

Mandarin NewsLine

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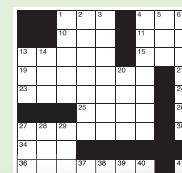
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Mandarin Art Fest celebrates 50 years

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslne.com



Photo courtesy Doris Hastings
Artist Serfei Orgunov at the 2016 Mandarin Art Festival.

The Mandarin Art Festival, founded in 1968 by the Mandarin Community Club, will be commemorating 50 years of success on Easter weekend of this year. The milestone will be celebrated on March 31 and April 1, 2018.

The Mandarin Art Festival has been an Easter tradition for generations of families and continues to grow each year. The family friendly event, already the largest in Mandarin, saw record crowds in 2017. Over the years tens of thousands of guests have strolled under the oaks of the historic Mandarin Community Club to peruse the artwork of more than 100 local and nationally known artists. Painting, photography, jewelry, sculpture, glass-work, pottery and more are exhibited by award winning artists.

Other activities include a Green Market for unique locally sourced and made items, a bake sale with home-made goodies from the kitchens of club members, food vendors providing an array of cuisine and the beloved Children's Art Show, proudly displaying the creations of talented students from area elementary and middle schools. The Community Club will also host a table for the sale of Festival tee shirts, club

Mandarin Art Fest cont. on pg. 13

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Mandarin student is state diving champion

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewslne.com

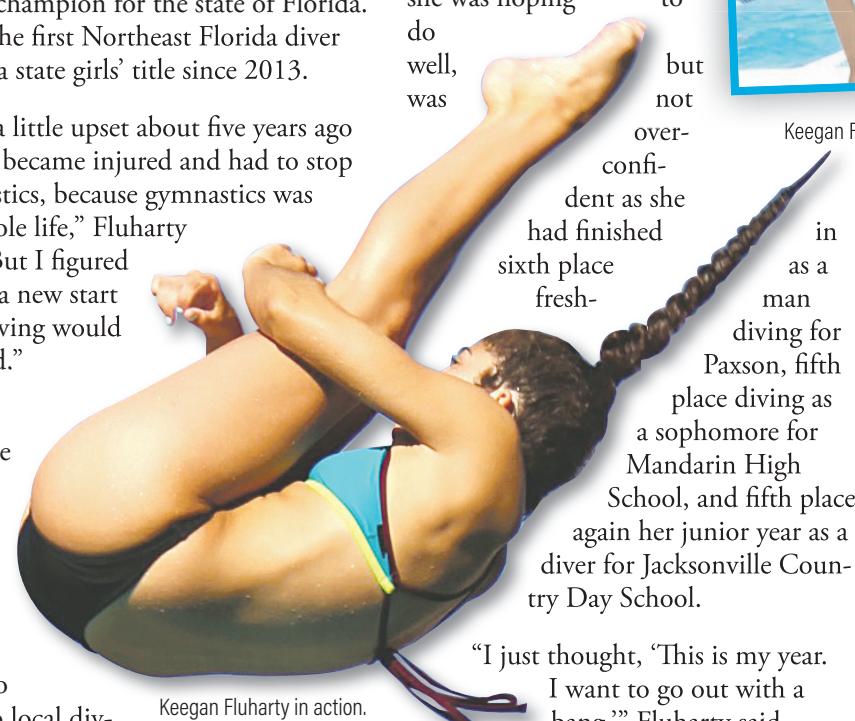
Mandarin High School senior Keegan Fluharty is a former competitive gymnast who turned her proficiency in twisting and tumbling into a new vocation as a diver — and last November, she earned the title of FHSAA Class 4A diving champion for the state of Florida. She is the first Northeast Florida diver to win a state girls' title since 2013.

"I was a little upset about five years ago when I became injured and had to stop gymnastics, because gymnastics was my whole life," Fluharty said. "But I figured maybe a new start with diving would be good."

So she took the advice of a coach at a gymnastics camp to look up local diving coach Melisa Hyams, and she never looked back. For her first meeting with Hyams, Fluharty said she got right in the pool and performed some basics like standing on the diving board and either falling or jumping in the water. Then she progressed to using a dry diving board, not over a pool, that has ropes to strap the diver in while practicing aerial somersaults and twists. Her first competitive meet was six weeks after she started.

"It was a small meet," Fluharty said. "But it went well and I thought if I dedicated more time and effort that perhaps I could be good at diving."

She began attending practices five days a week for two hours each as a member of the North Florida Diving team. Today, she has upped her schedule to include double practices on three of those days. She also participates in conditioning workouts at the gym or track with two other girls who are also members of Mandarin High School's diving team and North Florida Diving.



Keegan Fluharty in action.

The work paid off as Fluharty finished first at districts and second at regionals and qualified for her fourth trip to the state championships. She said she was hoping to do well, but not

over-confident as she had finished sixth place fresh-

in as a man diving for Paxson, fifth place diving as a sophomore for Mandarin High School, and fifth place again her junior year as a diver for Jacksonville County Day School.

"I just thought, 'This is my year. I want to go out with a bang,'" Fluharty said.

"There was a lot of competition, including some of the girls I compete with at USA meets. Coming out on top was a great feeling."

Her entire family was in Stuart, Fla. to watch her win



the state championship, including her older sister Hannah, who drove all night from college in Alabama just to see her sister dive.

Fluharty also competes nationally and



Photos courtesy Keegan Fluharty

finished 14th in the 1-meter spring-board last summer.

She said the hardest thing about diving is changing her perspective from that of a gymnast.

"As a gymnast, you're not supposed to land on your head, but divers do," she said.

Her most difficult dives are a 105B front two-and-a-half somersault pike on the one-meter springboard and a 5235D back one-and-a-half somersault with two-and-a-half twists on the three-meter. Fluharty is interested in platform diving, but facilities aren't available locally.



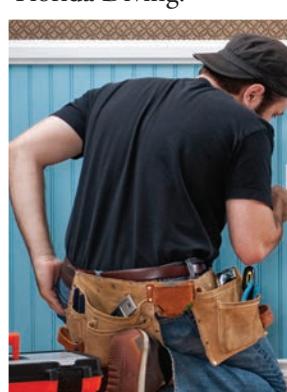
Keegan Fluharty

After graduation this spring, she plans to attend college to study psychology, perhaps at Louisville or Florida Atlantic University, and definitely continue diving. Maybe she'll even add platform diving to her repertoire.

"And maybe college can take me to the next step of the Olympic trials," Fluharty said.

Meanwhile, she will continue with her training and workouts and hanging out with her diving friends. Fluharty's commitment to diving doesn't leave room for much else besides school work.

The self-proclaimed competitor said, "I like the fear factor of diving. It's cool to get up there on the springboard and throw something scary."



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February Enhanced Section

Love & Marriage

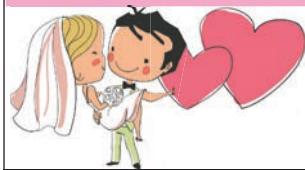
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Adopt-A-Shelter-Pet

Meet Ford!

Hi guys, my name is Ford! I love all humans and have been known to be very loyal to my owner. If you need a companion or a partner in crime, come on over and rub my belly or cordially shake paws — the choice is yours. See you soon!

Meet Ghost!

Hi everyone! My name is Ghost. I am a sweet boy. I am a calm cat who would enjoy a more relaxed home. I also enjoy being around other cats. I would love to meet you!

The Jacksonville Humane Society is open
12 p.m. – 7 p.m. on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on the weekends.
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MYSTERY PHOTO



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

Last month's photo was of the Bartram Park Boulevard arch.
Our winner was Greg Lohman.

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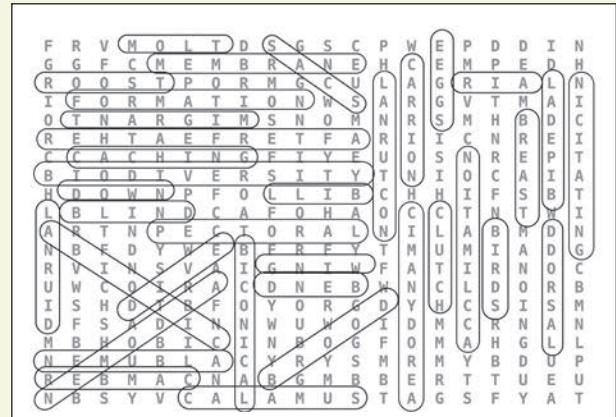
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answers to puzzles on page 16



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. wings B. beak C. flight D. soar

to our Puzzles



take 5

Meet the Maple Leaf divers at Mandarin Museum

The Maple Leaf divers will appear at Mandarin Museum in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Feb. 17. Attendees may meet and talk with Dr. Keith Holland and the men who found the Maple Leaf shipwreck and recovered the Civil War artifacts from this National Historic Landmark site in the St. Johns River at Mandarin Point. For more information visit www.mandarinmuseum.net or call (904) 268-0784.

Flag collection and retirement ceremony scheduled

The Mandarin Community Club will once again host the Sons of the American Revolution as they hold an official Flag Retirement Ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. at the club, located at 12447 Mandarin Road. This patriotic ceremony consists of a symbolic deconstruction of a used, worn or tattered flag, during which the history of the



Photo by Metro Creative

American flag is told and the importance of the proper handling of flags for retirement is explained. Community members may surrender any used, worn or tattered American flags for proper handling and disposal in a collection box available at the club all day on Feb. 11 prior to the actual ceremony. The public is welcome and invited to attend.

Mandarin Toastmasters to showcase Table Topics

On Feb. 17, beginning at 10:15 a.m. at the South Mandarin Library, the Mandarin Toastmasters will host the club-level event for the Table Topics and International Speech Contest. This event is open to the public and members of the group are invited to participate, provided they are in good standing. Guests are welcome to attend and see how Toastmasters runs an event like this, as it differs from the usual club meeting format. In March at a date to be determined, the group plans to hold an Open House. This event will be a great chance to visit and mingle and the officer team is always available during meeting hours to answer questions and provide direction. Visit www.mandarintoastmasters.org for more information.

Tax help available for seniors

The South Mandarin Library will host an AARP TaxAide site on Tues-

days from Feb. 6 – April 10 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Jacksonville Public Library and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Foundation partner each year to bring free tax preparation to the community. AARP Tax-Aide sites are serviced by IRS-certified volunteers that provide free tax counseling and preparation services to millions of low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those aged 60 and older. There is no income or age limit for assistance at AARP TaxAide sites; however, AARP sites cannot assist rental property owners or small business owners. Arrive early and remember that special attention is given to those aged 60 and older.

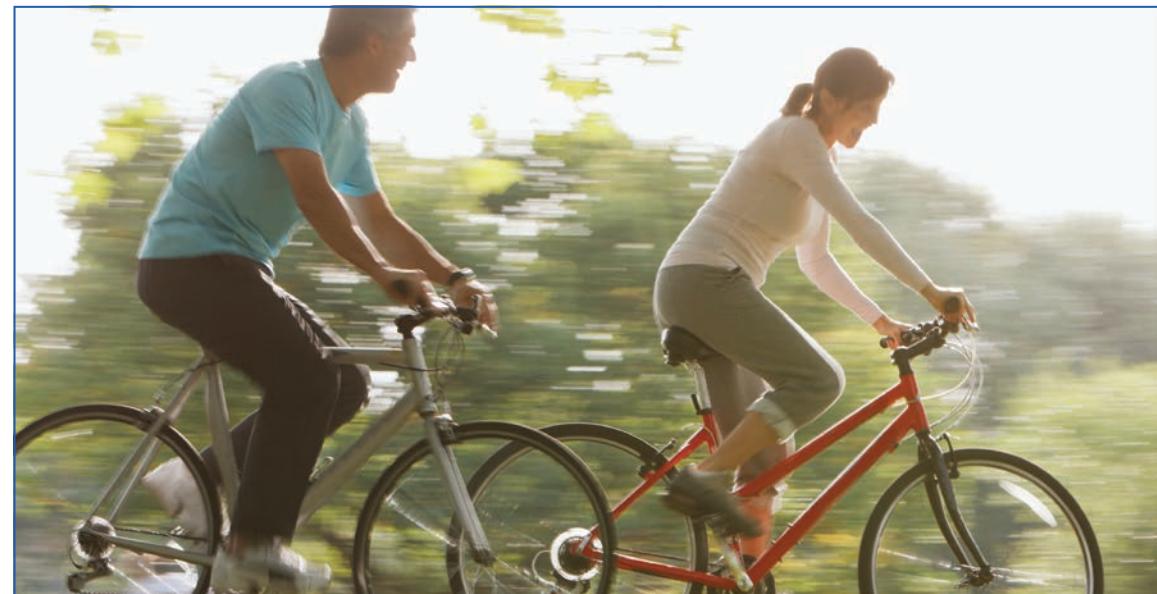
Mandarin Community Club launches 2018 membership drive

The 2018 membership drive for the Mandarin Community Club officially started on Jan. 1. Part of the community since 1923, membership in the club is open to all interested parties, with several different membership



Photo courtesy Mandarin Community Club
Mandarin Community Club

levels including one for businesses. The club hosts a variety of events for members and the community over the course of the year, including a tree giveaway, tree canopy lectures by a city arborist, a tribute to veterans in November, the Mandarin Art Festival on Easter weekend, and the Third Thursday Lecture Series, co-sponsored with the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society. Membership forms can be found in the information box in front of the club building at 12447 Mandarin Road or online at www.mandarincommunityclub.org or call the club at (904) 268-1622 for more information.



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.

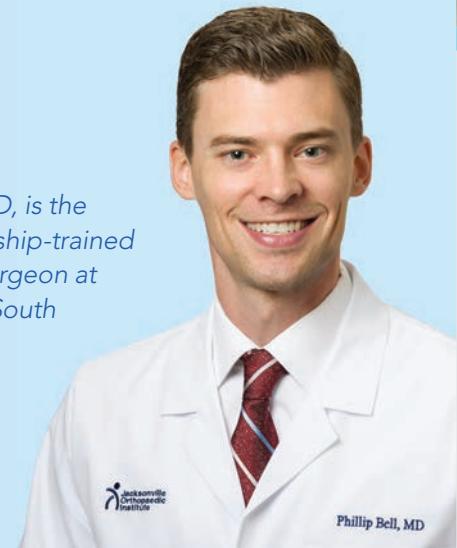
Why live with hip or knee pain?
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904.JOI.2000 (564-2000)

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

Phillip Bell, MD, is the newest fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon at JOI's Baptist South location.



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Feb.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

3rd Parish Bingo

6:45 p.m.
St. Joseph's Cody Center
Open to community; (904) 742-8777
Mandarin Republican Club breakfast meeting with speaker Michael T. Boylan, District 6 candidate

10 a.m.
Golden Corral, 11470 San Jose Blvd.
rmclean1@bellsouth.net

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)

1911 Historic Mandarin Store and Post Office open

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
12471 Mandarin Road
www.mandarinmuseum.net or (904) 268-0784
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.dosaf.com/outreach/catholic-writers-](http://www.dosaf.com/outreach/catholic-writers-guild/)

guild/ or writerrod@comcast.net

4th

Under the Oaks music jam

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

6th

Shuffleboard

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

Just show up unless it rains

Honeybee Quilt Guild

6:30 p.m.
Mandarin Presbyterian, 11844 Mandarin Road
www.honeybeequilters.org (Repeats first Tuesday of each month)

Feb. 7 – March 14

Northeast Florida AHEC Quit Smoking Class

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Baptist Medical Center - South
Free; call (904) 482-0189 to register

8th

Navigating the Senior Network

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Brookdale Crown Point, 10050 Old St. Augustine Rd.
Lunch served. RSVP (904) 288-8700

American Legion Post 372 general assembly

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

(904) 297-8344 or www.mandarinpost372.org

Mandarin Council networking luncheon

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.

www.mandarinCouncil.org

Magnolia Circle – Mandarin Garden Club

10 a.m.

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

Book Club/Friends of the South Mandarin Library meeting

1 p.m. / 2 p.m.

South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.

(904) 288-6385

10th

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

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (repeating event on Saturdays)
Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Rd.
www.mandarinmuseum.net

11th

Flag Retirement Ceremony hosted by Sons of the American Revolution

2 p.m.

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

15th

Understanding Bluebirds and their behaviors, presented by Florida Naturalist Gary Whiting

6:30 p.m.

Wild Birds Unlimited Store, 450 State Road 13N
Limited free seating, call (904) 230-3242 to reserve

around town

March 2 – 3 Mandarin Garden Club's annual \$1 Clothing Sale

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
2892 Loretto Road
www.mandaringardenclub.org

March 3 Faithful Servant Missions Run with a Mission 5K, 10K and 1 mile fun run

8:30 a.m.
Nocatee Greenway
www.runsSignup.com/runwithamission

March 8 G.R.I.T. WBO 2018 Signature Event, featuring keynote speaker Amy Pope Wells

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
UNF University Center
www.wbonfl.org/signature-event

March 17 Vilano Bridge 5K and 10K

8 a.m.
North Shores Community Center, Vilano Beach
www.1stPlacesSports.com/races/vilanobridgerun

March 29 Town Hall Meeting with City Councilman Matt Schellenberg

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
South Mandarin Library

March 31 – April 1 50th annual Mandarin Art Festival

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road
www.mandarinartfestival.org

save the date!

20th

Dogwood Circle – Mandarin Garden Club

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

21st

River City Women's Club luncheon Bunco charity fundraiser

10:30 a.m.
Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Road
RSVP to Florence, (904) 262-8719

Business owner networking meeting

7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.
Salem Centre, 7235 Bonneval Road
Call Virginia, (904) 386-3993

22nd

Mandarin Women's Club featuring annual spring fashion show

10:30 am
Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Road
RSVP by Feb. 15; gerimarch23@gmail.com or (904) 993-7649

Live Oak Circle – Mandarin Garden Club

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

Mandarin Council monthly breakfast

8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.
www.mandarinCouncil.org

24th

Project SOS - Boys and Girls Club Grand Anchor Gala

6 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, black tie/masks optional
www.bgcnf.org/events/

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with Jacksonville City Council Member
Matt Schellenberg (District 6)

Q: Can you give us an update on the sidewalk construction along Mandarin Road?

A: I'm a little disappointed that we were promised to have one-third of the project completed by the end of 2017 and that didn't happen. There were numerous excuses given — too many to list. But I have been monitoring this and now we are promised to have the first one-third of the project completed by the end of January and the entire project completed by April 30.

Q: Does the city have any recourse for this delay?

A: The company has been penalized and there are more penalties to come if the project isn't complete by April 30. This was a third party hired by JEA that has done a good job in the past but has been a complete disappointment this time. We will hold them responsible for their commitment. The citizens of Mandarin deserve respect and to have the work completed as promised.

Q: What is the latest on the Marbon Road property?

A: The potential buyer has about 30 days left of due diligence. The property hasn't closed as of today, Jan. 15.

Meanwhile, the hurricane debris has been removed from the property and all equipment is to be removed and the property restored to its prior state by Jan. 31.

Q: What can you tell us about the permit cost relief for restorative electric and roofing work since Hurricane Irma?

A: If a homeowner is having work electrical or roofing repair work performed as a result of Hurricane Irma, they should have their contractor apply for the reduced permitting fee that is available until Feb. 28. It will likely be extended at that time until the end of June to provide some relief to homeowners.

Q: We know you have been busy with the District project downtown and chairing the special City Council committee. Do you have anything to share about that?

A: Yes, currently we are vetting the proposed District project. I will say that it is important for all elected officials at all times to make sure taxpayer money is spent appropriately, for all projects.

Q: Do you have any additional District 6 news?

A: We will be holding a general Town

Hall meeting on Thursday, March 29 from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the South Mandarin Branch Library. I only speak about five minutes at these meetings. We usually have the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Zone Chief, a representative from the mayor's office and someone from the Public Works department on hand to answer questions. We also have someone taking notes in case we don't know the answer to a question, so we can get back to the person with

the answer. The whole goal is to hear residents' concerns and learn how we can make Mandarin and Jacksonville a better place. If you have a concern and can't attend the meeting, please email your question to me.

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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Patrol Zone 3: Assistant Chief J.G. Short, (904) 828-5463
Property Appraiser: Jerry Holland, jholland@coj.net; (904) 630-2011
Supervisor of Elections: Mike Hogan, mhogan@coj.net, (904) 630-1414
Tax Collector: Michael Corrigan, taxcollector@coj.net, (904) 630-1916
Clerk of Court: Ronnie Fussell, (904) 255-2000

Jacksonville City Council

District 6: Matt Schellenberg, matts@coj.net, (904) 630-1388
At Large, District 3: Tommy Hazouri, thazouri@coj.net, (904) 630-1396
Duval County School Board (www.duvalschools.org)
District 7: Lori Hershey, hershey@duvalschools.org, (904) 390-2375

State of Florida Elected Officials

State House District 16: Representative Jason Fischer, (850) 717-5016
State Senate District 4: Senator Aaron Bean, (904) 757-5039

Federal Elected Officials

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Senator Bill Nelson, (202) 224-5274
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Q: Can you give us an update on the search for a new superintendent?

A: We released the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a search firm on Jan. 4 and the board expects to select the firm to conduct the superintendent search on Jan. 31. The current timeline is to have a new superintendent in place in July, so we are on schedule. Next month, we will have a schedule of meeting for input from stakeholders to announce, after we have identified the search firm. Recall that we began this process with four meetings prior to the holidays where we received public input regarding the superintendent search.

Q: Do you have any news to report on the school choice applications and deadline?

A: The School Choice applications, which may be submitted online, are due Feb. 28. Applications can be found on FOCUS. Applications submitted online will receive email confirmation. Those without access to a computer may come to the board office for access and assistance. I'd like to remind everyone that next year, Wolfson High School will be a dedicated college prep magnet like Stanton and Paxson. The school will offer International Baccalaureate (IB) and advanced studies and will be accepting applications for ninth graders. Also, I'd like to encourage people who are considering a residential move within the district and who are content with their current school,

to investigate if this move will result in a rezoning. I'd also like to encourage people to visit their neighborhood middle and high school in addition to the magnet choices so they can make informed decisions.

Q: Do you have any update on the Twin Lakes Academy Elementary school zone issue?

A: At the joint School Board/ City Council meeting that was held prior to the holidays, Chris LeDew, City Traffic Engineer, stated he has been out to Twin Lakes Academy Elementary to evaluate traffic concerns and school safety. A sign recommending a reduction in speed (10 mph below posted speed) as well as new pavement markings in front of Twin Lakes Academy Elementary will be installed by mid February. This is not the same as a school safety zone sign, which was the goal of the Twin Lakes Academy Elementary SAC, but I think it is a step in the right direction and hopefully a precursor to an official school zone. There continues to be growth in the neighborhood and I think a school zone is necessary. I have not given up and will continue to advocate for a school zone for Twin Lakes Academy Elementary.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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

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Briefs

Norman Studios to be featured in Third Thursday Lecture

In honor of Black History Month, the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society will feature a lecture by Devan Lesley of Norman Studios on Feb. 15. Lesley will discuss the history of this treasure and share some short film clips from their archives. This historic place is Northeast Florida's second National Historic Landmark site; the first is none other than the Maple Leaf shipwreck site at Mandarin Point.

According to its website, www.normanstudios.org, "Founded in 1916 in Jacksonville as Eagle Film City and purchased by Richard E. Norman in 1921, the Norman Studios was among the nation's first to produce 'race films' starring African American characters in positive, non-stereotypical roles. On the Norman Studios site, some of the first films featuring all African-American casts were produced more than a century ago. This five-building complex is the sole studio remnant of Jacksonville's heyday as the Winter Film Capital of the World..."

Third Thursday Lectures are presented by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society in partnership with and at the Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road. Refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m., with the lecture at 7 p.m. The event is free and all are invited and encouraged to attend. Call (904) 268-0784 or visit www.mandarinmuseum.net or www.mandarincommunityclub.org for more information.

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hired in 1978 as the associate administrator, and became chief executive officer in 2004.

Goetz is a past member of the board and executive committee of the Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (FAHSA) and served as its treasurer. In 2001, Goetz received FAHSA's Public Policy Award for advocacy on nursing home litigation reform and in 2003 he was the recipient of FAHSA's Distinguished Service Award, the highest award given by the association. In 2007, Goetz was presented with the Chairman's Award by FAHSA in recognition of his years of service to the board and its members. In 2008 he was elected by FAHSA membership to a three-year term in the AAHSA (now

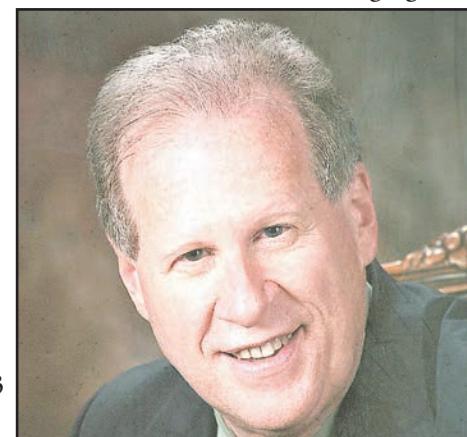


Photo courtesy River Garden

Martin A. Goetz

LeadingAge) House of Delegates.

In 1994, Goetz was the recipient of the Dr. Herb Shore Young Administrator of the Year Award by the Association of Jewish Aging Services (AJAS) in Washington, D.C.; in 2005 he was elected to the AJAS board of directors and served as its board chair from 2011-2013. In 2016, he was presented with the Dr. Herbert Shore Award of Honor.

Goetz served (2002 – 2006) as a member of the Community Advisory

Board for Av-Med Health Systems, a statewide managed healthcare organization with a central office in Gainesville. He has also served as a member of the Dean's Advisory Council at the University of North Florida College Of Health.

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So much to love at South Mandarin and Mandarin Libraries

By Kaylee Burke
mail@florianewsline.com

February is more than hearts and flowers - it's also the time to get a jump-start on your taxes, enjoy a musical performance, and honor Black History Month. With tax season in full swing, your South Mandarin and Mandarin branch libraries can take some of the load off. Throughout February, March and mid-April, both libraries will offer free tax preparation by AARP Foundation Tax-Aide.

IRS-certified volunteers will provide tax counseling and preparation services to low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those ages 60 and older. There is no income or age limit for assistance; however, AARP sites cannot assist rental property owners or small business owners. Tax

preparation will take place at Mandarin Branch Library on Thursdays starting Feb. 1 through April 12 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. and at South Mandarin Library on Tuesdays starting Feb. 6 through April 10 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

In celebration of Black History Month, the Buffalo Soldiers Historical Society will give a presentation about the history of the Buffalo Soldiers at both libraries. African-Americans have served during every U.S. conflict and this program will talk about their roles and contributions. Buffalo Soldiers will be held at South Mandarin Branch Library on Feb. 10 from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. and at Mandarin library on Feb. 13 from 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Tweens and teens aged 10 – 18 are invited to join in Mandarin Library's Teen Art Club: The Sculpture of Silence and Edmonia Lewis on Feb. 10 from 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Lewis was the first woman of African-American and Native American heritage to become an internationally renowned sculptor. Participants can create their own sculptures as they learn about the life and art of Lewis. On Feb. 14 from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m., Books with Bricks at Mandarin Library will delve into the life and contributions of Booker T. Washington. This fun, informative program will teach school-age students about Washington and the importance of access to education. Students will even have a chance to construct a school.

Garage sales are popular for selling used items, but there are alternatives, and online selling is really taking off. What site to use and how to start can be overwhelming, so "Selling Items Online," hosted at the Mandarin Library on Feb. 20 from 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., might be the best place to start. The program will cover topics such as selling goods and services online via eBay, Craigslist,



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Libraries

Mandarin Branch Library's Youth Services Librarian Isabel Santiago reads a book to Carol Turknett's pre-kindergarten students at Crown Point Elementary School's first annual Community Readers Celebration.

Etsy and Amazon Marketplace. Learn what skills are needed to successfully sell online, how to create and manage accounts on these sites, and how to stay safe and avoid scams.

Don't miss a lively musical performance by the talented Ancient City Brass Band at the Mandarin Branch Library on Feb. 17 from 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Comprised of volunteer musicians from around Northeast Florida, the band performs in a variety of ensembles, including a British Brass Band, historic brass ensemble using Civil War-era instruments, and modern quintets and quartets.

Find information about additional upcoming events at 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.

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Mandarin Garden Club announces winter programs

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslne.com

In December, Mandarin Garden Club hosted amateur photographer Carol Graham Fryer, wife of former Duval County School Superintendent John Fryer. Carol Fryer won the 2011 Audubon Magazine contest for her photography of a red-shouldered hawk who visited her backyard in Hidden Hills Country Club. She and her husband love traveling and Carol Fryer said she always has a camera in her hand. She presented a slide presentation of her work and shared her adventures of nature, birds, animals, and places all over the world she has visited.

At its general meeting on Jan. 18, the garden club had another visitor, AyoLane Halusky, who is a naturalist with the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation. Halusky is a graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design; he works as a consultant and educator for Jacksonville Arboretum. He is known for the "Owl Prowl" tours he leads at Alpine Groves Park in Switzerland and he is a Florida Master Naturalist graduate. The members of the garden club love to listen to Halusky tell them about how "plants talk." He is a hometown boy who attended Nease High School.

American Legion Mandarin Post 372 names winner in speech contest

By Sheri Rodriguez
mail@floridanewslne.com

Evan Collins won the American Legion Mandarin Post 372 Oratorical Competition held at the Northeast Florida Conservatory. Collins, a senior at Ridgeview High School, will now compete at the American Legion 5th District Oratorical Competition against winners from other Posts in the 5th District. The District Competition will be held on Feb. 10 at 11 a.m. at the Karpeles Manuscript Museum located at 101 W. 1st Street. The winner of the district competition will move on to the statewide competition.

Each contestant delivered a prepared oration as well as an oration on a randomly assigned constitutional topic. Collins impressed the judges with a speech titled,



Photo courtesy Laura Miller

Florida Master Naturalist AyoLane Halusky visited the Mandarin Garden Club in January.

Upcoming events at the Mandarin Garden Club in February include:

Feb. 8: Butterflies In Your Garden by Jeanne Hendricks, Cherokee Rose

Feb. 15: Roses by Kathleen Null, Master Gardener

Feb. 20: Nourishing Herbal Infusions by Janice Khapik, Purdue University and University of North Florida

Also, the annual \$1 Clothing Sale is scheduled for March 2 and 3. The sale will be at the clubhouse at 2892 Loretto Road from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. This sale presents gently used clothing for men, women and children. The funds from this sale support the care of the club's gardens and clubhouse. All items not sold will be donated to a local charity.



Photo courtesy Sheri Rodriguez

American Legion Mandarin Post 372 Officers: Service Officer Barry Litsky; Chaplain Buck O'Connor; Adjutant Sheri Rodriguez; Executive Board Officer Steve Sullivan, Oratorical Chair Arthur Bides; Sergeant-at-Arms Brian Lawn; and Commander Alan Painter with Michael Chen, Jason Chen, and 2018 Post 372 Oratorical Winner Evan Collins.

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Since 1938, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program has encouraged the nation's high school students to study the U.S. Constitution and to hone their public speaking skills. Visit www.legion.org/oratorical for more information.

Sheri Rodriguez is Adjutant and Service Officer, American Legion Fallen Heroes Post 372.

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Love & Marriage



Valentines traditions from around the world

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslne.com

The origins of Valentine's Day are largely unknown. Some suggest Valentine's Day was initially a way to honor St. Valentine on the anniversary of his death. Others believe it was the Christian church's way of Christianizing the Pagan celebration of Lupercalia, a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture.

Regardless of its origins, Valentine's Day is now celebrated by millions and is one of the retail industry's most lucra-

tive shopping holidays. Many different traditions can be linked to Valentine's Day. Here is a list of the interesting ways Valentine's Day is celebrated across the globe.

In South Korea, men get to enjoy the spotlight on Valentine's Day, as women bestow gifts of chocolate on them. In return, a month later men reciprocate with gifts for women on White Day. South Koreans take Valentine's Day a step further on Black Day, which falls on April

14. This is an opportunity for all single people who may not have received Valentine's Day gifts to gather at restaurants and eat a dish called "black noodles" as they celebrate their singleton status.

Denmark and Norway didn't really celebrate Valentine's Day until recently, but have now put their own spin on the traditions. Men write funny poems or rhyming love notes called Gaekkebrev and send them to women anonymously. Women must try to guess their admirers by counting dots that are put on the note that correspond to the number of letters in the man's name.

In Estonia, Valentine's Day is a day more devoted to friendship than romantic love. It is called "Sõrapäev" in Estonian, which translates to "Friend's Day." Cards and gifts are exchanged among friends.

In Wales, Valentine's Day is not celebrated. Rather, the Welsh commemorate St. Dwynwen's Day, who is their patron saint of lovers on Jan. 25. It is customary to gift love-spoons, a tradition that likely stems from the practice of sailors carving intricately decorated spoons of wood and presenting them to women they were

interested in courting or marrying.

Considered to be one of the most romantic countries in the world, France can be an ideal place to participate in Valentine's Day traditions. The French have an old custom called "une loterie d'amour," which is a drawing for love. Single men and women of all ages once entered houses that faced one another and took turns calling out to one another to find romantic matches. The men could refuse the match and leave the woman looking for another man to call on. Women who were not paired up would light a bonfire and damn the men who rejected them. The French government eventually banned the practice because of rowdy crowds.

Italian lovers celebrate Valentine's Day in much the same way as Americans. One interesting Valentine's tradition in Italy is locking padlocks to different structures, which is called "Lucchetti dell'Amore (locks of love)." Couples attach the locks to bridges, railings and lamp posts, inscribe their names and throw away the key. The action suggests the couple will be together forever.

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Shop eco-friendly Valentine's Day ideas

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslne.com

Red may be the color most often associated with Valentine's Day, but those who want environmentally friendly ways to celebrate this day of love can tint the occasion with a little green. This list of earth-conscious Valentine's Day gifts can provide inspiration for loving couples.

- Give organic chocolate. Eco-conscious chocolate connoisseurs will appreciate indulgent fine chocolates crafted with the planet in mind. Some of the world's best chocolate is produced from small cacao farms that do not employ fungicide or insecticide in their farming practices. Choose chocolate artisans that produce their chocolate from responsibly-sourced ingredients for a sweet Valentine's Day treat.

- Plant a live gift. A living gift can be a symbol of enduring love and one that gives back to the environment. Couples can explore their options at local nurser-

ies and plant a shade tree, shrubbery or even a fruit tree. This is certainly a gift that can give every year.

- Write it down. Love notes are a simple, heartfelt gift. Choose to scribble down sentiments on recycled paper with non-toxic inks. Give that love note even more traction by framing it for a lasting gift.
- Adopt an animal. Animal lovers crusade for their favorite mammals, reptiles and amphibians every day. Rather than exchanging a stuffed animal on Valentine's Day that will only take up space on a shelf or bed, consider saving the life of a real animal. Conservation agencies can always use helping hands. Donations can be used to feed and shelter pets or to restore habitats for wild animals.
- Give living plants. Flowers can express all types of emotions, but those cut blooms will begin to fade after a few days,

Shop cont. on pg. 11

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The Pantry Raiders

Decadent treats have become a staple of Valentine's Day — but not all Valentine's celebrants want to indulge in high-calorie treats with their significant others. For those who want the decadence without all those extra calories, try the following low-calorie recipe for "Rockin' Red Velvet Trifle" from Lisa Lillien's "Hungry Girl 200 Under 200: Just Desserts" (St. Martin's Press).

Rockin' Red Velvet Trifle

(Makes 8 servings)

1 packet hot cocoa mix with 20 to 25 calories
 2 tbsp. mini semi-sweet chocolate chips
 ½ cup moist-style devil's food cake mix
 ½ cup moist-style yellow cake mix
 ¼ cup fat-free liquid egg substitute
 ½ tbsp. red food coloring
 Dash of salt
 4 ounces fat-free cream cheese
 2 tbsp. Jell-O Sugar-Free Fat-Free Vanilla Instant pudding mix
 2 tbsp. Splenda No Calorie Sweetener (granulated)
 ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 8-ounce container Cool Whip (thawed)
 4 cups chopped strawberries



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
 Rockin' Red Velvet Trifle

Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray an 8-inch by 8-inch baking pan with nonstick spray. Place the cocoa mix and 1 tablespoon chocolate chips in a glass. Add 1/4 cup very hot water, and stir until mostly dissolved. Add 1/3 cup cold water.

In a large bowl, combine the cake mixes, egg substitute, food coloring, and salt. Add cocoa mixture and whisk until smooth. Pour batter into the baking pan, and sprinkle with remaining 1 tablespoon chocolate chips.

Bake until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out mostly clean, 26 to 28 minutes. Let cool completely, about 30 minutes in the pan and 30 minutes out of the pan on a cooling rack.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, stir cream cheese until smooth. In another medium bowl, combine pudding mix with Splenda. Add vanilla extract and 1/4 cup cold water, and vigorously stir until mostly smooth and slightly thickened. Add cream cheese and 1 cup Cool Whip, and stir until uniform. Cover and refrigerate.

Cut cake into 1-inch cubes. In a large glass bowl or trifle dish, evenly layer half of the cubed cake. Spread all of the pudding mixture over the cake layer. Evenly top with half of the strawberries. Continue layering with remaining cubed cake, Cool Whip and strawberries.

Shop cont. from pg. 10

especially when some flowers are flown in from all over the world. Gifting a potted plant from a local nursery is a more eco-friendly idea, and one that can last for many years to come.

- Create a free-range, organic meal. Homemade food can be a nice gesture, especially when cooks select fair-trade,

organic and free-range products. Don't forget to extend the specialized shopping to include wine or other beverages that are locally sourced.

- Give gifts of sustainable comfort. Practical but luxurious linens and clothing made from sustainable materials are great eco-friendly gifts. Bamboo bedding or organic cotton shirts offer comfort and promote environmental stewardship.



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Photo courtesy Theresa Twisdale

St. Joseph students learn about recycling

Second graders at St. Joseph Catholic School recently learned to create something new out of something recycled. The students were allowed to use recycled bottles, boxes, egg cartons, or any item they chose to turn into a new invention. Some of the students made banks, pencil holders, birdhouses, jewelry boxes, and other imaginative creations.



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School Briefs

Bartram Springs Elementary students earn science fair awards

On Dec. 20, four students from Bartram Springs Elementary learned they were winners in the Duval County School Science Fair, which had more

Photo courtesy Rachael Sirac
Eli Baskin, Caitlyn Bray, and Jason Whitney with their science fair awards.

than 250 projects submitted. Earning second place in the kindergarten category was Johnnie Swain, Eli Baskin earned the grand prize in the second grade category, third place in fifth grade was awarded to Caitlyn Bray and honorable mention in fifth grade went to Jason Whitney.

According to Paula Jeter, facilitator of the Bartram Springs Elementary Science Fair, awards were based on criteria such as scientific thought, scientific concepts, project creativity, and display. The focus was on demonstrating mastery of the scientific process.

In addition to the hard work of putting together their projects, the fifth grade winning entrants also had an opportunity interview with district judges.

Projects encompassed topics such as "The Secret Life of Batteries," "Friction Prediction," and the "Effect of Rain on Softballs."

Duval County Public Schools posts record high federal graduation rate

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) recently released the four-year federal graduation rates, and for the fifth consecutive year, Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) has earned its highest federal graduation rate in the district's history. More than 80.8 percent of its students are graduating, an increase of 2 percentage points over the prior year, and over 13 percentage

points in the last five years, making Duval County the leader in graduation improvement among the state's seven largest school districts (Broward, Dade, Duval, Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas). The gap between the district and state has narrowed from 7 percentage points to 1.5 percentage points over the past five years. Students who graduate with a standard diploma from Duval County Public Schools are required to meet state standards, which include state assessments, grade point average, and number of credits earned.

"The record high numbers seen today are an illustration of the incredible commitment to our students by our teachers and school leaders, in ensuring every child is able to graduate from our district," said Patricia S. Willis, Superintendent of Schools. "The rise of these indicators are the result of the hard work and dedication of our students, as well as our ability to create exceptional systems which allows us to monitor each individual student."

Crown Point celebrates reading

On Dec. 18, Crown Point Elementary opened its doors to community readers, including honored guests such as Dr. Patricia Willis, Duval County Public Schools Superintendent, who read "The Quilt" by Tomie dePaola to fifth grad-

Photo courtesy Terry Harper
Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Patricia Willis reads to Pam Adam's fifth grade class.

ers, and the Honorable Lori Hershey, who read "Three Snow Bears" by Jan Brett to a class of kindergarteners, as part of the school's first Community Readers Event. Many of the school's business partners, as well as other employees from the school district, came to read authentic literature and engage in literary discussions with students in every classroom.



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Get to Know . . .

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

Gladys Savlowitz

Gladys Savlowitz was born in the small town of Coal City, N.C. At four years old, after tragically losing her mother, she moved in with her beloved grandparents. Savlowitz worked on the family farm and in her grandfather's store to help with family needs and to buy her school clothes.

In 1957, yearning for a world beyond her small town life, Savlowitz answered an ad for a live in helper for a family on Long Island, N.Y. Savlowitz inflated her birthday by a year or so in an effort to convince her new employer that she was a little older than she actually was. Every year, Savlowitz enjoys a celebration of her birthday, so hiding her sadness when her big day rolled around was impossible. All was well when the employer found out the reason for her birthday discontent, as by that time, Savlowitz had already stolen the heart of the family she worked for.

Over the years, Savlowitz worked in restaurants, as a file clerk, and as a receptionist. An opportunity came for her to enroll at New York University, and she later enjoyed a 25 year career on Wall Street, serving in the customer service field for financial printers. She enjoyed hosting several exchange students during her years in New York, mostly from Japan, Germany and England.

After 9/11 the industry changed and she made the decision to retire and move to Mandarin with her three children. Savlowitz has a dear niece in the Mandarin area and so she had fell in love with North Florida dur-

ing trips down to visit. Savlowitz now also has five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She has continued her education with a Certified Nursing Assistant certification and she is passionate about working with elderly in the area. Savlowitz shares a close bond with her children. They love and admire their mother for her profound strength, integrity, selflessness, and adventurous spirit.

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

Everything is so convenient. Everything I need is right here. Shopping, my family, friends, and church are all so close by.

2. What would you consider to be your greatest accomplishment?

To be brought up from where I was and to have gotten as far in life as I have. Also, being a mother. I have really been blessed.

3. How did you realize you had such a passion for working with the elderly?

I volunteered at Memorial Hospital and I walked across the street to the nursing home and asked if I could sit and talk with someone that never had many visitors. I routinely visited four ladies often and even spent special days like Mother's Day with them, until each one passed away. I just loved it and then started spending time at The Coves at River Garden. I offer special care for seniors and transportation services. I enjoy every minute of it.



Photo by Angela Higginbotham
Gladys Savlowitz

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

I love to travel. I've been to at least 12 countries and formed close friendships all over the world. Germany is still my favorite. I went during Octoberfest one year and about lost my mind. I ended up extending my four week trip to six weeks and I almost lost my job because of it. I celebrate life and all its special moments. I throw myself a nice birthday party every year and my last one at 78 was no exception. I love spending time with my family and friends. You can find me listening to Frank Sinatra often. My favorite song is "My Way." I also enjoy serving as a zone leader in my church.

5. What is your secret for staying so young, both at heart and in appearance?

The grace of God is my strength. I love life and I live it to the fullest. No regrets. I've told myself that when I turn 80 years old, I'm going skydiving. I think I'm going to make that appointment.

Get to Know . . .

Interested in being featured?
Email Martie Thompson at
editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

Mandarin Art Fest from pg. 1

merchandise and tickets for a chance at raffle items.

There will be live entertainment throughout the weekend. The historic 100 year old Post Office and General Store will be open and manned by the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society so guests can

Do you have a memory or story to share from your visit to a Mandarin Art Festival?

The Mandarin Community Club is looking for anecdotes from patrons and visitors to share as the 50th Anniversary event approaches. Share your story via email, mandarinartfestival@gmail.com, or contact the club at (904) 268-1622.

stroll through the doors and back into history. The Mandarin Masonic Lodge will offer children's activities including a coin treasure hunt and Child ID program as a free service to the public.

The Mandarin Art Festival committee is seeking volunteers for the event as well as sponsors and business partners. Contact the Mandarin Community Club at (904) 268-1622 or mandarinartfestival@gmail.com for more information.

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Photo courtesy Joe Frisco

Butlers win Best Christmas Decoration Contest

Jason and Toni Butler of Cachet Drive in Mandarin were the winners of the first annual Best Christmas Decoration Contest held by the Mandarin Place Neighborhood Association. The event was judged by Mandarin Garden Club members Barbara Petty and Linda Thomas and a donation was made to the Mandarin Garden Club by the Mandarin Place Neighborhood Association for their time.

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Josepha Pacheco

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Dr. Leslie Newmeyer, Au.D of Jax Audiology and Hearing Aid Center partnered with Florida NewsLine late last year to make a difference for a deserving individual with the gift of hearing. Many entries were received and Dr. Newmeyer was so touched by the compelling stories that she was able to obtain an additional pair of hearing aids after



Photo courtesy Linda Gay

Dr. Leslie Newmeyer, Au.D of Jax Audiology and Hearing Aid Center, fits Josepha Pacheco with her new Unique 440 premium hearing aids.

"This year, for the first time, I am fearful of losing the ability to communicate with my mother,

which is one of the most precious things we have with each other and keeps her connected with the world," Edwards wrote in her nomination of her mother for the contest.

Now with her new hearing aids, Pacheco is looking forward to hearing and communicating with her family members and enjoying her favorite

Spanish novelas television programs. She is very grateful for the generosity of Widex.



Dr. Leslie Newmeyer, Josepha Pacheco and Maria Edwards.

Pacheco is 78 years old and has lived in the United States since 1966 when she fled from the communist regime in Cuba. According to her daughter, Maria Edwards, Pacheco was diagnosed

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Gardening

Winter in Florida

By Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewslne.com

After a mild start to the season, 2018 has brought us the coldest winter snap since 1989, including flurries of snow just a few miles west and north of Duval County. While our climate is not tropical, many of the plants that grace our landscapes are from more southerly areas and will have really suffered unless well protected.

It may be tempting to tidy up after freezing temperatures have done their worst, but to save plants' potentially still living root systems as well as top growth, leave the major clean up till spring when new growth will show exactly how much of a plant is still alive. This article describes how we may best protect our plants and since the winter is still young it could prove useful: <https://tinyurl.com/y9qbqpcq>

Gardening is potentially fraught with difficulties, and it may sometimes feel like a battle to stay ahead of adverse weather, insect pests, and diseases in our own yards and gardens. Unfortunately there are wider problems that need national or even international cooperation. For example, there is currently an emerging problem in Europe, namely a bacterial disease called *Xylella fastidiosa*. This has been active in parts of the U.S. and Brazil for years, although not yet in Florida, and affects some ornamental plants as well as olive trees and grapes.

Florida has a proactive approach to dealing with cases of invasive pests and diseases. In the case of sudden oak death, action by the state successfully isolated nursery specimens carrying the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum* which causes the disease. It's hard to imagine the south without its majestic oaks. Unfortunately, another more successful invader, the redbay ambrosia beetle has wreaked havoc in our coastal areas, where it has caused the fungus on which it feeds to outright kill many of the native redbay trees (*Persea borbonia*) and swampbay (*P. palustris*), and it is threatening the economically important commercial avocado (*P. americana*) grown in south Florida.

This may sound like a call to arm yourselves with a battery of chemicals, but please don't. Take regular care of your plants, and scout for insects and diseases. If you find a problem that is difficult to remedy, the Extension Service can help. Master Gardeners have the resources to help you determine what's wrong, and if there's a potentially serious problem they can take the next steps to help ensure the insect or disease doesn't spread.

Either photograph your problem plant material or insect and email the Extension Office, at duvalcountymastergardener@gmail.com. Photographs should be high quality, and show clearly the plant or insect. Describe how the problem began and progressed. Or visit the office at 1010 N. McDuff Ave. from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. where you can discuss the situation with a master gardener. You can also telephone to ask for advice on (904) 255-7450, but a picture or specimen would be easier to diagnose. Plant material should be double bagged, and insects should be sealed in a clear container in a little rubbing alcohol to preserve them.

Check out the January/February issue of A New Leaf: <https://tinyurl.com/ydxlcj6x>. There are plenty of pointers for keeping the garden in tip top shape: the regular sections on "What to Plant" and "What to Do" are invaluable.

On Feb. 24, the Extension Service will host the annual program "A Day of Gardening." It is always very popular, so register early. You'll find details in A New Leaf.

Lesley Arrandale is a Master Gardener with the Duval County Cooperative Extension Service/City of Jacksonville Agriculture Department, which is a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) and the City of Jacksonville.

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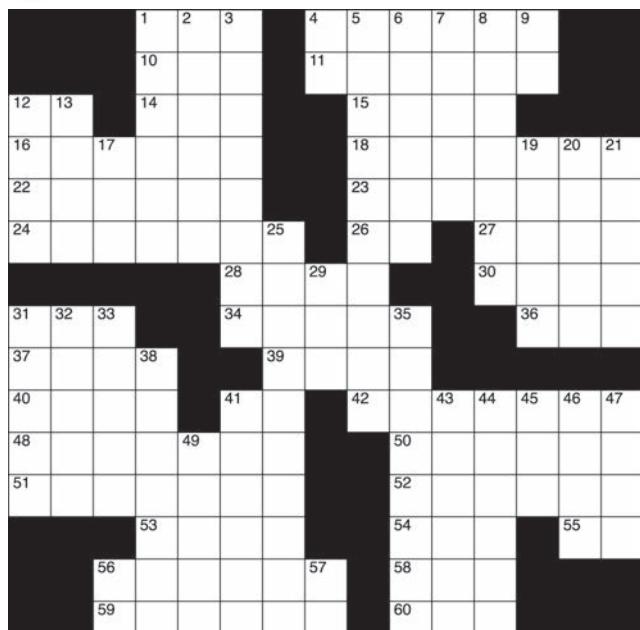
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 2
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CLUES ACROSS

- Plural of be
- Dress
- Nothing
- Relating to apes
- They protect and serve
- Swindle
- Show's partner
- Lift
- Raise up
- Do something to an excessive degree
- Occupies
- Power-driven aircraft
- Indicates position
- Matchstick games
- This and __
- No longer here
- Health insurance
- Spore-producing receptacle on fern frond

CLUES DOWN

- Monetary unit
- Sweet potatoes
- Tropical Asian plant
- Guilty or not guilty
- Carbon dioxide
- Able to arouse intense feeling
- Earl's jurisdiction
- Omitted
- Heartbeat
- Albania capital
- Fashion accessory
- Interaction value analysis
- Symbol of exclusive ownership
- More promising
- __ student, learns healing
- Nonresident doctor
- Midway between east and southeast
- Enrages
- Capital of Saudi Arabia
- Uses in an unfair way
- Cesium
- Written works
- Breakfast item
- Found in showers
- A way of fractioning
- Unit of measurement
- Sailboat
- Indian goddess
- For each
- Farewell
- Ethnic group of Sierra Leone
- German industrial city
- Measures intensity of light
- Small, faint constellation
- Promotes enthusiastically

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to birds.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 17 = i)

A. **1 17 8 9 21**
Clue: Feathered limbs

B. **14 25 18 2**
Clue: On bird's face

C. **11 23 17 9 3 10**
Clue: Process of flying

D. **21 24 18 6**
Clue: Coast in air

ORNITHOLOGY WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

ABDOMEN
ABITOTIC
ACCLIMATION
AERODYNAMIC
AFTERFEATHER
AIR
ALBUMEN
BEND
BICONICAL
BILL
BODIVERSITY
BIPEDAL
BIRDS
BLIND
BREAST
BROOD
CACHING
CALAMUS
CAMBER
CARRION
CLUTCH
DIURNAL
DIVE
DORSAL
DOWN
EGGS
FORMATION
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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewsline.com

Sailfishing has been really hot just a few miles off the beach. A little farther offshore kings, cobia, and dolphin have been providing a decent bite. Closer to shore and in the waterway, blues, trout, drum, sheepshead and reds are there for the taking on the warmer prettier days.

Wow! Hard to believe the fishing is this good and it is still only February.

Believe it or not, the fishing really is this good if you are willing to jump in the car and make a drive several hours south on Interstate 95 or Interstate

75. While there is probably no better fishing anywhere else in the United States than Florida, Florida's quality fishing (just like everywhere else) depends on what the weather happens to be. With the preferred sustained water temperature for many of Florida's species of fish needing to be in the 60s and above, it only makes sense that the farther south you drive, the better the fishing will get. A not so long drive can be the answer for any of those that might be suffering from fishing withdrawal as we wait on our own area waters to warm with the coming spring.

At this time of year, we are hopefully just a few weeks away from spring and



Photo by Metro Creative

a new fishing season. Now is the time to be checking tackle, charging batteries, getting the boat serviced, and making final preparations.

Just a few days of warmer temperatures will be all it takes to turn on a large-mouth bass.

A week of warmer temperatures at the beach may be all that is needed bring on a bluefish bite. A couple weeks of warm weather should definitely bring on a whiting run in the surf, black drum in our area waterways,

and the return of a variety of species of saltwater fish to the St. Johns River.

As spring approaches it's almost time to start fishing again. In the meantime, if you are ready to fish now, a quick drive south could help those fishing withdrawals with some pretty nice catches and a weekend the whole family can enjoy.

Fishing Report: Time to be getting ready for springtime fishing. Bass equipment first, surf equipment second, and get early an appointment for the boat's new year servicing.

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Waterfall Wonderland in Croatia

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

My love of photography often takes me to places off the grid. One such detour in Croatia took me to Plitvice Lakes National Park (PLEET-veet-seh), renowned for its breathtaking lakes. The park lies about two hours from Zagreb or the coast. I hopped a train to Zagreb, the capital, arranging a pick up the next morning for a day trip to the National Park.

One of Croatia's most popular tourist attractions, Plitvice achieved UNESCO World Heritage status in 1979. The lakes draw visitors, but make up only one percent of the park's beech and fir forest. Twelve upper lakes lie on dolomite surfaces and four lower lakes on limestone known as karst. A series of cascading waterfalls separated by natural travertine dams connect the lakes. The karst makes the lakes glisten in hues of Jacksonville Jaguar teal, brilliant emerald, and azure blue.

The tour guide escorted my small group through the park entrance, explaining the trails and transportation system. We were then free to hike at our own pace, take a boat and bus ride, and return to the meeting spot five hours later. This plan allowed each person to go at their desired speed, stopping wherever the view compelled them.

I started down a paved trail with my travel buddy, Judy. We'd barely gone 20 feet when we discovered a magnificent overlook showcasing the aptly named Big Waterfall, 250 feet high. Its depth reminded me of the Grand Canyon, but here a turquoise lake anchored the dramatic drop. The gorge walls released water in lacy fairyland tendrils. I'd been expecting stunning waterfalls, but this

view made me feel like I was floating through a dream. I stared in awe, enjoying a Zen moment.

Eventually we trotted off, as countless more waterfalls waited. Descending a zigzag course, at times steep, we came upon boardwalks hovering just above the water. The walkways provide an intimate connection to the surroundings. They have no handrails so you must watch your step. For the unsteady the extreme shallowness of the lake is comforting.

Proceeding onward, more unusual land formations and hundreds — no, thousands — of miniature falls emerged. Finally, a restaurant and outdoor picnic area beckoned. We gobbled down lunch, then boarded the park's silent, pollution-free electric boat to cross the park's biggest lake. After what I'd seen, Lake Kozjak didn't impress, but I enjoyed the restful ride. The landing spot presented a bonanza of gurgling and gushing fountains. They reminded of the scene in the movie "Fantasia" where the water never stops.

Judy and I chose to hike the longer trail, but didn't realize just how lengthy it was. I must admit Plitvice could use better signage. We ended up walking seemingly endless miles, some on dirt trails, others on planking. As the afternoon wore on, we began to wear down. Still, we heard a waterfall rounding every corner, and catching sight of it, we'd sigh, "Oh my, how gorgeous." Thrilling though it is, this park produces scenic overload. Exhausted, but delighted we finally climbed up to the bus station and rode to the trailhead. We still had to hike back to the entrance.

To spend a day in an area of concentrated beauty, to breathe, and listen to nature is an intoxicating joy. Compared with the majesty of Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Niagara Falls, Plitvice is otherworldly.

Is it worth a trip to Croatia? Absolutely. One of the best gifts I have ever given myself.

If you go: The park gets overcrowded in the summer. I went in April, which



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Waterfalls in Plitvice Lakes National Park

seemed ideal — not too hot or cold.

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

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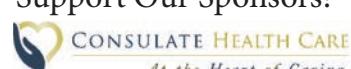


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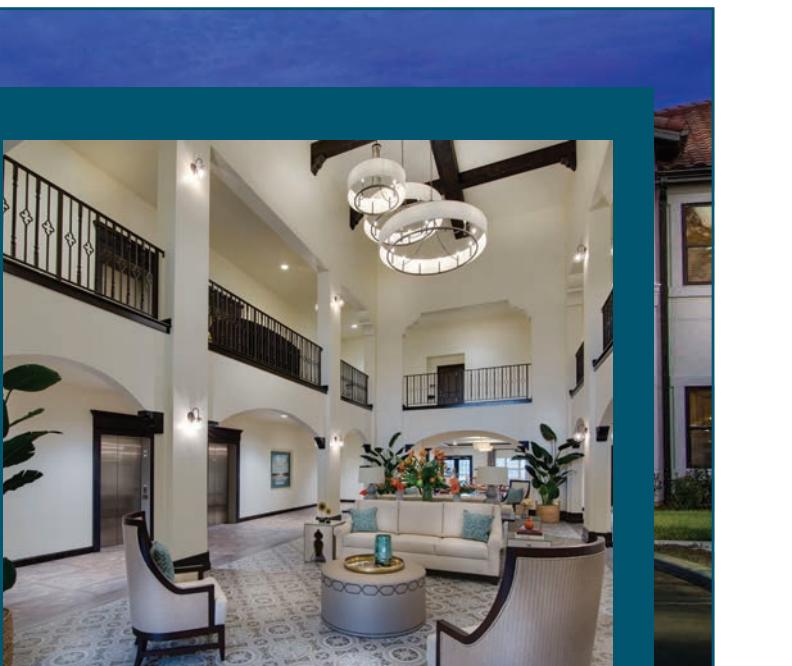
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