

Mandarin NewsLine

APRIL 2020 Volume 14 Issue 6

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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Websites to keep you entertained

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

While families are spending more time inside as a result of the virus pandemic, there is really no shortage of fun and interesting websites to explore from the comfort of your home. Check out these suggestions — who knows? You might learn something new, or at least be entertained for a little while.

San Diego Zoo webcam: <https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams>

Metropolitan Opera free opera streams: <https://www.metopera.org/>

Jacksonville Public Library digital library (must have library card): <https://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/digital-library>

St. Johns County Public Library e-content (must have library card): <https://sjcpls.org/econtent/>

Virtual Learning Activities - Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex: The education team at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex will share daily Facebook Live video experiences as well as shorter segments that will each pair with an at-home activity, covering topics such as living in space and on Mars, tours of Space Shuttle Atlantis and the Astronaut Training Experience, Rocketry 101, and more. Hands on activities will involve everyday items that can be found around the house, such as using straws, paper towel tubes, and rubber bands to build and launch a rocket.

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52nd annual Mandarin Art Fest cancelled

By Susie Scott
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Art Festival has thrived for 52 years within the community — but due to the Covid 19 virus, the festival will be cancelled for the first time in its history. It's a sad ending to months of planning, work and outreach.

Concerns for the event began weeks ago and culminated in the inevitable decision to cancel in mid-March. This is not just a tragic loss for host and founding non-profit Mandarin Community Club, but the resulting damaging ripple effect is widespread. At the time of its cancellation, the event had just started a wait list for artists after having reached capacity at more than 120 booths. These artist exhibitors will not only lose the income from the Mandarin festival, but their livelihood from dozens of other cancelled shows across the state and the country. And local food vendors and Green Market artisans



The Mandarin Community Club is the setting for the Mandarin Art Festival. Proceeds from the art festival will be missed by the club, which relies on them for upkeep and other community events.

scheduled to participate in the festival will also experience lean times ahead.

The 2020 poster artist, 2019 Best of Show winner local potter Tim Bullard, was saddened to hear the news — but was already looking ahead. Bullard promised to take this time to work on new original pieces for potential use and display at the 2021 festival and in fact has fired up his kiln.

Bullard said, "This is a community art show supported by the community and unlike many shows now."

He said he was inspired as a 22-year-old by Mandarin potter Charlie Brown who actually held the annual Easter egg hunts during the festival in his front yard across from the Mandarin Community Club. Bullard went on to praise the unique site of the show under the beautiful oaks of Mandarin Road at the Mandarin Community Club. He said it is



Photos courtesy Mandarin Community Club
The 52nd annual Mandarin Art Festival is the first to be cancelled in the event's history.

rare to have such a local show and it is important for the community to support arts and culture.

Support, positivity and generosity has emerged from many during the crisis as artists, sponsors, advertisers, vendors and club members have made donations to the Mandarin Community Club to help cross this financial hurdle. Ideas are already emerging for a possible Fall Festival or other ways to restore the intent and vitality of the Mandarin Art Festival as well as serve the community.

The Mandarin Community Club was founded in 1923 and is the oldest civic organization in Jacksonville. Over the years, it has not only survived but risen to meet challenges. And this too shall pass. Volunteers and all stakeholders associated with the club and the festival will persevere and look ahead. Stay safe and well.

Virtual volunteers needed

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Hope At Hand is a local nonprofit organization that provides art and poetry sessions to vulnerable and at-risk youth populations. Using creativity, language, art and therapeutic approaches, instructors facilitate healing and personal growth for children and adolescents.

Hope at Hand is calling for virtual volunteers at this time. The organization's instructors need words and images cut out of newspapers and magazines before you recycle them for upcoming

lessons. This is an indoor activity that's fun for the whole family.

According to Steffani Fletcher, founder and executive director of Hope at Hand, "Cut out words and images are actually an ongoing need of ours and we thought it might be a fun activity for people while they are at home. When the virus passes, we want to be ready to get back in the community."

Here's how virtual volunteers can help. Before recycling magazines and news-



papers, carefully cut the following items out:

Positive and neutral words, like "handle," "building," "relieve," "fresh,"

Virtual volunteers cont. on pg. 11

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1. **Facts before Fiction!** Get your facts directly from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).
2. **First CLEAN, then DISINFECT.** Clean first with detergent/soap and water, then disinfect with an EPA-registered household disinfectant.
3. **Use an EFFECTIVE disinfectant:** Clorox and Lysol products are a safe bet. Go to [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov) for a comprehensive list.
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Ingrid Rivera
Owner



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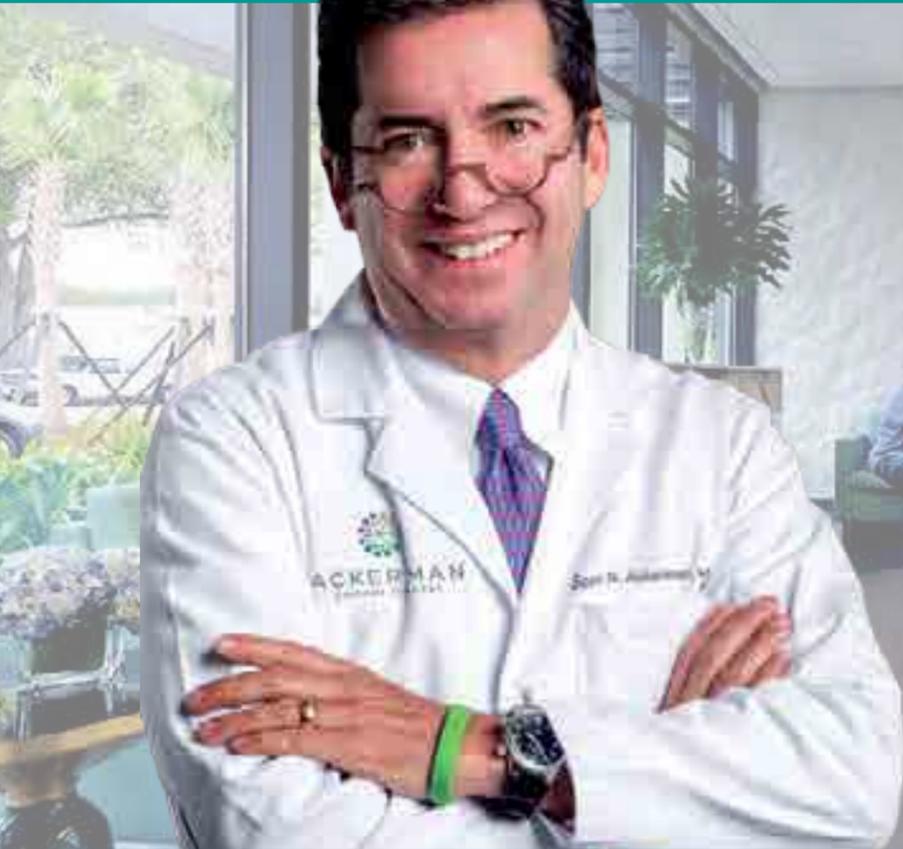
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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

BREED:
Pomeranian whose coloration is sometimes described as a "Parti-Pom"

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:
Reading of other BFFs in the NewsLine.

FAVORITE TREAT:
Filet Mignon

FAVORITE FRIEND:
Any other dog owner who walks by with treats in their pocket.

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:
Dixie as she is a girl from the south



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

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

MAP OF LOCAL TAKE-OUT AND DELIVERY

Visit www.floridanewsline.com to see our convenient map of local establishments providing take-out and delivery services during the coronavirus shutdown.

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MYSTERY PHOTO

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Last month's Mystery Photo was County Dock.
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Rebecca Thomson
Marketing & Sales
724-968-7602 cell
Rebecca@FloridaNewsLine.com

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We are going to plant seeds for...  ...radishes, herbs and flowers.  Kids: color stuff in! 

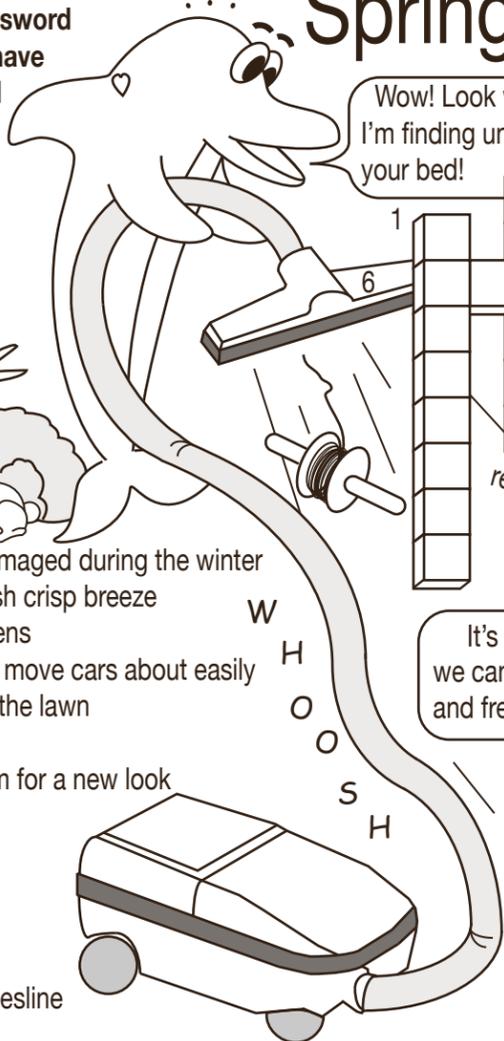
Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com    Annimills LLC © 2020 V16-13

There are many jobs to be done after a long winter. People in the city, town and country all do spring cleaning and chores based on their needs. **Read the clues to fill in the crossword with chores. How many of these jobs have you seen people doing? How many did you help to do?** (Hint: use a pencil to fill in the clues below first. This is tricky!)

- _____ messy closets
- _____ your warmer weather clothes that have been in storage
- _____ seeds so you can watch things grow
- _____ flowers to give the house some color
- _____ sidewalks that have gathered sand and dirt
- _____ fences that have been damaged during the winter
- _____ out your house with a fresh crisp breeze
- _____ storm windows with screens
- _____ driveways so that we can move cars about easily
- _____ the overgrown grass on the lawn
- _____ weeds from the garden
- _____ the furniture in your room for a new look
- _____ the dust out of rugs
- _____ soot from the chimney
- _____ the overgrown bushes
- wash and _____ the car
- _____ clean the dirty carpet
- _____ laundry to dry on a clothesline

It's Time for... Spring Cleaning



Wow! Look what I'm finding under your bed!

It's that time of year when we can open the windows and freshen everything!

A good spring cleaning after winter is almost a pleasure to complete. Then, once our homes are in order, we are ready for sunny, warm summer.

Yikes!

Have you ever heard of "slang"? It is a way of talking that is a little different from the standard English in books. For example, if I say, "Boy, we really cleaned up at the garage sale," I am telling you that we made a lot of money, not that I put away all the things we had for sale.

Can you match these slang expressions to their meanings?

1. clean sweep	<input type="radio"/>	A. to stay out of trouble
2. clean out	<input type="radio"/>	B. to win everything
3. clean hands	<input type="radio"/>	C. innocent, has done nothing wrong
4. come clean	<input type="radio"/>	D. to take everything, empty
5. keep one's nose clean	<input type="radio"/>	E. confess, tell the whole story

Can You Clean Up These Messes?

How many of these DUST KITTIES did I find under your bed? Look around the whole page. Put your answer in the biggest bubble.

What things might you use to clean up? Can you find these items in the scrub brush and circle them?

vacuum cleaner	<input type="radio"/>	brush	<input type="radio"/>	ladder	<input type="radio"/>	rake	<input type="radio"/>
paper towels	<input type="radio"/>	pail	<input type="radio"/>	broom	<input type="radio"/>	mop	<input type="radio"/>
trash barrel	<input type="radio"/>	soap	<input type="radio"/>	water	<input type="radio"/>	hose	<input type="radio"/>
hedge clippers	<input type="radio"/>	wax	<input type="radio"/>	rag	<input type="radio"/>	sponges	<input type="radio"/>

Busting Dust!

Little, fluffy, grey balls of dust found under the couch or behind the door are called "**dust bunnies**" or "**dust kittens**." We are usually made up of skin cells, hair and tiny pieces of dirt. To people, we can be a nuisance. We sometimes block air filters, get into computers or just gather together under your furniture. We can make people sneeze! **Read each numbered word or phrase below. Next, choose the correct definition by circling the letter "A" or "B."**

- | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. dust | <input type="radio"/> | A. tiny pieces of dirt, skin, hair | <input type="radio"/> | B. tiny flower seeds |
| 2. dust bunnies | <input type="radio"/> | A. bunnies that clean your house | <input type="radio"/> | B. little clumps of fluffy, grey dust |
| 3. an item is "collecting dust" | <input type="radio"/> | A. isn't being used anymore | <input type="radio"/> | B. putting dust into a bag |
| 4. the flies "bit the dust" | <input type="radio"/> | A. died | <input type="radio"/> | B. ate dust for their lunch |
| 5. the lead runner left the others "in the dust" | <input type="radio"/> | A. was far ahead of the others | <input type="radio"/> | B. knocked other runners into the dirt |
| 6. I'm going to "dust off" my hobby box | <input type="radio"/> | A. put the box into the closet | <input type="radio"/> | B. take it out of storage to use again |
| 7. when she works she "makes the dust fly" | <input type="radio"/> | A. she works with lots of energy | <input type="radio"/> | B. the dust balls jump into little airplanes |

Dear Readers,

You will notice that this issue of Mandarin NewsLine looks different from even last month's issue in many ways. The world has changed in the past few weeks and we, like you, are trying to make sense of it and adapt to whatever "normal" is now.

In this issue, we dispensed with our "Around Town" calendar section as well as the enhanced event listing, "Take Five," two staples of our newspaper that we know are much anticipated by our readers. In their places, we are adding some resource information for you to stay abreast of the rapidly changing landscape brought on by COVID-19. As a monthly publication, it is just not possible for our printed issues to contain up-to-date information in this regard, so as we often do with important matters such as state and local elections, we are providing you with the resources to check out trusted information yourself. See "Get the Facts" on this page.

Additionally, in this issue we have included a few activities for children and adults to do at home. From coloring pages to new recipes to try to directions for sewing masks and gowns for use by our local hospitals, there is something to keep all ages entertained for at least a little while as you social distance and stay home. We've also included tips from a local teacher for homeschooling/distance learning as well as an online resource for caregivers. Be sure to check out our listing of entertaining websites to give you a feel for the outside world while you are inside.

But at our very roots, Mandarin NewsLine is a community newspaper — and so we have included a variety of the "good news" community stories that you have come to expect from us. We all need a break from the all-consuming coronavirus news, so check out not only some past events that were sent in by community members for us to share, but also some stories of neighbors helping neighbors in these uncertain times. Feel free to email us with your community news to share in the next issue. Also, be sure to like our Facebook page (Florida NewsLine) and visit our website (www.floridanewslines.com) for more content, including a map of local establishments providing takeout and delivery services during the shutdown.

Lastly, now more than ever, we ask that you support your local businesses, especially those who are our valued advertisers. For many of them, like us, this is uncharted territory and they are doing their best to remain open. By purchasing advertising space from us to keep you informed of their hours and possibly new business models, they are providing the revenues for us to publish and mail this issue to you. Please thank them with your patronage.

Remember ... A friendly smile and wave to your neighbor can be done while social distancing and go a long way towards brightening someone's day. We're all in this together.

Martie Thompson
Editor

Get the facts

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

In this age of 24/7 news outlets and social media, it is easy to become overwhelmed with information, especially as it pertains to COVID-19. Following is a list of trusted organizations and contact information to keep yourself up-to-date on the latest facts.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

The CDC remains the No. 1 source for health information about coronavirus in America. Visit coronavirus.gov to access the CDC's coronavirus landing page. For information regarding the national government's ongoing response, visit usa.gov/coronavirus.

Florida Department of Health:

The Florida Department of Health has an interactive map and dashboard with the most up-to-date numbers and cases of coronavirus across the state. Visit <https://fdoh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/8d0de33f260d444c852a615dc7837c86>. The Department of Health also has a COVID-19 Information Call Center 24/7. Anyone can dial 866-779-6121 or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov to get answers to their questions.

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity:

Governor DeSantis has announced that Florida will offer \$50 million in loan programs for small businesses being adversely impacted by coronavirus. The Department of Economic Opportunity is administering the program with the Florida Small Business Development

Center. Visit www.floridadisasterloan.org for more information.

Floridians looking for re-employment assistance can get help online at www.floridajobs.org/Reemployment-Assistance-Service-Center/reemployment-assistance/claimants.

Price Gouging Hotline:

The Florida Attorney General's Office hotline is available for anyone to report price gouging of essential commodities during the coronavirus crisis. These include protective masks; sanitizing and disinfecting supplies, such as hand sanitizer, gel, wipes, cleaning supplies for surface cleaning, and all commercial cleaning supplies; and personal protective equipment, including gowns, booties, gloves and other protective gear. To report price gouging to the Florida Attorney General's Office online, visit MyFloridaLegal.com. To call the Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline, dial 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or 1-866-966-7226.

Coronavirus Tax Relief:

The IRS has established a special section focused on steps to help taxpayers, businesses and others affected by the coronavirus. Visit www.irs.gov/coronavirus for more information.

City of Jacksonville COVID-19 Updates and Recovery Resources:

Up-to-date information regarding the coronavirus and its impact on Duval County. Visit www.coj.net/recoveryresources for more information.

Children's activity page encourages good reading habits

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

We are pleased to share a new feature in our pages this month: Newspaper Fun, a high-energy, children's activity page that features puzzles, cartoons, games and a cast of off-beat, humorous animal characters. Underlying these entertaining elements is a strong educational framework that encourages reading. The feature explores a variety of themes and buried in its puzzles and challenges are lessons that sharpen essential language arts skills.

"With every page I create, my first priority is to make sure you look at it and say, 'Hey, this looks like fun,' and then pull out a pencil and go to work," said Ann Mills, who writes and illustrates Newspaper Fun each week in her studio in Connecticut.

With both a bachelor's and a master's degree in education, Mills has a diverse background involving education. She worked in several elementary schools, helping to teach and motivate students to read before turning to children's publishing. For 10 years she created a children's activity page in southern

Connecticut, which focused on the challenges of a highly mobile, military-centered community, and which earned two international journalism awards. That page — with the addition of a cast of new characters — formed the basis for Newspaper Fun, which launched in 2004.

"Newspapers play a crucial role in helping people stay connected with what's going on in their communities," Mills said. "By attracting families to their local newspapers through features like Newspaper Fun, we're nurturing future generations of newspaper readers."

Mills's website, ReadingClubFun.com, complements and extends the effect of Newspaper Fun. Each week, she publishes puzzle answers on the site, and offers a range of ideas, tools and puzzles for parents, teachers, librarians and others to use to encourage children to read and learn.

"The idea is to create a flow between traditional and new media, with the common denominator being a focus on good reading habits," Mills said.



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Message from Baptist Health Foundation: Ways you can help

Right now, COVID-19 is placing incredible and unanticipated pressure on our clinical teams. In the short term, we have the personal protective equipment (PPE) that our teams need. But we need to prepare and look beyond our immediate needs. We've heard from many in the North Florida community that you want to support Baptist Health team members as they continue to provide excellent care through this crisis. You can help with monetary donations or donations of goods.

While all donations of essential PPE, in any amount, are welcomed and encouraged, Baptist Health is exceptionally thankful for donations of unopened and unexpired:

- Clorox bleach wipes (or equivalent)
- Hand sanitizer
- Face shields
- Goggles
- N95s (or any equivalent CDC-approved masks)
- Non-contact thermometers
- Masks (surgical/procedural)
- Isolation gowns

- Disposable coveralls/painter's suits
- Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR)
- Controlled Air Purifying Respirators (CAPR)
- Other approved PPE supplies advised by the CDC

Email Laura Collins at laura.collins@bmcjax.com or Madison Harris at madison.harris@bmcjax.com to donate PPE materials.

Home-Sewn Face Masks: In addition to essential PPE donations, the greatest need for our clinical teams is home-sewn face masks. You can help us meet our goal of 2,000 home-sewn face masks each week. Two sizes of the face masks are needed: Adult 9" x 6" and Child 7.5" x 5.5" Visit <https://baptist-health-foundation.com/2020/03/25/a-b-fabric-mask-template-for-a-nurse-by-a-nurse/> for instructions on sewing face masks.

Home-Sewn Isolation Gowns: The Baptist Health Foundation is also accept-

Baptist Health cont. on pg. 10



with Jacksonville City Council Member, District 6, Michael Boylan

Q: With the rapidly changing news regarding COVID 19, it is difficult to address particulars here, but can you give us any general updates for Mandarin?

A: One thing the experience with COVID 19 has brought is prioritization for families and government. I've increased efforts to communicate with constituents. One good way to stay up to date is to email MBoylan@coj.net and ask to be added to our mailing list for newsletters.

Q: Can you give us an update on community workshops you've held lately and also those that are scheduled?

A: We did hold the workshop going over rezoning procedures on Feb. 26. It was well attended and I think people better understand the process. A number of rezoning workshops, including the one for the proposed development on Barkoskie Road and the one for the Loretto Road property, have been postponed due to suspension of city activities for the time being. They will be rescheduled to a time and date to be determined.

Q: What is the latest on the medians on San Jose Boulevard?

A: We have had conversations with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) about the medians on San Jose. As a state road, San Jose Boulevard falls under the auspices of FDOT, but medians south of Interstate 295 have been managed by the City of Jacksonville (medians north of Interstate 295 remain managed by FDOT). We are attempting to work with the FDOT to improve these northern medians or perhaps have the city take

responsibility for them as we have the southern medians. I hope to plant more appropriate trees in these northern medians.

Q: Is anything being done to address the number of car accidents heading west on Greenland Road?

A: Christopher W. LeDew, P.E., Chief of Traffic Engineering for the city, told me that his department had just completed a study and as a result, plan to implement the following short term improvements over the next few weeks: reduce the speed limit along Greenland Road from Old St. Augustine Road to Philips Highway from 45 mph to 40 mph; install two curve warning signs for westbound drivers with an advisory speed limit drop from 35 mph to 30 mph; install additional chevron signs along the curve in the westbound direction; and install raised reflective pavement markers along the inside (yellow) edge line as well as the outside (white) edgeline, which will make the curve alignment more visible at night and give drivers a tactile vibration if their vehicle runs over the edgeline. As for a potential guardrail, there are several conflicts to work through, such as existing underground utilities, landscaping, drainage pipes and driveway access to the retention pond on the north side of Greenland Road. After this information is gathered, the feasibility of a guardrail can be considered.

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

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

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

Q: With the rapidly changing news regarding COVID 19, it is difficult to address particulars here, but can you give us any general updates (as of interview date, March 23) pertaining to the city?

A: The governor has passed an order that local governments can hold meetings via teleconferencing, so that's the Jacksonville City Council's plan going forward for committee and council meetings. The work of government continues. It's important to note that the essential services the government provides will continue — things like trash and debris pickup.

Most importantly, we have two bills we need to address as soon as possible: the appointment of seven JEA board members to provide stability within JEA and also so they can get to work hiring a permanent CEO for the utility. Additionally, the city council's investigation into JEA hasn't halted while we are unable to meet in person. Work in this regard continues by committee and staff. Secondly, the Duval County School Board referendum bill, which will be voted on at the next city council meeting, needs to be addressed so that members of the school board can get their gameplan together to get the proposed half cent sales tax passed in November.

On March 10, 2020, the city council passed Bill 2020-0117, which will increase the low income senior exemption from \$25,000 to the full \$50,000 authorized by statute. In 2020 the "low income" definition for purposes of this exemption is a household income of \$30,721. The city's Property Appraiser's Office estimates that the additional \$25,000 exemption would apply to 2,476 senior-owned properties.

Q: Sad news for the area seniors who have been eagerly anticipating the reopening of the Mandarin Senior Center. Can you give us an update?

A: The Mandarin Senior Center was scheduled to reopen in late March after being closed for several months for a much-needed expansion. This opening has been postponed and no date has been rescheduled yet.

Q: Can you go over the irrigation changes due to the implementation of Daylight Saving Time?

A: The City of Jacksonville Environmental Quality Division is reminding residents to set lawn landscape irrigation schedules to no more than two days per week, now that we are in Daylight Saving Time, in an effort to conserve our water supply and reduce the amount of nutrients flowing into the St. Johns River. Additional parameters include:

- No more than ¾ inch of water or one hour per zone per irrigation day;
- Do not water between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.;
- Odd number addresses, those ending with N – Z, or no address should water on Wednesday and Saturday;
- Even number addresses or those ending with A – M should water on Thursday and Sunday;
- Non-residential addresses should water on Tuesday and Friday.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with Mandarin readers?

A: This is obviously a difficult time for all communities and even the world, but we need to just stay vigilant and out of harm's way. We just need to get through. This too will pass, but in the meantime, I encourage everyone to follow the directives of the CDC and state and local government.

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

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

Editorial

Did you set it and forget it?

By Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D.
mail@floridanewsline.com

During the spring and summer months, many Floridians spend a lot of time outdoors tending to lawns and gardens. The St. Johns River Water Management District's year-long "Water Less" campaign focuses on water-conserving strategies to help curb outdoor water waste while still letting you enjoy a beautiful, vibrant landscape.

During the cooler months, we promoted ways to reduce outdoor irrigation while plants and grass were dormant. As spring approaches, the Water Less campaign emphasizes taking control of your sprinkler system to make it work for you while also saving water.

If you water your lawn and landscape, you can reduce the amount of water you use with a well-designed irrigation system and regular maintenance.

Changing the clocks to Daylight Saving Time is an ideal reminder to inspect your automatic sprinkler system and timer. To make sure you don't just set it and forget it, here are a few quick tips:

Check timing devices regularly to make sure they are operating properly.

Ensure your system is set to follow

watering restrictions, if you need to water at all. (Odd number addresses, those ending with N – Z, or no address should water on Wednesday and Saturday; even number addresses or those ending with A – M should water on Thursday and Sunday; and non-residential addresses should water on Tuesday and Friday.)

Florida law requires that all automatic irrigation systems installed after May 1991 have a functioning rain sensor shut-off switch which senses when a preset amount of rain has fallen.

Install the most water efficient spray heads designed for different uses (turf areas, planting beds, etc.).

Fix any broken or misdirected sprinkler heads.

Check that water is only spraying on the landscape.

Look for leaks and clogs.

Visit WaterLessFlorida.com for more outdoor water saving ideas.

Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D. is executive director of the St. Johns River Water Management District.



Photos courtesy Rebecca Thomson

Mandarin Council holds March meeting

The Mandarin Council of the JAX Chamber held its monthly luncheon for members on March 12 at Bonefish Grill. Pictured are Kinita King, new Mandarin Council president, Chris Miller, district director for US Rep. John Rutherford and Joy Nappi, the meeting's spotlight speaker and Mandarin branch manager for Jax Federal Credit Union. Visit <https://mandarincouncil.org/> for more information about the Mandarin Council.

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FYI Contact Numbers

<p>Duval County Local Government (coj.net) Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Mike Williams, (904) 630-2120 Patrol Zone 3: Assistant Chief Paul Restivo, (904) 630-8100</p> <p>Property Appraiser: Jerry Holland, jholland@coj.net; (904) 630-2011</p> <p>Supervisor of Elections: Mike Hogan, mhogan@coj.net, (904) 630-1414</p> <p>Tax Collector: Jim Overton, taxcollector@coj.net, (904) 630-1916</p> <p>Clerk of Court: Ronnie Fussell, (904) 255-2000</p> <p>Jacksonville City Council District 6: Michael Boylan, MBoylan@coj.net, (904) 255-5206 At Large, District 3: Tommy Hazouri, thazouri@coj.net, (904) 255-5217</p>	<p>Duval County School Board (www.duvalschools.org) District 7: Lori Hershey, hershey@duvalschools.org, (904) 390-2375</p> <p>State of Florida Elected Officials Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146</p> <p>State House District 16: Representative Jason Fischer, (850) 717-5016</p> <p>State Senate District 4: Senator Aaron Bean, (904) 757-5039</p> <p>Federal Elected Officials U.S. Congress District 4: Representative John Rutherford, (202) 225-2501</p> <p>U.S. Senate: Senator Marco Rubio, (202) 224-3041 Senator Rick Scott, (202) 224-5274</p>
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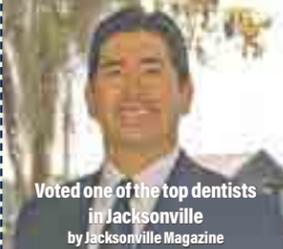
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Bartram Springs Elementary second graders went Back in Time

By Rachael Sircar
mail@floridanewslines.com

In order to understand more about life 100 years ago, second graders at Bartram Springs Elementary went back to the Roaring '20s and learned about the Jazz Age.

Teachers Kimberly Boukas, Renee Combs, Autumn Murdock, Victoria Schmidt, and Colleen Walsh immersed their classes in exciting activities and learning opportunities that brought them in touch with what life was like back in the "old days." By looking at old photographs, students learned about clothing styles from that decade. They dressed up in traditional outfits featuring bow ties, hats, and dresses. Some students even sported some snazzy suspenders!

Originating from the Broadway show "Runnin' Wild," the Charleston by composer/pianist James P. Johnson was a popular dance at the time. Not only did students learn about where the music came from, but they were able to put on their dancing shoes and try out some of fancy steps. Students listened to music by many of the Jazz greats, such as Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Joe Oliver, Duke Ellington, and Ella Fitzgerald.

Artists from the Roaring Twenties were featured as well. The works of Henri Matisse were reviewed. Students even had an opportunity to create a self-portrait of themselves based on the style of Pablo Picasso.

It was hard for these students to imagine movies without sound, but stars such as Mary Pickford, Rudolph Valentino, Charlie Chaplin, and even cartoon characters such as Felix the Cat were introduced. Students were also amazed that children as young as the age of 13 would end their schooling to begin working in a factory to help support their families.

Students learned that women weren't allowed to vote until 1920 and they also gained in depth knowledge about sports greats like Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, and Lou Gehrig.

The wealth of knowledge gained through this extraordinary day will be carried on throughout their lifetime, and maybe, 100 years from now, these children will be able to tell generations of the future what life was like "100 years ago."

Rachael Sircar is a second grade teacher at Bartram Springs Elementary.



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Mandarin Women's Club schedules May meeting; cancels April

By Gail Packard
mail@floridanewslines.com

The Mandarin Women's Club usually meets on the fourth Thursday of the month from September through May at the Ramada Inn Mandarin. Due to the current restrictions on large gatherings, our next luncheon at the Ramada Inn Mandarin will take place on Thursday, May 28. In the meantime, members will be looking out for each other and neighbors while keeping a safe social distance.

The club offers a multitude of activities throughout the year including daytime and nighttime Bunco and Mexican Train, Bridge, and Mah Jongg. Members also enjoy travel and antiquing excursions, Dining Out events, socials, and many other activities. Monthly luncheons feature a variety of interests and include everything from speak-



Photo courtesy Gail Packard

Mandarin Women's Club's recent Fashion Show was a huge success and featured clothing from Petunia Patch modeled by several members: Linda Granfield (Petunia Patch rep), Cynthia Fisher, Ann Blodgett, Jean Hopper, Sandi Hurst, Shirley Wright, Linda Tuschinski, Kathy Rairford, Sue Wojtowicz, Leslie Lawrence, and Linda Bowman.

ers to games, holiday auctions, fashion shows, and entertainment.

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



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Briefs

Kids in the Kitchen cooking contest announced

The Women's Food Alliance is hosting the third annual "Kids in the Kitchen Cooking Contest" for children aged eight to 12. Culinary prizes that the young chefs can share with their family are available if they come up with a tasty and unique family recipe.

According to Leigh Cort of the Women's Food Alliance, when children are in the kitchen, they learn to express their individuality and curiosity about food — plus they learn a little more about math, science, reading and love. Cooking something for the family grows independence, while possibly inspiring youngsters to eat healthier too.

The Women's Food Alliance will select the Top 12 finalists by judging originality and use of ingredients, deliciousness, dessert presentation, dessert name and story about "Why I Like to Cook for My Family."

Entries should be emailed to Leigh Cort, leigh@leighcortpublicity.com by the deadline date of July 1, 2020. Include the child's name, address and phone number and email of the parent or guardian. Be sure to include the recipe name and brief story about the favorite family recipe and "Why I Like to Cook for My Family."

Finalists will be notified by July 8, 2020. The Top 12 Finalists will be invited to attend the official dessert judging on July 20, 2020 at JAX Cooking Studio in Jacksonville at 5:30 p.m. All children must be accompanied by an adult. A minimum of six tastings must be on a presentation serving plate for the judges. Each child

must bring the completed dessert's name, recipe and the child's name on a piece of paper to accompany the dessert. Visit www.womensfoodalliance.com for more information and list of prizes for the winners.

FEMA awards City of Jacksonville nearly \$18.2 million for Hurricane Irma expenses

FEMA has approved two federal grants totaling \$18,178,542 for the State of Florida to help the City of Jacksonville defray the costs of debris removal for Hurricane Irma under FEMA's Public Assistance Program. FEMA funds will be used to reimburse Jacksonville for the collection, reduction and disposal of debris between Oct. 18 and Dec. 16, 2017 following the September 2017 storm. During that time period, county workers and contractors gathered and hauled away 549,099 cubic yards of vegetative and 8,480 cubic yards of construction and demolition debris from throughout the city for landfill disposal. In addition, 294 damaged or leaning trees, 25,521 hanging limbs, and 96 tree stumps determined to pose a threat to public health and safety were also removed.

FEMA's Public Assistance program provides grants to state, tribal, and local governments, and certain types of private non-profit organizations including some houses of worship, so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies. The federal share for Public Assistance projects is not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost. The state determines how the non-federal share of the cost of a project (up to 25 percent) is split with the sub-recipients like local and county governments.



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— Resident Mary M. (with her dog, Jade)

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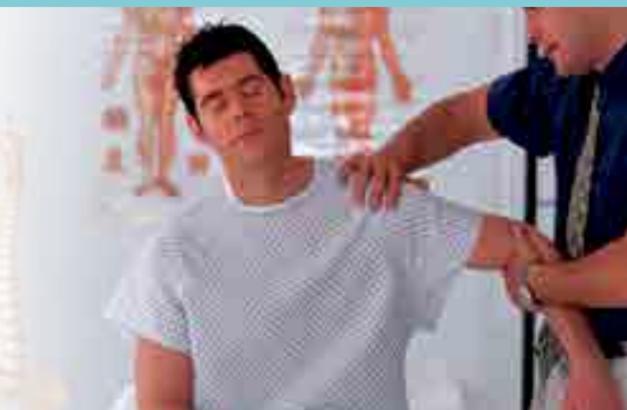
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Social distancing and caregiving: COVID-19 widens the divide

By Andrea Spencer
mail@floridanewsline.com

Caring for a loved one often presents daily challenges, but add in current mandated social distancing, caregivers may feel even more isolated, alone and unsupported. ElderSource, a nonprofit organization that provides information and resources to caregivers and seniors in Northeast Florida, has a new program that helps caregivers connect to others walking the same walk.



Photo courtesy ElderSource
Linda C., who lives in Fernandina, connects with her support group members sitting in her home office and using her iPad.

The Virtual Caregiver Support Group, launched last summer, gives caregivers the opportunity to bridge the social distance gap by using today's technology such as iPads, cell phones, desk or laptop computers. The support group members "meet" face to face in the comfort of their own homes using their device and an easy-to-use video conferencing app.

"This technology has allowed us to connect in a convenient way," said Alina C. a support group participant. "Surprisingly there's an intimacy that comes from being virtually face-to-face without the hassle of trying to attend an in-person meeting. It also allows for continued commitment to participate because you don't have to drive anywhere."

The group consists of 10 to 12 participants who meet once a week for 60 to 90 minutes. The sessions are facilitated by a skilled moderator who guides the participants through their conversations. Caregivers need to have internet access, a

computer device and the video conferencing app. Participants are given instructions on how to download and use the free app.

"In such a short time, we've had terrific success with the Virtual Support Group," said Louise Starmann, group facilitator and licensed clinical social worker. "The individuals who participated in the first group felt less isolated and loved creating these friendships with people who truly understood."

The first support group continues to meet and because the virtual "meeting rooms" are unlimited, ElderSource continues to promote and encourage participation.

"For the caregivers who have participated, they have really taken to it and are benefiting from it," said Linda Levin, CEO of ElderSource. "Our challenge is getting others to commit to participate. We are getting referrals, but some are still feeling that they do not have the time. With today's circumstances this virtual support group can be a critical lifeline."

Any caregiver living in northeast Florida can sign up; however, the group is focused on those who feel they cannot leave their loved one to attend a support group, but would benefit from participating in one. It is also an ideal resource for working caregivers who are pressed on time outside of the workplace.

Email Louise Starmann at louise.starmann@eldersourceinstitute.org or call (904) 391-6699 for more information about the Virtual Caregiver Support Group.

Andrea Spencer is with ElderSource.

Baptist Health cont. from pg. 6

ing isolation gowns for anticipated needs. Visit <https://baptist-health-foundation.com/isolation-gown-sewing-pattern-and-instructions/> for a pattern and instructions.

Completed hand-sewn gowns and masks may be dropped off with no contact at: Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville

(Downtown) Parking Garage P5, located at 1350 Flagler Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32207.

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Virtual volunteers cont. from pg. 1



Images courtesy Hope at Hand



“better,” “solving” (no words describing physical characteristics such as “beautiful,” “perfect” or “pretty”)

Negative or challenge words like “fake,” “unsettled,” “roughest,” “control,” “enemy,” “regret” (no words like “rape” or “murder”)

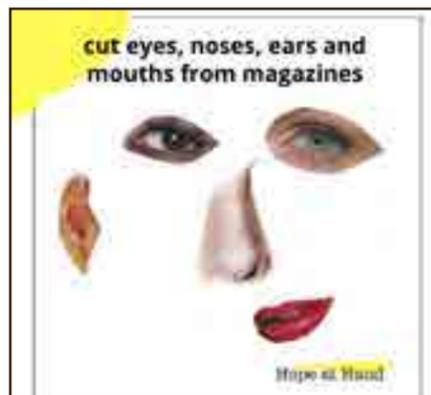
Images: Faces (men and women) without hair; living room items like tables, pictures, pillows and sofas; house pets like dogs, cats, birds and fish; and facial features like eyes, noses, ears, and mouths.

Hope at Hand requests that you use regular edge scissors and sort images and words in their respective categories. Try to keep images and words flat with no folds.

With poetry as the foundation for all programming, Hope at Hand provides youth with strategies to support them as they overcome barriers to their successful participation in society. Lessons are carefully designed to engage hard-

to-reach youth authentically, blending honest reflection and visions of change through poetry. Programming focuses on independent wellness strategies that youth can use to strengthen their own self-esteem beyond the scope of the actual lesson.

Mail your cut out handiwork to: Hope at Hand, 3886 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207.



5 Tips For Working At Home

#5. Dress for success: Even if you are working from the kitchen table for now, don't hang out in your pajamas. Dress as though you are going into the office. You could even go out the front or back door of your home and re-enter your new place of work.

#4. Have a dedicated place to work: When you are “at work” let your family know it's the same as if you were at the office or out on the road. It is even better if there is a door to your place of work that you can close behind you. It's symbolic, but helps establish a pattern of work.

#3. Reverse it: When you leave that dedicated place to work, dedicate your time to your family. Give them all of you once you leave that place of work in your home.

#2. Take breaks: Take breaks just as you would at work. For lunch, leave your place of work in your home and join your family for lunch.

#1. Regular schedule: Try to keep your regular schedule as if you were going into the office. It will help you create as much normalcy as possible.

Source: IFPA (Independent Free Papers of America)

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Dear Friends:

We hope you enjoy your monthly edition of Mandarin NewsLine. Each month, we do our best to provide our readers with timely, accurate community news, focused on the things that happen in our neighborhoods, including coverage of education, features on engaging community members, and events that touch us here, where we live. We see it as our role to highlight the good things that are happening in our community, and to shine a spotlight on the many wonderful volunteers and organizations that might otherwise go unrecognized.

However, as a family-owned, independent newspaper company, we face many challenges. The cost of paper and postage continue to rise and the local businesses whose advertising makes up more than 95 percent of our revenues are facing an unprecedented challenge as a result of Covid-19.

To help us continue to bring the community a compelling community news product, we are asking for your support. Please consider for a moment the value you receive: from the news, features, sports, commentaries, and marketing materials each month in your community newspaper. Is that worth \$2 a month to you? Or

\$4? Perhaps more? If so, we are asking you to help support us so that we can continue to provide this community service for many years to come.

Your Basic Subscription to Mandarin NewsLine remains free, but if you see the value and have the ability, we are asking you to consider Enhanced Support with a contribution of \$24 (less than 50 cents per week), \$48 (less than \$1 per week), or any other amount you feel is appropriate.

Regardless, we really need your support to keep publishing and delivering this newspaper!

Even if you can't support our efforts financially, by filling out the form below, you may help us qualify for significant discounts from the U.S Postal Service. All we need is some necessary information and your signature stating that you are requesting a three-year free subscription to Mandarin NewsLine.

As always, we welcome your feedback. If there's anything we can do to improve your reader experience, please contact me at publisher@floridanewsline.com.

Sincerely,
Mark Pettus, Publisher

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Three creative recipes using pantry ingredients

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Stuck inside and looking for something to make for dinner out of provisions you likely already have on hand? Read on for a few recipe ideas that are tasty!

Easy Minestrone Soup

- 1 tbsp. olive oil, plus more for serving
- 8-oz. can corn kernels, strained
- 2 tbsp. tomato paste
- ½ tsp. dried Italian seasoning
- ¼ tsp. dried oregano
- 1 quart chicken broth
- 1 14-oz. can diced tomatoes
- ¾ cup small-cut pasta, like elbows or small shells
- 1 14-oz. can cannellini or other white beans, strained
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 14-oz. can cut green beans, strained

Heat oil in a medium soup pot over medium-high heat. Add the corn and cook until it starts to brown slightly, about 3 minutes. Add the tomato paste, and spices and cook, stirring constantly, until the tomato paste begins to darken in color, about 1 minute. Slowly whisk in the chicken broth until the paste is smooth and then incorporated into the liquid. Add the whole can of diced tomatoes (including the liquid), and bring the mixture to a boil. Stir in the pasta and the white beans. Season with salt and pepper. Cook the pasta until al dente, 7 to 8 minutes, stirring in the green beans during the last 2 minutes. Serve in individual bowls with a little oil drizzled on top.

Yummy Applesauce Waffles

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ¾ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 ½ cups evaporated milk
- ½ cup applesauce
- ⅓ cup brown sugar
- 3 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- Powdered sugar, ground cinnamon and maple syrup, for serving

Preheat the waffle iron. Whisk the flour,

baking powder, baking soda and salt together in a medium bowl. Whisk the evaporated milk, applesauce, brown sugar, oil, vanilla and ¾ cup water in a large bowl. Fold the dry ingredients into the wet, and stir until just combined. Allow the batter to rest at room temperature for 5 minutes.

Ladle enough batter into the waffle iron to fill it to the edges, and cook until crispy and brown, 6 to 7 minutes. (You can tell the waffles are ready when very little steam comes out of the waffle iron.) Continue in batches until all the batter is used. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and cinnamon, and serve with maple syrup.

Corn and Black Bean Quesadillas

- 1 tsp. olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¼ small onion, chopped
- ¼ bell pepper (red, orange, or yellow), chopped
- 15- oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 ½ cups canned or thawed frozen corn
- ½ tsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 4 large flour tortillas

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add the onion and bell pepper and saute for 1-2 minutes. Add garlic and saute for 30 seconds. Add black beans, corn, salsa, cumin and chili powder and stir to combine.

Reduce heat. Melt a teaspoon of butter in another large skillet. Place one tortilla in the skillet. Add a sprinkle of cheese, followed by a heaping scoop of corn and bean mixture and spread into an even layer. Top with another sprinkle of cheese. Add a tortilla on top and cook until the cheese is almost melted and the bottom tortilla is golden.

Use a large spatula to carefully flip the tortilla to the other side. Cook until cheese is melted and bottom tortilla is golden brown.

Serve with salsa and sour cream.

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Get to Know . . .

Ginger Manning

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Ginger Manning
Ginger Manning

Ginger Manning is a long-time resident of Mandarin and well known by community members for her work with EF Homestay, the exchange program for international students. She is also a teacher at Crown Point Elementary School, where she has worked for more than 15 years. She said she used to teach first grade, but now enjoys teaching third grade because “the kids better understand my dry sense of humor.”

Born in New Jersey, Ginger’s family made its way down the East Coast before ending up in Florence, S.C. for her high school years. She went to Francis Marion University in Florence and earned her degree in English with a minor in business. She is married with three grown daughters: Emily, who is a teacher and lives outside of Seattle, Wash. with her husband and two year old son; Amanda, who is a pastry chef and lives in Orlando; and Olivia, who lives in San Diego while finishing her college degree online.

Q: How did you come to live in Jacksonville?

A: I worked for a mortgage company right out of college and the opportunity to move to Jacksonville came in 1984. I met my husband, Chris, here at a little bar called the Family Pub in 1988. We married later that same year in St. Joseph’s Historic Church and I was a stay at home mom for our three daughters, who all attended Mandarin schools, until they were grown and I started teaching at Crown Point.

Q: What do you like best about Crown Point Elementary?

A: My co-workers. I have made very close friends who have been with me through good times and sad. It is truly a family, especially during the loss of my mother recently. We have some teachers who have been there more than 20 years and also some new college graduates who have a very high work ethic and lots of great new ideas. I feel really good about the future of education.

Q: How did you get involved with EF Homestay?

A: Several of the teachers at Crown Point had hosted students and I heard about it. It never seemed like quite the right fit for us when the three girls were at home, but once we had more room, it appealed to me and I developed a passion for it. We have hosted seven students over the years. A lot of very nice people in this area open their homes to these students each year.

Q: Can you give some more details about EF Homestay?

A: All the students are high school age and all speak English. Their visit is short term; this year, approximately 150 students from Spain, France, Italy, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland will be in northeast Florida for about two to three weeks between June 26 and July 21. We are still looking for host families. The students are kept busy during the day, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and host families are just responsible for overnight and week-

ends. We say to just do whatever your family normally does during that time . . . errands, soccer practice. It’s all about improving the visiting students’ English conversation skills and you get to meet a student from another culture. Email me at efgingwa19@gmail.com if you are interested in hosting!

Q: What are your hobbies and favorite things to do in your spare time?

A: I’m an avid puzzler and reader. I’m currently working on a 500-piece puzzle of the Harry Potter world that is awful because all the pieces are tan. We also enjoy “music hopping” to listen to local bands in St. Augustine and Jacksonville. We love camping, especially at Hanna Park and Anastasia State Park, because they are convenient to the ocean, biking and restaurants. Finally, we love playing dominoes, especially on Friday nights with our camping friends.

[Editor’s Note: This interview was done in early March, before the effects of COVID 19. It seems reasonable, at press time, that there may be some changes to the EF Homestay summer exchange program dates. Email Ginger at efgingwa19@gmail.com to stay up to date.]

Websites cont. from pg. 1

Presentations will take place Monday through Friday at 9:30 a.m. ET for younger children, and 1 p.m. for young adults. There will also be a Q&A portion at the end of each presentation. The interactive presentations can be viewed on Facebook at @KennedySpaceCenterVisitorComplex. The visitor complex also has downloadable activities that can be found at the following link: <https://www.kennedyspacecenter.com/camps-and-education/educator-resources>.

Ivy League Colleges offer free courses online: <https://www.classcentral.com/collection/ivy-league-moocs>

Stay-at-home Activities from the Cummer Museum: Museum Educators have put together an extensive list of ideas to bring the galleries and exhibitions into your home. Visit www.cummermuseum.org/visit/education#resources-for-families to check it out.

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History virtual tour: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>

Hidden Worlds of National Parks: With virtual reality and 360 degree videos, Google allows you to immerse yourself in the scenic U.S. National Parks. Visit <https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/national-parks-service> and see some places that most people never see.

Discover Florida from your own home: Check out some Wildlife Adventures or Just for Kids activities: <https://www.discoverfloridachannel.com/>

Georgia Aquarium webcam: <https://www.georgiaaquarium.org/webcam/ocean-voyager/>

Get to Know . . .

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Email Martie Thompson at
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Jacksonville Symphony adds broadcast availability

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

With limitations on public gatherings still in place, the Jacksonville Symphony has cancelled concerts and events through the beginning of May, including:

- Concerts**
 April 3 and 4: Copland's Great American Symphony
 April 17 and 18: RESPECT: Aretha
 April 23, 24, 25: Brahms Symphony No. 2
 May 1: Music of the Knights
 Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras events are also canceled, including all rehearsals through the end of April and May performances on May 4 (Festival of Strings) and May 8 (Major/Minor)

- Events**
 April 2: Sound Bites Luncheon and Open Rehearsal
 April 22: Onstage Rehearsal

Although the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts is closed to the public, the Jacksonville Symphony will be able to broadcast performances of smaller ensembles, which will allow the Symphony to continue performing music for the community while also following health and safety standards surrounding COVID-19.

Scheduled ensemble performances are:
 Friday, April 3 at 8 p.m.
 Friday, April 10 at 8 p.m.

"It's wonderful to have our staff, musicians and stagehands working together to make these broadcasts happen," says Steven Libman, Symphony President and CEO. "Even though we are forced apart by this virus, music will always be here to bring us together. As long as we are safely able to, we will continue to bring music to our community."

Patrons can find the broadcast concerts on the symphony's Facebook page or YouTube Channel (search for Jax Symphony for either) at the scheduled performance time. Patrons are also able to view previously streamed Symphony concerts on the Symphony's website (www.jaxsymphony.org).

Visit www.jaxsymphony.org or call (904) 354-5547 for additional updates and changes to scheduling. Options for those who have already purchased tickets to Jacksonville Symphony concerts scheduled to take place during the cancellation period can be found on the symphony's website.

From a Teacher: Tips for home learning

By Lara Pierce, STEM Education
mail@floridanewsline.com

Your kids are home from school for at least a month and you have been tasked to oversee their learning. Don't panic! You can do it! As a veteran teacher of 27 years, I am going to help you with some of the tricks of the trade.

How to begin: It is important to find a clean organized area for your child to work. The kitchen or dining room table is great because you can spread out. The kitchen counter will work too. Just make sure they are in an open area where you can supervise them and keep them on task. Teachers spend the first two weeks of school developing routines so that everything runs smoothly. You will need some ground rules. Have your child gather all their supplies in one place. Have them fill up their water bottle so they aren't getting up every five minutes to get a drink. Together, write up a schedule. Most likely your child can tell you what their schedule was like at school. Try to duplicate this at home. The length of your homeschool day should depend on your child and their learning pace. Focus on quality not quantity.

A great online site that compiles many of the best learning websites in one place is: www.kidfriendlysearch.com This site was created by a St. Johns County technology teacher and is an amazing resource. The site is organized by subject area. There is even a section to practice typing skills.

Another recommended website is www.abcy.com. This site is organized by grade level (PreK through sixth grade). There are sections within each grade level for letters, numbers, strategies, and skills.

You can practice most basic skills using this site.

If you want your child to practice their learning with paper and pencil, there is a site for that too. Teachers can't create everything they do in their classroom. They often turn to other teachers for help. There are some really talented teachers who are willing to create units or themed activities and sell them. You do not have to be a teacher to access this site. There is an option to search for free items too. Visit www.teacherspayteachers.com and search by grade level and subjects. Just download, print and go. This is a great resource for younger students who still need to work on skills that require paper and pencil.

The last resource I want to share with you is by far my favorite. Using your Duval County library card, you can download apps that allow you to instantly borrow digital movies, music, ebooks, magazines and more. When you visit the site jaxpubliclibrary.org look under the Digital Library tab at the top for the directions to access it all. This is a safe way for your child to access all the books they could possibly want to read. The best part it's free! If your child is not a big reader, start with a magazine or anything that captures their interests or imagination.

Remember parents, we are in this together. The teachers are missing your child and look forward to the day they are back together in the classroom. If you need help, reach out to your child's teacher; I know they would be happy to assist.

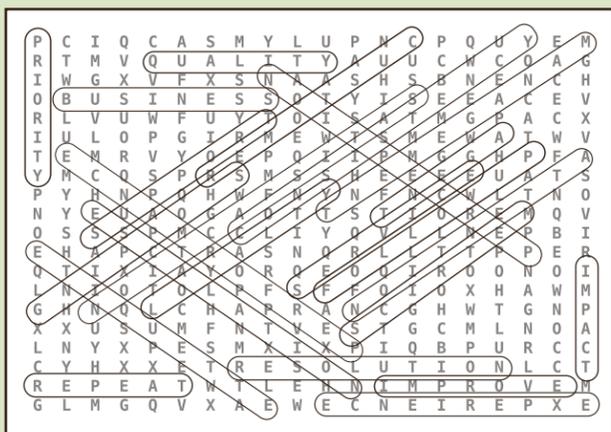
Good luck! You got this!

Answers to puzzles on page 16

Answers to our Puzzles



Answers: A. patron B. retail C. purchase D. client



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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewslines.com

One of the easiest ways to avoid one of those awful early summer sunburns is to start your tanning process now, while UV strengths are still moderate. And, one of the best ways to get out in the sun and get this year's tan started is with a fishing pole in hand.

For the remainder of spring and early summer, area beaches will be offering some of the most consistent and easiest surf fishing of the year. The most consistent bite will be whiting. Dead shrimp or sand fleas are the bait of choice, fished on the bottom, just behind or beyond the breaking waves. Whiting happen to be an unregulated species of fish in Florida, which means not only are they considered to be "very good eating," but a recreational licensed angler is allowed to keep up to 100 pounds of the fish per day. Now that's a fish fry.

A little more finicky fish found in the surf this time of year, but plentiful, and considered one of the East Coast of Florida's best tasting, is the pompano. With filet values sometimes exceeding \$15 a pound in area seafood markets, pompano are highly targeted and valued by surf fishermen up and down the coast.

Fishing for pompano in the surf is very much like fishing for whiting. They both like the same baits and can be caught on bottom rigs; however, there are specially designed "pompano rigs" that can be bought or homemade that are thought to be more productive than a traditional fish finder bottom surf rig. Also, crab (sand fleas) or clam baits often become the bait

of choice over shrimp. Pompano also seem to prefer prettier days with calmer and clearer water conditions. Farther casts beyond the breakers are also needed to increase the likelihood of a catch. Florida law requires that pompano be at least 11 inches long to fork of the tail and have a daily limit of six per angler.

Fishing Report: Local bass fishing is still very good. Area creeks and ponds offering very good bites as hungry bass are off the beds and looking for food. Surf fishing peeking with a variety of fish to be caught, especially red-hot whiting and pompano for at least the rest of the month or more.

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

[Author's Note: Who could have guessed that after the writing of this month's article encouraging folks to get outside, enjoy the weather, and maybe take in a little fishing, that we would be where we are at right now, with most public accesses to parks, beaches and waterways closed?]

It is so sad to see such beautiful weather being wasted. It is always my hope for people to see and learn to enjoy all that our area outdoors and beaches have to offer. I've always believed that sun and saltwater are a healthy mix, that the two together can often heal what ails you. I am sad to see the closures because I believe they were the best and safest alternative for people to find a way of healthy entertainment while having to endure the other confines of this virus. Hopefully it ends soon.]

Coast Guard Auxiliary update

By Paul Tynda
mail@floridanewslines.com

Effective Jan. 1, 2020, the manufacturer Sirius will no longer be producing the model SOS C-1001 visual distress beacon. This will be replaced by the SOS C-1003. The new model is powered by a high performance microprocessor that controls the SOS flashing pattern and has a more powerful LED light. The old models are still approved for use as visual distress signals when paired with the orange square flag with the black circle and square. Any brand of Coast Guard approved SOS beacon with the orange flag meets the visual distress signal requirements for a recreational boat and can be carried on your vessel in lieu of three day/night flares.

The biggest advantage of the SOS beacon and orange flag is that they have no expiration date; however, the beacon must be in good working order and the orange flag must not be faded or defaced in any way. Pyrotechnic VDS of any kind will have an expiration date and once that date has passed the visual distress signals do not meet the minimum requirements for recreational vessels.

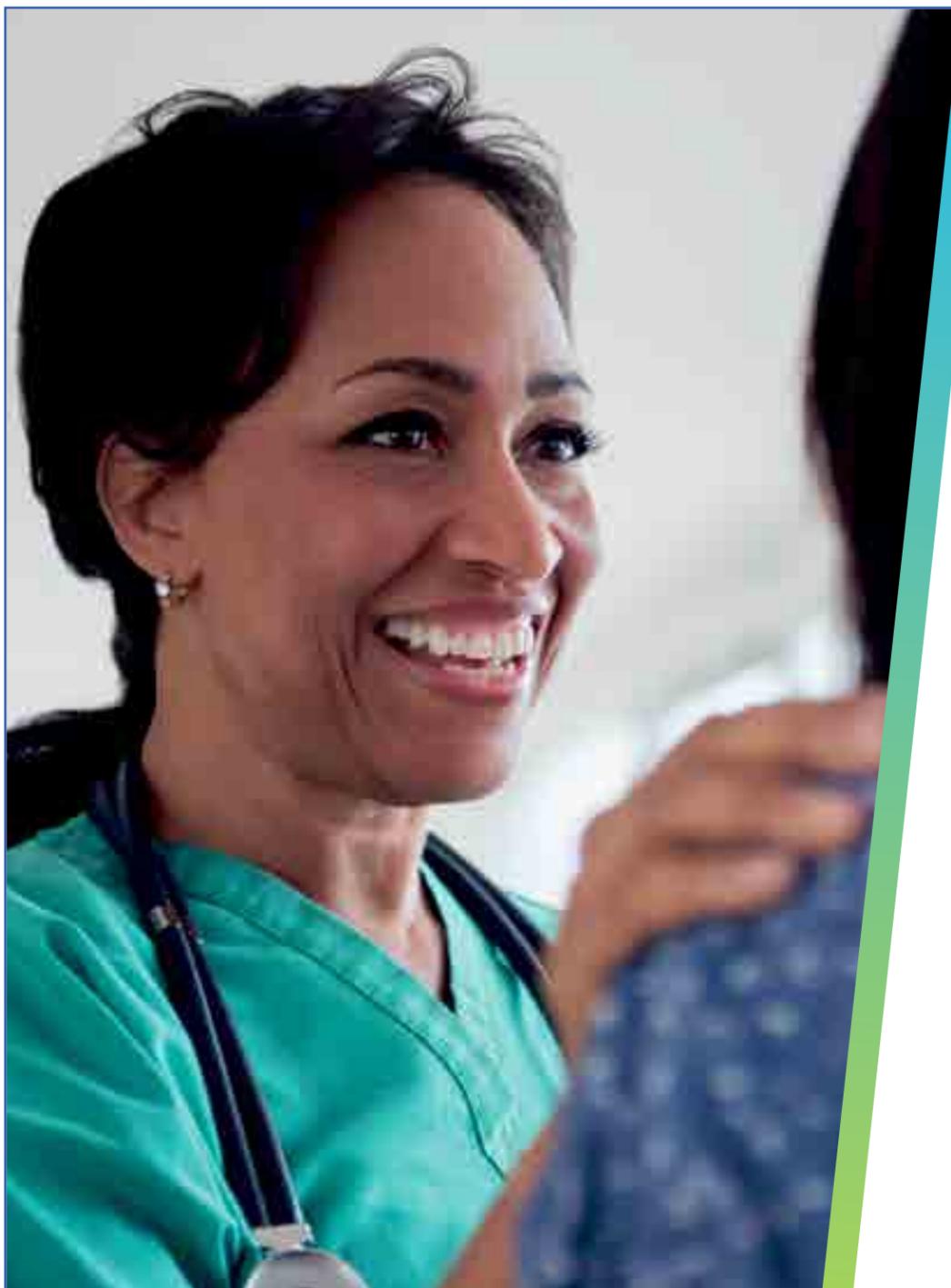
There are advantages and disadvantages to both sets of visual distress signals. The SOS beacon will always work as long as it is in good condition with good batteries and the orange flag doesn't run on any power source or require ignition. This set of visual distress signals can be a good option for boaters willing to make a slightly larger investment upfront. The disadvantage to the beacon and flag are physical limitations. In daylight, the LED light may not be as effective in getting someone's attention and the orange flag is not

able to be displayed in a full 360 degree circle to maximize your visibility. The pyrotechnic visual distress signals come in a few variations. Some are daytime use only and some are for night use only, so you have to read the packaging closely to make sure you have the right visual distress signals.

Probably the most common distress signal is the handheld flare. These usually come as a strike top, roman candle-like item that burns a bright red for a period of time. This type of visual distress signal, while effective, should be used with some care. The red, burning tip of the handheld pyrotechnic flares can burn you and should be ignited and held away from your body. Not only are they bright, but are wind- and waterproof. The aerial flares offer more visibility to other boaters at a greater distance. Other than the potential to burn, the major downside to the flares are the limited burn time. The Orion brand lasts about three minutes and some other lasting about one minute. If you have the minimum amount of flares on your boat, that gives you about nine minutes depending on the flares to get noticed in an emergency.

This may leave you wondering what the best option is. Between the two options there is not a clear winner. They both have limitations to take into consideration and the requirement for recreational boats is just the minimum. It would be in your best interest to have a backup plan for the visual distress signals on your boat.

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



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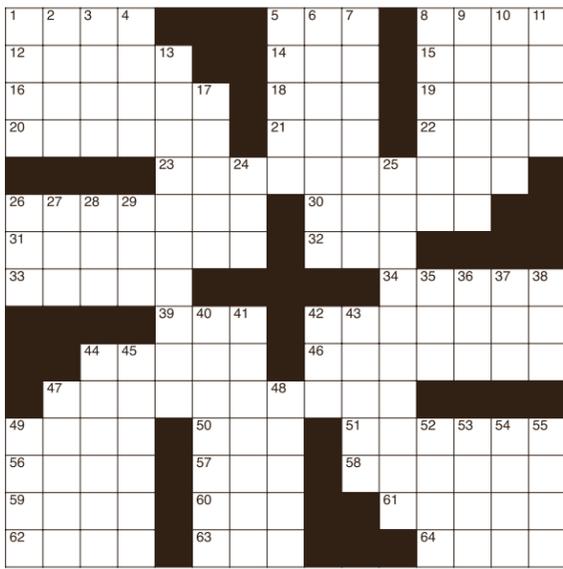
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 14
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Bond villain Mikkelsen
5. A team's best pitcher
8. French river
12. Mountain nymph (Greek)
14. City of Angels airport
15. Military force
16. Scrawny
18. Value
19. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
20. Highly seasoned sausage
21. Trouble
22. Prong
23. Showing varying colors
26. Cloaked
30. Renters sign one
31. Acquires
32. Type of language (abbr.)
33. Partner to pains
34. Third portion of the small intestine
39. Excessively theatrical actor

CLUES DOWN

1. Female parents
2. Region
3. Transaction
4. Heroic tale
5. Of algae
6. Luminous intensity unit
7. Uncovers
8. French commune name
9. Poisonous gas
10. Pearl Jam's bassist
11. Horse groom in India
13. Destroyed
17. A way to alter
24. Promotional materials
25. American state
26. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
27. "Modern Family" network
28. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series

CLUES DOWN

29. Exercise system ___-bo
35. Type of bulb
36. Opposite of beginning
37. Utilize
38. Type of student
40. Deficiency of moisture
41. Areas of the eye
42. Select
43. Sheets of floating ice
44. Priests who act as mediums
45. Roof of the mouth
47. Unnatural
48. Illuminated
49. There are three famous ones
52. Large, fast Australian birds
53. "Dracula" heroine Harker
54. Substitutes (abbr.)
55. Tax



Solve the code to discover words related to customers. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 6 = e)

A. 25 20 21 9 26 4
Clue: Gives financial support

B. 9 6 21 20 22 8
Clue: Sale of goods

C. 25 18 9 5 11 20 24 6
Clue: Buy something

D. 5 8 22 6 4 21
Clue: Person using services of another

CUSTOMER WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AGENT
- ATTENTION
- BUSINESS
- CONSISTENCY
- CUSTOMER
- ESCALATION
- ETIQUETTE
- EXPERIENCE
- FOLLOW-UP
- IMPACT
- IMPROVE
- LOYALTY
- MANAGEMENT
- METRICS
- PERCEPTION
- PERFORMANCE
- PRIORITY
- QUALITY
- REPEAT
- RESOLUTION
- SATISFACTION
- SERVICE
- SHOPPING
- SUPPORT

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Answers to puzzle on page 4

Did you match these slang expressions to their meanings?

1. clean sweep — A. to stay out of trouble
2. clean out — B. to win everything
3. clean hands — C. innocent; has done nothing wrong
4. come clean — D. to take everything; empty
5. keep one's nose clean — E. confess, tell the whole story

Busting Dust!

1. dust
2. dust bunnies
3. an item is "collecting dust"
4. the flies "bit the dust"
5. the lead runner left the others "in the dust"
6. I'm going to "dust off" my hobby box
7. when she works she "makes the dust fly"

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Gardening

Signs of Spring

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

It's early March and, as I often find, I'm running behind on garden tasks. I hope you're feeling more in control! I'm enjoying seeing what my local big box store is bringing in for spring planting — all that color — and trying not to buy on impulse, which is something many gardeners find difficult. The trick is to have a plan — not one that is cast in stone, but which allows you to understand what you really need for that particular spot in your yard, be it dry and shady or moist and in sun. This allows you freedom to choose that beautiful new plant, once you have checked the label to ensure that it will be “the right plant in the right place.”

Late winter has been warmer than it should be, with hardly any cold snaps, and deciduous trees and shrubs are increasingly showing their beautiful fresh spring-green colors. Relying on my rain gauge, there has been a reason-

able amount of rain in my area of town, and I have been able to save water as my vegetable garden has been doing fine without irrigation. Generally our weather is kinder to us than in many parts of the country. Our next challenges will be the dry spring fire season and, as of June 1, the hurricane season.

While thinking further about the year ahead, I've been looking at the University of Florida website “Gardening Solutions,” which has evolved in recent years from “Solutions for Your Life.” It has been updated with articles that introduce material to general readers, with readily accessible links to more in-depth articles that get right to the heart of our gardening issues. The home page has what you need to get started: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>. You will find it a very accessible resource and I encourage you to check it out, whether you simply need reminding of best practices for lawn care, are

troubled by a wretched insect that's beginning to feel like a plague, or are feeling inspired to do your bit for our pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.

Our local resource, A New Leaf newsletter, is available at <https://tinyurl.com/uk3zf9v>. Summer vegetables are on many gardeners' lists, and you will find tips from Beth Marlowe for planting out tomatoes and their pepper and eggplant relatives. Summer heat brings more pests and fire ants can be among the worst; see Chris Kerr's article on dealing with them and how you may be able to do so without using chemicals. Now is the time we begin to see the city arborists inspecting trees that could potentially cause power outages during summer storms. As homeowners we can make sure that any trees we plant won't grow up and into power lines by choosing our tree species wisely. Larry Figart has details on some lovely options if you are considering a new tree or two.

We had been planning to hold our Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Sale on May 2, but this is now not certain. All Master Gardener Volunteer activities have been postponed until further notice and the Extension Office will be closed through the end of March; however, Extension Agents and staff will be working remotely and can be reached at duval.ifas.ufl.edu or through the City of Jacksonville call center at 255-CITY. Agents will be answering questions in place of our volunteers.

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To our readers: Remember all the local small businesses that you've asked for years to donate and sponsor your organizations, sports clubs and school events? Right now, they're in need of your support.

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Pat Frank and “Alas Babylon”: The Mandarin Connection

By Tracey Arpen
mail@floridanewsline.com

Many Mandarin readers have probably heard of Pat Frank's novel “Alas Babylon” and more than a few may have even read it — especially since it is on many school reading lists and is often highly ranked on lists of the best post-apocalyptic and science fiction novels. Less well known are the connections between the author, his book, and Mandarin.

Published in 1959 at the height of the Cold War, Frank's novel tells the story of a small Florida town trying to cope following a nuclear attack on the United States. The novel is set in the fictional Central Florida town of Fort Repose, leading towns such as Mount Dora to believe it must have been patterned after their town. In fact, Frank made it clear the real community after which Fort Repose was patterned was none other than Mandarin.

As Frank told the Orlando Sentinel in April 1960, “I mixed up the geography intentionally. Some thought it was on the Indian River, some thought it was on the St. Johns, others thought it was on a lake. Actually, it's more like Mandarin on the

St. Johns near Jacksonville where I was brought up.”

Frank's familiarity with Mandarin arose from his family ties. He was born Harry Hart Frank, Jr., but was known as “Pat,” even before birth, because of his mother's mistaken belief he would be born on St. Patrick's Day. His mother was a member of the Cohen family, founders of the Cohen Brothers department store. After his father's death, Pat moved with his mother to Jacksonville. (Source: Florida Times-Union, June 15, 2009)

Doris Frank later married Mont Barwald and the couple eventually moved to Mandarin together with their son, long time Mandarin resident Billy Barwald. Billy, who died in 2016 at the age of 97, remained close to his half-brother Pat until Pat's death in 1964 in Atlantic Beach.

Frank's first novel, “Mr. Adam,” was a bestseller, selling over two million copies. The success of that novel gave Frank the freedom to retire from journalism and become a full-time writer. His 1956 Cold War novel “Forbidden Area” began with Russian saboteurs landing at Ponte Vedra

Beach, just as real-life Nazis had during World War II a few years earlier. It was adapted for television for the debut episode of CBS's highly acclaimed Playhouse 90 series. The television adaptation was by Rod Serling and the presentation starred, among others, Charlton Heston and Vincent Price.

“Alas Babylon” also aired on Playhouse 90 in 1960, starring Dana Andrews, Kim Hunter, Rita Moreno and a young Burt Reynolds. Frank was extremely unhappy with the television presentation. He was so angry, in fact, that he wrote to the Washington Post on April 17, 1960 in response to a review of the show:

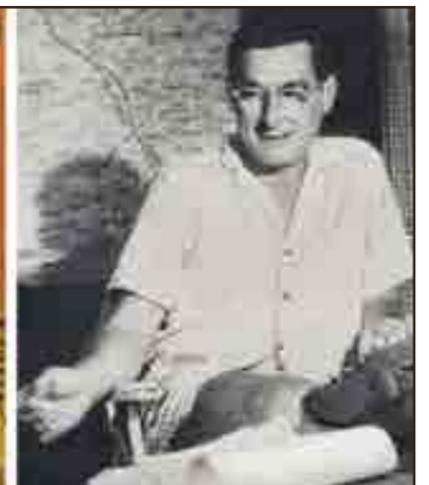
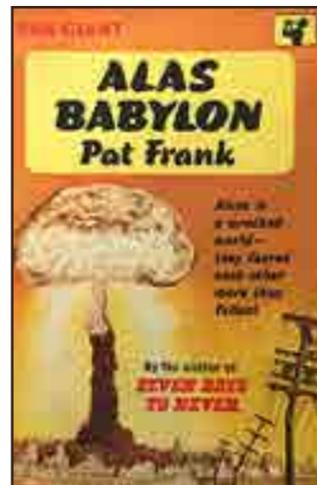


Photo courtesy “Mount Dora Citizen,” Feb. 2, 2016. Pat Frank and “Alas, Babylon” book cover.

“But I cannot forgive the arbitrary distortions of plot, theme and characterization. My novel attempted to show that Man's overpowering instinct is survival. Even the weakest of us will fight to live and preserve, through our children, our link with immortality. Man does not give up, come the Day and the day after. The novel showed a village reduced to Stone-Age survival — but fighting to survive. The television play showed people giving up, which they do not do, even if they think they will.

“I feel, now, as if I had sold one of my children into slavery, and now the child had been taken into a back alley and bludgeoned. I'll never again make the mistake of selling a novel I cherish to television, without insisting on a voice in the production. But, alas, my child is gone.”

Given Mandarin's size today, it's hard to imagine it ever being the inspiration for the small town of Fort Repose; however, the census count for the Mandarin-Loretto area in 1960 (one year after the release of “Alas Babylon” and more than a decade before the Buckman Bridge) was only 3,972 people. Ask any “old-timer” who lived in Mandarin back then what the community was like and it becomes easier to see how the setting of this world-famous novel could have been Mandarin.



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By Debi Lander mail@floridanewsline.com

“Virginia is for Lovers” ranks as one of the most successful tourism campaigns of all time. The Old Dominion, however, entices more than romantics, from its seashores to its mountains, for its colonial and Civil War sites, its presidential mansions, and aerospace museums, not to mention many popular culinary and musical festivals.



Martha Washington Inn set for tea

Visiting Southwest Virginia last year, I discovered a small city with a fascinating history, architectural gems, and yet very modern activities. Abingdon kept me hopping over three days — not long enough to see and do it all.

Abingdon’s best known for the Barter Theater, Virginia’s State Theater. The professional residential repertoire company, one of the few in the U.S., presents multiple stages, letting visitors see more than one performance over the weekend. The Barter began in the Great Depression, taking vegetables locals couldn’t sell in exchange for laughs. Milk, eggs, and livestock turned ham to Hamlet (vice versa for the equally struggling cast). It’s cash or credit cards today, but folks still leave in fine spirits.

After a Barter performance, walk across the street to stay at, or at least visit, the Martha Washington Inn and Spa. The historic hotel, originally built as a residence for a large family, became a school and in 1935, a hotel. Renovated and updated, it maintains a colonial atmosphere and fine antiques blended with modern amenities. You’ll want to spend time at the Martha, not just

sleep there. The parlor begs with an afternoon tea setting and the library calls others to curl up and read. The manicured grounds make for a relaxing stroll.



SW Virginia Cultural Center

Where do you eat? Join those who’ve been doing so since 1779 at The Tavern. One of the oldest surviving restaurants, it also served as a Civil War hospital. If you are into ghosts ask the owner to give you a peek in the attic. The initials carved into the wall are real,

but are the ghosts? Abingdon’s Haint Mistress offers ghost tours of the city and claims there are many scattered about town.

Not far from the Tavern lies a scenic rails to trails path, the Virginia Creeper Trail, great for biking, hiking, walking or horseback riding. You can rent a cycle and ride over to the Abingdon Vineyards to quench your thirst. Don’t miss the small Visitor Center next to the train. Inside you’ll find some O. Winston Link’s black and white photographs; he’s considered the Ansel Adams of train photography. Hear stories about the lengthy endeavors he took to set up a shot- before the days of strobe lights and digital cameras.

For a real treat, drive over to the Southwestern Cultural Heritage Center for a free bluegrass concert. But hang on to your wallet — this place will make you want to redecorate

your house. From bedroom sets, to tables, chairs, clocks and quilts, beautiful artisan crafts are displayed. I



Virginia Creeper Trail



Photos courtesy Debi Lander Barter Theater

challenge you to leave without buying at least a small gift for someone. The variety and quality are outstanding, and there’s also local Virginia specialties like smoked hams, peanuts, jams, pickles and wine. I honestly have never been to a visitor center as spectacular as this one.

Abingdon and the SW Cultural Center sit on The Crooked Road, a 300-mile trail dedicated to musical heritage within the state. Nearby Bristol offers the Birthplace of Country Music Museum. You can also visit the Carter Family Fold for programs of Old Time and bluegrass music on weekends.

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