

Mandarin NewsLine

DECEMBER 2017 Volume 12 Issue 2

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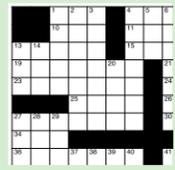
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Bartram Park Car Show collects for Toys for Tots

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

The third annual Bartram Park Car Show and Community Festival was held on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the parking lot of its host, Railing Chiropractic.

“Each year the event has gotten a little bigger,” Dr. Christopher Railing said. “We are pleased that we raised \$5,000 in donations for Toys for Tots — double what we raised last year — in addition to \$500 worth of new toys that were brought to the event.”

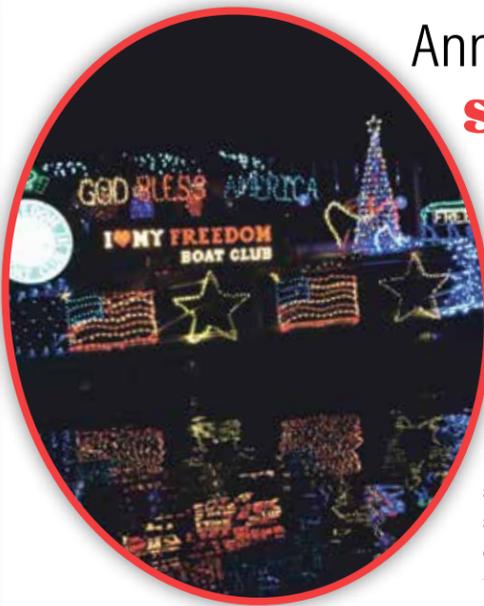
Railing and his staff will go shopping and purchase \$1,000 worth of bicycles and helmets and spend the remaining \$4,000 on toys for children of all ages. Then, they will make one big donation of all the items to Toys for Tots. In previous years, Railing said they had piggybacked onto other events with donating their items to Toys for Tots, but this year with the size of the donation, they plan to do a direct donation to the organization.



Photos courtesy Dr. Christopher Railing

Railing said he grew up in a traditional family who always had a nice Christmas, but he knew that a lot of children weren't so fortunate. So, when he opened his first office in

Car Show cont. on pg. 12



Photos courtesy Julington Creek Prop Club
Holiday on the Creek is a festive local tradition.

Since 1980, the Julington Creek Prop Club has been presenting the Holiday on the Creek boat parade for everyone to come out and enjoy. This year's event will take place on Dec. 2 beginning at 7 p.m. The highly anticipated night is for all families to gather and enjoy the beauty of color, lights, and sounds of the season along Julington Creek.

The Julington Creek Prop Club invites the community to participate and come

Annual Julington Creek Boat Parade spreads holiday cheer

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

out and watch the event. Participants will decorate their boats, homes, and docks to spread the joy and excitement of the holidays.

Dozens of holiday light adorned boats will start at the Julington Creek Marina and travel towards Clark's Fish Camp and under the Julington Creek Bridge, eventually making a loop for spectators to enjoy.

“Typically we have 40 – 50 boats that participate and it's a fun time for the entire family,” Prop Club Vice Commodore David Griffin said.

After the parade, a celebration will take place at the Julington Creek Marina. Boaters who participate in the parade and others are invited to join in on a night of fun with plenty of food, door prizes and live music. The board will announce the first, second and third place winners at the celebration.

The Julington Creek Prop Club is a 501c

nonprofit organization committed to sharing a passion for boating and our waterways with everyone while also enhancing the boating experience.

For details on this special Holiday on the Creek, visit the facebook page at www.facebook.com/jcpropclub/



Photos courtesy Julington Creek Prop Club
Boats are decorated with lights and loop around Julington Creek for all to enjoy.

Battle for the best chili at 21st annual Mandarin Fall Festival

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

The 21st annual Fall Festival and Chili Cook Off was held in Mandarin on Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Riverplace Shopping Center. This highly anticipated event brings crowds of around 1,000 residents every year to enjoy chilli tasting, music, craft vendors and a bounce house for kids.

A panel of local celebrity judges have the delicious task of blind tasting the registered chilli cook off recipes. The panel of judges for this year's event were Chef Amadeus, Joe Talentino, Cole Pepper, Wally Conway, Matt Schellenberg, Jason Fischer, and Judge Mark Borello. The first place prize of \$500 went to Sig McGarity of Signet CPR and the second place prize of \$200 was awarded to Kelly Harris of Village Bread. A People's

Choice award was given to Chris Lewis.

“This year we had a dunk booth, fire trucks a bloodmobile, a face painter for the kids and live music. It's a fun day for the whole family and it wouldn't be possible without all of the volunteers, planning committee, and sponsors,” said planning committee co-chair, Lisa Sawyer.

The music for this year's event was provided by the Northeast Florida Music Conservatory's 18 piece jazz band and also the Ron Howard Band. Proceeds from a silent auction will benefit Safe Kids of Northeast Florida, the Mandarin Food Bank, Junior Achievement and Mandarin Council's Janice Meisel Scholarship Fund.



Photos courtesy Lisa Sawyer

First place winner in the chili cook off was Sig McGarity of Signet CPR.

Generous sponsors come together to make this event a success year after year. The sponsors for the 21st annual event were Jax Chamber Mandarin Council, Alan W. Painter / Edward Jones, 121 Financial Credit Union, Jax Federal Credit

Fall Festival cont. on pg. 13

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Sunday, Dec. 24: 9:00am | 4th Sunday of Advent Message

Christmas Eve Services: 10:30am | Family & Children Celebration of Christmas

7:00pm | Candlelight Christmas Message, music by the Worship Team

9:00pm | Candlelight & Communion Christmas Message, music by the Sanctuary Choir

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December
Enhanced Section

Holiday

Gift Guide Pages **10 & 11**

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MYSTERY PHOTO



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

There were no correct guesses for last month's Mystery Photo, which was of the Patient Services entrance to Baptist Medical Center South.

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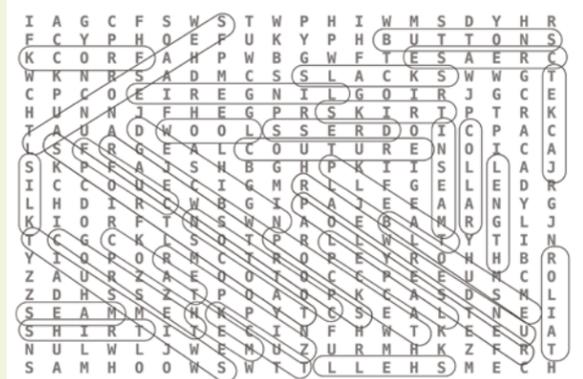
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answers to puzzles on page 16



Answers to our Puzzles

take 5

Host families needed for exchange student program

EF's Educational Homestay Program needs community volunteers to host international high school students during their summer language program. Host families share their home, culture and American way of life with visiting students, aged 14 – 18, from June 29 through July 21, 2018. EF staff will keep students busy during the weekdays; host families enjoy their company evenings and weekends. There are weekday bus stops throughout the area. Contact Ginger Manning, Recruiter and Program Leader, at (904) 446-5646 or efgingwa19@gmail.com for more information and to schedule an application and home visit.

Billard Park is 10 years old

The Mandarin Community Club celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Billard Commemorative Park on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 12. One of the club's three historic properties, the



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society

park was developed and dedicated on the site of the Frederick Billard House in November of 2007. It is home to the white gazebo visible from Brady Road as well as a butterfly garden and natural green space. Club members and Mandarin community members were invited to attend the festivities. Among those present was Bob Waterston, one of the original committee members who designed and planned the park 10 years ago.

Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital announces 41st annual Art & Antiques Show

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital will welcome nationally acclaimed lecturers and internationally recognized art and antiques dealers to the 41st annual Art & Antiques Show, Dec. 1 – 3, at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center in downtown Jacksonville. Proceeds fund state-of-the-art services, programs, equipment and facilities to provide healthcare for all children in the Northeast Florida/Southeast Georgia region. Show hours are from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday and 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday. Daily admission to the show is \$15 and lecture tickets are \$30. Tickets are available online at www.artandantiquesshow.com, by email at womensboardwch@bmcjax.com or by calling (904) 202-2886.

Celebrate Winter in Mandarin on Dec. 2

The Mandarin Museum & Historical Society will host the annual Winter Celebration from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Walter Jones Historical Park, located at 11964 Mandarin Road. Activities are planned for the community that will educate, entertain and delight all ages, including live music, a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and an autograph session with local children's author June Weltman. All historic buildings in Walter Jones Historical Park will be open, 18th and 19th century reenactors will be present, and there will be a horse drawn hayride and face painting. Visitors are encouraged to park at Mandarin Presbyterian Church and bring canned food items to leave for the church's community food pantry. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net or call (904) 268-0784 for more information.

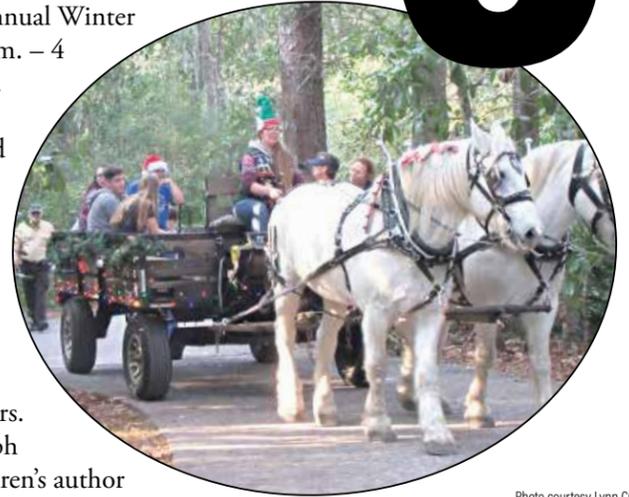


Photo courtesy Lynn Cuda

for charity at San Jose Country Club, 7529 San Jose Blvd. Social time begins at 10:30 a.m., and a business meeting will be held at 11, followed by luncheon and the program. Reservations are required; call Florence at (904) 262-8719. The River City Women's Club meets the third Wednesday of each month for lunch, camaraderie and a fund raising program for charity. Guests are welcome.

River City Women's Club to meet for Christmas luncheon

The River City Women's Club will meet Wednesday, Dec. 20 for a Christmas luncheon, a fun program and raffle

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Through Jan. 31, 2018 St. Augustine Nights of Lights

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www.visitstaugustine.com/event/nights-lights

Jan. 4, 2018 Bettye LaVette at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

www.pvconcerthall.com/e9710-bettye-lavette.aspx

Jan. 6, 2018 Bird Walk: Owl Prowl at St. Joe Walkway

5 p.m.
www.facebook.com/FlaglerAudubon/

Jan. 19, 2018 United Way of St. Johns County Givers Gala

Casa Monica Resort and Spa
bit.ly/giversgala or (904) 829-9721

Jan. 24, 2018 Let's Go Science

10:30 a.m.
Thrasher-Horne Center, Orange Park
https://thcenter.secure.force.com/ticket#details_a0S2A00000Yc00vUAB

Feb. 3, 2018 Fight For Air Climb to benefit American Lung Association

8:00 a.m.
Bank of America tower, downtown Jacksonville
http://action.lung.org/site/TR/Climb/ALASE_Southeast?pg=entry&fr_id=16325

Feb. 10, 2018 Florida STEM and Health Expo

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
River City Science Academy
http://www.flstemexpo.com

save the date!

1st - 3rd

41st annual Art and Antiques Show: "London Calling"

Hosted by the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital
Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center
www.artandantiquesshow.com

2nd

Mandarin Museum & Historical Society's Winter Celebration

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road
www.mandarinmuseum.net or (904) 268-0784

Free Tools to Quit Smoking Class

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Baptist Medical Center South
Call Florida AHEC to register (904) 482-0189

Children's Way 5k & Family Day benefiting Ronald McDonald House

3 p.m. 5k; 4 p.m. fun run
Ronald McDonald House in San Marco
https://rmhcjacksonville.org

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)

3rd

1911 Historic Mandarin Store and Post Office open

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
12471 Mandarin Road
www.mandarinmuseum.net or (904) 268-0784

5th

Honeybee Quilt Guild

6:30 p.m.
Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 11844 Mandarin Road

www.honeybeequilters.org (Repeats first Tuesday of each month)

Shuffleboard

1:30 p.m. (repeating event on Tuesdays)
Mandarin Park, next to tennis courts at park entrance

Jacksonville Fine Arts Forum with gardener and party decorator Tamer Britten.

11:30 a.m.
San Jose Country Club, 7529 San Jose Blvd.
RSVP jaxfineartsforum.com

6th

December Art Walk

5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Downtown Jacksonville
http://jacksonvilleartwalk.com

7th - 10th

Jacksonville Symphony's Holiday Pops

7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 3 p.m./8 p.m. Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday
Jacoby Hall
www.jaxsymphony.org

9th

St. Johns Chapter of the Catholic Writers Guild

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
St. Paul's Catholic Church school auditorium, 2609 Park St.
www.dosaff.com/outreach/catholic-writers-guild/ or writerrd@comcast.net

14th

American Legion Post 372 general assembly

6 p.m. meet and greet / 7 p.m. meeting
Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield

Magnolia Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club

7 p.m.
Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
(904) 260-2764; mandaringardenclub.org

16th

Cruise In sponsored by Sunshine State Chevelles

4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
PDQ parking lot, 194 State Road 13
Repeating event on third Saturday of each month
Mandarin Toastmasters meeting
10:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.
South Mandarin Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.
Mandarintoastmasters.org

18th

All Star Quilt Guild

9:45 a.m.
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstartquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

Dogwood Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club

10 a.m.
Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
(904) 260-2764; mandaringardenclub.org

20th

River City Women's Club Christmas luncheon

10:30 a.m.
San Jose Country Club, 7529 San Jose Blvd.
RSVP to Florence, (904) 262-8719

21st

Mandarin Women's Club's Holiday Chinese Auction

10:30 am
Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Road
RSVP by Dec. 14; gerimarch23@gmail.com or (904) 993-7649

Third Thursday Lecture

Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road
Free event; (904) 268-0784

Cherokee Rose Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club

10 a.m.
Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
(904) 260-2764; mandaringardenclub.org

28th

Live Oak Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club

7 p.m.
Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
(904) 260-2764; mandaringardenclub.org

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with Duval School Board Member, District 7, Lori Hershey

Q: What is the latest news on follow up on schools used as hurricane shelters?

A: The Duval Delegation, consisting of local state representatives, visited Atlantic Coast High School on Nov. 21 to better understand the role our schools play in serving as shelters for our city. We have asked the state to allot more dollars for schools serving as shelters. The school district has to front costs for setup, clean up and repairs. To date the district has not received FEMA dollars for damages from Hurricane Matthew. That storm destroyed tarps at Twin Lakes Elementary; one tarp on the playground cost \$6,000 to replace.

Q: What can you tell us about the community meetings held in November in which the school board rolled out its strategic plan?

A: We held one of the meetings at Atlantic Coast High School on Nov. 13. The community meeting was well attended and I encourage stakeholders to commit to attending community meetings that will take place the first part of 2018.

Q: What is the latest update on the superintendent search?

A: The Request for Proposals will go out in December. We plan to select a search firm by mid-January and complete the process by the end of March.

Q: How is the School Board progressing with its Master Board certification?

A: The board has completed professional development and all requirements for Master Board Certification. Six of the

seven board members participated in the workshops which equipped participants with the skill set to be an effective board.

Q: What can you tell us about the Chamber of Commerce trip you took to Toronto recently and what did you learn that you can bring back to District 7?

A: The Chamber trip emphasized the importance of a strong public education system. Toronto, like Jacksonville, is a diverse community and faces similar challenges that we do. There is a lot of community support for public education there. District 7 recognizes the strength in our neighborhood schools. While we are a "B" district, we are also points away from being an "A" district and that's going to be a game changer.

Q: Do you have other updates for District 7?

A: Greenland Pines Elementary was the recipient of the Haskell's Company Green Apple Day. The Haskell Company provided plants and mulch to beautify the campus. The day was led by a team of volunteers from the Haskell company. Community volunteers, students, parents, staff and Principal Jackie Sneddon worked hard on a Saturday morning to update the landscape.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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



with Jacksonville City Council Member Matt Schellenberg (District 6)

Q: Can you give us an update on the repairs to County Dock as of today, Nov. 9?

A: I believe it's in the design phase. I'm so disappointed in the lack of progress with this and repairs to other city-owned recreational facilities. FEMA owes the City of Jacksonville \$28 million and it's a year past due. We will be owed at least that much for damage from Irma. The lack of funding from FEMA is holding us up on projects we've already spent money on. We must continue to be cautious and responsible with how we spend the city's money as we still have three weeks of hurricane season left.

Q: What is the city doing to advocate to FEMA to try to get the funds that are due?

A: Well, because the forms and procedures for reimbursement are so specific, the city has actually hired the accounting firm Ernst and Young to fill out the forms. We have already paid them \$250,000 as a downpayment for their services.

Q: You said last month that the first pass for hurricane debris pick up would be completed by Nov. 9. Do you know have any updates?

A: Because of the volume of debris from Hurricane Irma, the city performed both a first and second pass of collection as of Nov. 9. Debris collection totaled more than 1.4 million cubic yards. The city will now pick up any missed debris on the regularly scheduled pickup date; however, if there are areas that readers know of that still need a pickup, please notify me via email and include the address or at least the street name.

Q: What is the latest on the sidewalks along Mandarin Road?

A: The first phase of the sidewalks are to be completed by the end of the year and the second phase is on track for an April 2018 completion. Mandarin is a special place and we need to have more community spirit. I believe that there are a lot of good, kind residents here who love the trees and the outdoors, which is why I feel it is important to spend money on things like sidewalks and parks. We need to preserve what we have as we are competing against neighborhoods like San Marco and our neighbors to the south in St. Johns County for residents and property values. Good schools are important too. We need to bring all students up in Duval County Public Schools.

Q: Your term as City Councilmember will be up in June 2019 and you are term limited from running again. What attributes do you hope your successor brings to the table?

A: We should definitely be looking ahead to who will represent Mandarin. It should be someone who knows very well the area and the people who live here. Out of the approximately 45,000 registered voters in District 6, there should be plenty of people who understand the unique qualities of our community who could run for office.

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

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

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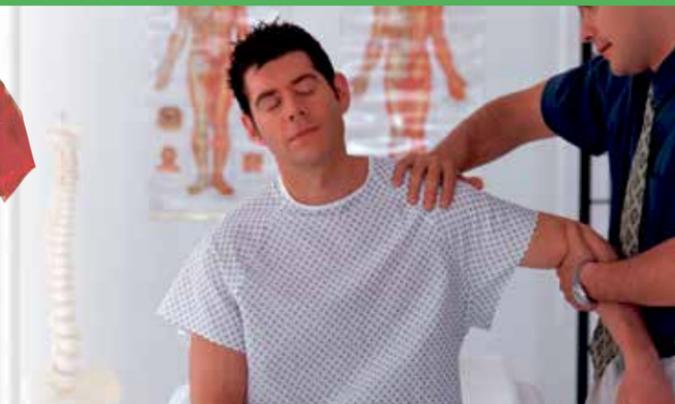
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with Jacksonville City Council Member Tommy Hazouri (At Large District 3)

Q: Now that Mayor Curry has named six people for the board of directors of the Kids Hope Alliance, what is the next step?

A: Probably by the time this paper is in mailboxes, the six people he nominated, Nat Glover, Rebekah Davis, Kevin Gay, Joe Peppers, Tyra Tutor, and Marvin Wells, will have been presented for approval to City Council. One more nominee is still needed for a total of seven.

Q: Do you have an update on hurricane debris collection?

A: As of today, Nov. 9, the city has completed both the first and second pass of collections for a total of 1,469,477 cubic yards. Going forward, any missed storm debris collection or newly generated yard waste will be picked up on the regularly scheduled pickup date. Any yard waste issues should be directed to 630-CITY.

Q: What is the latest information on the toll express lanes currently under construction?

A: The Florida Department of Transportation is adding two-lane toll express lanes on Interstate 295 — from the Buckman Bridge to Interstate 95 and from J. Turner Butler Boulevard to State Road 9B. The tolling will be done electronically, with no toll booths and existing lanes will remain toll-free. A barrier will be installed to keep the free and toll express lanes separate. The Mandarin portion, from the Buckman Bridge to Interstate 95, is projected to have tolls in

place on the express lanes in spring 2018. The JTB to State Road 9B portion will have widening completed and toll express lanes open in spring 2019.

Q: What is happening with the Marbon Road property?

A: There is still no buyer to date. According to the JTA's timeline, they project to have an update on potential buyers to present to the local city council member and at large council member by early December. By mid-December, JTA expects to request permission to negotiate a sales agreement with any prospective buyer.

Q: Will there be additional opportunities for community input?

A: The community meetings have already taken place during the creation and determination of how the property would be rezoned. The community came up with the compromised development plan that has been approved by City Council. We don't have any plans at this time to go back out to the community but would certainly be happy to do so. I will, however, keep the community in the know regarding the plan to expand the park behind the library.

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

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

Mandarin Community Club holds annual Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Doris Hastings

The Mandarin Community Club held its annual Wreath Laying Ceremony in honor of Veterans Day on Sunday, Nov. 12 at Billard Commemorative Park.

Club President Susie Scott, in the placement of the wreath.

"The program was very nice, very moving — especially when Nicolas played taps — and the weather this year could not have been nicer," said Lynn Cuda, Mandarin Community Club board member. "It is an honor to organize and hold this event every November for our veterans and our

community."

The Mandarin Community Club held its annual Wreath Laying Ceremony in honor of Veterans Day on Sunday, Nov. 12 at Billard Commemorative Park on Brady Road, adjacent to the club building. The American Heritage Girls, Florida Troop 1512, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and Nicolas Elliot performed taps.

Club members and veterans Bill Walker (Col., U.S. Army, Ret.) and Bob Watterston (LTC, U.S. Army, Ret.) assisted

community."

This is the 10th year the Club has honored Veterans with a wreath-laying and Veterans Day program. The Billard Park is home to the only Veterans Memorial in all of Mandarin.

Visit mandarincommunityclub.org for additional information on the Mandarin Community Club, club programs and events.



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Briefs

Nursing home rated first in Florida

River Garden Senior Services, a not-for-profit community agency offering an array of elder care programs and services on a 40-acre campus in Mandarin, was recently named at the top of the list of 121 best performing nursing homes in Florida according to U.S. News & World Report. Of the 685 nursing homes in the state, 121 were rated the best and River Garden was at the top of the list.

U.S. News & World Report used data from Nursing Home Compare, a program run by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The nursing homes were rated "poor" to "top-performing" on a scale of 1 to 5. U. S. News said nursing home performance was evaluated over time, averaging monthly data over a year and much emphasis was placed on strong performance in medical quality measures. To receive a high U.S. News rating, homes had to provide significantly more than the required minimum of rehabilitation therapy. All rated homes accept residents covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or both.

Symphony names new vice president and general manager

The Jacksonville Symphony recently welcomed Roger Wight as Vice president and general manager according to an announcement by President and CEO Robert Massey.

In this position, Wight will work closely with both Massey and Music Director Courtney Lewis in overseeing the production of Jacksonville Symphony concerts and programming. Wight will also work closely with the marketing and

development teams to engage sponsors and promote concerts.

Wight began his professional career in classical music radio as an announcer for WCLV in Cleveland while studying at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He then continued as a radio host and producer at the Interlochen Center for the Arts before working as a classical music recording and show producer at National Public Radio in Washington, DC.

In 2007, Wight moved into the orchestra world when he joined the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra as their director of artistic planning. He then began working with the Philadelphia Orchestra as their artistic administrator.

Between his tenure with the Philadelphia Orchestra and joining the Jacksonville Symphony, Wight has worked as an arts management consultant with a variety of performing arts organizations including the Miami Music Festival and the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. As a volunteer, Wight serves as a board member of The National Arts Club in New York.

Helping Fight Hunger food drive initiative collects items for nonprofits

Ameris Bank's eighth annual company-wide Helping Fight Hunger food drive initiative collected more than 999,000 non-perishable food items in October that were donated to food banks throughout the Southeast. Ameris Bancorp, the parent company of Ameris Bank, also collectively donated \$100,000 that was distributed among all the food banks that received the collected food items. More than 80 food banks throughout 65

communities were impacted by this food drive initiative.

According to Feeding America, hunger in America exists for more than 46 million people including 12 million children and 7 million seniors throughout the United States. Ameris Bank's Helping Fight Hunger food drive initiative allowed for a

food bank in every town with an Ameris Bank location to receive the donation of goods collected at the local Ameris Bank branch, plus a monetary donation from Ameris Bancorp.

Visit www.amerisbank.com/Helping-FightHunger for more information.

Mandarin Women's Club welcomes Jacksonville artist Kathy Stark

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com



Photo courtesy Gail Packard

At a recent luncheon, the Mandarin Women's Club hosted Jacksonville artist Kathy Stark as the guest speaker. Not only did members see examples of her beautiful watercolors, she provided them with information about the many parks, preserves, and wildlife areas that surround Jacksonville. The club's Dec. 21 program will feature the annual Holiday Chinese Auction. Members will bring festive, holiday items to raffle. Raffle tickets cost \$10 for a strip of 25 tickets, and proceeds benefit the Mandarin Women's Club. Doors at the Ramada Inn Mandarin open at 10:30 a.m. and the cost of the luncheon is \$17. Reservations are required and must be made by Dec. 14; contact Geri at (904) 993-7649 or gerimarch23@gmail.com to reserve your space. Visit www.mandarinwomen-sclub.com for more information.

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Uncover a skill and unplug a teen at your neighborhood library

By Kaylee Burke
mail@floridanewsline.com

There's a new program in town — Learn It at Your Library is a monthly get-together at Mandarin Branch Library focused on all things crafting, cooking and creating. This month's program will be held on Dec. 11 from 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Learning new crafts and skills isn't just for kids; it's important for adults to keep expanding their minds as well. So come with an open mind, and ready to have fun.

Travel back in time to New York City on Dec. 19 at 2 p.m at Mandarin Branch Library. Steve Samtur, editor-in-chief of "Back in THE BRONX" magazine, will take you on a 90-minute journey back in time to the Bronx. Samtur's presentation, "The Bronx: The Way it Was," will include more than 400 photos and a number of videos of the Bronx from the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

It wouldn't be a proper holiday season without a visit from the man himself - Santa Claus! Jolly old St. Nick will be stopping by South Mandarin Library on Dec. 15 from 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. and Mandarin Branch Library on Dec. 21 from 10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Santa Stops and Photo Ops is a favorite library program that brings holiday spirit to all with stories, songs and fun. In addition to meeting Santa, kids at South Man-

darin's program will decorate cookies and Mandarin goers can have their faces painted!

With the world at our fingertips these days, it's not unusual to become completely consumed by our iPads, phones and video games. During the holidays,

taking a break from technology and spending time with loved ones is a priority. That's why the South Mandarin Library has designated Dec. 22 as the Day of Unplugging for kids and tweens. Stop by the library at any time on this day to unwind, read, or participate in a

relaxing coloring activity. All supplies will be provided.

All library locations will be closed on Dec. 24, 25 and 26 for Christmas and on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for New Year's. The library's digital library is open 24/7 for a variety of e-books, audiobooks, movies and music. All programs are free and open to the public. Find information about upcoming events for Mandarin and South Mandarin branch libraries at jaxpubliclibrary.org/events or call the Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 262-5201 or the South Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 288-6385.

Kaylee Burke is with the Jacksonville Public Libraries.



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Libraries

Soak up the holiday spirit at Santa Stops and Photo Ops. You and your family are invited to join in on all the fun activities and snap a photo with Santa.

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Hear for the Holidays winner: Robert Groves

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Dr. Leslie Newmeyer, Au.D of Jax Audiology and Hearing Aid Center partnered with Florida NewsLine to make a difference in a deserving individual's holiday season this year with the gift of hearing. Through the generosity of Oticon's donation of a pair of Oticon OPN Hearing Aids, Robert Groves was



Photo courtesy Linda Gay
Dr. Leslie Newmeyer, Robert Groves, and Hart Felt Ministries volunteer Rod Lee.



Dr. Leslie Newmeyer fits Robert Groves with his new hearing aid.

company of others. Every morning he takes a long morning stroll around his apartment complex, but he feels he has been missing a lot of what's going on around him due to not being able to hear. Groves has wished for a hearing aid, but his income restricted him from pursuing such a costly device.

selected as the winner in the Hear for the Holidays contest.

Groves was born in Gastonia, N.C. in 1928 and moved with his wife of 41 years to Jacksonville to start a real estate business. He retired in 2008.

Groves is very sociable and enjoys the

Groves was overjoyed to hear he would be the recipient of the Oticon Hearing Aid and is looking forward to enjoying this holiday season with the gift of hearing.

Visit www.jaxaudiology.com for more information.



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Holiday Gift Guide 2017

Choose your Nutcracker

By Martie Thompson
 editor@floridanewsline.com

“The Nutcracker” is believed by many to be a time-honored holiday tradition. In Northeast Florida, the tradition continues with five productions of the ballet this December.

Since each performance is unique, following is a guide highlighting the dates, times and locations of each to help you choose “your” Nutcracker.

The Pantry Raiders

Host a delicious holiday brunch

By Chef Nils Rowland
 mail@floridanewsline.com

Holiday dinners may garner the bulk of hosts' attention, but overnight guests need to eat breakfast and lunch as well. Brunch can save hosts some work and give families a great opportunity to break bread without some of the formalities that may accompany holiday dinners. This holiday season, consider serving this ideal brunch recipe for “Farfalle with Crabmeat, Asparagus, Scrambled Eggs, Garlic, and Herbs” from Norman Kolpas' “Buongiorno! Breakfast and Brunch, Italian Style” (Contemporary Books).

Farfalle with Crabmeat, Asparagus, Scrambled Eggs, Garlic, and Herbs

(Makes 4 to 6 servings)

- 1 pound farfalle
- ½ pound asparagus, trimmed and sliced diagonally, ¼-inch thick
- 10 extra-large eggs
- 4 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- ¼ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for serving
- 2 tbsp. heavy cream
- ½ pound cooked lump crabmeat, picked over to remove any bits of shell or cartilage
- ¼ cup finely chopped fresh chives
- 2 tbsp. finely chopped fresh Italian parsley
- Freshly ground black pepper



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
 Farfalle with Crabmeat, Asparagus, Scrambled Eggs, Garlic, and Herbs

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add the farfalle and cook until al dente, following the manufacturer's suggested cooking time. About two minutes before the pasta is done, add the asparagus.

Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl, beat the eggs with a fork or whisk until slightly frothy. Set aside.

When the pasta and asparagus are done, drain and set aside. Immediately melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and sauté until fragrant, about one minute. Add the pasta and asparagus and toss briefly to coat them with the butter mixture. Pour in the eggs, add ¼ cup Parmesan and the cream, and stir and toss the mixture until the eggs just have begun to form moist curds, about two minutes. Add the crabmeat, chives and parsley and continue cooking and tossing until the eggs have formed more solid curds that cling to the farfalle, one to two minutes more.

Serve immediately with freshly grated Parmesan and black pepper for guests to add to taste.

Community Nutcracker
Dec. 8 at 8 p.m.
Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Florida Theatre
www.jaxnutcracker.org

The retirement of Founding Director Beth Marks led Artistic Directors Dulce Anaya, Debra Rankin and Mark Spivak on a search for new choreographers to help continue this holiday tradition which began in 1992. Heather Stevenson Loveland of Heather Loveland Dance Academy and Suzanne Saltmarsh of Saltmarsh Dance of Jacksonville are guest choreographers for the 2017 performance. In the past 25 years, Community Nutcracker has donated more than \$600,000 to local charities including Dreams Come True. In an effort to promote the arts in schools, Community Nutcracker also offers performances on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m. for school groups.

Christ Church Nutcracker Ballet
Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.
Lazzara Theater, UNF Fine Arts Department
www.missfeliciasdance.com

This year marks the 22nd performance of the Christ Church Nutcracker, directed by Felicia Rhoden of the Christ Church Dance Ministry as well as owner of Miss Felicia's Dance. Nearly 300 performers, aged two and a half to 90 years old, will take the stage. Proceeds from the performance support children with life threatening illnesses in the Dreams Come True Foundation, Community PedsCare and the Amistad Orphanage in Bolivia.

Jacksonville Symphony's First Coast Nutcracker
Dec. 15 at 8 p.m.
Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Dec. 17 at 2 p.m.

Moran Theater at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
www.jaxsymphony.org/first-coast-nutcracker/

Jacksonville Symphony's First Coast Nutcracker has been a tradition in North Florida for more than 40 years. Under the direction of choreographer and artistic director, Rhonda Stampalia, the First Coast Nutcracker showcases internationally renowned principal dancers, the area's finest young dancers, and Tchaikovsky's best-loved melodies performed by the Jacksonville Symphony.

The Nutcracker 2017 by the Florida Ballet
Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Lazzara Performance Hall, UNF Fine Arts Center
www.floridaballet.org

The Florida Ballet's Nutcracker features swirling snowflakes, waltzing flowers, and dancing bonbons. From the captivating dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy to the iconic snow scene, this enchanting classical ballet – set to the beloved music of Tchaikovsky – features guest artists from Cincinnati Ballet along with more than 100 local dancers.

St. Augustine Ballet Nutcracker
Dec. 16 at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Dec. 17 at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College
www.santaugustineballet.com

This year's production of “The Nutcracker” features guest artists Joseph Gatti, formerly of the Cincinnati Ballet, Corella Ballet principal dancer and Boston Ballet and Andrea Harvey, who has performed as an exhibition ballroom specialist at Blackpool 2017 and Millennium 2017. The St. Augustine Ballet, under the artistic direction of Luis Abella, is a non-profit organization with a mission to involve community members of all ages in meaningful dance experiences.

All of these performances are designed to enchant, enthrall, and bring families and community members together for the holiday season. Which one is right for you?





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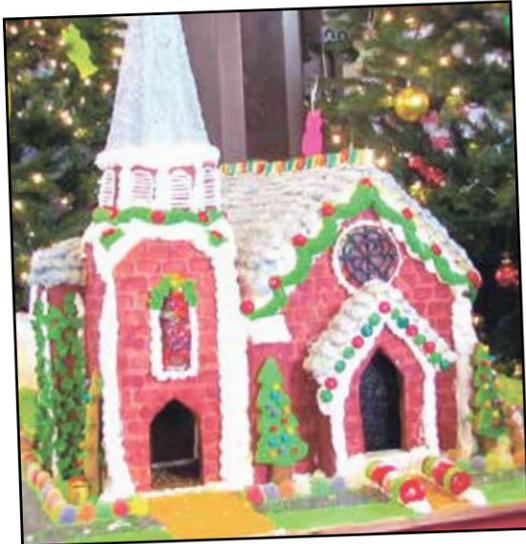
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Holiday Gift Guide 2017

Mandarin talent and support a big part of annual **Gingerbread Extravaganza**

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com



Mandarin Community Club. The women built a replica of the 145-year-old Mandarin Road structure from gingerbread, icing and other confection. Participating were Diana Openbrier, Wanda Bosworth, Kathleen Null, Joyce Buscaglia, Pat Sams, and Mary Kay Weis.

River Garden Senior Services, also second year participants, not only constructed for the Gingerbread Extravaganza, but they are also among the event's sponsors. Other Mandarin area sponsors include Larry Kanter and Larry Lisska.

Peterbrooke Chocolatier in Mandarin highlights the community's iconic Mandarin Road in chocolate for the Extravaganza. The store manager, Thomas Garrett, is uniquely familiar with the road. The Peterbrooke shop he manages sits in the shopping center at the intersection of Mandarin Road and San Jose Boulevard.

Mandarin's American Heritage Girls, #1512, first time participants, provided two entries. Jacinda Golden returns to the show representing River City Homebirth.

"Jacinda participated last year and is an extraordinary culinary sculptor," said Jacksonville Historical Society Executive Director and Mandarin resident Em-

The Gingerbread Extravaganza runs Nov. 30 through Dec. 23, except Sundays. It's open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and at 10 a.m. on Saturdays. A donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children older than three is suggested. Parking is free.

The Junior League of Jacksonville Sustainers' Festival of Trees is part of the Extravaganza display. The trees range from holiday themes to Florida-related history themes.

"This is an event for all ages," said Jacksonville Historical Society Executive Director Emily Lisska. "It's also the most creative art show in town."

Special Gingerbread Extravaganza

activities and field trips are also available to schools, seniors and other groups. Visit info@jaxhistory.org or call (904) 665-0064 for more information.



ily Lisska, also a creator for the Extravaganza.

The finished gingerbread houses and creations are featured along with dozens of other entries at Jacksonville Historical Society's Old St. Andrews, 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd., across from the Veterans Memorial Arena.

Photos courtesy Jacksonville Historical Society
The annual Jacksonville Historical Society Gingerbread Extravaganza runs Nov. 30 through Dec. 23, except Sundays.

Jacksonville Historical Society's Gingerbread House Extravaganza, a local holiday tradition, opened for a three-week run on Nov. 30. The event showcases dozens of gingerbread houses and confection creations made by area pastry chefs and everyday citizens. Many participants call Mandarin home.

A group from the Mandarin Garden Club returned to the show for a second year, this time creating a confection version of its founding home, the

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Car Show from pg. 1

2011, he made it a point to have a toy collection for Toys for Tots each year — which was the genesis of the Bartram Park Car Show and Community Festival.

This year's event featured 25 vendors, two food trucks (Tremendous BBQ and Tremendous Sea and Soul Food) and On the Go Tropical Sno Jax treats. The bloodmobile was on hand to receive blood donations. There was fun for the whole family, including face painting and games for kids, remote control car and drone demonstrations, women's self defense classes and massages.

But the big draw was the car show. Aficionados paid an entry fee of \$20, proceeds of which were part of the donation to Toys for Tots, to show their car. Juiced Mopar, a local group of Dodge car owners and MMJAX, the local Ford Mus-

tang group, brought cars to show. There was also a World War II jeep, a privately owned fire truck, a late '30s Cadillac and numerous hot rods. Railing estimates that roughly 500 people attended the event, which took over the parking lot at the office complex where he has his office.

The highlight of the day was the crowd vote. Attendees could walk around the show with their ballot and select their favorite car. At the end of the day, the Top Ten were honored with trophies.

"It's basically just a big party to raise money for Toys for Tots," Railing said. "We are so excited about its success and the amount of toys we will be able to donate."

Railing Chiropractic is still accepting donations of funds as well as new toys until Dec. 8. Call (904) 551-9283 for more information.



Photos courtesy Dr. Christopher Railing
The Top Ten winners after the crowd vote.



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Get to Know . . .

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

Dr. Jeannine Mauney



Photo courtesy DanHarrisPhoto.Art.
Dr. Jeannine Mauney

Dr. Jeannine Mauney was born and raised in Winston Salem, N.C. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and went on to teach sixth grade science at a North Carolina middle school. But Mauney always had a strong desire to study medicine and after one year of teaching, she was accepted into the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. After completing medical school, Mauney made her journey to Jacksonville for her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at UF Shands. She fell in love with the area and decided to call Jacksonville home.

Mauney served women through the St. Vincent's Healthcare system for five years before joining Sekine, Rasner, Brock & Associates in 2016. She enjoys working in Mandarin and the patients that make her job so rewarding. Her passion for helping others and her genuine love of her craft keeps her humbled and dedicated. This middle school teacher turned physician has been recognized for numerous civic and educational accomplishments.

1. What do you enjoy most about working in Mandarin?

I enjoy the diversity of the area and I love the local shopping. I can do all my Christmas shopping right after work and I like having Earthfare and Whole Foods nearby as well. I've been

very humbled about my reception in the Mandarin area. My job is very vulnerable and I'm so honored that people are comfortable enough to come to me with some of their biggest experiences in life. I'm very grateful for such a warm welcome into the Mandarin community.

2. What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment?

I would say helping women through very vulnerable situations is my greatest accomplishment. I get to be a calming voice, reassure them and hopefully help them through their situation.

3. What do you enjoy most about your work and what is the hardest part about what you do?

I get to experience miracles every day. These families allow me to share in such a special experience and I love having the opportunity to contribute to the birth of their child. The hardest part is not always having all the answers. I do all I can, to the best of my abilities, to help people. In my career, I'm a student every day. I'm always striving to become a better surgeon and be the best at my craft that I can possibly be.

4. What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I enjoy reading, traveling and shopping. I have a trip to Bali, Indonesia coming up and I'm very excited about that.

5. What attribute of your personality might people be surprised by?

I'm a goofball. I love comedy and I love to laugh. I think my demeanor is patient and quiet, but I'm humorous and sarcastic too.

Get to Know . . .

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Email Martie Thompson at
editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

Fall Festival cont. from pg. 1

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Photos courtesy Lisa Sawyer

The dunk tank was a popular activity at the Mandarin Fall Festival and Chili Cook Off.



Chris Lewis's chili earned the People's Choice award.

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Lisa D. Bailey,
Ph.D.

Mad Scientist Day at Crown Point Elementary

By Mary J. Eyler
mail@floridanewsline.com

On Tuesday, Oct. 31, kindergarten through fifth grade students at Crown Point Elementary School spent their day performing thrilling standard-based science experiments during the school's annual Mad Scientist Day.

Students arrived at school wearing lab coats, wigs, and bulky glasses. Throughout the day, they were provided the opportunity to perform countless meaningful and fun science activities. Parents of all grades were invited to share this memorable day with their students.

In Pam Adams' fifth grade class, the students investigated the properties of dry ice and learned about sublimation. They had fun creating "crystal ball"



Photo courtesy Mary J. Eyler
Phillip Alley and Iris Garcia with their teacher Pam Adams learning about sublimation, the process where a solid turns into gas.

by applying a film of soapy water over the top of the cauldron and letting the bubble fill up with the carbon dioxide gas. They also fired dry ice cannons using cups with holes in the bottom and balloons over the opening, made screaming balloons, and cup rockets.

Mary J. Eyler is an Inclusion Teacher at Crown Point Elementary School.



Photos courtesy Loretto Elementary School



Loretto Elementary is beneficiary of church's "Serve Day"

On Oct. 21, one of Loretto Elementary School's faith-based partners volunteered to beautify campus. A member of the Church of 1122 reached out to school administration to ask if church members could perform what they call "Serve Day," a day when members of the church would come to the school to perform whatever tasks the school needed. The members, including Loretto teacher Robin Brigman, came to the school with tools and equipment and raked/bagged leaves, planted flowers around the portables, put down mulch and pulled weeds.

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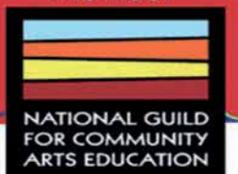
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School Briefs

Crown Point celebrates Red Ribbon Week

To celebrate and to promote a drug free and a bully free life-style, Crown Point PTA, students, teachers, and staff celebrated Red Ribbon Week Oct. 23 – 27 with the theme of “Your Future Is Key, So Stay Drug Free.”

On Monday, Crown Point Panthers wore red to kick off the week and show support for a Drug Free and Bully Free School. On Tuesday, the students showed their characters by wearing a shirt with their favorite superhero character. On Wednesday, the entire school celebrated Anti-Bullying Day, as students, teachers, and staff wore orange to unite with others and celebrate Unity Day. Thursday was team against drug day; the students wore their favorite team jersey to show everyone that they are team players when it comes to being drug free. Friday was Spirit Day and ev-



Photo courtesy Mary J. Eyster

Jennifer Beckstrom and her kindergarten class wearing their favorite superhero t-shirts.

everyone wore their Crown Point T-shirt.

PTA also held a contest for best-decorated door for each grade level. The winning classes received special prizes.

St. Joseph boys' basketball has back-to-back undefeated championship seasons

The St. Joseph Catholic School boys varsity basketball team enjoyed an undefeated 2017 season finishing with a record of 16 wins and 0 losses. This was the Stars' second consecutive undefeated championship season, which was capped off with their 28th consecutive victory.



Photo courtesy Theresa Twisdale

The St. Joseph Catholic School boys varsity basketball team.

Led by team captains Mark Flakus, Jonathan Gupton and tournament finals MVP Kyle Sulayman, the Stars played hard and worked well together each time they hit the hardwood. Eighth graders Matt Flanagan, Thomas Hebert, Chris Mello, and James Thompson also provided excellent leadership for their younger teammates, on and off the court. Cameron Balczon, Michael Bernardo, Mitchell Flakus, Jack Hale, and Jarel Villavicencio will return next season and will look forward to defending their back-to-back titles

Flakus, Gupton, and Sulayman were selected as All-Conference players for the second consecutive season and they

represented St. Joe's in the All-Conference game on Nov. 2 at Christ the King Catholic School. After a pre-season Mendenhall Tournament championship, a regular season conference championship, and a victory against St. Paul's in the Catholic School League Conference tournament finals, Coach Sean Kiernan was extremely proud of each member of the team for improving their game immensely from the start of the season.

Loretto's fifth grade is H.O.T'n it up

In fifth grade ELA classrooms during the month of November, teachers were



Photo courtesy Loretto Elementary School

Fifth graders worked collaboratively when studying the novel, “Esperanza Rising.”

H.O.T'n up with Higher Order Thinking questions and tasks.

Students worked collaboratively and took ownership of their learning. As they studied the novel “Esperanza Rising,” they were able to engage in meaningful conversation with their teacher and peers as they dove deeper into the characters' traits.

RCSA Mandarin celebrates grand opening

River City Science Academy Mandarin officially celebrated the opening of its new building recently with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Dozens of community members and leaders joined staff and students for the grand opening, hosted by the Jax Chamber. State Senator Aaron Bean, City Council President Anna Brosche and School Board Member Lori Hershey gave opening remarks at the ribbon cutting.



Photo courtesy River City Science Academy Mandarin

River City Science Academy Mandarin celebrated the opening of its new building with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Senator Bean addressed the safety patrol students present, speaking to them of the exciting opportunities that await them in future careers. Brosche and Hershey both celebrated the success of the Mandarin campus in its first year, achieving an A grade in the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Following the ceremony, guests toured the new school building, which is home to grades three through seven. Led by safety patrols, the guests were able to visit classrooms and the book fair and watch several student-led STEM demonstrations.

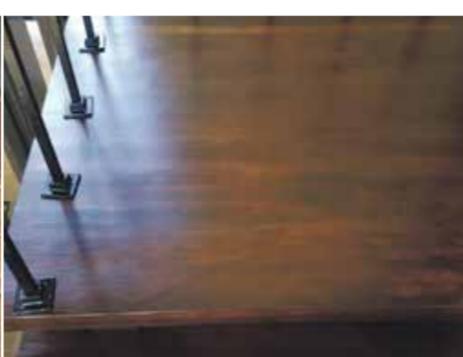
School Briefs cont. on pg. 18



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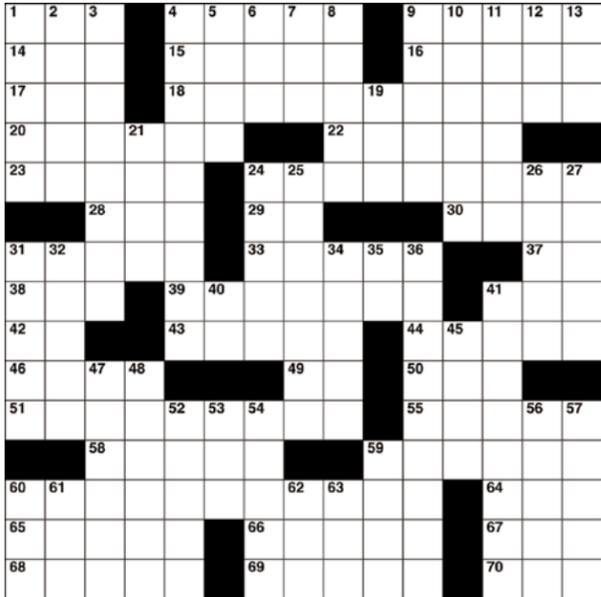
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 2
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. No (Scottish)
4. Heroic tales
9. A way to tend
14. Not or
15. Where rockers play
16. Dutch name for Ypres
17. Ingested
18. A resident of California
20. Unfounded rumor
22. Oats
23. Type of women's coat
24. Life forms
28. Every
29. Alternating current
30. Withered
31. "Gymnopedies" composer
33. Plate glasses
37. Muscial artist ___ DeBarge
38. Before
39. Arrange in steps of size
41. Electron cloud model

42. Morning
43. Leonard ___, famed Swiss mathematician
44. Capital city of Buenos Aires province
46. Snouts
49. Of I
50. Swiss river
51. Perplexes
55. Made angry
58. Precious stone
59. Type of envelope
60. One who believes in reason and knowledge
64. Monitors brain activity (abbr.)
65. Get ___ of
66. Actress Zellweger
67. Spinal muscular atrophy (abbr.)
68. "Inferno" author
69. Puts together in time
70. Silvery-white metal

CLUES DOWN

1. Civil Rights group
2. Early Slavic society
3. Mammals that lack incisors and canines
4. Blasphemy
5. Israeli city
6. Put this in your hair
7. Black tropical American cuckoo
8. Month in the Islamic calendar
9. Begets
10. Court game
11. Painkiller
12. New Zealand parrot
13. Suffix
19. Egg cells
21. Another name for Thor
24. About pontiff
25. The academic world
26. Raise
27. Civil rights city in Alabama
31. Encompasses
32. Helmet

34. Nostrils
35. Lovable Spielberg alien
36. Divides
40. Ruthenium
41. Preceding all others in time
45. Past participle of lie
47. Fastener
48. Overindulged
52. Ancient lyric poem
53. Ardent supporter
54. Iranian village and Islamic pilgrim attire
56. A fragrant resin obtained from tropical trees
57. Semitic fertility god
59. Millisecond
60. Cool!
61. "Take on Me" singers
62. ESPN sportscaster Bob
63. Accommodating place

READY-TO-WEAR WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

- BLOUSE
- BUTTONS
- COAT
- COLLAR
- CORSET
- COTTON
- COUTURE
- CREASE
- CUFF
- DESIGN
- DRESS
- FROCK
- HEM
- INSEAM
- JACKET
- LAPEL
- LENGTH
- LINGERIE
- PLEAT
- POCKET
- POLYESTER
- SEAM
- SEASONAL
- SHELL
- SHIRT
- SILK
- SKIRT
- SLACKS
- SPORTS COAT
- SPORTSWEAR
- SWIMSUIT
- TAILOR
- TUCK
- UNDERWEAR
- WOOL
- ZIPPER

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to Walt Disney.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 20 = m)

- A. 20 8 7 15 14**
Clue: Film
- B. 17 12 15 20 17 5 14**
Clue: Make to move
- C. 20 8 6 1 14**
Clue: Mickey is one
- D. 3 17 20 15 22 18**
Clue: Relatives

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Gardening

After the storm

By Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewline.com



With the mild — actually exceptionally warm! — temperatures we've been experiencing, we can continue planting some hardy perennials and bulbs in December, as well as shrubs and trees. Bear in mind, though, that we are now in a dry season, and be prepared to water newly installed plants to get them well established.

Neonicotinoids (neonics) are a class of systemic insecticides that can be used on many types of plants. Briefly, there is evidence to show that, in combination with other stressors, bees can suffer from these chemicals because they spread throughout treated plants, and are found in both the nectar and pollen ingested by bees and their brood. It makes sense, therefore, when choosing flowering plants that encourage insects to enhance our gardens, we need to consider whether they may unintentionally be harmful. Growers of native plants will avoid the use of neonicotinoids, as do Bonnie Plants, growers of vegetables and herbs. Proven Winners' plants are produced without neonics, but they also sell liner plants to nurseries that then grow them to sale size, and not all of those nurseries will necessarily avoid neonics. So do your research, ask questions of the nursery staff where you

buy plants, and choose wisely. Large bees and small bees are attracted to different types of flowers; those with short tongues collect nectar from ray flowers, or typical daisy-like flowers, whereas larger bees have longer tongues and can handle tubular flowers. Unlike hummingbirds, which are readily attracted to red flowers, bees prefer flowers in shades of blue, purple, white or yellow.

Aim to find a range of plants that bloom at different times of the year. Early bloomers include the native spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohiensis*. It has one-inch, pretty blue to purple triangular flowers, which are clustered at the top of 12 – 18 inch stems; they open briefly, but sequentially. It self seeds readily and spreads by rhizomes, so make sure it will fit with your plans. Other spring-blooming native flowers include violets, wild petunia (*Ruellia humilis* — not the Mexican type) and coreopsis. Many of our trees that bloom in spring, like the redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), are invaluable to pollinators. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) is a particularly important source of nectar for honey bees, as well as a cheerful reminder that spring is on the way. For inspiration, check out The Florida

Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design at http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf. Bloom times are given to help you achieve a colorful garden year round.

Now the clocks have changed, our lawn watering schedules have been adjusted to once a week. To ensure you have the correct schedule, please see <http://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/environmental-quality/irrigation-and-fertilizer>.

As grass gradually becomes dormant in cooler weather it will need less water and you may find that rainfall is adequate. Remember that overwatering, at any time of year, can cause problems with diseases. Cut down on mowing and cut the grass high so it has a strong root system going into winter. Hand pull cool season weeds, or spot treat with an herbicide suitable for your grass species, to keep them under control. If your grass is still recovering from damage caused by debris from hurricane Irma laying on it for weeks, check out the November/December issue of "A New Leaf" for recommendations: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/nleafNovemberDecember.17.pdf>. As always, you will find timely articles on vegetable growing, what to plant in December, and upcoming classes. Happy floriferous Holidays, One and All.

School Briefs cont. from pg. 15

Five volunteers from of Squad 7 of the 501st Legion came dressed as Star Wars characters, thrilling students and teachers alike and demonstrating RCSA's love of learning about galaxies far, far away.

Mix It Up Day 2017 observed at St. Joe's Students at St. Joseph Catholic School joined more than one million other students across the country to help break down social barriers by participating in the 16th annual Mix It Up at Lunch Day. This national campaign launched by Teaching Tolerance in 2002 encourages students to sit with someone new in the cafeteria for just one day.

Cafeterias are the focus of Mix It Up because that's where a school's social boundaries are most obvious.

On Tuesday, Oct. 31, St. Joseph students in grades three through eight had a sweet time mixing it up and making new friends. Students were given a Dum Dum lollipop and had to sit at the table labeled with his/her Dum Dum flavor. The Student Council helped in planning and preparing for Mix It Up Day by dividing the Dum Dums into bags for each class and by coming up with something fun for the students to do while mixing it up. The students were given an All Saints Day word search, which they had to work on with someone they didn't know.

Faith News

Dec. 4: The mental health support group of Mandarin Presbyterian Church, H.E.L.P. of MPC, provides confidential support to people, along with their family members, who are living with chronic or severe symptoms. The group is faith based and peer led and believes you can live a stronger and more peaceful life no matter what the diagnosis. Learn tools to help manage symptoms. H.E.L.P. (Hope, Encouragement, Love, Prayer) begins at 6:45 p.m. at the Mandarin Road campus and is open to all denominations. Visit www.mandarinpres.com/helpministry/ for details or call the church office at (904) 680-9944.

Dec. 12: The Jewish Community Alliance's annual Chanukkah celebration and lighting ceremony takes place from 5:45 p.m. – 8 p.m. JCA members and families from across the city will gather to celebrate this holiday and the lighting of the JCA's giant outdoor chanukiyah, which was created by local artist David Ponsler. Reservations are required by Dec. 5. This event is free to JCA members. The JCA lighting ceremony includes the singing of traditional Chanukkah songs and is followed by a family-style dinner, youth activities and entertainment. For more information, contact Dave Flagler at (904) 730-2100 ext. 271.

Dec. 21: Mandarin United Methodist Church, 11270 San Jose Blvd., will host a Blue Christmas Service in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. Visit www.mumc.net or call (904) 268-5549 for more information.

Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church

Christmas Schedule

Mandarin Location
6955 Columbia Park Ct. 32258

Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, December 24th
4pm and 6pm

Baymeadows Location
7860 Southside Blvd 32256

Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, December 24th
5:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00pm

Christmas Day Services
Monday, December 25th
10:30am

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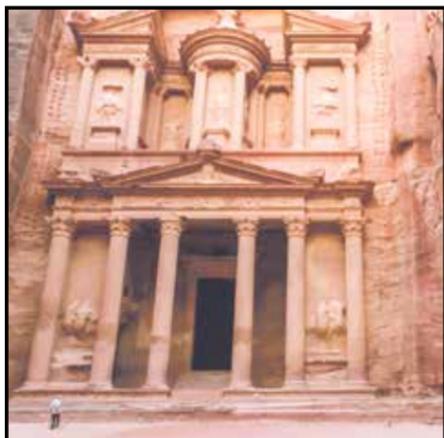
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Travel

Finding the jewels of Jordan

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewslines.com

Americans generally don't include the Middle East on their bucket list, but I'd like to change your mind about Jordan. The Hashemite Kingdom, Jordan's official name, is the safest country in the region and extremely welcoming to tourists. Jordan offers incredible historic



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Petra Treasury

sites, attractions, and adventures for luxury to budget travelers.

Petra, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, stands out as the favorite. The ancient city flourished as the strategic crossroads for spice and silk trade some 2,300 years ago, but routes changed and earthquakes twice ravaged the area. By the 13th century, only local Bedouin tribes remembered Petra. In 1812, Swiss explorer Jean Louis Burckhardt

disguised himself as an Arab wanting to make an offering. He convinced a guide to take him to the area. Burckhardt rediscovered Petra's tombs, but couldn't fully inspect the ruins. His guide became suspicious, forcing Burckhardt to leave. He wrote about his findings, but they, too, remained off limits for decades.

The Treasury, a delicate and beautifully chiseled stone structure, lies hidden at the end of a mile long walk between massive 10-story high boulders. The movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" features Harrison Ford and Sean Connery in a miraculous escape from the location.

Reaching the Monastery takes a climb of 900 rough, worn steps unless you'd prefer a donkey ride. The reward at the end more than justifies the arduous trek opening up views of the most intricate architectural shrine. Petra includes many more temples, tombs, an amphitheater and streets within the vast World Heritage site.

Wadi Rum, about an hour from Petra, is also part of the cinematic legend, providing locations for the movie "Lawrence of Arabia," highlighted by British Intelligence Officer T.E. Lawrence's epic battle. Camel and jeep tours into

the desert offer overnight camping. The more budget conscious still have a dazzling choice — sleeping under the crystal clear starry sky. Slightly splurging turns an already fantastic experience to "glamping" (glamor camping) in rooms with ensuite bathrooms. Accommodations include Zarb, a delicious Bedouin dinner cooked in a sand-covered pit.

Aqaba, a famous harbor on the Red Sea, offers boating and great snorkeling or scuba diving. Farther up the coast, Dead Sea luxury resort hotels sparkle next to the often-iridescent water. Relax on the beach and give yourself the mud treatment and dip in the salty brine. My skin never felt better!

The Romans were no strangers to Jordan. Jerash, called the City of a Thousand Columns, displays the best ruins outside of Italy. In some ways, I found them superior to their counterparts in Rome, as they haven't been overly visited. You'll need at least a half-day to explore the expansive archeological destination. Recently, opera star Andrea Bocelli gave a concert in the amphitheater.

Other than Israel, no other country has more biblical sites. Bethany Beyond the Jordan attracts as the site of Jesus' baptism. It's common to see Christians being dunked in the River Jordan during their baptismal ceremony. Nearby, at Mt. Nebo, stand where Moses first gazed upon the Promised Land.

The accommodating Jordanians offer farm-fresh, colorful and American friendly food, but don't expect burgers and fries. Meals begin with salad, fresh bread and an array of toppings like hummus, tabbouleh or moutabel, similar to baba ghanoush.

Direct flights from New York City arrive in Amman, the capital. Western-



Jerash

friendly hotels and local-run establishments alike await. My suggestion is to sign on for a five – seven day tour of the country and prepare yourself for the thrill of a lifetime.

Visit www.bylandersea.com to read more of local travel writer Debi Lander's stories and travel tips.

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Middle School (6-8) Open House for Parents

Bartram Campus
Jan. 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

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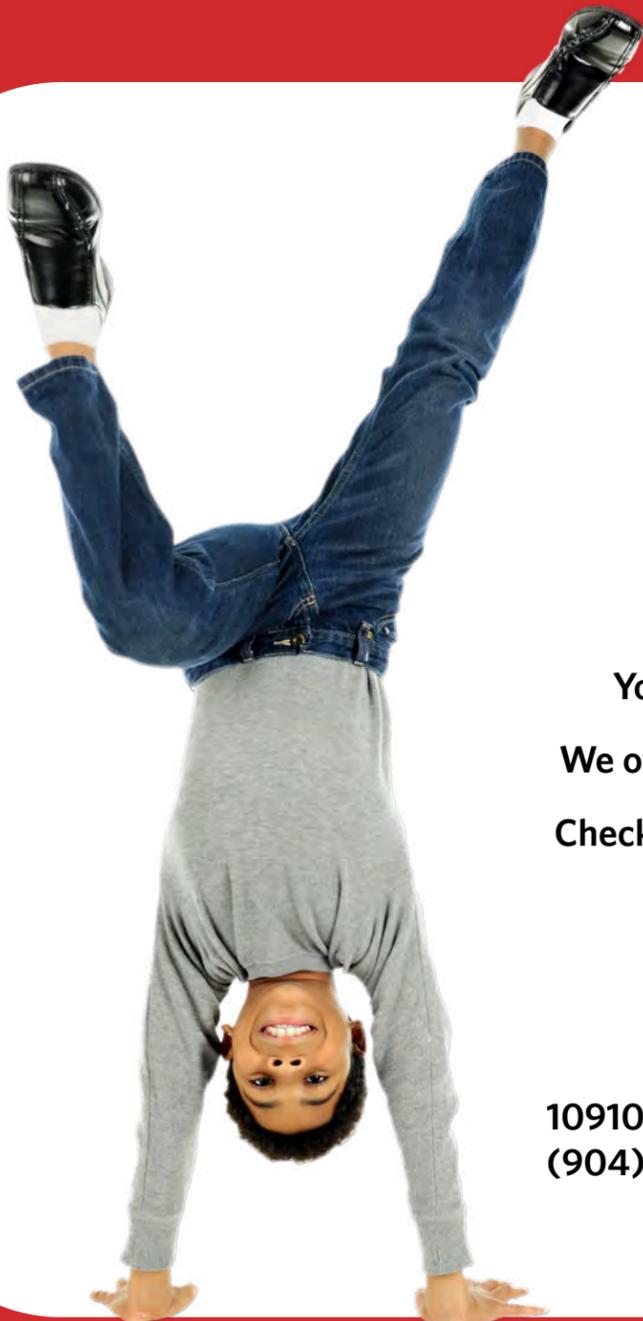
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