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## Back-to-school, book clubs, business and blooms — at the library

By Olga Bayer  
mail@floridanewsline.com

As you gear up for the new school year, remember that Duval County Public Schools students have a great resource right at hand — they can use their DCPS student ID number as their Jacksonville Public Library card. That's a good reason to bring kids to your Mandarin and South Mandarin libraries often. What's more, educators who teach in Duval County —



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Library  
Kids are all ears as library associate SeBria Milton reads aloud during South Mandarin library's Summer Reading program, which encourages reading 15 minutes a day to help students retain academic skills so they return to school better prepared.

even home-school teachers — can apply for an Educator Card at any library and enjoy benefits such as more checkouts, longer borrowing times, and more to help supplement classroom resources. Visit [jaxpubliclibrary.org/librarycard](http://jaxpubliclibrary.org/librarycard) for more details.

### Book Clubbin'

Moms and tween and teen daughters are improving their relationships, building special bonds, and just having fun by spending time together in the Mother/Daughter Book Club at the Mandarin Branch Library. Make a date for Aug. 19 at 6:30 p.m. for this month's book club. The featured book, "Inkheart," will pave the way for interesting discussions. A new book will be chosen collectively by the group each month—so your voice counts. The Mandarin branch also hosts the Mandarin Book Club for adults on the first Thursday of each month. Join the club on Aug. 1 at 1 p.m. to discuss Pulitzer-Prize winner and New York Times best-seller, "All the Light We Cannot See." No matter if you haven't read the book prior to the club meet — you'll definitely

The library cont. on pg. 11

## Native Sons and Daughters provides opportunity for quality time

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

As local students head back to school, it is also time to consider extracurricular activities for the new school year. According to Native Sons and Daughters Florida State Chief Brian Quirk, one of the best ways to spend quality time with your son or daughter, away from the competitiveness of team sports, is by joining or forming a Native Sons or Native Daughters tribe.

"When I first joined when my children were young, one of the other fathers told me that you only have 18 summers to make a difference in your child's life," Quirk said. "That really hit home for me and I think it's the most important part of what our organization provides — quality time."

Native Sons and Daughters was formerly Y-Guides and associated with the YMCA. Formed in the early 20th century by Harold Keltner and Joe Friday, the organization rose to great popularity in the 1950s and 1960s with its theme of Native American tradition and culture. By the turn of the new century, however, the YMCA felt the need to disassociate themselves from anything that could be seen as politically incorrect and began mandating the elimination of the program's name and Indian theme.

Some participants, though, were disappointed that the program they enjoyed would no longer be available. So, according to Quirk, a group of dads in Ohio met with the descendents of founders Keltner and Friday and received their permission to use the new



name, Native Sons and Daughters.

"We have always tried to be very respectful to all native people," Quirk said.

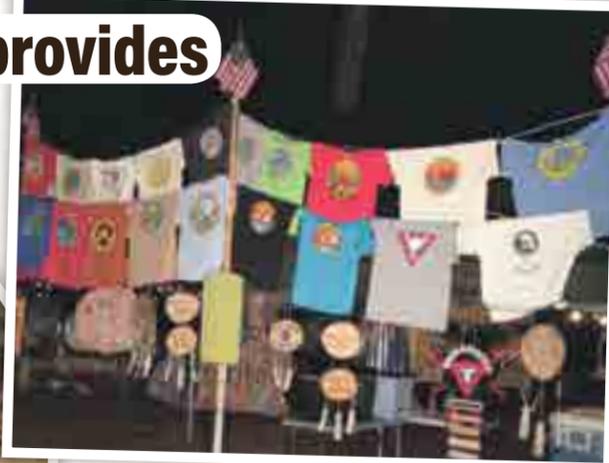
The local longhouse, named after the local Timucua tribe, was originally in existence as a Y-Guide tribe and continued to operate through the transition period to Native Sons and Daughters.

Quirk said the Timucuan longhouse was the first group in Florida to convert to Native Sons and Daughters in



2011 and presently has about 500 total members. There are now six chapters in Florida.

The local groups within the Timucuan longhouse are called tribes and they are made up of seven to 12 fathers and children. There are separate tribes for boys and girls, and the tribes can be formed either by a group of members joining at the same time or fathers and children can be put on a tribe that needs



Photos courtesy Brian Quirk.

members. Quirk said many tribes stay together for the full five years of the program.

Once formed, each tribe is assigned a sponsor from the longhouse who will attend the first few meetings and help with organization and guidance.

"The thing I like is each tribe can do what they want; they can be as active or inactive as they like," Quirk said. "Of course, the more active they are, the more fun they will have."

The longhouse hosts one activity per month that tribes may attend in addition to the tribe's own meetings. These activities include costume bowling in October, campouts in the fall and spring and a pinewood derby in the winter. Tribes may also attend Jacksonville Icemen games, support Toys for Tots with a skating event and participate in a family campout. Coming up first is the Citywide Pow Wow. Children receive a patch for their vest for each activity they participate in. The

Statewide Pow Wow will be hosted by the Timucuan longhouse in March 2020.

Quirk said information nights will be held soon at schools and churches, with dates and locations available at [www.nsdjax.com](http://www.nsdjax.com).



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**Back To School Guide** featured in the **SEPTEMBER** issue.  
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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

## Meet Oliver!

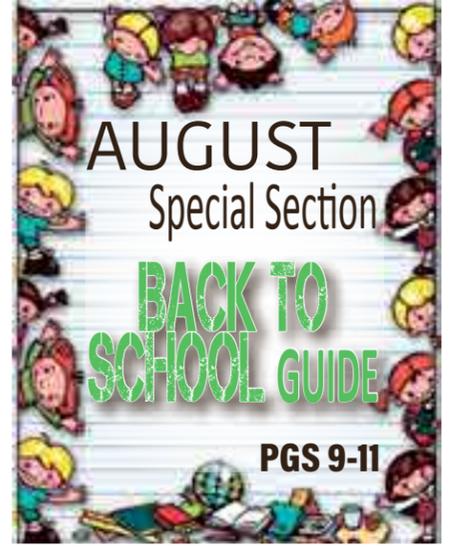
**BREED:**  
Yorkshire Terrier  
**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**  
Snuggling  
**FAVORITE TREAT:**  
Cheese!  
**FAVORITE FRIEND:**  
His brother Toby

**HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**  
Oliver was an orphan dog that jumped from home to home until we adopted him. So it was fitting to name him after Oliver Twist.



This month's contest sponsored by:  
**Earth Pets Natural Pet Market**  
11740 - 1 San Jose Blvd.  
www.earthpetsflorida.com

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



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## SEPTEMBER's Enhanced Section BACK TO SCHOOL Guide

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## MYSTERY PHOTO



Win two free day passes to Adventure Landing's Shipwreck Island (value \$65) by correctly guessing our Mystery Photo this month. We will hold a random drawing of all correct answers. Email your guess to mail@floridanewslines.com. Good luck!

Last month's Mystery Photo was the oversized chair and surfboard outside Ace Hardware on San Jose Boulevard. Our winner was Desire Jordan. Congratulations!



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# around town

# Aug.

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### Aug. 2 - 3

#### Fall \$1 Clothing Sale

Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road  
www.mandaringardenclub.org

### Aug. 3

#### About Boating Safely class

7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Florida Tackle and Gun Club, 9010 San Jose Blvd.  
www.safeboatingjax.com

### Aug. 3

#### 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

### Aug. 3

#### Mandarin Museum and St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children open

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road  
www.mandarinmuseum.net

### Aug. 4

#### Jewish Genealogy Film

10:30 a.m.  
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
RSVP: (904) 886-8429

### Aug. 5

#### Southside Newcomers Club First Monday Coffee

10 a.m.  
Secret Garden Cafe, 10095 Beach Blvd.  
sncmembership84@gmail.com

### Aug. 6

#### Shuffleboard

9:30 a.m. (repeating event on Tuesdays)  
Mandarin Park, next to tennis courts at park entrance  
Just show up unless it rains

### Aug. 6

#### Honeybee Quilt Guild

6:30 p.m.  
Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 2501 Loretto Rd.  
www.honeybeequilters.org (Repeats first Tuesday of each month)

### Aug. 7

#### Jacksonville Camera Club

6:45 p.m.  
Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6595 Columbia Park Ct.  
www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)

### Aug. 7

#### 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)

### Aug. 7

#### Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society library open

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
6215 Sauterne Drive, Jacksonville  
www.sgesjax.org or (904) 778-1000

### Aug. 7 - 8

#### AARP Safe Driving Class

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.  
Register at (904) 414-0007. \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members

### Aug. 8

#### Mandarin Council networking luncheon

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.  
mandarincouncil.org

### Aug. 8

#### 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

### Aug. 8

#### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 372 meeting

7 p.m.  
Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive  
(904) 297-8344 or www.mandarinpost372.org

### Aug. 10

#### Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.

### Aug. 10

#### Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society meeting

10 a.m.  
Mandarin Library, 3330 Kori Road  
(904) 778-1000

### Aug. 10

#### 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)

### Aug. 12

#### Living with Lung Cancer Support Network

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

### Aug. 12

#### First Day of School for Duval County

### Aug. 13

#### 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)

### Aug. 13

#### Age-Smart Home Technology

11:30 a.m.  
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
RSVP: (904) 288-7855

### Aug. 14

#### 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

### Aug. 14

#### Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Support

3:30 p.m.  
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
Repeating event on the second Wednesday of each month

### Aug. 17

#### Meet the Maple Leaf Divers

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Mandarin Museum, 11964 Mandarin Road  
www.mandarinmuseum.net

### Aug. 19

#### All Star Quilt Guild breakfast

8:30 a.m.  
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.  
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 735-0506

### Aug. 22

#### Mandarin Council monthly breakfast

8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
Jumpin' Jax House of Food, 10131 San Jose Blvd.  
mandarincouncil.org

### Aug. 26

#### Men Helping Men Prostate Cancer Support Group

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

### Aug. 27

#### Free Tools to Quit Smoking class

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Humana, 9965 San Jose Blvd. Ste. 12  
Call Northeast Florida AHEC, (904) 482-0189 to register

### Aug. 27

#### From Hospital to Home

11:30 a.m.  
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
RSVP for lunch: (904) 288-7855

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# take 5

## Mandarin Garden Club \$1 clothing sale is back

The Mandarin Garden Club will hold its Fall \$1 Clothing and Jewelry Sale on Aug. 2 and 3 at the Mandarin Garden Club, located at 2892 Loretto Road. The hours are 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Saturday. All clothing and jewelry will sell for \$1 except items in the Boutique, which will sell from \$3 to \$10. The sale features gently used clothing for men, women and children that has been donated by members of the garden club. The sale is open to the public and the community is encouraged to attend.

## Fine arts group hosts social

The Jacksonville Fine Arts Forum will host a social to learn about its organization on Wednesday, Aug. 21 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Residence at World Golf Village Clubhouse, 330 North Shore Circle (Gate code: 3931). New and enriching programs will soon be offered by the forum for all who love and value art, including artists, musicians, writers, vocalists and collectors. Light refreshments will be served and attendees will learn about the forum's art presentations, scholarships, art themed excursions, activities and events. Contact Marty Cawley at (904) 814-8516 or [cnmcawley@gmail.com](mailto:cnmcawley@gmail.com) for more information.

## All Star Quilters Guild to host special morning meeting

The All Star Quilters Guild will meet Aug. 19 for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. Pancakes or eggs will be served for a cost of \$7. Call 735-0506 for a reservation. The All Star Quilters Guild has a general meeting with a program the third Monday of each month at First Christian Church. For more information visit [www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild](http://www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild) or [www.facebook.com/allstarquilters](http://www.facebook.com/allstarquilters) or call (904) 735-0506.

## Hurricane preparedness meeting set

The Mandarin Community Club will host a Hurricane and Emergency Preparedness Program offered by the City of Jacksonville Emergency Preparedness Division of Jacksonville Fire and Rescue on Thursday, Aug. 8 at the club, 12447 Mandarin Road. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation by speakers will begin at 7 pm. Presentations will include methods and maps to determine evacuation and flood

zones. Door prizes in the form of emergency preparedness kits and emergency household items will be donated by Ace Hardware. The Mandarin Community Club will offer this valuable program to its members and the Mandarin public as a community service. Visit [www.mandarincommunityclub.org](http://www.mandarincommunityclub.org) for more information.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

## Arts and crafts event for adults at library

A 3-D printing class will be held for adults at the Mandarin Branch Library on Aug. 21 at 10:30 a.m. The class utilizes a 3-D printing pen, an easy-to-use and portable way to create cool 3-D

objects. Attendees will learn how to use 3-D printing pens by simply drawing on flat surfaces or creating items in midair. Items may be created free-form style or, in this workshop, special templates will be available to make amazing patriotic designs. Seating is limited to eight, and it's first come, first served due to the limited number of pens. The Mandarin Branch Library is located at 3330 Kori Road; call (904) 262-5201 for more information.

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with Duval School Board Member,  
District 7, Lori Hershey

**Q: Since school grades were recently released, can you give us an overview for District 7?**

A: I'd like to congratulate all the public schools, both traditional and charter, in District 7 for earning either an "A" or a "B." Congratulations to new "A" schools, Mandarin Middle School and Greenland Pines Elementary. Congratulations also to Atlantic Coast High School for earning its second consecutive "A," making it a School of Excellence in the state of Florida. Students in schools in District 7 continue to outperform students in St. Johns County.

**Q: What grade did the Duval County School District earn overall?**

A: I consider our district grade to be a "B+" since we are only four points away from being an "A" district. Last year we were 11 points away.

**Q: The new school year is upon us. Do you have anything to share with District 7 readers?**

A: I'd like to remind everyone to check your child's school's website for orientation dates and times and make it a priority to attend. The first day of school will be Aug. 12.

**Q: What is the latest news on the proposed half cent sales tax referendum, which appears to be stalled in City Council at this point?**

A: We are continuing our conversations with the City Council. Meanwhile, the school board is continuing the work on

the Master Plan — things that need to be in place for the referendum to go to the voters. We are drafting policy for the citizens advisory committee that will be set up to oversee revenue and the projects. We continue to work on details for equitable sharing of dollars with charter schools. (Recall that District 7 has the most charter schools in the city.) The board has also begun the process of some schools' closures and consolidations.

**Q: What about school safety?**

A: School safety is of utmost importance and whether charter or traditional public school, we are committed that all students attend safe schools. Dr. Green has committed that the first dollars that come in will be used for school safety and security throughout the district.

I would encourage anyone with questions about the referendum process or the Master Plan to contact me. I'm happy to address groups such as the PTA, SAC or other community organizations interested in learning more.

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

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

## St. Johns Riverkeeper to speak at Third Thursday Lecture

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

The St. Johns Riverkeeper, Lisa Rinaman, will present the Third Thursday Lecture on Aug. 15. River UPRising gives a general overview and focus on one of the area's biggest advocacy issues — working to create a more resilient river.

The Timucuan traveled along what is now called the St. Johns River, obtaining plentiful bounties of fish; the French sailed it and called it the River of May; the Spanish named it Rio San Juan; and the English changed its name to the St. Johns. In the late 1700s, John and William Bartram, famous naturalists, also spent time in the area learning and writing about the St. Johns and the flora and fauna of the shores that lined it; Harriet Beecher Stowe could view it from her front porch in Mandarin and recorded many stories about the pleasure of cruising the beautiful river; and 20th century Mandarin historian Jean Morrow wrote a poem about it called "Always the River."

Almost everything that ever developed in Mandarin owed its success to "The River." And now in the 21st century, with all the destructive impacts of population, development, and high volume use, the St. Johns needs all of us to stand up with the St. Johns Riverkeeper organization to protect it from further harm.

River UPRising is a custom presentation based on the outcome of Riverkeeper's "River Rising Town Hall Series" that stretched over the 2018 hurricane season. It concludes that, working together, citizens can truly



Photo courtesy St. Johns Riverkeeper  
St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman

protect their communities and the St. Johns River while improving their quality of life, health and local economy.

This Third Thursday Lecture is on Aug. 15, presented by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society in partnership with and held at the Mandarin Community Club, located at 12447 Mandarin Road. Refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m. with the lecture at 7 p.m. It is free and all are invited and encouraged to attend.

For more information about Mandarin Museum, visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) and visit [www.mandarincommunityclub.org](http://www.mandarincommunityclub.org) to learn more about Mandarin Community Club. Visit [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org) to learn more about the St. Johns Riverkeeper.

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with Jacksonville City Council Member Michael Boylan (District 6)

**Q: By way of introduction, as the new City Council member for District 6, can you let us know a bit about your background?**

A: I grew up in Ohio and have a bachelor's degree from John Carroll University as well as a masters in telecommunications from Kent State. I moved to South Florida for a position as director in public broadcasting at a station in Miami. I've been married to my wife, Susan, for 44 years and have two grown children and two grandchildren.

**Q: How did you come to live in Mandarin?**

A: We moved to Jacksonville and settled in Mandarin in 1999 when I accepted the position of president and CEO of WJCT Public Broadcasting. I retired in January 2018.

**Q: What or who helped make your decision to run for City Council?**

A: During my tenure at WJCT, I was actively involved with community organizations and had a familiarity with city government. I served on the boards of Leadership Jacksonville, JCCI and OneJax and really came to appreciate the role that the nonprofit sector plays in the quality of life in Jacksonville. My goal upon my retirement from WJCT was to stay relevant and continue to serve the community. My friend Hugh Greene (former CEO of Baptist Health) put the bug in my ear about running for City Council. In a great expression of his confidence in me, he offered to serve as my campaign treasurer.

Also, a colleague once told me, "If you're just chasing money, you're already too late. You need to try to impact policy." This resonated with me and I kicked off my campaign about the time I retired from WJCT. I still serve on the boards of several nonprofits and I hope to strengthen the role of the nonprofit sector in our city's quality of life.

**Q: What are your goals for Mandarin?**

A: On the campaign trail, one thing I learned about Mandarin is that it replicates, in a lot of ways, the City of Jacksonville: both are large and spread out, diverse in terms of property and, while we don't have a river running through Mandarin, we do have a road, San Jose Boulevard, that in a lot of ways divides the community.

My main goal for Mandarin is to try to find a way to become cohesive with our identity. Look at San Marco and Springfield. What defines Mandarin as a community? Is it trees? Parks? We need to create an identity. Quality of life is a big part of that. I have grandchildren in Mandarin and I'm very familiar with our parks. We need to take good care of these resources. I'm pleased that County Dock is finally under construction and that there is a kayak launch coming to Mandarin Park.

**Q: What are your committee assignments on the City Council?**

A: When I was elected in March, I hit the ground running even before taking office in July. I attended many meetings to familiarize myself. I presently serve as vice chair of the LUZ (Land Use and Zoning) Committee because managing the growth of Mandarin is a priority. I also serve on the Rules Committee, as liaison for the Downtown Investment Authority and for the Cultural Arts Council. I am committed full time to being Mandarin's councilmember and I have no other political aspirations beyond this office.

**Q: Have you announced any legislation yet?**

A: I'm going to introduce a bill in the coming weeks to rename Flynn Park "Walter Anderson Memorial Park," after lifelong Mandarin resident Walter Anderson, who bought the two acres of land many years ago and opened this park for young black boys to play baseball.

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

A: I intend to continue former Councilmember Schellenberg's tradition of hosting Town Hall meetings. The first one will be held on Monday, Sept. 16 at the South Mandarin Library from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Community members can also email me at MBoylan@coj.net or call (904) 255-5206.

## Mandarin Community Club to host elder fraud prevention class

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

On Thursday, Aug. 22, the Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road, will be the host site for an Elder Fraud and Identity Theft seminar. Representatives of Florida Security Dealers Association member firms will join with State Rep. Jason Fisher to present the seminar as a community service. The seminar will begin at 10:30 a.m. and last approximately one hour.

The interactive presentation will cover such topics as "Why Target Elderly Persons," "Who are the Victims of Elder Fraud," "Warning Signs of Potential Fraud," and "Protective Measures that an Elderly Person Can Take to Avoid Becoming the Victim of Fraud."

This seminar is free and open to all as a part of an ongoing series that the Florida Security Dealers Association, a nonprofit, is presenting related to its goal of raising the financial literacy of and providing financial education to all Floridians.

"The Mandarin Community Club is proud to offer this opportunity to seniors to become more educated on fraud potential and attuned to how best to avoid the pitfalls," said Mandarin Community Club President Susie Scott.

The historic Mandarin Community Club is located at 12447 Mandarin Road in the heart of old Mandarin. Light refreshments will be available prior to the seminar. Seating is limited to the first 100 attendees.

### FYI Contact Numbers

**Duval County Local Government (coj.net)**

**Sheriff's Office:** Sheriff Mike Williams, (904) 630-2120  
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**

District 6: Matt Schellenberg, matts@coj.net, (904) 630-1388  
At Large, District 3: Tommy Hazouri, thazouri@coj.net, (904) 630-1396

**Duval County School Board (www.duvalschools.org)**

District 7: Lori Hershey, hershey@duvalschools.org, (904) 390-2375

**State of Florida Elected Officials**

Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146

State House District 16: Representative Jason Fischer, (850) 717-5016

State Senate District 4: Senator Aaron Bean, (904) 757-5039

**Federal Elected Officials**

U.S. Congress District 4: Representative John Rutherford, (202) 225-2501

U.S. Senate:  
Senator Marco Rubio, (202) 224-3041  
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# Volunteers sought to convert books to braille; classes begin Sept. 5

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

For more than 60 years, the Temple Sisterhood at Congregation Ahavath Chesed in Jacksonville has sponsored a program to teach volunteers to convert printed books into braille, a form of written language designed for the blind and visually impaired. These books are then used by the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, other institutions serving the visually impaired, and individuals who make special requests. These services are provided at no cost to all recipients.



Photo courtesy Temple Sisterhood at Congregation Ahavath Chesed

Congregation Ahavath Chesed, 8727 San Jose Blvd.

During 2018, the program's volunteers have contributed more than 18,000 hours, producing 377 books and other projects totaling more than 77,000 pages in braille. Based on the Points of Light Foundation economic impact calculator, that volunteer time equates to \$433,944 in donated value.

For more information, contact Lynnette Taylor at (904) 466-2129 or dandltaylor@att.net; Holly Cleveland at (904) 463-0357 or holly.cleveland@att.net; Nancy Cohen at (248) 250-2406 or r4cohen@gmail.com; or Candace Richardson at (904) 607-7619 or candacerichardson@att.net.

The 2019 – 2020 braille class for volunteers will start on Sept. 5, 2019. This is a nine-month program on transcribing text into braille, or converting illustrations into tactile graphics. Classes will be held every Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., September through June. Course graduates can go on to be certified as braille transcribers by the US Library of Congress. The program is open to both men and women of all faiths.

An orientation meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. at

## Briefs

### Mandarin Women's Club members visit local restaurants

Summer is rapidly coming to an end, but the Mandarin Women's Club continues to enjoy indoor activities away from the heat and summer storms. During June, 22 club members and their spouses enjoyed dinner at BRIO Tuscan Grille. Socializing over dinner is another great way to get to know your club members. In August, the Dining Out group will be going to Culhane's Irish Pub & Restaurant. If you are an active member and would like to sign up for the Aug. 10 dinner, visit [www.mandarinwomensclub.com](http://www.mandarinwomensclub.com) for more information.

There will be no luncheon in August, but members will still enjoy Bunco, Mexican Train, Dining Out, Mah Jongg, and other activities. Visit [www.mandarinwomensclub.com](http://www.mandarinwomensclub.com) to complete and submit a membership form if you want to participate in these activities.



Photo courtesy Gail Packard

Mandarin Women's Club members enjoy a dinner outing.

### District board votes to reduce tax rate for seventh consecutive year

The St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board has approved a tentative budget that reduces the millage rate for taxpayers for a seventh consecutive year, while continuing to provide significant funds for programs and projects to ensure sustainable water resources, increase water conservation, enhance water supply and improve water quality in priority water bodies.

"The district continues to focus our efforts on cooperative projects that are helping to restore and protect our water resources," said St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Dr. Ann Shortelle. "This proposed budget will fund our major programs for the St. Johns River, the Indian River Lagoon, and Outstanding Florida Springs, and continue cost-share partnerships with local governments and agriculture."

The tentative 0.2417 millage rate would result in nearly \$88.7 million in revenue toward a total \$140.1 million budget

for fiscal year 2019 – 2020, which begins Oct. 1, 2019. The budget is also funded through state, federal and other district sources (including timber sales, cattle leases, interest earnings and permit fees).

The tentative millage rate, equal to the rolled back rate, adopted by the board is approximately 5.7 percent less than the current year's tax rate.

Under a 0.2417 millage rate — 24.17 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed property value — the owner of a \$200,000 house with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would pay \$36.26 in the coming year in property taxes to the district.

Public hearings will be held at 5:05 p.m. Sept. 10 and 24. Final budget adoption will occur at the Sept. 24 Governing Board meeting.

Visit [www.sjrwmd.com](http://www.sjrwmd.com) for more information.

### Credit union opens new branch in Mandarin

First Florida Credit Union opened its 16th location statewide on July 1, in Jacksonville's Mandarin area. The new branch, located at 11467 San Jose Blvd. Ste. 2, will help the credit union serve the financial needs of its growing membership.

"The team at First Florida Credit Union is thrilled to open our sixth branch in Northeast Florida," said Brent Lister, president and CEO of First Florida Credit Union. "The new location offers close-to-home convenience for our members in Mandarin while providing valuable new banking opportunities to all."

First Florida Credit Union offers a wide range of products and services which include: no-monthly-fee checking, mortgage and auto loans, digital banking, and a free auto buying service, as well as a self-serve coin counter. The credit union has more than 53,000 members and assets of nearly \$1 billion.

The hours of operation for First Florida Credit Union's Mandarin branch can be found at [www.firstflorida.org](http://www.firstflorida.org).

First Florida Credit Union, headquartered in Jacksonville, operates 16 branches throughout the state of Florida. The organization's guiding mission is to support its members' financial aspirations by providing affordable financial products and services with stellar member service. For more information, visit [www.firstflorida.org](http://www.firstflorida.org).

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# BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE



## Promote healthy weight starting with school lunch

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

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

Calories eaten > calories spent = weight gain.

According to National Health Examination Surveys, adult obesity trends in the United States between 1976 and 2014 indicate the percentage of the adult population classified as obese has roughly doubled to more than 38 percent in the last three decades. Children may be learning eating habits from their parents, potentially contributing to rising obesity rates in children as well. Recent findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate one in five school-aged children and young people in the United States is obese.

Teaching children healthy eating habits starts at home and can extend to what students are given to eat while at school. The Center for Science in the Public Interest says schools across the country are working hard to improve school nutrition. Here's how parents and school districts can help make school lunches more nutritious and delicious and lower in calories.

- Control snack intake. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that more than one-fourth of kids' daily caloric intake comes from snacking. Choosing smarter snacks may help reduce over-eating. Good snacks can include grain products that contain 50 percent or more whole grains by weight; snacks in which the primary ingredient is a fruit, a vegetable, dairy product, or lean protein; snacks that are a combination food that contain at least a 1/4 cup of fruits or vegetables; and foods that contain no more than 200 calories.

- Read nutritional information. When selecting foods for school lunches, parents should read the nutritional information



Photo courtesy MetroCreative  
Healthy eating habits begin in childhood and can be initiated with school lunch.

mation to make sure they know exactly what they are feeding their children. Select foods that are low in saturated fats and cholesterol and high in fiber and nutrient-rich fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes.

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

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

- Read the school menu. Let children indulge in ordering from the school menu when healthy options are featured. Urge them to try something unexpected, rather than sticking to chicken nuggets or pizza days.

## Improved learning gains move Duval to highest grade in its history

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Propelled by a record-breaking graduation rate and learning gains made by students in math and reading, Duval County Public Schools is now closer to an A than it has ever been. The district leaped six overall points, and is now just 4 points shy — less than one percentage point — from an A-rating.

“We are undeniably improving student outcomes,” said Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene. “The fact that we are less than one percentage point from an A reflects the hard work, dedication and excellence demonstrated by our students and educators.”

Individual school performances contributed to the district's overall grade with Jacksonville Beach Elementary being a standout. The school, which has maintained an A since the year 2000, is the second-highest performing elementary school in the state. Overall, 42 schools increased at least one letter grade, including six schools that jumped two letter grades.

Additionally, 87 percent of schools are an A, B, or C with the number of A schools jumping by 11, from 31 to 42 schools. These gains offset the declines that were made, which include 26 schools dropping a letter. The number of F schools —

two schools, which amount to 1 percent — remained the same.

“While we celebrate the learning gains we have made, we will not lose sight of the areas where improvement is needed,” said Dr. Greene. “These reports operate like guideposts and provide direction on where we as a district need to come together to evaluate and improve.”

Mandarin area schools earned either an A or a B:

Bartram Springs Elementary: A

Crown Point Elementary: B

Loretto Elementary: A

Mandarin Oaks Elementary: A

Twin Lakes Academy Elementary: B

Mandarin Middle School: A

Twin Lakes Academy Middle School: B

Atlantic Coast High School: A

Mandarin High School: B

“I could not be more proud of our students, educators and staff,” said Dr. Greene. “Do we have more work to do? Absolutely! And we will do it diligently with the mindset of enhancing student outcomes. But the overall gains made in our school district give Team Duval a reason to celebrate.”

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# BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE



## Help kids calm first-day-of-school jitters

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The first day of school can be an exciting time, especially for children who have never before attended school. But even youngsters excited about the first day may also experience some jitters. Such nerves are normal, and parents can help kids calm those jitters in various ways.

- Talk about the first day as it approaches. A child's first day of school is a milestone, and parents may do various things to commemorate the occasion. The excitement leading up to the first day can spark kids' enthusiasm, but it also may lead to some anxiety about the unknown. Parents can quell those fears by discussing the first day as it approaches. Explain why the first day is so special, encouraging youngsters to share their feelings. If kids express fears about their first day, parents can explain they felt similarly on their first day of school but quickly adjusted.
- Let kids choose their own clothes. Parents may be tempted to buy special outfits for their children for the first day of school, but kids who are jittery about their first day may calm down if allowed to choose their own attire for the big day. A favorite T-shirt or outfit might be just the thing to comfort kids feeling a bit nervous about their first day of school.

- Get a head start on your morning routine. As summer winds down, begin acclimating children to the morning routine they can expect when the school year begins. One to two weeks before the first day of school, start waking children up when they will need to be up for school. Kids who are accustomed to the morning routine may be more calm on their first day of school because of their familiarity with their new schedule. Going cold turkey on the first day of school may make kids less enthusiastic about attending school.
- Attend school orientation events and plan some play dates in advance of the first day. Seeing familiar faces might make kids forget all about their jitters when they arrive at school on the first day. Take kids along so they can meet prospective classmates. Arrange for play dates with those classmates in advance of the first day so kids have a few recognizable faces their own age come the first day of school.
- Start the day off on the right foot. The night before the first day of school, make sure kids' outfits are clean, their supplies are packed and ready to go and their lunch is made. The less parents have to rush around on the morning of the first day of school, the calmer kids are likely to be.

## Scouts plan their own high adventure camping trip

By Joe Vogel  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Boy Scout Troop 136 Jacksonville recently returned from its first self-planned summer camp excursion to the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina. Rather than doing the typical Boy Scout summer camp week, scouts in Troop 136 decided to embark on a bit of serious camping and high adventure.



Photo courtesy Joe Vogel  
Troop 136 Jacksonville hiked up Mount Mitchell.

The troop camped at the base of Black Mountain, enjoying the cool temperatures, great food, cold mountain brooks, and even some visits from a mama and baby black bear. Many of the boys were able to complete some needed camping and cooking merit badges, Fire'm'n Chit and Totin' Chip, as well as some rank advancement. All of the scouts participated and completed the Wilderness Survival merit badge during the week.

When not at the campsite, the troop enjoyed several exciting adventures. The troop toured Linville Caverns, Linville Falls, Museum of North Carolina Minerals, and the Pinball Museum in Asheville. Scouts also took on the whitewater rapids of Nolichucky River, the extremely long and fast mountain top zip lines from Navitat Canopy Adventures, and an extreme six-mile hike all the way to the summit of Mount Mitchell (6,684 feet), the highest mountain peak east of the Mississippi River.

Joe Vogel is the assistant scoutmaster for Troop 136.

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# BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE



The library cont. from pg. 1

want to check it out after hearing about it.

### Mind Your Business

The South Mandarin Branch Library has programs and resources to help you start or build a business your way. The SCORE workshop, Aug. 12, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., will help entrepreneurs determine if their product or service is ready to sell. It will cover generating new product ideas, building product concepts, and methods for testing products. Additionally, South Mandarin will hold its Small Business Databases workshop Aug. 31, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., to demonstrate valuable resources entrepreneurs need, including everything from learning how to start, finance and manage a small business to obtaining demographics, sample business plans, how-to guides, tips and strategies.

### Blooming Awesome

If you have a small space — balcony or terrace, porch, patio or deck — container gardening is a great way to add instant color, accents and ambience. To get started, consider if you have sun or shade, want veggies, herbs or flowers, the type of container and soil, and the care necessary. Learn everything you need to know about planting a container garden in a workshop titled “Container Gardening: Let Me Count the Ways,” led by Evelyn Pankok of the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Department of the Duval County Extension Office Aug. 20, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., at the Mandarin Branch Library.

Find information about additional events at [jaxpubliclibrary.org](http://jaxpubliclibrary.org) or call Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 262-5201 or South Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 288-6385.

## Girls on the Run fall registration opens Aug. 19

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Girls on the Run of Northeast Florida’s registration for the 2019 fall season opens Aug. 19 at 6 a.m. online at [www.gotrnefl.org](http://www.gotrnefl.org). Registration continues through Sept. 6 and is on a first come, first served basis. Interested parties are encouraged to register early.

Girls on the Run is a nonprofit organization that uses an activity-based curriculum to promote social, emotional and physical health, creating a foundation of self-worth for girls in third through eighth grades. Running is used as a platform to inspire and motivate girls, encourage lifelong health and fitness, and build confidence through accomplishment. At the conclusion of the 10-week program, girls complete a celebratory 5k event, giving them a tangible sense of achievement as well as a framework for setting and achieving life goals.

“Studies show that by adolescence, girls’ confidence drops about twice as much as boys’. Girls face social pressures and conflicting messages about how they should act and who they should be,” said Girls on the Run executive director Laura Lasko. “Girls on the Run aims to change this by teaching girls strategies to remain strong during adolescence in a supportive environment.”

The program is designed for eight to 13-year-old girls because children of this age are still receptive to what adults have to say, yet they are beginning to feel the pull of peer pressure. These formative years are the perfect time to address important issues and develop skills. An emphasis is placed on intentional decision-making, the importance of making healthy choices, conflict resolution and how to make a meaningful contribution to society. The curriculum stresses peer support and doing one’s best and rejects defeating others or exerting power over others.

Over the last 15 years, Girls on the Run of Northeast Florida has impacted the lives of more than 18,000 girls. This season, Girls on the Run will be offered at locations throughout Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties. Most teams will meet two times a week for 75 – 90 minutes after school, with the exception of a handful of Saturday sites that meet once a week in the morning. The season will culminate in a 5k event on Dec. 7 at UNF that brings together family, friends and community members to celebrate the girls’ growth throughout the season.

Visit [www.gotrnefl.org](http://www.gotrnefl.org) for more information about the program, site locations and registration.

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# Back in Time with Brett

By Brett Nolan  
mail@floridanewsline.com

## The Brown Residence

“Well, come on inside and getcha’ self something cool to drink,” would have probably been an all too common phrase bellowed off the top of John C. Brown’s two-tiered veranda facing Mandarin Road; it was a warm southern invite to combat the oppressive heat of Florida, as Mandarinites played croquet under the shade of the stately, moss draped, oak trees on their riverfront lawns.



Photo courtesy Brett Nolan  
The Brown Residence

This house was constructed in 1880 on the site of his family’s former home which his father, John P. Brown, had built when he was just 16 years old — two years after moving to Mandarin from New York in 1828. After marrying Nancy Bowden, age 17, in 1835 (Bowden is another notable Mandarin name), John P. and his wife had six children. All of the children were born in the same house between 1835 and 1850 when their youngest son, Thomas, was born. This earned the Brown family the great distinction of being one of the “First Families” in the town of Mandarin.

John C., the oldest of his siblings, was a citrus grower and from 1875 to 1879, he was postmaster. This was during the time when the St. Johns River was the Interstate 95 for Northeast Florida. All mail and other consumer goods were delivered by steamship, making a stop at water’s edge in front of the village store and post office, at the end of Store Lane. John C. Brown was the curator of all store operations. A single road marker still stands at the corner of Mandarin Road and Store Lane as a faint memory of the Mandarin store’s original location.

The 1911 Store and Post Office across

the street reminds us that Mandarin was a growing rural community advancing to life on the roads, no longer the river. It was after John C. retired as postmaster that he built his grand estate.

A century later, the John C. Brown house was deemed dangerously close to an increasingly busy Mandarin Road. The then-occupants can remember finding blood one morning where paramedics had treated a victim from a car accident on their front porch. The owners moved the house farther back on the property behind the tree line, keeping the historical integrity of the home well intact.

After 140 years the Brown house still retains some of the original jigsaw trim. The architecturally significant structure stands as a reminder of one of the area’s most prominent families. Famed Mandarin potter and artist Charles M. “Charlie” Brown was a grandson of John C. Brown.

Information for this article was taken from “Jacksonville’s Architectural Heritage” by Wayne Wood, “Mandarin on the St. Johns” by Mary B. Graff, an article by Beverly Fleming from the April 15, 1993 “Mandarin News,” and Ancestry.com.

*Brett Nolan is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) for more information on Mandarin’s history and museum schedules.*

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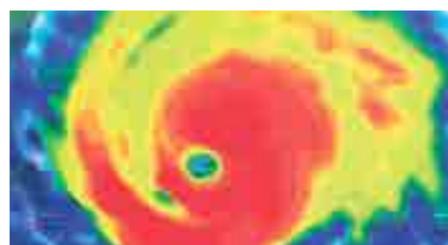
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# Life

travel · pantry raiders · gardening  
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## Get to Know . . .

Zoe Keffer

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com

Zoe Keffer just might be a “dog whisperer” ... the 13-year-old already has three years of experience as well as many accolades as a junior handler for the dog show circuit. Born and raised in Mandarin and a rising eighth grader at Mandarin Middle School, Keffer said she and her family have always been “dog people” and she considers her time spent honing her craft as a handler to be her main extracurricular activity. The family has a cat and three dogs in addition to her show dog, which is the family’s first.

Keffer shows her Rottweiler, Lux (also known by her formal name, GCH Amena Pollux Solvig) as well as occasionally dogs owned by others at dog shows throughout the Southeast United States approximately one or two weekends a month. Keffer feels thankful that many local adult professional handlers have supported her ambitions and even at a young age, she feels like part of a tight knit family of dog show regulars.

At a dog show in July, Keffer and Lux had their best show yet. Lux was awarded Best of Breed in a breed class full of professional adult handlers. Additionally, Keffer personally was judged as a junior handler and was awarded Best in Show for juniors. She qualified for her personal dream, the Westminster Dog Show in 2020, by earning seven Best Junior Handlers

### Get to Know . . .

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Email Martie Thompson at  
editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

in the season. At Westminster, Keffer will be one of approximately 1,000 junior handlers competing. She is not paid as a junior handler, but says she is “paid” by the experience she is accumulating.

#### Q: How did you decide to show Lux and become a dog handler?

A: We bought Lux to be a family pet from a reputable breeder. Her bite was off, so she wasn’t planned to be a show dog. But as she matured, her bite improved and the breeder recommended we consider showing her since she was already so outstanding in every other attribute. We took her to her first show just to walk around and our breeder introduced us to a professional dog handler. The professional handler showed her for about two years and Lux earned champion and grand champion status.

At the first show, I thought the dog show would be for agility, but actually it is confirmation, where the judges judge the dogs compared against perfection in the breed. I didn’t really understand much of what was going on at first and it took me at least a year to get it, but I liked everything. Then the professional handler and my parents encouraged me to become a junior handler.

#### Q: What was your first time in the ring showing a dog like?

A: The first time was not planned. I was at a show and had to fill in for someone at the last minute. I was nervous, but I’m always nervous before I go in the ring. It’s important to stay focused



Photo courtesy Scott Keffer  
Zoe Keffer and Lux.

when showing the dogs and not think too far ahead.

#### Q: What is your favorite part about being a junior handler?

A: There’s not just one thing; I like a lot of things about it. You become more mature since you have to talk to people. I like that I get to meet a lot of people from other states. It’s fun being busy... grooming, showing. It also takes courage to go into the ring.

#### Q: What is the most challenging part?

A: Since I’m smaller and the dogs I’m showing are large, sometimes I have to prove myself — to judges and to owners — that I can handle these dogs. But I like the working group dogs since it’s fun to run with them when I present them. It’s hard to be elegant with a Rottweiler, but I try!

#### Q: What are your long term goals? Will you become a professional handler (which is a paid position)?

A: I don’t really know yet. I like science in school, so I’ve thought of becoming a veterinarian. A lot of professional handlers tell me, don’t become a professional handler; you won’t have a life and you won’t see your family on holidays. But I know you can make good money at handling if you can become well known by showing good dogs. Right now, going to dog shows is something I enjoy doing with my dad.



Photo courtesy Matt Baumeister

## Student athlete plays for USA 17U

Jackson Baumeister competed for USA 17U, July 20 – 26 in Chicago, playing on fields at Northwestern University, Wrigley Field, Notre Dam and Miller Park in Milwaukee. Baumeister is a lifetime resident of Mandarin and will be a junior this year at The Bolles School. He grew up playing baseball at Mandarin Sports Association (MSA). Jackson plays summer ball for Warner Robins bases’ 5-Star, where he is a member of the 16U 5-Star National Team. He was invited to Carey, NC, the home of USA Baseball last August to try out for a position on the USA 17U team.

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# Fishing

## Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewline.com

So far this summer, fishing on the St. Johns River has gone right according to schedule, and continues to stay on schedule. From winter, to spring, and now to midsummer, the weather has done its part to help the St. Johns maintain some pretty decent fishing waters. Barring any dramatic change in the rest of this summer's weather, fishing should remain good and only get better.



Photo courtesy Ty Woodard  
Ty Woodard with a largemouth bass he caught on June 22 in Durbin Crossing.

When shrimping, many people like to cull their shrimp, keeping just the larger ones for eating, and tossing the smaller ones back; however, with today's bait shrimp prices often being the same or even exceeding the price of eating shrimp, packaging smaller shrimp in a plastic container and saving them for bait may be worth considering. Freezing them solid in water can

easily keep them fresh till the next year's shrimp run leaving you with free bait for an entire year till the next year's run.

As the summer season progresses, salinity levels in the river can help determine the best areas to fish and shrimp. Try to stay as up to date as much as possible with current fishing and shrimping reports. Checking online, with friends, or various bait stores to see what particular areas of the river seem to be catching the most fish or shrimp. Above all, be ready to catch anything, as reports of tarpon have been steadily on the increase and should continue to do so as summer progresses.

Fishing Report: St. Johns croakers for quantity and reds for your quality are a good bet. A little bit of everything

Right now, the best news is that this year's shrimp run is right on schedule. Good numbers of bait shrimp are already in the river, with eating-size shrimp catches steadily on the increase. Using live shrimp for bait anywhere in the river is a really big plus. Tail hooking live shrimp and bottom-fishing them in holes or in river channels should greatly increase an already good croaker bite taking place with an additional bite of reds, weakfish, and flounder. Doing the same on a jig head, casting around docks and bridge pilings, is also a great way to find and catch reds, trout, sheepshead, and flounder. As the shrimp run improves, these and other bites are all going to get bigger and better.

everywhere up and down the river. Reports of flounder, trout, weakfish, croaker, sheepshead, even mangrove snapper. Try catching your bait from the river (shrimp, finger mullet, juvenile croaker). Using fresh bait from local waters is almost always best.

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.*

## American Legion installs new board members

At the July 11 General Assembly, the American Legion Department of Florida, 5th District Commander Troy Horsely oversaw the installation of the newly elected board members for 2019 – 2020 of the Mandarin "Fallen Heroes" Riders chapter 372, the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 372, and Post 372. Annie Anderson, the 5th District American Legion Auxiliary president, conducted the installation ceremony for the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 372. The American Legion family of organizations recognizes that each has a unique focus and talent for serving the community. The American Legion Riders Chapter 372, in their first full year of operation, raised more than \$5,000 for Project Vet Relief. The auxiliary's charity for this year is Honor Flights, which takes WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans to tour the memorials at Washington D.C. at no charge to them. Visit [www.mandarinpost372.org](http://www.mandarinpost372.org) for more information and membership eligibility requirements.



Photo courtesy American Legion Mandarin Post 372

American Legion Post 372 Commander Alan Painter shows the gavel that was presented to the Post by American Legion Auxiliary President Kathy Helmy.

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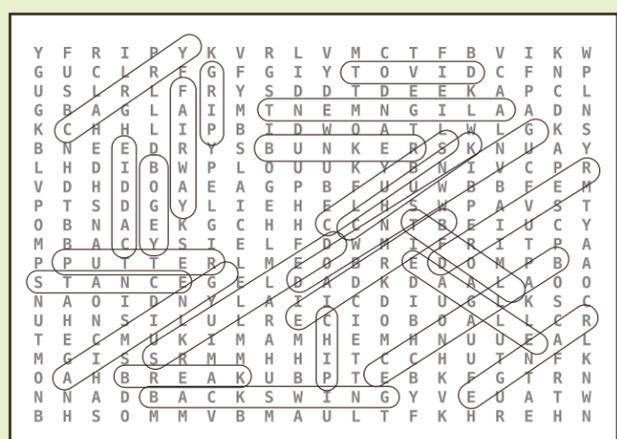
Answers to puzzles on page 16

## Answers

to our  
Puzzles



Answers: A. angler B. rod C. river D. lure



# Gardening

## It's a long hot summer!

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewsline.com

After a very mild winter, summer came early — and with a vengeance. The seasons roll around with the usual regularity, but it seems increasingly clear to me that our climate is changing, whether it's agreed or not that we are responsible. Levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere have been increasing rapidly since pre-industrial times, which should be very concerning as this affects all life on earth (<https://tinyurl.com/yy4p4w34>). For example, in late June, Europe was sweltering in an unprecedented heatwave, with terrible repercussions (<https://tinyurl.com/yywuu26k>) and Alaska snow melt has been causing alarm: <https://tinyurl.com/y3ymk6ar>.

Gardeners can help in small, but cumulative, ways. Where possible, we can reduce our use of gas-powered equipment in favor of cleaner electric or battery-powered options. Our local air quality will be improved and our neighborhoods more peaceful. There is also a movement to reduce digging, as carbon is kept in the ground when the soil is undisturbed. Instead of digging all weeds out by the roots, use a sharp garden knife to cut round larger tap roots and pull them out while leaving small roots to rot in the ground (unless you know those pieces of root will produce new plants, like Florida betony does!). Do your best to pull the weeds through your fingers, keeping as much of the soil in place as possible. Annual weeds can be cut off at the roots. The soil won't be completely turned over so many weed seeds can be kept underground and fewer tiny beneficial organisms will be destroyed. In addition, more of the fungal threads that develop in the soil which often help in nutrient transfer to plants will be left intact. Consider adding a thin layer of compost to introduce more beneficial organisms to your soil.

With plenty of native passion vines (*Passiflora incarnata*) around my yard, I've been enjoying seeing many gulf fritillary and zebra longwing butterflies, and hoping for some young caterpillars to carry on their line. Unfortunately nature has added some large predatory wasps into the mix, and although

I don't fear for myself — they aren't yellow jackets — I've found very few caterpillars recently and suspect they've been eaten. I haven't identified the culprits, but I did see one huge wasp chowing down on a sizeable monarch caterpillar, after discovering that at least a dozen other small ones had mysteriously disappeared. As we know, the milkweeds that the monarch caterpillars eat contain a toxin that accumulates in the caterpillars. Birds cannot stomach the toxin, but clearly wasps aren't similarly affected.

The largest wasps in Florida are the cicada killers, which thankfully do not sting us unless we grab or otherwise harass them. Even then, the insect has to be female as the males are defenseless. (Their lifecycle is fascinating — the female controls the sex of her eggs. You can read about it here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxvpe3hv>.) It makes me wonder how the newly-emerged cicada I saw recently is faring.

I was also surprised to see a ruby-throated hummingbird feeding on the passion flowers. They like my native fire bushes (*Hamelia patens*), with their clusters of orange-red long trumpet-shaped flowers, but the complex purple passion flowers are very different structurally. Other vines to support hummingbirds include natives like trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), cross-vine (*Bignonia capreolata*), and trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*). You can find comprehensive information on these and other vines, including how they might best be used, here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6r6n97b>.

For timely advice, the University of Florida website has a gardening calendar with information specifically for north Florida: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep451>, as well as the invaluable Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>. Chris Kerr has published his first New Leaf newsletter for July/August, so please check that out at <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/duval/lawns-gardens-and-trees/new-leaf-newsletter/>.

## Mandarin Garden Club members learn about sea turtles

By Betty Waldrep  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Live Oak Circle of Mandarin Garden Club recently hosted a program on sea turtles. The speaker was George De Marino, Florida Naturalist, who has worked with the South Ponte Vedra Beach Marine Turtle Patrol for 10 years. He helps with beach nesting surveys, confirming that when a nesting crawl has been observed on the beach, the female turtle has laid eggs.

During nesting season, very Sunday morning about 5 a.m., De Marino is on the beach looking for turtle nests. When he finds one, he stakes the nest, takes GPS coordinates, and uses his hands to dig for eggs. One Sunday morning recently, De Marino was on the beach when he ran into a family he knew. The grandson of the family had a fun learning experience observing De Marino and his work with the nests. The young man was at the program at Mandarin Garden Club and helped other children and adults learn about the sea turtles.

There are seven species of turtles in the world, and five of them are on Florida's beaches. De Marino told the group about the three different turtles that frequent Northeast Florida's beaches: the Green Sea Turtle, the Leatherback, and the Loggerhead turtle. The Loggerhead is the most common turtle in Florida. They are large turtles, weighing as much as 350 pounds, and they lay as many as 100 – 120 eggs in their nests. Leatherback turtles are the largest turtles. They weigh about 700 pounds



Photo courtesy Betty Waldrep  
George De Marino, Florida Naturalist, has worked with the South Ponte Vedra Beach Marine Turtle Patrol for 10 years.

and are nearly 10 feet long. They eat those pesky jellyfish. The Green Sea Turtle gets its name from the color of its body fat. They eat meat when they are young, but as adults they eat seagrass and seaweed. These turtles lay approximately 2,600 nests on Florida's beaches each year.

De Marino told the group, "The sea turtles are an endangered species and they are worth saving, because they provide nutrients to the beaches."

People who enjoy the beaches can help by being careful with what they leave on the beach. Plastic is deadly to the turtles and leaving holes dug in the sand means a turtle might fall in and not be able to get out. Flashlights should not be used on the beach at night as the lights will disturb the females who crawl from the ocean and the babies as they crawl back to the ocean.

If you are interested in volunteering with the sea turtles, call Patty Smith at (904) 343-9949. There is a required state training class to become registered to volunteer with the turtle patrol.

## River City Women host new City Councilmember

The River City Women's Club welcomed Michael Boylan as speaker for a recent monthly meeting. On July 1, he began his term as the Jacksonville City Council representative for District 6. Boylan gave an overview of his background and his past work experience; he has been married to wife Susan for 44 years and they have two adult children and two grandchildren. The Boylans have lived in Mandarin since moving to Jacksonville in 1999.

Boylan said he does not consider himself a politician and currently gives his time working as the chair of the board for Volunteers in Medicine, a program that helps the working uninsured receive healthcare services. Boylan said he believes the issues Mandarin residents are facing are the "Three T's" Trees, Trash and Traffic. Pictured are Nardine Koester, president of River City Women's Club and Marsha Easley, first vice president of River City Women's Club with Michael Boylan.



Photo courtesy Harriet Courtney



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## 9U Redtails headed to World Series

The MSA boys 9U Redtails earned a trip to the Cal Ripken Babe Ruth World Series, to be held Aug. 3 – Aug. 12 in Jensen Beach, Fla., by winning the Cal Ripken Babe Ruth Lake City State Championship in July. They outscored their opponents 56 – 15 at the state championship tournament. The 9U Redtails play their home games at Alberts Field in Mandarin and many of the boys have been playing together since they were four or five years old in T-ball. The Redtails are comprised of Clayton Skellet, Carter Leombruno, Hayden Haynes, Weston Jarrett, Aramis Guanchez, Cooper Sullivan, Konnor Dowling, Cristopher Coss, Jack Laufer, Chase England, and Mason Pellicer. The team is coached by head coach Scott Sullivan and assistant coaches John Leombruno, Brandon Dowling, Greg Bell, Noah Bell and Riley Jones.



Photo courtesy Tiffany Laufer

## Changes to the life jacket or personal floatation devices (PFDs)

By Paul Tynda  
mail@floridanewline.com

There will soon be changes to the life jacket or personal floatation devices (PFDs) labeling and classification. This change is meant to make finding the right life jacket easier, as well as harmonize the standards between different countries for the boaters traveling across international borders. This easy to interpret, visually based labeling brings a few changes to the current labeling system, but is simple once you know what to look for. Instead of the traditional types, PFDs are just “Wearable” and “Throwable” and the buoyancy is measured in newtons. Named for Sir Isaac Newton, newtons are a unit of measurement for force — defined as the amount of force needed to move one kilogram of mass at the rate of one meter per second squared in the direction of the applied force.

What does all that mean for the type of life jacket you need? Just look at the icons on the label. The higher the number, the greater the distance from shore or rescue; think of a higher number as more offshore and the lower number as inland. There are also icons that show what limitations there are for the life jacket, like if it is not to be used while operating a personal watercraft, paddle craft, or while water skiing. As with every life jacket, they must be in good condition, be Coast Guard approved, properly fit the wearer, and more importantly be worn if you want to get the most out of it.

Any life jackets with the old labels are still approved and count for carriage requirements until they are no longer serviceable. All other regulations involving life jackets and personal floatation devices remain the same.

To learn more about the different types of personal floatation devices and what you will need while on the water, visit [www.safeboatingjax.com](http://www.safeboatingjax.com) and sign up for a safe boating course or schedule your free vessel safety check. The next scheduled safe boating courses are Saturdays, Aug. 3, Sept. 7 and Oct. 5.

One happy student of our class in Green Cove Springs had this to say:

“This is a thank you note to each of you involved in the class provided in Green Cove Springs on Saturday, April 20. My wife Paula, and I are very grateful for the careful, informative, helpful and practical instruction and mentoring each of you provided. Having sailing, power boating and law enforcement included in the course was very valuable. I could not recommend the course more strongly...

“We live right on the St Johns River downtown and observe dozens of boats (sometimes more) each and every day. We are mindful of the safe boating principles from the course, observe a real mixture of compliance with safety measures (e.g. PFDs) and have seen wonderful courtesy and very occasionally reckless actions. But we are watching with new eyes, thanks to you!

“Also, having completed a basic sailing class at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station (Mulberry Cove Marina), I have the newly learned enjoyment of sailing small boats.

“I wanted to say thanks! ~Eric W.”

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

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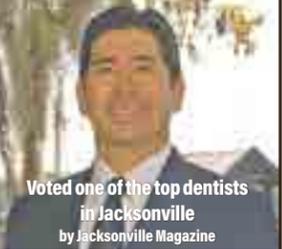
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Healthgrades, the nation's leading medical review organization, has named us to its list of America's Best Hospitals for delivering high-quality patient care across a wide range of conditions and procedures.

This honor is possible because of the dedication of our more than 5,000 physicians and staff who provide a level of comprehensive, compassionate care found in only a few hospitals throughout the nation.

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