 system. Examples of this are serious medical issues like a heart attack, stroke, seizure, uncontrolled asthma attack, childbirth in progress or anything involving serious bodily injury.

You should NOT call 9-1-1 to report a burglary or theft that is not in progress or other non-emergency events. For that you will find the various non-emergency numbers in the front pages of the phone book, or to contact our office, call (904) 824-8304, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

In St. Johns County, our office has been designated to operate the enhanced 9-1-1 system. The "enhanced" indicates that for all landline calls, the location from where the call is originating is displayed on the dispatcher's screen. Most cell phone providers are now sending us the coordinates to help identify the location of mobile calls, but even with this advanced technology there are important procedures the caller can follow to make the response quicker and more efficient. First, stay calm. The 9-1-1 dispatcher is well trained to gather from you the information necessary. Answer their questions with brief responses based on the best knowledge you have available at the time. Follow instructions, and if there is something you are not clear about or don't understand ask to have it repeated. Above all, stay on the line until the dispatcher tells you to hang up.

As soon as your children are old enough to understand, start teaching them how

and when to use 9-1-1. Be sure they know their name, address and phone number and situations where they may need to call for help — such as finding someone who won't wake up and there are no other people around to tell or to ask for help. Practice dialing 9-1-1 with them on a play telephone, stressing they need to use a real phone if there is an emergency, and to not "practice" on a real phone. Always refer to the emergency number as 9-1-1 and never "nine eleven."

As technology grows, so must emergency services. Thus you may now Text-to-911 as well as the Sheriff's Office non-emergency line. This is for times that those in need of help are unable to speak about the emergency. This feature follows the same guidelines as a landline and cellular call and should only be used for emergencies and if you cannot talk. Remember if there is an emergency and you are unable to make a call, be sure to send the location and type of emergency in your first text message to 911. Text in simple words without abbreviations or slang. Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 call taker. You can also text to our administration or non-emergency line for routine situations not requiring an immediate response. Just type in the Sheriff's Office phone number (904) 824-8304 as the recipient of the text and send the message.

Finally, our Social Media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor) are a great place to ask general questions that do not require an immediate response, as we do not monitor these sites continuously.

Email me at [dshoar@sjso.org](mailto:dshoar@sjso.org) if you have a suggestion for a future topic or any other issue involving county law enforcement.

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# ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

## MarketInsight

### The Bull Moose

By Scott Grant  
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com



Teddy Roosevelt was climbing Mount Marcy in New York State when he learned that President McKinley had died as a result of a gunshot wound received a week earlier. He travelled five hours by wagon and then by train to Buffalo to take the oath of office in the home of a friend. When he took that oath on Sept. 14, 1901, he became the youngest president in history. (I know what you are thinking, what about John F. Kennedy? JFK holds the distinction of being the youngest elected president. Teddy Roosevelt, at 42, is still the youngest man ever to hold the office. Kennedy was 43.)

McKinley had been shot on Sept. 6 while visiting the Pan American Exposition. The assassin was an anarchist named Leon Czolgosz. When you hear the word anarchist, you think of a crazy lone gunman. It turns out that the Anarchists were an organized movement and a world-wide one as well. Tsar Alexander II was killed by an anarchist in 1881.

Teddy Roosevelt would serve as president for seven years. During his re-election campaign of 1904, he promised he would not run for a third term. It was a promise he would regret. In 1908, Teddy turned over the reins to his hand-picked successor, William Howard Taft. The prodigious Taft, who was so heavy that he reputedly once got stuck in the White House bathtub, disappointed his mentor. In 1912, Teddy returned determined to set matters straight. Roosevelt ran a strong primary campaign, but party bosses seated enough delegates to ensure Taft would prevail. Teddy Roosevelt fumed.

Teddy literally pulled his delegates from the Convention and left to form his own party. He called it the Progressive Party, but it would come to be known by a different name. They say William Howard Taft never wanted to be president. He wanted to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In 1921, he got his wish when he was appointed to the position by President Warren G. Harding, becoming the only person in history to hold both offices.

During the campaign, Roosevelt was in Milwaukee to give a speech. He had the speech written on 50 pages of paper, folded twice and stuffed into the pocket of his suit along with his eyeglass container. As he walked out of his hotel, a man approached and pulled a .32 revolver and shot the former president in the chest at point blank range. Roosevelt went down. The crowd reacted violently, beating the would-be assassin and shouting, "Kill him!" Teddy was calmer. "Bring him here," he said. "I want to see him." He asked the man, "What did you do it for?"

The wadded sheets of paper and steel case slowed the bullet which lodged against the former president's rib. Teddy carried the souvenir with him for the rest of his life. Roosevelt's entourage wanted to rush him to the hospital, but Teddy had other ideas. He coughed into his handkerchief and seeing no blood determined that his lungs had not been pierced. "He pinked me," Roosevelt declared. "You get me to that speech." Less than an hour later, he took the podium and announced, "I don't know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot." The audience gasped audibly as Roosevelt opened his jacket to show his bloodied shirt before adding, "It takes more than that to kill a bull moose!"

From that moment on, Roosevelt's new party was known as the "Bull Moose Party." Teddy got more votes than Taft in the general election. Woodrow Wilson, with only 42 percent of the popular vote, won the presidency in an electoral landslide. Teddy Roosevelt ran the most successful third-party campaign in our history, but for the rest of his life he remained bitter about the result.

Some people look at the two political parties and yearn for a third choice. You have to wonder if Teddy Roosevelt could not make it work, whether anyone can.

*Scott A. Grant is a local author, historian, columnist, and speaker. He is president of Standfast Asset Management in Ponte Vedra Beach. He welcomes your comments or questions at [scottg@standfast.com](mailto:scottg@standfast.com).*

## Spotlight on NBC

### Meet Michael McCarthy of Edward Jones

Michael McCarthy grew up in the Ft. Lauderdale area and said one of his earliest memories was reading The Wall Street Journal with his grandfather. He said this instilled an interest in saving and investing at an early age; however, when it came time for college, he aspired to be an airline pilot, so he enrolled at Embry Riddle University. Unfortunately, he had a seizure, which derailed those plans, so he went to the University of Central Florida with no real idea of what to study. While tending bar at the Orlando airport, a fortunate meeting with a vice president from Wells Fargo led McCarthy to give banking a try. Over the years, he worked as a personal banker, a branch manager and an area manager of multiple branch locations for Fifth Third Bank and Suntrust and moved with his wife and young family to Sarasota and Destin before ending up in Jacksonville. In 2017, a friend encouraged him to work for Edward Jones and, recalling his time spent discussing investing with his grandfather, he left the bank and started his new career helping people with their finances.

#### Q: What is your company's edge?

A: At Edward Jones, we are local advisors who look at a person's full financial picture. We believe in a full collaborative approach and we address education planning, tax planning, insurance, retirement planning and estate planning.

#### Q: What was your best business decision?

A: I have had a couple. I would say taking the promotion offered by Fifth Third Bank that moved us to Sarasota is one, because the quality of life was so good there. And also I'd say the move to working for Edward Jones. I enjoy the autonomy and working with people to improve their financial lives.

#### Q: What is your long term goal?

A: I plan to continue to grow in my career with Edward Jones. To that end, I am in the process of opening my own office on Race Track Road, so I can help more people in the St. Johns area. I plan to continue growing until I become a general partner with Edward Jones.

#### Q: What would you tell local business owners about the North Business Council?

A: I have met a lot of influential people and I've been able to grow my own business as well as help others to grow theirs. I have never seen a group of people as committed to helping each other in business as members of the North Business Council are. It is a tight knit group, like a family. When you walk in the room, everyone is welcoming and likely to say, "How can I help you?"



Photo courtesy Michael McCarthy  
Michael McCarthy

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# Love & Marriage Guide

## Valentines traditions from around the world

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The origins of Valentine's Day are largely unknown. Some suggest Valentine's Day was initially a way to honor St. Valentine on the anniversary of his death. Others believe it was the Christian church's way of Christianizing the Pagan celebration of Lupercalia, a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture.

Regardless of its origins, Valentine's Day is now celebrated by millions and is one of the retail industry's most lucrative shopping holidays. Many different traditions can be linked to Valentine's Day. Here is a list of the interesting ways

Valentine's Day is celebrated across the globe.

In South Korea, men get to enjoy the spotlight on Valentine's Day, as women bestow gifts of chocolate on them. In return, a month later men reciprocate with gifts for women on White Day. South Koreans take Valentine's Day a step further on Black Day, which falls on April 14. This is an opportunity for all single people who may not have received Valentine's Day gifts to gather at restaurants and eat a dish called "black noodles" as they celebrate their singleton status.

Denmark and Norway didn't really celebrate Valentine's Day until recently, but have now put their own spin on the traditions. Men write funny poems or rhyming love notes called Gaekkebreve and send them to women anonymously. Women must try to guess their admirers by counting dots that are put on the note that correspond to the number of letters in the man's name.

In Estonia, Valentine's Day is a day more devoted to friendship than romantic love. It is called "Sõbrapäev" in Estonian, which translates to "Friend's Day." Cards and gifts are exchanged among friends.

In Wales, Valentine's Day is not celebrated. Rather, the Welsh commemorate St. Dwynwen's Day, who is their patron saint of lovers on Jan. 25. It is customary to gift love-spoons, a tradition that likely stems from the practice of sailors carving

intricately decorated spoons of wood and presenting them to women they were interested in courting or marrying.

Considered to be one of the most romantic countries in the world, France can be an ideal place to participate in Valentine's Day traditions. The French have an old custom called "une loterie d'amour," which is a drawing for love. Single men and women of all ages once entered houses that faced one another and took turns calling out to one another to find romantic matches. The men could refuse the match and leave the woman looking for another man to call on. Women who were not paired up would light a bonfire and damn the men who rejected them. The French government eventually banned the practice because of rowdy crowds.

Italian lovers celebrate Valentine's Day in much the same way as Americans. One interesting Valentine's tradition in Italy is locking padlocks to different structures, which is called "Lucchetti dell'Amore (locks of love)." Couples attach the locks to bridges, railings and lamp posts, inscribe their names and throw away the key. The action suggests the couple will be together forever.

## Chocolate not always associated with Valentine's Day

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Though certain elements of modern-day Valentine's Day celebrations can be traced back to the 14th century, chocolate is not one of them.

In his 1382 poem, "Parlement of Foules," English poet Geoffrey Chaucer became the first to connect romance with St. Valentine's Day. Over the next several centuries, the day's connection to romance only grew stronger, and by the Victorian era in England, it was not uncommon for lovers to profess their affections through songs, poetry and even the giving of roses as gifts.

It was during the Victorian era that British chocolate manufacturer Richard Cadbury began searching for ways to use the cocoa butter that his company was extracting during the production of their drinking chocolate. In 1861, Cadbury decided to produce edible chocolates, which he even sold and marketed in heart-shaped boxes decorated with images of Cupid and rosebuds.

It would be a few more decades before edible chocolates caught on in the United States, where they remain a must-have item for many Valentine's Day celebrants more than 150 years after Cadbury first began selling them.

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

You can help us work toward saving a billion gallons of water this winter — and save money on your water bill.

Even in sunny Florida, lawns and landscapes take a break during the winter and naturally go dormant. During the cooler months of December, January and February, our landscapes typically need less water, and irrigation often isn't needed at all, so now is a great time to save water without giving up curb appeal.

On Dec. 2, the St. Johns River Water Management District kicked off its annual "Skip A Week" water conservation message, part of our year-long "Water Less" campaign. "Skip A Week" asks residents who water their lawns to voluntarily skip every other week this winter.

While current irrigation restrictions do allow watering up to once a week during Eastern Standard Time, weekly irrigation isn't always needed this time of year. If homeowners who do regularly water their yards simply skipped every other week this winter, more than a billion gallons of water could be saved across our 18 counties.

Skipping every other week is as easy as

manually turning off your automatic sprinkler system. You'll be training your grass to grow deeper root systems, which makes them more drought-tolerant and less susceptible to pests and disease. Overwatered lawns are weak lawns.

Research shows watering deeply every 10 – 14 days is generally plenty during winter months

If you do water your lawn — and even when you "Skip A Week" — remember that your watering day is based on your address: even addresses irrigate on Saturday, odd addresses irrigate on Sunday, and non-residential addresses water on Tuesday. Always water before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

We're all in this together. Skipping every other week of sprinkling is a simple way to do your part to help the region meet current and future water supply needs and conserve our most precious water resources. You can learn more at [WaterLessFlorida.com](http://WaterLessFlorida.com), where you'll also find tips on year-round water conservation and efficient irrigation.

Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D.

Executive Director, St. Johns River Water Management District

## New children's emergency center opens

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Wolfson Children's Emergency Center, a full-service, 8,100 square foot facility located adjacent to the existing adult emergency room at Baptist South, is now open. It has its own parking area, entrance, check-in and triage area, family restrooms and 12 exam rooms dedicated entirely to children and families.

The Wolfson Children's Emergency Center at Baptist South is staffed by a team comprised of double-board-certified pediatric emergency physicians with Emergency Resources Group, pediatric-specific emergency nurses, pediatric respiratory therapists, and pediatric-trained radiologic technologists. The team is connected 24/7 with the larger team of pediatric emergency and pediatric specialty physicians at the main Wolfson Children's Hospital campus. To ensure the safest care, this new Wolfson Children's ER is outfitted with technology and equipment specifically designed for children of all ages and sizes.

"To be a true 'pediatric emergency center,' you have to go a lot further than just putting those three words on a building," said Michael D. Aubin, FACHE, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital. "It takes a team of experts specially trained in children's health care, along with equipment and facilities meant specifically for children. We know parents want access to Wolfson Children's Hospital care because it gives them peace of mind when minutes matter in an emergency. So we're really proud to extend our specialized emergency care to children and families in this rapidly growing area."



Photo courtesy Wolfson Children's Hospital  
Designed and staffed specifically for the unique needs of children, the new children's ER will serve southern Duval and northern St. Johns counties.

Wolfson Children's Hospital is consistently ranked among U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hospitals and was recently named one of just 10 Top Children's Hospitals in the country by the Leapfrog Group.

Family-friendly amenities at the Wolfson Children's Emergency Center at Baptist Medical Center South include:

- Design based on feedback in focus groups with local parents.
- A kid-friendly, ocean-theme that flows throughout the facility with beautiful and calming sea animals incorporated into the decor.
- A unique fish sculpture that welcomes visitors outside the main entrance, consisting of six distinct groups totaling 219 fish. The sculpture is made of stainless steel and the fish have been coated with blue and turquoise colors. The artist behind this signature piece is Donald Gialanella.
- An interactive play area in the waiting area where children can "color" large ocean-themed pictures.
- iPads filled with apps for entertainment purposes in each room.
- A designated Child Life Specialist to help distract and calm children through play.

This is the sixth Wolfson Children's Emergency Center in Northeast Florida.



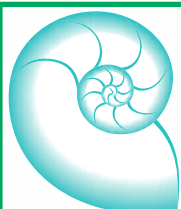
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Photo courtesy Fort Mose Historical Society

## Flight to Freedom at Fort Mose Historic State Park on Feb. 8

Follow the journey of freedom seekers to Spanish St. Augustine from South Carolina on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Fort Mose Historic State Park. The first documented escaped slaves arrived in St. Augustine in 1687. From 1687 through the end of the First Spanish Period in 1763, freedom seekers in ever increasing numbers made the dangerous and arduous journey from the rice and indigo plantations in coastal South Carolina to the sanctity of Spanish Florida by the granting of freedom according to Carlos II's Royal Proclamation of 1693. Flight to Freedom tells the story of their journey. Participants will learn about the Spanish, African, and Native American food traditions and culture from guest speakers and demonstrators. Demonstrations by the Fort Mose militia as well as musket and cannon demonstrations are scheduled. This event is provided by Fort Mose Historic State Park, The Fort Mose Historical Society, Florida Living History and The Florida Humanities Council. Fort Mose Historic State Park is located just off U.S. Highway 1 at 15 Fort Mose Trail, north of St. Augustine. Visit [www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fort-mose-historic-state-park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fort-mose-historic-state-park) for more information.

## A parent's pain turns into her passion

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewslines.com

When Kimberly Mullins heard her daughter was going to be held back in first grade, her heart sank. How could this bright, smart, little girl get held back? What went wrong? But more importantly, what could she do to fix the problem?



Photo courtesy Kimberly Mullins  
Kimberly Mullins and David Mullins

After hours of searching for answers and lots of conversations with professionals, she decided to take her daughter to tutoring. It was going to be expensive, but it was worth it to know her daughter would not struggle. She saw it as an investment in her daughter's future.

At the beginning of the summer, her daughter was at a mid-kindergarten reading level and by the end of the eight weeks she was at an early second grade level. The tutoring had worked.

When the Tutoring Club of St. Johns went up for sale, this immediately caught Mullins' attention. She knew that tutoring worked and saw this as the perfect business opportunity.

Together with her husband, David Mullins, she took over the center in December 2019 and immediately, upgraded the center's look and feel. They

supercharged the curriculum and rolled out several new programs, including a complimentary study hall that allows the students to come early and work on homework before their tutoring sessions.

Kimberly Mullins' background as a professional trainer and experience with curriculum creation has perfectly positioned her for her new role as the co-owner of the Tutoring Club of St. Johns.

The Tutoring Club of St. Johns is a diagnostic learning center, where students get assessed on their strengths and weaknesses and a custom learning program is designed to help them grow and succeed. They also offer an acceleration program for students looking to get more enrichment curriculum and be the best in their class.



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## Native Sons and Daughters look ahead to New Year

By Brian Quirk, Flaming Arrow  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Welcome to the first year of the new decade. The Jacksonville chapter of the Native Sons and Daughters program is off to a fast start in creating life-long memories between fathers and their children.



Photos courtesy Brian Quirk

We begin the New Year with our annual Suzie Q. Miller family campout. During this campout, the children invite their mothers to get a glimpse of what the dads do with them during our other campouts. After raising the American Flag and reciting the pledge of allegiance, the children partake in canoeing, a fishing rodeo, Frisbee golf, basketball and nature hikes. All the activities are age appropriate and the dads cook the family feast for everyone on Saturday evening.



their truck. This is an annual heart-pounding, gut wrenching show of brute strength and horsepower.

The spring season begins with attending the Sunshine State Pow Wow. This annual gathering of similar father/child programs from all over the state has participation from groups from Jacksonville to Miami and from Canaveral to Tampa. This event alone usually attracts close to 1000 campers each year. This year's event is being held in Melbourne and can be reviewed at <https://sunshinestatepowwow.com>

During April, both the boys' and girls' longhouses are held at various campgrounds in Northeast Florida. These events are structured so that the fathers can spend one-on-one time with either their sons or with their daughters.

Finally, the club attends a night out with the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp where they can campout in the outfield after the game, and our Ray Potts Summer Bowling begins the second week of June.

Visit [www.nsdjax.org](http://www.nsdjax.org) for more information about our unique parent/child program.

Also in February, the braves and princesses converge at the stadium in order to participate in the Monster Truck show. Each member strongly cheers for their favorite driver and most of the club arrives in plenty of time to take pictures with their favorite driver and



*"If I were still in my house I would not be doing half of what I'm doing here. And I've never had so many friends in my life. We heard that being in an active living community, you live longer, and I can see why!"*

— Resident Mary M. (with her dog, Jade)

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Lunch is provided during this complimentary event at River Garden.  
To RSVP, call (904) 288.7855 or email [kbell@rivergarden.org](mailto:kbell@rivergarden.org).

## BTHS Happenings

### Bartram Trail senior looks to the future

By Delaney Cantrell  
[mail@floridanewline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewline.com)

Bartram Trail Senior Class President Trevor Schultz is anxiously awaiting the close of the school year along with the rest of the Class of 2020. He can't wait to lead his class in the throwing of their caps on graduation day, May 23.

Schultz has been the president of the Bartram Trail Class of 2020 the past four years. He has attended multiple events to represent the school and has worked to bring the class together by leading community service projects.

"I have tried to make an impact wherever possible," said Schultz.

This is not always an easy task when a class consists of more than 650 students like the current Bartram Trail senior class.

Leading his high school class comes with a lot of responsibility, but Schultz has flourished in the position. He has gained skills in leadership and has come to realize that he wants to continue grow-



Photo courtesy Trevor Schultz  
Trevor Schultz

ing that skill in college and beyond. He hopes to find a leadership position in his college next year and possibly take part in the student government.

Schultz has big plans after high school, as he will be attending Harvard University where he will play volleyball. He plans on majoring in engineering and obtaining a minor in entrepreneurship. Schultz knows that he will face challenges in his next endeavor, but feels that his educational and leadership opportunities at Bartram have prepared him well.

Schultz said, "I can't thank my mom, dad, sister, and friends enough for all they have done to help me on this journey."

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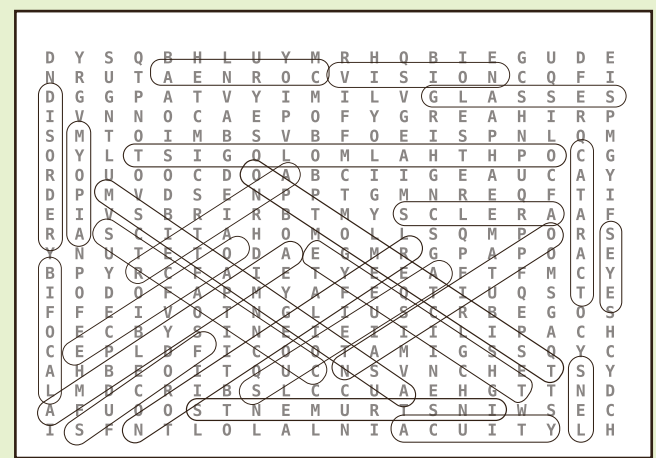
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Answers to puzzles on page 18

## Answers to our Puzzles



Answers: A. eyes B. exam C. vision D. healthy





**Briefs**

**Free tax prep offered in St. Johns County**

Free tax preparation, by certified tax preparers, is available to individuals and families with a household income of \$69,000 or less through RealSense, a partnership between United Way of St. Johns County and United Way of Northeast Florida. United Way of St. Johns County offers this service to ensure that families and individuals can save the cost of tax preparation and benefit from a properly prepared return. One-on-one appointments are now offered Mondays, Wednesdays, or Saturdays, depending on location.

RealSense appointments can be made online at [bit.ly/realsense](http://bit.ly/realsense) or by calling (904) 373-8671. Locations and dates/times are:

Vystar Credit Union  
3654 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd.  
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Health and Human Services  
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Mondays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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117 Bridge St.  
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Bring the following:

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- W-2 from each employer (no pay stubs)
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- 1095-A if you received health-care coverage through the Marketplace

**THE PLAYERS introduces mobile-only tickets**

New in 2020, THE PLAYERS Championship's ticketing process is being changed to include mobile-only and day-specific tickets. Additionally, parking passes are now required every day of tournament week,

Tuesday through Sunday. THE PLAYERS Championship will be held at TPC Sawgrass, March 10 – 15, 2020.

"THE PLAYERS earns its gold-standard label by continuously elevating itself in all areas, year after year," said Executive Director of THE PLAYERS Jared Rice. "Our move to mobile-only and day-specific tickets is part of a strategic effort to ensure a best-in-class experience for our fans, better anticipate attendance for each day and ultimately increase our impact on the Northeast Florida community."

Ticket options include the following (prices below do not include taxes; parking must be purchased separately):

Day-specific Stadium Pass: Provides access to nearly 20 venues, numerous local food and beverage options, rope-side access to the best players in the world and much more.

Tuesday — \$45, which includes access to The Chainsmokers concert after the Military Appreciation Ceremony at 5 p.m.

Wednesday — \$25  
Thursday and Sunday — \$65  
Friday and Saturday — \$70

Day-specific Captain's Club: Includes premium club space with views of the 16th and 18th holes at TPC Sawgrass. Beer, wine and soda are included; full bar and food are available for purchase. Tickets are \$250 per day for Thursday through Sunday.

Other hospitality options include the Benefactor, the Turn and THE PLAYERS Club and are still available at [www.THEPLAYERS.com/hospitality.html](http://www.THEPLAYERS.com/hospitality.html).

Military Tickets: Complimentary admission is provided each day of the tournament to active duty, military retirees, military reserve, National Guard, military spouses and accompanied dependents with valid credentials and identification. Veterans are provided an exclusive offer, permitting them to purchase one ticket for themselves and one ticket for a guest at a discounted rate per day (\$20 each, Tuesday and Wednesday; \$30 each,

Thursday through Sunday). All military personnel must verify their military status by visiting [THEPLAYERS.com/tickets](http://THEPLAYERS.com/tickets) and clicking "Claim Tickets" under the Military Admissions section.

Additionally, THE PLAYERS allows youth 15-and-under to attend for free when accompanied by a ticketed adult.

Also new in 2020, parking passes are required all days of tournament week, Tuesday through Sunday. All parking passes are daily passes and must be purchased online in advance via [THEPLAYERS.com/parking](http://THEPLAYERS.com/parking). Tuesday and Wednesday parking costs \$15 per day and Thursday — Sunday costs \$40 per day. Parking will not be sold on-site, and parking passes are required for all vehicles. As in years past, THE PLAYERS will offer fans free parking passes if they carpool with four or more people. These passes are limited and must be downloaded in advance.

**Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club celebrates National Heart Month**

In recognition of American Heart Month, the Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club will welcome Sammy Previte of Palm Valley Dietitians to speak at their February meeting, to be held Feb. 11 at 11 a.m. at St. Johns Golf and Country Club. In addition to heart healthy nutrition, Previte will address the need to focus on healthy behaviors and to shift the sole focus away from weight, which can create an unhealthy obsession with weight and body image. To show support of American Heart Month, members are encouraged to wear red.

Lunch choices include: Roasted beet and goat cheese salad with grilled chicken with a citrus balsamic vinaigrette (a vegetarian option is available without the grilled chicken) and New England style shrimp salad roll with old bay fries. A tomato basil bisque appetizer, chef's choice of rolls, dessert as well as iced tea, coffee or soda is also included. Other beverages are available for purchase. The cost is \$20 per person; make checks payable to

BTNC and mail to Mary Ann Kriniske, 156 Worthington Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259. (Indicate entrée choice on the check memo line.) Payment must be received by Feb. 5, 2020.

The Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club meets the second Tuesday of every month from September to May at local restaurants for lunch. In addition to the monthly meetings, the club has a wide variety of interest groups. Visit [www.facebook.com/BTNC1](http://www.facebook.com/BTNC1) for more information or to download a membership form.

**Newcomers of North St. Johns to meet in St. Augustine**

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will host its February luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 18 beginning at 11 a.m. at the



Photo courtesy Michelle Oliver  
Mia Bain

DoubleTree, 116 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine. The event features a presentation by Mia Bain on the historic and fun attractions in St. Augustine. Bain will give tips on the best ways to enjoy this historic city and how to obtain discounts to many of the popular attractions and restaurants.

The luncheon will feature a choice of chicken marsala served with green beans and garlic mashed potatoes or gnocchi and italian sausage topped with a vodka cream sauce. Both entrées include a house salad and choice of iced tea, hot tea, or coffee. New York cheesecake will be served for dessert. A cash bar is also available. The cost for the luncheon and program is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests. All reservations must be received by Feb. 12.

Contact Sue Aird at [sjaird@comcast.net](mailto:sjaird@comcast.net) for a registration form for the luncheon or information about club membership or upcoming activities.

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# Life

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## Get to Know . . .

### Jennifer Vorburger

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser  
mail@floridanewline.com



Photo courtesy Jennifer Vorburger

Jennifer Vorburger has some fun during her time in the car line.

Jennifer Vorburger and her family have been residents of Julington Creek for 16 years. Her family, which consists of her husband Mike, and their four children: Hunter (25), Jake (18), Matthew (12), and Cate (10), is one of the longest-attending families at Durbin Creek Elementary, which has led to Vorburger's notoriety for how much time she's spent in the car line. With 16 consecutive years dropping kids off and picking them up, it's totaled so far 2,970 hours, or more than 123 days. She's also the new owner of a small business, and has some great suggestions of ways to pass the time for other car line parents out there!

**Q: What brought you to the Julington Creek area?**

A: I'm from Orlando, but I've been living in Jacksonville since 1992. I started off in Ponte Vedra Beach, lived in Mandarin, and then once we started having kids, I knew I wanted to get into Julington Creek, just because of the community, the amenities, the bike paths. It just seemed a lot more family-friendly.

**Q: Have you always been a small business owner?**

A: I actually worked in marketing and communications for Florida Blue for 13 years, and then when kid number four came along, I became a stay-at-home mom. My sister-in-law told me that her nine-year-old daughter had a glamper party, and she noticed that my husband and I are into camping. We bought a trailer a couple of years ago, and we did a makeover on it. It got featured on a webpage called "Pop-Up Princess," which is a site where people can submit their camper makeovers. So

she noticed we were into "glamping," or making camping a little bit nicer.

She thought I would be perfect at doing these glamper parties. I started in June, last summer, and it's really taken off. We were pretty steadily booked for all of 2019, and going into 2020. It's my own company, so it's much more flexible, and it's fun.

**Q: How did you get so much time with the car line?**

A: I actually thought it was kind of funny! It feels like I've spent years and years in the car line. We've always been zoned for Durbin Creek, which opened in 2003; Hunter was the first of my children to attend. With kids ranging in age from 25 down to 10, I'm on my 17th year of dropping off and picking up kids in the car rider line. This equates to a total of 2,970 hours and counting in the line — or 123 full days of my life in DCE's line. My youngest child, Cate, is in fourth grade, so I still have another year of "The Line." In the end, I'll be looking at a total of 3,240 hours in the car rider line.

**Q: What are your expert tips for surviving while you're waiting in the car line?**

A: I use it to get all kinds of things done! In the earlier years, I timed the current baby's nap to coincide with pickup. Or I'll work on doing bills, take phone calls, or even just enjoy the quiet time. Sometimes I would use it to give the pets or foster pets a ride in the van. We started fostering kittens for Jax Humane Society a little over two years ago and the kittens love to ride in their window seat we bought them. My kids always loved coming in after school and seeing the kittens too. Most recently, I use the time for advertising my new Glamper Party business that is plastered all over the back of my van.

**Q: What do you like to do for fun in your spare time?**

A: We're a really outdoorsy family, and we love to travel. We also love biking on the Julington Creek bike paths. And we like to do things like hiking, camping, kayaking — anything that's outside.

**Food for Fines** cont. from pg. 1

proximately 10,000 clients in St. Johns County throughout the year.

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Food for Fines is one of several collaborative programs that the St. Johns County Library System participates in with other county departments, extending its reach to county residents. Visit [www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org) for more information.

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**PRIMARY ELECTION  
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NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

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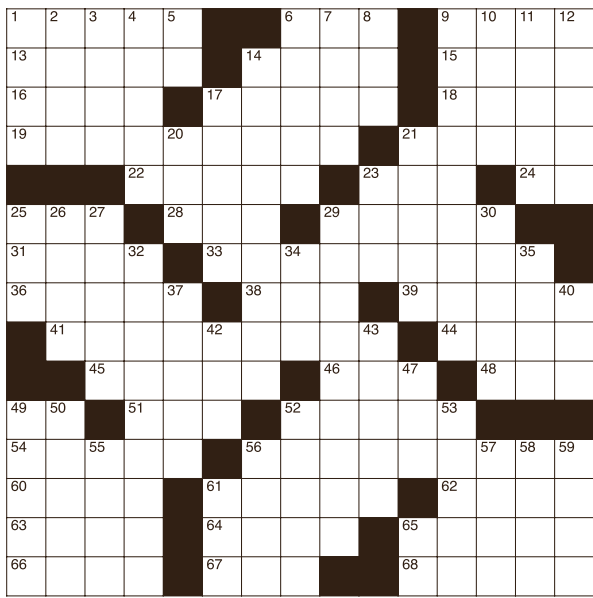
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**Get to Know . . .**

Interested in being featured?  
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# Puzzles

Answers on page 14  
Provided by MetroCreative



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Indicates number of days
6. When you hope to get there
9. Hairstyle
13. Black (Spanish)
14. Expresses pleasure
15. Away from wind
16. Tech pros organization
17. Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it
18. Clean
19. Saints' signal caller
21. A way to hunt
22. Poetries
23. Automobile
24. Secondary school (abbr.)
25. Indicates before
28. Male parent
29. Short-billed rails
31. It pays to keep yours
33. On occasion
36. David \_\_, US playwright
38. Slang for cigarette

**CLUES DOWN**

39. Vaccine developer
41. Returned to health
44. Toni Morrison novel
45. Period between eclipses
46. Veterans battleground
48. Gang
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of a voracious animal
52. Elaborate garments
54. Chinese province
56. Checks
60. Horizontal passage
61. Steep hillsides
62. Fertility god
63. Dried-up
64. Signs a name
65. \_\_ Winger, actress
66. German river
67. Gov't lawyers
68. Take something somewhere

**CLUES DOWN**

1. \_\_ Blyton, children's author
2. Colleague
3. "The African Queen" writer
4. Crater on the moon
5. Toward
6. Overhang
7. Identifies something close at hand
8. Sign language
9. Unbroken views
10. Ancient Greek City
11. Stretch out to grasp
12. Alcohols that are unfit for drinking
14. Humorous stories
17. Long song for a solo
20. Barrels per day (abbr.)
21. City of Lights
23. A place to sleep
25. Advanced degree (abbr.)
26. The back

27. Furniture-makers Charles and "Ray"
29. Songs to a lover
30. Gland secretion
32. 10 meters
34. Disfigure
35. Stores grain
37. Sacred book of Judaism
40. Catch
42. Promise
43. Challenges
47. Russian space station
49. Banking giant
50. Served as an omen
52. Drenches
53. Type of sword
55. Minor planet
56. Messenger ribonucleic acid
57. Japanese ankle sock
58. Obtain in return for services
59. Waste matter
61. A proposal to buy at a specified price
65. Unit of loudness

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 R O U O O C D O A B C I I G E A U C A Y  
 D P M V D S E N P P T G M N R E Q F T I  
 E I V S B R I R B T M Y S C L E R A A F  
 R A S C I T A H O M O L L S Q M P O R S  
 Y N U T E T O I D A E G M R G P A P O A E  
 B P Y R C F A I E T Y E R E A F T F M C Y  
 I O D O F A P M Y A F E Q T I U Q S T E  
 F F E I V O T N G L I U S C R B E G O S  
 O E C B Y S I N E I E I I I L I P A C H  
 C E P L D F I C O O T A M I G S S Q Y C  
 A H B E O I T Q U C N S V N C H E T S Y  
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- AQUEOUS
- ASTIGMATISM
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- GLASSES
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- OPTOMETRIST
- REFLECTION
- RETINA
- SCLERA
- VISION



Solve the code to discover words related to vision.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 8 = e)

- A. 8 13 8 2**  
Clue: Used for sight
- B. 8 21 25 3**  
Clue: Test
- C. 16 9 2 9 15 23**  
Clue: Sight
- D. 20 8 25 10 4 20 13**  
Clue: Free of illness

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24	25	26	27	28

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# The Pantry Raiders

## Do dessert at home this Valentine's Day

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Couples who want to add a special twist to Valentine's Day date night can enjoy a nice meal out before returning home for some homemade dessert. Whether couples prepare it together or surprise their significant others, the following recipe for "Coffee Crisp" from Bob Blumer's "Surreal Gourmet Bites" (Chronicle Books) can make for the perfect ending to a Valentine's Day date night.

### Coffee Crisp

(Yields 12 bites)

- 6 egg yolks
- 8 tbsp. sugar
- 2 tbsp. instant espresso or coffee powder
- 1 ½ cups heavy cream
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract

Preheat the oven to 300 F.

In a medium bowl, whisk egg yolks and 6 tablespoons of the sugar for 1 minute, or until smooth and pale yellow in color. Reserve.

In a second medium bowl, add espresso granules and one-quarter cup of the cream.

Whisk until smooth, then add remaining cream and vanilla, and whisk until well blended.

Very gently, fold espresso cream mixture into egg yolks.

Use a ladle to pour custard mixture into espresso cups, filling them three-fourths of the way to the top. Place cups in a baking dish or roasting pan and transfer to oven. Fill a pitcher with warm tap water. Before closing oven door, pour water into pan (but not into the cups themselves!) until it reaches halfway up the sides of the cups.

Bake for 40 minutes, or until the custards jiggle just slightly when you shake the pan. Remove pan from oven and leave out on counter, allowing the residual heat of the water to finish the cooking process.

When custards have fully solidified, refrigerate for 2 hours.

Just before serving, sprinkle 1/2 teaspoon of sugar evenly overtop each custard. Use a small blowtorch to caramelize the sugar. Alternatively, place cups 1 inch below oven broiler under a watchful eye for approximately 2 minutes, or until sugar caramelizes.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative  
Coffee Crisp

# Gardening

## It's February - Already

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Now is a good time to sow seeds of popular summer vegetables, particularly tomatoes, peppers, both hot and sweet, and eggplants. This is an indoor project, though, as soils will not warm up sufficiently until all danger of frost has passed, usually after March 20 or thereabouts. Use a potting soil formulated for seedlings and keep your seed tray in a warm place to encourage germination. Once you have tiny plants, give them plenty of light. Be aware that overwatering is a potential problem as it can cause seedlings to rot and die: a fungal condition called "damping off." Fertilize with a weak solution every week or two, or use a slow release product, keeping it away from tender stems.

There are some vegetables that should be sown directly in the garden if they are to grow well, and in February these include corn, cucumbers, snow or English peas, radish (a useful quick grower), squash, turnips, and watermelon. If you have limited space, take a closer look at the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide, to help refine your options (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>). Always grow what your family will eat, or be prepared to coax them into new and different flavors.

When considering where to grow, aim to move your crops from place to place each season. Crop rotation helps to discourage insects that are attracted to particular types of plants, and soil-borne diseases that attack certain plant groups don't have the opportunity to build up to really damaging levels. You may not have an easy situation to deal with, since different vegetables mature at different rates and take up different amounts of space, but it is worth avoiding growing the same plants in the same

place year after year. Ideally plants in the same family (see <https://tinyurl.com/vqgqslq>) should be grouped together to make this easier. Record what, when, and where you plant in the garden using simple diagrams. As your crops finish, tidy up any potentially diseased material if you haven't done so already, and replenish the soil with compost. Draw up the next planting plan and keep these records season to season. (I certainly cannot remember the details of what I planted two or three years ago!) Aim for a three year rotation at minimum, and perhaps use a cover crop for green manure (see the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide) if you have a space you don't want to use.

When I was a child, my parents worked in our garden — the term in England that encompasses the whole backyard. My dad grew the vegetables and fruit, and my mum loved her flowers. It never occurred to me then that all flowers had their seasons, although the Michaelmas daisies (then in the Aster genus now re-categorized as Symphyotrichum) were a late summer treat for many beautiful butterflies. It was clear that the produce came and went seasonally, apparently controlled by my dad. Now I understand that we have flowers that bloom in certain seasons, for varying lengths of time, and their life cycles include setting seed for the next year. With experts advising us that we should aim to have flowering plants available year round for those oh-so valuable pollinators — like honey bees — this article may help: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg035>. And for shrubs and trees to support honey bees, see <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in1223>.

Check out "A New Leaf" at <https://tinyurl.com/yxuhw2qq> and be prepared for a productive and beautiful spring.



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# Travel

## A weekend in Wytheville, Virginia

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Travelers often find unexpected joys, fewer crowds, and budget-friendly prices in smaller cities. I recently discovered these advantages in Wytheville, located in Southwest Virginia, at the intersection of highways Interstate-81 and Interstate-77, not far from the Tennessee border. Wytheville's population numbers just 8,500, but there's plenty to see and do.

My first stroll down Main Street brought me to the Edith Bolling Wilson Museum. Who? Edith Bolling, a child born and raised in Wytheville, became the first lady when she married Woodrow Wilson in 1915, during his first term as President. (I can only imagine the media frenzy that would cause today.) When Wilson suffered a stroke in 1919, Edith actually made many presidential decisions on his behalf.

Her birthplace sits next door to the museum. The house has yet to be restored, but the near-empty rooms speak loudly of the past. I was fascinated by Edith and her place in American history. (She was born during the Civil War Reconstruction and has a 10th generation link to Pocahontas.)

The Thomas A. Boyd Museum focuses on Wytheville's history, including a reasonably recent, but sad, chapter. In 1950, Wytheville had more polio

cases than any other city in the state. The year became known as the Summer Without Children. Accounts say it was as if the Pied Piper spirited all the children out of town. Parents would not permit the kids to play outdoors. Several iron lungs of various sizes are displayed, a poignant reminder of how polio victims were affected and treated at this time.

Today's outdoor enthusiasts will find a variety of hiking, biking, horseback riding, and boating options among Big Walker Mountain Trail, New River State Park, and Crystal Springs. Drive up to Big Walker Mountain Lookout (elevation of 3,405 feet) and climb the 100-foot tower for endless views of beautiful Appalachian Mountains. Motorcycle riders find the epicenter of the "Claw of the Dragon" in Wytheville, a 200-mile scenic trail running through the Blue Ridge Mountains.

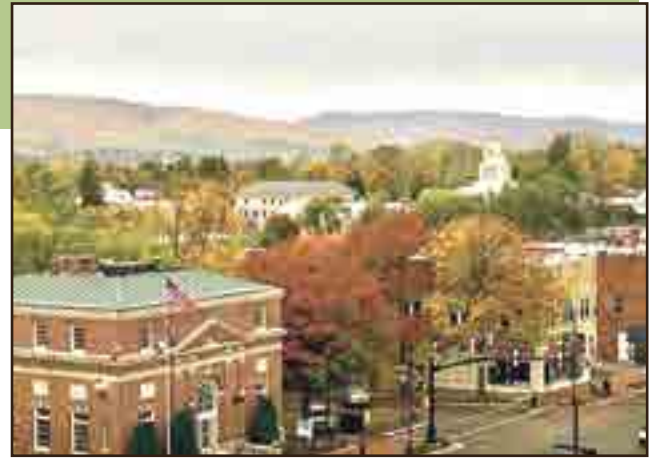
The Fort Chiswell Animal Park grew from the childhood dream of Jeff Arches. The 45-acre safari park features animals from six continents, mostly rescued animals.



Fun at the Fort Chiswell Animal Park.



Edith Bolling Wilson birthplace museum.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
Wytheville Main Street.

You ride along with windows open on an old school bus, and exotic animals come up to the vehicle. The guide tells you how you can feed them. I turned my back, and a camel pushed his head in the window and stole the entire bag of animal feed off the seat. He enjoyed quite a feast while we all laughed. The attraction runs on an abundance of love and care. It's a happy place that I feel comfortable recommending, especially if traveling with children.

As far as food and beverage, Wytheville's got it covered. The West Wind Farm Winery does everything from grape to glass by hand. They hand-pick, crush, bottle and

label wines from the five-acre vineyard. Wytheville welcomes beer enthusiasts to two trendy craft breweries.

The Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre presents musicals to 50,000 guests per year in a 250-seat arena. With those numbers, you know they must be doing something right. The three-course meal and the show were excellent. Another night, I suggest dining at the atmospheric Log House 1776 Restaurant. Plan to stay and browse the gardens, antique, and gift shops in outer buildings.

Wytheville draws a crowd to its annual Chautauqua Festival and Balloon Rally, an eight-day family-oriented music and arts festival from the third to the fourth Saturday every June. The spectacular evening balloon glow earns rave reviews. Balloon rides are available the next morning.

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# Fishing

## Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewslines.com

We have reached the time of year where fishing can be at its most difficult. Cold weather and cold water temperatures definitely have a direct influence on the current bite. Fortunately, so far this winter has been fairly mild, keeping water temperatures higher than usual. If this keeps up for just a few more weeks, spring fishing could be coming in like a lion.

With spring comes the best largemouth bass fishing of the year. After spending the winter low and slow, largemouths will hit all area freshwater ponds, lakes, creeks, and the river with a bodacious appetite. This bite is brought on due to the largemouth's springtime spawning season. You can expect the spawn to last several weeks, with excellent bass fishing taking place before, during, and after the spawn. Spawning bass can be spotted on their beds for easy fishing in shallow waters during the spawn.

Saltwater fishing is ready for kickoff at any time this time of year. As bait fish begin their migration north due to warming sea temperatures, the predatory fish that we like to catch will soon follow. Bluefish are often the first fish to show. With razor sharp teeth, and piranha-like feeding frenzies, blues are plentiful and easy to catch during their spring run. Just about any bait, live or artificial, will be attacked while they are passing through in the surf. Cut baits and finger mullet seem to be their favorites though.

can begin to show before the blues if we've had a mild enough winter. When the Whiting do show, it's time to hang on to your hats, as the bite can happen as fast as your bait hits the bottom. Dead shrimp and sand fleas are their favorite bait.

When fishing in the surf, try locating a "bite zone" to increase productivity. By casting to different depths or locations, give each spot a few minutes to see how fast a bite occurs, and what the quality of the fish is that comes from that spot. You may also want to just try a slow retrieval every minute or so till your bait finds the area where the best fish are most concentrated.

In the upcoming days or weeks, spring fishing offers some of the fastest and easiest fishing of the year. For getting started, don't look at the calendar, but watch the weather. Periods of warmer days with water temperatures averaging 60 degrees or warmer is the ticket to give it a try. If you are really anxious to get out, every 50 or 60 miles you drive south moves up the fishing season a week or two.

Fishing Report: Area freshwater largemouths are a must for anyone looking for their first or trophy bass. Don't forget your neighborhood ponds and lakes for some great bass fishing.

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