

Mandarin NewsLine

FEBRUARY 2020 Volume 14 Issue 4

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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Puzzles

February History Lecture on Feb. 27 to feature author of Edisto Island book

By Sandy Arpen
mail@floridanewsline.com

You might be thinking, “What in the world does a book about Edisto Island, South Carolina, have to do with Mandarin?” Well ... a lot actually. Most folks do not know that there was once a small African American community on Old St. Augustine Road that was also called Edisto. The people who settled there had migrated from Edisto, S.C. to this area after the Civil War. They started a church there, Julington Baptist Church, one of Mandarin’s three historic African American churches that still exists.

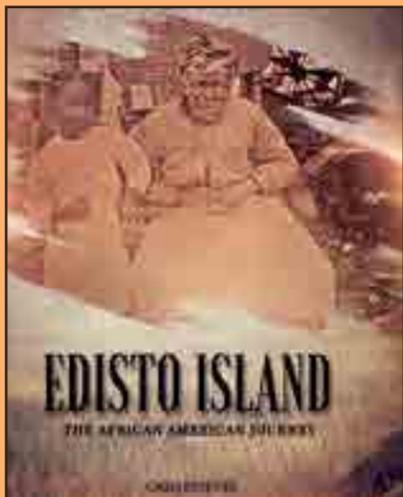


Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society

Volunteers at Mandarin Museum have been doing research related to the development of an exhibit on African American history in Mandarin that will be part of the expanded museum building this fall. This research led them to connect with the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, which connected them with

History Lecture cont. on pg. 13

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY TO BE HELD IN MANDARIN

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

U.S. flags will be honorably retired at a ceremony at the Mandarin Community Club on Sunday, Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. The club has been collecting worn, faded, used or damaged flags throughout the year for proper and honorable disposal at this flag retirement event. The club has been partnering with SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) for multiple years to hold this ceremony as a valuable service to members and the community.

This is a moving and educational experience for all who attend as they witness an American flag deconstructed, while the history and meaning of each component is explained.

“In addition to those who have brought their flags to the club or any of our



Photos courtesy Dennis Adams

events, we would also like to thank Thompson Ace Hardware for their role in collecting worn, used or faded flags,” said Susie Scott, president of the Mandarin Community Club.

Flags that are in poor condition should not be displayed and this ceremony provides a means to see that they are

retired with respect and honor. Flags that are faded or have holes should be turned in for proper management of disposal; a collection box will be located outside the club at 12447 Mandarin Road from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Feb. 9 prior to the ceremony for those who would like their flag retired, but are unable to attend the ceremony that afternoon.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend this highly symbolic ceremony. Visit mandarincommunityclub.org or call the club at (904) 268-1622 for more information.

Fourth annual Tree Giveaway and Festival coming to Mandarin Community Club

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

A “growing” event, the Mandarin Community Club is proud to host a tree giveaway for the fourth year in a row. This year’s event will be held on Sunday, Feb. 29 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the club, located at 12447 Mandarin Road.

This is the club’s way of continuing to replant and keep Mandarin “green.” More than 500 free trees are available to residents living in the 32223, 32257 and 32258 zip codes. In the interest of fairness, only one tree may be given to each household.

This initiative was started by the Mandarin Community Club following the staggering tree losses incurred during the two years of Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. The club pledged to fund a replanting effort by giving away trees to its members and the community. This event has been so well received that it

has continued into a fourth year and the club has committed to make this an annual event.

In addition to the giveaway of more than 500 trees of six different species, there will be food trucks offering breakfast items as the morning begins and lunch items later — and Nitrogen Creamery to keep the kids cool and happy. And this year there will be fun children’s activities as well.

Vendors on site will include Zack’s local honey sales, Plants with a Purpose, Thompson Ace Hardware, Local Flower Co and others. Free mulch will be available, but the supply is limited.

Speakers inside the club building include Larry Figart from the Duval County Extension Office on best tree planting and tree care practices, a talk on how to attract and nurture garden-friendly butterflies and a local beekeep-



Photos courtesy Mandarin Community Club
The fourth annual tree giveaway will be held on Sunday, Feb. 29 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

er on the critical role of bees and the production of local honey.

The Mandarin Community Club will host a special table with membership information and club retail merchandise, including the now popular “Mandarin” baseball caps. A special prize drawing for a firepit courtesy of Thompson Ace Hardware will tempt everyone to purchase tickets.

Volunteers are encouraged, needed and welcome. Call the Club at 268-1622 or email mandarincommunityclub@gmail.com for more information.

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Bernie!

BREED:
Loveable Mutt

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:
Chasing lizards and squirrels

FAVORITE TREAT:
Anything salmon related

FAVORITE FRIEND:
Coco the cat

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:
Named after former New York Yankees outfielder Bernie Williams

*This month's contest sponsored by:
Mandarin Animal Hospital
4473 Sunbeam Road
www.mandarinanimalhospital.com*

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

Shop DINE Play & STAY

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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 chicken coop at Walter Jones Historical Park. Our winner was Sherry Wiesman. Congratulations!

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Feb. 1
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
Made by Locals crafters' mall Grand Opening
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 5285 Shad Road
 www.madebylocals.net
Mandarin Republican Club breakfast meeting
 10 a.m.
 Golden Corral, 11470 San Jose Blvd.
 Breakfast cost is discounted; all who attend must purchase breakfast. rmclean1@bellsouth.net

Feb. 3
Southside Newcomers Club First Monday Coffee
 10 a.m.
 IHop, 3250 Hodges Blvd.
 sncmembership84@gmail.com

Feb. 4
Shuffleboard
 1:30 p.m. (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 Road
 www.honeybeequilters.org (Repeats first Tuesday of each month)

Feb. 5
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)

Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society library open
 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

6215 Sauterne Drive, Jacksonville
 www.sgesjax.org or (904) 778-1000
Jewish Java
 9 a.m.
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
 RSVP (904) 224-1408

Feb. 6
Mandarin Library Book Club
 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
 Mandarin Branch Library, 3330 Kori Road
 (904) 262-5201
Lifetree Cafe, "Laughter is the Best Medicine"
 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 Harbor Chase Mandarin, third floor Limoncello Lounge
 George@lctjax.org or (904) 731-0731
Ixia Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society general meeting, "The Dirt on Dirt" by Brian Lapinski
 6 p.m.
 Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave.
 www.ixia.fnpschapters.org

Feb. 8
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)
Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
Southern Genealogists' Exchange Society (SGES) meeting
 10 a.m.
 Mandarin Library, 3330 Kori Road
 Free and open to the public; sgesjax.org or (904)778-1000

Feb. 9
Flag Retirement Ceremony
 3 p.m.
 Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road
 mandarincommunityclub.org or (904) 268-1622

Feb. 11
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)

Feb. 12
Jewish Genealogy
 6 p.m.
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
 RSVP: jgsneff@gmail.com
N.O.W. God (Night Out with God) for middle and high school youth
 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (repeating event on Wednesdays)
 Mandarin Lutheran Church, 11900 San Jose Blvd.
 MLCJax2014@gmail.com (904) 268-4591
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
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)

Feb. 13
Mandarin Council networking luncheon
 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.
 mandarinCouncil.org
Magnolia Circle, Mandarin Garden Club: Love Affair with your Garden by Tamer Britton
 10 a.m.
 Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
 Mandaringardenclub.org
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

Feb. 14
Understanding Israel Today Part 2
 7:15 p.m.
 Congregation Ahavath Chesed - The Temple, 8727 San Jose Blvd.
 (904) 733-7078; \$10 for non-members, thetemple-jax.square.site

Feb. 15
Meet the Maple Leaf Divers
 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 Mandarin Museum, 11964 Mandarin Road
 www.mandarinmuseum.net

Feb. 16
Jews of Florida: Centuries of Stories
 2 p.m.

Congregation Ahavath Chesed - The Temple, 8727 San Jose Blvd.
 Free and open to community; (904) 733-7078

Feb. 17
All Star Quilt Guild general meeting
 10 a.m.
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
 www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 735-0506

Feb. 18
All About Driving Evaluations, presented by Dr. King, UF
 11:30 a.m.
 River Garden - 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
 RSVP for lunch: (904) 288-7855
Dogwood Circle, Mandarin Garden Club: Attracting and Photographing Birds
 10 a.m.
 Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
 (904) 886-4562; mandaringardenclub.org
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

Feb. 19
River City Women's Club luncheon and White Elephant chance drawing
 10:30 a.m.
 Ramada Inn, 2130 Hartley Road
 RSVP by Feb. 11: (904) 262-8719

Feb. 27
Live Oak Circle, Mandarin Garden Club
 7 p.m.
 Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
 Mandaringardenclub.org
Mandarin Council monthly breakfast
 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
 Jumpin' Jax House of Food, 10131 San Jose Blvd.
 mandarinCouncil.org
February History Lecture: Author Greg Estevez, "Edisto Island: The African American Journey"
 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road
 www.mandarinmuseum.net
All About Ortho, presented by Dr. Bell, JOI
 11:30 a.m.
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
 RSVP for lunch: (904) 288-7855
Mandarin Women's Club's annual fashion show
 10:30 a.m.
 Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3030 Hartley Road
 RSVP by Feb. 20; bkwaldrep@comcast.net or (904) 571-6765

Feb. 29
Fourth annual tree giveaway
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road

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take 5

Women entrepreneurs conference to be held In February

SCORE Jacksonville, in cooperation with the Business and Leadership Institute for Early Learning and Children's Home Society of Florida, will host a conference specifically geared towards women entrepreneurs on Saturday, Feb. 8 in the Advanced Technology Center on the Downtown campus of the Florida State College of Jacksonville. The theme of the conference is "Engage, Educate, Empower" and will feature several presentations, panel discussions and breakout sessions offering guidance as to how best to launch and operate a business. Among the list of scheduled speakers is Pamela Starr, a leading authority on building customer loyalty and a professional speaker for Grow with Google. Visit www.jacksonville.score.org for more information.

Maple Leaf divers at Mandarin Museum

The Maple Leaf divers will appear at Mandarin Museum in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Feb. 15. Attendees may meet and talk with Dr. Keith Holland and the men who

found the Maple Leaf shipwreck and recovered the Civil War artifacts from this National Historic Landmark site in the St. Johns River at Mandarin Point. For more information visit www.mandarin-museum.net or call (904) 268-0784.

Human trafficking program scheduled

The Jewish Federation's Shalom Jacksonville will present a program on Human Trafficking in Northeast Florida on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 9 a.m. at River Garden Senior Services, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road. The speaker will be Rachel White, LMHC and founder of Her Song and human trafficking advocate. Florida ranks third of fifty states consistently in reports of human trafficking. Since 2013, the non-profit Her Song has assisted more than 875 young women from the North Florida region in the aftermath of abuses inconceivable to most of us — forced sex-slavery, physical and psychological torment, abduction, forced drug addiction, and unbearable emotional trauma. Her Song provides survivor care, victim outreach and community education. Learn how this non-profit has built relationships with law enforcement and advocates for these victims who have been robbed of power, choice, dignity and freedom. Call Isabel Balotin at

(904) 224-1408 by Feb. 1 to reserve your space.

Stress relief offered at library

Need to find a healthy way to unwind? Learn to relax and meditate during a Heartfulness Relaxation and Meditation Workshop led by a Certified Heartfulness Trainer. Everyone is welcome to attend on Feb. 1 from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. at South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd. Call (904) 288-6385 for more information.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

Women's club plans new fundraiser

The River City Women's Club has planned its last fundraiser of the year and it will be different than past fundraising efforts. It is called a White Elephant Chance Drawing and attendees should bring a gift that they would give to a friend. The gift can be new or gently used. Wrapping the gift is not necessary, but will add mystery to it. (Examples of gifts to bring are a frame, plant, pictures or umbrella.) All gifts must be non-perishable items. The

River City Women's Club invites all women to join them as they celebrate their fundraising accomplishments for 2019 at this luncheon, to be held on Feb. 19 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Ramada Inn, 2130 Hartley Road. Call (904) 262-8719 for more information or to make a reservation.



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with Jacksonville City Council Member,
District 6, Michael Boylan

Q: Do you have a date set for your next Town Hall meeting?

A: Our next meeting will be held on April 27 at the South Mandarin Library, but at a new time: 6 p.m. These meetings have been well attended with a lot of engagement with the community. This new start time will add 30 minutes to our conversation.

Q: Do you have anything to report from the January Town Hall meeting?

A: There was some concern by residents with respect to the growth management process. I plan to hold another Town Hall meeting in the near future to address this and let the community learn how the City of Jacksonville handles things like the rezoning of property and all the steps that entails.

Also, I look forward to another meeting to feature a conversation about downtown development, to include the proposed Lot J. I'd call it "What's Happening Downtown and Why We Should Care" and I will invite Lori Boyer, the CEO of the DIA (Downtown Investment Authority) to attend.

Q: Do you have an update on JEA?

A: We will restart the fact-finding workshops, with two scheduled in February. Both meetings will take place in the Lynwood Roberts Room of City Hall from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Feb. 10 meeting will be a look back at the strategic planning process JEA undertook and how City Council can explore future opportunities in collaboration with the JEA board. The Feb. 24 meeting will feature two guest speakers from outside our community who will discuss industry trends and whether the trends JEA identified are real. These meetings can also be viewed online at coj.net.

Q: Can you comment on the upcoming roll out of 5G cell towers?

A: There are Florida Statutes in place,

from 2018 and 2019, that allow placement of these new "boxes." The concern by many is that they are in residential areas. Even with the state statutes, there are some things that local governments can control. I am very much aware and actively involved in this process, and upcoming bill 2019-770 will be going through the committee process very soon. The LUZ (Land Use and Zoning) Committee has worked diligently with community groups and representatives from the wireless companies to craft a mutually agreeable policy to be vetted through the TEU (Transportation, Energy and Utilities) and Neighborhoods committees and then on through the usual public hearing process. We are trying to make our policy the best it can be within the confines of state statutes — and still maintain the aesthetics of our neighborhoods.

Q: What is the latest update on some of the parks projects in Mandarin?

A: Construction of County Dock is approximately 95 percent complete (as of interview date of Jan. 15). We expect the substantial completion inspection to take place in late January.

Funding for the Mandarin Park and kayak launch is now available. Specifications will be written and submitted to Procurement for review and a bid date and number.

Finally, the Mandarin Senior Center's expansion is approximately 85 percent complete. Construction is tracking to be substantially complete by the beginning of February. We expect to turn the center back over to Senior Services at the end of February.

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

A: Community members can email me at MBoylan@coj.net or call (904) 255-5206.



with Jacksonville City Council Vice President
Tommy Hazouri, At Large District 3

Q: Do you have a public works update for the Mandarin area?

A: On Scott Mill Road, a new and exclusive southbound right-turn lane is being added to improve traffic flow; design is completed and the project is on schedule. Construction began in January.

In Mandarin Park, the Parks Department has completed the design of a new kayak launch and floating dock. The kayak launch will be ADA compliant and will serve as a tool to further activate our waterways. We have been awarded the grant to proceed with the construction of this exciting project. Additionally, we are working on renovating the existing restroom facility at Mandarin Park. This project will be completed by the spring of 2020.

The Parks Department continues working on a plan to develop an off-leash dog park in the Mandarin area. This project is still in the early stages; the city has now purchased the land and will be proceeding with planning of the recreational amenity.

Q: What's the latest on sidewalks along Mandarin Road and the underdrain project on Sunbeam Road?

A: The Mandarin Road sidewalk project includes the design and construction of three segments of sidewalk, which includes San Jose to Ingle Lane, Orange Picker Road to Long Cypress Trail and Long Cypress Trail to Red Cypress Road. Construction started in January 2020 and the project is anticipated to be completed in July 2020.

For the Sunbeam Road underdrain project, the plan is to remove and replace the existing underdrains, curb and gutter, sidewalk and a half travel lane for a length of roughly 900 feet between Abby Glen Circle and Egrets Landing Drive. Phase 1 of this project covers CARE issue 2014-167361. We anticipate construction to start in February 2020 with an estimated construction completion date in July 2020.

Q: Do you have anything new to share regarding your efforts to stop human trafficking?

A: Last month I talked about my meeting with members of the Northeast Florida Human Trafficking Coalition and other community leaders, affirming my commitment to fight this important issue. I would like to share with readers that at its Jan. 7, 2020 meeting, the Duval County School Board passed a resolution aligning with the City Council's resolution against human trafficking, and fully supported the recognition of Jan. 23 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day. I am honored that so many members of the Jacksonville community are coming together to fight this scourge that affects victims of every age, race, nationality, income and education level. Remember, anyone can call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or text INFO or HELP 2337333 to access help and services.

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

A: They can email me at THazouri@coj.net or call (904) 255-5217.



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New children's emergency center opens

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Wolfson Children's Emergency Center, a full-service, 8,100 square foot facility located adjacent to the existing adult emergency room at Baptist South, is now open. It has its own parking area, entrance, check-in and triage area, family restrooms and 12 exam rooms dedicated entirely to children and families.

The Wolfson Children's Emergency Center at Baptist South is staffed by a team comprised of double-board-certified pediatric emergency physicians with Emergency Resources Group, pediatric-specific emergency nurses, pediatric respiratory therapists, and pediatric-trained radiologic technologists. The team is connected 24/7 with the larger team of pediatric emergency and pediatric specialty physicians at the main Wolfson Children's Hospital campus. To ensure the safest care, this new Wolfson Children's ER is outfitted with technology and equipment specifically designed for children of all ages and sizes.

"To be a true 'pediatric emergency center,' you have to go a lot further than just putting those three words on a building," said Michael D. Aubin, FACHE, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital. "It takes a team of experts specially trained in children's health care, along with equipment and facilities meant specifically for children. We know parents want access to Wolfson Children's Hospital care because it gives them peace of mind when minutes matter in an emergency. So we're really proud to extend our specialized emergency care to children and families in this rapidly growing area."

Wolfson Children's Hospital is consistently ranked among U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hos-



Photo courtesy Wolfson Children's Hospital
Designed and staffed specifically for the unique needs of children, the new children's ER will serve southern Duval and northern St. Johns counties.

pitals and was recently named one of just 10 Top Children's Hospitals in the country by the Leapfrog Group.

Family-friendly amenities at the Wolfson Children's Emergency Center at Baptist Medical Center South include:

- Design based on feedback in focus groups with local parents.
- A kid-friendly, ocean-theme that flows throughout the facility with beautiful and calming sea animals incorporated into the decor.
- A unique fish sculpture that welcomes visitors outside the main entrance, consisting of six distinct groups totaling 219 fish. The sculpture is made of stainless steel and the fish have been coated with blue and turquoise colors. The artist behind this signature piece is Donald Gialanella.
- An interactive play area in the waiting area where children can "color" large ocean-themed pictures.
- iPads filled with apps for entertainment purposes in each room.
- A designated Child Life Specialist to help distract and calm children through play.

This is the sixth Wolfson Children's Emergency Center in Northeast Florida.



with Duval School Board Member, District 7, Lori Hershey

Q: Do you have any public meetings planned?

A: On Thursday, Feb. 13 I will host a Chat with the Superintendent at Loretto Elementary School from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. I invite everyone to attend and hear from Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene about the latest from the Duval County Public Schools.

Q: Can you comment on the graduation rates for 2018 - 2019 which were recently released by the Florida Department of Education?

A: Duval County Public Schools has had another record-breaking increase in our graduation rate. Our graduation rate now exceeds Miami-Dade. Congratulations on the hard work that has been done by our principals, teachers and students to reach this new all-time high of 86.5 percent. Atlantic Coast High School increased its graduation rate by 2 percent and its graduation rate now stands at 95 percent. Mandarin High School's graduation rate remains strong at 94.5 percent.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 7?

A: I would like to congratulate Raines High School language arts teacher Leena Hall-Young, Duval County's Teacher of the Year. Jacksonville Public Education Fund hosted the annual

event — the Eddy Awards — in which she was honored on Jan. 17.

I would also like to recognize the District 7 schools' Teachers of the Year:

Atlantic Coast: Kimberly Curran

Bartram Springs: Michelle Goethe

Crown Point: Deborah Bickle

Enterprise: Angela Cox

Greenland Pines: Lynn Linton

Loretto: Katie Ganas

Mandarin High: Victoria Schrimsher

Mandarin Middle: Matthew Calimano

Mandarin Oaks: Nicole Ashby

Twin Lakes Elementary: Lani Freeman

Twin Lakes Middle: Ariel Branch

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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(www.duvalschools.org)
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NLI

Lots to love at the library: Black History, Tax Help, Jax Book Fest

By Olga Bayer
mail@floridanewsline.com

School-age kids celebrate Black History Month at South Mandarin Branch Library on Feb. 21 from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. in *The Power of Friendship*, a program that explores the extraordinary friendship between Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahalia Jackson and its historical significance. Participants will consider their own friendships, along with concepts of equality, social justice and personal power.



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Library

Make plans for leap day! Jax Book Fest 2020 returns to the Main Library Feb. 29 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. with more than 80 authors selling and signing books, workshops, activities for all ages and more!

5 p.m. at Mandarin Branch Library.

Bird and Squirrel are total opposites. When Bird loses his memory will Squirrel be brave enough for both of them? Find out when the Kids' Graphic Novel Book Club meets at Mandarin Branch Library on Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. The program for kids aged eight – 12 features a discussion of "Bird & Squirrel on the Edge!" by James Burks, followed by craft or activity.

It's time for Jax Book Fest — where you can meet more than 80 authors, including Brad Meltzer, New York Times best-selling author of fiction, nonfiction, children's books and comics (Justice League of America). The guy does it all! He's also unraveled many a mystery on the History Channel's Brad Meltzer's Decoded and H2's Brad Meltzer's Lost History. His thrillers are all bestsellers, but his children's books are his real legacy. Enjoy book signings, pop-up bookstore, children's activities, writing workshops and more on Feb. 29, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Main Library. Check out Meltzer's books from the library, and check out event details at jaxbookfest.org.

Hear about the country firsthand as retired librarian Ted Centerwall takes you on a trip. He'll focus on his recent trip to India and give his impressions on how the country has changed since he lived there in the mid-'60s. "Rediscovering India after 50 Years" will be held on Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. at Mandarin Library.

All libraries will be closed Monday, Feb. 17 for Presidents Day. Find information about additional events at jaxpubliclibrary.org or call Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 262-5201 or South Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 288-6385.

Each year Jacksonville Public Library and the AARP Foundation partner to bring free tax preparation services to low and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those aged 60 and older. Let AARP Tax Aide help prepare your taxes in February on Thursdays from 12 p.m. –

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Briefs

Nominations open for 2020 "Miss Aggie" Award

The Miss Aggie Award is given annually by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society to a person who has contributed greatly to the community of Mandarin in the areas of business, civic, educational or charitable accomplishment. It is given in honor of Agnes Jones, Mandarin's Postmistress from 1928 – 1963.

Recipients since 2003 are: Kate Monson, Karen Roumillat, Rhonda Reese,



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society
Grave of Miss Aggie at Mandarin Cemetery.

Mary Ann Southwell, Jane Cooksey, Susan Earnhart, Alice Stanley, Elizabeth "Betty" Wolfe, Virginia Barker, Emily Lisska, Linda Levin, Sandy Arpen, Sarah Bailey, Susie Scott, Don Bowden and Lynn Cuda. Prior to 2018, it was an award to honor women, but it is now open to men and women nominees.

The recipient of the 2020 Miss Aggie Award will be honored on Miss Aggie

Day, which will be held on Saturday, April 4, at the historic Store and Post Office, 12471 Mandarin Road, from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Nominations for the 2019 award are open until Feb. 29. To nominate someone, complete the form at <https://www.mandarinmuseum.net/events/miss-aggie-award>.

For more information, email the museum at mandarinmuseum@bellsouth.net or call (904) 268-0784.

Mandarin Women's Club schedules annual Fashion Show

It's time for the Mandarin Women's Club's annual Fashion Show and luncheon on Feb. 27 at the Ramada Inn in Mandarin. This year's show will feature the Petunia Patch "Fashion Express" with Peggy Johnson, who opened the Petunia Patch in 1972. With her experience as a national speaker, author, and seminar leader in fashion, Johnson promises an excellent array of intriguing designs from all over the world. She received her fashion training at John Robert Powers of New York. This year's event will feature 11 club members modeling two Petunia Patch designs each that were selected exclusively for them.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and reservations for the luncheon are required. The luncheon cost is \$17.50 and must be received by Thursday, Feb. 20. To make reservations and obtain payment instructions, call Betty at (904)

571-6765 or email her at bkwaldrep@comcast.net.

Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for more information on events, photos, and membership forms.

Lifetree Cafe announces February schedule

Lifetree Café is available to the public weekly at HarborChase of Mandarin. Attendees can share their thoughts, doubts and experiences about a wide variety of life and faith subjects or just listen to what others have to say. Lifetree Café events are always safe places where people listen to and respect the thoughts of others. Public invited events are held every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. on the third floor Limoncello Lounge in HarborChase, 12350 San Jose Blvd. Events are also held on Tuesdays & Wednesdays at other locations. February topics are: Week 1: "Laughter is the Best Medicine;" Week 2: "Who is Jesus, Really;" Week 3: "Unlocking the Mystery of Music;" and Week 4: "Loving those with Cancer." More information about each topic, including a video trailer, is available at lrcjax.org or fb.com/lrcjax.

Hospital CEO Talbert named 2020 JAXUSA chair

Memorial Hospital of Jacksonville's Chief Executive Officer Bradley S. Talbert, FACHE, will serve as the 2020 JAXUSA chair, leading the efforts of Year Two of the region's five-year strategic plan, Elevate Northeast Florida.

As the health and biomedical industry is a growing and significant area of focus per the JAXUSA strategic plan,

under Talbert's leadership, JAXUSA will further develop this industry's assets and talent, as well as guide its efforts in attracting diverse business and jobs across all industries to the region. Talbert has been an active member of the JAXUSA Policy Council and the JAX Chamber board of directors and has been involved in several other community boards and committees since moving to Jacksonville in 2017.



Photo courtesy Memorial Hospital
Bradley S. Talbert

"In a short period of time, Brad has taken an active role in community leadership to improve the quality of life in Northeast Florida. There is no doubt in my mind that his leadership as JAXUSA chair will serve to continue growth in regional prosperity for all residents," said JAXUSA Partnership President Aundra Wallace.

"It did not take long for me to gain respect for the JAXUSA Partnership mission as it aligns with my own strategic objectives and goals for a community I am proud to be a part of," said Talbert. "I plan to honor past chair Ray Driver's work and to provide continuity to this important role. It has been a pleasure to work with the excellent leadership in JAXUSA President Aundra Wallace, as a member of the JAXUSA Policy Council and I look forward to working with all stakeholders to further enhance Jacksonville's economy."



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New Year starts in a whirl for local camera club

By Don Dyer
mail@floridanewline.com

The Jacksonville Camera Club started its year of educational programs with a presentation and workshop on Intentional Camera Movement known as ICM. This is where the photographer moves the camera or zooms the lens during the taking of a photograph to get a different look at the subject — putting the subject in a whirl. Some say “Hang on, I often get stuff out of focus.” That’s not the same as creating an infocus yet interesting picture.



Photo courtesy Anita Fanic
Hibiscus with Intentional Camera Movement.

The presentation was given by Anita Fanic, a recognized local photographer, and a member of the club. She explained the way these photos are achieved and then helped the members present to create their own. This was certainly an unusual and interesting presentation, enjoyed by a packed meeting, and is one good example of the interesting ways photographers are expanding their options and enjoying the hobby.

There is still the opportunity for “normal” photography and to that end the Jacksonville Camera Club organizes outings to such places as the Alligator Farm, Merritt Island, the Olostee Battlefield Reenactment, as well as an annual trip somewhere for fall leaves or spring flowers. Members also make impromptu meet ups to explore locally. There are many occurrences in our town and around that pique the photographer’s attention. One such occurrence is the demolition of The Landing in downtown

Jacksonville. One of the Jacksonville Camera Club members, a very keen and capable photographer named Bill McSherry, has provided a great example of thinking through the scene by taking a photograph through the front door. It is interesting how the view has changed during demolition.

The meeting on Feb. 5 is titled “Morocco on the Move” and looks at Morocco through the eyes of local photographer Paula Griffin. The meeting on Feb. 19 will be the judged results of the first Digital

Competition of the year and provides a great learning tool when the judge provides feedback on the photographs submitted.

The Jacksonville Camera Club meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6505 Columbia Park Road,



Photo courtesy Bill McSherry
Through the doors of The Landing.

just off Phillips Highway by Interstate 295. Meetings start at 7 p.m. and last up to two hours depending on the program. Many members then go to eat a late meal, which fosters great conversation and the opportunity to get to know each other. If you are a beginner or expert, use your cell phone or expensive DSLRs, you are welcome and will leave with something photographic to think about. Visit www.jjaxcameraclub.com for more information.

Don Dyer is the Publicity chair of the Jacksonville Camera Club.



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Community project to save lives: Training and other opportunities to help are available

By Rhoda London
mail@floridanewsline.com

Did you know that an African-American needing a bone marrow match has only a 23 chance of finding one compared to 77 percent for a Caucasian? Statistics show that the chances are somewhat better, but only 41 percent for Asians and 46 percent for Hispanics or Latinos, going down to almost nothing for those who are racially mixed. All of these groups are our Jacksonville friends and neighbors.

Representing Be The Match, which works with the National Bone Marrow Registry, local concerned citizens are holding training sessions for those interested in doing actual cheek swabbing or virtual drives using cell phones and computers to improve these statistics. Registering and swabbing just a few people is not enough to change these statistics; it will need to be a community effort.

The first training session will be from 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6 at The Temple, which is located at 8727 San Jose Blvd. You will only need one session to be on a list of volunteers, since it is a simple procedure. Mainly it will introduce you to Be The Match and how to help with actual or virtual drives. If interested, send your name and email to diversitydonordrive@aol.com

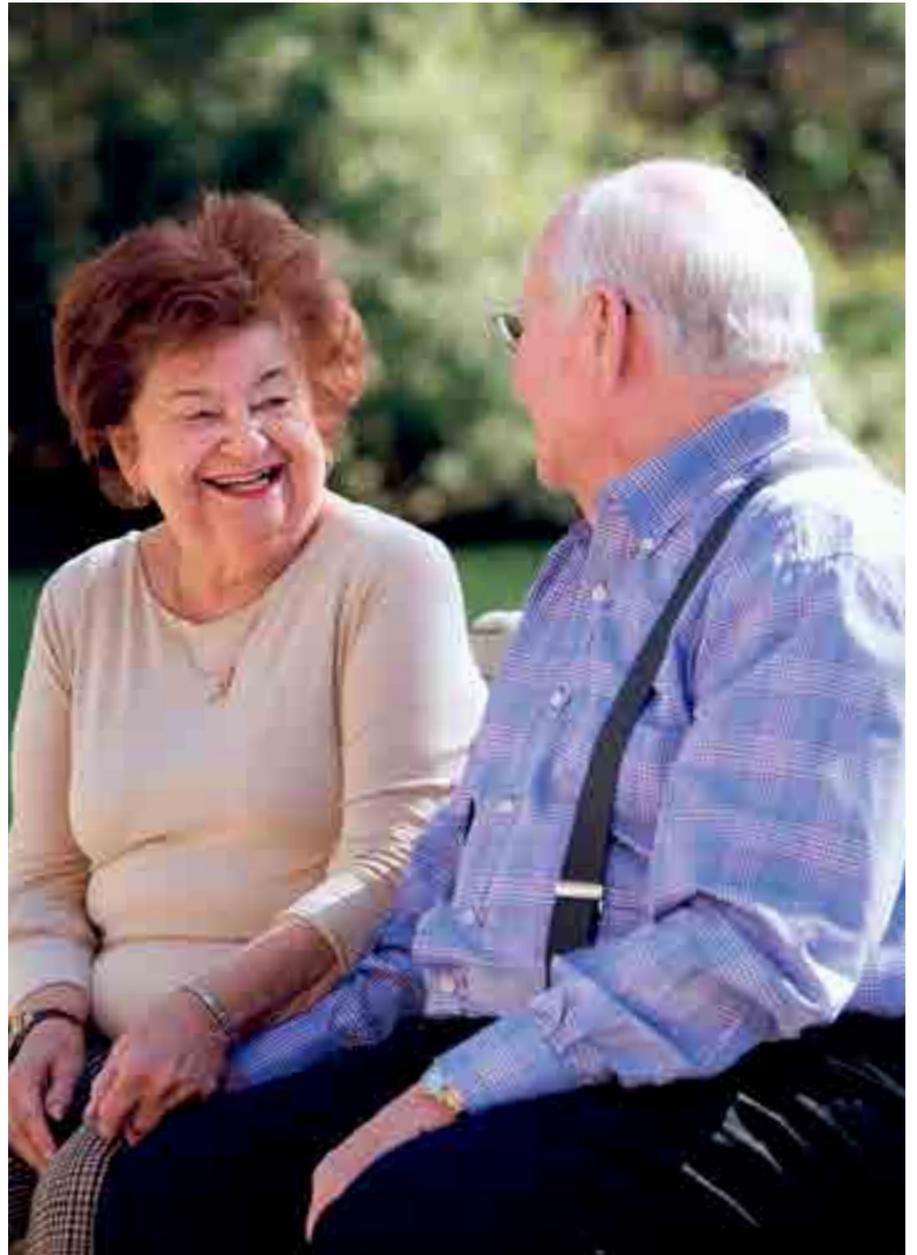
Here are some Fast Facts about this local effort:

- The target group for cheek swabbing is ages 18 – 44. For them swabbing is free.
- Unlike using blood types, bone marrow matches are found primarily within one's own ethnic group.
- Every three minutes someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer, but only 30 percent will find matches within their own families. About 70 percent will need to find matches with a registry such as Be The Match.
- If someone becomes a match, all medical expenses are paid.
- All medical information is kept in private by law and is assigned only a code for future use.

How to help if you are older than 44:

- Host an actual cheek swabbing event in your place of worship, business or organization. Volunteers are being trained on Feb. 6 to help you with that.
- Donate funds in any amount in honor of your own good health, your recovery from an illness or because you want every person who needs a bone marrow match to have an equal chance of finding one. Funds will be used for analyzing swabs, medical procedures when matches are found and for research to find cures.

To register for a free cheek swabbing kit, text: JaxDonors to 61474. Return postage is prepaid. The team page for contributing your tax-deductible amount online is: www.BeTheMatchFoundation.org/goto/JaxDonors. Click on "Make A Gift" and wait for your receipt.



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Back in Time with Brett

By Brett Nolan
mail@floridanewsline.com

Mandarin Community Club, Part 2

It was “the spark plug and clearing house for the community.

—The Jacksonville Journal, 1954.

It was a narrow climb to the platform of the bell tower and light seeping through the louvers shined on the antebellum-era bell. A rope dangled from the yoke, awaiting a firm tug to rock the clapper back and forth; the noise resonated through old heart pine and out into the village. A typical day in Mandarin found its beginning. Its tolling called children to school, grades one through eight. On Sundays, a partition was moved away, turning classrooms into a sanctuary as families gathered for worship. Livestock freely roamed the property. On occasion, a pig squeezing under the structure for shade would leave behind a bad flea infestation. Harriet Beecher Stowe bid her final farewell in the winter of 1884 as her husband proved too ill for travel, but her legacy in the small village lived on through this edifice.

The building functioned as the Mandarin Grammar School and church for

nearly 50 years since its construction in 1872. When Loretto Elementary School opened to accommodate a growing community, the structure began to take on a new purpose. In 1917, Mandarinites formed a Liberty League, meeting weekly in the building, aiding in the country's efforts during World War I. They promoted patriotism and sold liberty bonds; it was widely successful. Eager to continue advocating for the area, the same officers that made up the Liberty League chartered the



Photo courtesy Mandarin Community Club. Historical Mandarin Community Club.

Mandarin Community Club in July of 1923. Working with the Duval County School Board to acquire the surplus schoolhouse, Edwin and Cara Jones purchased and donated the structure to the club in 1938. It was a gift to Mandarin in honor of Edwin's father, Walter Jones, the club's first president and Fannie Brown, first treasurer. Edwin went to school there under the direction of Miss Kate Monson, later the club's first vice-president.

But even before that, the organization was making great moves in Mandarin. In June 1936, electricity was extended into the town, as the club successfully acquired enough residents to subscribe to services. Two additional wings were added to the building in 1939 to accommodate a substation of the county's health department, later the Kate Monson Well-Baby Clinic, and a community library. Years later, the west wing housed the beginnings of the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. From 1925 to 1945, the group sponsored a semi-professional baseball team, the Mandarin Orange Pickers, using the property as their baseball diamond. The Orange Pickers would move their operations when Mandarin resident, Bruno Albert, donated 14 acres of land at the corner of Mandarin and Brady roads, now known as Alberts Field.

Instrumental in the creation of both the Mandarin Garden Club and Mandarin Athletic League, the community club was bringing life into the little town of Mandarin. During a Housing Demonstration Club meeting that was held in the building in 1948, Duval County saw one of its first demonstrations of the newfound electric wonder, the television. The formation of Mandarin's Volunteer Fire Department was under the leadership of the club, and the organization funded \$4,000 for a truck and equipment. In 1953, the building was moved back from the road to its present location and expanded in size with the addition of a full stage and basement.



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Announcement of electricity coming to Mandarin.

Just like when Stowe and her family brought theater to Mandarin, residents could watch the theatrical performances done by the Mandarin Players on the newly built spaces. By 1968, the club organized one of the area's most unique traditions, the Mandarin Art Festival, held annually every Easter weekend.

Today, the Mandarin Community Club continues in being the spark plug for the area. Nearly 100 years in age, the assembly is the oldest civic group of its kind in the City of Jacksonville. Continuously fighting for Mandarin, the organization is a great clearing house of knowledge for anyone who wants to learn more about the area's most long-term advocate.

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

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Get to Know . . .

Harriet Courtney

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com



Photos courtesy Harriet Courtney
Harriet Courtney

Harriet Courtney was born in Memphis, but as a young girl, moved with her parents to a small house in Atlantic Beach. She attended Southside Junior High and Englewood and began working right out of high school. She married and had three children, two girls and a boy. After the dissolution of her first marriage, her son was playing baseball at San Souci and she had the opportunity to meet a coach from another team, Walt Courtney. She said they kept bumping into each other via work and youth sports until they finally married 37 years ago and merged her family of three children with his family of four. They moved to Mandarin and have lived in this area that Harriet calls “just the neatest place” for 30 years.

After marrying Walt, Harriet decided to go back to school and earned her degree in secondary education from the University of North Florida. She worked for Florida Community College at Jacksonville in the Women’s Center for 22 years before retiring six years ago. She enjoyed her position running the displaced homemakers’ program, which helped women reenter the workforce. With their blended family, Harriet and Walt now have a total of 19 grandchildren and they share their Mandarin home with

rescue dog, Rocky. She is the publicity director for the River City Women’s Club.

Q: How did you get involved with the River City Women’s Club?

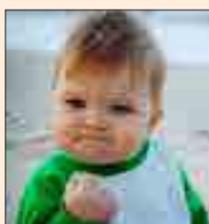
A: I actually saw the calendar entry in “Mandarin NewsLine” for the Tuesday shuffleboard at Mandarin Park and showed it to my husband, who loves shuffleboard. He attended for about two years while I was still working and then I went with him last year. We met Hilda Bryson and she told me all about the River City Women’s Club and invited me to a meeting. I’ve been a member now for about a year.

Q: What do you like best about the River City Women’s Club?

A: I enjoy a lot of the club’s activities and I like that the purpose of most activities is to raise funds for charities. So you can have fun and raise money for good causes at the same time. I also like the variety of speakers we have at meetings. The members are very friendly and welcoming and just what I needed. I found that when I retired, I needed to make new friends besides people I used to work with and the club has been great.

Q: I understand you have a somewhat famous grandson?

A: Yes! This picture was taken



Get to Know . . .

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Email Martie Thompson at
editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

History Lecture cont. from pg. 1

Orange Park resident Greg Estevez, who had just published this book. That then led him and the museum to start looking for names to connect families from these two “Edisto” communities. This work has just begun.

Estevez, retired after 20 years in the U.S. Navy, wrote this book as he began studying his family’s deep roots in Edisto. He felt a drive to tell the stories of African American life on this island, including his own family, the Hutchinsons. In fact, his family lived in the donated slave cabin that is a centerpiece of the slavery exhibit in the National Museum of African American History in Washington, DC.

But his book became even more than a family story as he includes the rich history and heritage from slavery times to present day. Estevez is the first African American author from Edisto Island to write a non-fiction historical book about the island. He will share any connections with Mandarin’s Edisto that we know of by the time of the lecture. This book will be available and the author will be happy to autograph it for you.

Note: The lecture is on Feb. 27 (not Feb. 20, which is the third Thursday — the usual lecture date) due to a conflict at the Mandarin Community Club. As always, the lecture is 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.

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Native Sons and Daughters look ahead to New Year

By Brian Quirk, Flaming Arrow
 mail@floridanewsline.com

Welcome to the first year of the new decade. The Jacksonville chapter of the Native Sons and Daughters program is off to a fast start in creating life-long memories between fathers and their children.

We begin the New Year with our annual Suzie Q. Miller family campout. During this campout, the children invite their mothers to get a glimpse of what the dads do with them during our other campouts. After raising the American Flag and reciting the pledge of allegiance, the children partake in canoeing, a fishing rodeo, Frisbee golf, basketball and nature hikes. All the activities are age appropriate and the dads cook the family feast for everyone on Saturday evening.

During February, the club attends a Jacksonville Icemen professional hockey game. Following the game, the group is invited down on the ice to take pictures with the team. For the vast majority of the children, it is the first time seeing a live hockey game and the first time they have ever stepped foot on ice.

Also in February, the braves and princesses converge at the stadium in order to participate in the Monster Truck show. Each member strongly cheers for their favorite driver and most of the club arrives in plenty of time to take pictures with their favorite driver and their truck. This is an annual heart-pounding, gut wrenching show of brute strength and horsepower.



Photos courtesy Brian Quirk

The spring season begins with attending the Sunshine State Pow Wow. This annual gathering of similar father/child programs from all over the state has participation from groups from Jacksonville to Miami and from Canaveral to Tampa. This event alone usually attracts close to 1000 campers each year. This year's event is being held in Melbourne and can be reviewed at <https://sunshinestaterpowwow.com>

During April, both the boys' and girls' longhouses are held at various campgrounds in Northeast Florida. These events are structured so that the fathers can spend one-on-one time with either their sons or with their daughters.

Finally, the club attends a night out with the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp where they can campout in the outfield after the game, and our Ray Potts Summer Bowling begins the second week of June.

Visit www.nsdjax.org for more information about our unique parent/child program.



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Answers to puzzles on page 16

Answers

to our **Puzzles**

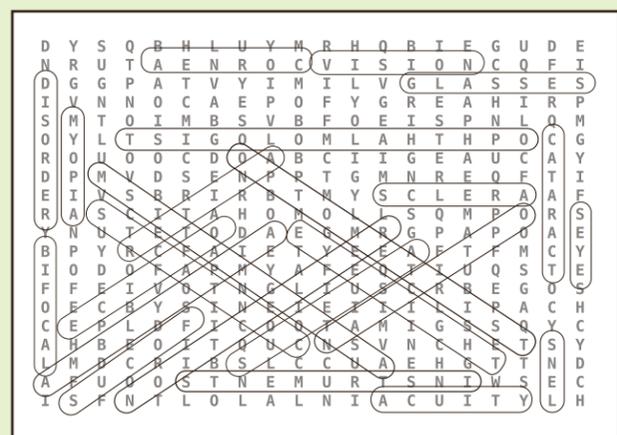
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ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

Interleave the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. eyes B. exam C. vision D. healthy



Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewsline.com

We have reached the time of year where fishing can be at its most difficult. Cold weather and cold water temperatures definitely have a direct influence on the current bite. Fortunately, so far this winter has been fairly mild, keeping water temperatures higher than usual. If this keeps up for just a few more weeks, spring fishing could be coming in like a lion.

With spring comes the best largemouth bass fishing of the year. After spending the winter low and slow, largemouths will hit all area freshwater ponds, lakes, creeks, and the river with a bodacious appetite. This bite is brought on due to the largemouth's springtime spawning season. You can expect the spawn to last several weeks, with excellent bass fishing taking place before, during, and after the spawn. Spawning bass can be spotted on their beds for easy fishing in shallow waters during the spawn.

Saltwater fishing is ready for kickoff at any time this time of year. As bait fish begin their migration north due to warming sea temperatures, the predatory fish that we like to catch will soon follow. Bluefish are often the first fish to show. With razor sharp teeth, and piranha-like feeding frenzies, blues are plentiful and easy to catch during their spring run. Just about any bait, live or artificial, will be attacked while they are passing through in the surf. Cut baits and finger mullet seem to be their favorites though.

Whiting usually follow the blues, but can begin to show before the blues if we've had a mild enough winter. When the Whiting do show, it's time to hang on to your hats, as the bite can happen as fast as your bait hits the bottom. Dead shrimp and sand fleas are their favorite bait.

When fishing in the surf, try locating a "bite zone" to increase productivity. By casting to different depths or locations, give each spot a few minutes to see how fast a bite occurs, and what the quality of the fish is that comes from that spot. You may also want to just try a slow retrieval every minute or so till your bait finds the area where the best fish are most concentrated.

In the upcoming days or weeks, spring fishing offers some of the fastest and easiest fishing of the year. For getting started, don't look at the calendar, but watch the weather. Periods of warmer days with water temperatures averaging 60 degrees or warmer is the ticket to give it a try. If you are really anxious to get out, every 50 or 60 miles you drive south moves up the fishing season a week or two.

Fishing Report: Area freshwater largemouths are a must for anyone looking for their first or trophy bass. Don't forget your neighborhood ponds and lakes for some great bass fishing.

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

Rotarians serve the needs of neighbors

By Elizabeth Shaw
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Rotary Club of Mandarin has a strong commitment to local community projects to serve the needs of the club's friends and neighbors. Mandarin Rotarians continued this commitment through their annual holiday tradition of partnering with the Mandarin Food Bank to distribute Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to local families in need. Mandarin Rotarians and family members also served as bell ringers to spread holiday cheer and collect money for the local Salvation Army during the annual Red Kettle Christmas campaign.

The Rotary Club is just starting to plan the annual Laugh for Charity Gala, which will take place on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at the Comedy Zone. The event will include cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a live and silent auction



Photo courtesy Elizabeth Shaw
Mandarin Rotary members serve at the Mandarin Food Bank.

and a comedy show. This event will raise funds to support local charities. Stay tuned for more details as the date approaches.

The Rotary Club of Mandarin meets at 7:30 a.m. each Tuesday morning at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center on Hartley Road in Mandarin. Contact Membership Chair, Wesley R. Caldwell at wes@dannagracey.com if you are interested in learning more about Service Above Self and joining the Mandarin Rotary.

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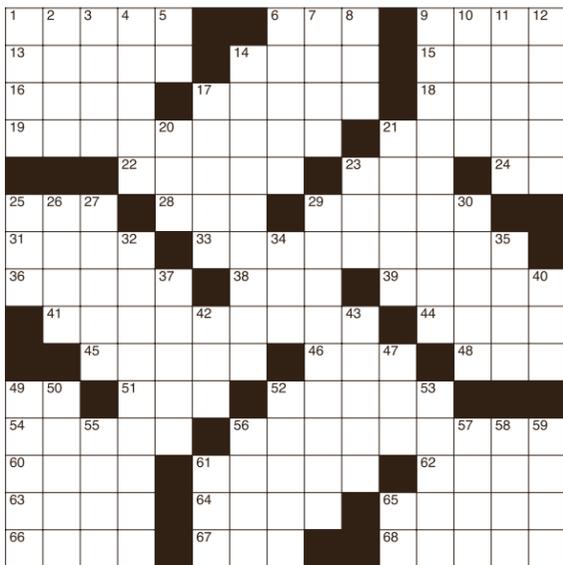
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 14
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Indicates number of days
- 6. When you hope to get there
- 9. Hairstyle
- 13. Black (Spanish)
- 14. Expresses pleasure
- 15. Away from wind
- 16. Tech pros organization
- 17. Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it
- 18. Clean
- 19. Saints' signal caller
- 21. A way to hunt
- 22. Poetries
- 23. Automobile
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Indicates before
- 28. Male parent
- 29. Short-billed rails
- 31. It pays to keep yours
- 33. On occasion
- 36. David __, US playwright
- 38. Slang for cigarette

CLUES DOWN

- 39. Vaccine developer
- 41. Returned to health
- 44. Toni Morrison novel
- 45. Period between eclipses
- 46. Veterans battleground
- 48. Gang
- 49. A radio band
- 51. Jaws of a voracious animal
- 52. Elaborate garments
- 54. Chinese province
- 56. Checks
- 60. Horizontal passage
- 61. Steep hillsides
- 62. Fertility god
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Signs a name
- 65. __ Winger, actress
- 66. German river
- 67. Gov't lawyers
- 68. Take something somewhere

CLUES DOWN

- 1. __ Blyton, children's author
- 2. Colleague
- 3. "The African Queen" writer
- 4. Crater on the moon
- 5. Toward
- 6. Overhang
- 7. Identifies something close at hand
- 8. Sign language
- 9. Unbroken views
- 10. Ancient Greek City
- 11. Stretch out to grasp
- 12. Alcohols that are unfit for drinking
- 14. Humorous stories
- 17. Long song for a solo
- 20. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 21. City of Lights
- 23. A place to sleep
- 25. Advanced degree (abbr.)
- 26. The back

- 27. Furniture-makers Charles and "Ray"
- 29. Songs to a lover
- 30. Gland secretion
- 32. 10 meters
- 34. Disfigure
- 35. Stores grain
- 37. Sacred book of Judaism
- 40. Catch
- 42. Promise
- 43. Challenges
- 47. Russian space station
- 49. Banking giant
- 50. Served as an omen
- 52. Drenches
- 53. Type of sword
- 55. Minor planet
- 56. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 57. Japanese ankle sock
- 58. Obtain in return for services
- 59. Waste matter
- 61. A proposal to buy at a specified price
- 65. Unit of loudness

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

- ACUITY
- AMBLYOPIA
- AQUEOUS
- ASTIGMATISM
- BIFOCAL
- CATARACT
- CONTACTS
- CORNEA
- DISORDER
- EYES
- EYESIGHT
- FOCUS
- GLASSES
- INSTRUMENTS
- LENS
- MYOPIA
- OFFICE
- OPHTHALMOLOGIST
- OPTICIAN
- OPTOMETRIST
- REFLECTION
- RETINA
- SCLERA
- VISION



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Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 8 = e)

- A. 8 13 8 2**
Clue: Used for sight
- B. 8 21 25 3**
Clue: Test
- C. 16 9 2 9 15 23**
Clue: Sight
- D. 20 8 25 10 4 20 13**
Clue: Free of illness

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The Pantry Raiders

Do dessert at home this Valentine's Day

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Couples who want to add a special twist to Valentine's Day date night can enjoy a nice meal out before returning home for some homemade dessert. Whether couples prepare it together or surprise their significant others, the following recipe for "Coffee Crisp" from Bob Blumer's "Surreal Gourmet Bites" (Chronicle Books) can make for the perfect ending to a Valentine's Day date night.

Coffee Crisp

(Yields 12 bites)

- 6 egg yolks
- 8 tbsp. sugar
- 2 tbsp. instant espresso or coffee powder
- 1 ½ cups heavy cream
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract

Preheat the oven to 300 F.

In a medium bowl, whisk egg yolks and 6 tablespoons of the sugar for 1 minute, or until smooth and pale yellow in color. Reserve.

In a second medium bowl, add espresso granules and one-quarter cup of the cream.

Whisk until smooth, then add remaining cream and vanilla, and whisk until well blended.

Very gently, fold espresso cream mixture into egg yolks.

Use a ladle to pour custard mixture into espresso cups, filling them three-fourths of the way to the top. Place cups in a baking dish or roasting pan and transfer to oven. Fill a pitcher with warm tap water. Before closing oven door, pour water into pan (but not into the cups themselves!) until it reaches halfway up the sides of the cups.

Bake for 40 minutes, or until the custards jiggle just slightly when you shake the pan. Remove pan from oven and leave out on counter, allowing the residual heat of the water to finish the cooking process.

When custards have fully solidified, refrigerate for 2 hours.

Just before serving, sprinkle 1/2 teaspoon of sugar evenly overtop each custard. Use a small blowtorch to caramelize the sugar. Alternatively, place cups 1 inch below oven broiler under a watchful eye for approximately 2 minutes, or until sugar caramelizes.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Coffee Crisp

Gardening

It's February - Already

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

Now is a good time to sow seeds of popular summer vegetables, particularly tomatoes, peppers, both hot and sweet, and eggplants. This is an indoor project, though, as soils will not warm up sufficiently until all danger of frost has passed, usually after March 20 or thereabouts. Use a potting soil formulated for seedlings and keep your seed tray in a warm place to encourage germination. Once you have tiny plants, give them plenty of light. Be aware that overwatering is a potential problem as it can cause seedlings to rot and die: a fungal condition called "damping off." Fertilize with a weak solution every week or two, or use a slow release product, keeping it away from tender stems.

There are some vegetables that should be sown directly in the garden if they are to grow well, and in February these include corn, cucumbers, snow or English peas, radish (a useful quick grower), squash, turnips, and watermelon. If you have limited space, take a closer look at the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide, to help refine your options (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>). Always grow what your family will eat, or be prepared to coax them into new and different flavors.

When considering where to grow, aim to move your crops from place to place each season. Crop rotation helps to discourage insects that are attracted to particular types of plants, and soil-borne diseases that attack certain plant groups don't have the opportunity to build up to really damaging levels. You may not have an easy situation to deal with, since different vegetables mature at different rates and take up different amounts of space, but it is worth avoiding growing the same plants in the same place year after year. Ideally

plants in the same family (see <https://tinyurl.com/vqgqslq>) should be grouped together to make this easier. Record what, when, and where you plant in the garden using simple diagrams. As your crops finish, tidy up any potentially diseased material if you haven't done so already, and replenish the soil with compost. Draw up the next planting plan and keep these records season to season. (I certainly cannot remember the details of what I planted two or three years ago!) Aim for a three year rotation at minimum, and perhaps use a cover crop for green manure (see the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide) if you have a space you don't want to use.

When I was a child, my parents worked in our garden — the term in England that encompasses the whole backyard. My dad grew the vegetables and fruit, and my mum loved her flowers. It never occurred to me then that all flowers had their seasons, although the Michaelmas daisies (then in the Aster genus now re-categorized as Symphyotrichum) were a late summer treat for many beautiful butterflies. It was clear that the produce came and went seasonally, apparently controlled by my dad. Now I understand that we have flowers that bloom in certain seasons, for varying lengths of time, and their life cycles include setting seed for the next year. With experts advising us that we should aim to have flowering plants available year round for those oh-so valuable pollinators — like honey bees — this article may help: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg035>. And for shrubs and trees to support honey bees, see <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in1223>.

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Travel

A weekend in Wytheville, Virginia

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewslines.com

Travelers often find unexpected joys, fewer crowds, and budget-friendly prices in smaller cities. I recently discovered these advantages in Wytheville, located in Southwest Virginia, at the intersection of highways Interstate-81 and Interstate-77, not far from the Tennessee border. Wytheville's population numbers just 8,500, but there's plenty to see and do.

My first stroll down Main Street brought me to the Edith Bolling Wilson Museum. Who? Edith Bolling, a child born and raised in Wytheville, became the first lady when she married Woodrow Wilson in 1915, during his first term as President. (I can only imagine the media frenzy that would cause today.) When Wilson suffered a stroke in 1919, Edith actually made many presidential decisions on his behalf.

Her birthplace sits next door to the museum. The house has yet to be restored, but the near-empty rooms speak loudly of the past. I was fascinated by Edith and her place in American history. (She was born during the Civil War Reconstruction and has a 10th generation link to Pocahontas.)

The Thomas A. Boyd Museum focuses on Wytheville's history, including a reasonably recent, but sad, chapter. In 1950, Wytheville had more polio

cases than any other city in the state. The year became known as the Summer Without Children. Accounts say it was as if the Pied Piper spirited all the children out of town. Parents would not permit the kids to play outdoors. Several iron lungs of various sizes are displayed, a poignant reminder of how polio victims were affected and treated at this time.

Today's outdoor enthusiasts will find a variety of hiking, biking, horseback riding, and boating options among Big Walker Mountain Trail, New River State Park, and Crystal Springs. Drive up to Big Walker Mountain Lookout (elevation of 3,405 feet) and climb the 100-foot tower for endless views of beautiful Appalachian Mountains. Motorcycle riders find the epicenter of the "Claw of the Dragon" in Wytheville, a 200-mile scenic trail running

through the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The Fort Chiswell Animal Park grew from the childhood dream of Jeff Arches. The 45-acre safari park features animals



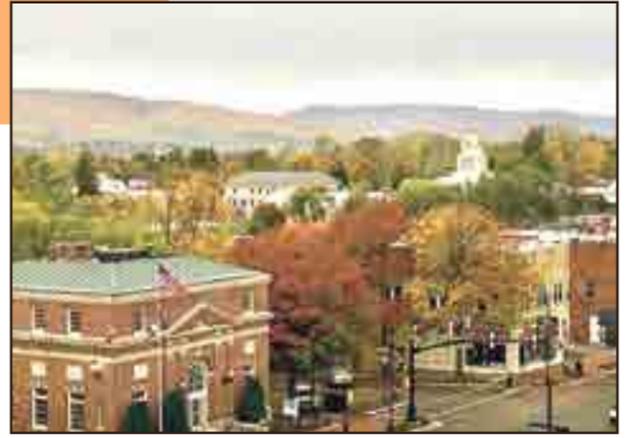
Fun at the Fort Chiswell Animal Park.



Edith Bolling Wilson birthplace museum.

from six continents, mostly rescued animals. You ride along with windows open on an old school bus, and exotic animals come up to the vehicle. The guide tells you how you can feed them. I turned my back, and a camel pushed his head in the window and stole the entire bag of animal feed off the seat. He enjoyed quite a feast while we all laughed. The attraction runs on an abundance of love and care. It's a happy place that I feel comfortable recommending, especially if traveling with children.

As far as food and beverage, Wytheville's got it covered. The West Wind Farm Winery does everything from



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Wytheville Main Street.

grape to glass by hand. They hand-pick, crush, bottle and label wines from the five-acre vineyard. Wytheville welcomes beer enthusiasts to two trendy craft breweries.

The Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre presents musicals to 50,000 guests per year in a 250-seat arena. With those numbers, you know they must be doing something right. The three-course meal and the show were excellent. Another night, I suggest dining at the atmospheric Log House 1776 Restaurant. Plan to stay and browse the gardens, antique, and gift shops in outer buildings.

Wytheville draws a crowd to its annual Chautauqua Festival and Balloon Rally, an eight-day family-oriented music and arts festival from the third to the fourth Saturday every June. The spectacular evening balloon glow earns rave reviews. Balloon rides are available the next morning.

Mummy Day held in support of United Way



Photo courtesy Mary Eyer

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, Crown Point Elementary School participated in a student campaign in support of the United Way. Students transformed Principal Brett Hartley into a mummy. During lunch the students had the chance to purchase a piece of tape for one dollar and wrap it around Hartley. Crown Point students raised almost \$500. It was a fun event which raised funds for a good cause.

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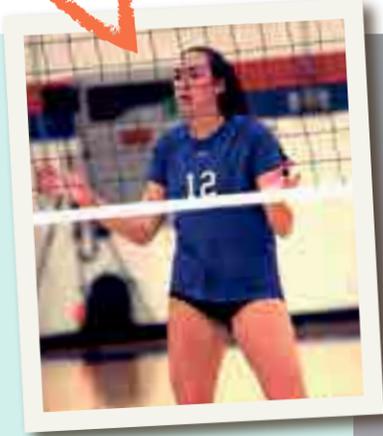
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