APRIL 2019 Volume 13 Issue 6

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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Florida NewsLine under new ownership

By Martie Thompson editor@floridanewsline.com

Havana Publishing Group, Inc. has bought Florida NewsLine and all community newspapers published under its banner. Florida NewsLine publishes The CreekLine, Mandarin NewsLine, Ponte Vedra NewsLine, The Ocean Breeze and Players Journal.

This is a full-circle event for Havana Publishing Group owner and publisher, Mark Pettus, who previously was publisher of Florida NewsLine from late 2015 through early 2017.

Pettus said.



Photo courtesy Mark Pettus Mark Pettus

"It is great to be involved with these amazing community newspapers again. I look forward to working with our great staff to ensure that we continue to be our readers' favorite newspapers,"

Pettus, who took over the leadership of a 73-year-old newspaper company in Havana, Fla., just north of Tallahassee, in 2017 has a lengthy and varied newspaper background. He worked as a reporter, editor and publisher locally in the Northeast Florida area for 15 years.

Florida NewsLine began in 2001 as RT Publishing, Inc., when it published the first issue of The CreekLine, serving NW St. Johns County. Advertising sales representative Linda Gay was an original employee of the company, followed a year later by editor Martie Thompson. Both still perform these roles today.

New Ownership cont. on pg. 15

12443 San Jose Boulevard, Ste. 403A Jacksonville,FL 32223 Florida NewsLine

Mandarin Art Festival celebrates 51 years

Easter weekend is April 20 – 21 and for the 51st year, the Mandarin Art Festival will be held on the holiday weekend. The festivities will take place on the grounds of the Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road,

from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Easter Sunday.

The Mandarin Art Festival features the artwork of more than 100 professional artisans displayed amongst the beauty of nature, under the oaks of Mandarin. All of the artists selected have gone through a jurying process given in the categories of Functional Fine Craft, Jewelry, Mixed Media, Painting, Photography, Sculpture and

According to festival chairman Susie Scott, this year's guest judges are the well-respected and critically acclaimed artist Ted Head, and educator, artist, and activist, Hope McMath. Head's work is currently on display at Village Arts Framing and Gallery, as well as at Sawgrass Village. In addition to her years at the Cummer Museum, Mc-Math is the creator of a relatively new organization, Yellow House, which was established with a mission to connect the arts to the needs of the community.

The Children's Art Show will display the work of elementary and middle



The Mandarin Art Festival will be held under the oaks at the Mandarin Community Club on April 20 - 21.

Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road, April 20 - 21 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Easter Sunday.

and will also be juried for awards once the festival is underway. Awards will be Best in Show.



school students, who may be among

the professional artists of tomorrow.

The Children's Art Show will be judged

by well-known artist Pablo Rivera, who

continues to have success in a number

of mediums including sculpture, draw-

ing, photography, and watercolor. His

work can be seen at many of the area

galleries. There will also be other enjoy-

In addition, the Green Market will pro-

locally sourced and made items. A bake

vide an opportunity to peruse unique,

sale will feature homemade goodies

able activities for children throughout

the festival.

the Mandarin Art Festival.

from club members' kitchens and food vendors will provide an assortment of cuisine for hungry festival goers.

A variety of live entertainment will be presented throughout the weekend and the historic, 100-year-old Post Office and General Store will be open and manned by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society so that guests may stroll through its doors and back into history. Attendees can try their luck for a Chance Drawing for items contributed by local businesses.

John Cheer received the Mandarin Art Festival's 2018 Best In Show Award, and will be exhibiting again at this year's

festival. Cheer combines stoneware, porcelain, glass, glaze, and sometimes copper wire in his creations.

Note that animals, other than certified service dogs, are not permitted at the art festival.



An artist at work at last year's Mandarin Art Festival

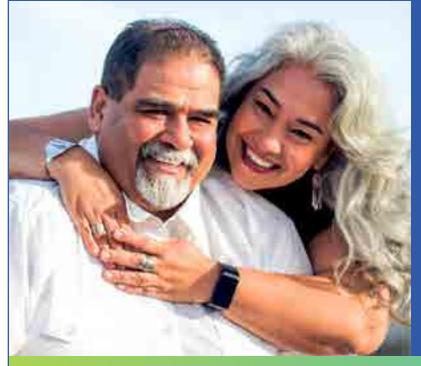
Parking is unavailable at the community club, but free parking is found at Alberts Field on Orange Picker Road and at the Masonic Lodge on Loretto Road. Shuttles will run continually throughout the art festival to and from these locations. A \$2 donation per person is requested.

Visit www.mandarinartfestival.org or www.mandarincommunityclub.org for more information.









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FLORIDA News Line

Mandarin NewsLine ● The CreekLine ● Ponte Vedra NewsLine

12443 San Jose Blvd., STE. 403A Jacksonville, FL 32223 (904) 886-4919 www.FloridaNewsLine.com

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Meet Edgar Allan Toes!



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

May's Enhanced Section **Summer Camps**

BREED:

Polydactyl cat

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:

Playing with his brother. He also bonds with

his mother Princess who is a Polydactyl.

FAVORITE TREAT:

Temptations treats and rubbing him behind

his ears

FAVORITE FRIEND:

His brother Chub Chub

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:

Because he had 25 toes.

His front paws looks like a baseball mit too.

This month's contest sponsored by:

Mandarin Animal Hospital 4473 Sunbeam Road

www.mandarinanimalhospital.com

IS YOUR BUSINESS: Daycare? Dance? Party? School? **GET NOTICED** in this section!

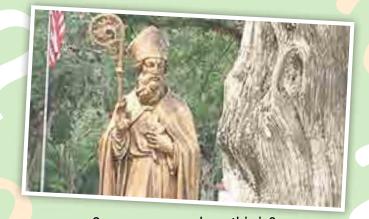
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MYSTERY PHOTO



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

Last month's Mystery Photo was the Winn Dixie shopping plaza on the corner of Loretto Road and San Jose Boulevard. Our winner was Chuck Harvey. Congratulations!

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April 1

Southside Newcomers Club First Monday Coffee

10 a.m. Mimi's Cafe in St Johns Town Center sncmembership84@gmail.com

April 2

Shuffleboard

9:30 a.m. (new time) (repeating event on Tuesdays) Mandarin Park, next to tennis courts at park entrance

Just show up unless it rains

Honeybee Quilt Guild

6:30 p.m.

Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 2501 Loretto Rd. www.honeybeequilters.org (Repeats first Tuesday of each month)

April 3

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)

Jacksonville Camera Club

6:45 p.m.

Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6595 Columbia

www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)

April 6

About Boating Safely class

7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Florida Tackle and Gun Club. 9010 San Jose Blvd. www.safeboatingjax.com

Mandarin Republican Club breakfast meeting

10 a.m.

Golden Corral, 11470 San Jose Blvd. Breakfast cost is discounted; all who attend

Mandarin Toastmasters meeting

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

South Mandarin Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd. Mandarintoastmasters.org

April 7

Under the Oaks music jam

2 p.m. – 4 p.m., weather permitting Mandarin Museum, 11964 Mandarin Road www.mandarinmuseum.net

April 9

Dementia Support for Caregivers

River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road Repeating event on the second Wednesday of each month

"Spring into Beautiful skin" presented by Jennifer Alston, Advanced Skin Care specialist

11:15 a.m. - 1 p.m. Ramada Inn, 3131 Hartley Road Presented by First Coast Jacksonville Women's Connection, affiliated with Stonecroft RSVP by April 3: (916) 662-2263 or mihae. brown@gmail.com

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

Mandarin Council networking luncheon

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd. www.mandarincouncil.org

Living with Lung Cancer Support Network

Ackerman Cancer Center, 10881 San Jose Blvd. RSVP: (904) 880-5522

April 11

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

April 13

Frog Painting

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Mandarin Museum and Historical Society, 11964 Mandarin Road

www.mandarinmuseum.net

St. Johns Chapter of the Catholic Writers

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

St. Paul's Catholic Church school auditorium, 2609 Park St.

www.dosafl.com/outreach/catholic-writersguild/ or writerrod@comcast.net

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

Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market

First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.

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)

Twin Lakes Academy Elementary 20th Anniversary Reception

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

TLAE Campus, 8000 Point Meadows Drive Refreshments, games, guest speakers, school

Book signing, "Flowers in Transition" by local photographer Susan Michal

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Vintage Arts, 10029 San Jose Blvd. Free event; all welcome

April 15

All Star Quilt Guild

9:45 a.m.

First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

April 16 – 17

AARP Safe Driving Class

12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose

Register at (904) 414-0007. \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members.

around town

River City Women's Club featuring installation of new officers

10:30 a.m.

Ramada Inn, 3130 Hartley Road RSVP: Florence (904) 262-8719

April 18

Cherokee Rose Circle, Mandarin Garden **Club: Invasive plants**

Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road (210) 910-0672; mandaringardenclub.org

April 20 - 21

51st annual Mandarin Arts Festival

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday Mandarin Community Club 12447 Mandarin Road www.mandarinartfestival.org

April 22

Men Helping Men Prostate Cancer Support

6 p.m.

Ackerman Cancer Center, 10881 San Jose Blvd. RSVP: (904) 880-5522

April 25

Mandarin Council monthly breakfast

8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd. www.mandarincouncil.org

Mandarin Women's Club Annual Game Day

Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Road RSVP by April 11, mcshell@comcast.net or (904)

Live Oak Circle, Mandarin Garden Club

7 p.m.

Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road Mandaringardenclub.org

April 27

Relay for Life

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Nease High School www.RelayForLife.org/NSTJfl

Plant Sale

8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road www.mandaringardenclub.org

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Simply email your information to: Calendar@floridanewsline.com

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Mandarin Garden Club to hold plant sale

Mandarin Garden Club, located at 2892 Loretto Road, will hold its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, April 27 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Members of the club grow the plants for sale, including trees, annuals, perennials, herbs, roses and succulents. Also available for sale are gardening tools, books, baskets, yard art, and other gardening items. The Garden Café will be open with homemade baked goods for sale and free coffee and water. Master Gardeners will also be on site to answer questions or help identify plants.

Historic buildings open for visits

The historic buildings open in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road, will be open on April 6 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. These buildings include the 1875 farmhouse, 1876 barn and Losco Winery. The historic Mandarin Store and Post Office, located at 12471 Mandarin Road, are also open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Mandarin Museum and the St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children in Walter Jones Park will be open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net or call (904) 268-0784 for more information.

River City Women to install new officers

The River City Women's Club will meet Wednesday, April 17 at Ramada Inn, 3130 Hartley Road at 10:30 a.m. Following lunch, there will be installation of new officers. Additionally, checks will be distributed to selected charities. The incoming president will take over and announce the names of the new committees. The River City Women's Club meets the third Wednesday of each month for lunch, camaraderie and a fundraising program for charity. Social time begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by a business meeting, luncheon and program. Guests are welcome and reservations are required; call Florence at (904) 262-8719.

Relay for Life to honor cancer survivors

Relay for Life will take place at Nease High School on Saturday, April 27 from 12 p.m. – 10 p.m. The event will be fun-filled with fundraising teams selling food and goodies. Local entertainment, games, and food trucks will be on hand. The highlight will be the luminaria event, showcasing the names of people who have passed away from cancer, experienced it, or are fighting through it. Time will be taken to commemorate the ones lost

and remind everyone why the fight for the cure continues on. There is still time to register a team or join a team. Simply download the Relay for Life app on the App Store or the Google Play Store and sign up for the Relay for Life of North St Johns County. Founded in 1986, Relay For Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The mission of Relay for Life is to honor cancer survivors of all ages. Visit RelayForLife.org/NSTJfl for Relay for Life will be held April 27, 2019.

Smart Driver course offered at library

more information or to make a dona-

AARP will hold its Smart Driver course for drivers 50 and older from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16 and Wednesday, April 17 at South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd. You must attend both days to qualify for auto insurance discount.

Bring your driver's license and AARP membership card (if applicable) and arrive 15 minutes early on the first day to register. The cost is \$15 for AARP members or \$20 for non-members. To enroll, call (904) 414-0007.



Could it be a hernia? 8 silent signs

The signs of a hernia are not always obvious. Most common is a bulge in the abdomen, but here are some other symptoms that you may be more likely to ignore:

- Pain in the pelvic area
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fever
- Weakness and muscle fatigue in the upper leg or groin
- Constipation
- Feeling full and bloated
- Heartburn
- Pain when lifting or coughing

If left untreated, your hernia could grow, get more painful, or even become dangerous at some point. And a hernia won't go away on its own. The good news is, today's minimally invasive hernia treatment options can offer you fast recovery.

Could it be a hernia? Find out today.





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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.

Email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.com



A Special Presentation at HarborChase

Saturday, April 27th | 11am-3pm

Does the thought of downsizing your home stress you out?

Join us at HarborChase for a special presentation on spring cleaning and downsizing. Come with questions and learn helpful strategies for making an effortless and manageable move. Find out how you can make a seamless transition to senior living!

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with Duval School Board Member, District 7, Lori Hershey

Q: Can you give us an overview of some of the topics discussed at the recent facility meetings hosted by the school board?

A: These recent community meetings were held to bring the community up to date on the aging school facilities in Jacksonville. Duval County is looking to construct 30 new schools as either replacements onsite or on new sites. Proposed are 17 consolidations impacting 42 schools with children from those schools attending new or renovated school buildings. Any buildings no longer in use as a result of the consolidations would be demolished and the land sold to prevent former schools from becoming future blight. Security upgrades at all schools and removal of the majority of portables from schools across the district are also part of the plan. Also, the plan proposes to cut more than 5,000 student seats from the district's inventory and improve the district's facility utilization rate.

Q: How will schools in Mandarin be impacted?

A: It's important to first keep in mind this is a 10 year plan. The school board will receive a revised recommendation of the Master Plan on April 9 and currently it is anticipated it would be on the May agenda.

As for Mandarin, no schools are recommended to be consolidated or closed. One school is proposed to be rebuilt: Loretto Elementary. I have expressed the importance of the historic nature of this school to Superintendent Greene and we will look at ways to potentially preserve the original historic part of the school.

Also impacting District 7, Axson Elementary, which is currently a Montessori school in District 2, would be rebuilt near Atlantic Coast High School. The community has long wanted a K-8 school, and pending the input received from the community meetings, this might be considered for this school.

Mandarin High School and Atlantic Coast High Schools are also recommended for expansion and Crown Point Elementary has major renovation proposed. District 7 has a total of \$111,451,953 in facilities needs, which will be addressed in this process.

Q: When will these changes be prioritized in the plan?

A: Every school in Mandarin will be touched in some way by this proposed 10-year plan, but at this time, we don't know the exact timetable within the plan for any particular school. After the school board votes in May, if the plan is approved, we will explore revenue sources to support this project. I will be holding future community meetings regarding the Master Plan and potential funding sources later in the year. We are still very early in the process.

Q: What is the cost of the plan?

A: The projected cost of the plan is \$1.95 billion, including \$1.03 billion in new construction expenditures and \$922 million of expenditures in improvements, renovations and additions. The plan removes more than \$1 billion in current backlogged repairs.

For those who might have missed the community meeting on March 28 at Mandarin High School, there is an online link for people to visit in order to view the presentations for each district which also allows individuals to provide input: www.dejongrichter.com/ duvalfmp/

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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



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with Jacksonville City Council Member Matt Schellenberg (District 6)

Q: Is there any movement on the improvements to the Scott Mill Road/ **Mandarin Road intersection?**

A: This project will include the construction of a dedicated right turn lane to address the traffic that backs up where Scott Mill Road dead ends into Mandarin Road. The bid is done and the contract has been awarded. The work should be completed before the end of this year.

Q: What is the County Dock update (as of interview date, March 21) for this month?

A: We awarded the contract this past week. We had about seven bidders that we vetted and we picked the best one with the best price. We are working on the contract, which says that the dock will be completed before the end of 2019. The kayak launch is already done and soon we will have a beautiful new dock. I've seen the renderings of the proposed project and it looks great.

Q: Are the latest sidewalks on Mandarin Road started?

A: On Mandarin Road, going north from Orange Picker Road, the sidewalks are in the design/build stage. I'll be able to give an update next month. By the time readers see this, the sidewalks on Orange Picker Road, from Brady Road to Mandarin Road, should be started. There are a lot of infrastructure/drainage issues to address, but construction should be underway by April.

Q: Is progress on the dog park still moving

A: Within 30 days, we should have an announcement on this. The city has done all the work, the seller is interested and we are just working out the details. The land purchased for the dog park will also be used to improve parking for an athletic park in the area.

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

A: The construction of the addition to the Mandarin Senior Center is moving quickly. Vertical construction is underway, but it will still take about a year to complete. As I stated before, this is one of the most active senior centers in Jacksonville. The amount of daily activities offered on a daily basis is fabulous. If you haven't tested out this facility before, you should. You'll meet new friends and find new activities to enrich your daily life.

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

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



Twelve different types of sauces were available.

Mandarin Senior Center Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo night a success

The Mandarin Senior Center hosted its annual Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night on Friday, Feb. 22. Many community members came out to enjoy the food, play games and win prizes.





Personal Philosophy

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FYI Contact Numbers

Duval County Local Government (coj.net) Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Mike Williams,

Patrol Zone 3: Assistant Chief Mat Nemeth,

(904) 828-5463

Property Appraiser: Jerry Holland, jholland@coj.net; (904) 630-2011

Supervisor of Elections: Mike Hogan, mhogan@coj.net, (904) 630-1414

Tax Collector: Jim Overton, taxcollector@coj.net, (904) 630-1916

Clerk of Court: Ronnie Fussell, (904) 255-2000

Jacksonville City Council

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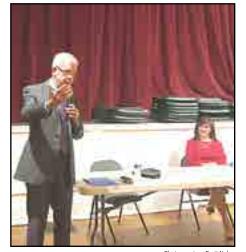
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Briefs

Candidate forum held at community club

The Candidate Forum held on Feb. 28 at the Mandarin Community Club drew a crowd of 60 or more local residents who wanted to hear from the candidates running for the District 6 City Council seat, which includes Mandarin. Candidates Michael Boylan and Rose Conry answered questions that had been submitted in writing by attendees as they entered the club building. The forum was moderated by local TV celebrity and Mandarin resident Sam Kouvaris.



City Council District 6 candidates Michael Boylan and Rose Conry at the Candidate Forum held at the Mandarin Community Club.

Friends of the Library seeks members

New members are welcome to support the South Mandarin Library. The Friends of the South Mandarin Library meet on the second Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in the library, located at 12125 San Jose Blvd.

The group's purpose is to support the Children and Teen Department. Book sales sponsored by the Friends of the Library have funded the summer reading programs, purchased furniture and most recently purchased a couch for the Teen Department.

Call the South Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 288-6385 for more information.



Mandarin Women's Club members Mary Shell, Bey Severns, Sue Wojtowicz, Stacia Snuggs, Fran Walch, Anita Owens. Leslie Lawrence, Ann Blodgett and Penny Baxter recently spent an afternoon creating

speakers, to games, holiday auctions, fashion shows, and entertainment. To attend the Game Day on April 25, contact mcshell@comcast.net or (904) 859-6299 by April 11 to register. Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for more information on events, photos,

Mandarin Women's Club holds game day

The Mandarin Women's Club will host its annual Game Day on April 25 at the Ramada Inn Mandarin, beginning at 9

The Mandarin Women's Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May and offers a multitude of activities throughout the year, including daytime and nighttime Bunco and Mexican Train, Bridge, and Mah Jongg. Members also enjoy travel and antiquing excursions, dining out events, socials, and other activities. Monthly luncheons feature a wide variety of interests and vary from

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and membership forms. **Community club's third** annual tree giveaway

The annual Tree Giveaway and Festival, founded and sponsored by the Mandarin Community Club, was a success for the third year running. Hundreds of trees in five different species were given away to aid in replanting Mandarin and to keeping Mandarin green.

another success

This year the event was expanded to include educational classes held in the historic club building, multiple food trucks and a variety of vendors — but taking center stage was the trees that were given out to those anxiously awaiting the event.

The Mandarin Community Club has committed to making this an annual event for the community. The idea for the event came after the tree loss and devastation to the tree canopy following two years of hurricanes that took out hundreds of trees across Mandarin.



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Mandarin News Line

Read, play, learn, volunteer, relax at the library

By Olga Bayer mail@florida newsline.com

Smart Start

Engage little ones from birth to age five in fun, educational storytime learning every week at Mandarin and South Mandarin branch libraries. It's easy to find something just right for you and your little ones. Simply visit jaxpubliclibrary. org, click Events, click For Kids in drop down menu, then select your Event Location (Mandarin or

South Mandarin) and Age Group (Early Childhood). You'll find information about Social Time, storytimes such as Young Children Read, Play and Learn or Help Me Grow, Play and Learn for babies or toddlers — and more.

B is for Baby

If you're expecting a child, or are a new caregiver, don't miss B is for Baby, at the Main Library downtown on April 6, 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Community experts will share valuable tips about children from birth to age two. Enjoy demos and workshops about sleep safety, proper car seat installation, sign language, caring for baby, lactation and much more.

Cool Stuff for Kids

Kids are invited to read to local therapy dogs Trey and Shelley on April 6,



Therapy dogs Trey and Shelley love it when kids read to them, and the kids love it too. Reading aloud to furry friends helps children gain more confidence and improve their reading skills.

3 p.m., at South Mandarin. Mandarin branch Art Club, April 2 at 4 p.m., gives kids aged five - 12 a chance to draw, paint and explore history, and STEAM Team, April 6 at 2 p.m., involves kids in experiments and unique challenges. Also at Mandarin on April 20, 2 p.m., ages seven – 12 will want to join Kids Read!, featuring the book, "Sophie Simon Solves Them All," by Lisa Graff.

Teen Thing

Middle and high school students can join their library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) to share ideas about future programs and activities, and fulfill school requirements for volunteer credit hours. The Teen Advisory Board meets April 9, 7:30 p.m., at South Mandarin and April 27, 4 p.m., at Mandarin branch.

Bishop Kenny senior to play soccer at Rollins College



Bishop Kenny High School senior Sarah Skala has been selected to play girls' soccer for Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. Skala, a midfielder, currently plays on the U.S. Soccer Development Academy team in Jacksonville. Skala is a strong student who currently has a 3.96 GPA, is a member of the National Honor Society and the German Honor Society. She also belongs to the German Club and the ZIP Club (Zero In on Prevention), a group that focuses on spreading the message of preventing drug and alcohol abuse. She plans to major in elementary education and earn a master's degree in education.

Taxing, Relaxing

Need help with taxes? It's AARP Tax-Aide to the rescue as IRS-certified volunteers give free tax prep assistance April 2 and 9, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at South Mandarin and April 4 and 11, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m., at Mandarin. To really unwind, try Heartfulness Relaxation and Meditation, April 6 and 20, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m., at South Mandarin Branch Library.

Hiring Tips

If you're starting a new business, don't miss "SCORE: Hiring Your First Employee," a workshop to help entrepreneurs through the hiring process, April 8, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., at

South Mandarin. You'll learn how to avoid mistakes and reduce liability to lawsuits.

Jacksonville Public Libraries will be closed April 21 for Easter Sunday. Visit jaxpubliclibrary.org for information about additional events for Mandarin and South Mandarin branch libraries or call Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 262-5201 or South Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 288-6385.

Olga Bayer is with the Jacksonville Public Library.



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Steamship Maple Leaf – Part 1

Life froze at Mandarin Point on April 1, 1864, and now, wrenched in the depths of the murky St. Johns River, rests the world's largest known repository of Civil War artifacts known. This month we dive into the history behind the Maple Leaf before she reached her watery grave. Part 2 will follow in May.

Built in Kingston, Ontario, for a Canadian shipping firm, the Maple Leaf was constructed in 1851. She ferried passengers and mail across Lake Ontario until 1855, when her owners sold her to a New York joint stock company due to financial snags. The ship was in her prime. Receiving daily news coverage for arrival and departure times, the Maple Leaf provided far more than practical transportation between Canadian and American ports. For just 75 cents, passengers could partake in "moonlight excursions," where a band was always on board to "enliven the party." Folks would dance and enjoy the scenic waters on the open lake before returning to port around midnight. In September 1860, the Maple Leaf led two special excursions from Rochester to see the Prince of Wales and his Royal entourage traveling on the steamer Kingston.

However, with the railroad industry increasing and hostilities of the American Civil War fast encroaching, the Maple Leaf's business as a luxury excursion steamboat was ending. In fact, on her last Fourth of July trip, many Canadian sympathizers of the Confederate cause would lob sticks at the ship's



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society

Maple Leaf model located in Mandarin Museum.

to new owners in Boston who then leased her to the federal government, where she joined the ranks as a United

The Maple Leaf conducted routine services of ferrying troops, equipment, and supplies along the Atlantic coast, occasionally transporting Confederate prisoners of war. In June 1863, she was relocating 97 Confederate officers to

Doodle" instead of

"Dixie." By 1862,

the ship was sold

States Army transport ship.

detention at Fort Delaware. When the prisoners caught wind that the guards' muskets weren't loaded, 12 of them overpowered the Yankee watchmen and escaped. Now hijacked, 70 Rebels made their way ashore via small boats

> remain behind. When the Union heard the news of this escape, an

investigation took place; the blame fell on the lieutenant of the guard detachment for failure to assure the guards' guns were loaded. At the direction of President Lincoln, the lieutenant was dismissed.

By February 1864, a brigade of soldiers composed of the 112th and 169th New York and 13th Indiana Volunteer Infantries were rushed to Florida to support

the Union expedition. Soon the Union saw defeat at the Battle of Olustee, a day-long fight resulting in almost 3000 casualties — the largest battle in Florida during the Civil War. Camp equipage and personal belongings had been left behind in South Carolina, so on March 26, the Maple Leaf was tasked to retrieve it at Folly Island. This property filled the entire cargo hold of the ship and, after a stop at Hilton Head, she arrived in Jacksonville at 5 p.m. on March 30. Rather than unloading everything, the Maple Leaf was ordered to carry on immediately to Palatka to deliver Union cavalry, supplies and equipment. The ship departed for the 50-mile trip at 9 p.m., reaching its destination at 4 a.m. the following morning. By 11:15 p.m. that night, the ship set off for Jacksonville on what was to be her final journey.

(Note: The research collected for this article is from The Maple Leaf: An Extraordinary American Civil War Shipwreck by Dr. Keith Holland et.al.)

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



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Get prepared for summer camp season

mail@floridanewsline.com

Summer camp season is just around the corner. Each summer, millions of children depart for campsites around the country to swim, hike, craft, and enjoy the companionship of friends.

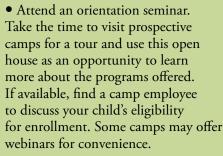
Summer camps in North America were first established in the 1880s and were attended by children without their parents for overnight stays. By the 20th century, summer camps had become an international phenomenon, and various organizations hosted traditional summer camps or camps geared toward religion, sports, music and other subjects

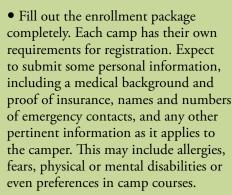
and activities. According to the American Camp Association, each year more than 14 million children and adults in the United States attend camp. America is home to more than 14,000 day and resident camps (8,400 are overnight camps and 5,600 are day camps). Nonprofit groups are the largest sponsors of summer camps.

Many people put off summer camp planning until it is too late. Parents should keep in mind that camps begin registration early in the year and have

Voice ~ Drama ~ Dance

specific cut-off dates for enrollment. Parents who want to beat the crowds this year can use this guide to help plan a summer camp agenda.





• Establish payment schedules. Summer camps vary in price. The ACA says camp costs range from \$100 to more than \$1,500 per week. However, many accredited camps offer some sort of financial assistance for children from families with limited financial means. If cost is a factor, be sure to broach the subject.



Start gearing up now for summer camp plans to guarantee kids attend the camps they prefer.

• Prepare children for the physical challenges a camp may present. Summer camp activities may be rigorous, and campers may need to be cleared by a physician before starting. Be sure to schedule your child a physical and bring along any pertinent forms. Children also can increase their levels of physical activity compared to the often sedentary nature of winter. Such preparation can prevent injuries when engaging in outdoor and physical activities.

- Shop for supplies. Camps are likely to provide a list of requirements with regard to clothing and other equipment campers will need. Make sure kids have enough shorts, T-shirts, socks, athletic shoes, swimsuits, toiletries, and other camp necessities before they leave.
- Keep children in the loop. Engage children in the planning process to help alleviate their fears and get them excited about summer camp.



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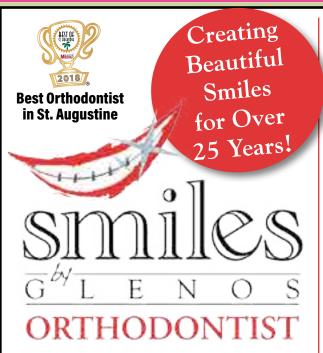
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6 ideas for rainy summer days

By NewsLine Staff mail@floridanewsline.com

Summer vacation means spending time outdoors and enjoying sunny skies but not every day will be sunny and clear. The following are some go-to ideas that can keep summer vacationers happy even when the rain is falling.

- 1. Visit area museums. It's probably been a while since you've looked at the sights in your hometown, and rainy summer days provide the perfect opportunity to take them in from a tourist's perspective. If you are away from home when the rain starts to fall, inquire about any unique indoor activities the area has to offer. Hotel lobbies and concierge offices typically have lots of brochures advertising nearby activities.
- 2. Do a scavenger hunt. Make up clues and hide a prize to be discovered at the end of the hunt. Scavenger hunts can keep children or adults occupied until the rains subside.
- 3. Have an indoor campout. If weather cancels your plans to camp out under the stars, pitch your tent indoors and camp under the ceiling. Tell scary stories and tinker with s'mores recipes to make

your indoor camping seem more like the real thing.

- 4. Stock up on board games. Board games are the original boredom-busters. They're portable, and they can quickly turn a rainy day into something much more tolerable. Up the ante and have winners from each game compete against one another in a game of a different type.
- 5. Head to the theater. Catch that summer action flick or curl up next to a sweetheart and watch the latest romantic comedy. Some movie theaters even offer discount tickets at certain times during the summer.
- 6. Don't be afraid of the rain. Unless you're a certain witch with a wicked streak, chances are you will not melt in the rain. Summer rain actually can be refreshing, so put on your rain jacket and enjoy a stroll or even find a way to have fun in the rain. It's alright to get messy during a rainy day volleyball or football game. Just be sure to run inside the moment you see any lightning.



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School Briefs



Crown Point Orff Ensemble performs.

Crown Point Orff Ensemble performs

On Feb. 23, the Crown Point Elementary Orff Ensemble performed on Tubano drums to songs written by music specialist, Michelle Curtis (inspired by "The 7 Habits of Happy Kids" by Covey) for the North Florida Orff Chapter at Jacksonville Country Day School. Curtis was awarded a grant for the use of 12 drums for the 2018 - 19school year at Crown Point Elementary.

Richard Wright, who also teaches music at Crown Point, led the Orff Ensemble in a rhythmic drumming piece by Jim Solomon, the composer who donated the drums to the North Florida Orff Chapter. Parents, family

members, friends, and teachers came from all over Florida to share the joy of music sung and played by the talented students of Crown Point.

San Jose Episcopal Day School participates in Read **Across America**

San Jose Episcopal Day School's students, faculty and staff participated in the national Read Across America event on Friday, March 1, with a school wide Read-A-Thon. Nearly the entire school gathered in the gym that morning with a good book and read silently together for more than an hour. Even the younger students who can't read yet or are beginning readers didn't miss out

on the fun — they were read to by an upper school student for the first part of the Read-A-Thon. Together, San Jose Episcopal Day School read nearly 11,000 pages.

The National Education Association's Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of children's author Dr.



Photo courtesy San Jose Episcopal Day School San Jose Episcopal Day School students read nearly 11,000 pages.

Loretto starts National Elementary Honor Society chapter

Loretto Elementary School is now affiliated with the National Elementary Honor Society, part of the prestigious National Honor Societies family. The first induction ceremony of the OWL Chapter was held Thursday, Feb. 21 at the school. Gretchen Williams and Pauline Gonzales serve as the chapter sponsors, while Laquitrice Johnson serves as the chapter advisor. The chapter started with fourth grade for the 2018 – 19

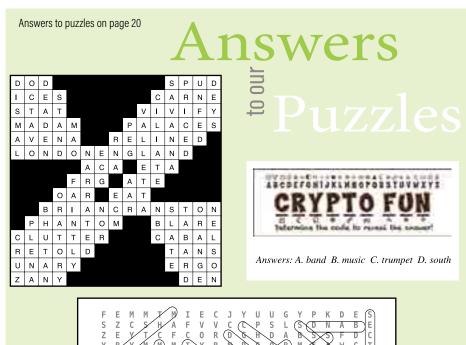
school year, and will add fifth grade for the 2019 - 20 school year.

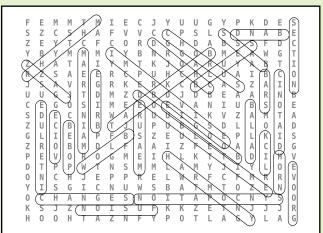
The Loretto OWL Chapter of the NEHS has started its first service project, to raise awareness of and collect supplies for an orphanage in Asia. Second grade teacher Gina Riley is taking a mission trip to India, which has the world's largest orphan population. An orphanage, Asia's Hope, is in need of pencils, notebooks, folders, and other school supplies. Asia's Hope operates six children's homes, employing a staff of 40 and providing homes for more than 140 orphaned children. Each home functions as a family; the kids do chores, cook together, eat together, do homework and go to church together. Through this service project, Loretto's National Elementary Honor Society chapter will help Asia's Hope to transform the lives of the nearly 800 children currently in its care.

Book Tasting at Crown Point Elementary

Kindergarten classes led Amanda Redmonds and Sarah Crush explored literary genres at a Kindergarten Book Tasting in February. Fourth and fifth grade student leaders shared their love for reading with kindergarteners by running various genre tasting stations. These student leaders read books from different genres to kindergarten students at each station.

After visiting each station, kindergarten students filled out Book Review Menus, logging their tasting experience (their favorite book and genres from the day).







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Get to Know . . .

Stacey Goldring

By Martie Thompson editor@floridanewsline.com

During Stacey Goldring's first visit to Mandarin about 30 years ago, she met her future husband. On her second visit, she found her new hometown. Goldring earned a journalism degree from Ohio State University and it was while on Spring Break that she visited her cousins in Mandarin and met Bruce, who attended the University of Florida and was her cousin's roommate in Gainesville. After getting married, the couple spent time in South Florida, where Stacey wrote for several newspapers and Bruce, an airline pilot, had easy access to three airports.

But eventually they decided to move north, to Mandarin, to be close to family and raise their two young sons. They settled off Beauclerc Road at the time, but now live off Julington Creek Road. Their sons are now grown; one lives locally and one lives in Tampa. Stacy Goldring says she is a proud member of the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society — and has her Mandarin Frog in front of her house.

Q: How did you become a sidewalk advocate in Mandarin?

A: In the early days, my life was doing carpool up San Jose Boulevard from Scott Mill Road. A lot of my best ideas came to me while doing carpool. I noticed that you would take your life in your hands walking along my carpool route. With the help of many others, we formed the Scott Mill Road Coalition and were able to get money from the Better Jacksonville Plan to fund

the pedestrian walkway that now runs from the Chevron station on San Jose, to Beauclerc to Scott Mill Road to where it dead ends at Mandarin Road and then to San Jose. We worked diligently with city hall and the sidewalks were dedicated in 2002.

Q: What are some of your other advocacies?

A: This is basically what I now do for a living. I was lucky to be able to make my passion my profession and it all revolves around the written word. I formed the Searching for Identity Foundation and work with second generation Holocaust survivors to offer writing workshops where they share their experiences. They write and we discuss.

Q: Has anything else come out of this project?

A: I'm also working on a documentary about these writings. These stories need to be captured, told, and passed down to future generations. I also teach a class at the University of Florida. I'm working on many fronts to ensure that this history — an American immigrant experience ... parents survived a horrific event — is not forgotten.



Stacey Goldring at Tree Hill, while filming for her documentary work.

Q: What can you tell us about your book

A: I also started professional book facilitations called Chapter Endnotes in Mandarin in 2007. We are now up to seven groups that meet monthly. These are book clubs where we seriously delve into literature. We leave politics and religion at the door and just discuss the book, because I believe literature offers a springboard to understanding each other.

Q: If you could eat just one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

A: I consider myself a "dessert-a-tarian." If it's bad for you, I'll eat it.

[Editor's Note: Visit www.searchingforidentity.org to learn more about Stacey Goldring's work with second generation Holocaust survivors and www.chapterendnotes.com to learn more about her book clubs.]

New Ownership cont. from pg. 1

Over the years, new periodicals were added: Mandarin NewsLine in 2006, Ponte Vedra NewsLine in 2013, and quarterly publications The Ocean Breeze in 2003 and Players Journal in 2007.

During that time Mandarin advertising sales representative Heather Seay joined the growing company, as did creative director Julie Gerona, bookkeeper Emily Whitehead, and Ponte Vedra advertising sales representative Jeremy Moriarty.

RT Publishing, Inc. and its community newspapers became Local Community News, Inc., when the company was purchased by Florida Sun Printing in 2015. Pettus joined Local Community News shortly after the purchase and served as publisher until 2017, when he bought the Havana newspapers. Havana Publishing Group, Inc. purchased Florida NewsLine and the other assets of Local Community News on Feb. 1, 2019.



HarborChase of Mandarin is a brand new premier senior living community in Jacksonville. We have had a great success with the Florida NewsLine. It has greatly increased traffic flow to our new community. We consistently had open house events each monthly and because of the The Creekline and Mandarin NewsLine, we've had great turnouts. I look forward to continuing advertising in these publications. They have a great reputation and thank them for our success thus far.

Landry Arnold, **Director of Sales**

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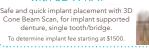
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Screen Time Vs. Real Time: The Julington-Durbin Creek Preserve

By Heidy Brosofsky-Weaver mail@floridanewsline.com

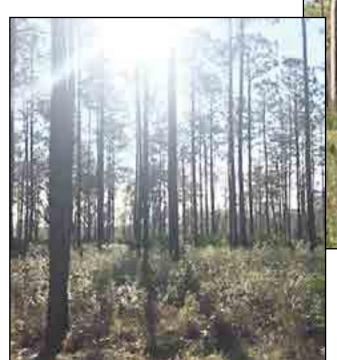
It was a windy Saturday, and initially the goal was to join the Audubon Society at 8 a.m. on a bird-watching adventure. After forgetting to set my alarm clock and arriving an hour late, the backup plan was to try and locate these birders with binoculars along one of the many paths in the 2,031-acre

Julington-Durbin Creek Preserve.

However, plans changed again after meeting members of the Northeast Florida Sierra Club near the park's map board and being invited to join them on a 10-mile hike. With no water and a cup of coffee in hand, I wasn't fully prepared but decided to give it a try. One of the hikers, Bill Armstrong, assured me there were many other Sierra Club opportunities posted on Meetup.com if I got tired and had to turn around.

Armstrong explained Meetup was created by a New Yorker after the September 11, 2001, attacks on the Twin Towers, to bring people with common interests together. Now, there are Meetup groups all over America offering everything from computer coding, camping, and crafting to dragon boats, doggie dates, and Deutsch lessons. Fittingly, a slogan on the Meetup home page

promotes the idea that "the real world is calling."



Pine forest at the Julington Durbin Creek Preserve

As for experiencing the real world at the Julington-Durbin Creek Preserve, it was inspiring to encounter towering trees, marvel at little things flying past, and meet people from all walks of life.

Although there were some novices in the group, there were also pro hikers who were getting their gear in order to tackle more sections of the Appalachian

Off the beaten path

Trail and add to the thousands of miles

Additionally, hikers on this half-day trip were treated to an environmental lesson about the preserve, located on a peninsula where the two creeks merge. It's a unique ecological area which features a sandhill community along the higher areas contrasted by flatwoods

and wetlands in lower areas.

on their pedometers.

For regulars to the park, having a guide brought new life to this experience. Walkers learned additional tidbits about topics including controlled brush

> fires and pine trees acting as lightning rods. The guide also shared how Sierra Club members lobby the local and state government for pro-environmental causes. In fact, this particular preserve, located on prime real estate property near the St. Johns County border, has benefitted from these efforts.

As a result, there were songbirds aplenty to enjoy, and walkers learned about other wildlife

on the area's watch list, such as bald eagles, ospreys, gopher tortoises, bobcats, turkeys, deer, and manatee. Even though I turned around after a mile to search for water, there are now a few more items added to my bucket list.

Time to turn off the computer. The real world is calling.





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Therapy Animal Coalition aims to match up volunteer teams with organizations

By Martie Thompson editor@floridanewsline.com

When Kristi Leonard's youngest child began school, she decided she'd like to get back into pet therapy, a volunteer hobby that she had been active in when she lived in California a number of years ago. Pet therapy animals are different from service animals and emotional support animals; service and emotional support animals serve their handler/owner, while therapy animals serve with their handler/owner to serve everybody else.

In California, Leonard said there was an organization that not only helped register pet therapy teams, but also helped find places for them to volunteer. There was not, in 2011, such an organization here. So, Leonard started calling local hospitals, trying to find a place to volunteer with her pet therapy dog.

"I found that there were about 100 local pet therapy teams that were registered and independently volunteering here," she said. "But everybody was recreating the wheel. And it is not an easy process."

After meeting with several other pet therapy volunteers, the idea was planted that the area needed an organization to help people become registered as pet therapy teams and to know where to volunteer. The group held an expo in October 2016, with the intention of getting all the organizations and all the interested parties together in one place. They anticipated attendance by 100 people and were pleased to actually welcome 250.

"We thought, 'Maybe we are onto something," Leonard said.

The Therapy Animal Coalition, a true coming together of many local therapy animal groups, was formed as a 501 c 3 in March 2017. The coalition held its second expo in October 2017, this time a full day event. The most recent expo was held in March 2019.

Leonard said that the expos aim to reach three audiences: first, the expo acts as a recruiting tool for aspiring pet therapy teams. Registering to become a pet therapy team is not an easy process and requires training sessions of weeks or months, depending upon how well the animal is already trained. Dogs, for example, need to be able to obey basic commands like sit, stay and walk on a least

"We are asking the animal to get in someone's personal space," Leonard said.

"The animal must be calm and really love people. But the temperment of the animal if the most important aspect."

Leonard said that of the approximately 225 pet

therapy teams registered locally, the majority of the animals are dogs. But there are also three miniature horses, a full sized Clydesdale, three cats and a rabbit that are registered.

The second audience for the expo is the already registered teams. Leonard said the expo can act like continuing education for these teams, with workshops designed to help them find places to volunteer.

Finally, and new in 2019, the Therapy Animal Coalition partnered with the University of North Florida to offer a new program for animals and health care, particularly for mental health and physical therapy offices. Here, animals may be used as part of treatment and the expo offered training for medical professionals as to what pet therapy animals can do if



Sunday, a Goldendoodle, and his handler, Kristi Leonard, founding board chair of Therapy
Animal Coalition, help a young boy practice reading at San Marco Library.

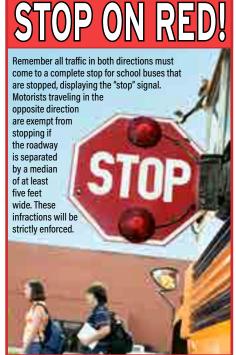
they are prescribed. For instance, patients with some forms of traumatic brain injury might open a bag of dog treats or brush a dog.

Leonard said the Therapy Animal Coalition is always seeking new volunteer pet therapy teams as well as new organizations that could benefit from a pet therapy program. Besides obvious places like hospitals and schools, Leonard said pet therapy is available at the airport as well as the Duval County Courthouse.

"My favorite part about pet therapy is that we witness little miracles all the time," Leonard said. "We've seen people absolutely come out of their shells when they see the pets."

Visit www.therapyanimalcoalition.org for more information.

Faith-Worship-Praise Section











Garalening

Spring promise

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale mail@floridanewsline.com

As of early March, it has rained fairly frequently, temperatures have been variable but generally milder than usual, and the azaleas are blooming beautifully. The ground is warming up and daylight hours are slowly lengthening. I was delighted to see my first hummingbird, probably a resident, during the third week in February, and by the end of February there were gulf fritillary butterflies looking for passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*) on which to lay eggs. In my vegetable bed, I found a beautiful spider, *Argiope aurantia*, or

yellow garden spider, sitting in its web with two neatly wrapped but unidentifiable food packets. Its web is very distinctive, with a dense zig-zag, ladderlike vertical structure across the center. (My dilemma is how to relocate it — this species can bite — since I need to clear the bed for summer vegetables.) And then along came an iridescent green and rusty brown dung beetle, *Phanaeus vindex*, probably drawn to the area because of local cats...!

The latest edition of A New Leaf is available here: http://tinyurl.com/ y62h2tdc. It is always a useful starting point when deciding what needs to be done in the garden and what to plant, and in addition gives details of upcoming Extension classes in gardening and canning. Two worthwhile events on April 26: Landscaping for Wildlife and Bring on the Pollinators, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Extension office at a cost of \$10. Plus Workshop and Open House at the Urban Garden Center, 1032 Superior Street, off Commonwealth Avenue, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is required for both events; contact Sarah Freeman at (904) 255-7450.

In spring, after our landscapes begin waking up after the relatively slow winter, we will likely begin to take more notice of how our plants are faring. We may find there are problems associated with winter damage, perhaps some twig

and branch problems that could be because of too much rain or fluctuating temperatures. Whatever the problem, take advantage of upcoming Master Gardener plant clinics, hosted by local nurseries, where they can examine your ailing plant and advise a course of action. There will be several plant clinics on April 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Check for locations in A New Leaf. Sometimes problems can be traced to

container-grown trees and shrubs can be planted throughout the year if well cared for. When possible, choose smaller woody plants; one gallon plants grow to catch up with larger plants after two or three years, and are quicker to spread their roots out into garden soil. Remember: the first year they sleep, the second year they creep, and the third year they leap.

After the first flush of spring growth, many of our deciduous oaks are a lovely fresh green, while some live oaks (Quercus virginiana) still look rather dark and jaded. They only drop their old leaves when new ones are literally pushing them out, so while we think of live oaks as evergreen, it's not strictly speaking the case. As usual, my neighbor's hickory is still looking quite bare, illustrating

how varied our landscapes can be if we plant for diversity. Looking at a mixed tree canopy we see a wide variety of leaf form, color, and texture, particularly in spring, and for me the whole effect is one of promise of things to come.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

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root trouble, so make sure to examine your plant carefully and bag all suspicious parts. Master Gardeners should then have enough information to make a diagnosis.

Many of us think of spring as the time to plant, and while woody plants are easier to establish when dormant,





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Coast Guard Auxiliary update

By Paul Tynda mail@floridanewsline.com

Boaters in Jacksonville have more of an opportunity to enjoy their waters a lot longer than many other states have. Sometimes the cold weather of winter is skipped altogether, and warm weather and abundant sunshine prevails.

The area does experience its fair share of accidents and fatalities in and around Florida's waterways. One way to prepare for and hopefully prevent an accident is attendance at one of the boating safety classes offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Flotilla 14-8, the Jacksonville Flotilla, offers the About Boating Safety course once a month at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club on San Jose Boulevard. Experienced boaters or who have purchased their first boat can benefit from the course. Attendees who complete the eight hour course receive the Boating Safety ID Card from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) that is required for all boaters born after Jan. 1, 1988.

Current course schedule for 2019:

Saturday, April 6

Saturday, May 11

Saturday, June 1

Saturday, July 6

Saturday, Aug. 3

Saturday, Sept. 7

Saturday, Oct. 5

To register for one of the courses, visit www.safeboatingjax.com or call (904) 721-1346. The registration fee is \$20; one additional family member or friend may share a book for \$5 more. For groups of 10 or more, a private class can be arranged.

All boat owners are encouraged to take advantage of the auxiliary's free Vessel Safety Check program. An experienced vessel examiner will meet at your home, boat storage location, or in a mutually agreed on location. The Vessel Safety Checks take between 15 – 30 minutes depending on the size of the vessel and the equipment on board. Paddle craft and personal watercraft owners are also eligible for the safety check. Passing vessels will be awarded a decal that is placed on the vessel that is good for the calendar year it is issued in. These vessel safety checks are no cost, no penalty, safety checks to help educate the boating public and keep all who enjoy local waters safe.

Visit www.safeboatingjax.com for more information, to schedule a vessel safety check, to register for a safe boating class, or to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Paul Tynda is a member of Coast Guard Auxiliary Jacksonville, Flotilla 14-8.





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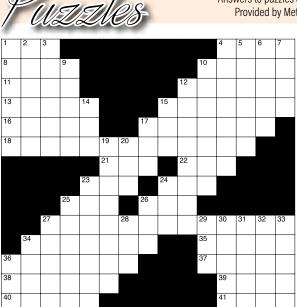
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Answers to puzzles on page 14 Provided by MetroCreative

- CLUES ACROSS
- Defense Department
 Diminutive hoopster Webb
- 8. Cools
- 10. Chili con
- 11. Quantitative fact
- 12. Enliven
- 13. A woman of refinement
- 15. Where royalty live16. Beverage made of oatmeal
- 17. Replaced
- 18. UK's largest city
- 21. Obamacare
- 22. When you expect to get there
- 23. Deutschland
- 24. Consumed 25. Paddle
- 26. A way to consume

- 27. "Walter White"
- 34. The opera has one
- 35. Honk
- 36. Disorganization
- 37. Secret political clique
- 38. Recounted again
- 39. Converts to leather
- 40. Consisting of a single element or
- component
 41. Therefore
- 42. Clownish
- 43. The habitat of wild animals
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Dreary
- 2. Book page size
- 3. Become less lively

- 4. Grassy plain
- 5. Attached a figure to
- 7. NY-based department store
- 9. Pedestal
- 10. Single-celled animal12. National capital
- 14. China's chairman
- 15. Al Bundy's wife
- 17. Acid in all living cells
- 19. Told

6. Hungry

- 20. Displays heartbeat23. Softly
- 24. Swiss river
- 24. Swiss river
- 25. Small chapel
- 26. Electronic countermeasures
- 27. Asian nation28. Neither

- 29. Peacock network
- 30. List of candidates
- 31. Medieval garment
- 32. Type of juice 33. "Coach" actor
- 34. Puerto Rican dance music La _
- 36. Texas politician Ted



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Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka mail@floridanewsline.com

If you have never given surf fishing a try at any of our area beaches, right now is the perfect time of year to do so. Mild temperatures and calming spring winds make for easy and comfortable fishing conditions. As spring continues to progress, the whiting bite is going strong and the pompano bite is steadily on the increase.

Both whiting and pompano are common species of fish to be caught in our beaches waters, with pompano being a little more seasonal than whiting. Both can be fished for similarly, with whiting being the more prominent and easier of the two to catch. Both filet nicely with a light mild meat, but hands down, pompano is a local favorite and prized fish to catch.

Because whiting and pompano use the surf zone of the beach to find their meals, both species pretty much share the same diet plan. Fiddler crabs, sand fleas, shrimp, and clams found in the waves make very good baits, but sand fleas and shrimp seem to be their favorites. Finding bait stores on the way to the beach or at the beach shouldn't be hard and obtaining current fishing information from the bait store can often be helpful.

Any light spinning tackle can be used to catch either species of fish. Twelve to fifteen pound test line is more than adequate to handle these fish, and using braided line could pay dividends with the extra sensitivity it delivers. Surf rods

are great for longer casting, but not required to be able to fish in the surf. Being able to reach the trough between the two areas of breaking waves, or just past the sand bar is usually the best area to fish. The last couple



Photo courtesy Jim Bagnardi
Trey Bagnardi of Julington Creek with a mixed bag caught in the Intracoastal:
Red fish, Jack Crevalle, and Black Drum.

hours of the incoming tide and first couple hours of the outgoing is a good time span to look for.

Using a simple "Fish Finder" rig with smaller saltwater hooks works best for whiting and will sometimes catch a pompano or two; however, "pompano rigs" work best. They are the preferred rig by nearly all pompano fishermen,

and work very well on whiting. Pompano rigs can be bought online or at any bait and tackle store, which is easier than making them yourself. A variety of sinkers from one ounce to about six ounces will be nice to have on hand depending on surf conditions.

Fishing Report: Freshwater bream, bass, and catfish all looking good in area creeks, ponds, and mouth of creeks into

the St. Johns. Look for St Johns River fishing to be improving quickly, with reds moving in on docks. Surf fishing continues to be best bet.

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

Email your Catch of the Month photo to catchofthemonthpictures@gmail.com. Be sure to include the name of the person(s) in the photo, the name of the person who took the photo, the type of fish and date and location of the catch. We will select a photo each month for publication.





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The The Pantry **Raiders**

Slow cooked pork perfect for busy families

By NewsLine Staff mail@floridanewsline.com

Slow cookers can help busy families enjoy home cooked meals without hurrying to get those meals on the table each night. A surefire hit for even the pickiest of eaters, the following recipe for "Braised Pork Buns with Quick Pickled Cucumbers & Bean Sprouts" from Michelle Dudash's "Clean Eating for Busy Families" (Fair Winds Press) can satisfy hungry families.

Braised Pork Buns with Quick Pickled Cucumbers & Bean Sprouts

(Yields 11 servings)

For pork:

2 tsp. expeller-pressed grapeseed or canola oil lb. Boston butt, cut into three pieces along natural muscle separation, trimmed of surface fat

½ tsp. salt

½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper

1/4 cup vermouth, rice wine or dry sherry

2 1/2 cups thinly sliced red cabbage

1 small onion, sliced (about 1 cup)

3 tbsp. molasses (or honey)

2 tbsp. reduced sodium soy sauce

2 tbsp. minced garlic

2 tbsp. minced ginger 1 tbsp. toasted sesame seeds

For cucumbers:

1 tbsp. honey

1/4 tsp. salt

3 tbsp. rice vinegar

2t large cucumbers, peeled, cut in half lengthwise, seeded with a spoon, thinly sliced

1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

To assemble:

11 soft whole-wheat hamburger buns 2 ¾ cups mungbean sprouts



Braised Pork Buns with Quick Pickled Cucumbers & Bean Sprouts

To make the pork: Heat a large skillet over medium heat and add the oil. Season the pork on all sides with salt and pepper. When oil begins to shimmer, add pork and brown on all sides, about four minutes per side. Add browned pork to a slow cooker. Off of the heat, add the vermouth and then place on low heat, scraping up any brown bits from the bottom of the skillet with a wooden spoon. Add contents of the skillet to the slow cooker, along with cabbage, onion, molasses, soy sauce, garlic, ginger, and sesame seeds. Cover and cook on high for one hour; then reduce heat to low and cook for four hours (alternatively, cook the pork on low for the entire duration, six to seven hours).

To make the cucumbers: One hour before serving, in a medium bowl, stir and dissolve the honey and salt into the rice vinegar and then add the cucumbers and

To assemble: Toast the buns cut side up under a broiler or in a toaster oven. Fill the buns with pork, drained cucumbers and bean sprouts.

Native American Festival attracts photography enthusiasts

By Don Dymer mail@floridanewsline.com

The beautiful and serene Princess Place Preserve in Palm Coast provided an authentic setting for the fifth annual Flagler County Native American Festival on Feb. 23. During the day, members of the different tribes appeared in traditional dress and provided weapons demonstrations, horse breaking, and crafts, depicting how they lived in the 19th century and before. In addition to the cooking demonstrations there were food vendors. How to make fire without any of today's fire-lighting gizmos (just by striking metal on stone to get a spark to ignite some moss and then start the wood fire) was a popular choice among the crowd.

This event attracted many people from all over northeast Florida as well as the "snowbirds" eager to explore Florida culture. Attendees were also able to wander around the lake, take out a kayak or just sit on the verandah of the administration office and gaze out



Members of the Jacksonville Camera Club enjoyed the opportunity to take a variety of photographs at the Flagler County Native American Festival.



The fifth annual Flagler County Native American Festival was held on Feb. 23.

over the water, all while imagining the escapades they had heard described by the re-enactors.

This festival also attracted the Jacksonville Camera Club, whose members are always looking for an outing and an opportunity to take different photographs. The Native American Indian provided a colorful and varied subject matter and attracted more than 30 members of the club. It was an exciting day for photography with such a wide variety of subjects.

Outings such as this are one of the reasons the camera club members enjoy the club; it's not just the opportunity for picture taking, but the ability to mix with others of a common interest and learn from each other to achieve the best shots.

Visit jax.jaxcameraclub.com to view some of the images from club members, and to see how to join us at our twice monthly meetings.

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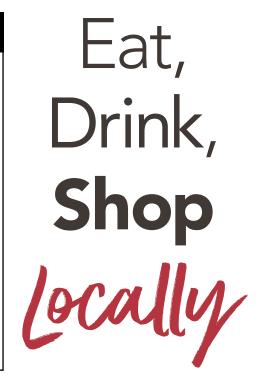
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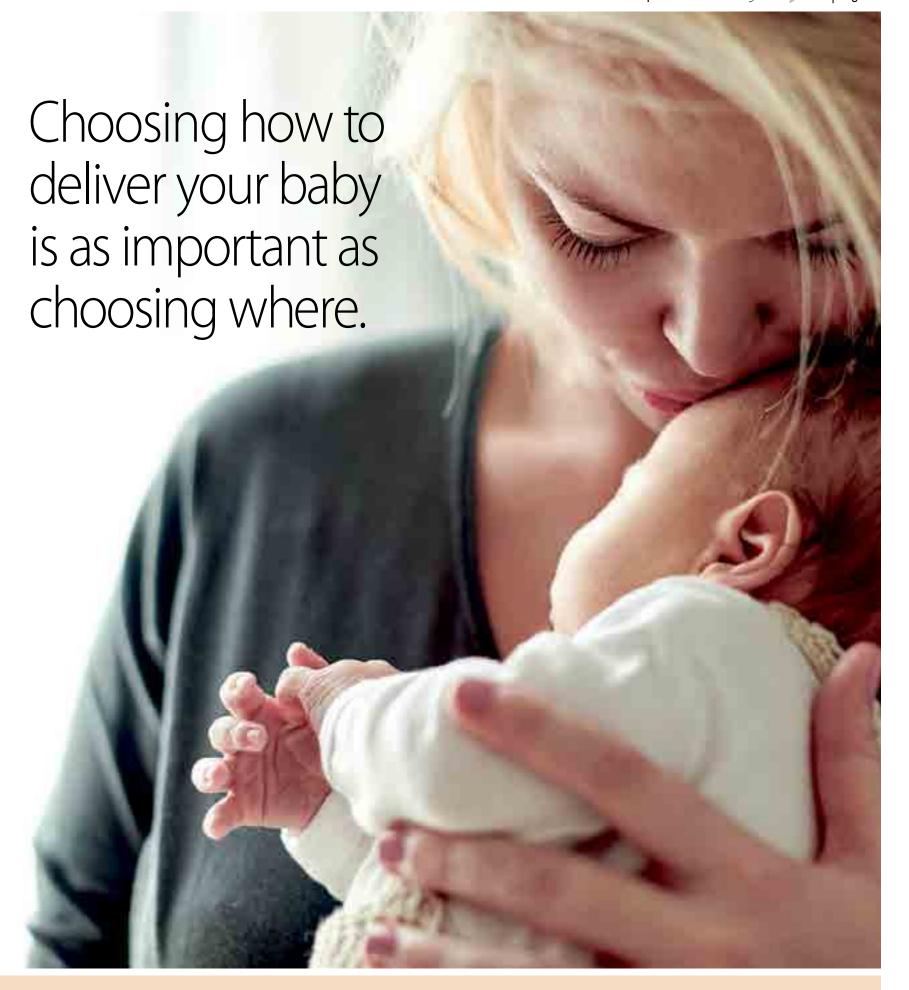
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