

# Ponte Vedra NewsLine

MARCH 2020 Volume 7 Issue 3

Ponte Vedra, Palm Valley, Nocatee and South Ponte Vedra Beach

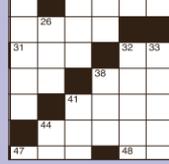
A Florida NewsLine Publication



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

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewslines.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

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## BairFind Club helps find missing children

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Ponte Vedra High School junior Corey Udell met two families with missing children in 2017 during a charity event and found that no words of comfort seemed adequate. The experience inspired him to launch the BairFind Club his sophomore year — modeled after the BairFind Foundation, a national organization that places missing children signs at sporting events to get the public involved in the search.

"It was heartbreaking to meet these families," said Udell, also a Ponte Vedra High School baseball player.

Udell met the families while volunteering at the "Enchanted Christmas Village," an event held in Nocatee with proceeds going to the BairFind Foundation. Dennis Bair, Bairfind founder/CEO and Udell's middle school baseball coach, invited Udell to the event.

"Corey Udell is an outstanding young man and all of his BairFind Club members are right there with him. They have taken it upon themselves to generate leads and tips in the search for Florida's missing kids, and I cannot think of a higher calling than that," said Bair. "Corey and his friends give us hope not only that the missing kids they feature will be found, but that there are good people and leaders among our next generation of youth."

Bair is a former minor league pitcher for the Chicago Cubs and partners with Minor League Baseball to place photos of missing children at stadiums across the country at no cost to the families. According to the BairFind Foundation website, 428 missing children were safely located out of the profiles featured by BairFind. Currently, there are signs in 152 baseball and basketball stadiums, generating 35 million views of missing



Photos courtesy Corey Udell  
BairFind Charity Night with baseball team

child photos, according to the Jacksonville-based BairFind Foundation.

Udell takes a similar approach by placing his banner sign, which features the photos and bios of eight missing children, in hallways, classrooms and other high traffic areas. According to Udell, the missing children are mostly local or they could be from other areas of the state if there is reason to believe that they might be in St. Johns County.

When the club first formed, Udell said 80 students signed



BairFind Club at Ponte Vedra High School

up immediately. Udell credits the professional BairFind sign that was displayed at his club fair booth with one "Found" sticker on it. Udell raised \$200 for the sign by hosting a youth summer baseball camp prior to his sophomore year.

"It was very eye-catching, and it was very real," said Udell. "It reminded everyone that this is real life. This is not like a game or a simulator. Putting a found sticker on the sign is the whole reason to have the club."

Now the BairFind Club consists of 100 members and includes two more high

schools — Nease and Titusville. And the club has organized a Car and Truck Show fundraiser on Saturday, April 4, from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. to benefit the BairFind Foundation, with a portion of the purchases supporting the PVHS BairFind Club and its efforts. Live music will be performed from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. and the suggested donation is the purchase of one drawing ticket per person. The drawing tickets for prizes will be sold at the event, \$5 per ticket or \$20 for five tickets.

Trasca & Co Eatery, Christy's Dream and Mulligan's Pub are all sponsors of the event. Udell said he is especially grateful to the main event sponsor, Trasca, for its incredible support and for providing the live music.



BairFind Charity Night

Udell is also looking for sponsors to donate \$100 – \$200 so that the club can buy BairFind silicone bracelets to distribute to those purchasing a drawing ticket at the event. In addition, drawing ticket holders will receive a voting slip to vote on their favorite car and truck.

In addition to the fundraiser, Udell is also training younger club members to take over once he graduates. His goal is to encourage more high schools to start a BairFind Club and to join forces for the

BairFind Club cont. on pg. 7

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# Caring for Kids, on Doctors' Day and Every Day

At Nemours Children's Health System, caring for children isn't just an occupation, it's a privilege and a calling. We want to thank our Nemours doctors this Doctors' Day, March 30th, and celebrate their commitment to caring for children and teens in our community.



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Call (904) 697-3600 or visit  
[Nemours.org/Jacksonville](https://www.nemours.org/Jacksonville)  
to schedule an appointment.

**Nemours** Children's Health System

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Ponte Vedra NewsLine Community Newspaper is a free monthly publication distributed via bulk mail to all addresses in Zip Codes 32081 and 32082. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@FloridaNewsLine.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Florida NewsLine. Advertising Rates are available by request. Florida NewsLine is not responsible for advertisement content or accuracy of information provided by its advertisers Nor does Florida NewsLine endorse any of the products or services included in this publication. Florida NewsLine reserves the right to refuse advertisement or copy from any advertiser. All rights are reserved and no portion of this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the publisher. ©2020.



# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Roxy!



**BREED:**  
Mixed mutt rested from the JAX Humane Society. Breed testing later revealed: 25% chow, 25% boxer, and a little German Shepard, Australian Cattle & Collie.

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**  
Walking 5-9 miles around Marsh Landing and bumping into human and furry friends along the walk.

**FAVORITE TREAT:**  
Frozen bananas

**FAVORITE FRIEND:**  
Two dogs that live at the same house in our neighborhood, Ouji & Kris.

**HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**  
My parents love classic rock & roll and thought of Roxy (short for Rooooooxanne).

**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!



**MARCH Special Section Home Improvement**  
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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 the Nocatee Paddle Launch. Our winner was Kathleen Slater-Ryan. Congratulations!



THANK our Advertisers

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# around town

each month)  
Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Pkwy.  
RSVP: [www.newcomersofthebeaches.com](http://www.newcomersofthebeaches.com)

### March 11

**Overcoming Knee Pain Workshop**  
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
John Goetze Physical Therapy, 1400 Marsh Landing Parkway, Suite 112  
RSVP: [mymanualpt.com/workshops](http://mymanualpt.com/workshops) or (904) 280-2001

### 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 12

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

### March 14

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

### March 17

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

### March 18

**Ponte Vedra Woman's Club general meeting**  
5:30 p.m.  
[pvwcevents.com](http://pvwcevents.com)

### March 18

**Aging Parent Support Group**  
6 p.m.  
First Atlantic Bank building, 100 Corridor Road S., Ste. 280  
Limited space; RSVP to Karen Feliciano, (904) 907-7880

### March 18

**Ponte Vedra Beach Wednesday Book Club: "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng**  
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library (904) 827-6950

### 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

**Adult Coloring Club**  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library (904) 827-6950

### March 19

**Lego Club**  
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library (904) 827-6950

### March 21

**Nocatee Farmers Market: Car Show**  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Town Center Field, Nocatee

### March 24

**Ponte Vedra Beach Tuesday Book Club: "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett**  
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library (904) 827-6950

### March 27

**Food Truck Friday**  
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Nocatee's Splash Waterpark

### March 28

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Boating Safety Class**  
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd.  
Register: Bill Hurlburt at [boatsafely04@outlook.com](mailto:boatsafely04@outlook.com) or (904) 200-9409

### March 30

**Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition**  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd.  
[www.PVBCoalition.org](http://www.PVBCoalition.org)

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

### March 2

**Beaches Toastmasters Club**  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Repeating event on Mondays)  
Baptist Hospital Beaches, Wilson Epstein Building  
[cgs13@yahoo.com](mailto:cgs13@yahoo.com)

### March 3

**Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Ponte Vedra Chapter meeting**  
10:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
[pontevedrachapternsdar@aol.com](mailto:pontevedrachapternsdar@aol.com)

### March 3

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-4, featuring St. Johns Riverkeeper**  
7:30 p.m.  
Sea School, 14180 Beach Blvd.  
Bill Hurlburt, (904) 200-9409

### March 3

**Palm Valley Farmers Market**  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m. (repeating event on Tuesdays)  
Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd.  
[www.facebook.com/PalmValleyFarmersMarket/](http://www.facebook.com/PalmValleyFarmersMarket/)

### March 4

**Toastmasters Club #5199 Ponte Vedra Beach**  
7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Wednesdays)  
Players Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane  
[carmenjsardinas@gmail.com](mailto:carmenjsardinas@gmail.com)

### 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

**GTM Research Reserve new volunteer orientation**  
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Environmental Education Center, 505 Guana River Road (904) 823-4500

### 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

**Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Meeting**  
6 p.m.  
Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church – Cultural Center  
[www.pvmsd.org](http://www.pvmsd.org)

### March 9

**Caregiver support meeting**  
12 p.m. – 1 p.m. (repeating event on Mondays)  
Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center, 1048 A1A N. (904) 297-0061

### 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.sjcrowndtable.org](http://www.sjcrowndtable.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 11

**Newcomers of the Beaches luncheon**  
11 a.m. (repeating event, second Wednesday of



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**NINETEEN**

T P C S A W G R A S S

# take 5

## 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.

## Endangered species talk scheduled

An educational talk and endangered species will be held on Wednesday,

March 25 from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. Florida is home to a wide variety of plants and animals; unfortunately some of these species are in decline and without intervention may go extinct. Parks Naturalist Kelly Ussia will host an engaging and informative program focused on the listed species of Florida and what you can do to ensure their continued survival. This event is free, but seating is first-come, first-served. Contact Kelly Ussia at [kussia@sjcfl.us](mailto:kussia@sjcfl.us) or (904) 209-0335 for more information.

## 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.

## Self-defense classes for women offered

High school females and adult females of all ages may register now for Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library's self-defense courses, presented by St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and hosted by Adult Services Librarian Anne Crawford, in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

To give all interested patrons a chance to attend, participants will be entered into a lottery; participants must choose one session and attend both classes in that session: Monday, March 2 and Tuesday, March 3 from 5 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. or Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20 from 2 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Visit the Reference Desk or call (904) 827-6950 to register for the lottery. Patrons will be notified of their status one week prior to their two-day session.

## Annual silent auction kicks off MS Awareness Week

More than 230 area retailers, restaurants and service providers will help kickoff the eighth annual National MS



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

Awareness Week silent auction Monday, Mar. 9, at Bogey Grille in Ponte Vedra Beach. The event, from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and free to the public, features vacations, getaways, more than 65 restaurants, jewelry, excursions, and event tickets. One hundred percent of the proceeds — \$25,000 — benefits the more than 18,000 North Floridians impacted by MS. Key donations include gift cards and certificates from Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Palm Valley Fish Camp, Village Jewelers, and golf outings at TPC Sawgrass, Queens Harbor and Hilton Head Island. Call (904) 285-7686 for more information.

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**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 ambulatory 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 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 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.



**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.

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: 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 affiliation; only registered Democrats and

**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 St. Johns County Commissioner  
Jeremiah Blocker, District 4**

**Q: Since last month's article, the Board of County Commissioners has hired Hunter Conrad permanently as county administrator. Can you comment on this?**

A: Hunter Conrad initially was not interested in this job on a permanent basis when we selected him as the interim county administrator, but then he became interested after doing the job for a short time. He brings good credentials and in a short time has done a great job of managing staff and bringing a new energy to the position. The board made the decision to offer him the job once he expressed interest — before going through the time and expense of a potentially nationwide search. My responsibility is to residents of St. Johns County and it seemed wise to consider Hunter since he was already doing a good job. At the end of the day, we as a board need to work with him and we are comfortable with this decision.

**Q: It's almost time to start the budget process again. Can you share some of your priorities?**

A: One thing I want to continue to focus on is public safety, to include law enforcement and firefighters. Also I want to continue to look at funding sidewalks and recreational spaces, again with an emphasis on safety. I think we need to continue to keep our property taxes low. We've been successful at this, but improvements can always be made. I'd like to see the board look at ways to save our taxpayers money and possibly rely more on the tourists who come here to take on some more of the burden. I'd like to see us partner with the City of St. Augustine to address homelessness.

We could create a working committee to examine this problem and come up with a collaborative effort to combat it. Finally, I'd like to continue working on our natural resources, including our beaches. Tourism and our beaches combine for a lot of economic impact, so they are important. We need to continue to be proactive in looking for funding sources for our natural resources.

**Q: Speaking of economic impact, what would you like to say about THE PLAYERS, which is the big event in March?**

A: We are excited for this wonderful event and it should be a great family atmosphere. We appreciate the partnership the county has with the PGA TOUR. A University of Florida study from a couple of years ago stated that the economic impact of THE PLAYERS was equivalent to having a Super Bowl here every year.

**Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 4?**

A: The 2020 Census date is April 1. The Census is important because it helps determine the amount of federal government funding we get. It is the civic duty of every American to fill out the Census accurately. This helps us in St. Johns County make sure we have the numbers to justify our requests when we are asking for state and federal funding for items like infrastructure.

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

A: Readers can email me at [bcc4j-blocker@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc4j-blocker@sjcfl.us) or call me at (904) 679-2620.

**BairFind Club** cont. from pg. 1

cause. Udell credits the work of his fellow club members and his family for his ability to balance academics, baseball and club duties.

Holly Udell, Corey's mother, said when Corey organized the youth baseball camp the summer before his sophomore year to pay for the sign, the family never thought the BairFind Club would expand so quickly.

"The upcoming truck and car show

fundraiser on April 4 will be a tremendous accomplishment for the club. We are grateful to Dennis Bair for founding this organization and that Corey can support something so meaningful," said Holly Udell. "Watching Corey place a found sticker on his sign gives me goosebumps and is the best reward for all of his hard work."

Visit [BairFind.org](http://BairFind.org) for more information about the fundraising event or to donate.



**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.

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**FYI Contact Numbers**

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<b>Property Appraiser:</b> Eddie Creamer, <a href="mailto:sjcpa@sjcpa.us">sjcpa@sjcpa.us</a> ; (904) 827-5500	<b>St. Johns County School Board (<a href="http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us">www.stjohns.k12.fl.us</a>)</b>
<b>Supervisor of Elections:</b> Vicky Oakes, <a href="mailto:voakes@votesjc.com">voakes@votesjc.com</a> , (904) 823-2238	District 4: Kelly Barrera, <a href="mailto:kelly.barrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us">kelly.barrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us</a> , (904) 547-7510
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<b>Clerk of Court:</b> Brandon Patty, (904) 819-3600	Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146
<b>St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners</b>	State House District 17: Representative Cyndi Stevenson, <a href="mailto:Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov">Cyndi.Stevenson@myfloridahouse.gov</a> , (904) 823-2300
District 1: Jimmy Johns, <a href="mailto:bcc1johns@sjcfl.us">bcc1johns@sjcfl.us</a> , (904) 209-0301	State Senate District 7: Senator Travis Hutson, (386) 446-7610
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# Home Improvement Guide

## Why is my house so dusty and what can I do?

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Spring cleaning projects can take on many forms, from garage overhauls to washing the interiors and exteriors of windows. According to the 2019 American Cleaning Institute National Cleaning Survey conducted by Wakefield Research, 77 percent of households surveyed commit to spring clean projects every year.

Dust is a formidable foe during spring cleaning projects. Dust is unsightly and dust mites can trigger allergic reactions, but many homeowners lament that, once they dust, dust returns in a flash. Dust may seem like a never-ending nuisance, but there are some ways to mitigate dust for more than just a few hours.

Invest in a better vacuum cleaner: Vacuuming carpets can release and resuspend dust and allergens that were trapped in carpeting and throw rugs, advises the Queensland University of Technology. Traditional vacuums may toss that dust into the air rather than remove it; however, vacuums with HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters can catch particles at .3 microns in size or larger at an efficiency rating of 99.97 percent. Another solution is to switch to hard-surface flooring, which is less likely to trap dust.

Change the AC unit filter: According to Kadi Dulude, owner of the New York-based Wizard of Homes cleaning service, HVAC filters are supposed to trap particles that flow through the air and the heating and cooling system. Inadequate or dirty filters cannot do



Photo courtesy MetroCreative  
Dry dusting can simply spread dust around. Use a wet cloth to catch dust and remove it.

that job as thoroughly as new filters. Check the filters in both window and whole-house AC or heating units and replace according to the recommended schedule. Consider filters with a higher MERV rating, which can catch smaller particles.

Use less cloth and linen: The cleaning service Maid to Shine Cleaners suggests that textiles trap more dust, particularly synthetic fabrics. Replacing items around the house with leather or wooden furniture may alleviate some of the dust problem.

Take off shoes: Dirt and debris from outside can contribute to dust in the house. Remove shoes when entering the house to reduce the accumulation of dust.

Keep pets brushed and groomed: Pets bring many positive things to a home, but no matter how short their coats, pet dander can be part of the dust problem. Washing and grooming pets regularly may put a dent in the dust situation.

In addition to these suggestions, getting a whole-house filtration system, increasing wet dusting and checking for leaky ducts that can be sucking dust from attics, basements or garages are some other ways to reduce dust in a home.

## 3 common DIY mistakes to avoid

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Pride tends to swell when homeowners successfully complete do-it-yourself projects on their homes. In addition to saving homeowners money, DIY projects provide a unique way for them to personally connect with their homes. The ability to look at a finished project and say it's a result of your own handiwork can make a home feel more your own.

As fun and fulfilling as DIY projects can be, they also can be nerve-racking and induce anxiety. When DIY projects falter, fixing them can prove costly, as homeowners typically must call in contractors to correct their mistakes and get a project back on track. That results in additional labor and material costs that might have been avoidable, especially for homeowners who make an effort to avoid some common DIY mistakes.

1. Failure to secure permits: Even though homeowners own their homes, that does not mean they have carte blanche to do what they want with them. Many renovation projects require homeowners to secure permits before projects can commence. Some may even require additional permits as the projects advance. If proper permits are not secured, homeowners may be fined and projects may be nixed, regardless of how much money homeowners have spent up to that point. Before beginning a home renovation project, homeowners should always contact their local permit office to determine if any permits are required.

2. Overestimating your abilities: DIY television shows make home renovation projects look easy, but reality suggests



Photo courtesy MetroCreative  
When DIY projects falter, fixing them can prove costly.

otherwise. Homeowners with little or no experience renovating a home may want to take classes before they think about starting a project on their own. Even online tutorials tend to make jobs appear easier than they are. Roofing and plumbing projects tend to be best left to the professionals, as these projects can be either dangerous or vulnerable to disaster if not addressed by trained professionals.

3. Incorrect materials: Whether it's to save money or a byproduct of inexperience, DIYers do not always choose the correct materials for a job. Experienced contractors have ample experience working with all sorts of materials and are therefore in a unique position to recommend the best materials for any given job. That resource is not available for DIYers, who must perform ample research before beginning a job so the project involves the most appropriate materials. Incorrect materials can be a sunken cost that derails a project, but even jobs completed using incorrect materials may need to be redone a lot more quickly than those that employed the right materials the first time.

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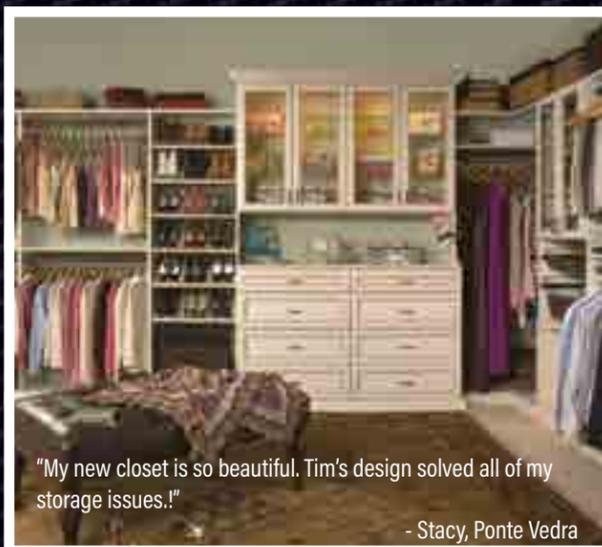
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# ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

## MarketInsight



### 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.*

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## ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

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## Impact of Nocatee on St. Johns County featured at chamber meeting

By NewsLine Staff  
[mail@floridanewsline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewsline.com)

Maurice "Mo" Rudolph, P.E., PARC Group Community Development Director, discussed the impact the Nocatee community has had upon St. Johns County and the Northeast Florida region at a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council meeting on Jan. 31. Rudolph served as the meeting's keynote speaker.

Addressing a full ballroom at the Renaissance Resort at the World Golf Village, Rudolph shared his insights relating to the continued success of the Nocatee community and development throughout St. Johns County. The fourth best-selling community for the last decade, Nocatee has become a competitor in the national home market, Rudolph said. He contributed Nocatee's success to a strong collaboration between St. Johns County government, local builders, real estate agents, financial institutions and other related businesses.

Rudolph announced the PARC Group's plans to complete an extension of Pine Island Road connecting Nocatee to U.S. Highway 1 in the second quarter of 2021. A new K-8 school is also planned to be completed in the second quarter of 2021 and open for the 2021 – 2022 school year. He also discussed commercial development in the Nocatee community, including the new Park Place One at Nocatee office complex by VanTrust and a third office building on the west side of Nocatee Parkway.



Photo courtesy St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce  
Maurice "Mo" Rudolph

Chamber President / CEO Isabelle Renault said, "Nocatee is changing at a rapid pace and it was time for the Chamber to provide an update to its members. Mo's presentation was informative and gave our members a good perspective on the continued growth in St. Johns County. His presentation was made available for review by our EDC members in the Member Information Center (MIC) of our website under Resources."

*Randy Bradley, vice president of Northrop Grumman, will provide the keynote speech at the next Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast on April 17, 2020. Visit [www.sjccchamber.com](http://www.sjccchamber.com) or call (904) 829-5681 to find out more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member.*



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**Briefs**

**Newcomers Alumnae to host annual Fashion Show**

Newcomers Alumnae will hold its annual Fashion Show on March 4 at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Pkwy. Both members and non-members are invited to attend the event, which will be held from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

This year's fashions will be from the very popular J. Jill store, the models' make-up will be done by Mary Kay Cosmetics, and Zimmiz Hair Designers will be in charge of the models' hair. This event is being chaired by Shirin Brenick and Sandra Bertoglio. The J. Jill fashions will be modeled by club members Paula Kennedy, Debbie Corsano, Barbara Tanner, Rosanne Lotocki, Lynn Minneman, Judy Adams, Clara Wittmann, Margie Hesser, Dede LeClaire and Joann Pasquale. There will also be door prizes, raffles, and gift cards.

Email brookemeister@msn.com for more information about how to attend this fun event.

**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. Miner 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.myfloridahouse.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.

**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 to obtain the application. All applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee by April 1, 2020.

**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 businesses even utilize the data to expand or relocate their offices or headquarters to specific communities.

Visit [www.sjcfl.us/census](http://www.sjcfl.us/census) or [www.facebook.com/SJC2020Census](http://www.facebook.com/SJC2020Census), email [2020census@sjcfl.us](mailto:2020census@sjcfl.us), or call (904) 209-0573 for more information.

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# Life

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## Get to Know . . .

Rob Murphy

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps  
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Tiffany Merlo Phelps  
Rob Murphy

Even though Nocatee I-9 Coach Rob Murphy played college and professional football with Ohio State University, the Indianapolis Colts, the San Francisco 49ers and the Canadian Football League, he prefers to be known by his current title: St. Johns County Firefighter. The crossover from football to firefighting was an easy one for Murphy to make since both careers focus on camaraderie, teamwork and common goals. In 2012, Murphy held his retirement press conference from football in Toronto and enrolled in EMT and firefighting school the very next day.

Murphy, who was born in New York and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, has plenty to keep him busy when he isn't coaching football or working at the station. He has 11-year-old triplets: two boys and a girl, Grey, Maddox and Rowan. Murphy, who has never attended an NFL game as a spectator, does not have a favorite NFL team. His only allegiance is to Ohio State University and he just enjoys watching quality football no matter the team.

**Q: What do you like about being a firefighter?**

A: I always wanted to be a firefighter and a football player. I was fortunate enough to make a career out of football. If I knew what a good feeling that I would get from being a firefighter and from directly impacting someone else's life, I would have retired sooner. Instead of the pressure of playing in front of 100,000 people, it is life and death. It is a different type of pressure, but still the same.

**Q: Could you share some of the details about the strong influence your late father had on your life and career?**

A: I was nine years old when I first played football. It was contact in the fourth grade, because they didn't have

flag football teams back then. My dad played in high school and in college at the University of Miami.

I was originally a soccer player, but my dad wanted me to try football for one season. I absolutely fell in love with it, and I never looked back. My dad coached me all the way through the eighth grade. My dad was a tough taskmaster, an old school kind of guy, but he taught me the mantra that I carried with me throughout my career: "The harder you work, the luckier you get." His way of showing love was to say that we are all not equally skilled, but if you put forth enough skilled effort, then it will all even out. Even as a 35-year-old professional player, unless I heard from my father that I played well, it was not enough. I have two younger brothers, and we were all active in organized sports — football, baseball, wrestling and swimming. My parents never missed a game. My middle brother played at the University of Kentucky, and my parents would split up to make sure they went to all of our games.

**Q: What attracted you to I-9 Sports to coach?**

A: Being a professional athlete, you are very busy and traveling all the time. Now I have this opportunity to pay it forward. Football granted me so many opportunities, so I wanted to give back. All three of my kids play in I-9 both soccer and football, and I have coached five seasons with them. My main priorities are to have fun and get some camaraderie going between the players and work on social development and athleticism.

**Q: Tell us about your football career highlights.**

A: I played at Ohio State University for four years, and I participated in the 1997 Rose Bowl and the 1998 Sugar Bowl, winning both. I was a two-time All-American also in 1997 and 1998. I played for the NFL from

1999 – 2005 with the Indianapolis Colts and the San Francisco 49ers as a lineman. I was so fortunate to play with Hall of Fame players and coaches. You definitely look back and say, "I made it," and then instantaneously think about all of the people who helped you get there. It was a cool fraternity to belong to in the NFL, and I still keep in touch with them today. I also played for six years in the Canadian Football League — three years with the British Columbia Lions and three years with the Toronto Argonauts. We won the Grey Cup in 2006, which is the Canadian equivalent to the Super Bowl. I was named the CFL's Most Outstanding Lineman in 2006 and in 2007. It was cool because I was at the end of my NFL career, heard about the CFL, stumbled upon a team and found success. I just wanted to play. There were guys that were a lot more talented than I was, but I could play any position on the line. I was smart about it. The CFL rejuvenated my love of the game.

**Q: Do you want your children to follow in your football career?**

A: I just want my kids to be happy. So, if they want to work construction, great, if they want to play football, great. I just want them to be confident and happy humans.

## Get to Know . . .

Interested in being featured? Email Martie Thompson at [editor@FloridaNewsLine.com](mailto:editor@FloridaNewsLine.com)

**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.

"This group of cadets has worked harder than any other team," said naval science instructor Master Chief Duane Spears. "The commitment, motivation, energy and enthusiasm is unlike any I've seen."





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PVI

## Ponte Vedra Woman's Club holds New Member Social

By Sharon Jones  
mail@floridanewsline.com

On Feb. 27, the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club held its semiannual new and perspective member social. This is a time the club highlights its accomplishments for the charities they support. This year they are the Betty Griffin House (shelter for victims of violence), St. Augustine Youth Services (group home for boys with mental illness), Expanding Your Horizons (STEM Conference for Girls), BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry), and the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind.

Club president, Lori Marjerison, introduced the board and each woman explained her role in this association. The new year starts in August and runs through May of the following year. All women who wish to make a difference in their community are welcome.

Visit [www.pontevedrawomansclub.com](http://www.pontevedrawomansclub.com) or [www.facebook.com/PonteVedra-WomansClub](https://www.facebook.com/PonteVedra-WomansClub) for more information or to join.



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Photo courtesy Nocatee

## Pirates invade Nocatee Farmers Market

The Fernandina Pirates Club invaded the Nocatee Farmers Market on Saturday, Jan. 18. There were three interactive pirate schools for the kids to enjoy and a life-size pirate ship for them to explore. Plus, the market also featured shopping from more than 70 different vendors, crafts, and bounce houses.

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## Nemours to sponsor Kids Zone at THE PLAYERS

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.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.

## THE PLAYERS Military Appreciation Concert to feature The Chainsmokers

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

This year, for the first time in THE PLAYERS Championship history, a pop/EDM artist will perform at the Military Appreciation Ceremony and Concert on Tuesday, March 10 — Grammy-Award winning artist The Chainsmokers will take the stage shortly after 5 p.m. on the island green 17th hole of TPC Sawgrass.

THE PLAYERS Championship has a long-standing commitment to hosting and honoring men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. The 2020 tournament will once again offer a strong lineup of activities for military members, veterans and their families.

“Jacksonville has the largest military presence and veteran population in Florida and is home to some of the largest Navy bases in the country,” said Executive Director of THE PLAYERS Jared Rice. “It is incredibly important that we embrace our military personnel and their contributions to our community and our country. They make daily sacrifices in order to protect and preserve the freedoms we enjoy, and we look forward to honoring them at this year's tournament.”

Each year, THE PLAYERS designates the Tuesday of tournament week as Military Appreciation Day, complete with a ceremony of nationally-ranked dignitaries, military pageantry and a culminating concert. This year, The Chainsmokers were selected because of their strong connection to the military. They have hosted and supported a number of military outreach efforts, including a concert for deployed military members who were unable to be

with their families for the holidays.

THE PLAYERS provides complimentary admission 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 for Tuesday and Wednesday; \$30/each for Thursday through Sunday).

All military personnel must verify their military status by going to THEPLAYERS.com/tickets and clicking on “military admissions.” Upon verification, a voucher will be issued for each day that must be printed and redeemed on-site at the Love, Nicklaus, and Couples entries. Valid military identification is required. Parking is not included in the complimentary, or discounted, ticket for the military. Parking passes are required each day, Tuesday – Sunday, and can be purchased at THEPLAYERS.com/parking. Parking will not be sold on site.

Throughout tournament week, all active duty, Reserve military members, military retirees, veterans and their dependents will have access to the Birdies for the Brave® Patriots' Outpost presented by United Rentals, a hospitality tent reserved exclusively for the military which offers complimentary food, beverages and activities. Located near the tee at No. 16, the Patriots' Outpost is financially supported by United Rentals, THE PLAYERS volunteer leadership, the Red Coats, and Jacksonville-area companies and individuals.




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# Ocean Palms hits the field for a fundraising workout

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com



Somewhere between the jumping jacks and the running drills, OPE's fundraising workout raised approximately \$4,000 for the school.



Photos courtesy Lisa Farese  
Ocean Palms students pose with the school otter at the school's fundraising workout, led by Training for Warriors.

On Jan. 26, students, families, teachers and staff at Ocean Palms Elementary School teamed up for a sweat-inducing fundraising workout, led by Training for Warriors. From sprints, to squats, to planks, this family friendly workout was filled with high fives, positive reinforcement — and fundraising dollars for a new school playground.

The school raised approximately \$4,000 from the two workout sessions to put toward the new playground, which will cost approximately \$150,000. Additional fundraising events are planned, with the hope that the new playground will be installed this summer if the fundraising goal is reached.



The Ocean Palms team poses post-workout.



Photo courtesy Beverly Webb

## Aningas take refuge from golf course turmoil

Ponte Vedra Inn and Club is redesigning the Ocean Course. It will reopen next fall; according to golf pro Jim Howard, what was the 11th fairway will become the 10th. Meanwhile the birds have adapted. This photo was taken from the Pointe foot bridge to Pablo Road.

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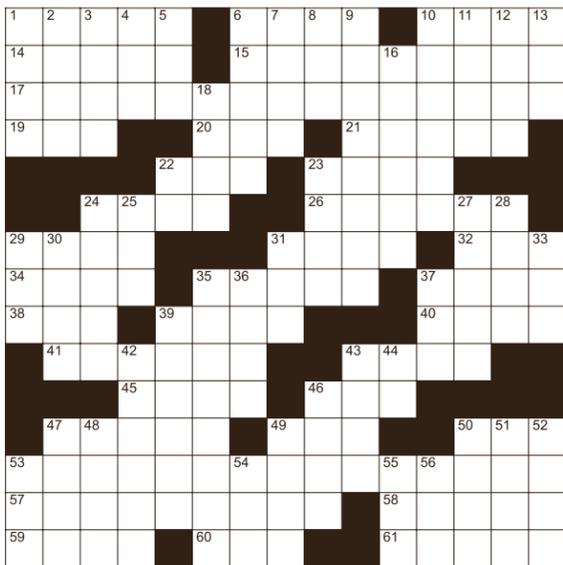
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# Puzzles

Answers to puzzles 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.)

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 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

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
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23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

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# Travel

## Tasting the flavors of the Mississippi Delta

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Newspaper reporter David Cohn is credited with the saying, “The Mississippi Delta begins in the lobby of the Peabody Hotel and ends at Catfish Row in Vicksburg.” Other sources say the Delta reaches from southern Illinois to the southeastern tip of Louisiana, covering more than three million acres. Yet, native son and author Willie Morris describes the region as “half hills, half Delta and all crazy.”

Like the region’s abundant natural resources, the Delta supports rich and diverse cultural traditions, like hunting, fishing and the Blues.

Over the centuries, American Indians, African Americans, and immigrants intermingled to form a new culture, one found only in the Delta. While the expanse might be hard to define, it offers distinctive cuisine. I decided to take a tasting tour.

I flew to Memphis and made my first stop in nearby DeSoto County, Mississippi, at Memphis BBQ. Melissa Cookston, a female pitmaster and seven-time world barbecue champion, owns the so-named restaurant. No surprise, her succulent ribs and tangy dry-rubbed

wings put me in finger-licking heaven. If you’re a BBQ fan, this restaurant is a must.

I then drove on to Greenwood to take a class at the Viking Cooking School based on the hit movie, “The Help.” Many scenes from that movie were filmed in Greenwood and those gorgeous Viking appliances are manufactured there. Rest assured, the Southern-style cornbread, greens, and chicken featured on the class menu turned out great. Thankfully, Minny’s chocolate pie did not contain any secret ingredients.



Sides at Walnut Hills Restaurant

I toured Simmons Catfish Farm to learn about farm raising the species. Personally, I never choose catfish because I consider them bottom feeders; however, farm-raised catfish feed off food sprinkled on top of the

water. To taste some, I tried a traditional local restaurant: Hines Grocery. It’s the Delta way to dine in a “grocery store restaurant” and pick up local specialties on the way out. Mmm. I was converted. One bite of the delicate, fried catfish brought juicy moistness to my mouth, yet tasted not at all fishy.

Vicksburg came next, home of the Na-

tional Park Vicksburg Battlefield, the most-visited tourist attraction in the state. But I was searching out food and let me say, I wish I could return. The fried chicken at Walnut Hills Restaurant was sublime, the best I’ve ever tasted. Seriously. Plus, the array of southern sides pushed the meal over the top.

Lastly, I ventured to the heart of the Delta, Greenville, home of the Delta Hot Tamale Festival. Tamales are traditional Delta fare made from inexpensive ingredients combined with hot sauce to stretch the budget and please the heat-loving palate. I’m not a tamale fan, but the crowds said otherwise. This festival makes an ideal place to compare various restaurants and recipes.

My final taste treat came from the 1947 original Doe’s Eat Place, famous for



Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
Catfish farming

outstanding steaks (and tamales, too), but also for its ramshackle location and unpretentious service. I can’t compare it to any other restaurant. Humble Doe’s attracted the state dignitaries who came for the festival as well as movie star Jessica Lange. They all sat at cramped tables eating off mix-matched china. Guests are served house salad from a gigantic mixing bowl. Steaks measure about seven inches thick, and I’m not exaggerating. They’re cooked under a broiler hovering around 600 degrees. You can also choose shrimp that’s swims in butter topped with a homemade dry rub. Doe’s ranks as an unforgettable dining experience.



Tamale Festival

Indeed, my trip to Mississippi became one-hundred percent crazy, but as they say, “So Delta.”

Visit [www.bylandersea.com](http://www.bylandersea.com) to read more of local travel writer Debi Lander’s stories and travel tips.

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## Nutrition Check: American Diabetes Alert Day

By Kristen Hicks-Roof, Ph.D., RDN, LDN and Marissa Schwam, B.S.  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The fourth Tuesday in March every year (this year, March 24) is American Diabetes Alert Day. This day is meant to be a “wake up call” to understand risk factors for diabetes and highlight how serious the disease is. Did you know that diabetes affects about 30.3 million Americans (9.4 percent of the population)? Diabetes is listed as the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, so it is a serious condition. According to the American Diabetes Association, diabetes prevalence has increased in the United States 382 percent since 1988.



Photo by MetroCreative

You may be thinking, what is diabetes? Diabetes is a condition that results in excess sugar in the blood. There are three main types of Diabetes: Type 1 Diabetes, Type 2 Diabetes and Gestational Diabetes. Type 2 Diabetes is the most common type of diabetes and is generally identified more in individuals who are overweight, physically inactive, older than 45 years, and/or have a family history of diabetes.

If you are at risk, how can you start making better nutrition choices to either prevent or manage your condition?

Understanding carbohydrates: A carbohydrate provides energy to the body; we need carbohydrates for fuel. Foods that contain carbohydrates include grains, fruits, vegetables, dairy and processed foods (chips, crackers, cookies, cakes etc.). It is important to control how

much carbohydrate you consume each day. Try to focus on eating fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Aim to reduce daily added sugars found in sweets, such as baked goods, candy, chips and flavored beverages (soda, sports drinks, juice).

Balance your plate: For meals, try to incorporate a protein (meat, beans, egg or tofu) and a carbohydrate (from list above); this helps to balance your blood sugar. Not every meal needs to be perfect; the goal is to improve your food selections over time.

Work with your team: Attend regular visits with your doctor or primary care office. You can opt to see a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) who can help you with planning, cooking and eating your meals and snacks. You are not alone; don't be afraid to ask for help in preventing or managing your condition.

*Kristen K. Hicks-Roof Ph.D., RDN, LDN is an assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Brooks College of Health, University of North Florida.*

## The Pantry Raiders

## Bite into pie in honor of Pi Day

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Each year on March 14, math aficionados around the world celebrate the mathematical constant known as pi, which is represented by the Greek letter “pi.” Pi relates to the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, which comes to approximately 3.14159, but goes on infinitely. The celebration date is significant because it corresponds to the first three digits of pi, or 3.14. While discussions about math and ponderings on pi in particular can fill the day, this calendar event also marks the opportunity to dig into pi's homonym ... pie. Any pie can fit the bill, but why not feast on this recipe for “Rhubarb Hand Pies” from “Simply Scratch” (Avery) by Laurie McNamara?

### Rhubarb Hand Pies

(Makes 6 pies)

- ¾ lb. fresh rhubarb, trimmed and cut into ½ inch pieces
- ½ cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1 tsp. lemon zest
- 1 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- ¼ tsp. ground ginger
- ¼ tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1 pie crust (2 discs), homemade or store-bought
- 1 large egg, beaten



Photo courtesy MetroCreative  
Rhubarb Hand Pies

Combine the rhubarb, brown sugar, lemon zest and juice, ginger, salt, and 1/4 cup water in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer for 12 to 15 minutes, or until the rhubarb mixture is thick. Remove from the heat, stir in the vanilla, then pour into a heat-safe bowl to cool completely.

Preheat the oven to 400 F. In a small bowl, combine the beaten egg with 1 tablespoon water to make an egg wash. Roll out one disc of dough to 1/8 inch thick. Use a six-inch biscuit cutter to stamp out three circles. Brush the outer edges with a little egg wash before spooning two tablespoons of the cooled rhubarb mixture onto one half of each circle. Fold the unfilled side over the filling and crimp the edges with a fork. Brush the tops of each pie with more of the egg wash. With a sharp knife, make slits in the center for ventilation and sprinkle each pie with one half teaspoon of turbinado sugar. Refrigerate. Repeat with the second disc of pie dough and remaining filling.

Bake for 15 to 18 minutes or until the crust is golden and the filling bubbling. Let the pies cool on the baking sheet for 10 minutes before transferring them to a wire rack.

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