

Mandarin NewsLine

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE INSIDE!



DECEMBER 2018 Volume 13 Issue 2

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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Puzzles

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.



Photo by MetroCreative

Community Nutcracker

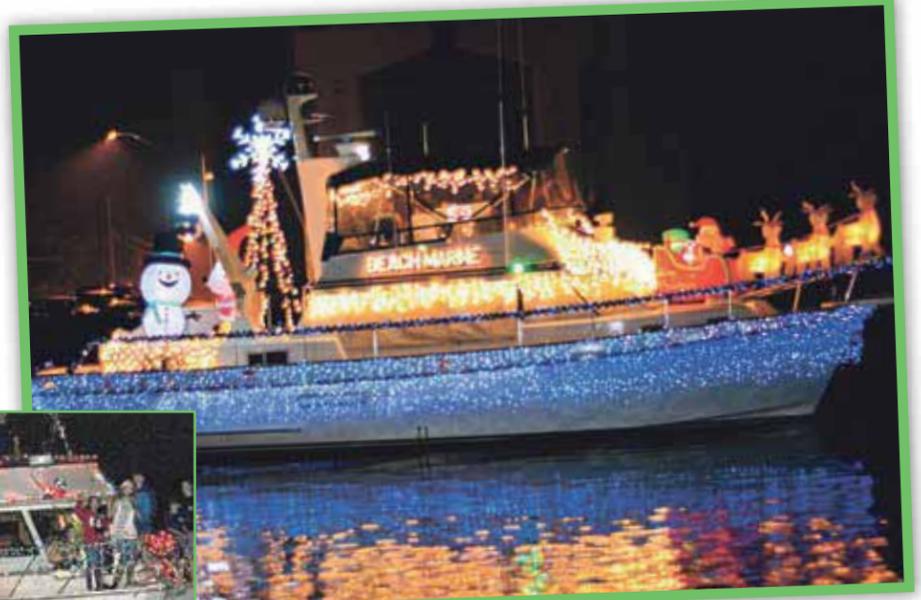
Dec. 7 at 8 p.m.
Dec. 8 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Florida Theatre
www.jaxnutcracker.org

Artistic Directors Dulce Anaya, Debra Rankin and Mark Spivak continue this holiday tradition which began in 1992. Community Nutcracker is the only nonprofit, volunteer-run organization that offers a portion of its proceeds to local charitable agencies with each performance and has donated more than \$600,000 in the past 25 years. The performing company is made up of local talent with more than 200 dancers

Nutcracker cont. on pg. 14

The “Holiday on the Creek” boat parade will again be presented by the Julington Creek Prop Club for the community to enjoy. This holiday tradition will take place on Saturday, Dec. 1, 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. Participants will decorate their boats, homes, and docks to spread the joy and excitement of the holidays.

The Julington Creek Prop Club is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization committed to sharing a passion for boating and local waterways



Photos courtesy Julington Prop Club
Festive boats participate in previous Holiday on the Creek boat parades.

Holiday on the Creek: Annual Julington Creek Boat Parade to spread holiday cheer

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

with everyone while also enhancing the boating experience.

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.

“Approximately 40 boats are expected to join,” said Julington Creek Prop Club Commodore Mark Meacham.

“Prizes will be awarded for the top three voted on boats and top three docks.”

Following the parade, the annual after-party for participants will take place at the Julington Creek Marina. Boaters who participate in the parade are invited to join in on a night of fun with plenty of food and raffle prizes donated by the community and local businesses. The board will announce the first, second and third place winners at the celebration.



The community is encouraged to come out and enjoy this special holiday event.

It’s time for Winter Celebration 2018

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Museum and Historical Society will host the 19th annual Winter Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Walter Jones Historical Park, located at 11964 Mandarin Road. A wide range of activities are planned for the community that will educate, entertain and delight all ages. Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit the celebration from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Activities will include horse-drawn hayrides by Jacksonville Carriage, nature crafts and rock painting for kids, and s’mores and old fashioned games (the hayride and s’mores have a small donation requested to cover the expenses).

The Webb/Jones Farmhouse, the 1898 St. Joseph’s Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children, the 1876 barn and Losco Winery will all be open

for tours and there will be demonstrations of bridge playing and weaving.

A special display, “In Search of Valor,” features the common foot soldier of the Civil War, both Union and Confederate, with simulated encampment with period tents, weapons, uniforms and soldiers’ personal effects. The Union

Winter Celebration cont. on pg. 15

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Blue Christmas Service: Friday, December 21 - 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Services: 4:30pm | 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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Mandarin NewsLine Community Newspaper is a free monthly publication distributed via bulk mail to all addresses in Zip Codes 32223, 32258 and selected routes in 32257. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@FloridaNewsLine.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Florida NewsLine. Advertising Rates are available by request. Florida NewsLine is not responsible for advertisement content or accuracy of information provided by its advertisers. Nor does Florida NewsLine endorse any of the products or services included in this publication. Florida NewsLine reserves the right to refuse advertisement or copy from any advertiser. All rights are reserved and no portion of this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the publisher. ©2018.



BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Gabi!



BREED:

Five-year-old German Shepherd

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:

Chasing her frisbee in the lake and swimming

FAVORITE TREAT:

Peanut Butter doggie ice cream

FAVORITE FRIEND:

The family cats

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THIER NAME:

From the moment we first saw her, we knew she looked just like a "Gabi"

This month's contest sponsored by:

Julington Creek Animal Walk
12075-300 San Jose Blvd

www.julingtoncreekanimalhospital.com

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answers to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and you could win a Gift Certificate!

Does your business cater to pets? Would you like to sponsor our contest?

Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet or sponsor the BFF contest.

January's Enhanced Section Health & Wellness

A health provider?
A fitness gym?
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Mandarin NewsLine - January Ad Deadline is DECEMBER 10th

DECEMBER Special Section

PGS 12-13
Holiday Gift Guide

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MYSTERY PHOTO



Can you guess where this is?

Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.

Last month's Mystery Photo was the Mandarin Garden Club.
Our winner was Patrick Munn. Congratulations!

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Dec. 1
Third annual Holiday Tree Lighting
5 p.m.
Westminster Woods on Julington Creek
Hosted by Rotary Club of Bartram Trail and Westminster Woods

Dec. 1
Julington Creek Holiday Light Parade
7 p.m.
Julington Creek Bridge area

Dec. 1
Bingo Night at St. Joseph's
Doors open 6:45 p.m.; Games start 7:15 p.m.
Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road
Open to the community; (904) 742-8777

Dec. 3
Southside Newcomers Club First Monday Coffee
10 a.m.
Mimi's Cafe in St Johns Town Center
sncmembership84@gmail.com

Dec. 4
Shuffleboard
1:30 p.m. (repeating event on Tuesdays)
Mandarin Park, next to tennis courts at park entrance
Just show up unless it rains

Dec. 4
Honeybee Quilt Guild
6:30 p.m.
Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 2501 Loretto Rd.
www.honeybeequilters.org (Repeats first Tuesday of each month)

Dec. 5
Playing HOOKie crochet, loom and knitters group
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Whole Foods on San Jose Boulevard
paulab2097@gmail.com (repeating event on

Wednesdays)

Dec. 5
Free Tools to Quit Smoking class
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Memorial Hospital
Call Northeast Florida AHEC, (904) 482-0189 to register

Dec. 8
Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.

Dec. 8
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.dosafl.com/outreach/catholic-writers-guild/ or writerrod@comcast.net

Dec. 8
Daughters of American Revolution (DAR), Jacksonville Chapter
11 a.m.
Blue Fish restaurant
(904) 333-5222

Dec. 11
Service Officer available
4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive
(904) 268-4974 (Repeats second Tuesday of each month)

Dec. 12
Dementia Support for Caregivers
3:30 p.m.
River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
Repeating event on the second Wednesday of each month

Dec. 12
World Changes presented by Rethreaded with guest speaker Susan Wertham
11:15 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Ramada Inn, 3131 Hartley Road
Presented by First Coast Jacksonville Women's Connection, affiliated with Stonecroft
RSVP by Dec. 5: (916) 662-2263 or mihae.brown@gmail.com

Dec. 13
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

Dec. 13
Mandarin Council networking luncheon
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.
www.mandarinCouncil.org

Dec. 13
Magnolia Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club
10 a.m.
Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
(904) 707-5509; mandaringardenclub.org

Dec. 13
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

Dec. 15
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)

Dec. 15
Mandarin Toastmasters meeting
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
South Mandarin Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.
MandarinToastmasters.org

Dec. 17
All Star Quilt Guild
9:45 a.m.
First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

Dec. 18
Dogwood Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club
10 a.m.
Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
(904) 886-4562; mandaringardenclub.org

Dec. 20
Cherokee Rose Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club
10 a.m.
Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
(210) 910-0672; mandaringardenclub.org

Dec. 27
Live Oak Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club
7 p.m.
Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road
mandaringardenclub.org

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Family folding fun at the library

Holiday Origami at the Mandarin Branch Library will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. and will allow patrons to enjoy the ancient art of paper folding as a new favorite pastime. The special session is geared for all ages, and will focus on holiday and winter-themed origami, including origami ornaments. See up-close folding techniques and get comfortable learning the basics or making your own advanced origami designs. Supplies will be provided. Call the library at (904) 262-5201 for more information.

Mandarin Women's Club looks forward to busy December

The ladies of the Mandarin Women's Club will attend a special performance of "Elf" at Alhambra Theatre and Dining on Dec. 20. The luncheon will feature festive holiday items, including homemade goodies, wine, holiday decorations, jewelry, and scarves, available to win with the purchase of raffle tickets. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and reservations for the luncheon are required. The luncheon cost is \$17 and must be received by Thursday, Dec. 13. To make reservations and obtain payment instructions, call Mary at (904) 859-6299 or email her at mcshell@comcast.net. Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for more information on events, photos, and membership forms.

Birding seminar offered

Wild Birds Unlimited, located at 450 State Road 13N, will host a free birding seminar, Nest Boxes for Birds, on Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. Presented by Florida Master Naturalist and photographer Gary Whiting, attendees will learn interesting bird nest-building and pairing behavior, and the proper nest box size, shape, and location optimal for attracting and observing your feathered friends. Eastern bluebirds, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, woodpeckers, owls, and other species often need help finding suitable cavity nesting locations, especially when their native habitat has been altered or dead trees have been removed. The seminar is free, but space is limited; call the store for reservations at (904) 230-3242.

Mandarin Community Club holds annual Wreath Laying Ceremony

The Mandarin Community Club held its annual Wreath Laying Ceremony in honor of Veterans Day on Sunday, Nov. 11 within the Billard Commemorative Park on Brady Road. The American Heritage Girls, FL Troop 1512, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and Don Reynolds of the Northeast Florida Conservatory performed "Taps." Club members and veterans Bob Waterston (LTC, U.S. Army, Ret.) and Dr. Lawrence Lisska (CDR, USN Ret.) assisted Club President Emily Lisska

in the placement of the wreath. Representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution also paid tribute to veterans with the laying of an additional wreath from their organization. This is the 11th year the Mandarin Community 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, something the club is very proud of. Visit mandarincommunityclub.org for additional information on the Mandarin Community Club as well as programs and events.

Celebrate Chanukkah with annual outdoor Chanukiyah lighting and party

On Monday, Dec. 3 from 5:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., JCA member families will gather at the Jewish Community Alliance, 8505 San Jose Blvd., to celebrate Chanukkah. The event begins with the lighting of the JCA's giant outdoor chanukiyah, which was sculpted by local artist David Ponsler. This evening marks one of the agency's

most festive events, with hundreds of attendees celebrating the start of the eight-day festival of lights. Chanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. The lighting of the nine-branched chanukiyah used during Chanukkah commemorates the miracle of a day's worth of Menorah oil lasting eight days. The lighting will be followed by a family-style dinner and activities.



Photo courtesy Lynn Cuda
Dr. Larry Lisska and Bob Waterston at the Wreath Laying Ceremony in honor of Veterans Day.

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with Jacksonville City Council Member
Tommy Hazouri, At Large District 3

Q: What Public Works updates do you have to share?

A: There are several drainage projects now in the construction phase in Mandarin. The project to remove flooding at Orange Picker Road is expected to be completed in January 2019. The Hartley Road drainage rehabilitation is expected to begin in January 2019 and be completed in October 2019. Related to hurricane flooding north of

Hartley Road, the project will increase the size of the existing culvert under the road. Finally, the Sunbeam Road drainage project is in the design phase. This project includes removing and replacing existing under-drains, culverts, curbs and gutters for approximately 900 feet of roadway.

Q: What is the latest news on local parks?

A: The Parks Department is working to develop an outside learning area at the South Mandarin Branch Library in the area once planned to be a dog park. Don't worry, Mandarin will still have a dog park, just not at this location. The project is in the planning stages and the schedule is being developed. The close proximity to the library allows for development for creative space as well as physical activity. In addition, green space is planned to make this one of the most beautiful parks in Jacksonville. The children's playground equipment will go out for bid in December and the park should be completed in spring 2019.

Hope Alliance Trust Fund to stop violence in the community. Thirty-seven organizations will be awarded funding up to \$10,000 each to combat youth violence and will be required to submit quarterly reports for accountability. This will begin immediately across Duval County.

Q: The Holiday Season is upon us. Do you have any safety advice to share?

A: With the Holiday Season, remember keep gifts in your home or in your locked vehicle out of view. Most importantly, remember the "9 p.m. Routine" and remove all valuables and guns from your vehicle and lock your car doors and your home. I'd like to wish everyone a safe and joyous Holiday Season, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanzaa.

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.

Q: Do you have anything to share from the City of Jacksonville?

A: The Kids Hope Alliance recently announced awarding mini grants to local organizations to fight youth crime in Jacksonville. The Jacksonville City Council awarded \$360,000 to the Kids

Inquiring Minds want to know!
By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Are you puzzled about something going on in Mandarin or wondering about whatever happened on a topic from a previous issue? Email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.com by the fifth of the month and we will do our best to track down the information for you.

THE 19TH ANNUAL MANDARIN WINTER CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1st
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Santa & Mrs. Claus • Horse-Drawn Hay Rides • Civil War Re-enactors
Children's Games & Crafts • Meet the Maple Leaf Divers
All Historic Buildings Open • Mandarin Frogs for Sale
Antique Cars • Music All Day

Walter Jones Historical Park
11964 Mandarin Rd.
Information: 904-268-0784
www.mandarinmuseum.net

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with Jacksonville City Council Member
Matt Schellenberg (District 6)

Q: Do you have an update on the trees to be planted on Mandarin Road?

A: The city will be planting additional trees along Mandarin Road to replenish trees damaged in the past two hurricanes. The landscaping design has been approved by our arborist and planting should start early in the first quarter of 2019 and be completed during the first quarter.

Q: When is the Florida Department of Transportation going to begin the beautification of Interstate-295?

A: I recently talked to officials from FDOT and the most recent update is they won't start planting trees until 2020. I'm very disappointed in this. They have definitely over-promised and under-delivered.

Q: Last month, you mentioned a few things you wanted to talk about this month regarding looking forward, specifically three terms and out and the Craig Airfield. Can you expand on that?

A: In the 1990s, citizens voted for "two terms and out" for our area, but what we have is "two terms and recycle." I don't think what is happening now, with musical chairs for elected officials, is what citizens had in mind. I think maybe we should consider "three terms and out" to build institutional knowledge and experience. I also think that this would actually result in more people running for office to challenge an incumbent than we have now. As constituents of Mandarin, should we revisit this? Were the goals of voting two terms and out realized? The world is

changing and we shouldn't be hampered by decisions made 27 years ago that may no longer be relevant (like a landline phone.)

Q: How does Craig Field factor into this?

A: Again, about the same time ago, citizens said they didn't want an expansion of the Craig Field runway. But in that time, jets have become more efficient and most cities have an executive airfield. I think it would greatly benefit the City of Jacksonville overall to review an extension to the runway to potentially provide a true executive airport. Again, looking forward.

Q: How do you think we should be looking forward for Mandarin?

A: I think we need to have a civil and open discussion about what Mandarin is now and who is going to buy Mandarin homes in the future. We have good schools in Mandarin, but we are hampered by the perception of Duval County Schools and are competing with NW St. Johns County for young families. We need to be forward thinking. For instance, we need substantially more and wider sidewalks to connect our neighborhoods. I'm working on this. We also need to improve our playgrounds with more fun equipment for our smaller parks as well as our regional parks. If readers have any additional ideas, please forward them 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.



with Duval School Board Member,
District 7, Lori Hershey

Q: What's the latest Duval County School Board news?

A: We swore in three new board members on Nov. 20: Elizabeth Andersen for District 2; Darryl Willie for District 4; and Charlotte Joyce for District 6, and I am looking forward to working with them. I was pleased to be voted the new chair of the school board and Warren Jones will be the vice-chair. I believe we have a very strong board and the board's good work will continue under the strong leadership of Dr. Greene.

The Florida School Board Association's conference will be held at the end of November and all board members will attend. The conference will include new board member training, workshops for educational issues specific to the State of Florida and ethics training. It's a comprehensive week to learn more about best practices for school boards across the state as well as professional development for board members.

Q: Do you have an update on the Mandarin High School security concerns?

A: On Nov. 7, Dr. Greene, Chief Edwards and I attended the SAC meeting at Mandarin High School to discuss security concerns from the October events at the school. I posted a video of Dr. Greene's statement on my Facebook page. (<https://www.facebook.com/duvalschools7/>)

Q: What can you tell us about the Seventh Generation Classical Academy charter school application?

A: The application for this charter school

was denied by the board because it failed to meet requirements set by the State of Florida. The school, affiliated with Cross View Baptist Church, can still go back and make corrections to its application or appeal to the state, so there is still the possibility that it will be approved. The school is proposed to be located right down the street from River City Science Academy - Mandarin and Christ Church's private school. We have eight charter schools in District 7 — the most of any district in the city. All of them offer K – 8 and one is a K – 12. Mandarin parents have not only their neighborhood school options, but eight others. As a board member and as a resident of Mandarin, I believe in choice, but I question when Mandarin becomes saturated with schools.

Q: What is coming up on the school district calendar?

A: It's not too early to mark calendars for the School Choice Expo, to be held Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. I encourage everyone to visit their local schools as well as consider other schools at the expo. We have strong schools in Mandarin, including two A-rated high schools.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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

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Briefs

Young cancer survivor honored as 1,000th Proton Therapy patient

At a private reception surrounded by fellow patients, cancer survivors and her care team, Ackerman Cancer Center honored Alyssa Castro, a 25-year-old Jacksonville woman diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma, as its 1,000th Proton Therapy patient.

“It is very comforting to know that I am the 1,000th patient. It helps to know that other people have gone through the same thing and had great success, and that I am in great hands with the team that is taking care of me,” said Castro.

In addition to receiving chemotherapy, radiation therapy was a crucial piece of Castro’s cancer plan. One of the many advances in the treatment of Hodgkin Lymphoma is the utilization of targeted therapies, such as Proton Therapy.

“Proton Therapy was an ideal choice for Ms. Castro’s case. Being that she is so young, we want to ensure that we spare as much healthy tissue as possible to prevent secondary cancers later in life,” said Babita Jyoti, MD, the lead physician on Castro’s case.

“The first thousand patients becomes the foundation for the next thousand, and the thousand after that. I am very excited to build on that foundation to continue to provide high quality, life saving care for the patients in our community,” said Scot Ackerman, MD, Medical Director of Ackerman Cancer Center.

Bridal roadshow to benefit Daughters of the American Revolution

“I Do ... Portrait of a Bride” is a unique roadshow featuring bridal gowns from the Victorian era to the present. Presented by Leigh Anne LaRue Brown, a member of Daughters of the American Revolution, this first showing in Jacksonville will be held on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019 in the Grand Ballroom of the Ramada Inn Mandarin. Doors will open at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m. with the show and Q&A session from 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Brown boasts a private collection of more than 300 varied gowns and selects several to bring to each roadshow. Brown loves genealogy, history, and weddings. Her collection started 25 years ago with her grandmother’s, mother’s, and her own wedding gown.

Seating is limited; an advance ticket costing \$65 is required. All proceeds benefit the Daughters of the American Revolution and its tenets: Patriotism, Education and Historical Preservation. Contact Susan Norwood at (904) 268-7357 or pippin53@comcast.net for more information or for tickets.

Audiologist joins practice

Audiologist Dr. Judenie Raphael will join Bartram Park Family ENT in December. Like the practice’s owner, Dr. Jeffrey Sandler, Dr. Raphael is dedicated to outstanding patient service and supports the practice’s motto “Patient Driven, Physician Led.”

Dr. Raphael earned her Clinical Doctor of Audiology degree (Au.D.) from the University of Florida in 2013. She previously worked for UF Jacksonville Physicians and brings many years of experience to provide evidence-based, comprehensive, high quality care. She has a passion for medical audiology and thrives in helping her patients to lead active social lives and to maintain strong family relationships.

Dr. Raphael provides diagnostic hearing evaluations and vestibular assessments. She is an expert in fitting hearing aids that provide optimal comfort, security, and sound to treat each patient’s individual challenges created by their hearing loss. She focuses on aural rehabilitation, hearing instrument fittings, tinnitus management, and hearing conservation. She enjoys spending her free time with her husband and sons.

Additionally, Dr. Raphael is experienced with and holds clinical interests in cochlear implants, bone anchored hearing aids (BAHA), Bluetooth audio streaming capabilities of hearing aids, and electrophysiology. She is a current member of the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA).

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Back in Time with Brett

By Brett Nolan
mail@floridanewsline.com

This month, let's go back in time to when a local house museum was once home to one of the largest citrus farms in Mandarin. Let's go back in the late 19th Century to the Major William Wirt Webb Farmhouse. After growing up in New York, serving in the Union army as a general and after many years of service well beyond the Civil War, Webb was discharged from the military after an eye injury. This injury led Webb to purchase 30 acres of land for a farm in Mandarin along the St. Johns River. In 1875 this house was built along with a barn and 1000-foot wharf for produce shipment from his farm to steam boats via the river. The retired major even had a wooden railroad track built on this dock, so his produce could be rolled out to the ships instead of hauled by horse and wagon. On his land, he grew oranges, potatoes, cucumbers, beans and strawberries. Webb sold 10 acres (mostly where the Mandarin Presbyterian Church is today) to one of his friends in 1878.



Photo courtesy Brett Nolan
The Webb Farmhouse

roads. He and his wife, Edith, moved into the farmhouse in the early 1900s and raised a family of seven. This home stayed in the Jones family for the majority of the 20th Century. In 1993, the descendants of Walter Jones sold 10 acres of Major Webb's original land to the City of Jacksonville to make the city's first Historical Park, protecting it from any future infamous Mandarin developments.

Since its opening in 2000, the home has been restored to its original early 20th century appearance and stands as an excellent example of local historic preservation. Today, you can see and tour the home thanks to the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. You can learn more about Major Webb and his time in Mandarin in Bob Nay's book, "I Am a Full-Fledged Floridian Now," offered at the museum gift shop.

Brett Nolan is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net to learn more about Mandarin's history.

Working with Calvin and Harriet Beecher Stowe to establish the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour right down the road, he was very active in the community of Mandarin. Major Webb died in 1893 and 20 acres of his homestead were then bought by Walter Jones in 1902. Webb, his wife Clara and other family members are buried in Mandarin Cemetery.

Jones was an immigrant from England who served as Postmaster and ran the Mandarin Store and Post Office, located at the corner of Mandarin and Brady



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Battle for the best chili at 22nd annual Mandarin Fall Festival

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewline.com

Held on a crisp and cool fall Saturday, Nov. 17 at RiverPlace shopping center, the 22nd annual Fall Festival and Chili Cook Off exceeded attendance expectations. This highly anticipated event had an estimated crowd of 1,500 who came to enjoy chili tasting, music, craft vendors and a bounce house for kids. New this year was the opportunity to enjoy a beer or glass of wine while tasting the varieties of homemade chili.



Photo courtesy Jessica Wells
First place winner in the chili cook off was Richard Becker

A panel of local celebrity judges had the delicious task of blind tasting the 15 registered chili cook off recipes. The panel of judges, which included Mandarin City Councilman Matt Schellenberg, State Rep. Jason Fischer, and Mandarin Museum & Historical Society president Sandy Arpen, selected Richard Becker as the first place winner, followed by Nathan Caldwell of Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers. The People's Choice Award went to Stumbling Steer BBQ.

Proceeds from the silent auction will benefit Safe Kids of Northeast Florida, the Mandarin Food Bank, Junior Achievement and Mandarin Council's Janice Meisel Scholarship Fund.

"I'd like to give a big 'Thank you' to the community and all of our sponsors, vendors and chili cookers," said Alan Painter, who chaired the event for the Mandarin Council. "It was so wonderful to see so many from the Mandarin community come together for a good time, right in the heart of the community."

Attendees were able to peruse the wares of more than 25 arts and craft vendors and there was a bounce house for the kids. The Northeast Florida Conservatory's jazz band and the Top Shelf Band were big hits and helped draw in the crowds.

Sponsors come together to make this event a success year after year. The sponsors for the 22nd annual event were Jax Chamber Mandarin Council, VyStar Credit Union, Florida Blue, Mandarin NewsLine, Alan Painter at Edward Jones, Mandarin Neighbors, Mosquito Joe, About Floors 'n More, Alli Stephanuik at Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, Gold Star Adjusters, Primero Spine and Joint, SBS Promotional Solutions, Summer Digital, Swimming Safari, The Flying Locksmiths and Northeast Florida Conservatory.

[Editor's Note: Check back next month for more details and photos from the Fall Festival and Chili Cook Off, including an update on the total funds raised for charity.]

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Bartram Park Car Show and Festival collects Toys for Tots

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

Railing Chiropractic held the fourth annual Bartram Park Car Show and Fall Festival on Saturday, Nov. 3. Each year the event gets larger and more exciting. The proceeds benefit Toys for Tots this holiday season. Dr. Christopher Railing enjoys restoring old cars himself and is passionate about making this annual event grow and become an even larger contributor to charity.

"This year we had 600 – 700 people come out to enjoy the fun," Railing said.

Those in attendance were given the opportunity to vote on their favorite cars

and awards were given to the top 10 car owners.

The event raised more funds than in years past. About \$5,500 will be donated directly to ensure that many children have a bright Christmas season.

More cars and vendors than ever before brought added entertainment and fun to the anticipated family event. The voice of Blue Bell Ice Cream, Harlan Rector, was also in attendance to wow the crowd. Food trucks, raffles, and balloon animals for kids, paired with beautiful weather, made this year's festival one to remember.

"This show is a great day for families," Railing said. "It's great to contribute to a charity for kids and it's also important for the community. Christmas was



Photos courtesy Dr. Christopher Railing

Top 10 car owners as determined by vote of the attendees.



always important to me when I was growing up. I know it's a hard time of year for many people and I just want to contribute something for the kids."

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Meet Judy Morris

Business Development Director for Kendall Title Services Inc.

I was born and raised in Oklahoma, I then moved to Houston, TX where I resided for 20 years as an entrepreneur business owner wearing several hats. I moved to Florida 18 months ago when a position opened up in Celebration, FL with my company and 6 months ago to the Orange Park, Mandarin area after reuniting with my first love. I love my family, am an avid golfer and right now renovating a home built in 1984. I also have enjoyed serving on several professional and local community boards and charities.

I have found that experience is the best teacher. My previous career as a business owner taught me all about good sales practices such as the customer is always right, treat others as you would have them treat you - and be real! A great liaison knows that courtesy and integrity are essential to every transaction. Working in the Real Estate industry for the last 9 years I strive to provide the best customer service possible beginning with communication and follow-through. I listen, ask questions and realize I don't know everything and my agents have taught me so much. My goal is to meet agents needs and bring them creative educational events and information to make them great.



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Holiday Gift Guide

JUST IN TIME FOR SHOPPING!

Hottest Holiday Gift Ideas from Your Local Businesses

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Shopping is a big part of the holiday season, when families and friends gather to reconnect and exchange gifts. The benefits of shopping locally go beyond convenience — shopping locally can directly benefit your community and the people who call it home. Put money back into the local economy and promote entrepreneurship; consid-

er doing some of your holiday shopping in your community this year. Following are some suggested gift ideas by some of our local businesses:

The Comedy Zone:

Give the gift of laughter this holiday season! Pick up a gift card at The Comedy Zone for a special present sure to bring the smiles. The gift card can be

used year-round for show tickets, food or drinks when visiting The Comedy Zone. There is also a restaurant on property, GiGi's Restaurant, home of the famous prime rib and crab leg buffet. The gift card can be used for this special treat as well. The lobby bar is the perfect stop for a drink before the comedy show. All of this is located within the Ramada Inn in Mandarin, so treat someone to this special gift this year. Visit comedyzone.com for more information.

Amaretti Desserts:

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Gift Ideas cont. on pg. 13

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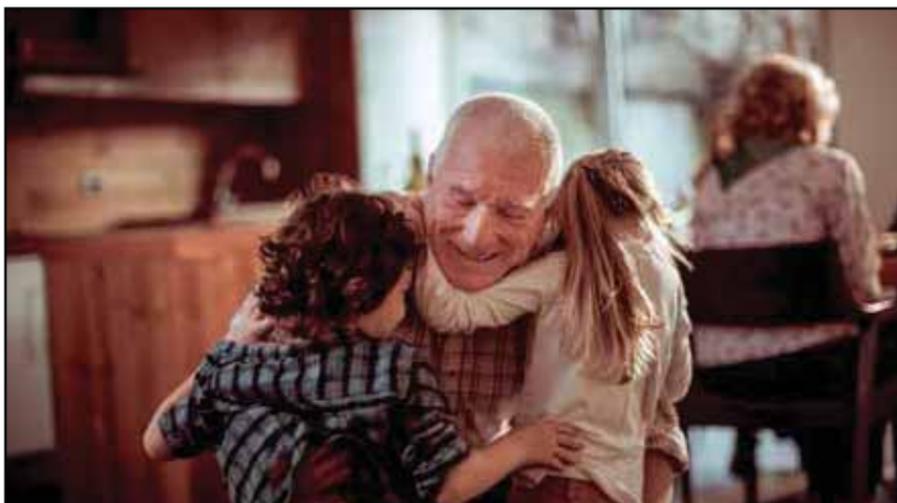
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Gift Ideas cont. from pg. 12

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CUT Consignment, located on Baymeadows Road at San Jose Boulevard, is an upscale designer consignment boutique offering ladies sizes 0-14, including boutique-quality new and gently worn clothing, jewelry, shoes, and handbags. CUT Consignment aims to support the newest trend in fashion: upcycling, reinventing and repurposing the wardrobe. Owner Kimberly Zlatanoff says that many of their consigned items still have original tags on them. Additional gift ideas include Capri-Blue Volcano candles and new jewelry, which are available at the store. Visit www.facebook.com/C.U.T.Consignment for more information.



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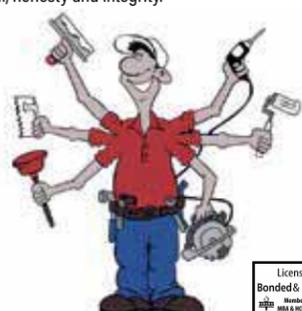
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Nutcracker cont. from pg. 1

ranging in age from nine to adult from Northeast Florida auditioning and performing in the production. In an effort to promote the arts in schools, Community Nutcracker also offers performances on Dec. 6 and Dec. 7 at 10:30 a.m. for school groups.

Christ Church Nutcracker Ballet

Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.
Lazzara Theater, UNF Fine Arts Department
www.missfeliciasdance.com

This year marks the 23rd 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 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. 14 at 8 p.m.
Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Dec. 16 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 2018 by the Florida Ballet

Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 16 at 2 p.m.
Lazzara Theater, 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 Houston Ballet along with more than 100 local dancers.

St. Augustine Ballet Nutcracker

Dec. 22 at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Dec. 23 at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College
www.saintaugustineballet.com

This year's production of "The Nutcracker" marks the 10th annual performance by the St. Augustine Ballet and features sparkling snowflakes, dancing dolls and mischievous mice. 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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Get to Know . . .

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewslines.com

Jerald Jay



Photo courtesy Jerald Jay.
Jerald Jay

Jacksonville native Jerald Jay grew up on the Northside. He received his degree in music from Florida State University. After college graduation, he moved back to his hometown and began teaching at the school his mother, a former public school teacher, began in 1983. The Little Country School is where Jay spends a great deal of time as an administrator, teacher and headmaster. Jay grew up in church and has been involved with music direction inside of churches for the past 25 years. Currently, he serves as music director at First Christian Church in Mandarin.

Disney and checking out the resorts. Epcot is probably my favorite attraction.

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

I've always enjoyed the Mandarin area. It's a beautiful area with nice people. The church is in a nice section and I've enjoyed getting to know so many of the people.

2. What does your work involve at First Christian Church in Mandarin?

I enjoy serving in all areas of music within the church. I direct and I sing. I've done a lot of solo work as a baritone. I also teach the hand bell choir and play both the piano and organ.

3. What do you enjoy doing outside of your work?

Well, I do spend the majority of my time at the school or at church. In my time off, I enjoy going down to

4. What would you consider your greatest accomplishment thus far?

When I think about the things I'm most proud of, it would be working with kids and music together. Some of these kids may not otherwise have a chance to learn about music. I teach the hand bells as a quick way to get the kids learning and performing at school and church. I teach music in many settings and music camps.

5. What is something that most people don't know about you?

Most people probably don't know about my infatuation with going to Disney. It's mostly nostalgic. I enjoyed going as a child and it's fun to get those same feelings when I visit as an adult.

Get to Know . . .

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

Winter Celebration cont. from pg. 1

Navy and the Golden Teacups will be present. Additionally, there will be a Spanish period reenactor and reenactors from Fort Mose, the first free community of ex-slaves.

Live music will include Mandarin musician Miquel Huertes strolling the park playing his violin. The rest of the music schedule is as follows:

11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Camille and Camiya Ferron, Mandarin Museum volunteers and singers, on the front porch of Mandarin Museum

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.: Kate Carpenter with original and interactive children's song, in the Schoolhouse

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.: North Florida Folk Network member Al Poindexter will tell Florida stories through original songs on the front porch of the Mandarin Museum

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.: "Under the Oaks" acoustic music jam on the front yard of the museum

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and talk with Dr. Keith Holland and other Maple Leaf divers who recovered precious Civil War artifacts from the National Historic Landmark shipwreck in the St. Johns River. The

book about Maple Leaf will be available and Dr. Holland and the divers are happy to sign them.

Two children's book authors from Mandarin will also be present. Jane Wood will be in the museum from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. to sell and autograph her book "Trouble on the St. Johns River" and June Weltman will be present from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. to sell and autograph copies of her book "Mystery of the Missing Candlestick."

Non-profits will be represented, sharing information and opportunities with their groups: Mandarin Garden Club, UF Extension Office, Mandarin Community Club, Orange Park Historical Society, Stetson Kennedy Foundation, Education First and Greenscape of Jacksonville.

The museum gift shop is stocked with holiday gift ideas. Books and art prints are on sale by local authors and local artists. Also, this is the only place to buy "Mandarin Frogs."

Admission to the Winter Celebration is free and parking is available at the Mandarin Presbyterian Church across the street. For more information, email mandarinmuseum@bellsouth.net or call (904) 268-0784.

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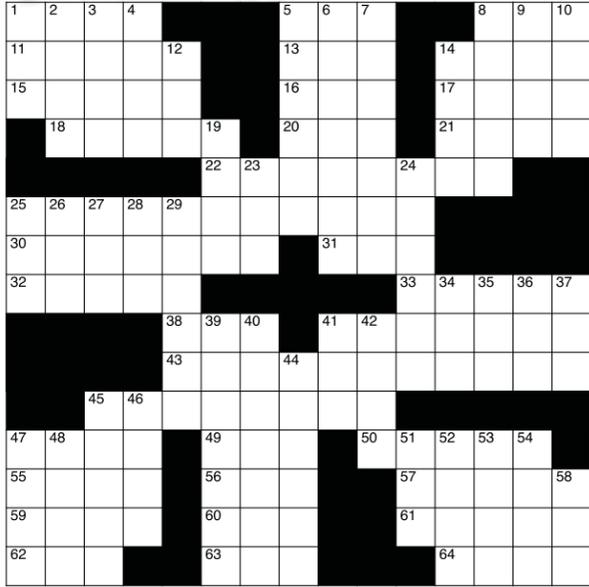
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 18
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Thick piece of something
- 5. Engine additive
- 8. Anticipated arrival time
- 11. French commune
- 13. Cigarette (slang)
- 14. Nobleman
- 15. Ghana capital
- 16. Adam's wife
- 17. Most popular student
- 18. Where you currently are
- 20. Increase motor speed
- 21. Queen of Sparta
- 22. North, South and Central
- 25. Churchgoer
- 30. Russian empress
- 31. Female daredevils organization
- 32. Relating to music
- 33. Female body part
- 38. Tyrion Lannister
- 41. Honored

CLUES DOWN

- 43. Argentine footballer
- 45. Novices
- 47. Wings
- 49. Doctors' group
- 50. Packers' QB
- 55. Qatar capital
- 56. Unpleasant noise
- 57. Lovable elephant
- 59. Sleeping
- 60. Lute
- 61. Weight of a liter of hydrogen
- 62. Crimson
- 63. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 64. Employee plan

CLUES DOWN

- 5. Audio-system
- 6. Places to grab a drink
- 7. What's coming
- 8. Designed chairs
- 9. Stepped on
- 10. Genus of birds
- 12. Consume
- 14. Ancient Syrian city
- 19. Australian brewery
- 23. Not present
- 24. Necktie
- 25. What part of (abbr.)
- 26. Type of compound
- 27. Jogged quickly
- 28. Roth is one type
- 29. Mineral
- 34. Purpose
- 35. Financial term (abbr.)
- 36. Orange is the New Black character
- 37. Used to cut and shape wood
- 39. Bullfighter

- 40. Top of the line
- 41. Hill
- 42. Greek mountain
- 44. Angola's capital
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Fermented honey beverage
- 47. Month in the Jewish calendar
- 48. Frontal is one type
- 51. Basics
- 52. Uncommon
- 53. Broad kimono sashes
- 54. European defense organization
- 58. Box score term



Solve the code to discover words related to textiles.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 23 = a)

A. 26 1 8 15 25

Clue: Thread or filament

B. 16 14 17 4 18 1 3 13

Clue: Covers the body

C. 10 23 25 3

Clue: Thick thread

D. 21 23 3 9 26 23 16 4 9 25 15

Clue: Make something

TEXTILE WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ABRASION
- ARAMID
- AUTOCLAVE
- BASKET WEAVE
- BEAM
- BLEEDING
- BLEND
- BOBBINS
- BRAID
- BROADCLOTH
- CLOTH
- COATING
- CORD
- CREEL
- CRIMP
- DENIER
- DENSITY
- DRAPE
- DYEING
- FABRIC
- FIBERS
- FILAMENT
- GEOTEXTILES
- GLAZING
- LOOM
- LUSTER
- MOIRE
- PERMEABILITY
- PLAITING
- ROPE
- SKEINS
- STRENGTH
- TWILL
- TWIST
- WOVEN
- YARN

Gardening

Is winter coming?

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale
mailto:floridanewslines.com

As of early November, temperatures are beginning to moderate, which is a relief. We are also entering a generally drier season, which means that any newly installed plants need your attention if they are going to establish a strong root system before spring. Cooler, drier air can dehydrate a plant more quickly than you may imagine, and if the rains are sparse you may need to irrigate established citrus and shrubs every three weeks or so — but don't do so without making sure it's really necessary.

As an El Nino weather system is setting in, the forecast is for a colder than average winter in the south although, Florida being Florida, no doubt we'll have some warmer than average days thrown in for good measure. As always, we need a plan to protect our tender plants, both those in the landscape and in pots.

The Extension Service bi-monthly newsletter "A New Leaf" is available at <https://tinyurl.com/y9yfxd89>. The final class of the year is the Winter Workshop on Dec. 5. Participants will make a Forsythe pot, which is designed to improve the success rate of rooting cuttings. The workshop will also cover vegetable growing tips. The cost is \$15 and you can register and pay online at <https://tinyurl.com/ybyv5a7q>. Call Sarah Freeman at (904) 255-7450, who can help you register if the class isn't full. If you don't make it to the class, you can learn more about the Forsythe pot at <https://tinyurl.com/y7w2ftjj>.

Leaf fall is well underway for some of our trees. If your grass still needs mowing, lighter leaves can simply be run over with the lawnmower and left to decompose in place, but once the tough leaves of live oaks and similar trees start dropping in earnest, make plans to use them wisely. It's a waste of nutrients simply to bag them for collection with yard waste. Put them to good use, preferably shredded, as mulch; heap them up in an out of the way spot where they will slowly rot down into "leaf mold," which makes a wonderfully rich top dressing, despite sounding like a disease; or compost them in layers with green material such as kitchen waste and yard trimmings. Even if you have more leaves than you can handle, recycling at least some of them back into your landscape makes economic sense as it reduces the need to buy mulch and compost.

At the end of a plant's flowering, the seeds produced are great food for birds, especially going into the winter months. When insects hunker down during cold snaps, hungry birds will benefit if you leave those seed heads standing (<https://tinyurl.com/y8zpbs5s>). The spent flower stalks of coneflowers, sunflowers, and Stoke's asters, among others, can be quite structural. So when you consider whether or not to tidy the yard, please give some thought to our feathered friends as well as overwintering insects, many of which will be good guys. And while this article,

Gardening cont. on pg. 18



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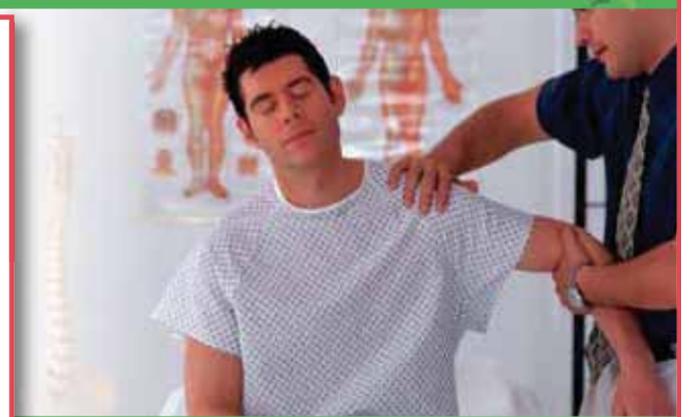
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Travel

Stetson Mansion Christmas Spectacular shines

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewslines.com

Most folks think of cowboy hats when they hear the name Stetson, but founder John B. Stetson made a fortune selling all kinds of hats, manufactured in his Philadelphia plant. He discovered DeLand, located north of Orlando and west of Daytona Beach, on a trip to Florida and fell in love with the area. He had his DeLand mansion built in 1886, and also established a college — now Stetson University, home to some beautiful Victorian brick buildings and 3,000 students.

Today, Stetson's opulent mansion (not on the campus) is the site of the annual Christmas Spectacular Holiday Home Tour. The home, listed on the National Registry, runs guided tours (only) until Jan. 15 at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 5 p.m. The event has become so popular that online reservations are required.

Owner JT Thompson said, "Word-of-mouth is spreading. We expect about 12,000 visitors this year."

Florida's first luxury estate is a blend of cottage, Gothic, Tudor, Moorish and Polynesian architectural details and elegantly decorated rooms. The Christmas Spectacular goes way above and beyond all expectations.

Co-owner Michael Solari said, "We close the mansion for two months so JT can devote every day to the installation."

Call him Mr. Particular; he insists every painstaking detail be to his liking.

Thompson designs a new theme and elaborate scenes each year with designer decorations from around the world. No design is ever repeated, except you'll always find a peacock inspired room (as they used to roam the estate) and a display dedicated to the military.

I had a sneak peek just as he was beginning to get to work. It's an understatement to say I was gobsmacked, overwhelmed by the task and sheer number of boxes containing Christmas cheer.



The Elizabeth bedroom

Don't miss this local sensation.

"The Victorians started the tradition of Christmas trees, cards and decorations, so what better place to see and

experience Christmas than a Victorian mansion dedicated to the holiday," said Thompson. "Our tours bring you through all the rooms on the first and second floor

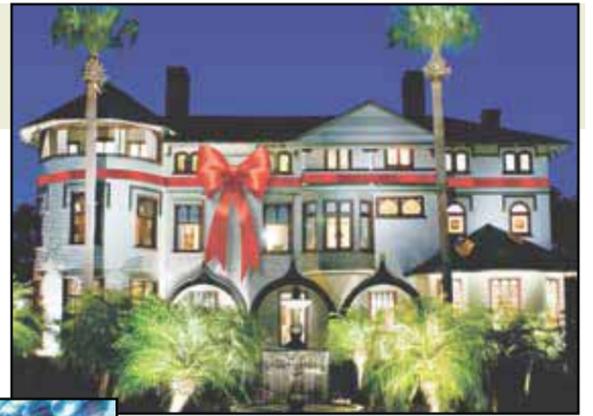


Stetson Mansion's dining room

and even include the owners bedroom, bathroom and closet."

Guests marvel at the 16 different intricate original parquet floor patterns and 10,000 panes of antique window glass. Thomas Edison, who gave Stetson one of the first strings of Christmas tree lights, installed the mansion's electricity.

This year, rooms will draw their inspiration from the traditional songs: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," "Angels We Have Heard on High," "We Three Kings," "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem," "Deck the Halls," "Let there be Peace on Earth" and "We Need a Little Christmas."



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Stetson Mansion at night

"I see why they call it spectacular!" said Mary Corey, a visitor from Ormond Beach, about last year's Christmas extravaganza at Stetson Mansion. "The tour puts you in the Christmas spirit. The decorations are amazing and the mansion itself is a jewel."

Guided tours also include insights into the house restoration.

Make plans to tour the Stetson Mansion now to Jan. 15, 2019. The cost is \$25 plus tax for adults; \$15 plus tax for youth aged six – 22 and parking is free. Ticket holders will also receive a free chocolate covered strawberry at Pat and Toni's Sweet Things in downtown DeLand. Reservations are required and can only be booked online: www.StetsonMansion.com. The Stetson Mansion is located between Orlando and Daytona in DeLand at 1031 Camphor Lane.

Please note: Wheelchairs and walkers are welcome; however, you must bring your own. Due to the historic nature of the home there is no elevator or ramp. There is a flight of stairs to the second floor. Gates open 25 minutes before tour time.

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Gardening cont. from pg. 16

<https://tinyurl.com/y8ym85uh>, praises the value of a "messy garden," it does not have to be an all or nothing approach. A small, more casual area where plants are left to fulfill their purpose of setting seed and producing fruit will certainly be better than no wildlife friendly habitat at all.

Pansies and other cool season annuals make a lovely showing as the rest of our landscape slows down. If you find yourself also slowing down in the yard, containers filled with hardy flowers and greenery strategically placed nearby in the landscape and around your entrance can make beautiful additions, as long as you are prepared to water them as needed. Happy winter holidays, everyone!

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Answers to puzzles on page 16

Answers

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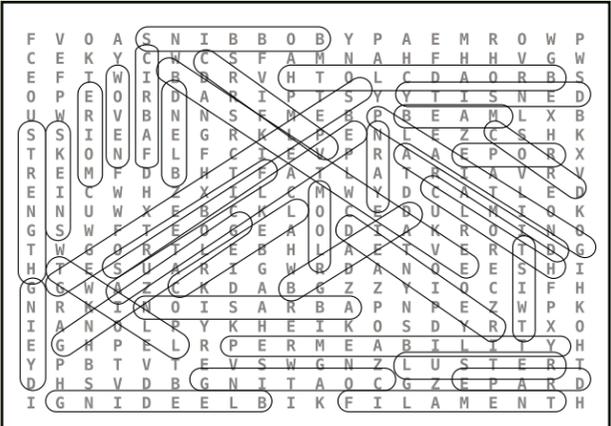
Puzzles

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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. fiber B. clothing C. yarn D. manufacture



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