

# Mandarin NewsLine

July 2021 Volume 15 Issue 9

A Florida NewsLine Publication



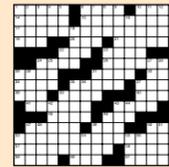
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## Coast Guard Auxiliary resumes in-person classes; adds new class

By Paul Tynda  
mail@floridanewline.com

The slow return to normal has taken a big step forward for the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Flotilla 14-8: we are now able to offer our in person safe boating classes. This brings us back to offering all services to the boating public to help keep the people enjoying local waterways safely.

The Auxiliary's safe boating classes are offered at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club during a Saturday each month. To sign up for a class, visit [www.safeboatingjax.com](http://www.safeboatingjax.com) and reserve your spot. This class has a lot to offer new and seasoned boaters and anyone who may find themselves onboard a boat will find the information useful for their time on the water. While there is no minimum age to operate a boat in Florida, people born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 are required to take and pass a safe boating course to operate a vessel

Coast Guard cont. on pg. 15

## Honoring Miss Aggie Award recipients



Photo courtesy Sandy Arpen  
Wanda Bosworth, Karen Roumillat, and Sam Folds.

By Sandy Arpen  
mail@floridanewline.com

Every year since 2003, Mandarin Museum & Historical Society has honored a person who has made significant contributions to the community — like Miss Agnes Jones did — by presenting the annual Miss Aggie Award.

The 2020 Miss Aggie Award was unique because it was the first time two people were selected. It was also unique because a COVID-19 pandemic was taking place and Miss Aggie Day 2020 had to be cancelled since we could not bring a crowd of people together. Finally, on May 22, 2021, Miss Aggie Day 2020 was celebrated at the historic Mandarin Store and Post Office.

The recipients of the 2020 Miss Aggie Award were long-time residents Sam Folds and Wanda

Bosworth. The awards were presented by Mandarin Museum & Historical Society vice-president and great niece of Agnes Jones, Karen Roumillat.

Folds was born and raised in Mandarin and has served clients in Mandarin through his real estate business for more than 40 years. He has been a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour and a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Mandarin, where he has served in many roles. He has always been an active advocate for the community by speaking out about and supporting all efforts to preserve the integrity of Mandarin's landscape and history.

Bosworth has made volunteering in the community her profession. Since 1986 she has served

Miss Aggie cont. on pg. 11

## School hosts fresh food distribution



Photos courtesy Margaret Rogero-Hastings

Although school is out for the summer, Mandarin Oaks Elementary teachers, former students and parents, community volunteers, Duval County Public Schools School Board member Lori Hershey, Region 6 District Councilman Michael Boylan, and At Large City Councilman Terrance Freeman turned out to help distribute fresh food through Farm Share on June 12. More than 200 families attended and received fresh food for their family. The seed for this event was planted in the spring, when Hershey brought the idea to Principal Leigh Butterfield about hosting the event. With the help of Freeman, Farm Share was able to coordinate a date to help Mandarin neighbors. Families received fresh chicken, milk, rice, beans, water, and sanitizer.

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# Jacksonville Chapter DAR installs officers



Photo courtesy Carol Curtis

Glenda Kelsey, Betty Lee, Barbara McGriff, Carol Cochran, Jurelle Stanton, Marsha Morley, Sandra Thompson, Lyn Corley, Betty Reed, Maria Miller and Installing Officer Cindy Addison.

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Preparing for future community events, the Jacksonville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) previously elected and installed officers for the 2021 – 2022 term. The official starting date for their duties is July 1, 2021.

Special guest from the Florida State Society, first vice regent, Cindy Addison, inducted each officer separately in a ceremony of commitment. The luncheon was held at the Blue Fish Restaurant in

May.

A newly designed website for the public was announced at this gathering: [www.fssdar.com/Jacksonville/](http://www.fssdar.com/Jacksonville/).

*The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to preserve the memory and spirit of those who contributed to securing American independence. For more than 130 years, the DAR has strived to bring awareness to the honorable sacrifices and enduring legacy of all patriots who fought for America's freedom. Visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) for more information.*

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## Camera club visits Paynes Prairie



Photos courtesy Charise Tanner

By Charise Tanner  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Jacksonville Camera Club has long been (since 1935) the place to go for both amateur and professional photographers to nurture their passion. The group provides myriad opportunities to learn and share camera expertise, through bi-monthly meetings, technical and creative workshops, photo contests, inspirational speakers, and local (or not so local) photographic outings.

One of the locales enjoyed recently by the club members is Paynes Prairie Preserve, a Florida State Park in and south of Gainesville. Hiking and biking trails throughout the nearly 23,000-acre park provide a variety of photo opportunities. The resident wildlife can include nearly 300 species of birds, alligators, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, otters, snakes, wild roaming horses and bison, introduced to the park many years ago.

The visitors' center and most of the amenities of the park are found at the southern main entrance. This includes a 50-foot-high observation tower that provides panoramic views of sweeping landscape dotted with the horses



and bison queuing up for inclusion in photographs. The park can go from wet to dry, depending on the seasons, altering the photo ops, variety of inhabitants and access to them — but one cannot have a bad day at Paynes Prairie unless the heavens open up. Even then, being Florida, that probably won't last for long. Just make sure to have a way to keep the camera dry — then keep on shooting.

Visit <https://jax.jaxcameraclub.com> for full details of what the club has to offer and how to get in on the fun.

*Charise Tanner is a Jacksonville Camera Club Lifetime Member.*



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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

## Meet Gordie!



**Breed:**  
Siberian Husky

**Favorite Activity:**  
Going for walks, chasing squirrels, and playing ball

**Favorite Treat:**  
Ice Cream

**Best Friend:**  
Daisy, the neighbor golden retriever

**How your BFF got their name:**  
After the professional hockey player, Gordie Howe.

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.

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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 horse statue outside the Red's Gait subdivision. Our winner was Edwin Perez. Congratulations!

### CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. frozen B. dessert C. creamy D. sundae

Answers to our Puzzles  
PG 10

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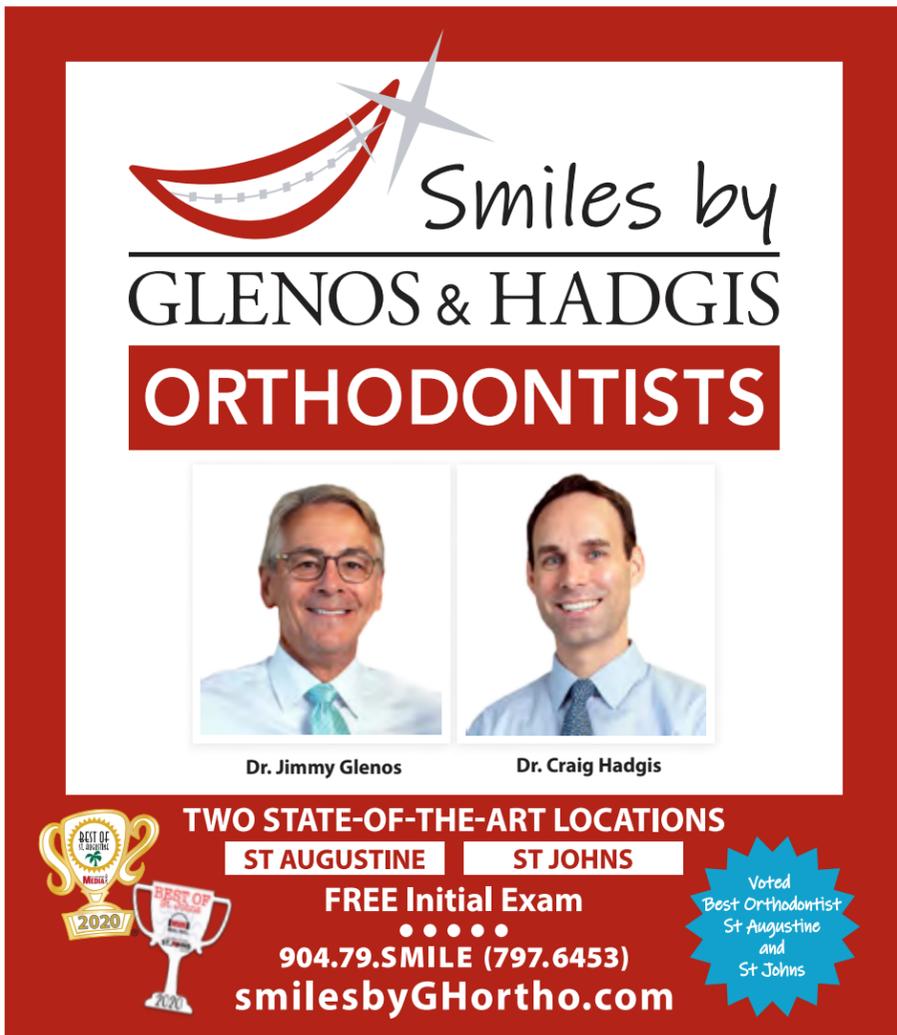
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**Q&A** with Duval County School Board Member Lori Hershey, District 7

**Q: Can you give an update on the recent Farm Share event held at Mandarin Oaks Elementary?**

A: This event was something I have wanted to do in Mandarin for a long time. We were happy to serve 200 families, who came to the school to get items like chicken, milk, eggs and hand sanitizer... just some things to help make ends meet. I'd like to thank Mandarin Oaks for hosting and Principal Butterfield for her support. I was greatly impressed with the number of faculty and staff that showed up from the school to help. Councilmember Boylan and Councilmember Freeman, who was the contact person with Farm Share and truly made the event happen, showed up and worked hard as well. I felt a lot of joy to see people helping people and I would like to help provide more opportunities for collaboration between Farm Share and District 7 schools.

**Q: Can you share your thoughts looking back on the recently concluded school year?**

A: I'm thankful for the principals' leadership and all the teachers and staff who made this year possible and moved student learning forward.

**Q: What are your thoughts about the upcoming school year?**

A: I anticipate the upcoming school year will be more similar to the traditional start of a school year. The school board has voted to waive the mask mandate for the summer term and going forward, meaning masks will be optional. We will be dropping the temperature checks as well. I think some things from the past year will remain, such as more hand sanitizers available.

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

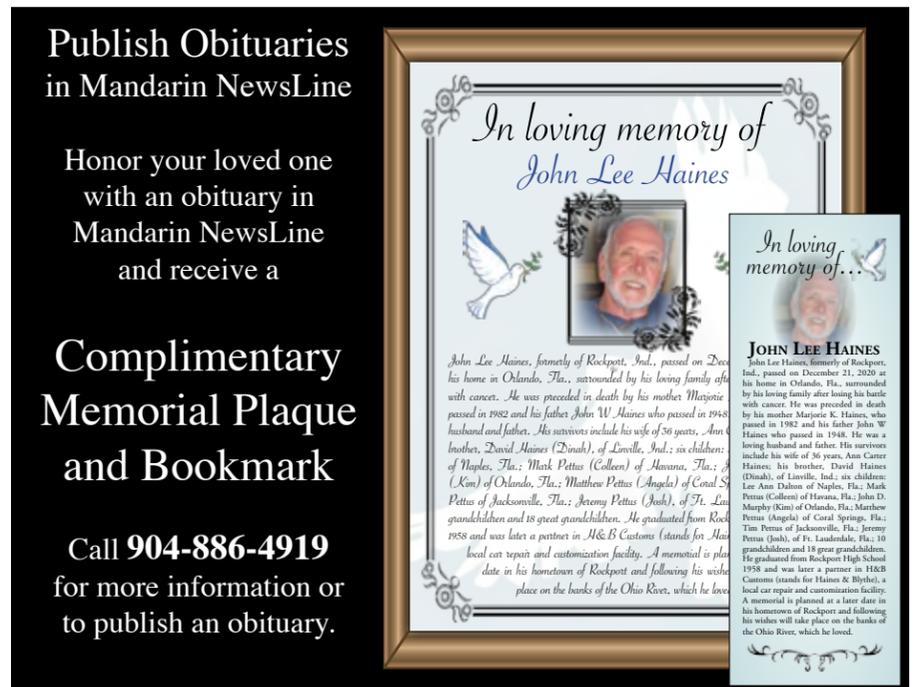
A: When students return in August, we will have two schools in District 7 that will be participating in a pilot program for technology: Loretto Elementary and Greenland Pines Elementary. Both schools will see significant improvements and changes to their technologies. We have talked about technology for years, but COVID really forced us to integrate IT with education. It's very exciting to have two of our schools selected for the pilot program and I will have more details about this in the next issue.

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

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



**Did you know?**  
 If the 1927 song, "I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream" by Howard Johnson, Billy Moll and Robert A. King is correct, then the world has been a noisy place for quite some time. Though the exact origins of ice cream are unknown, historians agree this popular treat has been around for a very, very long time. The International Dairy Foods Association says the origins of ice cream may reach as far back as the second century B.C. Though he wasn't around back then, the fifth Roman Emperor Nero, who ruled from 54 to 68 A.D., might have been so fond of iced treats that he routinely sent runners into the Apennine Mountains to retrieve snow that he would then flavor with fruits and juices. That tale might be apocryphal, but there's no denying ice treats have been enjoyed for a long time. And based on a 2018 report from Grand View Research, Inc. that projected the global ice cream market would reach roughly \$79 billion by 2025, it's fair to say ice cream will remain popular for a long time to come as well.



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*In loving memory of John Lee Haines*

*In loving memory of...*

**JOHN LEE HAINES**  
 John Lee Haines, formerly of Rockport, Ind., passed on December 21, 2020 at his home in Orlando, Fla., surrounded by his loving family after losing his battle with cancer. He was preceded in death by his mother Marjorie passed in 1982 and his father John W. Haines who passed in 1948 husband and father. His survivors include his wife of 36 years, Ann C. Haines, his brother, David Haines (Dinah), of Louisville, Ind.; six children: of Naples, Fla.; Mark Pettus (Colleen) of Alachua, Fla.; (Kin) of Orlando, Fla.; Matthew Pettus (Angela) of Coral Springs, Fla.; Jeremy Pettus (Ashli), of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; 10 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. He graduated from Rockport High School 1958 and was later a partner in M&B Customs (stands for local car repair and customization facility. A memorial is planned at a later date in his hometown of Rockport and following his wishes will take place on the banks of the Ohio River, which he loved.



## with Jacksonville City Council Member Michael Boylan, District 6

**Q: Do you have any community meetings planned?**

A: Yes, we have two during July. On Wednesday, July 7 at 7 p.m. at the Mandarin Community Club, I am hosting a community conversation regarding improvements to Alberts Field and the Brady Road intersection. On Thursday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mandarin Senior Center, I will host one of our quarterly Town Hall meetings with various City of Jacksonville department representatives. We will discuss Mandarin issues in particular and answer questions from attendees.

**Q: Do you have an update on the solid waste transfer station that we discussed last month?**

A: This issue is still in abeyance and won't be taken up by the LUZ (Land Use and Zoning Committee) until probably mid to late July. There has been a lot of attention to this matter, especially by residents of the Greenland Chase neighborhood, who have been a significant presence at our recent city council meetings. As background, our solid waste pickup provider, Waste Pro, has proposed a solid waste transfer station on Columbia Park Court in the industrial park that backs up to the Greenland Chase neighborhood. This would reduce the travel distance for trucks picking up waste in Mandarin from 41.7 miles to 7.4 miles and hopefully provide for more efficiency. My understanding is that Councilman Danny Becton and the Waste Pro team will be holding a community meeting to address resident concerns. I will say I

was disappointed initially in the communication by Waste Pro as to exactly what they are doing and what safeguards they are taking to protect citizens.

In early June, Waste Pro did make a concerted effort to play catch up on their solid waste pickups. There were no fewer than 35 trucks on a single Saturday in Mandarin, including independent haulers and Waste Pro trucks from other cities, all picking up solid waste. This helped a lot and we are getting closer to getting back to normal. Please email me if you still have issues in your neighborhood.

**Q: Can you give us an update on your new committee assignments on the city council in light of the annual leadership change?**

A: For the next year, I will be serving as the Floor Leader for the Jacksonville City Council. This position is responsible for setting the tempo for the meeting and for making sure the meeting runs smoothly and efficiently. I will be a member of and still have a voice for Mandarin on the LUZ Committee, although not as chair this year. I will also serve on the Finance Committee in addition to serving as the council liaison to the JEA. We go on hiatus the first two weeks of July and committee meetings start back up the week of July 19.

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

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

## Volunteer opportunities abound at Mandarin Museum & Historical Society

By Paula Suhey  
[mail@floridanewslines.com](mailto:mail@floridanewslines.com)

Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community. If you have four hours per month, enjoy history, meeting friends and most of all love and appreciate the Mandarin community, there is an opportunity for you.

Qualifications? Just a welcoming smile. The museum's primary need is for docents — people who greet and give information to guests who visit the historic buildings in Walter Jones Historical Park. But there are also volunteer opportunities in other areas.

As the Mandarin Museum expansion is completed by the end of the year, there will be even more times available for volunteers.

Training is not difficult; some might say it's even fun. New volunteers will be provided with a book of information about each of the buildings, exhibits and some well-known Mandarin residents.

And, new volunteers will be paired with experienced volunteers as they learn.

More information and volunteer appli-



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society  
Mandarin Museum volunteers Margaret Vaeth, Patricia Bucknor-Ferron and Rose Gunther.

cations are available at [www.mandarin-museum.net/join/volunteer](http://www.mandarin-museum.net/join/volunteer) or by calling Paula Suhey, Volunteer Coordinator, (904) 403-5024 or emailing: [mandarin-museumvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:mandarin-museumvolunteers@gmail.com).

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# July

## What's Going On in Mandarin? A modified calendar of events

### Community Calendar

**Shuffleboard** is played on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Mandarin Park. The courts are at the park entrance next to the tennis courts. Try to get there a few minutes early for court assignments. Beginners are welcome. Just show up, unless it rains.

**The Rotary Club of Northeast Florida Duval Dinner Team** meets every Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. in the private room at The Athenian Owl Restaurant, located at 9551 Baymeadows Road. There is always an interesting speaker as listed on our webpage: [neffrotaryduvaldinnerteam.com](http://neffrotaryduvaldinnerteam.com). Each person pays for their own meal and guests are welcome.

**A Community Conversation** regarding improvements to Alberts Field and the Brady Road intersection will be hosted by Councilmember Michael Boylan on Wednesday, July 7 at 7 p.m. at the Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road.

**The Italian American Club of Jacksonville** announces its Board of Directors meeting on July 7 at 6:30 p.m., and a General Membership family picnic on July 17 at 1 p.m. All activities are at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Visit [www.iacofjacksonville.com](http://www.iacofjacksonville.com) or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

**The Jacksonville Camera Club** will present digital contest results at its meeting on Wednesday, July 7. There will be a social hour prior to the 7 p.m. meeting. Visit [jax.jaxcameraclub.com](http://jax.jaxcameraclub.com) for more information and meeting location updates.

**The historic buildings of the Mandarin Museum**, including the 1875

Webb/Jones farmhouse, 1876 Barn, 1898 St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children, and Losco Winery log cabin will be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on July 10 and July 24 in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road. The Mandarin Museum, also in the park, is closed for construction and renovation, but Gift Shop items (books, Mandarin Frogs, art prints) will be available on the front porch when the park buildings are open. Visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) for more information.

**The All Star Quilters Guild** will meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 19 at the First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. The program is the Pick-A-Card Challenge (Viewers' Choice Awards). No refreshments will be served due to Covid 19. Bring your own mask. New members are welcome. Visit [www.allstarquilters.org](http://www.allstarquilters.org) for more information, including options for joining the meeting via Zoom.

**A Town Hall meeting** with Councilmember Michael Boylan and various City of Jacksonville department representatives will be held on Thursday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road.

**The 1911 Mandarin Store and Post Office** will be open July 24 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 12471 Mandarin Road just a mile west of Walter Jones Historical Park. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) for more information.

## Jax Kids Book Club provides books to young readers

By Jeremy Yates  
[mail@floridanewslines.com](mailto:mail@floridanewslines.com)

The Jax Kids Book Club is a free early literacy summer reading program for all Duval County pre-kindergarteners who are preparing to enter kindergarten in the fall. If you have a child entering kindergarten this fall, come into any Jacksonville Public Library and ask for a free set of Jax Kids Book Club books. The books are all about Jacksonville. Rising kindergartners can join us this summer as we host special storytimes based on these books; to register, visit <https://bit.ly/JKBCprograms>.

Building children's reading skills at an early age is critical to their success and the success of their community. Jax Kids' Book Club (first formed more than 15 years ago as Mayor Peyton's Book Club) gives rising kindergartners a set of books of their very own to build their home libraries. This program is especially valuable for children in lower-income homes where there may not be any age-appropriate reading material.

In 2021, Kids Hope Alliance transferred the program to Jacksonville Public Library. With the sponsorship of the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation and several other generous community partners, the library continued the proud tradition of distributing the books to VPK classrooms throughout the county, giving nearly 8,000 backpacks filled with books, a bookmark, an interactive toy and a library card application to give them the tools they need to build a life-long love of reading, writing and literacy.

An additional 2,000 backpacks are available for Duval County families with

rising kindergartners who were not enrolled in a VPK classroom. These may be picked up at any library location while supplies last.

"It warms my heart to know that the library is able to help children build their own libraries," said Kathy McIlvaine, chair of the board of the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation. "We hope that children enjoy the books and we



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Library

The free set of Jax Kids Book Club books are all about Jacksonville.

look forward to seeing them at their neighborhood libraries soon!"

The program would not be possible without the confidence of the Kids Hope Alliance, nor without the sponsorship of the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation and these other wonderful organizations who value reading, writing and literacy: JM Family Enterprises/SE Toyota Distributors, Early Learning Coalition of Duval, Walmart, PNC Bank, Nemours, Coker Law, Florida Blue, Vystar Credit Union, and Pajcic & Pajcic.

Those interested in contributing to the Jax Kids Book Club program should contact the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation at (904) 255-6192 or call the library at (904) 255-BOOK (2665).

*Jeremy Yates is with Jacksonville Public Library.*

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## Briefs

### Mandarin Women's Club resumes activities

After more than a year of missing the camaraderie of being together, the Mandarin Women's Club will be resuming its full schedule starting with a September luncheon. The newly elected officers for 2021 – 2022 are looking forward to guiding the club through another year of fun-packed activities.

Luncheons are held the fourth Thursday of each month, September 2021 through May 2022, at the Ramada Inn in Mandarin. Luncheons and some of the activities are not held during the summer months of June, July, and August.

If you enjoy playing games like Bridge, Bunco, Hand & Foot, Mah Jongg, Mexican Train, or Pennies Canasta, then this is the group for you. Members of the club also enjoy going to movies, visiting local points of interest, and dining out.

Visit [www.mandarinwomensclub.com](http://www.mandarinwomensclub.com) for information on joining and to obtain a membership form.

### Mandarin Garden Club announces annual \$1 Sale

Mandarin Garden Club will host its annual \$1 Clothing and Jewelry Sale on Aug. 6 and 7, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each day. This is by far the best shopping opportunity of the year for the community, as gently used clothing for men, women and children will be on sale for \$1. Items from the boutique and jewelry section will be priced separately.

The event will also include a "Pop up Plant Sale" on the grounds of the garden club for additional bargains.

The Mandarin Garden Club, located at 2892 Loretto Road, is a non-profit organization that relies on fundraising to support the club and the beautiful gardens. The gardens (designated by the NWF as a Wildlife Habitat) are

open to the public to enjoy and learn about the beauty of nature from dawn to dusk, except during special rental dates. Visit [www.mandaringardenclub.org](http://www.mandaringardenclub.org) for more information and to take a virtual tour.

### National DAR honors Mandarin resident

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented its Women in American History award to Mandarin resident Emily Retherford Lisska.

From 1996 to 2018, Lisska was executive director of the Jacksonville Historical Society. Since 2019, she has served as president of Florida Historical Society, a statewide organization with a national impact. In submitting her nomination to the National DAR, Molly Knight, past regent Fort San Nicholas DAR, wrote: "Emily Lisska is an outstanding community trustee whose influence and accomplishments have made positive improvements to Jacksonville's cultural, historical and educational realms."

National DAR sponsors the award program to recognize women, past and present, in American history. According to the National Society's website, the honor is bestowed upon women who have made a contribution or a difference in their communities. Those chosen are those who are, or have been, intellectual, educational, social, religious, political, scientific, or cultural innovators.

While executive director of the Jacksonville Historical Society, Lisska led a million-dollar restoration of the society's headquarters and restored the society's archival repository containing tens of thousands of documents and photographs. She oversaw all book publications of the society and was also curator of the Merrill House Museum.

Lisska's many community engagements include honorary member of



Photo courtesy Carolyn Gentry  
Molly Knight and Brenda Onur, past regents Fort San Nicholas DAR, present Mandarin resident Emily Lisska (center) its National Women in History award.

Leadership Jacksonville, past president of the Jacksonville Women's Network and Times-Union EVE finalist. She is affiliated with the City of Jacksonville Charter Revision Commission, FSCJ Board of Governors, The Woman's Club of Jacksonville, and the Mandarin Com-

munity Club.

Lisska is a Jacksonville native and a graduate of the University of Florida. She attended Florida State University for graduate studies in speech communication.

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# Crown Point holds first annual Leadership Day



Third graders Scarlett Ortiz, Vithor Matos, and Amilia Galiardo building their towers using construction paper. Photos courtesy Mary J. Eyer.



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Jesus Galapon, Joel'l Brown, Alanna Rogan, and LeBella Shearin building their tower.

By Mary J. Eyer  
mail@floridanewline.com

On Monday, May 23, Crown Point Elementary School held its first Leadership Day, which showcased the principles of the seven habits of The Leader in Me program launched at the school. Every student, from kindergarten to fifth grade, reflected on the principles of living the seven habits while leading, working, and playing. Everyone experienced an action-packed event celebrating friendships and differences, making decisions, listening and team building. The event was shared virtually with Crown Point families through online videos.

Leadership Day was an opportunity for Crown Point Panthers to find their voices, discover their talents, and to shine. The students, in every classroom, performed several activities that reflected all seven habits. The fourth graders performed the “Mentos in Soda” activity

and read “Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon” by Patty Lovell. They re-enacted ways to be proactive. When asked about her favorite activity, Farah Winant, a fourth grader, said that it was using marshmallows and spaghetti noodles to build the tallest tower because it was fun.

She said, “We demonstrated Habit 6, Synergize. I worked closely with my group in deciding how to build a tower using marshmallows and noodles. Everyone got to suggest how to proceed and then we got to work together to build it.”

Fourth graders also learned that decorating the tower with all the extra marshmallows on top was not necessary and that, when building, the foundation is what matters most.

The second graders painted rocks. The activity was centered around Habit 2: “Begin with the end in mind.” The students planned and sketched what they wanted to represent on their rocks. The rocks were then displayed in the rock garden at the school. The second graders also read “Only One You” by Linda Kranz and reflected on their own accomplishments, talents, friends, challenges, and dreams. They learned to live for the day, but to also focus on the future.

Crown Point Panthers covered the seven habits throughout the day. They learned that they must find balance and take care of themselves, or “Sharpen the Saw,” the seventh habit. They performed lots of indoor and outdoor skills, including hula-hooping, doing push-ups, jumping rope, jumping jacks, reading, and drawing. Throughout the day, the Crown Point Panthers set goals and developed an appreciation for their learning, friends, and, most of all, for the leaders they have become.

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## Get to Know ...

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

### Dr. Peggy Fuller

Peggy Fuller, DVM, is a longtime resident of Mandarin and a lifelong lover of horses. Her veterinary practice, Mandarin Equine Veterinary, just celebrated its 30th year and soon she will be adding a third veterinarian. She is the chair of the board of directors of the Jacksonville Equestrian Center and on the board of an equine therapy group, H.O.R.S.E. Therapies, Inc. (Helping Others Rehabilitate Through the Services of Equines), which provides both physical and mental health therapy using horses and serves the entire community including children and adults. She lives with her husband, Chuck Kalb, on a small farm off Loretto Road with her own horses, including two mares and two babies and a 31-year-old retired horse named Buck, whom she calls the "Farm Manager" as he keeps her and everyone else on a strict schedule. She and her husband are parents to son Chuck, also a veterinarian, although his practice is in small animals.



Photo courtesy Peggy Fuller, DVM

**Q: How did you first become interested in horses?**

**A:** I grew up as the youngest of four in a military family; my dad was in the Navy. We moved around a lot. During the Vietnam War, my dad was a prisoner of war. My mom was trying to find something that would interest us and give us something else to think about, so we started riding horses. We bought one, then two, then three horses and kept them at NAS. My dad was pretty surprised by all this when he finally returned home.

**Q: What was your first experience with Mandarin?**

**A:** Once the Buckman Bridge was built in 1973, we

moved our horses to Mandarin since it was rural and more "horsey." There were big oak trees and lots of horse farms.

**Q: How did you know you wanted to be a veterinarian?**

**A:** I always knew I wanted to become a veterinarian, but people told me I'd never get into vet school. I honestly had spent a lot of time at the barn and never really applied myself. Then my mom told me, "Someone gets into veterinary school and it might as well be you." So I decided to work hard. I earned my undergraduate degree in animal science from Florida State and then went to the University of Florida to vet school.

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

**A:** I married Chuck one week after graduating with my DVM and we moved to Macon, Ga., since he had a job there with Proctor and Gamble. In 1991, a transfer opportunity came up for Chuck to move to Jacksonville and we took it immediately. We always wanted to come back to Jacksonville. I wanted to start my own practice and I knew Mandarin was a nice community and centrally located, even though many of the horse farms I remembered as a young girl are now neighborhoods.

**Q: Can you give some information about Mandarin Equine Veterinary?**

**A:** Most of our practice is ambulatory or mobile. We have two trucks that have x-ray, ultrasound and endoscopy equipment. Most of the time we go to the client's farm, but sometimes people bring their horses to us at our farm. I'm very excited that I just hired a third associate. In a full circle moment, actually both of my associates (veterinarians) I have known since they were children and I watched them grow up. They always said, "I want to be a veterinarian when I grow up and I want to work for Dr. Peggy." And now they are!

**Q: What can you tell us about the Jacksonville Equestrian Center?**

**A:** The Jacksonville Equestrian Center was part of the Better Jacksonville Plan. It is one of the largest indoor facilities in the southeast. For years it was not utilized to its best so a number of years ago, some in the local horse community asked to take over the management of the facility. We have an all volunteer board and over the years have increased usage of the facility by 67 percent and attendance to events is up 80 percent. Events include not just horse-related shows like dressage, western barrel racing, reining and hunter/jumper, but also dog agility competitions and RV shows. Most of these events are free and open to the public. We have improved the economic impact, which has resulted in a much smaller annual subsidy required of the City of Jacksonville. Our goal is to be self-sustaining.

*[Author's note: Visit [www.jaxequestriancenter.com](http://www.jaxequestriancenter.com) for more information about the Jacksonville Equestrian Center, including upcoming events. Visit [www.jaxhorsesetherapies.org](http://www.jaxhorsesetherapies.org) for more information about H.O.R.S.E. Therapies of Northeast Florida.]*

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**Miss Aggie** cont. from pg. 1 through her involvement, support, and leadership in the Mandarin Community Club, Mandarin Garden Club, PTAs and activities of Mandarin Middle School and Mandarin High School, Mandarin Women's Club and many other organizations in Jacksonville as well.

Both award recipients have given selflessly of their time, resources and talents. They epitomize the characteristics that Miss Agnes Jones was known for and for which this award is given: a deep love of Mandarin, generosity to all, and service

to the community that is above and beyond.

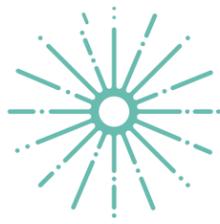
The 2021 Miss Aggie Award will be presented at the 21st annual Winter Celebration, scheduled for Dec. 4 at Walter Jones Historical Park. This year Orren "Bo" Phillips will be honored posthumously, as he died in a tragic accident in September 2020. Phillips made huge contributions to Mandarin through his many major projects at Walter Jones Historical Park, including moving and renovating the Losco Winery, retrieving and renovating parts of the Wheeler

Sawmill, erecting a sugar cane grinder, and many other projects than can even be named.

Past Miss Aggie Award recipients were: 2003: Kate Monson (posthumously) 2004: Karen Roumillat 2005: Rhonda Reese 2006: Mary Ann Southwell 2007: Mary Kaminski and Bonnie McNulty 2008: Jane Cooksey 2009: Susan Earnhart 2010: Alice Stanley 2011: Elizabeth "Betty" Wolfe

2012: Virginia Barker 2013: Emily Lisska 2014: Linda Levin 2015: Sandy Arpen 2016: Sarah Bailey 2017: Susie Scott 2018: Don Bowden 2019: Lynn Cuda

*Sandy Arpen is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net for more information about Mandarin's history and Mandarin Museum & Historical Society information.*



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# Fishing

## Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Wow, shrimp in the river already. Mostly small to medium sized, and still widely scattered, but they are here. This means that not only has the shrimp run begun, but all the great fishing that occurs with the shrimp run is very soon to follow.

As the season progresses, numbers should increase. At the peak of the shrimp run your shrimp count per net throw could be from three or four dozen, up to over a hundred. During the down time, when the counts are low, catching enough for bait instead of a meal is a great way to do some live shrimp fishing.

Having live shrimp for bait greatly increases your fishing possibilities on any fishing trip. Live shrimp is probably the best bait for all areas of the St. Johns. It can be bottom fished, float rigged, or cast on a jig head. Live shrimp will even work back in the creeks for largemouth bass. Redfish, trout, flounder, weakfish, and croaker are all fans of the shrimp, especially fresh live shrimp from the same waters they are currently inhabiting.

Mandarin Point, Doctor's Lake, and Shands Bridge are all good areas to start looking for shrimp when heading out. As the summer and shrimping season progress, you should be able to fill in the gaps of

these locations.

When hunting shrimp try different depths and tides at the same location. Quite often the shrimp will be in shallow waters early in the day and work their way deeper as the day progresses. Same goes for the tides as the shrimp will often bunch up when the water is moving and spread out when the water slows. What's really nice is when they are all so thick and heavy they all just show on your bottom finder.

Fishing Report: The St. Johns River is coming alive with the presence of shrimp. Decent sized croakers are beginning to show with reds and a few flounder around docks and pilings. Bass fishing continues to be good in area creeks and tributaries. Summertime surf fishing is still offering some good whiting catches, although a little smaller.

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.*

## Saving bluebirds — one nest box at a time

By Brad Buck  
mail@floridanewsline.com

As pest-eaters, Eastern bluebirds benefit Florida farmers. Not only that, they're cute. Two good reasons Hance Ellington has started a program to preserve them. As a UF/IFAS assistant professor of wildlife ecology and conservation, Ellington started a bluebird nest-box building program. A faculty member at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center (REC) in Ona, Fla., he conducts in-person and online webinars to teach the public how to build better bluebird nesting boxes.

On July 10, from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m., Ellington will be joined on a webinar by Katie Sieving, a UF/IFAS professor of wildlife ecology and conservation, who works from the main UF campus in Gainesville. (Register for the free virtual program at <https://tinyurl.com/uv34883m>)

“Dr. Sieving’s research focuses on avian ecology and behavior and how it relates to interactions between birds and the human environment,” Ellington said. “Eastern bluebirds are a frequent study species in her research program, and she will talk about some of the fascinating bluebird research her lab is conducting.”

The guest appearance by Sieving is part of Ellington’s educational video program called “Become a Bluebird Watcher.” Through six sessions, more than 600 people have participated. In the previous sessions, the UF/IFAS researcher covered topics including:

- Bluebird biology and ecology.
- How to build a bluebird nest box.

- Where to deploy the nest boxes.
- How to safely monitor them.
- The roles of birds in rangeland ecosystems.

Bluebirds are called “cavity nesters.” That means they compete for nests with native



Photo courtesy Hance Ellington

birds such as chickadees, tufted titmice, nuthatches and Carolina wrens as well as nonnative birds such as house sparrows and European starlings. Natural nesting cavities have declined over the years because of habitat loss, the removal of dead trees and limbs and a shift from the use of wooden fence posts to metal posts, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Ellington is combining a research program with his outreach effort.

“When we try to help the bluebirds’ habitat by deploying nest boxes, and we combine that with a scientific study, it can also become a learning opportunity for people of all ages,” Ellington said. “Thus, we developed our nest box research program in conjunction with an Extension program.”

*Brad Buck is with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).*

## Nutrition Check

## Power packed nutrition when eating plant-based

By Kristen Hicks-Roof PhD, RDN, LDN, CLC and Crystal Liebenberg BS  
mail@floridanewsline.com

One of the most popular health trends that is currently on the rise worldwide is adopting a “plant-based diet.” The term “plant-based” does not necessarily mean vegan or vegetarian (eliminating animal products), but rather incorporating more plants and less animal products in your diet. If planned well, plant-based diets can support health and decrease risk of disease for all stages of life. Part of having a well-balanced plant-based diet is knowing which nutrients are found in various plant-based foods to reap the health benefits. If you are considering changing your diet to a plant-based approach, it is recommended to consult a Registered Dietitian to help you be successful.

Here is a list of foods that consumes high amounts of these powerful nutrients:

**Iron:** Green veggies (e.g. spinach), nuts, seeds, whole grains, fortified foods, lentils, and dark chocolate. (Note: Adding vitamin C to your iron sources will help your body absorb iron more efficiently)

**Protein:** Legumes (beans and lentils), nuts and seeds, soy milk, tofu, peas, edamame, peanut butter, chickpeas, nutritional yeast, and

quinoa.

**Zinc:** Chickpeas, cashews, almonds, hemp, pumpkin seeds, oatmeal, baked beans, and whole grain products.

**Vitamin B12:** Nutritional yeast, fortified foods, and supplements.

**Vitamin D:** Most food sources of vitamin D include meat, fish, liver, and egg; however, there are fortified plant-based foods that contain vitamin D such as fortified plant-based milks and fortified cereals.

**Omega 3:** Fatty fish (e.g. salmon, mackerel, sardine), chia seeds, ground flaxseeds and oil, hemp seeds and oil, walnuts, edamame, and kidney beans.

**Calcium:** Calcium is found in high amounts in dairy foods and is arguably one of the most important minerals in our body. Calcium can also be consumed in plant sources such as broccoli, kale, collard greens, bok choy, tahini, soy products, and fortified foods.

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

## Pantry Raiders

### No-bake dessert is ideal for warm weather entertaining

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Backyard barbecues beckon and poolside entertaining reigns supreme every summer. After guests have had their fill of fire-licked grilled burgers, hot dogs and chicken, a refreshing dessert that won't have summertime hosts sweating preparation can make for the perfect culinary capper.

"Banana Pudding Cheesecake Bars" marry tangy cream cheese with sweet and velvety banana pudding atop a cookie crust. They're easy to prepare ahead of time and easily sliced when the dessert bell beckons. Double up the recipe if you're expecting a crowd or want to have a few leftovers — they're that delicious. Enjoy this recipe, courtesy of Lena Abraham, senior food editor and stylist at Delish.

#### Banana Pudding Cheesecake Bars

Yields: 9 servings

For crust

1 ½ cup crushed vanilla wafer cookies  
5 tbsp. butter, melted  
2 tbsp. sugar  
Pinch sea salt

For filling

8 oz. cream cheese, softened  
½ cup sugar  
1 ½ cup whipped topping  
1 3.4-ounce package instant banana pudding mix  
1 ¾ cup whole milk



For topping  
Whipped topping  
½ banana, sliced  
9 vanilla wafer cookies

1. Line an 8-inch by 8-inch pan with parchment paper.

2. Make crust: In a medium bowl, combine crushed wafer cookies with butter, sugar and salt. Press in an even layer into the prepared pan. Place in freezer while making filling.

3. Make cheesecake filling: In a large bowl using a hand mixer (or in a stand mixer), beat cream cheese until fluffy and no clumps remain. Add sugar and beat until combined. Fold in whipped topping and set aside.

4. In a medium bowl, whisk together pudding mix and milk. Let pudding stand for 3 minutes in the refrigerator, until thickened. Fold into cheesecake mixture until well combined.

5. Pour filling into prepared crust and smooth into an even layer. Freeze until bars are firm, at least 6 hours and up to overnight.

6. When firm, remove from freezer and slice into nine bars. Top each bar with a dollop of whipped topping, a slice of banana and a vanilla cookie before serving.

*Note: If banana isn't your favorite flavor, replace banana pudding with lemon pudding and use a thin lemon slice in the whipped topping dollop as a garnish when serving.*

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# Travel

## New River Gorge: Our newest National Park

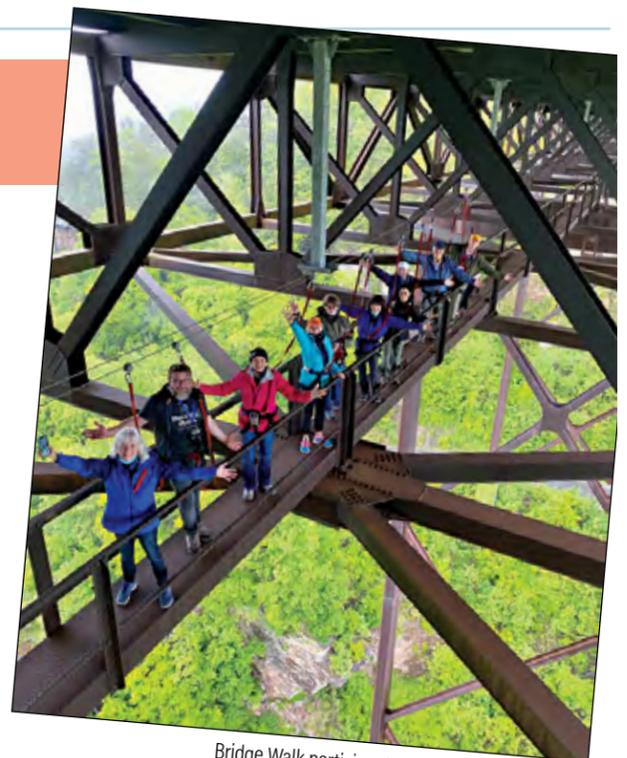
By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewline.com



Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
The author at a New River Gorge overlook.



Dawn over the Gorge.



Bridge Walk participants.

Many U.S. National Parks recorded their highest visitation rates in 2020, the pandemic year. Seems that after lockdown, Americans want to venture out, get away from computers and TV, and rediscover the joys of outdoor recreation. I felt the same need, so I flew to Charleston, W.Va., to explore our newest national park: New River Gorge National Park. The 53-mile section of the north-flowing river was previously designated a National River, but upgraded to an official national park in December 2020, joining 62 other national treasures.



Rafting the lower course.



New River Gorge from the Bridge Walk.

The designation gives new recognition to West Virginia, provides new jobs, and more money to the old coal mine region. It means a national park with-

in driving distance of the east coast, albeit nine hours from Jacksonville. (Perhaps stop in North Carolina or

Virginia to break up the trip.)

The almost heaven gorge itself is majestic. Lush green mountains rise high above the gushing flow of the New River, oddly named as it's the second oldest in the world. The New River Bridge stands as the park icon, the largest single-arch bridge in the Western Hemisphere, resting 876 feet above the water. Sign up for the fun and honestly non-scary Bridge Walk. You step along a catwalk below the bridge roadway, safely tethered in with access to handrails on each side. A guide shares the history of the area and interesting facts about the engineering marvel. The view — breathtaking.

The third Saturday in October draws thousands to Bridge Day. They come to walk, join a 5K run, or watch the thrill-seekers who zip-line, rappel, or BASE jump — a very brief free fall with a parachute landing off the bridge. These activities are legal only on Bridge Day.

Naturally, hiking attracts all ages, and the park offers more than 100 miles of forested foot, mountain bike, and equestrian trails. Some paths follow the old rail lines, and others go down to ruins of coal mining towns. Rock climbing in the “Grand Canyon of the East” appeals to enthusiasts year-round, and hunting is permitted in some areas of the park. Fishing, with a license, promises a variety of bass, walleye, crappie, bluegill, carp, and catfish. And, photographers love it, too.

Whitewater rafting, however, claims the most excitement. The upper course works for families or those wanting smaller rapids or a gentle

paddle. The big-water lower run brings thrills and, as I found out, spills. I decided to try the famed lower course and fell off my raft in class 4–5 rapids — and a swirling vortex. Pretty scary. Perhaps I should have left rafting to the more experienced crowd, like those who challenge the Gauley River, also within the national park's grounds. It ranks as one of the top five rafting rivers in the world.

Lodging options run from bare-bones platforms for tent camping to comfy log cabins with outdoor hot tubs. Adventures on the Gorge is the premier outfitter offering everything from accommodations to guided activities with transportation, restaurants, swimming pools, and adventure gear. You'll find cabin rentals and bed and breakfast rooms in the nearby town of Fayette or numerous RV parks and campgrounds in the region.

I highly recommend a visit to the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine to better understand the dangerous work done by coal miners. You ride through the dark passages of a vintage coal mine with a veteran miner. At various stops, this guide provides firsthand accounts of how past miners spent their days. The idea of working in a space no higher than three and a half feet astounded me. You can also visit the period coal camp buildings throughout the grounds. Kids will enjoy the adjacent Youth Museum highlighted by Thomas the Tank Engine exhibits.

For further information: [www.nps.gov/neri](http://www.nps.gov/neri)

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Is it mobile responsive?	Yes.	<b>Additional \$\$\$</b> Most web designers charge extra for a mobile site
How much for ongoing updates?	Easily make updates yourself, or we will do it for you.	<b>\$75/hour</b> (approx.) Average hourly rate for web designers
What about SEO? (Search Engine Optimization)	Included.	<b>\$100-300/hour</b> (approx.) Average hourly rate for SEO
How long until my new website is live?	<b>Go live in as little as 1 week!</b>	<b>60 - 90 days</b> (approx.)
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# Gardening

## Summer, Florida, and the problem with peat

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewsline.com

According to NOAA ([www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/)), as of May 20, the forecast was for a more than 50 percent chance of higher than normal temperatures for the next three months, and up to a 40 percent chance for higher than normal precipitation. Much of May was extremely dry in my area of town, so the rain in early June was very welcome.

All you efficient and organized gardeners have likely got your yard in good order and will be concentrating on dealing with the weather, tending the vegetable patch, and keeping flowers dead headed to encourage more blooms. Insects will also be increasingly obvious, so scouting regularly will help. Each gardener has a tolerance limit for insects, but if there aren't many pests it is to your advantage to simply pick them off and destroy them, rather than reach for that pesticide.

My long beans are doing well, but they are a magnet for black aphids. Consequently I spend a peaceful 10 minutes or so, maybe twice a day, searching them out and squishing them. I have found ladybug adults and larvae in among the aphids, so I take care to avoid killing the larvae, and leave them on the vines to continue eating the aphids. Adult ladybugs are also carnivores. Assassin bugs have found the bean plants, so I have their help in my endeavors, but sadly I spotted one with its mouthparts embedded in a ladybug.

There are definite downsides to using chemical pesticides as they can cause insects to develop resistance, thereby rendering a product less effective. If pests do become a big problem, be sure to identify them. (Contact the Extension Service for help, if needed.) Rotate appropriate pesticide products with different chemical actions, and follow the recommendations for homeowners on "using pesticides wisely."

During rainy seasons, it's important to monitor your lawn and watch for diseases and insects, both of which are encouraged by lush green growth. Adjust your irrigation system, to make sure you don't

over water, and follow best fertilization and watering practices. To green a lawn in summer, avoid nitrogenous fertilizers and use an iron-containing product (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ep236>). Remember, a thirsty lawn looks slightly blue, the grass blades become folded lengthwise, and footprint impressions stay visible. If it is your scheduled watering day, water before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. applying no more than one inch of water (<https://www.sjrwmd.com/wateringrestrictions/>).

Two good sources of current information are our local "A New Leaf – Yard & Garden" newsletter (<https://tinyurl.com/2h6ppf8e>) and "The Neighborhood Gardener" (<https://tinyurl.com/ym838vz2>), from the Master Gardener program at the University of Florida.

I know that peat is a component of most bagged potting soils and some British gardening experts always use peat-free products; however it hadn't made a huge impact on me. What truly hit home was watching a TV piece featuring a professional gardener touring a protected peat bog in northern England. The scene was beautiful: low clumping plants in a meandering boggy substrate; images of greens, browns, and dusky purples, with a distant view of hazy blue hills. I learnt that the peat itself is many feet deep and has been laid down over hundreds or even thousands of years; in untouched bogs the process is still ongoing. Astonishingly, "Globally, peatlands store half a trillion metric tons of carbon, twice as much as the world's forests." (Professor Dave Goulson, of the University of Sussex, UK) I was surprised to find that the use of peat has been debated here for decades: <https://tinyurl.com/ytdabj55>. So why is the industry still using it for potting soil — "mining" it and releasing huge quantities of a potent greenhouse gas, when there are alternatives, like coconut coir? Well there have been some companies that have made the switch, so it's worth searching out their products. If gardeners can avoid using peat-based potting media, then we will be doing ourselves and our planet a huge favor.

**Coast Guard** cont. from pg. 1  
with 10 or more horsepower in Florida.

In addition to the return to teaching classes, we have a new class to offer. Boat America is now our safe boating course starting July 2021. This course replaces the previous one entitled About Boating Safely. Boat America is a new course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or NASBLA and has updated information available. This course still meets all the requirements for the Florida Safe Boating ID Card.

The Auxiliary still offers free vessel safety checks to all boaters and paddlers. Our examiners can meet you anywhere your boat is — on land or on water. The free vessel safety check is a great addition to the safe boating course.

Visit [www.safeboatingjax.com](http://www.safeboatingjax.com) for more information, to schedule the safe boating course and free vessel safety check, or to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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



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## EXCEPTIONAL CARE, FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

The Adult Day Program (ADP) at River Garden offers a purposeful, safe environment for seniors who require extra support. It also provides a worry-free time during the week, allowing caregivers to work or manage other appointments.



### ADP clients enjoy access to other River Garden services:

- outpatient therapies, as ordered by clients' doctors
- primary care from on-site physicians
- short-stay care for family/caregiver respite
- barber shop, beauty salon and personal care services

**Schedule a Visit Today**  
[RiverGarden.org](http://RiverGarden.org) | (904) 260.1818



# Hip or knee pain?

## 5 symptoms you shouldn't ignore

You like to stay active, but sometimes hip or knee pain gets in the way. How do you know when it's time to see a doctor?

The experts at Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute (JOI) offer **innovative new options** to relieve your pain and get you back to doing the things you love.

If you have any of these symptoms, you could be making your hip or knee worse by waiting:

- 1 Unable to maintain an active lifestyle
- 2 Pain that gets worse at night and interferes with sleep
- 3 Catching, popping or locking
- 4 Difficulty putting on shoes and socks
- 5 Swelling

**Why live with hip or knee pain?**  
Schedule an appointment today.

 **904-JOI-2000** (564-2000)

 [hipkneejax.com](http://hipkneejax.com)



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# ATLANTIC

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# Coming in August!

# Back to School Guide



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