



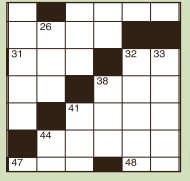
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## Nease NJROTC victorious at Terry Parker Drill Meet — for seventh straight time

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

For the past seven years, Nease NJROTC's 40-person drill team has competed at the 12-school Terry Parker Sanctioned Drill Meet in Jacksonville, and for the seventh straight year, the team has returned to Ponte Vedra holding the competition's top prize. Along with seven consecutive Mandarin Drill Meet victories, Nease has domi-



Photos courtesy Scott LaRochelle  
Nease NJROTC's Armed Exhibition drill team led by Cadet Ethan

nated the northern Florida NJROTC drill landscape since 2013. Nease will compete in March at the Area-12 Florida-Georgia State Championships, seeking its sixth consecutive title and trip the Navy National Championships in April.

"Every JROTC program has a reputation," said Cadet Battalion Chief of Staff Yuan Tian, "and at Nease it's drill."

Drill is much more than a marching competition. Drill meet championships include a series of 10 individual events

Nease NJROTC cont. on pg. 17

## Field of Dreams celebrates 10th anniversary

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

A gloomy day on Saturday, Feb. 1 couldn't put a damper on the excitement of Field of Dreams' opening day, according to Chuck Forcier, one of the original founders of the league that caters to children with special needs. Additionally, this was a special opening day, since it marked the 10th anniversary of the league.

"It was chilly, but we had no rain," Forcier said. "Everything went really well. It was probably one of our best opening days."

Forcier pointed out that the league has seen phenomenal growth in its 10 year history: from 41 children on four teams to 198 children on 11 teams today. With registration ongoing, Forcier expects the number of children to be more than 200 before the end of the season in early May.

At Field of Dreams, children with special needs (intellectual or physical disabilities) have the opportunity to play baseball in an organized league; to wear a uniform; have their names announced; participate in the National Anthem before each game; and to be a player on an athletic team. Everyone bats. Volunteer buddies, at least one per special needs player, help with batting and rounding the bases. Some buddies are members of area youth or high school athletic teams who volunteer year after year.

Opening day buddies were students from the Bartram Trail High School softball and baseball teams. The following weekend, students from Creekside High School volunteered and over the course of the season, students from other Creeks Athletic League teams will volunteer. Forcier said that they are grateful that each weekend of the season is completely full of buddies.



Photos courtesy Stephanie Saffles  
Hayden Chadwell bats at the Field of Dreams Opening Day.

Coaches are mostly local ESE teachers and the children come from all over northeast Florida to participate in Field of Dreams.

Registration is open to children in kindergarten through 12th grade. Registration is ongoing and always free. In fact, everything is free at Field of Dreams — uniforms, equipment, concessions — due to the league's generous business partners, sponsors and spectators.

The league continues working on the construction of the boundless playground adjacent to the Field of Dreams, which is accessible to children of all ages and ability levels. Forcier said that the first phase has been completed with the \$160,000 raised so far.



Phase Two of the boundless playground will include accessible swings and an accessible seesaw.

"Phase One includes ramps and a shade structure and creates a great centerpiece for the entire project," Forcier said. "But we are not done. Phase Two will include accessible swings and an accessible seesaw, along with some permanently affixed musical instruments to stimulate creativity."

Forcier said the most expensive item is the specialized rubberized surface of the playground. The total cost for the second phase of \$180,000 is offset by a generous matching grant of \$90,000 provided by the St. Johns County Tower Commission. Forcier said donations are actively being sought and the matching grant makes the total needed seem a bit less daunting.

"We are excited to create what we believe is a wonderful, dedicated facility for children with special needs in our area," Forcier said. "Including the field and the playground, it is unlike any other park in the area."

Visit [www.fodbaseball.com](http://www.fodbaseball.com) for more information about Field of Dreams, to register your special needs child for baseball, or to make a donation for the boundless playground.

## Timberlin Creek wins Battle of the Books

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

For the first time in the 14 year history of the competition, Timberlin Creek Elementary is the sole winner of the Battle of the Books north end competition. Timberlin Creek tied for first place six years ago with another school, but this year Timberlin Creek students have the title for their very own. Twelve teams competed as Timberlin Creek came out with a perfect 40 out of 40 score. Media specialist and coach, Elaine Roberson, said, "I have never had a group of students work so hard for something and work so well together. It was a joy to see them take that first place trophy home."



Photos courtesy Elaine Roberson  
Media Specialist Elaine Roberson and Principal Linda Edel with Shamith Tipirneni, Sophia McDivitt, Anwita Iyengar, Emily Chaves, Brady White and Captain Emily Fitzsimon.

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**WHERE**

5387 Palm Valley Rd.  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

The Kids Zone presented by Nemours Children's Health System is located steps away from THE PLAYERS Welcome Experience.

**WHEN**

March 10-15, 2020

**TICKETS**

Entry into the Kids Zone is free with a ticket to the tournament. Visit [THEPLAYERS.com](http://THEPLAYERS.com) for more info.

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# Come See Us!

Reconnect with friends and introduce yourself to some new ones in the **Kids Zone** presented by Nemours Children's Health System at THE PLAYERS, the biggest sporting event of the year in Northeast Florida.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Kids Autograph Signing with Phil Mickelson and a Nemours Ambassador  
Wednesday, March 11 from 9:30 to 10 a.m. in the Kids Zone**

Kids are invited to join us for a special autograph session with pro golfer Phil Mickelson and one of his longtime family friends, a childhood cancer survivor and Nemours ambassador. Autograph cards will be provided. Please note that only children and teens will be allowed in the autograph line itself, and can be accompanied by one ticketed adult.

**Tee Time**

**Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Kids Zone**

Tee off with your kids in a fun mini golf challenge with Nemours Sports Medicine and Orthopedics experts.

**Eye Screen for Ice Cream and Family Morning Out**

**Sunday, March 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Kid Zone**

Join Nemours Ophthalmology experts for free eye screenings for school-aged kids. Parents — join up with the ladies of Jacksonville Mom starting at 10 a.m. while your little ones have fun in the Kids Zone, and receive a Mini Bar voucher for swinging by.



**Nemours** Children's Health System

**FIVE STAR PROFESSIONAL**  
2019 Market Leaders



Michael K. Taylor and Tari Taylor  
Premier Homes Realty

**As seen in Forbes  
February 2019 issue**



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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

## Meet Comet!



**BREED:**  
Border collie/Australian shepherd

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**  
Traveling the country with her mom and dad.

**FAVORITE TREAT:**  
McDonald's

**FAVORITE FRIEND:**  
Nina (her cat sister)

**HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**  
How fast she could run when she was first rescued

**This month's sponsor:**  
**Palencia Pet Clinic**  
159 Palencia Village Dr #101  
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.

## APRIL's Special Section SUMMER CAMP

Ad Deadline is MARCH 20

Call 904-886-4919 NOW to reserve your advertising space!



# Shop DINE Play & STAY

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## MYSTERY PHOTO



Can you guess where this is?  
Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.

Last month's Mystery Photo was the Renaissance Resort in World Golf Village.  
Our winner was Jody Boudreau. Congratulations!

Florida NewsLine is excited to introduce

# BEING Well

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First Coast Edition



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**Linda Gay**  
Marketing & Sales

(904) 607-5062 cell  
Linda@FloridaNewsline.com

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# around town

**March 3**  
**World Golf Village Toastmasters**  
 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
 First Florida Credit Union, 1950 County Road 210W  
[Worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org](http://Worldgolfvillage.toastmastersclubs.org)

**March 5**  
**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/](http://www.bartramtrailrotary.org/)

**March 5**  
**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](mailto:pa@mysafeboating.com)

**March 6**  
**Rotary Club of St. Johns meeting**  
 7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Fridays)  
 St. Johns Golf and Country Club Clubhouse  
[www.rotarystjohns.org](http://www.rotarystjohns.org)

**March 7**  
**Bingo Night at St. Joseph's**  
 Doors open 6:15 p.m.; Games start 7 p.m.  
 Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road  
 Open to the community; (904) 742-8777

**March 7**  
**Bartram Boogie**  
 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
 St. Johns Golf & Country Club  
 Benefit for Bartram Bears Athletic Booster Club, [www.bartramathleticboosters.com](http://www.bartramathleticboosters.com)

**March 7**  
**Read to Rover (beginning readers)**

**practice reading to therapy dogs)**  
 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Bartram Trail Branch Library  
 (904) 827-6960

**March 8**  
**Temple Bet Yam's Gigantic Indoor Yard Sale**  
 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Temple Bet Yam, 2055 Wildwood Drive, St. Augustine  
 (774) 994-2006 or [teresa.freedman@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.freedman@gmail.com)

**March 9**  
**Northwest United for Progress Club, "Unpacking White Supremacy" by Phillip Baber**  
 Social 6:30 p.m./Meeting 7 p.m.  
 2777 Race Track Road  
[nwsjcp@gmail.com](mailto:nwsjcp@gmail.com)

**March 9**  
**St. Johns County Civic Association Roundtable meeting**  
 9 a.m.  
 North Florida Airport Conference Center (second floor), 4730 Casa Cola Way, St. Augustine  
[www.sjroundtable.org](http://www.sjroundtable.org)

**March 10**  
**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

**March 10**  
**Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club luncheon featuring a Roaring '20s murder mystery**  
 11 a.m.  
 St. Johns Golf and Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive  
 RSVP by March 4; [bartramtnc@gmail.com](mailto:bartramtnc@gmail.com)

**March 11**  
**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

**March 12**  
**American Association of University Women (AAUW) Suffragists Tea Party to celebrate 100th anniversary of 19th Amendment**  
 3:30 p.m.  
 Village of Selyo Clubhouse, 206 Selyo Drive, St. Augustine  
 RSVP by March 6: (904) 417-0332 or [gayle123@bellsouth.net](mailto:gayle123@bellsouth.net)

**March 12**  
**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](http://www.stjohnsaudubon.com)

**March 14**  
**Friends of the Library Book Sale**  
 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 Bartram Trail Branch Library  
 (904) 827-6960

**March 14**  
**Family seining**  
 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
 Guana Dam, 505 Guana River Road  
 (904) 823-4500

**March 16**  
**All Star Quilt Guild general meeting**  
 10 a.m.  
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.  
[www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild](http://www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild) or (904) 735-0506

**March 17**  
**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.sjcchamber.com](http://www.sjcchamber.com) or call (904) 829-5681

**March 17**  
**St. Johns CARES planning meeting**  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Celebration Lutheran Church, 810 Roberts Road  
[www.stjohnscares.org](http://www.stjohnscares.org)

**March 18**  
**First Coast Newcomers Card Players**  
 5 p.m. arrive/ 6 p.m. cards  
 World Golf Village-area restaurant  
 RSVP: (904) 829-0643

**March 18**  
**Jacksonville Camera Club**  
 6:45 p.m.  
 Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6595 Columbia Park Ct.  
[www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com](http://www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com) (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)

**March 19**  
**Wm. Bartram Scenic Highway Management Group meeting**  
 6:30 p.m.  
 St. Johns County NW Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd.

**March 21**  
**Fruit Cove Cruise In sponsored by Sunshine State Chevilles**  
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
 PDQ parking lot, 194 State Road 13  
 Repeating event on third Saturday of each month

**March 29**  
**Dog Day Afternoon**  
 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Julington Creek Plantation, 875 Davis Pond Blvd.  
[www.stjohnscares.org](http://www.stjohnscares.org)

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



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# take 5

## Hope Floats hosts third annual Shop Our Closets fundraiser

The third annual Shop Our Closets fundraiser to benefit The DONNA Foundation will be held on Saturday, March 28 at ReMax, located at 12646 San Jose Blvd. The VIP “Sip & Shop” will be held from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and then the event will be open to the public from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. During the two-hour VIP “Sip & Shop,” attendees may shop the hottest trends and classic women’s gently pre-owned fashions (\$10 charge in advance or \$20 at the door) while nibbling on light bites and sipping mimosas or sangria before the sale opens for free to the public. Shop Our Closets features a wide array of gently pre-owned, and new with tags women’s fashions at a fraction of the retail cost and no item is priced more than \$20. Hope Floats, and its members, have raised more than \$100,000 in support of The DONNA Foundation. Through the DONNA CareLine this investment becomes more \$325,000 of debt relief and services to families living with breast cancer. Visit [www.thedonnafoundation.org](http://www.thedonnafoundation.org) for more information about The DONNA Foundation or contact [hopefloats4breastcancer@gmail.com](mailto:hopefloats4breastcancer@gmail.com) or (904) 657-9376 for more information about Hope Floats.

## New emergency notification system for St. Johns County residents

St. Johns County has launched a new emergency notification system to provide

residents with critical information during emergency situations. The new Alert St. Johns system will enable St. Johns County, the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office, the City of St. Augustine, and the City of St. Augustine Beach to quickly provide residents with critical information in a variety of situations including severe weather, unexpected road closures, water advisories, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods, and incidents that may threaten public safety. Residents can sign up at <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725582#/login> to receive these time sensitive alerts via a choice of a phone call to their home, business, or mobile phone, by email, or text message. The Alert St. Johns system will replace the Code Red notification system, so it is imperative that residents sign up for these critical notifications. For more information regarding Alert St. Johns, call (904) 824-5550.

## Free tax preparation available for low income families

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 NE Florida. United Way of St. Johns County offers this service to ensure that families and individuals can save the cost of tax preparation and reap the benefit of a properly prepared return. One-on-one appointments are offered Mondays, Wednesdays or Saturdays, depending on

location. Additionally, documents can be scanned on site to allow for completed returns with virtually no waiting. RealSense appointments can be made online at [bit.ly/realsense](http://bit.ly/realsense) or by calling (904) 373-8671.

## First “About Boating Safety” class offered in 2020

Flotilla 14-7 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, in conjunction with the US Coast Guard will offer the popular boating course, “About Boating Safety,” on March 7 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Northeast Florida Regional Airport Conference Center. “About Boating Safety” is a one-day course designed to inform and instruct owners and passengers on recreational boats. Course materials are furnished to the attendees. Any boat operator in the State of Florida, born after Jan. 1, 1988, when operating a vessel powered by 10 horsepower or more, must have in their possession a Florida Boating Safety Education Identification Card. Successful completion of this course will meet this obligation. Visit <https://abs.mysafeboating.com> or contact the Auxiliary course instructor, Bob Elliott, Public Education Officer, at [pe@mysafeboating.com](mailto:pe@mysafeboating.com) to sign up.



Photo courtesy Metro Creative

## Newcomers to visit the Alhambra

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will hold its March luncheon on Tuesday, March 17 beginning at 11 a.m. at Alhambra Dinner Theater & Dining, 12000 Beach Blvd. The event features singer songwriter Eric Elison who will perform a tribute to folk rock legend Gordon Lightfoot. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. The cost for the luncheon and program is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests. All reservations must be received by March 10. Contact Sue Aird at [sjaird@comcast.net](mailto:sjaird@comcast.net) for a registration form for the luncheon or more information about the club’s many activities.



# BettER care. ClosER to home.

The area’s #1 choice for children’s emergency care is now open at Baptist Medical Center South.

When it’s your child and it’s an emergency, you want the best care available. That’s why we’ve brought Wolfson Children’s Hospital care closer to you.

The new Wolfson Children’s Emergency Center at Baptist South gives you and your family the convenience of a full-service children’s ER — right next door to our Baptist Emergency Center for adults.

Learn more about the latest addition to the Wolfson Children’s family of ERs at [wolfsonchildrens.com/ER](http://wolfsonchildrens.com/ER).

14550 Old St. Augustine Rd.  
904.271.6060





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

**Q: What is the most important thing you want to tell readers about the upcoming Presidential Preference Primary?**

A: This year there is a big change for St. Johns County voters due to a law change in 2019: for those who Vote By Mail, the only choices to return a ballot are to mail the ballot back or drop it off at an Early Voting site. The Vote by Mail drop boxes will only be available inside Early Voting locations from March 7 – March 14, while the locations are open for early voting. There is also a 24-hour drop box in front of the Elections Office for voters' convenience. The big change is that drop boxes will no longer be available at all public libraries, Tax Collectors Office in Julington Creek and Ponte Vedra or St. Augustine Beach City Hall. Remember that in order to be counted, Vote By Mail ballots must be returned to the Elections Office by Election Day at 7 p.m., so if you are mailing the ballots back, be sure to mail them several days in advance of Election Day.

**Q: When will sample ballots be available?**

A: Sample ballots have been mailed to all eligible voters, who should receive them approximately March 1. If you don't receive one, either you are not eligible to vote (perhaps you are registered with a minor party or with no party af-

filiation; only registered Democrats and Republicans can vote in this primary) or we don't have your correct address. Go to our website, [www.votesjc.com](http://www.votesjc.com), and click on "My Voter Status" to check your information for accuracy. Be sure to make any updates prior to voting either at an Early Voting location or on Election Day. Sample ballots are also available on our website.

**Q: Where are the Early Voting locations and what are the hours?**

A: Early Voting for the Presidential Preference Primary will be held March 7 – March 14 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily. The three most convenient locations for northern St. Johns County residents are the Julington Creek Annex, the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library and the Supervisor of Elections Office in St. Augustine. You can vote at any of these locations if you vote early, but on Election Day, you must vote at your assigned precinct. Polls will be open on Election Day, March 17, from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

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

A: Readers can email me at [voakes@votesjc.com](mailto:voakes@votesjc.com) or call me at (904) 823-2238. Our website, [www.votesjc.com](http://www.votesjc.com) also has a wealth of information to prepare for Election Day.



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

**Q: As of the date of this interview (Feb. 11), session is about halfway through. What is happening?**

A: The Florida House will vote on the General Appropriations act soon, which is the beginning of the formal budget process. Budget highlights of the House plan include: investments in salaries for new and veteran teachers and other state employees including law enforcement and child protective workers; setting aside \$1.7 billion for hurricane response and more than \$650 million for Everglades restoration and water resources; and \$3.7 billion in reserves.

Some potential "wins" for St. Johns County in the House budget include \$1 million for Ponte Vedra A1A intersection improvements, partial funding (\$250,000) for EPIC to add inpatient substance abuse treatment beds for women, \$500,000 to continue a specialized emergency shelter project for the ARC of St. Johns, \$250,000 for painting and sealing the inside of the St. Augustine Lighthouse, and \$100,000 funding for Flagler College storm hardening to protect historic resources.

**Q: What is the focus this year for the House?**

A: This speaker's focus is access to affordable, quality care — to include more choices. Also important are enforcing the antitrust laws to foster competition, cut through red tape and improve the cost of medications, which cost between 30 percent and 190 percent more in the United States than other Western countries.

**Q: What bills are you sponsoring?**

A: To follow up on last year's ambula-

tory surgical center bill, which provided for a lower cost alternative to hospitals, this year I am sponsoring the recovery care portion. This gives people a place for extra recovery time in a lower cost setting than in a hospital.

Another bill would update statute to allow physical therapists to more fully practice.

I'm also sponsoring the coordinated specialty care bill, aimed at youth aged 14 – 30 when they experience episodes of early psychosis. Research shows that early treatment leads to better outcomes. A person can get back to work or school sooner and they will understand how and where to get help if they need it again. This can change people's lives since they hopefully will not end up in the emergency room, jail, or the victim of suicide. Studies show that a delay of anything more than six months in diagnosing and treating gives a lesser chance of a good outcome. In the United States, the average delay is one year.

Finally, I'm working on the state office of resiliency. This is not a big bureaucracy. This bill pulls together information we are already getting from all over the state so we have an understanding and can prioritize funding for projects. We are already spending money; this will be a roadmap to give a cohesive way to consider requests.

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

A: Readers can email me at [Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov) or call my local office at (904) 823-2300. Also use this contact information if you'd like to sign up for my newsletter, which I send out about 10 times per year.

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

**Q: Do you have any updates on new development in the Northwest?**

A: We do have lots of news. The Cinemark Theater is now open. Because of the success of Phase 1 of Durbin Park, the developer has moved up Phase 2. This second phase will be on the east side of 9B and is working through the permitting process. I don't have a timeline for when it will come to the Board of County Commissioners, but it will first be a conceptual phase. We are probably a year away from land clearing.

Also, the clearing taking place at Greenbriar Road and Longleaf Pine Parkway is for a commercial/retail development that was approved about a year ago and is unrelated to the previously denied commercial development proposed for Roberts Road. This area of County Road 210W/Greenbriar Road is where commercial development belongs — on major thoroughfares and not on community streets.

**Q: Do you have any comments regarding the sudden closure of the Earth Fare store, which basically just opened?**

A: This is very unfortunate. This type of store (green grocer) was requested by the community for this area and I passed the information along to the developer at the time. The decision to close was a company-wide decision by Earth Fare and not due directly to this store. My hope is that another green grocer will occupy this space, but I have no knowledge and the county commission has no control over tenants. But I do plan to continue a dialog with the developer. We don't expect this property to remain vacant for long.

**Q: When will the new fire station open?**

A: There is a "finished construction" date and an actual "opening" date ... in between is training for the people who will work at the station. I'd say it should be open in the late spring/early summer timeframe. This area of St. Johns County has some of the highest insurance rates due to the distance to the closest fire station and subsequent response time. The opening of this new station will help with this, so homeowners should check with their insurance carrier once it opens; they will likely see a reduction in their insurance costs.

**Q: Where are we in the budget cycle right now?**

A: We are leading up to the budget cycle for the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year. I really want to start the conversation now about where people would like their tax dollars spent. Also, where would they like the money to come from? I'd ask people not to wait until the budget process is more finalized, because then we are more limited on what changes we can make. I'd like to thank everyone for their participation in the past in this process. It's not often we have a surplus as we did this year, and it was not only due to the economy, but also due to thoughtful input from constituents.

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

A: The 2020 Census date is April 1. By this date, you should reply either online, via phone, or paper copy. The first page of our county website, www.sjcf.us has a sample of the actual census questions.

Scammers are already actively working our area. A few things to note: no one will call on the phone you to get your Census information and you will not be asked for credit or debit card information or your social security number. Beware of these things. Someone from the federal government may knock on your door later this summer if you haven't yet responded to the Census, but that's it.

It's important to respond to the Census because this is how we are eligible to get our federal tax dollars back to us — to the tune of \$14,450 per person over a 10-year period. St. Johns County had a 79 percent participation rate in the last Census. The population that did not respond cost us approximately \$1 billion that we were not eligible for. Also, the Census determines representation at the federal level. The state of Florida could possibly gain as much as two representatives in Congress as a result of this Census. Right now, St. Johns County is split between two congressional districts, which dilutes our voice. Possibly we could be represented by a single representative with the new Census numbers. So be sure to answer the Census!

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

A: Readers can email me at [bcc1jjohns@sjcf.us](mailto:bcc1jjohns@sjcf.us) or call me at (904) 615-7437.



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

**Q: What can you tell us about animal cruelty laws in the State of Florida?**

A: The state's animal cruelty law most recently changed as a result of a case out of the 7th Judicial Circuit. Named for an animal victim, a dog named Ponce, the law is called "Ponce's Law" and it went into effect on Oct. 1, 2019. Ponce's Law makes the classification of aggravated animal abuse a higher level felony, which makes those convicted eligible for a state prison sentence. When Ponce was killed, allegedly by his owner, there was no prison time involved and that was the impetus for this law. Additionally, at a judge's discretion, under Ponce's Law the judge can impose the condition of a lifetime ban on pet ownership to the convicted felon.

**Q: Can you clarify felony vs. misdemeanor animal cruelty?**

A: Felony animal cruelty occurs when the abuse results in the death of the animal or extreme pain and suffering. Misdemeanor animal cruelty is anything else, including cases where people take on more than they can handle, either with animals that they cannot afford to completely care for or trying to shelter too many animals, which results in them not being able to adequately

feed them or provide the proper veterinary care.

**Q: Do you have any tips in this regard?**

A: Some things to be aware of are not to take on more than you can fully handle. Also, do your research of what special needs or treatments might be required of the animal or particular breed you would like to get as a pet. Be prepared to take full care of any animals you take in. Finally, ask for help if you can't do this. There are shelters and other resources to help you so that your animal remains safe and you are not charged with anything.

**Q: Can you give us some information about the state's dangerous dog statute?**

A: Florida does have such a statute. If a dog harms another dog or a person, get it documented. After this first documentation, the dog is designated as a dangerous dog and if there are any other documented occurrences, the dog could be put down and the owner could be charged. Be sure to control your pets; it is possible to commit a crime by not properly controlling your pet. Pay attention to leash laws in your area and abide by them as well.



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**FYI Contact Numbers**

**St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcf.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:** Brandon Patty, (904) 819-3600  
**St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners**  
 District 1: Jimmy Johns, [bcc1jjohns@sjcf.us](mailto:bcc1jjohns@sjcf.us), (904) 209-0301  
 District 2: Jeb Smith, [bcc2jsmith@sjcf.us](mailto:bcc2jsmith@sjcf.us), (904) 209-0302  
 District 3: Paul Waldron, [bcc3pwaldron@sjcf.us](mailto:bcc3pwaldron@sjcf.us), (904) 209-0303  
 District 4: Jeremiah Blocker, [bcc4jblocker@sjcf.us](mailto:bcc4jblocker@sjcf.us), (904) 209-0304  
 District 5: Henry Dean, [bcc5hdean@sjcf.us](mailto:bcc5hdean@sjcf.us), (904) 209-0305  
**St. Johns County School Board (www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)**  
 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  
**State of Florida Elected Officials**  
 Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146  
 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: Can you give some background on tangible personal property?**

A: Tangible personal property taxes are confusing to a lot of business owners who either don't know they exist or don't understand them. If you own a business in St. Johns County, you are required to file a tangible personal property tax return. This is an ad valorem tax and applied to the value of your business assets like equipment, furniture and computers. It doesn't matter how large or small your business is, whether it is a lawn care business or hair salon or major manufacturer.

**Q: What is the deadline to file the tangible personal property tax return?**

A: We send out a postcard reminding business owners about the deadline, which is April 1. If you notify our office in advance, we can give an extension until May 1. If you didn't notify us prior to April 1, we cannot give the extension.

**Q: What happens if a business doesn't**

**file a tangible personal property tax return?**

A: We are required by the state of Florida to estimate the value of your assets and you will be taxed on that value with no opportunity for appeal.

**Q: How much is the tax?**

A: If the value of your business' assets are \$25,000 or less, you are exempt from tangible personal property taxes, but you must still file one time. When you file the first time, you will be exempted and not have to file again, unless your business assets grow to more than \$25,000. It's very important to file because if you don't file, or file late, there are penalties.

**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.



**with St. Johns County School Board  
Member, Beverly Slough, District 1**

**Q: Can you give an update on High School "HHH?"**

A: At our special school board meeting in early February, we signed a \$60 million construction contract for the school. We plan to break ground in early March. The zoning process is already underway, with two Town Hall meetings held in late February. The proposed zoning plan will be available on the school district website shortly and public input is welcomed. I would expect to have the rezoning plan finalized by May.

**Q: What is the status of the new K-8 school in Nocatee that will open concurrently with High School "HHH?"**

A: The bid is out now for the construction contract for this school. We will award the bid and then begin construction. We are in good shape timewise with both schools.

**Q: Has the school district addressed increased staffing?**

A: In late February, we held a teacher recruitment fair at Nease. As usual, it was well attended, especially by out

of state and out of area candidates. It affords us the opportunity to secure the very best teachers early.

**Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 1?**

A: We are keeping our eye on the legislature at this time. Both houses, as well as the governor, are saying they are committed to raising teacher salaries, so we are hopeful about the possibility of giving significant raises to our teachers and staff next year.

I'd also like to say that the school sales tax, now in its fourth year, is helping us tremendously with funding things like upgrading the security in our schools as well as helping us meet the demands of growth by partially funding new school construction. We had originally projected receiving \$13 million this year, but we now expect to receive about \$20 million.

**Q: How can our readers contact you?**

A: They can email me at [beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or call me at (904) 547-7510.

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# ST. JOHNS Business Monthly



## Market Insight

### Mystery Trips

By Scott Grant  
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

Growing up, my father would periodically ask, “Who wants to go on a mystery trip?” I would always say yes. Sometimes those trips were pretty mundane, like trips to the hardware store to buy tubes for the television. Not everyone will remember this, but TVs used to have tubes inside that would periodically burn out and need to be replaced. Dad would make a map of where the tubes went and head off to the store with as many of his kids as had signed up. Nowadays, you would just take a picture of the inside of the television with your iPhone. Of course, nowadays, TVs don’t have tubes.

Some mystery trips were a lot more exciting. This is the story of one such trip. I was home from Cornell at the end of my junior year and my dad asked me if I wanted to go on a mystery trip. I said yes and off we went. It turns out this was a rather long trip. We drove from Elmira, NY to New York City, about a four-hour drive. I liked taking car trips with my father. We talked about history and sports, mostly baseball. But, for this trip, I was glad I brought a book. Four hours is a long time to listen to talk radio and discuss the Reformation.

When we got to New York, Dad parked in front of a brownstone on 48th Street and I followed him to the door with no idea why we were there. Dad knocked on the door and suddenly there was Kurt Vonnegut. I remember that my first thought was “Oh no, we can’t just knock on Kurt Vonnegut’s door. We’re going to get arrested!” My father introduced himself and Vonnegut said, “Dr. Grant, I got your letter,” and invited us in. Dad had this thing he did. He would send someone a letter asking for something and then end the letter by saying he would come on a certain day and time to discuss the matter further. Then, he would show up. It was hard to say no to the Reverend Dr. Leonard T. Grant.

I should tell you that at the time, my dad was president of a small liberal arts college in upstate New York called Elmira College and we were there to try and

entice Mr. Vonnegut to be the commencement speaker at the following year’s graduation. I think my dad brought me as an added enticement. Kurt Vonnegut and I were both products of the Indianapolis Public School system and Cornell University. Mr. Vonnegut talked to me a little about Cornell and signed the book I had been reading in the car, “The Sirens of Titan.”

What I remember most is that the entire time we were there, Vonnegut chain smoked Pall Mall unfiltered cigarettes and his fingers were stained green with nicotine. Every Vonnegut book has a character who has nicotine stained fingers from chain smoking Pall Mall unfiltered. I could not take my eyes off of his fingers. Vonnegut declined my dad’s invitation, saying he no longer did college commencements. On the way out the door, he did fire one last salvo. He said, “Dr. Grant, you should know that if Harvard or Cambridge calls, I might accept.”

Life is like a mystery trip. Investing is like a mystery trip. You never can really plan either out in advance. You sort of go along for the ride and accept that there will be highs and lows.

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@standfastic.com](mailto:scottg@standfastic.com).

Scott Grant’s book, “The Merchant of Death is Dead: True Stories of the Progress of Humanity,” in which he shares some of his favorite columns, is now available: <https://tinyurl.com/tn7tj65>. Over the last 14 years, Grant has been a regular columnist for two newspapers and has perfected several history presentations. After two years of touring the local northeast Florida civic clubs, museums, and schools, he was asked to produce a book. This is his first publication. He is delighted to share his knowledge of history and investments.

## North Business Council welcomes Ed Dwyer



Photo courtesy Linda Gay

At the Feb. 18 meeting of the North Business Council of the St. Johns County Chamber, attendees heard Ed Dwyer, president and managing partner of Vigeo Alliance, give a presentation entitled “Ten Steps for Amazing Success: Business and Leadership Planning for 2020.” Among other tips, he asked the business leaders present to evaluate their work relationships and determine if, as leaders, they inspired those around them and if they made a difference in the lives of others. The North Business Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m. at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. Visit [www.sjcchamber.com](http://www.sjcchamber.com) for more information. Pictured are North Business Council communications chair Eric Tatro from Florida Homes Realty and Mortgage and Ed Dwyer.



Photo courtesy Cinemark

## New movie theater option in St. Johns

Cinemark celebrated the opening of its newest theatre in Durbin Park on Feb. 13. Community members and dignitaries attended the exclusive grand opening VIP event, which included a ribbon cutting (a “ticket tearing”) and complimentary popcorn, beverages and movies. The new theater features surround sound, wall-to-wall screens, heated Luxury Loungers and swivel tables, and enhanced food and beverage offering through the on-site StudioEats restaurant.

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 Island Wing Company

According to John Dodson, Vice President of Development for Eastland: Negotiations are underway for several other in-line and outparcel tenants. Some of the first tenants are expected to be open by early March. A canoe launch next to the project on Durbin Creek is also under construction.



## Durbin Creek Crossing SW corner of Race Track Road and St. Johns Parkway

- 10 Outparcels:**  
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 ABC Fine Wine & Spirits  
 First Florida Credit Union  
 Tire Kingdom
- According to Tom Mundy, Vice President of Retail Development Services for The Ferber Company: Negotiations are underway with other national retailers. Tenants are expected to open by Fall 2021. This 70-acre site is mixed use develop-

ment to include workforce housing as well as retain 22 acres of wetlands at the southern portion of the site.

*[Editor's Note: If you are interested in having your company's new development featured in The CreekLine, please email editor@thecreekline.com]*

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### Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Last month, Current Events, a community-based discussion group, ceased its activities after four plus years of meeting each Monday to provide residents of St. Augustine and Jacksonville a venue to discuss the day's current news. During that time, the group, usually composed of between 15 – 20 (or more) people, gathered to share opinions and exchange viewpoints about news that had come to their attention either online, in magazines or in a daily newspaper. Because the group frequently attracted newcomers the exchange of views was spirited and engaging.

And because the atmosphere was welcoming, the expected heated exchanges were for the most avoided. During that period, we discussed the appropriateness of illegal immigrants obtaining a driver's license, whether an outright ban should be imposed on e-cigarettes, Florida's proposal to finance state and local elections, the proposal to extend the DACA program to include a path to citizenship and many more timely issues. Even during the 2016 presidential primary

campaigns, we were able to disagree on the merits of the various candidates without being disagreeable.

Unfortunately, the atmospherics began to change toward the end of last year. While it impossible to relate the change to any single incident, the exchanges gradually became more animated and partisan on both sides. Trying to maintain impartiality in posing questions became increasingly difficult. Participants were eager to have their say which animated those with opposing views. Some of the group's "regulars" stopped attending. As the discussions each week became more factious, the enjoyment of discussion dissipated. The personalizing of comments made many uncomfortable and caused others to question why bother.

So, we called it quits and succumbed to the plague of decreasing dialogue with those with whom we disagree — and that is truly unfortunate. When we lose the ability or inclination to carry on a discussion with those with whom we disagree — we all are losers.

Allan Silberman

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## ElderSource launches Caring Connections to fight loneliness in seniors

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewline.com

ElderSource recently launched the Caring Connections Telephone Reassurance Program to help fight the loneliness and isolation seniors experience when living alone or home bound. Caring Connections provides trained volunteers who make regular, friendly phone calls to seniors giving them an opportunity to make a connection outside of their home.

A report from the Department of Elder Affairs indicates that 21 percent of seniors aged 60 and older are living alone in Northeast Florida. Isolation often affects the mental and physical health of older adults. The goals of the program are to improve the quality of life for seniors and reduce concerns facing homebound seniors such as depression, anxiety, loneliness and cognitive decline. Since the program launched in January, participants and volunteers have given positive feedback.

“It’s great to know I have people who care and who won’t let me slip through the cracks,” said 71-year-old MaryJoe Bernard, who receives weekly phone calls. “The calls are comforting and my volunteer always has encouraging words to share.”

Valerie Hurt is a Caring Connections volunteer who looks forward to speaking with her assigned senior every week.

“There are so many seniors who are disconnected from the community and this program allows them to talk about what’s going on in their world so that they don’t feel as alone,” she said.

According to Vanessa Boyer, volunteer coordinator for the program, seniors can sign themselves up or be referred to the program by a family member, neighbor or caregiver. Seniors must be 60-years-old and live within ElderSource’s service area that includes Duval, Clay, Baker, Nassau, Flagler, Volusia and St. Johns counties.

Caring Connections volunteers undergo a background screening and reference check, attend training sessions, work toward establishing a friendly relationship with seniors; and commit to calling a senior at least once a week for a minimum of six months to a year.

Persons interested in becoming a Caring Connections volunteer or know of someone who might benefit from the program should call Vanessa Boyer, volunteer coordinator, at (904) 391-6631.

ElderSource is a local nonprofit organization designated by the state as the Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center for Northeast Florida. Visit [www.myeldersource.org](http://www.myeldersource.org) for more information.



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**BTHS Happenings**

**Long term Bartram Trail teacher reflects on Class of 2020**

By Delaney Cantrell  
 mail@floridanewslines.com

Bartram Trail AP Calculus teacher Kate Keating has been with the school for 17 years and said she has never come across a class like the one of 2020. Keating's excitement for this year shines through in her teaching.

Keating has held multiple careers prior to becoming a calculus teacher, including working as an international sales coordinator and holding positions at two yacht corporations; however, she knew early on after graduating from the University of Florida that her strengths lie in math and science.

"Math/science was relatively effortless for me, so I figured I'd better do something I'm good at," Keating said.

Keating has been married for 20 years to her husband and she has a 29-year-old son.

Keating has taught a multitude of math classes at Bartram Trail, but has stuck with AP Calculus for the majority of her years. She has learned the ins and outs of the course content and AP exam, becoming strong in teaching her students different strategies to gain all possible points on the difficult test.

Having been at the school since its opening, she has seen a lot of growth in Bartram.

"When we opened the school in 2000," said Keating, "it was a construction zone. We had no books, so we did what we



Photo courtesy Kate Keating  
 Kate Keating

could with what we had. Portables have come and gone, but now they are back again."

Keating said the one thing that hasn't changed is the people of Bartram. To this day, she still feels the warm, caring spirit among the students and staff.

When asked what her favorite part of teaching is, Keating replied, "The students — I love interacting with them!"

Keating has been the senior sponsor for five years. She helps in the planning of graduation, senior awards, and Grad Bash. She works with the class officers to try and make the students' senior year the best it can be. Her compassion and care for her students really come out in the planning of senior activities.

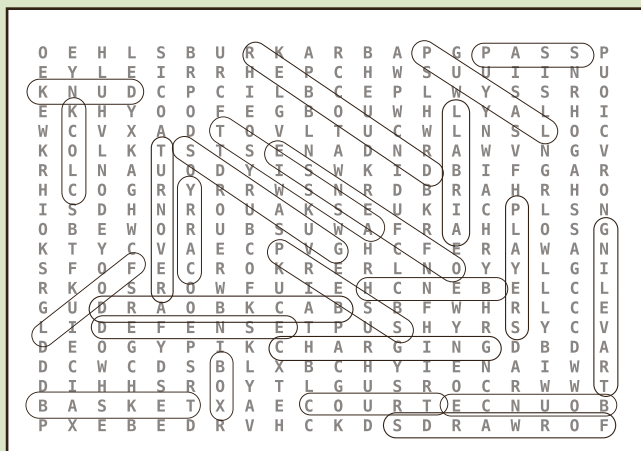
"The class of 2020's officers have really worked hard to make the students' senior year fun and unique," said Keating.

Answers to puzzles on page 18

**Answers**  
 to our **Puzzles**



Answers: A. hoop B. dribble C. dunk D. shoot



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## School Briefs

### Julington Creek Elementary honors Dr. Martin Luther King with contest

Every year Julington Creek Elementary School students participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. poster and essay contests, which are designed to create awareness among all students of the efforts by Dr. King to help make a better America for all. This year's theme was: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

This year, many students took the time to create a poster in kindergarten, first, second, and third grade and many students in fourth and fifth grade took the time to write their essays.

At the annual awards ceremony Julington Creek won first place in the poster contest with the work of second grader John Chrissovergis in Cathy Ragusa's second grade class. Julington Creek also won first place in the essay contest with an insightful personal story by Jack Callahan in Renee Spano's fourth grade class. There were three other students who



Photo courtesy Julington Creek Elementary

won Honorable Mentions in the poster contest: Paisley Chittam in Suzanne Graham's kindergarten class, Skylar Briggs in Danielle Trubey's first grade class, and McKenzie Colson in Wendy Gilbert's third grade class. There were eight other Honorable Mention posters: Kindergarten - Amelie Pursley in Denise Hodges' class and Haley Dahlweiner in Dana Johnston's class; first grade - Nekshitha Beerala in Teresa Taylor's class and Mateus DeAndrade in Noreen Carson's class; second grade - Christian Reed in Megan Iannacone's class and Isabella Bestarka in Angela Adams' class; and third grade - Claire Mitchell and Marleigh Romine, both in Mrs. Gilbert's class.



Photo courtesy Gayla Boehmer

### Bears JV cheer team wins national championship

The Bartram Trail High School junior varsity cheer team placed first in the National High School Cheerleading Championship the weekend of Feb. 8 - 9 at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. The motto for the girls this year was "Be the Best You" - and that was what they performed on the floor in finals. The Bartram Trail JV team made history by being named National 2020 Champs.

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**Briefs**

**Neighborhood association group announces meetings**

The St. Johns County Civic Association Roundtable is a network of neighborhood and community associations and committed citizens who come together for the good of the county. The group meets monthly to hear and discuss topics from various speakers on subjects relevant to the community. The St. Johns County Civic Association Roundtable is a non-partisan organization whose members have a wide range of expertise and interests. Committees stay abreast of issues that affect the county and make recommendations to elected officials on those issues.

The group's meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the North Florida Airport Conference Center, 4730 Casa Cola Way in St. Augustine, on the second floor. The meetings are open to the general public and all are welcome.

Visit [www.sjcroundtable.org](http://www.sjcroundtable.org) or email [info@sjcroundtable.org](mailto:info@sjcroundtable.org) for more information.

**Miner named chief deputy of St. Johns County Clerk of Court office**

Mark Miner has been named chief deputy clerk of the St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's office. As chief deputy, Miner is responsible to the Clerk of Court Brandon Patty for overall operations of the office, including all work, projects, personnel organization, technology and public information efforts.

"Mark will be a tremendous asset to the clerk's office as he brings a wealth of management, financial and government experience to this position," said Patty. "His leadership skills, both in and out of uniform, are unrivaled and will help our office reach its full potential on behalf of St. Johns County citizens."

A former St. Johns County commissioner representing District 3 from 2008 to 2012, Miner helped lead the reduction of the county budget by more than 20 percent. Previously, he ran a financial services practice for Edward Jones and served as manager of military and diversity recruiting for CSX.

A two-time veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Miner has been a member of the Florida Army National Guard since 2002. He recently concluded a tour of active duty with the National Guard as a helicopter instructor pilot.

Miner holds a degree in business administration from the Florida Institute of Technology and a master of science in financial planning from the College of Financial Planning. He and his wife, Cheryl, live in St. Augustine with their three children.

**Florida House launches budget website**

The Florida House of Representatives recently launched [budget.myflorida-house.gov](http://budget.myflorida-house.gov) with the House's proposed budget.

The site serves as a one-stop shop for all aspects of the 2020 General Appropriations Act. Users can find the proposed GAA and implementing Bill for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) detail, and the Medicaid Hospital Funding Programs detail and all appropriations conforming bills at the site.

The site will continue to serve as a hub for important budget documents, offer sheets, and provide alerts for upcoming committee meetings.

**Campaign to encourage participation in 2020 Census launched**

St. Johns County's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee has launched an educational campaign designed to inform residents on the community-wide benefits of St. Johns County receiving the most accurate and complete census count possible in 2020.

The four-part campaign consists of an educational program, special events, speaking opportunities, and partnership engagement. The multi-media educational campaign includes customized branding and messaging, a new website, social media presence, educational videos, and printed materials. Residents can now also communicate with the committee via a dedicated email address and sign up for census alerts directly from the Census Bureau.

In addition, St. Johns County's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee will have a presence at special events and local farmers markets. Committee members will speak to local organizations and community groups. Partnership engagement will occur throughout the county to demonstrate united support for an accurate census count. The Complete Count Committee is comprised of numerous notable St. Johns County organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, the School District, the Veterans Council, the Florida Department of Health, the City of St. Augustine, and the City of St. Augustine Beach to name a few.

Information collected by the Census Bureau is utilized to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds and grants to states, counties, and communities. It also helps determine how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries. Communities also rely on census statistics to plan for a variety of needs including new roads, schools, and emergency services. Some busi-

Briefs cont. on pg. 22

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# Life

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## Get to Know . . .

Chett Wood

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser  
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Chett Wood  
Chett Wood

Chett Wood is the Reference and Adult Services Librarian at the Bartram Trail Branch of the St. Johns County Library. His career started through volunteering, and he's since become passionate about showing people all the library has to offer. He also has a number of well-rounded interests, including running, golf, and Disney World.

**Q: Tell me about yourself.**

A: I originally lived in Virginia, and moved to Florida in elementary school. I lived in St. Johns County — not as far north as I work now. I lived just on the St. Johns County Golf Course. I graduated from Pedro Menendez High School. I went to University of South Florida to get my master's degree, and my hobbies include running, video games, and going to Disney World, which I go to a lot! I also love playing golf. I play badly, but I try to play every week.

**Q: How did you decide to become a librarian?**

A: I graduated college and, like a lot of people my age, moved home, and couldn't find a job in what my undergrad was in. I kind of meandered about, and started volunteering at the Bartram Trail branch. My family lived in Palm Coast, and one day a week, my sister would come pick me up and I'd stay with her in Jacksonville so I could work there, shelving books and helping out. I would help

the kids make crafts and stuff. I thought, "I kind of like this!" I got a part-time job with the county eventually, and shortly after that, I realized, "Maybe I want to do this. Maybe this is something I want to make a career of." The smart choice was to go to grad school, especially if you want to work in a library.

**Q: What is your favorite thing about your job?**

A: The presentations that I give. People come in and they'll say, "Oh, hey, I didn't know libraries did anything like this!" There's this magic moment when someone who doesn't usually use a library comes in and is wowed by something you did. My whole experience at libraries prior to working in libraries is that they're a place for books. That's still part of it, but it's that moment of, we can do something more than that. It brings people into a library who otherwise might never use a library.

**Q: You mentioned being a big Disney fan. What do you love so much about going there?**

A: My best friend from high school works at Disney, which means we get to do all the neat behind-the-scenes things people don't usually get to do. My favorite part, though, is that there's always something I haven't done. I haven't yet made a trip to Disney where I haven't gotten to do something that was new to me. I also love pin-trading. It's super nerdy, but I love it. My childhood collectibles were antique nutcrackers, and my new adult collectibles are Disney trading pins.

**Q: What is your favorite thing about St. Johns County?**

A: I really like downtown St. Augustine. I like to walk St. George Street with my parents and walk through all the little antique shops. I also did a bunch of races, like the St. Augustine Half Marathon; just getting to go over the Bridge of Lions, and go through town, and seeing all the architecture around St. Augustine is really cool to me.

My one-year race anniversary is in April. My running joke is that I have not failed a New Year's resolution in the last five years, and the 2019 one was to run a half-marathon. I'm naturally impatient, so instead of doing it in November like originally planned, I did it in April. I used to be a really big guy. I used to be 300 lbs, and now I'm around 175 lbs. I took up running because I ping-ponged around in the 220-ish range, and I was like, clearly I need to find another goal, something to reach for, and I thought, I'll try running. I did a RunDisney race as my first-ever race. There's a little display in my branch right now of all my race medals that I've earned all in the past year, and I have another one coming up in February. The idea is that people who come into the library can earn this one with me.

**Nease NJROTC** cont. from pg. 1

including unarmed and armed marching, color guard, personnel inspection, academics, pushups, situps, and running relays. Points awarded in each event are combined to determine the day's overall winner.

This year Nease won first place in Personnel Inspection, Academics, Athletics Overall, Situps, Pushups, Overall Drill, Color Guard and Unarmed Basic Drill. Thirteen cadets took home individual medals for top five finishes in academics or athletics. Leading the way with first place medals were Lindy Gostage (Female Push Ups – 89), Brogan Donnelly (Male Sit Ups – 303) and Emmelie Neff (Female Sit Ups – 318).

Nease is currently the No. 1 ranked NJROTC drill team in Area 12 (59 programs covering northern Florida and the state of Georgia), having won the Area-12 Drill Championship each of the past five years. The team has won all three of its drill competitions this season and will seek to make it six state championships in a row on March 7 in Douglas, Ga. where the best 16 schools in Area-12 will vie for top honors and the right to compete at the Navy National Drill Championships in April.

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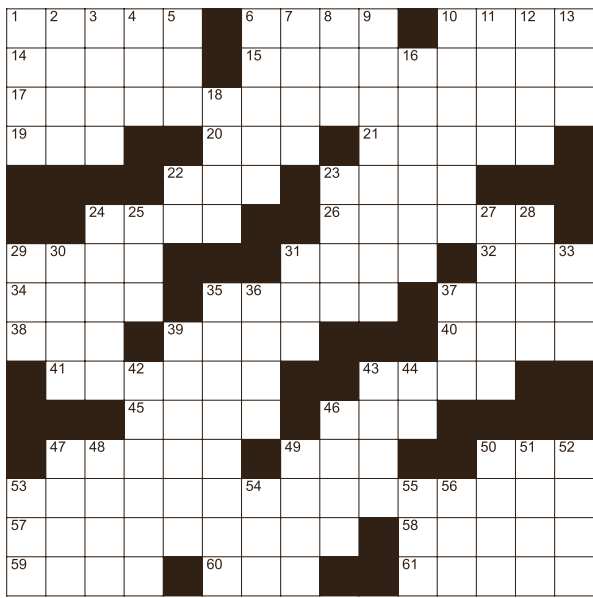
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# Puzzles

Answers on page 14  
Provided by MetroCreative



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Yields Manila hemp
6. A type of gin
10. Japanese ankle sock
14. Swiss city
15. Applied to
17. Achievements
19. Japanese title
20. Possesses
21. Belgian city
22. Child
23. Great delight
24. Petty quarrel
26. Gathered
29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
31. Path
32. Legendary hoops coach Riley
34. A citizen of Denmark
35. Flat
37. Upper-class young women
38. Payment (abbr.)
39. Distort

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Ancient Greek sophist
2. Famed composer
3. Spore-bearing fungi cells
4. Chief executive officer
5. Defunct Syrian political party
6. Thin wood
7. Polynesian garlands
8. Fluid replacement (abbr.)
9. Flammable hydrocarbon gas
10. Multi-leveled
11. Influential diarist
12. Gambles
13. Many subconsciousnesses
16. Current unit
18. Illumination unit
22. Tantalum
23. Steps leading down to a river
24. Kids love him
25. Before
27. Fencing swords
28. Mountain range in China
29. Payroll company
30. A way to pack together
31. Business designation
33. Thyroid-stimulating hormone (abbr.)

35. Forage fish
36. Greek temple pillars
37. Internet mgmt. company
39. Rouse oneself
42. In a way, covered
43. Elaborate silk garment
44. Cooling unit
46. Riley and O'Brien are two
47. \_\_\_ fide; genuine
48. Ancient Incan sun god
49. Poker stake
50. Trigonometric function
51. Interesting tidbit
52. Adieus
53. U.S. Treasury position
54. Midway between east and southeast
55. Doctors' group
56. Women's \_\_\_ movement



Solve the code to discover words related to basketball. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 24 = o)

**A. 5 24 24 21**  
Clue: Used for scoring

**B. 6 4 18 13 13 3 22**  
Clue: Move a basketball

**C. 6 15 7 10**  
Clue: Push the ball down

**D. 20 5 24 24 14**  
Clue: Throw ball at hoop

<p>O E H L S B U R K A R B A P G P A S S P                  E Y L E I R R H E P C H W S U U I I N U                  K N U D C P C I L B C E P L W Y S S R O                  E K H Y O O F E G B O U W H L Y A L H I                  W C V X A D T O V L T U C W L N S L O C                  K O L K T S T S E N A D N R A W V N G V                  R L N A U O D Y I S W K I D B I F G A R                  H C O G R Y R R W S N R D B R A H R H O                  I S D H N R O U A K S E U K I C P L S N                  O B E W O R U B S U W A F R A H L O S G                  K T Y C V A E C P V G H C F E R A W A N                  S F O F E C R O K R E R L N O Y Y L G I                  R K O S R O W F U I E H C N E B E L C L                  G U D R A O B K C A B S B F W H R L C E                  L I D E F E N S E T P U S H Y R S Y C V                  D E O G Y P I K C H A R G I N G D B D A                  D C W C D S B L X B C H Y I E N A I W R                  D I H H S R O Y T L G U S R O C R W W T                  B A S K E T X A E C O U R T E C N U O B                  P X E B E D R V H C K D S D R A W R O F</p>	<p><b>WORDS</b></p> <p>AIRBALL                  ASSIST                  BACKBOARD                  BASKET                  BENCH                  BOUNCE                  BOX                  CARRY                  CHARGING                  CLOCK                  COURT                  DEFENSE                  DUNK                  FORWARDS                  FOUL                  GUARDS                  LAYUP                  OFFENSE                  PASS                  PLAYERS                  PRESS                  REBOUND                  TRAVELING                  TURNOVER</p>
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

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# Gardening

## Signs of Spring

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale  
[mail@floridanewslines.com](mailto:mail@floridanewslines.com)

It feels like spring is almost with us, but I'm writing in early February when we used to expect cold snaps up until our average last frost date around March 20. All we can do is work with what the weather throws at us and plan for the unexpected — be it heat or cold, rain or drought — but I guess that's always been the case for gardeners and farmers.

My personal spring includes a pretty flowering redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), creamy flowers just emerging on the Carolina cherry laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*), and I'm still enjoying the beautiful perfume of my winter-flowering tea olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*). My spiderwort's (*Tradescantia ohioensis*) purple three-sided flowers are beginning to show, and they are all attracting honey bees. On Jan. 30 I spotted my first hummingbird of the year; he was feeding on shrimp plants that have been flowering sporadically since last spring.

As part of our continuing training, Master Gardener Volunteers are lucky to be able to learn from experts in various fields associated with horticulture, and this week we took a morning to learn about pest control using biological means. The most well-known agent available to homeowners is probably BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *Kurstaki*). Totally harmless to us, it is a strain of bacteria which can kill small caterpillars when correctly applied. It works by destroying their ability to eat once they have ingested it. It's a good product to use on tomatoes and leafy greens. "Mosquito dunks" contain a different strain of BT, and can be worth using in water features.

It's not just insect pests that we can control with biological methods. A number of invasive plants — plants that are disrupting our natural ecosystems by crowding out native plants — have been the subjects of experiments here in Florida for many years. One notable success has been to find a control for the air potato vine (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), which is native to Africa, Asia, and northern Australia. After extensive testing for safety and ef-

ficacy, a beetle from the air potato's home range was released and made available to the public. Currently you can request beetles online at [www.fdacs.gov/APB](http://www.fdacs.gov/APB). Where beetles are released is determined by demand and location. The beetles will not eradicate the vine completely, but keep it in reasonable bounds without the use of potentially harmful chemicals.

Other plants that have been targeted with biological controls include the Melaleuca tree that almost destroyed the Everglades; alligator weed, once so prevalent in our waterways; and tropical soda apple, a problem for cattle ranchers as well as a source of pathogens (diseases) that can affect important crops like tomatoes, eggplants, and potatoes which are in the same plant family (*Solanaceae*).

As home gardeners, perhaps our best form of biological insect control is simply to encourage as many species of insects as possible to make their homes in our yards by avoiding the use of chemicals and providing a wide variety of nectar-rich flowering plants. More than 90 percent of insect life is considered beneficial: they are predators which use other insects as food or parasitoids that use other insects as a place to lay their eggs, and include ladybugs, lacewings, wasps, and assassin bugs. You won't always see them at work, but work they do.

I hope this reassures you that the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is looking out for us. Research is the key to solving complex problems on the ground, and we all benefit from the results. For our part, we should never transport plants into the state as they can carry pathogens, harmful insects or just be plain thugs — remember kudzu, the vine that ate the south?

For timely tips for your yard you can find both current and archived editions of A New Leaf newsletter at <https://tinyurl.com/yxuhw2qq>.

Have a great spring!

**Wearing Of The Green Bingo**  
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## Master Gardeners celebrate Bartram Trail Library

By Dianne Battle, Master Gardener St. Johns County  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Florida Arbor Day occurs in the third week of January and Master Gardeners from the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County celebrate it annually by giving away free native tree seedlings. The Bartram Trail Branch Library has been the site of one of these giveaways for years, and this year the Master Gardeners celebrated their library by planting a redbud seedling (*Cercis canadensis*) and two Hearts-a-Bustin' Strawberry Bushes (*Euonymus americanus*) on the library grounds.

Redbuds are known for their showy lavender flowers in spring, and while the "strawberry" bushes do not yield strawberries, the colorful berries are relished by birds each fall. Although the seedlings are currently too immature to produce these blooms and berries, in a few years the plants should provide patrons with an interesting visual display and birds with food. Since both species are native to this area, they should need minimal care. The librarians were very pleased with the new plantings and are looking forward to seeing them mature. Since the plants are visible from the library's children's area, youngsters will be able to watch them grow.

It's an undisputed fact that attractive landscaping, including trees and shrubs, increases curb appeal for potential home buyers and provides a spot of tranquility for owners. It also



Photo courtesy Dianne Battle

Master Gardeners celebrated their library by planting a redbud seedling and two Hearts-a-Bustin' Strawberry Bushes on the library grounds.

can provide shade, reduce utility bills, and diminish pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide. Native plants do all these things and they provide support for wildlife; for every native plant there is a native bird or pollinator that relies on it. Furthermore, native plants do not need extra fertilizing and are tolerant of changes in weather if they are planted in an appropriate spot.

According to a recent Gallup poll, going to the library is the most popular away-from-home activity across all age groups and geographic areas, beating out going to a movie or a sporting event. Cicero's observation, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need," is still accurate today. See what's going on at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, [www.sjcpls.org/branches/bartram-trail-branch](http://www.sjcpls.org/branches/bartram-trail-branch), to check out a book and the newest horticultural additions.

*Dianne Battle is a Master Gardener, St. Johns County.*



Photo courtesy Rebecca Staples

## Rescue animals get a Valentine's Day treat

Creekside High School junior Gwen Staples recently decided to help out the homeless pets at the Humane Society. She assembled 80 Valentine's Day treat bags for dogs and cats. She also donated 20 pet beds, and several leashes, collars, and dog sweaters. She said she wanted their day to be special too. Staples also volunteers at the Humane Society and has offered to take professional photos of each animal to increase their chances of getting adopted faster after in her personal experience she found that a photo of a dog smiling and happy makes him infinitely more likely to be adopted.

## Veterinary hospital holds open house

Crosswinds Veterinary Hospital, located off Race Track Road in the Memorial Health Center complex, hosted an open house on Feb. 8. The event provided the community the opportunity to meet Dr. Jennifer Lockwood and staff as well as tour the new facility. Refreshments, lunch catered by Chick-fil-A, a DJ and giveaway items were highlights of the event. Pictured are vet tech Liz Bigelow, Dr. Jennifer Lockwood and vet tech Natasha Vega, along with Mabel, a Great Dane.



Photo courtesy Linda Gray

## Dog Day Afternoon celebrates dogs

By Linda Gomolka  
mail@floridanewslines.com

St. Johns Cares will host Dog Day Afternoon on Sunday, March 29 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. in Plantation Park in Julington Creek Plantation, 875 Davis Pond Blvd. The community is invited to attend.

The celebration will include dog washes, "pet-i-cures" (nail trimming), a canine obstacle course, pet photographs, hot dogs, baked goods (for humans and dogs), special K9 demonstrations, pet specialty vendor booths and services, face painting, a bounce house, balloon puppies, low-cost microchipping and pet adoptions from several St. Johns County shelters.

All the funds raised will benefit Ayla's Acres, a no-kill pet shelter in St. Augustine. They will be building Peter's Friends, a rescue center located on 17 acres in St. Johns County providing shelter, adoption, low or no-cost spay, neuter and vaccinations for dogs and cats. The facility will also contain an educational center to accommodate many children and adult groups each year.

Volunteers can sign-up with SignUp Genius on the homepage at [stjohns-cares.org](http://stjohns-cares.org). Contact Linda Gomolka at (904) 327-6144 for more information.

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Thank you to all the volunteers and the community support St. Johns CARES has received through the years.



**Dog Day Afternoon**  
Sunday, March 29th  
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**Plantation Park (on Davis Pond Blvd.)**  
to benefit Peter's Friends (Ayla's Acres)

Briefs cont. from pg. 16

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**UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County offers Master Gardener scholarship**

A special scholarship has been established with the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Master Gardener Program for local students pursuing a degree or certificate in horticulture, agriculture, or related natural resource field. The amount awarded will be up to \$1,000.

This scholarship will be judged on the following criteria: school leadership, scholarship, community service and interest in the course of study. Candidates must be enrolled in a higher education program in the State of Florida in the fields of horticulture, agriculture or natural resources.

Email [terraf@ufl.edu](mailto:terraf@ufl.edu) to obtain the application. All applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee by April 1, 2020.

**Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club hosts 1920s Murder Mystery luncheon**

In a tribute to the Roaring '20s, Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club will host a murder mystery with club members in the starring roles. 1920s dress is encouraged but not required. This meeting will be held on March 10 at 11 a.m. at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club located at 205 St. Johns Golf Drive.

Lunch choices include chicken-grape and walnut chicken salad, ciabatta roll and fries or grilled mahi Greek salad, feta, olives, tomatoes, pita croutons and herb vinaigrette or a Greek salad vegetarian option. A shared appetizer, dessert, iced tea, coffee or soda is also included. Other beverages are also available for purchase.

The cost is \$20 per person. Make checks payable to BTNC and mail to Mary Ann Kriniske, 156 Worthington Parkway, Saint Johns, FL 32259. Indicate your entrée choice on the check memo line and payment must be received by March 4, 2020.

Visit [www.facebook.com/BTNC1](http://www.facebook.com/BTNC1) or email Donna Holland at [bartramtnc@gmail.com](mailto:bartramtnc@gmail.com) for more information.

*Fishing*

**Capt. David's Fishing Report**

By Captain David Lifka  
[mail@floridanewline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewline.com)

Good news: the best fishing of the year is happening right now. Better news: it only keeps improving.

No matter what your fishing priorities might be, the month of March is when all aspects of area fishing begin to kick into high gear. Offshore, nearshore, inshore, surf, lakes, rivers, and ponds are all returning to life for the start of another fishing season.

Preparing properly for another fishing season is a must. Now is the time to inventory your tackle and check your rods and reels for any repair or maintenance needed. If you own a boat, checking batteries, fuel filters, water pumps, lighting, safety equipment, and trailer bearings now, can possibly save on a lot of aggravation later.

If you or the kids don't fish, or haven't fished before, there is no better time than now to give it a try. The weather is right — not too hot, not too cold, plus the fish are biting.

The easiest way to get started is by fishing for panfish that can be easily caught at any nearby freshwater pond, creek, or dock. Inexpensive, light equipment with just a hook and a float is all that is needed to give it a try. Fresh white bread, or even better, live worms for bait should have you catching bream and maybe even a catfish or two in no time. Mandarin Park Dock at the south end of Mandarin Road or Trout Creek Fish Camp just south of Orange-dale on State Road 13 provide great, easy, fishing access for the family and kids.

Finding beach access from Fernandina

Beach to Crescent Beach is the only platform needed to get you started with some of the area's fantastic surf fishing. Surf fishing can be at its finest this time of year for anyone regardless of their fishing experience or expertise. Any rod and reel that cast far enough into the ocean to reach or get just behind the breakers will work. Surf rigs will vary, but any simple fish finder rig or store-bought surf rig should be all you need for starters. Dead shrimp or sand fleas for bait can be purchased at nearly any bait store in the area you will be fishing.

Numerous tutorials exist online to help teach, inform, and answer whatever "how to" fishing questions you might have. Fishing with an experienced friend or just watching others that are catching fish can be invaluable to learning some of the tricks that may be needed where you are fishing. Bait stores and tackle stores are usually a wealth of information for what's working in their immediate area.

Yes, March is the time of year that area fishing kicks into gear and now is the time to take advantage. Regardless of your fishing skills, getting outside, being on or around the water, wetting a line, and possibly even stretching a line is something that can be enjoyed individually, or with the whole family. Now let's go fishing!

Fishing report: It's all about the surf this time of year. Whiting and more whiting, followed by pompano and more pompano.

Whether you catch one, some, or none, the family time spent fishing will last a lifetime.



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# Nemours to sponsor Kids Zone at THE PLAYERS

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewline.com

Nemours Children's Health System will continue to advance its mission of promoting health for children and teens with the launch of the Kids Zone, an active, open-to-the-public experience at THE PLAYERS Championship golf tournament, March 10 – 15. Nemours' sponsorship will last for three years.

The Kids Zone presented by Nemours Children's Health System is a youth-focused space, with engaging activities and pop-up events designed to give young attendees and their families an interactive experience, including:

“Tee Time” mini golf challenge on Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. with Nemours Orthopedics and Sports Medicine experts

“Eye Screens for Ice Cream and Family Morning Out” on Sunday, March 15, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., co-hosted by Nemours Ophthalmology and Optometry experts and Jacksonville Mom.

For adults, the Kids Zone will be a recharge lounge, where they can watch the tournament on a live feed while the kids are at play. Stationed near the main entrance of the tournament, the 3,200-square-foot Kids Zone also features a range of photo-worthy moments for kids of all ages.

“Nemours Children's Health System provides top-quality, patient-centered care in the six states we serve,” said Nemours CEO Dr. R. Lawrence Moss. “Our long-standing collaboration with THE PLAYERS Championship is a great opportunity to make a positive impact by promoting healthy habits among young people and reaching families where they live, learn and play.”

Nemours Orthopedics and Sports Medicine is dedicated to keeping young athletes healthy, enhancing athletic performance and providing top-quality,



Photo courtesy Nemours

Dr. Jeremy Rush, director of Nemours Sports Medicine, treats both kids and teens participating in amateur and competitive sports. The Nemours Sports Medicine team will host a kids' mini golf challenge and fitness wheel event in THE PLAYERS Kids Zone on Saturday, March 14.

age appropriate treatment for growing bones when injuries do occur.

“Golf is considered a ‘low-impact’ sport, but shoulder, wrist and back injuries are surprisingly common,” said Jeremy Rush, MD, director of the Nemours Sports Medicine Program. “Improving flexibility and developing a solid swing are critically important for preventing these injuries.”

On Saturday, March 14, experts will host a mini golf challenge in the Kids Zone and answer common parent questions about issues affecting active kids and teen athletes.

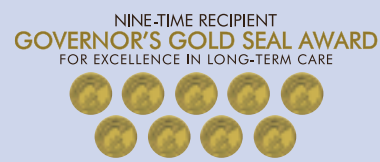
During the Sunday, March 15 pop-up event, Nemours Ophthalmology and Optometry experts will co-host an “Eye Screen for Ice Cream” where children who receive an eye screening will receive a voucher that can be redeemed for an ice cream. Jacksonville Mom will also be on-site to host a Family Morning Out get together; moms and dads who swing by the Kids Zone will receive a Mini Bar voucher redeemable at Mini Bar's venue at the tournament.

Youths 15-and-under are admitted free to THE PLAYERS when accompanied by a ticketed adult. THE PLAYERS also offers a Family Plan Ticket package, which provides families affordable tournament experiences. Visit THEPLAYERS.com/tickets for more information.



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# Presidential Preference Primary Election

## March 17, 2020

### EARLY VOTING

March 7th - March 14th  
9 AM to 6 PM Daily  
At all 6 early voting locations

### LOCATIONS

Supervisor of Elections  
4455 Avenue A #101  
St. Augustine, FL 32095

Ponte Vedra Branch Library  
101 Library Blvd.  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Julington Creek Annex  
725 Flora Branch Blvd.  
Saint Johns, FL 32259

Southeast Branch Library  
6670 US 1 South  
St. Augustine, FL 32086

St. Augustine Beach City Hall  
2200 A1A South  
St. Augustine, FL 32080

Hastings Branch Library  
6195 S. Main St.  
Hastings, FL 32145

**OPEN ONLY TO REGISTERED  
REPUBLICAN & DEMOCRATIC VOTERS**

### Candidates for President

#### Republican Ballot

Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente  
Donald J. Trump  
Joe Walsh  
Bill Weld

#### Democratic Ballot

Michael Bennet  
Joe Biden  
Michael R. Bloomberg  
Cory Booker  
Pete Buttigieg  
Julian Castro  
John Delaney  
Tulsi Gabbard  
Amy Klobuchar  
Deval Patrick  
Bernie Sanders  
Joe Sestak  
Tom Steyer  
Elizabeth Warren  
Marianne Williamson  
Andrew Yang

**Closed Primary**  
Voters registered  
with a minor party  
or no party  
affiliation (NPA)  
are not eligible  
to vote in  
this election.

**VOTE BY MAIL**  
Request your vote by mail ballot  
by March 7th at 5 PM!  
(904) 823-2238  
WWW.VOTESJC.COM

**VOTE BY MAIL  
DROP BOX LOCATIONS**  
Due to a law change, now ONLY  
available at Early Voting sites  
during early voting hours.

★ **ELECTION DAY** ★  
VOTE AT YOUR ASSIGNED  
POLLING PLACE

**POLLS OPEN  
7 AM - 7 PM**

◆ ◆ ◆  
CONFIRM YOUR ADDRESS  
BEFORE VOTING. USE THE "MY  
VOTER STATUS" LOOKUP ON OUR  
WEBSITE OR CONTACT THE  
ELECTIONS OFFICE.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**  
(904) 823-2238 \* [WWW.VOTESJC.COM](http://WWW.VOTESJC.COM)  
[ELECTIONS@VOTESJC.COM](mailto:ELECTIONS@VOTESJC.COM)



### REMEMBER

TAKE CURRENT PHOTO &  
SIGNATURE ID WITH YOU WHEN  
YOU VOTE.  
IF YOU DO NOT HAVE PROPER ID,  
YOU MUST VOTE A PROVISIONAL  
BALLOT.

# Smooch. Love. Live.



We have the compassionate team and  
technology to take great care of you  
or a loved one during an emergency.

See our average ER wait times at  
[MemorialHospitalJax.com](http://MemorialHospitalJax.com).

