Mandarin Middle School held an assembly to spotlight the Maple Leaf shipwreck.

Mandarin Middle School history teacher Khaki Hager recently found interest in the St. Johns River Maple Leaf shipwreck after hearing Dr. Keith Holland speak of his passion and experience as the mastermind behind the Maple Leaf recovery efforts. Hager was astonished to learn details about the ship's recovery and the artifacts still remain in the St. Johns River. It’s been determined that only 1 percent out of 800,000 pounds of cargo have been recovered thus far.

“We are proud of the longevity of our organization,” Liska said. “It’s still such a timely story, of the village, or community, of Mandarin supporting certainly the most profound event at the time, known then as the ‘Great War.’”

Liska recounted that as the Great War ended in 1918, this patriotic group’s purpose suddenly was gone. The members enjoyed being together and were also now being asked to help with other community issues. So, although it took nearly five years, the Mandarin Community Club officially formed in July 1923 with the same officers as the prior Liberty League.

The organization is not to be confused with the Mandarin Community Club building located on Mandarin Road, which was actually Mandarin’s school at the time. Liska said that in 1936 the school closed and that is when the building was given to the Mandarin Community Club organization by Ed- din Jones and Carmina Jones.

“There is a lot of history now to that building,” Liska said. “But it started with a lot of history as it was more than half a century old by the time the building was given to the Mandarin Community Club organization.”

This historic building was the site of the club’s special anniversary celebration, which was themed a silent film night to reflect the time of the original foundation of the Mandarin Community Club organization by Ed- win Jones and Carmina Jones.

“On July 27, community members came out to view three silent films, called ‘shorts’ due to their length, that featured Buster Keaton. Live music enhanced the films, just like the old days. The event was coordinated by events chair, Ellen Milligan, a Ramsgate resident.”

Liska said. “It was a really fun evening with families and children. Everyone enjoyed hot dogs and movie candy.”

Today, the Mandarin Community Club hosts a variety of events for members and the community over the course of each year, including a tree giveaway, an official U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony, and a tribute to veterans in November. The Mandarin Community Club also hosts the annual Mandarin Art Festival on Easter weekend and cosponsors the Third Thursday Lecture Series with the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society.

For more information, visit their website, www.mandarincommunityclub.org or call the Club office (268-1622).

Mandarin Community Club celebrates 95th anniversary in style

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

It was a different era in many ways when the precursor to the organization now known as the Mandarin Community Club was first formed back in 1917 — it was just prior to the United States entering what is now known as World War I. According to Club President Emily Liska, a group from Mandarin formed a Liberty League, which assisted with war efforts and other patriotic services and events.

“We are proud of the longevity of our organization,” Liska said. “It’s still such a timely story, of the village, or community, of Mandarin supporting certainly the most profound event at the time, known then as the ‘Great War.’”

Liska recounted that as the Great War ended in 1918, this patriotic group’s purpose suddenly was gone. The members enjoyed being together and were also now being asked to help with other community issues. So, although it took nearly five years, the Mandarin Community Club officially formed in July 1923 with the same officers as the prior Liberty League.

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For more information, visit their website, www.mandarincommunityclub.org or call the Club office (268-1622).
Active shooter training program offered
The Mandarin Community Club has scheduled a program, designed by law enforcement professionals and presented by the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, to train area residents on the best course of action during a shooting event. The program will be held on Thursday, Sept. 20, at the Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for this free, two-hour program featuring Sergeant Mark Crawford, a SWAT leader from JSO. The program, known by the acronym, CRASE (Civilian Response to an Active Shooter Event), is built upon strategies that include to avoid, deny and defend. These strategies include response to shooters at public events, public spaces, schools, churches, the workplace and more. Registration to reserve a seat is suggested; email mandarincommunityclub@gmail.com by Monday, Sept. 17. Call Ellen Milligan, (904) 314-3265 for more information.

Quit smoking class offered
Northeast Florida AHEC will host a local opportunity for smoking cessation. The free Tools to Quit class will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 22 at Memorial Hospital from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Attendees will receive free patches, lozenges, and gum as well as a quit plan, workbook, water bottle, stress ball and more. Call Northeast Florida AHEC at (904) 482-0189 to register and learn about more classes in the Northeast Florida area.

Mandarin Women’s Club gears up for 2017 – 2018
The Mandarin Women’s Club resumes activities after the summer at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27 with Bingo and lunch at the Ramada Inn, 3030 Hartley Road. Bingo cards are 10 for $5, and 10 games will be played. Reservations for the luncheon are required and the cost is $17 to be paid no later than Sept. 20. Call Mary at (904) 859-6299 or mcshell@comcast.net to make reservations and obtain payment instructions. The Mandarin Women’s Club is a social organization with many activities and membership is open to all ladies. Activities include Bridge, Bunco, Mexican Train, Mah Jongg, Pennies, antiquing trips, recipe exchange, daytime travel trips, lunch and dinner outings, as well as seasonal socials that include spouses. Call Geri at (904) 993-7649 or visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for information about joining.

Square dancing provides inexpensive family night out
The Mandarin Marauders Square Dance Club meets Monday nights, Sept. 10 and Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Mandarin Senior Center, 5848 Hartley Road. Square dancing allows you to meet friendly people, take your mind off the daily grind and get a little healthy exercise, all in an inexpensive manner. If you can walk, you can square dance. Contact Rick Doucette at RickandKim@bellsouth.net for more information.

Jacksonville Icemen to appear at local farmers market
Members of the Jacksonville’s hockey team the Icemen will be at the Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 11924 San Jose Blvd., on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. They will set up a portable hockey rink. There will also be many vendors with food, jewelry, coffee, plants, local honey, bath products and hair products. The farmers market is family friendly and dog friendly as long as the dog is on a leash, well behaved, and cleaned up after.

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The Jacksonville Humane Society is open 12 p.m. – 7 p.m. on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on the weekends. Call (904) 725-8766 for more information.

We’re not just your newspaper, we’re your neighbors!

Mandarin NewsLine is your Community Newspaper!
We need YOU to keep us informed about interesting community events.
Send it in!
editor@FloridaNewsLine.com
Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
First Christian Church, 1924 San Jose Blvd.
St. Johns Chapter Catholic Writers Guild
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
St. Paul’s Catholic Church school auditorium, 2609 Park St.
woodsofcom.com/outreach/catholic-writers-guild/ or writersmoorcomcast.net
Toast of Jax Toastmasters meeting
7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
Bahuí Community Center of Jacksonville, 5034 Greenland Road
www.toastofjax.com (Repeating event on Saturday)
Service Officer available
4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4260 Oldfield Crossing Drive
(904) 268-4974 (Repeats second Tuesday of each month)
Small Business Advice: “How Do I Determine My Product’s Sales Potential?”
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Mandarin Library, 3330 Kori Road
Www.mandarinlibrary.org
Mandarin Council networking luncheon
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.
(904) 262-2527
Mandarin Council networking luncheon
7 p.m.
American Legion Post 372, 4260 Oldfield Crossing Drive
(904) 297-8344 or www.mandarinalarmy.org
Mandarin Toastmasters meeting
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
South Mandarin Library, 1225 San Jose Blvd.
Mandarin toastmasters.org
Alzheimer’s Support Series for Caregivers: “Where to Turn When You Need Help!”
9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Almost Home Daybreak, 3604 Cardinal Point Dr.
RSVP to Jamie, (904) 731-4002
Cruise in hosted by Sunshine State Chevelles
4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
FDOT parking lot, 194 State Road 13
Repeating event on third Saturday of each month
Meet the Maple Leaf Divers
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Mandarin Library, 3330 Kori Road
904-733-3391
Mandarin Women’s Club BINGO
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Mandarin Women’s Club, affiliated with Stonecroft
October 10 - Count Me In Quarter Auction presented by First Coast - Jacksonville
Women’s Connection, affiliated with Stancoth
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3110 Hartley Road
RSVP: (904) 662-2636 or mihalesbrown@gmail.com
November 3 - Parking Lot Extravaganza — Fundraiser for Pet Peace of Mind Program
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Road
(904) 504-5204 to reserve a booth
November 17 - Mandarin Fall Festival and Chili Cook-Off
RiverPlace Shopping Center
Hosted by Mandarin Council of JAX Chamber
November 18 - River Garden Foundation Silver Anniversary Gala
Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, Ponte Vedra Beach
www.rivergarden.org/river-garden-gala/
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
South Mandarin Branch Library, 1225 San Jose Register at (904) 414-0007 $15 for AARP mem-
bers, $20 for non-members.
September 21 Food Trucks and Bluegrass on the River
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Episcopal Church of our Saviour, 1236 Mandarin Rd.
www.oursaviourjax.org
September 27 Live Oak Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club
7 p.m.
Mandarin Garden Club, 2822 Loretto Road
(904) 260-2764; mandaringardenclub.org
Mandarin Council monthly breakfast
8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.
www.mandarincouncil.org
Mandarin Women’s Club BINGO
Doors open 10:30 a.m.
Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3110 Hartley Road
RSVP by Sept. 20; mchele2comcast.net or
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Q: A few months ago, you floated the idea in this column about the formation of a City of Mandarin, separate from Duval County, much like Baldwin or Jacksonville Beach. Has this idea had any traction?
A: People don’t seem to have much in- terest in discussing this. I think people are satisfied with where Mandarin is today.

Q: Why do you think it might be advantageous?
A: Right now, to get any improvements to Mandarin like sidewalks or road repair, we need the mayor and a major- ity of the City Council to agree. With a separate city, the community would have local tax money to fix items now. Yes, the millage rate would probably be increased another mill, but we would have immediate response to get what we need now. We could repave Old St. Augustine Road and have more side- walks. We are doing these things now, but not fast enough. In Jacksonville, we have a huge backlog of roads needing repairs because there was a 10-year period during the recession that we weren’t able to do enough maintenance.

Q: Is there an update on the dock at County Dock?
A: I’m on this every month. My under- standing is that we will raise the dock to make it higher when it is rebuilt. The station is that we will raise the dock and also the proposed dog playground and also the proposed dog playground behind the South Mandarin Library?

Q: What is the latest on Losco Park’s playground and also the proposed dog park behind the South Mandarin Library?
A: The Losco Park playground has been a phenomenal success. We are bringing in some new equipment for younger children. It is on order and we hope to have it installed by the end of October. The playground will be set up for the enjoyment of all ages.

The Dog Park will begin construction, to include fencing to contain areas for small dogs and large dogs, in the fall and is to be completed by early 2019.

Q: Do you have any other Mandarin updates?
A: We are still dealing with issues with flooding in some neighborhoods. The Public Works department has heard the concerns and is working on solu- tions. A lot of the issues are in neighbor- hoods that are older than 1984, when new drainage requirements took effect. Some of the issues are the City of Jacksonville’s responsibility, some are the homeowners association’s and some are the individual homeowner’s responsibility. For instance, if a home is on a retention pond with no home- owners association, it is the individual homeowner’s responsibility to maintain the retention pond. Flooding is another cumulative problem due to being put off during the recession that is now coming to fruition due to the immense amounts of rain we have had this year.

I would like to say that I understand the homeowners’ frustration, but this problem has been around for a long time. We are trying to solve the im- mediate problem and the long term problem as quickly as we can. We need to identify each problem, design a solution, and get the money to fix it — and that all takes time.

Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?
A: Community members can email me at ManS@coj.net or call (904) 630-1388.

Q: What other new steps have been taken to make the schools safer?
A: Many schools have added extensive fencing for security measures. Ad- ditionally, Mandarin Middle School had a buzzer entry installed, so now all schools have a single point of entry with a buzzer. Parents/guardians are reminded to bring identification and sign in at the front office of their child’s school. All schools have locked doors which require visitors to be buzzed in.

Q: Were you able to visit any of the District 7 schools on the first day?
A: I was at Loretto Elementary on the first day, and the parents I interacted with were pleased with the additional fencing and new parent pick-up signs for their cars that hang on the rear view mirror. Additionally, I visited all schools and principals prior to the first day of school and took a lucky bamboo plant for each principal’s desk.

Q: What would you like to say about the school and district grades released by the state over the summer?
A: The Duval County Public School district is only one percentage point from becoming an A district. That means we are 11 points away. All schools in District 7 are A and B schools, which outperform schools in St. Johns County. I think our commu- nications should be proud of the schools in District 7.

Q: Do you have any other items to share with our readers in District 7?
A: I would like to advise parents to take the time to review the Constitu- tional Amendments that will be on the November ballot. Amendment 8 does impact home rule for our schools. Anyone interested in staying abreast of legislation impacting education who would like to be on our mailing list should email me at HersheyL@du- valschools.org.

Also, I realize the school year just started, but it is never too early to investigate Duval County options for school choice for middle school and high school. There is a lot of informa- tion available on our website, www. duvalschools.org, or readers can contact me to learn more.

Q: How can our readers contact you?
A: I invite everyone in District 7 to join me for a Community Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 20 from 6 p.m. – at Mandarin Oaks Elementary. Also, you can email me at HersheyL@duvalschools.org or call me at (904) 316-3609.
Q: Why haven’t they finished the noise wall on I-295 behind Mandarin High School? The road noise is very loud during the day and I don’t understand why all these other areas have the wall built, but not the wall behind my house.

A: We reached out to Hampton Ray, Public Information Officer for the Florida Department of Transportation. Here is his response:

“The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) follows Florida Statute 335.17 and Code of Federal Regulations 23 CFR 772 concerning the construction of noise walls. During the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study, conducted in 2013, FDOT evaluated the feasibility and potential environmental impacts for the proposed I-295 project. A traffic noise study was conducted as part of this effort to identify potential noise impacts and recommend abatement measures if warranted. As part of this effort, three public meetings were held to discuss the project and obtain input from stakeholders on the proposed project including the noise abatement recommendations.

“Using data collected from the surrounding areas on the corridor and computer modeling during the PD&E study it was determined that a barrier at this location could not be considered reasonable. Due to the findings in this study, there are no plans to extend the barrier in front of Mandarin High School.”

Q: What is the latest update on the Mandarin Senior Center’s proposed addition?

A: The design of the addition is currently underway. The additional space will allow more room for creative programming. The construction is slated to begin in early 2019.

Q: What can you tell us about the proposed dog park behind the South Mandarin Branch Library?

A: The Parks Department is working on this plan and we expect it to be operational later this year. This will be an off-leash dog park, with a 17,000 square foot contained area for large dogs and a 5,200 square foot contained area for small dogs. There will also be an asphalt trail around the perimeter of the park, which includes a large retention pond. The dog park part of the park will be away from residential areas with plenty of buffer and the park will be not be open at night.

Q: Do you have any other Mandarin updates?

A: The Hood Landing boat ramp is now open for use, following improvements to the parking and the docks. The Lescro Park playground is also now open.

Q: It seems that some Mandarin residents have had an issue with trash pickup lately?

A: Yes, we have had a number of calls on this matter, but it is being resolved. There were a series of delayed pickups due to Waste Pro trucks breaking down and a temporary staff shortage. But everything is caught up and back on schedule. In the future, I would encourage residents who have issues like this to call 630-CITY immediately so that an actionable “ticket” is created. This is then easily trackable by the public works and solid waste departments as well as the hauling company, which should lead to a quicker resolution of issues.

Q: October 1 marks the 50th anniversary of the consolidation of the City of Jacksonville. What is planned to mark this occasion?

A: Marc Carlucci and Earl Johnson, Jr. are spearheading this effort, which will include a series of activities taking place over the next month. Among other things, there will be a special video production on the history of Consolidation and exhibits and displays in the rotunda at City Hall. The anniversary will conclude with an evening event at the Jesse Ball DuPont building downtown and will include speakers Earl Johnson, Rick Mullaney and a keynote to the future by Mayor Curry.

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

A: They can email me at THazouri@coj.net or call (984) 630-1396.

Q&A with Jacksonville City Council Member Tommy Hazouri (At Large District 3)
With bursts of natural light and views to the outdoors, River Garden’s 5,500 sq. ft. therapy gym provides a well-equipped, healing environment for those recovering from illness or injury. Our team of certified and licensed physical, occupational and speech-language therapists deliver highly personalized, one-on-one care that will challenge you to reach your full potential.

The historic 1875 Webb farmhouse will be open for tours, as well as the Losco Winery and the 1876 Barn — all located within the farmstead area of the park. You may view the Wheeler Sawmill, the sugar cane grinder, the agricultural equipment in the barn and the wine making equipment in the winery.

The farmhouse, furnished with items from the Walter Jones family and period pieces from the early part of the 20th century, allows visitors to visualize what life was like in our then sleepy little village called Mandarin. Life before electricity, before automobiles and paved roads, and before indoor plumbing! Life when it was peaceful and quiet and you knew all of your neighbors.

Let your imagination take you on a journey back in time as you stroll through the beautiful park. Picture the steamboats coming up the St. Johns and arriving at the wharf with your mail and dry goods, and imagine the screaming whistle of the Maple Leaf as it hit a Confederate mine and went to the bottom of the river.

Mandarin Museum & Historical Society is located at 11964 Mandarin Road in the Walter Jones Historical Park. All buildings will be open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net or call (904) 268-0784 for more information.
Flynn Houses, Part 1

Sandy roads and a small, close-knit community was how one would describe Mandarin back in the day. What we now know as San Jose Boulevard was just a two lane road then. Today, the thought of taking a school wagon is crazy to imagine, but that was how Mandarinites rolled during the early 20th Century. A structure tucked away at the intersection of Flynn and Lorettro roads gives us a peek back in time and from 1909 to 1958 it was known as Flynn’s General Store.

James J. Flynn, a descendant of one of Mandarin’s pioneer families, and his wife Clara (Hartley), opened up a typical country general store there. Their house, built in 1906, is still standing two doors east. James’s son, Theodore “T.J.” Flynn, assisted his father with running the store. The store sold items from feed and fertilizer to produce and meat.

Before the creation of a bridge, our neighbors in St. Johns County used to row across the river, then walk two miles to get to Flynn’s business. Theodore would commonly give these customers a ride back on the family’s horse and wagon.

Theodore would also ride the wagon to retrieve store supplies from the steamboat “May Garners.” Flynn’s father would order gasoline in 55-gallon drums. Not only was Flynn’s store the first feed and hardware store in the area, it was also the first to sell gas. Back then, 55 gallons would last the store 30 days, easily.

In fact, James owned the first Model T-Ford in Mandarin. Trimmed in brass, this vehicle was Mandarin’s taxi — regularly taking folks who wished to travel by land to St. Augustine or Jacksonville. Theodore would ride with his father to South Jacksonville to buy a huge ice block, and with a nickel, the young Flynn would buy himself some ice cream.

In 1929, the original store burned to the ground. It was rebuilt and run by Clara and Theodore after the death of James in 1939. In 1946 Theodore bought it and ran it at this location until 1958, which is when he built a new store and home on San Jose Boulevard.

Look for Part 2 in the October issue of Mandarin NewsLine, featuring the Flynn store as most remember it in the mid-20th century.

(Author’s Note: Most of the information was taken from previous news articles and quotes of Theodore Flynn.)

Brett Nolan is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net for more information about Mandarin’s history.

The 50th annual Mandarin Art Festival has been voted as one of 200 Best Festivals in the United States by Sunshine Artist. As a premier art and craft show magazine, Sunshine Artist is a leading national publication for art and craft show exhibitors, promoters and patrons. The publication polls artists annually to determine which shows were the most popular with exhibitors and patrons.

The Mandarin Art Festival, founded and hosted by the Mandarin Community Club, is the oldest continually running show in Northeast Florida and maintains a solid commitment to organizing and presenting a top quality fine art and fine craft show each year. Over the years tens of thousands of guests have strolled under the oaks of the historic Community Club grounds to view the artwork of dozens of local and nationally known artists and enjoy the weekend festivities.

Coordinated and manned by a team of dedicated volunteers for 50 years, the event has been an Easter weekend tradition for many generations of Mandarin residents. Dozens of community-minded volunteers work diligently to help make the show possible year after year and new volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to become a part of the single largest annual community event in Mandarin.

The unique location for an outdoor festival, under the majestic oaks of Mandarin Road, combined with the level of hospitality and quality of the show, continues to be a draw for an array of exhibitors. This 200 Best honor will no doubt bring new artist exhibitors, local and nationally known, to the show as they vie for acceptance into the juried show.

In addition to providing the resources needed to produce and promote this long-running tradition, proceeds from the festival are directed toward community programs provided by the Mandarin Community Club throughout the year and for the upkeep of its historic structures. The historic club on Mandarin Road is a non-profit identified as the oldest civic organization in Jacksonville. Plan now to be a part of this tradition as a volunteer or a sponsor/business partner. Visit mandarinartfestival.org or mandarincommunityclub.org to learn more.
Caring is contagious at River Garden

The desire to make the world a better place lives in the hearts of River Garden leadership, staff and volunteers — whose values develop from their faith foundation, and that guide daily care and work practices. River Garden residents, too, embrace and magnify this spirit.

On Aug. 23, the River Garden Resident Council, led by Betty Infeld, presented a $500 check to Pine Castle, a Jacksonville-based organization serving adults with intellectual and other differences. Pine Castle will also receive a matching donation from the Delores Barr Weaver Fund. The funds will be used to make improvements to the Pine Castle campus.

“We are fortunate to have wonderful support and spaces at River Garden to enjoy our days and we want to share with others who may be in need,” said Infeld. “It’s about community and having an impact. That’s important to us. Pine Castle is working to create jobs, promote independence and develop a sense of worth for many, and they need help. This gives us the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.”

This is the largest donation ever given by the Resident Council, which raises its funds through bake sales, ceramics sales and other small fundraisers. The matching-fund program will help do more than the council could do alone. All programs at Pine Castle support a single goal: empowering adults to learn, work and connect. Visit pinecastle.org/donate/weaverchallenge for more information about the matching funds program launched in April 2018. For more information about River Garden services or volunteer programs, visit rivergarden.org or contact Kari Bell at (904) 260-1818.

Jacksonville symphony opens 2018-2019 season with Branford Marsalis

The Jacksonville Symphony will begin its 2018-2019 season with the second annual Fanfare! Opening Night featuring works by John Williams and Heitor Villa Lobos, both of which will serve as bookends for the 2018-2019 season.

Branford Marsalis was again invited to join them as soloist in their 2010-2011 concert series. In 2015, Marsalis raised the bar once again when he took on the challenging Saxophone Concerto by composer John Adams, performing the piece with the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Edwin Outwater. The fall of 2016 saw Branford returning to Louisiana where he was invited to be a guest soloist with the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra, presenting works by John Williams and Heitor Villa Lobos, both of which will be included in the evening’s performance.

Tickets can be purchased at www.jacksonvillesymphony.org or by contacting the Ticket Office at (904) 354-5547.

Hospital certified as Level II Trauma Center

Memorial Hospital has received final approval from the Florida Department of Health affirming the hospital has earned its spot as a certified Level II Trauma Center. The news comes after the Florida Department of Health adopted recommendations by an administrative law judge who ruled Memorial Hospital’s trauma center application met the applicable standards.

“We are delighted that the state has recognized the hard work, specialized training and life-saving care that we’ve been able to provide to our patients who have come to us when they need us most,” said Dr. Michael Samorowski, Trauma Medical Director at Memorial Hospital. “As caregivers, we know every minute matters in the golden hour following a trauma and this ruling allows us to continue to provide life-saving care to people in our community.”

Following a state survey in February, the Department of Health gave what is known as “provisional” approval for Memorial to open a trauma center. Since that time Memorial has treated nearly 2,000 trauma patients.

As a Level II trauma center, Memorial Hospital provides 24-hour immediate access to a dedicated operating room for trauma patients and specially-trained surgeons, specialists and staff to treat critically-injured patients. Treating trauma patients effectively means having the right level of expertise with a team specifically-trained to handle major medical emergencies. It also means having the support of elected officials and EMS partners.

Earlier this year Governor Rick Scott signed a bill changing a longstanding state law capping the number of trauma centers allowed in the state. The bill changes the number of trauma service areas from 19 to 18 and allows up to five centers in each area. Lawmakers passed a measure this year aimed at resolving most of the disputes, but the Memorial case continued until late July when the state issued a Certificate of Approval to Memorial Hospital granting approval as a Level II Trauma Center.

Social group seeks members

The Southside Newcomers Club offers a wide variety of fun activities to women who are long time residents of Jacksonville, have had a lifestyle change or just want to make new friends. Groups and activities include Bridge, Bunco, Canasta, day trips, dining out, book groups, headings, movies, Mah Jongg, lunching at various locations, and more.

Coffee or breakfast is held at Mimi’s Cafe on St. Johns Town Center on the first Monday of every month to learn more about the club and monthly luncheons are held at various country clubs with different programs each month. Membership dues for this social group are $30 per year. Contact stnmc84@gmail.com for more information.

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Calculate home energy use, tour tiny house at library

By Olga Bayer
mail@fordarealvines.com

Home Energy Kits: Refurbished and ready to go, JEA Home Energy Evaluation Kits can now be checked out at your Mandarin and South Mandarin branch libraries. The handy backpack contains special thermometers, a Kill A Watt meter, calculator, shower timer and other tools, along with instructions and information to find out where your home is consuming the most energy, how you can reduce consumption and lower costs. Put a backpack on hold by searching “JEA Kit” in the catalog at jaxpubliclibrary.org and swing by the library to pick it up.

Tiny House Tour: Tiny houses are a big deal! But a tiny house with a real piano bed is almost unheard of. Don’t miss your chance to see it when you get up close to a real tiny house during the Tiny House Talk and Tour at Mandarin library Sept. 15 at 11 a.m. Local resident and historian Sherry Robbins will present the story of her involvement with and love for authentic Civil War-inspired Victorian tiny home that she designed, furnished, and lives in today.

Science Fair Help: It’s back to school, and lives in today. Shorty Robbins will present the story of her involvement with and love for authentic Civil War-inspired Victorian tiny home that she designed, furnished, and lives in today.

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Teen Advisory Board: The library has a novel idea for students who need to complete their school’s requirement for volunteer credit hours. Teen Advisory Board is a great opportunity for middle and high school students to participate and share ideas for future programs at the library — and accrue volunteer hours. Teens aged 12 – 18 are welcome at the Teen Advisory Board meetings at South Mandarin Branch Library Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. or Mandarin Branch Library Sept. 26 at 6 p.m.

ARTrageous: To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, South Mandarin will host ARTrageous: Lively Latin Beat Sept. 26 from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. School age kids can explore their creative side through art and culture as they learn about musician Tito Puente and the magic of mambo, and singer Celia Cruz, known as the Queen of Salsa.

Beachwalk’s centerpiece Crystal Lagoons® amenity completed

Beachwalk developer John Kinsey adds final gallon to Beachwalk lagoon.

“Some said it wouldn’t happen,” said Kinsey of the largest man-made lagoon in the country. “I think today, with the filling of the lagoon, we have silenced the doubters. There’s nothing else like it in Northeast Florida.”

Set against a white lining, the lagoon has taken on the natural turquoise hue that will deepen to a “Caribbean” blue. The sparkling waters are surrounded by a 100-foot white-sand beach with wavy palms and winding footpaths.

Beachwalk is part of the New Twin Creeks Planned Unit Development, a designated 3,000-acre Development of Regional Impact on both sides of County Road 210 across U.S. 1 from the western border of Nocatee. Kinsey’s group has owned the site for 13 years.

The community features a Caribbean, metal-roof homes, Bermuda grass, and every type of palm tree that will grow well in North Florida. In addition to the lagoon, Beachwalk will feature water slides, a miniature golf course and a 2,500 square-foot splash park for dogs. A planned clubhouse has been styled after one seen at a multi-billion-dollar Caribbean beach and golf resort.

Residents will be able to swim, paddle kayaks, or stroll along a boardwalk.

“The whole community really is walkable,” Kinsey said. “You really can walk to the beach.”

Beachwalk will have nearly 800 homes at build-out. Construction at Beachwalk includes single-family homes and twin villas on the lagoon by homebuilders AmeriCrest Luxury Homes, Lennar and Vintage Estate Homes.

The developer is investing $35 million to widen County Road 210 from two to six lanes and provided two school sites to the St. Johns County School District. Of Beachwalk’s 1,200, 500 are set aside for preserve.

Visit www.mybeachwalkhome.com for more information.

Hosted by Mandarin Community Club

CRASE
Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events

Active Shooter Training Program
C.R.A.S.E.
September 20th at 7 p.m.

Plan NOW to attend this important 2-hour program offered by the Mandarin Community Club to provide awareness of how to respond in an active shooter situation. The program is facilitated by Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office and is built upon the Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD) strategy. The facilitator will talk about making decisions in the stressful situation of a shooting. Limited Q&A follows the 2-hour program.

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**Atlantica Isles**  
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Coastal contemporary twin villas located along both ends of the Crystal Lagoon bring the beach to your backyard. Each of the eight offered floorplans come standard with luxury finishes.

- 2,653-3,073 square feet
- Bedrooms: 3-4
- Bathrooms: 2.5-3.5

**The Cove**  
*Pricing from the high – $400’s*

Centrally located, The Cove is steps away from Beachwalk’s most desired amenities. Seven thoughtfully designed West Indies-style single-family floorplans provide the ultimate beach-inspired living experience.

- 2,502-3,511 square feet
- Bedrooms: 3-4
- Bathrooms: 2.5-3.5

**Dorado**  
*Pricing from $396,990’s – $505,990’s*

Located along the North end of Beachwalk, Dorado will feature seven spacious floorplans equipped with the latest features in luxury, technology and efficiency.

- 2,336-3,417 square feet
- Bedrooms: 3-4
- Bathrooms: 2.5-4.5

**The Reef**  
*Pricing from $311,990’s – $381,990’s*

Tucked away on the West end, The Reef provides residents with luxurious homes that are just a short golf cart ride away from the community’s abundant amenities. There will be seven single-family floorplans to choose from.

- 1,640-2,298 square feet
- Bedrooms: 3
- Bathrooms: 2.5

**Seaside Estates**  
*Pricing from $429,990*

Nested along the Northeast end of Beachwalk, Seaside Estates will feature coastal and contemporary homes situated on oversized lots. There are 18 floorplans to choose from that are in close proximity to the community’s many amenities!

- 3,098-4,396 square feet
- Bedrooms: 3-5
- Bathrooms: 3-5

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Although there are a variety of theories behind the growing obesity problem plaguing North American adults and children, the most consistent findings point to caloric intake as the culprit. Here’s a simple equation to get to the root of the problem:

Calories eaten > calories spent = weight gain.

According to National Health Examination Surveys, adult obesity trends in the United States between 1976 and 2014 indicate the percentage of the adult population classified as obese has roughly doubled to more than 38 percent in the last three decades. Children are not immune. Recent findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate one in five school-aged children eats more than one-fourth of kids’ daily caloric intake comes from snacking. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says schools across the country are working hard to improve school nutrition. Here’s how parents and school districts can help make school lunches more nutritious and delicious and lower in calories.

• Control snack intake. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say parents should read the nutritional information to make sure they know exactly what their children are eating. Select foods that contain no more than 200 calories. Foods that are low in saturated fats and cholesterol and high in fiber and nutrient-rich fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes.

• Go with water. Rethinking beverage choices can help control kids’ caloric intake. Many people don’t realize just how many calories beverages add to their daily intake. Even a six-ounce, 100-percent apple juice can include as many as 96 calories. Sodas and other soft drinks pack a hefty caloric punch. Water, seltzer and unsweetened iced tea are healthy beverage options. If milk is the go-to beverage, choose a reduced-fat version.

• Introduce new foods. Children can be notoriously picky eaters, but with patience and perseverance, parents can introduce new, healthy foods at lunchtime. Yogurt, hummus and salsa are healthy and can add flavor to vegetables and fruit. When making sandwiches, exchange refined breads for whole-grain varieties. Choose lean protein sources, and go heavy on vegetables and fruits for natural fiber, which will create feelings of satiety.

• Read the school menu. Let children indulge in ordering from the school menu when healthy options are featured. Urge them to try something new and go heavy on vegetables and fruits for natural fiber, which will create feelings of satiety.

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Whitehurst Campus
Wed, Nov. 7, 9-11 a.m.
Tue, Nov. 27, 6-8 p.m.

Bartram Campus
Tue, Nov. 6, 9-11 a.m.
Thu, Nov. 8, 6-8 p.m.

San Jose Campus
Fri, Oct. 5, 8 a.m.
Fri, Nov. 2, 8 a.m.
Fri, Dec. 7, 8 a.m.

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Whitehurst Pre-K-3
Bartram 6-8
San Jose 9-12

Day and Boarding School from Pre-K through Grade 12.
Students may need some time to adjust at the beginning of a new school year. Summer vacations typically lack the structure of the school year, and it might be unfair to expect kids to seamlessly slip back into their more regimented lives as students.

While some early school year sluggishness might be normal, that should wear off pretty quickly. If not, and students appear to be struggling to get motivated for their schoolwork, parents can try various strategies that should help reignite youngsters’ passions for learning.

- Make your home more school-friendly. Summer is a relaxing time of year when parents have a tendency to relax rules around the house. But come the school year, parents must make sure their homes are conducive to studying as possible. Keep the home quiet so students are not distracted from their studies. Keep the home quiet so students are motivated to focus on their studies.

- Express an interest in the subjects children are studying. Another way to motivate students at the dawn of a new school year is to express an interest in the subjects they’re studying. Ask questions about their studies and encourage them to share their thoughts and opinions. Engaging students about the subjects they’re studying can motivate them to explore those subjects more deeply than they otherwise might.
Susie Marshall

Susie Marshall is a Jacksonville native who has enjoyed living in the Mandarin area since 1973. She graduated from Lee High School and then Florida State University with a degree in elementary education. Marshall served in the Duval County school system for over 40 years. She passionately worked inside the classroom and later in her career, she worked with community education and as supervisor over all extended day programs. Marshall is currently serving her second term as president of the Mandarin Women’s Club, an honor in which she takes great pride and joy. She also gives her time volunteering with hospice care. With her daughter, son-in-law and grandson living nearby, Marshall loves spending time with her family.

1. What do you enjoy most about living in Mandarin? The choices available for everything. I really enjoy everything about Mandarin.

2. What aspect of the Mandarin Women’s Club mostly keeps you motivated to stay involved and serve as president? I really enjoy the club. I like the efficient women and I appreciate all the different things they do to run the organization. The friends I’ve made mean a lot to me and I really enjoy all of the activities we do together.

3. What do you enjoy doing outside of your volunteer work? I stay involved in Mandarin United Methodist Church. I’ve traveled a lot and I like being outside. I play Mexican Train and other games with the ladies at the Women’s Club and I love spending time with my 11-year-old grandson. I also read a lot. John Grisham, Fannie Flagg and David Baldacci are a few of my favorite authors. I’m blessed to still meet up with my high school friends often for fun.

4. What would you consider your greatest accomplishment thus far? Well, just a few years ago, I got a tattoo on my shoulder. It’s a trinity symbol because I feel strongly in my Christian beliefs. I’m a good ol’ Southern girl and it’s not something I ever planned on doing, but it means a lot to me now.

5. What is something that most people don’t know about you? Well, just a few years ago, I got a tattoo on my shoulder. It’s a trinity symbol because I feel strongly in my Christian beliefs. I’m a good ol’ Southern girl and it’s not something I ever planned on doing, but it means a lot to me now.

Get to Know . . .

Interested in being featured? Email Martie Thompson at editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

Maple Leaf shipwreck cont. from pg. 1

Leaf was sunk by a Confederate mine on April 1, 1864. Approximately 42 people were on board and four of them were killed. The steamboat was under contract to the U.S. Army, and had belongings of the 112th and 169th Regiment of New York Volunteers and the 13th Indiana Regiment en route from Folly Island, S.C., to Jacksonville. In 1984, Holland’s brother-in-law, an avid diver, went down into the murky water to find that the main deck of the Maple Leaf was buried under six to eight feet of mud. Although the mud would bring additional challenges to the efforts of the divers, Holland was well aware that what was buried deeper would also be better preserved. After receiving a four year grant in 1994, the Maple Leaf wreckage became a historical landmark and the divers went on to recover a tremendous amount of cargo from the ship, yet so much still remains left to be revealed.

Hager and Dr. Holland have spent time together in Washington in an effort to draw more attention to the history of the Maple Leaf and the need to research the site more.

“I figured what better place to start spreading the word about the Maple Leaf than at Mandarin Middle School. I started surveying students and the Maple Leaf was not the known historic topic. It should be to Mandarin residents. We want to make Maple Leaf a household name,” Hager said.

Along with the extensive help of Dr. Holland, Hager organized a school assembly.
"Kiss Me Kate" is basically Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew," adapted for the stage by Jeremy Sams and featuring music and lyrics by Cole Porter ... and audiences at Alhambra Theatre and Dining are in for a double treat with this rollicking battle of the sexes. The music and lyrics are integrated into the script (Porter's response to Rodgers & Hammerstein's shows) and the play became Porter's biggest hit with more than 1,000 performances on Broadway. It won the first-ever Tony for Rodgers & Hammerstein's shows.)

The story is actually a play-within-a-play about actors touring with the stage version of "The Taming of the Shrew." The characters switch back and forth between their names and their Shakespearean counterparts. The lead roles are portrayed impressively by Christopher Sanders and Traci Bair, as divorced couple Fred Graham and Lilli Vanessi who star as "Petruchio" and "Katharine." Despite their failed personal relationship, they find themselves drawn to each other. Add in Fred's dalliance with ingenuous Lois Lane/"Bianca," portrayed by Lauren Robinson, and her gambler boyfriend, Bill Calhoon/"Lucentino," played by Matthew Alexander, as well as two mafia hit men who come to collect Bill's gambling debt from an unsuspecting Fred (Bill signed Fred's name on an IOU) and what ensues is a comedic case of misunderstandings.

Backstage antics of the cast spill over into the on-stage performance of "The Taming of the Shrew," with hilarious asides by the actors during their ad libbing.

Porter's music provides a showcase for powerhouse vocals by Sanders and Bair as their Fred and Lilli personas. Bair as Lilli shows her vocal range and comedic delivery with "I Hate Men" and Sanders as Petruchio brings the house down with "Where is the Life that Late I Led?" Robinson as Bianca leads a suggestive rendition of "Tom, Dick or Harry" with suitors Gremio, Hortensio and Lucentio that will have adult audience members chuckling.

The clever lyrics in "Brush Up Your Shakespeare," performed by the two gangsters (Joshua McKinney and Joey Swift) are sure to bring laughs and finally a sigh of disappointment when the two are finally, literally, dragged off the stage.

The ensemble numbers are also highlights. "Another Op'nin, Another Show" at the start of the first act and "Too Darn Hot" at the beginning of the second act allow the company to strut their stuff to James Kinney's pulsating choreography.

Executive Chef DeJuan Roy has imagined another themed menu to accompany this show. Diners have their choice of chilled cucumber bisque or Caprese salad to start, followed by entree choices of southern style pepper steak, BBQ chicken, scallops carbonara or vegetable kabob with tofu. Save room for refreshing raspberry sorbet with a Meyer lemon cookie or Key Lime pie for dessert.

"Kiss Me Kate" will be on stage at Alhambra Theatre and Dining through Sept. 9. Visit www.alhambrajax.com to buy tickets.

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**Leg pain? 5 symptoms you shouldn't ignore**

Pain, aching, numbness or heaviness in your legs could be symptoms of peripheral artery disease (PAD). The condition is caused by a lack of blood flow due to narrowed or blocked blood vessels.

The good news is you don’t have to live with leg pain. If you notice these symptoms, our physicians at Baptist Heart Specialists can help:

1. Leg pain when walking
2. Sores or wounds on the toes, feet or legs that heal slowly or not at all
3. A pale or bluish color to the skin
4. A lower temperature in one leg compared to the other
5. Poor toenail growth and decreased hair growth on the legs

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904.720.0799
Jacksonville Mammoglams flock Florence, Italy

By Elaine Onos
mail@fordonlinewire.com

The Mammoglams of Jacksonville joined other Florida breast cancer dragon boat teams in Florence, Italy, July 6 – 8 as participants in the 2018 International Breast Cancer Participatory Dragon Boat Festival. The team survivors in Sync from Sarasota came in 4th in the international event.

Dragon boats are 40 feet long and are powered by 20 paddlers, a drummer and a steers. Paddlers must concentrate to stay in sync in order to achieve maximum speed.

Research on the sport of dragon boating for breast cancer survivors indicates there are both physical and psychosocial positive effects on paddlers. Dragon boating has prompted more studies to be conducted on the psychosocial effects for emotional support and camaraderie. It is a common way for exercising, participating in a sport, and supporting one another.

The Florence event began with a parade of athletes winding through the neighborhoods and across the famous Ponte Vecchio Bridge. The Mammoglams were a crowd favorite, walking with various sizes of flamingos, flocking Florence.

The races were held on the Arno River over two days with each team racing twice a day for 500 meters. The team with 20 paddlers, a drummer, and a steersperson must be survivors.

Each team represented exchanged pins, bracelets, or team shirts as thousands of days with over two flamingos, with a favorite, a crowd participant in the event exchanging personal stories and challenges from breast cancer.

The culminating event is known as the flower ceremony. The five finalist boats paddle together with the remaining boats which were composed of one selected member from each team. The boats pull in together as one, drummers roll the ending, and flowers are tossed into the river to signify those missing or lost to breast cancer. The banks are lined in pink, with each member wearing the same shirt provided as part of registration.

The participatory race is held every four years. Within the next couple of years, a location will be announced for the 2022 event somewhere in the world. The Mammoglams will begin active recruitment for new team members to fill the next boat and fundraising.

On Sept. 22, 2018 the Jacksonville Dragon Boat Festival will be held at Metropoli Park. The annual event supports the Pink which helps to provide and meet the needs of our city’s breast cancer patients. The Mammoglams will be part of the breast cancer races and they invite you to visit their pink tent and cheer for them.

Jacksonville Herb Society moves to Mandarin Garden Club

By Diana Oennder
mail@fordonlinewire.com

The Jacksonville Herb Society recently moved to the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 6 p.m.

The Jacksonville Herb Society offers a variety of programs for the beginner to the enthusiast. After members or guest speakers present informative discussions on a variety of herb-related subjects, there is a raffle and covered-dish lunch. Some subjects presented have included: propagation of herbs, how to harvest, preserve and cook with herbs, herbs as natural remedies, herbs as natural insect control, herbs in arts and crafts, making vinegars with herbs, butterfly plants and gardens, hydroponic herb gardening, and sleep and herbs. The society also produces a monthly newsletter that provides informative local information about herbs.

The club is dedicated to promoting the understanding and use of herbs in the following ways:

• By exploring old and new uses of herbs for food, health and beauty
• By exploring old and new uses of herbs in fragrance, crafts and landscaping
• By providing encouragement, support and information on conditions and techniques of growing herbs in Northeast Florida
• By acting as a plant and see exchange for members
• By encouraging research, preservation, and use of local wild herbs and herb lore
• By providing information on supply resources for herb plants and materials.

Annual dues are $12.50. Visit www.jacksonvilleherbsociety.com for more information.

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*APY: Annual Percentage Yield

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(From US-1 go South on San Jose Blvd. 1/2 mile on right)

NO pets allowed.

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Warm Black Bean Salsa
(Makes about 3 cups)

14- to 19-ounce can of no-salt-added black beans, drained
1 cup drained no-salt-added diced canned tomatoes
4 green onions, finely chopped
2 roasted jalapeño, seeded and diced, or 1 chipotle pepper in adobo sauce
1 tsp. pureed garlic
1 tsp. finely grated lime zest
2 tbsp. freshly squeezed lime juice
2 cups shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese
Finely chopped green onions
1 roasted peppers (poblano or sweet), peeled and diced

In slow cooker stoneware, combine beans, tomatoes, green onions, poblano, jalapeño and diced tomatoes

This month’s Catch of the Month photo is of six year old Collins, who caught this shellcracker on a warm July afternoon in Julington Creek Plantation near the golf course.

Every spring, summer, and fall, the majority of our area fishing depends greatly on the weather. Neighborhood lakes and ponds require a certain amount of rainfall to help maintain healthy water levels. Area creeks and tributaries also need a certain amount of yearly rainfall to help ward off saltwater intrusion that helps them remain as the freshwater fishery that they are. And then there is the St. Johns River. For us, it’s our favorite area fishing grounds, but in reality, it serves as a 310-mile long drain for much of the central and upper eastern half of the state of Florida.

The 2,000 square mile St. Johns River Basin is similar to that of the Florida Everglades, being made up of low marshy wetlands that extend as far south as Indian River and Okeechobee counties. With an approximate drop in elevation of just 30 feet from its beginning to where it empties into the Atlantic at Mayport, the slow moving river drains at speeds of less than a half mile per hour. Any rainfall within miles of its banks or basin is all destined to flow through our area fishery on its way to the ocean. Unfortunately for us, this excessive flow of freshwater has a direct effect on the salinity of the river water, which usually provides us the brackish water needed.

This year’s overabundance of normal rainfall throughout much of the state has helped maintain a steady drain of freshwater into the river, pushing back our normally brackish water fishing grounds. With the brackish lines being pushed back as far north as downtown Jacksonville, we have pretty much been left with a freshwater river for most of our area fishing.

In years past it is usually some sort of a tropical system that brings on a heavy flush of the river. It disrupts fishing for a while, but then conditions return to normal. This year, because of the continuous onslaught of above normal rainfall, any type of recovery that we may have expected has been nonexistent. Of course this year is not over yet, as we easily have well into September for conditions to change and a turnaround to take place. Who knows? Maybe after all this rain we can still be in for a fabulous autumn of fishing. It would certainly be nice.

Fishing Report: Very good freshwater bream and catfish bite. Worms for the bream, try chicken livers for the cats. Sporadic shrimping. Yellowmouth trout and bream, try chicken livers for the cats. With the brackish system usually nonexistent. Of course this year is not equal to normal. It disrupts fishing for a while, but then conditions return to normal. This year, because of the continuous onslaught of above normal rainfall, any type of recovery that we may have expected has been nonexistent. Of course this year is not over yet, as we easily have well into September for conditions to change and a turnaround to take place. Who knows? Maybe after all this rain we can still be in for a fabulous autumn of fishing. It would certainly be nice.

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This seems like a simple question, but it's an important one, because soil — rather than "dirt" — can be considered the basis of all life. Whether it is the sands of the sea shore and deserts, or the thick alluvial muds of grand rivers like the Mississippi, soils harbor and support millions of tiny organisms or microbes — animal, vegetable, and fungal. They form a community of creatures that we are oblivious to, but which are vital to soil fertility and its ability to support the plant life on which we depend.

We have come a long way since the advent of industrial farming, but it's a relatively recent development. Once considered to be the scientific answer to feeding increasing numbers of people, which it certainly does, some growers are opting to use organic farming methods, aiming specifically at protecting and building up soil fertility without the use of synthetic fertilizers derived from petroleum: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/AG/AG24600.pdf. It is worth looking at our own practices to see if we can be kinder to our soil and nourish those unseen microbes.

As summer progresses, grass seems to grow ever quicker and taller, and needs mowing at least once a week. By cutting off no more than one-third of its height, we can leave the grass trimmings on the lawn and in the heat and rain they will quickly decompose, returning nitrogen and other elements to the soil. Leaves drop throughout the year, but not so much in summer and, with the exception of southern magnolia leaves, they can be shredded while mowing with no need for raking.

For flower beds and vegetable gardens, return as much weedy debris to the soil when still immature before sowing the next food crop (https://tinyurl.com/y8v73rxv). The soil structure remains relatively intact and nutrients are recycled directly back into the field. In our gardens we can cut off and compost the top growth of annuals and leave the roots in the ground, adding mulch to keep beds tidy. With minimal soil disturbance the beneficial web of fungal mycelium — the underground part of fungi — is left undisturbed to continue doing its job, which includes processing nutrients and making them available to growing plants. Beans and other legumes are among the plants that have symbiotic relationships with particular species of mycelia, and adding a commercially available bean inoculant to the soil at planting time is an effective way to boost productivity.

In the home garden, another way to boost organic matter is to grow a cover crop, like clover or field peas, which is turned back into the soil when still immature before sowing the next food crop (https://tinyurl.com/ybh75xwv). Ultimately our gardens will benefit if we take care of our soil. Incorporating organic matter will keep up fertility, encourage an airy soil structure that will absorb irrigation, slow the leaching of nutrients from sandy soils, and enable plant roots to grow wide and deep. In addition, minimize soil disturbance and the natural fungal processes and microbes at work in the soil will thrive and our gardens will benefit. Your fall garden could be spectacular!
Puzzles

CLUES ACROSS
1. A greeting
5. A type of fall
9. Planet name one
11. Wealth
13. The act of exciting
15. A movement downward
16. Type of storage
17. A funny and sad play
18. Alice in wonderland
21. Dry white Italian wine
22. Where golfers begin
23. Witnesses
25. Relaxing places
26. Of she
27. Discontinued compact car
29. Resulted
31. Large Irish castle
33. Offer for a price
34. One type is Irish
36. Free-swimming invertebrate
38. A type of tale
39. The middle of the month
41. Christmas
43. '__ death do us part
44. Goes with Gomorrah
45. Gradually become less solid
46. Ethnic group of Thailand
48. "Grown Ups" funnyman
52. A type of index
53. A mass of rocks
54. Splashed
56. Kids’ playground necessities
57. Sears and London are two
58. Strip of cloth
59. Church

CLUES DOWN
1. Progressive decay of a bone or tooth
2. Deliberately contrary events
3. Unit of mass
4. Kiln
5. Soybean paste
6. Electronic counter-countermeasures
7. Made the bed
8. One who mails
9. Bar bills
10. Automotive vehicles
11. Breaks
12. Swelling of the eyelid
13. Asian country
14. Couches
15. Stare with mouth wide open
20. Member of U.S. Navy
24. A sulk
30. Mongolian city __ Bator
32. Did again
34. Sunrooms
35. Start over
37. Georgians love them
38. Women
40. "Snake Tales" cartoonist
42. Pariahs
43. Caps
45. Casual shoes
46. Ethnic group of Thailand
47. Goats
49. French city Le __
50. Exhale
51. Homes have at least one
55. Type of power cable

PIZZA MAKER WORD SEARCH

DEDDERHERSFENPSLNVFGHV
LMONENAEPOLITANEDC
ETAREAOCTUERSOCUHH
VSTONEIDPOXSOEMKDOLOCC
YREVISEDUCUKSCKNOTVARI
DODUBLEDEROSENULCETP
ELASTICITYYORKNRIISSMEM
HECTAFOODUCADAF
ESPANDKIOZEGNEISASIRGE
HNUIZCACAEMERENBRAAG
SCENANRALPIUAOGULFNP
RCBFPECSOPZMTRFBHEIV
FNAUCQTDOLPLAEFPPOGET
PRAIVQCHFAPLOURT
SNAAALSTLPLOPLEZVSAALT
IRLEHABUTETOVYNETULGO
FAAIGRAPATIREHGRM

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Cryptogram

DEDDERHERSFENPSLNVFGHV
LMONENAEPOLITANEDC
ETAREAOCTUERSOCUHH
VSTONEIDPOXSOEMKDOLOCC
YREVISEDUCUKSCKNOTVARI
DODUBLEDEROSENULCETP
ELASTICITYYORKNRIISSMEM
HECTAFOODUCADAF
ESPANDKIOZEGNEISASIRGE
HNUIZCACAEMERENBRAAG
SCENANRALPIUAOGULFNP
RCBFPECSOPZMTRFBHEIV
FNAUCQTDOLPLAEFPPOGET
PRAIVQCHFAPLOURT
SNAAALSTLPLOPLEZVSAALT
IRLEHABUTETOVYNETULGO
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