

Mandarin NewsLine

JANUARY 2019 Volume 13 Issue 3

A Florida NewsLine Publication



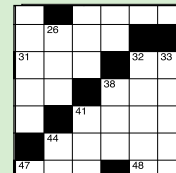
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Mandarin High School makes history with first state championship win

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin High School Mustangs recently brought home their first 8A State Championship trophy in history — an exciting end to their 11 – 4 season. The Mustangs won the title by defeating Columbus of Miami in a nail biting 37 – 35 final score. The team's head coach, Bobby Ramsay, has now been with Mandarin High School for two seasons.



Photo courtesy Mandarin High School
The MHS Mustangs are 8A State Champions!

Looking into the future of Mustang football, focus will be on training well from January to April, while becoming stronger and more mature as a whole.

"We are not focused on a repeat and we are not going to put that pressure on ourselves," said Mandarin High School Athletic Director Brian Rado. "Right now we are starting back at the bottom and our focus needs to be on building our team, developing chemistry and improving our special teams and our running game."

Mandarin High School cont. on pg. 15

Jacksonville Camera Club captures Mandarin

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

Photographs capture moments that are otherwise gone forever — and the Jacksonville Camera Club is passionate about sharing knowledge of what to practice behind the lens in an effort to make photographs even more beautiful.

Originally formed in 1935, the Jacksonville Camera Club has offered decades of encouragement and fun to residents interested in photography. Today, the club has approximately 90 members from all walks of life who share a common love for photography. Primarily an amateur club, the members learn from each other and enjoy making new friends.

"A lot of people are hesitant to come because they feel like they will be intimidated. This really is a place for any skill set," said Jacksonville Camera Club President Brian Leonard.

Approximately 50 members attend meetings on a regular basis in Mandarin. Meeting are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month. Club member presentations of various topics of interest are presented during the meetings. The members also enjoy periodically formed interest groups in order to elevate members' experience in certain areas such as portraits and lighting.

The Camera Club also plans one to two outings per month. Most of the outings are local and last two to four hours. During the year, the club usually has one or two

road trips to various locations, including bird shoots in South Florida, fall foliage trips to the Smokies and Western North Carolina. Weekend trips to Savannah, Ga. and other areas of interest in the Southeast are occasionally planned for members. Members find that the outings are a great way to socialize as



Photo courtesy Bill McSherry
Jacksonville Camera Club members

"The best part of the competitions is to see the level of skill in various club members as well as hear comments and critiques from the judges," Leonard said. "This is a very beneficial way to develop new skills. We are also starting contests using cell phone cameras,

which seems to be getting more and more popular."

The Camera Club is currently forming groups to welcome new members and to help others become aware of the resources offered within the club.

"We always have members that are willing to go out in small groups or do one-on-one sessions to help members improve their skills," Leonard said.

Jacksonville Camera Club meetings are held at the Shepherd of the Woods Church (Lakeshore Location), 6595 Columbia Park Ct., near the intersection of Greenland Road and Philips Highway. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Visit <https://jax.jaxcameraclub.com> for more information.



Photo courtesy Brian Leonard
Beautiful waterfall

well as a great opportunity to practice newly learned skills.

Quarterly print and digital contests are also a highlight of each year. Ribbons are awarded for the best images.

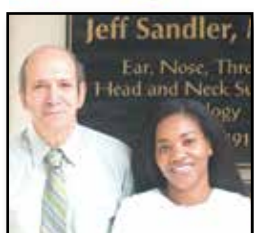
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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

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FAVORITE TREAT:
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FAVORITE FRIEND:
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HOW YOUR BFF GOT THIER NAME:
Already named Lincoln when he adopted us.

This month's contest sponsored by:
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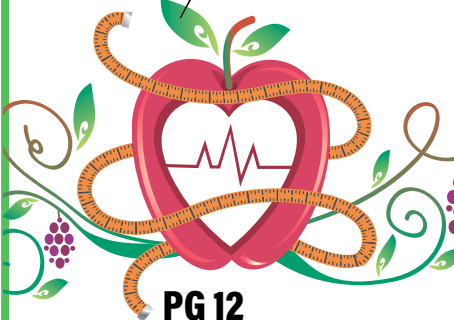
Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answers to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and you could win a Gift Certificate!
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JANUARY Special Section



HEALTH & WELLNESS GUIDE

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MYSTERY PHOTO



Can you guess where this is?
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around town

Feb. 9:
7th annual Florida STEM & Health Expo,
River City Science Academy Main Campus, 7565 Beach Blvd., 10 a.m.

Feb. 9:
Frog Painting, Mandarin Museum,
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Feb. 10:
Jacksonville Symphony: Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra,
Jacoby Symphony Hall, Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, 3 p.m.

Feb. 21:
Third Thursday Lecture in honor of Black History Month,
“The Fort Mose Story: A Story That Must Be Told,” Mandarin Community Club, 7 p.m.

Feb. 23 – 24:
World of Nations Celebration, Metropolitan Park

save the date!

Jan. 5
Mandarin Toastmasters meeting
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
South Mandarin Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.
Mandarintoastmasters.org

Jan. 5
Bingo Night at St. Joseph’s
Doors open 6:15 p.m.; Games start 7 p.m.
Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road
Open to the community; (904) 742-8777

Jan. 7
Southside Newcomers Club First Monday Coffee
10 a.m.
Mimi’s Cafe in St Johns Town Center
sncmembership84@gmail.com

Jan. 8
Shuffleboard
1:30 p.m. (repeating event on Tuesdays)
Mandarin Park, next to tennis courts at park entrance
Just show up unless it rains

Jan. 8
Service Officer available
4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive
(904) 268-4974 (Repeats second Tuesday of each month)

Jan. 9
Dementia Support for Caregivers
3:30 p.m.
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
Repeating event on the second Wednesday of each month

Jan. 9
Playing HOOKie crochet, loom and knitters group
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Whole Foods on San Jose Boulevard
paulab2097@gmail.com (repeating event on Wednesdays)

Jan. 10
Book Club/Friends of the South Mandarin Library meeting
1 p.m. / 2 p.m.
South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.
(904) 288-6385

Jan. 10
Mandarin Council networking luncheon
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.
www.mandarinCouncil.org

Jan. 10
Magnolia Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club
10 a.m.
Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
(904) 707-5509; mandaringardenclub.org

Jan. 10
American Legion Post 372 general assembly
6 p.m. meet and greet / 7 p.m. meeting
Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive
(904) 297-8344 or www.mandarinpost372.org

Jan. 12
DCPS School Choice Expo
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Prime Osborn Convention Center
www.duvalschools.org

Jan. 12
Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.

Jan. 12
Friends of the Mandarin Branch Library
2 p.m.
Mandarin Branch Library
(904) 262-5201

Jan. 12
Vintage Arts Grand Re-opening
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
10029 San Jose Blvd.

Jan. 19
Toast of Jax Toastmasters meeting
7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
Baha’i Community Center of Jacksonville, 5034 Greenland Road
www.toastofjax.com (Repeating event on Saturdays)

Jan. 19 – Feb. 23
Northeast Florida AHEC Quit Smoking Class
Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Florida Blue – Town Center retail store
Free; call (904) 482-0189 to register

Jan. 21
All Star Quilt Guild
9:45 a.m.
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

Jan. 23
Chat with Duval County School Superintendent Diana Greene
6 p.m.
Bartram Springs Elementary

Jan. 23
Planning Ahead: Practical advice for legal, financial and health care plan
10:30 a.m.
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
RSVP: (904) 288-7855

Jan. 24
Live Oak Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club
7 p.m.
Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
Mandaringardenclub.org

Jan. 24
Mandarin Women’s Club featuring annual Fashion Show
Doors open 10:30 a.m.
Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3030 Hartley Road
RSVP by Jan. 17; mcshell@comcast.net or (904) 859-6299

Jan. 30
Ninth Street Women by Cindy Edelman
10:30 a.m.
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
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Newcomers club seeks members

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SCORE workshop to discuss entrepreneurship

Do you have what it takes to be your own boss? The South Mandarin library has a workshop to help you find out. SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) will present a program on Jan. 9, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., featuring characteristics of successful entrepreneurs. You can have your skills evaluated to help you understand what areas you might want to work on to increase

your chances of success. Visit [/jacksonville.score.org](http://jacksonville.score.org) or call (904) 288-6385 for more information.

Mandarin Women's Club announces annual Fashion Show

It's time for the Mandarin Women's Club's annual Fashion Show and luncheon on Jan. 24 at the Ramada Inn in Mandarin. Back by popular demand is JC Penney. Eight of the club's members will be modeling two outfits each, one dressy and one casual. JC Penney will also be donating free samples and a door prize. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and reservations for the luncheon are required. The luncheon cost is \$17 and must be received by Thursday, Jan. 17. To make reservations and obtain payment instructions, contact Mary at mcshell@comcast.net or (904) 859-6299. Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for more information on events, photos, and membership forms.

SMART Couples workshops offered by UF/IFAS Extension

Couples wanting to take their relationship to the next level and improve their relationship can attend relationship education workshops starting Jan. 8 at Philip R. Cousin AME Church, 2601 Orange Picker

Road from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. This is the "Elevate: Take It to the Next Level" workshop, a powerful relationship enrichment program for couples who want to improve their communication skills and to strengthen their relationship. Also offered is "Before You Tie the Knot," a dynamic premarital program for couples who are striving to start their marriages out right which will be held on Jan. 10 from 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Extension Office, 1010 N. McDuff Ave. Visit www.SMARTcouples.org or call (904) 255-7450 for more information or to register; pre-registration is required and closes two days before class starts.



Photo by MetroCreative

Young adult authors will thrill teens and young adults at library

The young adult author panel wrote books on paranormal activity, loss, dystopia and vampires, and now you can meet four popular young adult authors during an author panel at South Man-

darin Branch Library Jan. 26, from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. The panel includes authors Stacey Horan ("Inland"), Evelyn Holingue ("All the Mountains We Can Climb"), RL Daniel ("Levitation") and Elle Klass ("The Vampires Next Door"). Authors will speak about their novels, tell how they got into writing, offer tips on writing, and take part in a Q&A. Books will be available for purchase, and you can have them signed by the author. In addition, some books will be given away at the event. Call (904) 288-6385 for more information.

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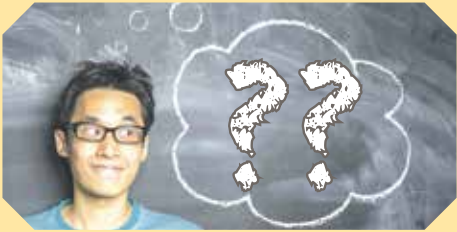
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**Inquiring Minds
want to know!**

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Are you puzzled about something going on in Mandarin or wondering about whatever happened on a topic from a previous issue? Email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.com by the fifth of the month and we will do our best to track down the information for you.

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Q: Can we start with a Parks & Rec update?

A: There are a number of improvements coming to area parks. At Chuck Rogers Park, repairs/renovation of the walking trail will soon begin. The trail is frequently utilized by families for walking, biking and jogging. The project will be completed by the spring of 2019. The design plans are being finalized for County Dock and the project should be advertised for bid by the end of 2018. The Parks Department has updated the landscaping and amenities in Chaplegate Park, which is a small pocket park behind the Lowe's on Old St. Augustine Road.

Greenland Park has an additional open field play area, which will allow for additional recreational activities at the heavily utilized Park. Finally, the Parks Department is working on a plan to develop a dog park in the Mandarin area. This project is still in the early stages; however, we are developing a plan for an off leash dog park that will service the Mandarin community.

Q: What is the latest in the public works area?

A: The Longview Drive drainage improvements are in progress, and are expected to be completed in May 2019. Currently in the planning phase is a project to add a trail consisting of a 500-foot boardwalk and a 200-foot long natural surface trail at Palmetto Leaves Regional Park. And the expansion to the Mandarin Senior Citizen Center is anticipated to begin this month. This project will add 13,054 square feet to the existing 4,646 square foot building; it will house additional offices, a computer lab, a crafts/ceramics room, a library/conference room, an exercise room, an activities room, it will enlarge the kitchen, and create additional storage areas and bathrooms.

Q: Do you have a safety update for Mandarin?

A: Along with the project my Rules Subcommittee is working on, creating a Complete Comprehensive Crime Reduction Inventory, the city has also created a Crime and Safety Task Force. These initiatives show that the City of Jacksonville is committed to reducing crime in all areas, not just Mandarin, and we need citizens' help to do that. Get involved, come to the Task Force meetings, and most importantly: If you see something, say something!

Q: Do you have anything else to share with Mandarin readers?

A: I'd like to say "Congratulations" to the Mandarin Mustangs for winning the Class 8A state championship last month over Miami Columbus in Orlando to become champions of Florida's largest school classification.

Also, our hearts and prayers continue to go out to the Adams family, Mandarin, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and all of Jacksonville who lost a beautiful mother, wife, and dedicated JSO officer with the death of Cathy Adams in a tragic accident last month. Cathy's husband, JSO officer Jack Adams, was also seriously injured. Their two children, thank God, survived with minor injuries.

Finally, our family, Carol and Tommy, Jr. wish everyone a very Happy New Year! We hope your holidays were joyous and full of time with those you love.

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

A: They can email me at THazouri@coj.net or call (904) 630-1396.

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G. Quadir Khan, MD, FACOG



with Duval School Board Member,
District 7, Lori Hershey

Q: As the new chairman of the school board, what do you see as your priorities?

A: Our priorities as a board include working on building strong relationships with our partners. Also, on Dec. 18, the board was presented with a facilities report that will be analyzed to make recommendations on what to do with aging facilities, specifically older schools with population shifts. This will have little impact on District 7 schools, but we will also be looking at projected enrollment. We will be engaging the community to have an ongoing conversation regarding student needs.

Q: Do you have any school safety updates?

A: In November, I had the opportunity to meet with the sheriff of Pinellas County, Bob Gualtieri, who is the chair of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Safety Commission. We discussed the proposal by the commission regarding the ability of school boards to levy a half mill without referendum. This bill has not been filed, but would need to be filed by Jan. 11, 2019. The half mill would allow for funding for School Resource Officers and my question to him was if he would consider some flexibility to allow use of some of the money for other school hardening needs, such as metal detectors. We also discussed that on the commission, none of the seven largest school districts in the state are represented and how these large districts could still have a voice.

Q: What tools are available for parents and students regarding investigating school choice?

A: Students who are transitioning to

middle school or high school should make plans to tour schools of interest. I would encourage students and parents to tour their neighborhood schools as they consider choice options as well. We have strong schools in Mandarin. The School Choice Expo, to be held Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, is also worth a visit because all the schools will be represented in one place.

Q: What else do you have to share regarding District 7?

A: First of all, I'd like to congratulate the Mandarin High School football team, which won its first state championship! The Mandarin Mustangs beat an undefeated team to claim the title. I was on the sidelines the whole game with Superintendent Greene and Principal Kniseley and it was a thrilling experience.

I have been attending School Advisory Committee meetings throughout the district and have plans to attend all SAC meetings in District 7 by February.

Coming up on the calendar, Bartram Springs will host a chat with the Superintendent on Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Q: How can our readers contact you?

A: They can email me at HersheyL@duvalschools.org or call me at (904) 316-3609.



with Jacksonville City Council Member
Matt Schellenberg (District 6)

Q: What is the latest on the Mandarin Road landscaping project?

A: The planting of trees on Mandarin Road is delayed. The original quote we received for the project was \$90,000, but the bid came in at \$213,000. To be good stewards of our money, we're taking a pause and potentially changing vendors. We're not interested in changing the number of trees to plant, but might need to change the warranty on them. We still plan to be planting in the first quarter of 2019.

Q: Do you have an update on the Mandarin dog park?

A: We haven't purchased the land yet, but are proceeding along more quickly than I would have thought. The environmental is completed and we are working on negotiating a price and finalizing the site plan. We hope to have this park completed by June 2019.

Q: What can you tell us about what will happen to the land behind the South Mandarin Library, which was originally considered for the dog park?

A: We're working with the South Mandarin Library to develop a park behind

the library to benefit the library and its patrons. It will be interactive with the library — perhaps including some benches so people can read outside.

Q: Do you have any community meetings scheduled?

A: I'll be scheduling a couple of community meetings in the spring/early summer 2019.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with citizens in District 6?

A: December is a good time to take a deep breath and reflect and then come back engaged for a good dialogue in January. I'm looking forward to a great 2019.

I hope everyone had a Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas and I wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

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

A: Community members can email me at MattS@coj.net or call (904) 630-1388.

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Briefs

FDOT to host third open house for S.R. 9B landscaping project

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will hold a third open house Monday, Jan. 7, 2019 at Mission Way Church at 14985 Old St. Augustine Road #101 to share information with the community on proposed landscaping plans on State Road 9B south of Interstate 295 to Interstate 95.

Those interested can drop by anytime between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to learn more about the overall landscaping project and provide feedback to FDOT staff and project design consultants who will be available to answer questions regarding the project.

The open house will be an informal event to inform the public and display phase IV plans of the project. The full-color renderings will demonstrate what the landscaping may look like upon completion of the project and will incorporate comments received at the previous open house. No formal presentation will be made.

The current proposal for this \$4 million landscaping project will include plantings of numerous species of trees, palms, shrubs, ornamental grasses, irrigation and other incidental work relating to the overall landscape for the corridor. The landscaping project is expected to begin late 2021.

The project has been developed through District Two's FDOTree program, which was developed to

promote communication, delivery and construction of the Florida Department of Transportation's Northeast Florida landscaping program.

Ophthalmologist practice's founder retires

Forty-one years ago, Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons was founded by Dr.



Photo courtesy Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Dr. John D. Wilcox

C.M. Harris and Dr. John D. Wilcox. They committed to provide the Northeast Florida community with quality, patient friendly eye care. Throughout those years, additional dedicated ophthalmologists and staff have joined to expand the group and extend their "patient first" mission.

Dr. Wilcox said, "Over the past 40 years, Clay Eye has experienced tremendous growth and I am proud of the practice that we've built. While some things have changed, the focus on patient care never has. I'm incredibly blessed to have a wonderful, supportive family coupled with an amazing career. I am leaving my patients in competent hands with my incredible colleagues. As

Briefs cont. on pg. 10



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Consolidating accounts can lead to clear financial strategy

By Chance Owen
mail@floridanewsline.com

Over the course of their lives, many people pick up a variety of financial accounts from multiple sources. They might have a few IRAs from different providers, a couple of old 401(k) plans from past employers, an insurance policy (or two) purchased many years ago, and a scattershot of stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit and other investments.

If this picture describes your situation, you may want to think about consolidating. For one thing, having a variety of accounts can run up a lot of fees. Furthermore, you'll have lots of paperwork to keep track of all your accounts, including several different tax statements. Plus, just by having so many accounts, you risk forgetting about some of them — and if you don't think you'd ever forget about your own money, consider this: Well over \$40 billion in unclaimed cash and property, including 401(k)s, pensions and IRAs, is awaiting return to the rightful owners, according to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators.

Consolidating your accounts with one provider can give you a centralized, unifying investment strategy, one that can help you in the following ways:

- **Diversification:** If you own several different financial accounts, including IRAs, 401(k)s and online accounts, you might have many similar investments within them. You might even own a cash-value insurance policy containing investments that closely track the ones you have in the other accounts. This type of duplication can be harmful, because if a market downturn primarily affects one type of

asset, and your portfolio is dominated by that asset or similar ones, you could take a big hit. But if you have all your investments in the same place, a financial professional can review your holdings and recommend appropriate ways to diversify your investment dollars. (Be aware, though, that while diversification can reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio, it can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses.)

- **Staying on track:** With all your accounts in one place, you'll find it easier to keep the big picture in mind and make the moves necessary to help you progress toward your financial goals. Two main actions include buying or selling investments and adjusting your portfolio to make it more aggressive or conservative, depending on your situation.

- **Avoiding mistakes:** If you own several separate accounts, you could see a loss in one or more of them and overreact by selling investments that could still be valuable to you. But with a consolidated investment platform, you can see more clearly that the impact of a loss may be small, relative to the rest of your holdings.

As we've seen, consolidating your investment accounts with a single provider can have several advantages. So think carefully about bringing everything together — you may find that there's strength in unity.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Chance Owen. Email chance.owen@edwardjones.com for more information.

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Photo courtesy Emily Whitehead

Chili Cook Off attendee wins big!

Terri Pope of Mandarin was the winner of the two annual memberships to the Comedy Zone, donated by Ramada Inn – Mandarin and given away in a drawing at the 22nd annual Fall Festival and Chili Cook Off by Mandarin NewsLine. The Fall Festival and Chili Cook Off is an annual event sponsored by the Mandarin Council of the Jax Chamber and this year was held on Nov. 17. Congratulations, Terri!

Briefs cont. from pg. 8

I reflect on my career, it's heartwarming to know that I have cared for multi-generational families — from grandparents to grandbabies, and for that I feel humbled and privileged."

Prior to his Clay Eye career, Dr. Wilcox served as a Navy Captain in the Medical Corps as a Flight Surgeon/Ophthalmologist and retired in 2002 after 33 years of service.

the Mandarin community so they can make sound decisions on housing and financial matters.

Local professionals presenting the information include Tod Smith, Partner, Law Offices of Khol & Smith, discussing estate planning and legal matters; Connie Meyer, Counselor, Westminster Woods, comparing options in senior living care; Mary "Biggs" Knauer, Professional Trustee, describing the services a trustee can provide; and Carlos Parada, Broker/Owner of Distinctive Properties of Jacksonville, sharing local market conditions and key factors in selling a home in today's market. Seniors can attend with their families. Seating is limited; RSVP to dpjacksonville@gmail.com or call (904) 868-4984.

Senior information seminar offered

A Senior Information Seminar will be offered by Distinctive Properties of Jacksonville, free of charge on Sunday, Jan. 27 at 4:30 p.m. at the Italian American Club, 2838 Westberry Drive. The focus of the event is to provide crucial, accurate information for seniors of



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Back in Time with Brett

By Brett Nolan
mail@floridanewslines.com

The John Henry Jacks House, Part 1

Built in 1887, this residence was first owned by John Henry Jacks and his family. In this part one of the story, we are going back in time to look at the history leading up to John Henry Jacks and his family building their home in Mandarin.

Originally living with his mother, stepfather, and two sisters — Francis and Letitia — in what is now downtown Jacksonville, hardships fell on the Jacks family during the 1860s. A census during that time shows both his mother and stepfather listed; however, by the time the 1870 census was conducted, the two heads of family were not found. The eldest sister, Francis, was listed as a domestic servant in a household just outside of Jacksonville, in the suburb of LaVilla. Oral history from descendants of the Jacks family tells of Francis making great efforts to try and hold the family together, supporting it after the death of their parents.

To avoid the dangers of the Civil War, Francis took it upon herself to relocate John Henry, who was 16 at the time, and their 19 year old sister to Mandarin, where they resided in the household of a family friend, John Hagan, another prominent Mandarin name. In fact, Francis even carried a matchbox-sized box with a piece of paper inside, a pledge of allegiance to the United States that she signed, in order to pass through Union Army areas of Jacksonville when getting to work. During the Civil War, Jacksonville and the surrounding parts of Duval County constantly went back and forth between Union and Confederate hands.

Francis died young, presumably from tuberculosis, never getting married or having children; her sole mission on this Earth having been solemnly placed as a caregiver for her younger brother and sister. Many descendants of this family would be named after her in honor. Meanwhile, back in Mandarin, John Henry would go on to marry Ella Eaton



Photo courtesy Tracey Arpen
The John Henry Jacks House

of Long Island, N.Y. Letitia married William Monson of St. Augustine.

Monson served in Company D, Tenth Regiment of the Florida Volunteer Infantry, taking part in the largest battle in Florida during the Civil War — the Battle of Olustee — as well as some military actions in Petersburg, Va. Upon returning home after the war, he was engaged in the lumber industry and moved to Mandarin in 1868. He, like his father from Norway, was a skilled carpenter who is credited with having built several homes, buildings, and churches in the Mandarin and Loretto areas. Only a handful of Monson structures still stand today including the St. Joseph's Catholic Church (1891 – 1912), the Winton estate - Jubilee Hall (1887), the Mandarin Store and Post Office (1911), and, finally, the home of John Henry Jacks.

(Note: The research collected for this article came from William and Anne Morrow, descendants of the Jacks family, and the Designation Application Report for the John Henry Jacks Residence. City Bill Number: 1088, 2000).

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

(Editor's Note: Check back next month for Part 2 of the history of the John Henry Jacks House.)



Photo courtesy Yolanda Sanders

Crown Point hosts multicultural night

On Nov. 30, Crown Point PTA invited families to share the highlights of their culture with the community. Families, teachers, and PTA members set up more than 20 stations representing different countries. Volunteers celebrated cultures across the globe through music, performances, storytellers, and a variety of ethnic food from every country. Students from Mandarin High School joined the celebration by filling the multi-purpose room with their energy and entertainment throughout the evening. The event brought school and community members together to celebrate diversity among students. Pictured are Mandarin High School students performing a traditional Vietnamese dance.



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HEALTH & WELLNESS GUIDE



Your Guide to Health and Wellness in the New Year

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The New Year is traditionally a time of reflection and resolutions, often involving the goal of improving one's health and fitness. In keeping with Mandarin NewsLine's goal for 2019 of supporting local community businesses, we reached out to advertisers in this Health and Wellness Guide and asked them to share their expertise and a little about what makes their business special:

Jessica Wells: I have been a certified personal trainer for more than 20 years, and a health and wellness coach for 10 years. I help people reach their fitness and health goals through whole food nutrition and exercise. I come to you in your home, fitness facility, or pool. I look at your health history, your goals, I perform a fitness assessment and body composition assessment, from there I design and teach you, your personalized exercise program. I teach my clients how to incorporate whole food nutrition and eliminate processed foods. I help you take one step at a time to move forward into a healthy living lifestyle. I specialize in weight loss, and work with clients after physical therapy. My programs include

resistance training, cardiovascular, core, stability, strength, balance, and flexibility training. My passion is to help others improve their health. My favorite exercise to teach is fitness aquatic training, and water aerobics.

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Nutrition Check: Starting the Year off SMART

By Kristen Hicks Ph.D., RDN, LDN and Paige Chaffin
mail@floridanewsline.com

The start of each New Year is always a bittersweet time in terms of judging our health. At this time, new goals are starting to be made and goals from the previous year are assessed for success or failure. Each year around 41 percent of Americans make New Year resolutions, over half of which set out to lose weight or eat healthier. Yet only 9 percent of those individuals feel that they were successful in achieving their goals. (Statistic-brain.com, 2017). Why is this?

People tend to set goals that are unfeasible in hopes that a wave of motivation will arise with the New Year. Although this is a great concept and shows that individuals want to better themselves, it often leads to disappointment when the high expectations are not met.

SMART goals are an effective goal setting strategy that helps set Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic goals in a Timely manner. For example, a basic goal

would be "In 2019, I want to be healthier." This goal is hard to reach because it doesn't define what "being healthier" means to you. Vague goals can become overwhelming and often result in a sense of failure.

A SMART goal style could be either "In January, I want to consume at least two vegetables each day" or "In 2019, I plan to limit going out to eat to less than twice per week for the next three months." Setting more specific goals sets a more realistic

foundation to complete them.

When setting your goal(s), make sure they are meaningful and clear in regard to your desired outcome. This will make achieving your goals more rewarding. More importantly, share your goals with your friends and family. Having social support may be beneficial towards completing your goal, and who knows, maybe one of them will want to join in on the fun.

Lastly, reward yourself! The path to reaching your goals doesn't have to be a miserable one. When you have hit milestones, or are simply feeling accomplished, it's okay to schedule some "you time" or treat yourself to something you've been wanting. This can keep you motivated to set and complete more goals.

Setting SMART New Year's resolutions will ensure that the outcome is more effective and positive.

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



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Mandarin library branches offer something for everyone in January

By Olga Bayer
mail@floridanewsline.com

ACT/SAT workshops: Hard to believe but it's already time for teens to start thinking about the SAT and ACT. College-bound students can get a jump on the tests by taking free workshops at the library. ACT/SAT workshops that cover test-taking tips, strategies and sample tests are offered at South Mandarin Branch Library Jan. 3, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. and Jan. 19, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., and at Mandarin Branch Library Jan. 16, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Storytime Plus:

Young Children Read, Play and Learn is a special time for children from birth to age five, with a caregiver, to enjoy fingerplays, nursery rhymes, and songs that promote language development. Join a class at Mandarin library Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. — come early at 10 a.m. to socialize and play — and at South Mandarin library Fridays at 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. or Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Creative Kidstuff: It might be a cool month, but Mandarin Branch Library

has a hot lineup to keep kids ages five – 12 involved and learning. Start with Art Club Jan. 2 at 4 p.m. to promote creative thinking and expression. STEAM Team explores magnets Jan. 5 at 2 p.m. And in Kids Read!, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m., children will read and discuss a popular book, and make a related craft.

Tech Time: If you were gifted a new iPad, Kindle or other tablet, and need help downloading e-books, audio-books, movies or music, your South Mandarin library can help with 1-on-1 Tech Tutoring at 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. every Wednesday in January. Bring your charged laptop or mobile device and get one-on-one assistance for all of your needs. You can also sign up for an appointment online at jpl.libcal.com/booking/techtutor.

The library will be closed Jan. 1 for New Year's and Jan. 29 for Martin Luther King Day. Visit jaxpubliclibrary.org or call the Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 262-5201 or the South Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 288-6385 for more information.



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Library
Those wanting to learn a new skill for the New Year can check into free computer classes and individual tech assistance at the South Mandarin Branch Library.

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Photos by Martie Thompson



The Mandarin Fall Festival and Chili Cook Off, hosted by the Mandarin Council of the JAX Chamber, was held on Nov. 17 and nearly \$10,000 for charities will be distributed. The proceeds will be split between Safe Kids of Northeast Florida, the Mandarin Food Bank, Junior Achievement, and the Mandarin Council's Janet Meisel Scholarship Fund, awarded annually to college bound students who live in Mandarin. Visit www.mandarinncouncil.org for more information.

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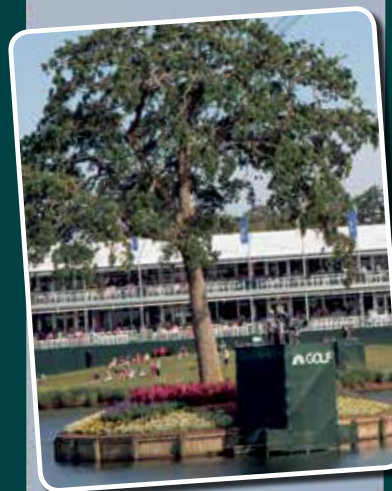
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Get to Know . . .

William Miller

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Will Miller
Will Miller

William (Will) Miller grew up in Miami. He earned his degree in business administration with a minor in finance from Florida State University. He and his wife, Laura, have been married for 42 years and moved to Jacksonville 11 years ago. The two share a close knit family of seven children, 15 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Miller's 32-year career was spent in the insurance industry before retirement. Over the years, Miller has enjoyed remodeling homes, a skill he believes was instilled in him at a young age by helping his parents around their home. Miller is a six year member of the Mandarin Community Club and has served as the vice president of the club for three years. The Millers enjoy living in Mandarin and being nearby to close family and friends.

1) What do you enjoy most about living in Mandarin?

We live off of Mandarin Road. It's just absolutely beautiful and the stress just melts away as you drive along the road.

2) What aspect of the Mandarin Community Club do you enjoy most?

The club is a civic minded organization and I've met a lot of really nice people. We are always doing something for the community. A lot

of projects that are important to the public.

3) What are your hobbies?

I spend a lot of time at the club. I have flipped houses in the past, but I think I'm at a stopping point with that even though I enjoy it. I like gardening. I also maintain the grounds at the Mandarin Community Club. I've been doing that for four to five years.

4) How many houses did you remodel over the years and what was your inspiration behind it?

I was thinking about this recently. I think it was 25 properties over the years. Early on, we had a rental and I decided to build a new 2,700 square foot home in its place. I had the tenants leave and we built a beautiful home. We lived there for 20 years. My parents did push me some and I did learn from them while doing things around the house.

5) Any upcoming plans during retirement?

Not really. Just enjoying day to day. I spend a lot of time with my grandchildren, so we stay busy.

Mandarin Community Club elects new officers

By Doris Hastings
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Community Club held its annual membership meeting and dinner on Dec. 7 at the club building on Mandarin Road. The theme this year was a "Nutcracker Holiday" and featured dozens of nutcrackers, many brought in for display by members.



Photo courtesy Doris Hastings
New to the board for 2019: Mari Terbrueggen, Michele Glavich, Jacqueline Thompson, K LuCille Bennett, and Bill Webster. Not pictured: Brett Nolan.

The election of the 2019 board of directors took place during the business portion of the evening. Susie Scott will serve as club president in 2019 with Jim Hill as vice-president, Pat Adams as treasurer, and Betty Wolfe as secretary. Eighteen at-large members were also elected. A complete list appears on the club website, www.mandarincommunityclub.org.

Part of the Mandarin community since 1923, membership in the Mandarin Community Club is open to all. Several events are planned for the upcoming months including a tree give away in February and the annual Mandarin Art Festival on Easter weekend.



New officers and board members for 2019.

Mandarin High School cont. from pg. 1

Rado credits Coach Ramsey for knowing exactly what to do to have the athletes and staff fully prepared for the caliber of teams that they faced throughout the season.

"He put a huge emphasis on off-season

conditioning. He increased the time devoted in the weight room and our young men were a much stronger and more physical team because of it," Rado said. "I also firmly believe the character of these young men was a big factor in their success."

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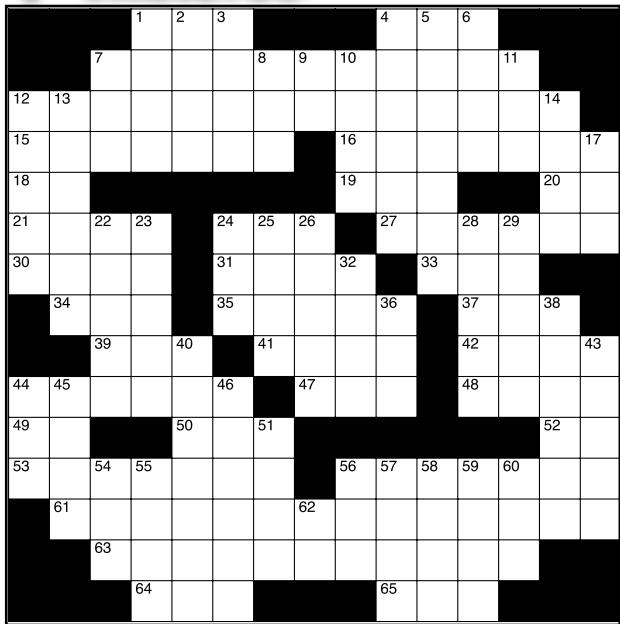
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 18
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Political action committee
- 4. One point north of due east
- 7. Marital
- 12. Religious building
- 15. Intrinsic nature of something
- 16. Safe to drink
- 18. Letter of credit
- 19. Single Lens Reflex
- 20. Keeps you cool in summer
- 21. Monetary unit
- 24. The Eye Network
- 27. Moving with a bounding stride
- 30. Figures
- 31. Of the pia mater
- 33. Male offspring
- 34. Indicates near
- 35. Calvary sword
- 37. South American plant
- 39. Doctor of Education

- 41. Something to take
- 42. Remove the edges from
- 44. Inattentive
- 47. Pick up
- 48. Latch for a window
- 49. Region of the U.S.
- 50. Windy City ballplayer
- 52. The NFL's big game (abbr.)
- 53. Be permanently present in
- 56. Novice
- 61. Pirate novel
- 63. In a law-abiding way
- 64. Where one sleeps
- 65. Criticize

- 5. Eating houses
- 6. Japanese port
- 7. Genus of rodents
- 8. Nigerian city
- 9. Milliwatt
- 10. Mistake!
- 11. Women's __ movement
- 12. Greeting
- 13. Songbirds
- 14. An arrangement scheme
- 17. Heartbeat test
- 22. Push back
- 23. Intended for the audience only
- 24. Cycles per second
- 25. Impartiality
- 26. Polio vaccine developer
- 28. Bowel movements
- 29. South American Indian
- 32. Queen of Sparta
- 36. Confederate soldier
- 38. Emerged

- 40. Death
- 43. __ and flowed
- 44. Folk singer DiFranco
- 45. Email folder
- 46. Throbbled rhythmically
- 51. English rockers
- 54. Disaster relief operation
- 55. American model and TV personality Katherine
- 56. Potable
- 57. Tough outer layer
- 58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Troubles
- 60. Negative
- 62. Camper

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bullfighting maneuver
- 2. Egyptian Sun god
- 3. Predatory semiaquatic reptile
- 4. Register formally



Solve the code to discover words related to fireplaces.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 9 = e)

A. 25 22 19 10
Clue: Fuel sources

B. 7 9 3 21 18 7
Clue: Floor of fireplace

C. 24 3 23 18 25 9
Clue: Fireplace surround

D. 5 25 17 9
Clue: Vent or pipe

KITCHEN COOK WORD SEARCH

P F A H R P T M B M E M W R C O F F E E
A S D F O O E A G E P P N Z C Y D U S G
N N R T U A T P B L I V H V L F I O T C
T A S U L T V A I L C P H B W P N V O Z
R D P S S R E F R L E T P L L N N A R S
Y S E O E E E N T E R T A I N U E Y A H
S K C S T A I A S R G B T E I P R P G N
D A I A S R W R P I P I A W T E P K E O
S G A T B E E G O P L G R K T R O N O I
I N R M C I R T P S L S D F E K T I E T
L I T P F H N T N E S I F P E U E S L U
V L O S T D E E L U Z E A U S R V C Z A
E I D D A I H N T G O R C N F M O N Z C
R O O K M F P A N S A C F C C U T R I I
W B V K S T K F P T B A O U A E S D S W
A Z E N Y Z S A I O M A B K Y C S B K S
R E N I C A V O E I C M I C R O W A V E
E B D V N M N Z L R W C O O K I N G C V
O U D E O V D Y L B B V H F D I S H E S
O H N S K Y A B U G H C N U L E H Y H G

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

WORDS

- ACCESSORIES
- APPLIANCES
- BAKE
- BOILING
- BREAKFAST
- CABINET
- CAUTION
- COFFEE
- COOKING
- COUNTERTOP
- DESSERT
- DINNER
- DISHES
- ENTERTAIN
- FAMILY
- KITCHEN
- KNIVES
- LUNCH
- MEALS
- MICROWAVE
- OVEN
- PANS
- PANTRY
- POTS
- PREPARATION
- RECIPE
- REFRIGERATOR
- SILVERWARE
- SINK
- SIZZLE
- STORAGE
- STOVETOP
- TABLE
- UTENSILS

Gardening

Winter – No worries

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewslines.com

Preparing for winter should have been no problem, given that we know we will have at least one or two cold snaps, when our temperatures can dip into the mid to upper 20s. Twenty-four to 48 hours before low temperatures are expected, water your landscape if it hasn't rained recently (a simple rain gauge is a useful tool). The day of the anticipated overnight frost or freeze, move potted plants to a sheltered area and wrap them completely, including the pot as roots are particularly vulnerable. Cover tender landscape plants, ensuring that the covering reaches down to the ground so it can trap the warmth from the soil. Any gaps and the warm air will simply rise up and out of the covering while cold air seeps in. It's important to anchor covers if a windy night is expected (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg025>). Commercial frost cloth is the ideal choice, but old sheets or blankets will do. Some of us use plastic, but it must be removed the following morning before the sun has a chance to overheat the plants; they can also suffer cold damage if the plastic has made contact with foliage.

Winter vegetables will be fairly safe, unless the freeze is more than a few hours. Brassicas — collards, cabbage, broccoli and the like — are often sweeter after a cold snap; it's certainly true of Brussels sprouts.

Perhaps surprisingly, there are a number of vegetables that can be planted in January. For a detailed look at the possibilities, refer to the "Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide," <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>. This publication is a must for would-be urban farmers; even if you have only space for a small raised bed, or perhaps a large pot or two, there's every chance that vegetable gardening will grow on you. You will find recommendations of tried and true varieties in the guide, but current seed catalogs will have more information about the newest vegetables. Noteworthy catalogs include Johnny's Selected Seeds and Totally Tomatoes.

Vegetables like red-leaved mustards, Swiss chard with colorful stems, frilly-leaved carrots, and various kales are attractive enough to incorporate into flowerbeds. Just make sure that if you buy vegetable starts they come from the vegetable section of the nursery, and not the flowering plant area: the latter may either have been treated with chemicals that make them unsafe to eat or are ornamental varieties simply not grown to be eaten.

We are now in Eastern Daylight Time and are restricted to using an in-ground irrigation system once a week, if needed, either before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. Early morning is the best choice,

as water will evaporate off of foliage during the day, reducing the chance of diseases. The use of a hose with a cut-off valve is permitted at any time, as is using a drip system — ideal for the vegetable garden — or watering can. For more information see: <https://tinyurl.com/ycaxqway>. There are allowances for watering more often under some circumstances, but the general rule makes sense. Our landscape plants have slowed their growth and consequently need less water. When our clocks spring forward, we will be back to watering twice a week — if needed — when our plants, including our lawns, are starting to leaf out again.

The University of Florida website Gardening Solutions is very user friendly, and if you enjoy reading about your areas of interest, be it native plants, shrubs, trees, or vegetables, you could start here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc-t56umj>. It will certainly help me to keep my New Year's resolution: to make my landscape more wildlife friendly, using native plants as well as Florida-Friendly plants (<https://tinyurl.com/yc3pt6jt>) to supply food, shelter, and water for my non-human neighbors. Have a Happy New Year, everyone!

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Travel

Sky high fun in Sevierville

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Old style leather flying helmet on my head, goggles over my eyes, and a scarf wrapped around my neck: I'm ready to take flight, feeling like Amelia Earhart and those 1920s barnstormers. Actually, I am ready for my photo op. Pilot Marc Hightower at Sky High Air Tours, based in Sevierville's Gatlinburg Pigeon Forge Regional Airport, snaps my pic.

Then he says, "If you'd like you can take off the helmet and let the wind blow through my hair." I do.

Marc instructs me about the biplane and plans for a circuitous flight over historic Sevierville, Pigeon Forge and the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. I anxiously sit in the 1927 Model 10 WACO Straight Wing biplane waiting for the miracle of flight. Marc took three-and-a-half years to rebuild the aircraft, his



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
The author at her photo shoot before the biplane ride.

baby, and the engine was fully overhauled. I am more reassured knowing that he has been flying visitors in this area for the past seven years. Headphones allow me to hear the control tower and communicate with the pilot. Air traffic controllers clear us for takeoff and this flying machine lifts

with ease on its feather-light fabric covered wings. To me, aeronautics remains a mystery, but I am tingling with glee as we ascend. I don't just feel the breeze blowing through my hair; I feel the wind beneath my wings.

Marc's voice comes through the headphones, muted yet comforting. He points out areas of interest: "There's the clock tower on the courthouse in downtown Sevierville." The spot has become an Instagram icon, beckoning people from all over the world to pose in front of the bronze statue of Dolly Parton. Dolly's considered Sevierville's favorite daughter, pretty much responsible for tourism and thousands of jobs in the region. She funds a reading program for preschoolers and contributed millions to nearby Gatlinburg residents who lost their homes in the 2017 wildfires.

The struts or wing supports partially obstruct my view, but I'm feeling the glorious freedom and connection with the sky, remarkably different from sitting in a pressurized cabin of a jet. We fly like birds, low and slow about 1,200 feet and 90 miles per hour. I spy the sprawling Wilderness in the Smokies Resort, the hotel's water park easily identifiable and many cabins

available for rent. We pass over the upscale Tanger Outlet Mall that attracts thousands of happy shoppers.

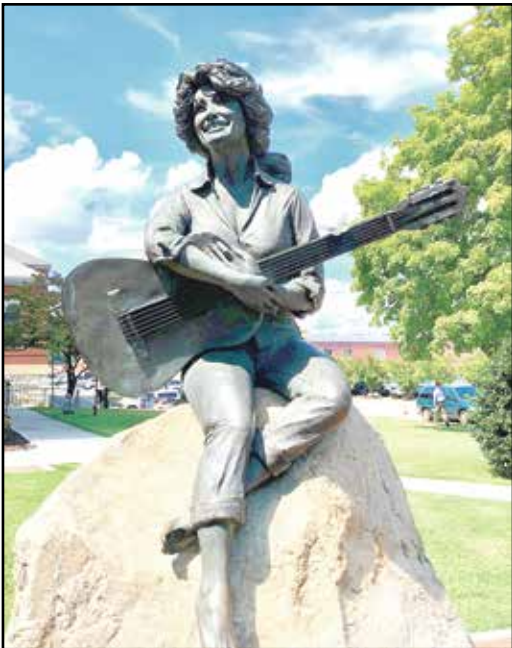
Taking photos becomes a challenge, but I want to document the experience. When you twist your upper body to the side, a sharp blast of air hits you. Whoa! Be sure to put the camera strap around your neck and restrain your sunglasses. Slowly, the plane circles around mist that looks like smoke rising from the mountains — the reason they were named the Smoky Mountains. Then, I get a head-on peek at Dollywood and the amusement rides. A family can have some serious fun in Sevierville.

I want to linger, but introductory biplane rides only last about 20 minutes. We fly lower as we head back toward the airport. Before long we descend and roll down the runway. My open cockpit ride is over way too soon, but I was literally blown away with my step back

to the Golden Age of Aviation. Like Charles A. Lindbergh said, "Sometimes, flying feels too godlike to be attained by man. Sometimes, the world from above seems too beautiful, too wonderful, too distant for human eyes to see." I must agree.

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Sevierville's own, Dolly Parton.

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Answers to puzzles on page 16

Answers to our Puzzles

P	A	C	E	B	N								
M	A	T	R	I	M	O	N	I	A	L			
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