

Mandarin NewsLine

APRIL 2021 Volume 15 Issue 6

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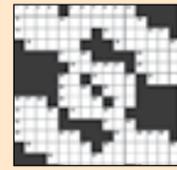
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Library fines waived through April 30



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Library
Library fines are waived through April 30, 2021.

By Jeremy Yates
mail@floridanewslinc.com

A little behind schedule returning those books? No worries! Jacksonville Public Library is still overdue fine free through April 30, 2021. What does that mean? You won't incur overdue fines for returning items after the due date. That is, if you return them by April 30. Additionally, all outstanding overdue fines have been erased from all cardholders' accounts.

"The library needs to be as easy to use as possible, especially now that so many people experience hard times," says Library Director Tim Rogers. "In many cases, someone who has an overdue fine on their account will avoid using the library, even though they may really need it to support their child's education, improve their chances of job or small business success or to learn something new that makes their life better."

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Annual Mandarin Art Festival postponed until fall

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslinc.com

Many in the community will recall that the always highly anticipated annual Mandarin Art Festival was cancelled last year for the first time after more than 50 continuous years. It was a tough decision and a blow to the community and to the Mandarin Community Club, which relies heavily on the festival for fundraising.

The Mandarin Community Club made the very difficult decision to cancel the 2021 Easter weekend annual Mandarin Art Festival, which would have been held on April 3 – 4. The club board felt like it was the right thing to do in the best interest of all — volunteers, artist exhibitors, vendors, board members and patrons — since the recent positive developments in the fight against Covid did not come in time to plan and prepare months ahead for an Easter 2021 festival.



John Cheer received the Mandarin Art Festival's 2018 Best In Show Award.

However, the club has rescheduled the festival for this fall: the weekend of Oct. 9 – 10, 2021. Plans are for a return to the 52-year Easter tradition in 2022.



Photos courtesy Mandarin Community Club
The Mandarin Art Festival will be postponed from its traditional Easter Weekend dates, but will be held under the oaks at the Mandarin Community Club on Oct. 9 – 10.

"We are very optimistic that this fall festival will be a big success and greeted with as much anticipation as the spring show," said Susie Scott, president of the Mandarin Community Club. "We are also excited at the unique opportunities a fall event will present for the show and want the community to share the experience."

Contact the club at mandarinartfestival@gmail.com to be a part of this new October event and/or help prepare for the return of the continuing tradition in the spring of 2022.

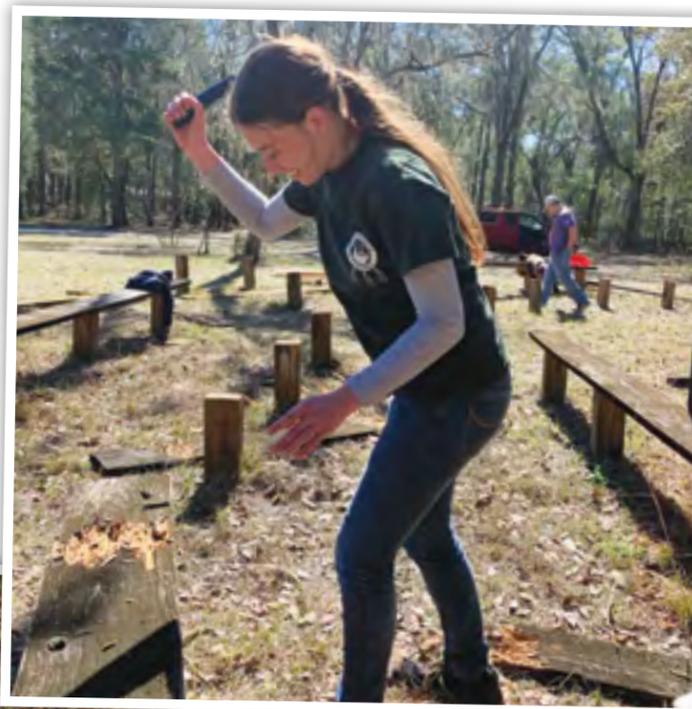
The Mandarin Community Club has served the community since 1923 and is the oldest civic organization in Jacksonville. It has received countless awards over the decades for their community efforts and support. The purpose of the club is to foster and promote the appreciation, beautification and civic well-being of the Mandarin community and preserve the historic properties of the Mandarin Community Club for the benefit and education of its members, the public and future generations. The club is located on historic Mandarin Road in the 1872 Mandarin Freedom School building, founded originally by Harriett Beecher Stowe who resided across the street.

Mandarin Community Club is an independently operated, non profit 501c.3 organization managed by a volunteer board of directors. Visit www.mandarincommunityclub.org for more information.

Native Sons and Daughters complete service project

By Brian Quirk, Flaming Arrow
mail@floridanewslinc.com

The Jacksonville chapter of Native Sons and Daughters partnered with the owners of the Spirit of Suwannee Music Park in Live Oak to complete a much needed service project. Through years of weather and vandalism, the benches at the music park's fire circle had deteriorated to a point where they needed to be replaced. Pete Gunston, Pathfinders Chief, recruited, accumulated



materials, and organized this service project. The Pathfinders division of the club carried out the project.

The Pathfinders portion of Native Sons and Daughters is made up of children aged 13 – 18 who have decided to continue building life-long memories with their fathers. Students in this age group are required to obtain service hours for their respective schools and many of the members have been in Native

Native cont. on pg. 13



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Author Rodney Hurst receives Stetson Kennedy Award

By Tracey Arpen
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Museum & Historical Society was honored to have the Stetson Kennedy Foundation present its annual “Fellow Man and Mother Earth Award” to author Rodney L. Hurst Sr. during the virtual Third Thursday Lecture on Feb. 18.

The mission of the Foundation is “to do all that we can to help carry forward mankind’s unending struggle for human rights in a free, peaceful, harmonious, democratic, just, humane, bounteous and joyful world, to nurture our cultural heritages, and to faithfully discharge our commitment of stewardship over Mother Earth and all her progeny.” The award was presented on behalf of Sandra Parks and the board of directors of the organization.

Stetson Kennedy was a fascinating character who spent his entire adult life fighting for human rights, including infiltrating the Ku Klux Klan in the 1940s. He worked with Zora Neale Hurston and others in the Federal Writers Project to gather and preserve Florida’s history, culture and folklore. He lived in the Fruit Cove area at a place named Beluthahatchee, where his friend Woody Guthrie was a frequent visitor. His home is now a St. Johns County park. He died in 2011.

Since 2007 the Stetson Kennedy Foundation has presented the “Fellow Man and Mother Earth Award” to recognize an individual’s outstanding achievement in promoting environmental kinship, human rights or the preservation of traditional culture. The Foundation recognized and honored Rodney Hurst for his

outstanding achievement as a civil rights activist, award winning author, community leader and black historian.

In 1960, at just 16 years old, Hurst was president of the Jacksonville Youth Council NAACP. He and others led the sit-in demonstrations in downtown Jacksonville just months after the sit-ins in Greensboro and Nashville. He was there on Ax Handle Saturday on Aug. 27, 1960.

Because of the local “blackout” of news of the demonstration and attacks, Hurst’s book, “It Was Never about a Hot Dog and a Coke,” detailing his eyewitness account, is the only historically accurate description of the 1960 Jacksonville sit-ins and Ax Handle Saturday. For more than 60 years, Hurst has been

a fighter for equal rights and a chronicler of the struggle to achieve them.

Stetson Kennedy knew Hurst and always appreciated the risk and courage that he and other activists took in the 1960s. As a writer himself, Kennedy also appreciated that Hurst wrote about it. And he appreciated Hurst’s leadership role as a young member of the Jacksonville Youth Council NAACP and his leadership role as it continues in the Jacksonville community today.

Tracey Arpen is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society and is on the Board of Directors of the Stetson Kennedy Foundation. see Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net for more information about Mandarin’s history and MMHS information. Visit www.stetsonkenedy.org for information about Stetson Kennedy and www.rodneyhurst.com for more about Rodney Hurst.



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102 State Road 13, Suite 1
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(904) 886-4919
www.FloridaNewsLine.com

Publisher

Mark Pettus
Publisher@FloridaNewsLine.com

Editor

Martie Thompson
Editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

Bookkeeper

Emily Whitehead
Accounting@FloridaNewsLine.com

Social Media

SocialMedia@FloridaNewsLine.com

Advertising Sales

Rebecca Thomson
Rebecca@FloridaNewsLine.com
(724) 968-7602 cell

Linda Gay

Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com
(904) 607-5062 cell

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Sophie!



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Favorite Treat:
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Summer Camp and Activities Guide

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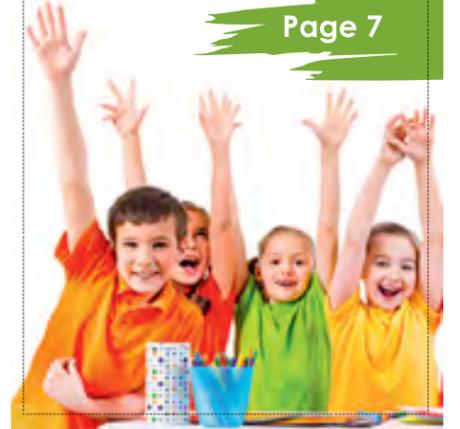


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MYSTERY PHOTO



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

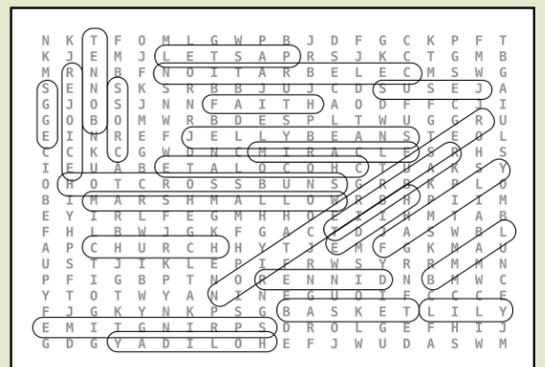
Last month's Mystery Photo was the entrance to the Ramsgate neighborhood. Our winner was Kristi Stokes. Congratulations!



Answers
to our
Puzzles
PG 10

CRYPTO FUN

Answers: A. faithful B. joyous C. Easter D. bunny



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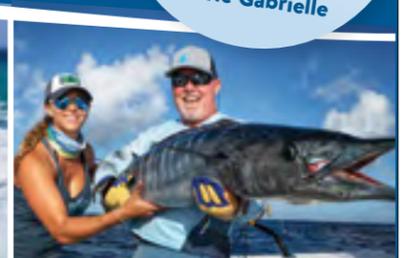
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with Jacksonville City Council Member Michael Boylan, District 6

Q: Do you have an update on the improvements around Alberts Field?

A: The Parks and Rec Department has communicated with the Mandarin Sports Association (MSA) and committed to a list of improvements it can do as well as a timeline. Also, I recently saw a rendering of the parking lot improvements at the corner of Orange Picker and Brady roads, which shows a paved parking lot at Alberts Field along with a retention pond, which will help with drainage from both the parking lot and the dog park across the street.

Regarding the house that is still on the dog park property, the Public Works Department has taken responsibility to get this torn down so they can proceed with the dog park.

Q: What is the latest on Palmetto Leaves Park?

A: I recently discussed improvements to this park with Parks and Rec. Scheduled are two soccer fields, an additional youth ballfield, parking and some speed calming devices. There are still plans to make this part of a bicycle loop through Palmetto Leaves Park and Greenland Road.

Q: Solid waste pickup still seems to be a concern in Mandarin. Do you have any updates?

A: I acknowledge this concern regarding timeliness of pick up as I have experienced it myself. The City of Jacksonville continues to move forward with efforts for a transfer station at Belfort Road, which should greatly ease the situation by decreasing the length of time it takes for the trucks to complete their rounds.

Q: What is happening at the corner of San Jose Boulevard and Pall Mall Drive?

A: People have probably noticed the sign for a new three-minute car wash near this location. This property was already zoned for this purpose so it was not a rezoning matter and the property owner has every right to build this.

Q: What can you share about the proposed new liquor store on San Jose Boulevard?

A: A professional office building on San Jose Boulevard just north of Loretto Road received an exemption from the Planning Committee to open a liquor store. This exemption did not need to come to the Land Use and Zoning Committee (LUZ) or the City Council. However, I understand that there are some business owners within the office building who may be filing an appeal to this decision. This appeal would come to the council — and I anticipate it coming to LUZ by the end of April for the committee to either uphold or grant the appeal.

Q: Do you have any plans for a Town Hall meeting?

A: Yes, we have scheduled a virtual Town Hall meeting for Thursday, April 15 from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Community members should contact my office for the Zoom call information.

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.

[Editor's Note: Councilmember Boylan would like to invite readers who have questions that they would like him to answer in the next issue of Mandarin NewsLine to email them to editor@floridanewslines.com by the 10th of the month.]



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

Q: Can you give us an update on the school renaming process?

A: None of the schools proposed for renaming are in District 7; however, I would like to let the community know that the School Board's strategic plan and information about proposed school name changes with information regarding community meetings as well as dates to cast a vote can be found at <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/Page/29655>. Also, Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene shared at a workshop on Tuesday, March 16 that no dollars from the half penny referendum would be used to cover costs associated with potential name changes.

Even though the state has not waived FSA testing this year, they have extended the window for testing by two weeks. This extension is to allow districts the ability to minimize the number of students in a room and promote safer conditions.

Q: Has a decision been made regarding graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2021?

A: In-person graduation ceremonies will be held outside on the school campuses. Atlantic Coast High School will host its graduation at the football field on May 25 at 6 p.m. and Mandarin High School's graduation will be June 3 at 6 p.m. at the school's football field.

Q: What is the status of standardized testing for this school year?

A: Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) testing will take place this spring. The state cancelled testing last year due to COVID.

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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April

Community Calendar

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

The Italian American Club of Jacksonville announces its Board of Directors meeting on April 7 at 6 p.m., a General Membership dinner meeting on April 18 at 1 p.m. and the popular Spaghetti to Go on April 30, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. All activities are at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Visit www.iacofjacksonville.com or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

The All Star Quilters Guild will meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 19 at the First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. The program is "100 Years of Antique Quilts 1830 – 1930" by Kathy Cray. If you have an antique quilt, you are invited to bring it to the program. No refreshments will be served due to Covid 19. Bring your own mask. New

members are welcome. Visit www.allstarquilters.org for more information, including options for joining the meeting via Zoom.

The Jacksonville Camera Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21 at Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran School, 6595 Columbia Park Ct. in Jacksonville. David Long will speak on nature and landscape photography in the St. Augustine and New England area. Visit jax.jaxcameraclub.com for more information.

Shuffleboard at Mandarin Park is on hold for now. Keep an eye out for the announcement of resumption of play in a future issue of Mandarin News-Line.

Harriet Beecher Stowe's Florida to be topic of virtual presentation

By Sandy Arpen
mail@floridanewsline.com

Mandarin Museum & Historical Society is a co-sponsor of a fascinating virtual presentation (via Zoom) entitled "Scrub Palmetto and Orange: Harriet Beecher Stowe's Florida," by Dr. Michele Currie Navakas on Wednesday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. This free public lecture will feature rare images of Stowe's Florida and attendees will hear about her life in Mandarin and beyond, including her contributions to religion, education, environmental appreciation, and tourism at a critical time in Florida history.



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society
Harriet Beecher Stowe

Stowe's 17 winters in Mandarin from 1867 – 1884 differed vastly from her life in New England; yet in letters, stories and paintings, Stowe embraced the surprising vitality of Florida's local populations and its unique landscape of swamps, orange trees, and tangled scrub palmetto roots.

Dr. Navakas is an associate professor

at Miami University of Ohio where she teaches early American literature, culture and environment. She is the author of "Liquid Landscape: Geography and Settlement at the edge of Early America" (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018), which won the Florida Historical Society's Rembert Patrick Award and Stetson Kennedy Award in 2019.

Sponsors of this event are Episcopal Diocese of Florida, Church of Our Saviour, The Bishop's Institute, Jacksonville Historical Society and the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

To reserve a spot for this presentation, visit www.jaxhistory.org and search "Stowe" for the reservation link.

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

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Groundbreaking held for new medical facility



Photos courtesy Rebecca Thomson

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, physicians and clinicians from Jax Spine Center and UF Health Jacksonville met at 5191 First Coast Technical Pkwy. to hold a groundbreaking ceremony at the future site of the largest multi-specialty free standing ambulatory surgery center. Steve Boron, CEO of the Jax Spine and Pain Centers, also made some remarks. The future Centurion Surgery Center is slated to open in the spring of 2022.

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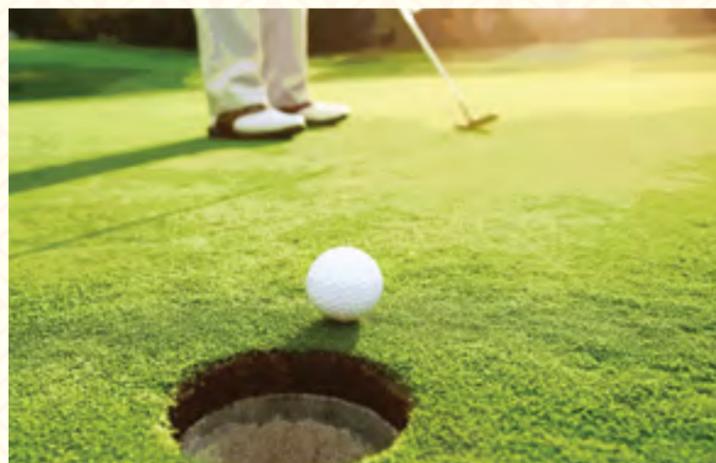


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Summer Camp and Activities Guide



Begin planning kids' summer recreation now

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Summer school recess will be here before you know it. Make sure you're prepared for camp and other recreational programs. Parents thinking ahead to swimming pools and days lounging on the beach can put their daydreams to practical use by planning ahead for their youngsters' summer

vacations.

Youth recreational programs and summer camps can bridge the gap in care between the end of school and the day when classes resume. Due in part to high demand, parents who want to place their kids in summer rec programs or summer camps should be vetting such programs and camps well in advance of summer. The fol-

lowing are a handful of tips for moms and dads who want their kids to have fun and fulfilling summers.

- Ask for recommendations. Speak with fellow parents and trusted friends about where they send their children. Personal recommendations can be helpful, providing firsthand insight into a particular camp or program. Schedule appointments to visit camps that fall within your budget. Take your son or daughter along so he or she can get a sense of what camp will be like.

- Explore all options. Camps come in more flavors than ever before. Certain camps may be faith-based ministries while others may focus on particular sports. Band camps and art camps may appeal to creative kids. Also, there are plenty of general-interest camps that offer various activities without narrowing in on any particular one.

- Inquire about camp schedules. While many camps are flexible, day camps do not have the same level of flexibility as after-school programs. Arrangements will need to be made if care is required after regular camp hours. Speak with camp staff to see which types of after-hours programs, if any, are available.

- Determine your camp budget. As varied



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Summer school recess will be here before you know it. Make sure you're prepared for camp and other recreational programs.

as program offerings may be, camps also can vary greatly with regard to cost. Government-run camps may be less expensive than those offered by private companies. Find out if a particular organization subsidizes a portion of camp costs. Scouting programs often have a dedicated camp and may offer affordable options for scouts. Martial arts schools and dance centers frequently offer camp schedules.

If camp seems out of reach, look into local summer recreation programs at parks or schools. Such programs may not be as extensive as those offered by camps, but they can quell kids' boredom and keep children occupied during the day.

In addition to camp, remember to plan for some free days so children can just enjoy some downtime. Such days can break up the monotony of a routine and provide kids and families time to relax together.



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Briefs

Mandarin Garden Club's annual Plant Sale scheduled

The Mandarin Garden Club will host its annual Plant Sale on May 1, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the club grounds, 2892 Loretto Road. This annual sale offers low cost, high quality, lovely plants to the community. This year the Jacksonville Herb Society, the Rose Society, the Orchid Society and the Bonsai Club will be invited for sales and public education. The Masons will be cooking their famous BBQ lunch/sandwiches/pulled pork. The cafe will be open with freshly homemade baked specialties from our member cooks. The children will have a Kids' Planting Booth where they will learn planting principles, and every child gets a free plant. Crafty Ladies will also have a booth with gift items available for purchase.

The event is free and open to the public. The club's gardens may be viewed to foster ideas for unique landscaping and planting ideas. Club members and Master Gardeners will be available to help with plant and landscaping selections.

The sale will include a variety of flowers, shrubs, trees, and ground covers, all well adapted to the area. Plants will be well established and information for their care given by the experts. Cash only is accepted. CDC guidelines will be followed and masks are required. There will be free parking next door, courtesy of the Masonic Lodge.

The Mandarin Garden Club is a non-profit organization established in 1945. From its beginning the club has been instrumental in the beautification of the Mandarin area; club members planted the live oaks along the Mandarin Road so iconic to the area. The club has demonstration gardens and plant related educational programs open to the public, as well as outreach to the community.

Visit www.mandaringardenclub.org or call (904) 268-1192 for more information, including rental of the club venue for social events.

Mandarin Rotary Club announces charity fundraiser virtual auction

The Rotary Club of Mandarin, established in 1975, has announced its annual charity fundraiser auction, which will be held online from 6 p.m. on Thursday May 20 to 6 p.m. on Saturday May 22. The theme of the auction is "Feeding Mandarin," with proceeds going to the Mandarin Food Bank and the Mandarin Presbyterian Daily Bread Food Pantry. Because of the ongoing pandemic and its resulting unemployment for our residents, these organizations need help.

The club invites all members of the public to view auction items and register to bid

on the club's website (mandarinrotary.home.qtego.org). Online fundraising efforts will include a 50/50 raffle with a minimum payout of \$1500 to the winner. Raffle tickets can be purchased through the website starting on April 1. One hundred percent of all proceeds go directly to charity, which is in keeping with the Rotary Club's motto, "Service Above Self."

The Rotary Club is also asking for donations of items to be auctioned, with tax deductible sponsorship opportunities available, starting at \$1000. Sponsors will be given full recognition on the club's website. Contact auction chairman Elizabeth Shaw at Liz@rezlegal.com or by telephone at (904) 657-9002 for more information.

Conserve water in April

April has been formally recognized as Water Conservation Month in Florida for the past 21 years, as April is typically a dry month when water demands are higher due to springtime planting.

"Recognizing Water Conservation Month helps to encourage water users to take simple steps to conserve water," said St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Dr. Ann Shortelle. "Individually and collectively, we can make a difference. It starts with changing old habits and can be as easy as following watering restrictions, checking automatic sprinkler systems for leaks and replacing landscape materials with drought-tolerant plants."

The District has provided funding for numerous projects designed to promote increased water conservation, including more efficient fixtures and irrigation systems, moisture sensors, smart irrigation controllers, and irrigation audits.

More than half of all residential water use is outdoors for lawn and landscape irrigation. Watering wisely year-round promotes healthier lawns and landscapes and can save thousands of gallons of water per month, as well as save homeowners money. Overwatering a lawn can promote weeds and insect pests, as well as weakened grass roots.

Following Districtwide lawn watering rules helps ensure the efficient use of water for landscape irrigation. The rules specify the days when residents and businesses may water. These days depend on whether the property has an odd or even numbered address.

The rules allow irrigation up to two days a week, before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., from March 14 to Nov. 6, 2021, and up to one day a week during the cooler months of Eastern Standard Time.

Visit the Water Less campaign website at WaterLessFlorida.com for more tips on saving water.

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Get to Know ...

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Tom Clay

Despite “growing up” on a 15 ft. ski boat through his late teens, Tom Clay said it was many years before he had his own boat. His career as head of engineering with Wilmington, Del., based chemical company Solenis kept him busy and ultimately afforded him the opportunity to move to Florida in 1999. His three young daughters were active with sporting activities which had the family hold off on getting a boat until 2015, when they bought a 21 ft. Chaparral bow rider with an inboard/outboard motor. He joined the Julington Creek Prop Club and today serves as the commodore of the club.

The Julington Creek Prop Club is a social club best known for its presentation of Christmas on the Creek each year on the first Saturday of December.

Q: What are some of the activities of the Julington Creek Prop Club?

A: The Prop Club is a boating social club. We meet at the Julington Creek Marina on the second Saturday of each month except for December. Happy Hour starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6 p.m. We also have an annual fish fry and a members-only Commodore’s Steak Dinner at our February meeting.

Get to Know ...

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



Photo courtesy Tom Clay
Tom Clay

We encourage guests to come to our other events, which include things like a boating rendezvous on a local sandbar, viewing the Air Show from the river and a cruise to St. Augustine to go to dinner together. Unfortunately, COVID protocols have cancelled many of our events this past year, but we are looking forward to starting things back up.

Q: What is the club’s biggest event?

A: Our biggest and best known event is the Christmas on the Creek light parade. This holiday event was started by

the Prop Club approximately 30 years ago and continues to this day. It’s not only a boat parade, but we also encourage people with docks along Julington Creek to decorate and participate.

Prop Club members solicit local businesses for donations of prizes, which we award to the top three boats and the top three docks.

Q: Is it necessary to have a boat to join the Prop Club?

A: No. Many members are boatless. In fact, so many members do not have boats that we sometimes call it the “Prop-less” Club. I actually sold my boat back in 2018. Members with boats host other members and guests for the boating events and of course, our monthly meetings and happy hours are held dock-side.

Q: What do you like best about boating?

A: I always enjoy getting out on the water and especially cruising different areas of the St. Johns River, like Black Creek. I love to go through downtown Jacksonville on the river, especially at night, and see the lights from all the buildings. The Intracoastal Waterway is also fun and we like to go to local waterfront restaurants via boat.

Q: If people are interested in learning more about the Julington Creek Prop Club, what should they do?

A: They can contact any of the officers (Vice Commodore Todd Marshall, Treasurer Susan Kirkpatrick or Secretary Sally Flynn) or they can email me at commodore@jcpropclub.com. They can visit our Facebook page, Julington Creek Prop Club. We welcome new members.

Library cont. from pg. 1

The City of Jacksonville, Mayor Lenny Curry and the City Council voted to eliminate overdue library fines as part of the City’s COVID-19 economic stimulus ordinance (Ordinance 2020-235) on April 28, 2020. Recognizing that no cardholder should be discouraged or barred from using the library during these difficult financial times, the Board of Library Trustees later expanded the fine waiver to include all uncollected overdue fines for materials returned on or before April 30, 2021.

Throughout the country more than 100 libraries have eliminated fines for overdue materials, and have seen increases in library users, increases in circulation of materials, and decreases in lost materials.

Jacksonville Public Library uses money collected from overdue fines to fund valuable capital projects — including the renovations of children’s departments at Webb Wesconnett Regional Library and Highlands Regional Library; however, the board felt the immediate benefits of enabling more than 100,000 households to again access these tax-supported library resources outweighed the potential future applications of those fines. The board and library hope customers will take advantage of this period of overdue fine freedom, return any long-overdue materials to their nearest library location, and start enjoying the library once again.

It is important to note: Overdue fine free does not waive responsibility. In order to keep materials circulating, borrowing still has due dates and renewal limits. Items will be considered lost after the final due date. The library will use a recovery process to retrieve lost materials or their replacement cost, which may still include fees associated with the recovery.

At this time, no decisions have been made about remaining fine free beyond April 30, 2021.

Jeremy Yates is with Jacksonville Public Library.

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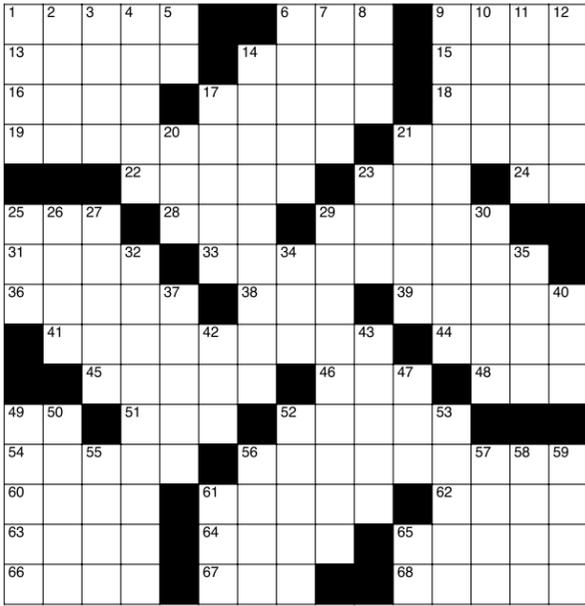
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. One who manufactures
6. Science degree
9. Database management system
13. Desert
14. Inventor Musk
15. Welsh valley
16. Round Dutch cheese
17. Saying
18. Comedian and TV host
19. Uppermost portions of the brain
21. City in Transylvania
22. Where astronauts go
23. Men's hairstyle
24. Indicates position
25. One point east of due south
28. Businessmen may have one
29. Grass part
31. Running back Gurley
33. Unwavering
36. Options
38. Annoy

CLUES DOWN

1. Millisecond
2. Acts as military assistant
3. Knot in a tree
4. Husband-and-wife industrial designers
5. The Ocean State
6. Point the finger at
7. Parts in a machine
8. Midway between northeast and east
9. Portray precisely
10. Blister
11. Mental illness
12. Nose of an animal
14. What students receive
17. Semitic peoples
20. Beats per minute
21. Family of drugs
23. Atrocious
25. Type of microscope (abbr.)
26. ___ or bust
27. Icelandic poems
29. A citizen of Pakistan
30. Very pale

32. Metric linear unit
34. Sea eagle
35. Biblical judge of Israel
37. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
42. Cool!
43. Large hotel room
47. Type of boat (abbr.)
49. Picked
50. Type of hookah
52. Attack
53. Directs
55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
56. Finished negotiation
57. Heroic tale
58. Middle Eastern country
59. Protein-rich liquids
61. Malaysian Isthmus
65. Spielberg's alien



Solve the code to discover words related to Easter.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 22 = U)

A. 6 16 9 12 15 6 22 14
Clue: Constant and steadfast

B. 21 10 13 10 22 17
Clue: Full of happiness

C. 2 16 17 12 2 26
Clue: Spring Christian holiday

D. 7 22 3 3 13
Clue: Hopping animal

EASTER TIDINGS WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- BASKET
- BONNET
- CELEBRATION
- CHOCOLATE
- CHURCH
- CROSS
- DINNER
- EGGS
- FAITH
- FAMILY
- HIDE
- HOLIDAY
- HOT CROSS BUNS
- JELLY BEANS
- JESUS
- LAMB
- LILY
- MARSHMALLOW
- MIRACLE
- PASTEL
- RABBIT
- REJOICE
- RESURRECTION
- SPRINGTIME

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

US Coast Guard Auxiliary update

By Paul Tynda
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Coast Guard Auxiliary and Flotilla 14-8 are still limited in activities serving the boating public. The boating safety courses are currently on hold until further notice; however, auxiliary members are still available for other recreational boating safety activities such as free vessel safety checks to all boaters and paddlers. Examiners will follow CDC guidelines, practice social distancing, and wear appropriate PPE such as a face mask. Vessel safety checks are by appointment at an agreed time and location between the examiner and vessel owner.

The waters off the coast of Jacksonville are the seasonal home of the northern right whale. It is in these waters that the breeding female whales give birth and begin raising their calves. The calving season runs from mid-November to mid-April. The northern right whale is one of the most endangered species of whale with an estimated number of fewer than 400 total and 100 breeding female whales left. The loss of one whale can have dire consequences to the species.

Unfortunately, in the current calving season there have been two fatalities with one in 2021. On Feb. 13, a male right whale calf was found dead at Anastasia State Park in St. Augustine. This calf is likely to be the calf of a whale identified as Infinity (#3230), a 19-year-old female. The fatality is suspected to be related to a vessel strike. Infinity was later spotted with injuries associated with a vessel

strike. Vessel strikes are among the most common threats to the northern right whale along with entanglement in fishing gear.

The northern right whale is a baleen whale with dark gray or black color skin with white spots that develop called callosities. The northern right whales also have no dorsal fin and paddle shaped flippers. They can more easily be identified by their V shape spout while surfacing for air and their deep notch and smooth edge tails. They can grow to 52 feet in length and weigh up to 140,000 pounds. Northern right whales can live to be 70 years old and begin breeding around 10 years of age. These whales are slow moving and tend to gather at the surface which can lead to interaction with humans that can result in injury or death of the whales.

If you are boating and see a whale, slow your speed, and keep 500 yards or 1,500 feet away. Make every effort to stay out of the whale's path. Report the whale sighting to 877-WHALE-HELP (877-942-5343) or to the Coast Guard on channel 16. Be sure to report any distressed whales so the proper authorities can respond. Do not try to rescue a distressed whale as you may damage your vessel, injure the whale, or injure yourself.

Visit www.safeboatingjax.com for more information, to schedule a free vessel safety check, and to become a partner in recreational boating safety.

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

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Community Club keeps flag retirement tradition



Photos courtesy Mandarin Community Club

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Community Club hosted the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) at a February Flag Retirement Ceremony in keeping with years of tradition, which began in 2011. In the interest of safety to all, the event was held outside at the community club's Billard Commemorative Park.

"The club is proud to provide this valuable service to the Mandarin community so that flags that are worn, faded or otherwise in need of respectful and honorable disposal can be retired," said Mandarin Community Club's president, Susie Scott. "SAR is one of only two organizations that are officially recognized for performing this service."

Bags, containers and loose flags representing hundreds of American flags from the community ready for proper retirement were turned in at the club, including many collected at Thompson Ace Hardware.

The Sons of the American Revolution, along with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and their youth group, presided over the event. The ceremony began with an Honor Guard followed by comments providing historic context. A flag was then deconstructed as the meaning, significance and history of the stars and stripes was presented.

"The Mandarin Community Club would like to thank all that attended and participated in this patriotic and meaningful event," Scott said.





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Native cont. from pg. 1

Sons and Daughters for multiple years. Gunston's brainstorm was to have each tribe donate one section of bench that they could personalize with the children's names carved, routed or even burned into the wood. They could decorate their bench with paints, carvings or any other creative means they could come up with.

The Pathfinders dismantled the old benches, drove footers for the new benches and secured the planks with lag bolts and deck screws — thus totally rebuilding the fire circle. After hours of painstaking work, blistered hands and even a few splinters, each bench plank was sealed with a weather protectant.



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Photo courtesy Caitlin Bailey

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 372 - Mandarin held a packing party for items for deployed service women.

American Legion Auxiliary supports deployed service women

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 372 - Mandarin held a packing party for the month of February with the purpose of sending comfort items to deployed service women. The Auxiliary is made of members who are direct relatives of a service member, be it a child, spouse or parent. A major part of the Auxiliary's mission is "to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad."

“With that mission constantly on our minds and hearts we wanted to show our devotion to our service members overseas and for our first packing party decided to focus on our service women,” said Caitlin Bailey of Unit 372. “In total we collected nearly \$300 of donated items to help bring down the cost of commissary items to purchase while overseas. These items include more than 100 individual women’s razors, 12 boxes of tampons, more than 15 packs of sanitary pads and more!”

Email alapost372@gmail.com for more information about this group or if you would like to know how to attend its next event or meeting.

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Bishop Kenny announces Eagle Scouts



Photo courtesy Bishop Kenny High School

Seven students recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Jacksonville area have earned scouting's highest honor, that of Eagle Scout. Bishop Kenny students Matthew Bailey

Eagle Scouts cont. on pg. 15

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Seven students representing six scout troops from throughout the greater

Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewline.com



Once upon a time, not too many decades ago, fishing in Florida was much simpler. If you had a rod and reel and fished freshwater, you needed a license, and for saltwater you needed nothing. Size and quantities, regardless of species, were very limited. But over the years, as the demands on fishing have steadily increased, so have the regulations and licenses needed to help ensure a legal and trouble-free fishing trip.

In most cases, both fresh and saltwater licenses are required for anyone aged 16 – 64 to be able to fish in Florida. In addition, certain species require an additional permit (fee) for har-

vest, such as lobster, snook, and tarpon. Florida does offer a variety of license exemptions for those with disabilities, that serve in the Armed Forces, and that receive certain types of state assistance.

Understanding Florida's regulations can sometimes be a chore, especially if you are new to fishing in Florida. Rules may vary from county to county, region to region, Gulf Coast to Atlantic Coast, State Park to National Park and more. Did you know that state waters only extend only three nautical miles out on the Atlantic and nine nautical miles on the Gulf? Open seasons and closed seasons, sizes and quantities, can all be different within just a few miles of each other.

Twice a year the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) publishes changes to the previous six months' fishing regulations. Paying attention to, understanding, and staying current to Florida's Fishing Regulations has now become a vital part of any fishing adventure. Using the literature and online information that the FWC provides may help with the answers you need regarding current regulations.

The FWC's semiannual Fishing Regulations brochure usually comes out in January and July. The vast majority of any questions that may arise regarding licenses, size and limits, seasons, and more can be found in it along with color fish identification photos. These brochures can usually be found at area bait and tackle stores. In addition to the brochure, these same rules and regulations have been included on an App. The FWC has partnered with the Fish Rules App and now provides much of the same information needed to follow fishing regulations and identification at the touch of your finger. For any other fishing information, you might need in greater detail you go to myfwc.com and you will probably find the answer.

Fishing Report: Pompano at the beach, catfish time in the river.

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Gardening

A home brew for spring

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewslines.com

Our last average frost date is historically around March 16, but it feels like spring to me, even though I'm writing in early March. NOAA is predicting that March will be warmer than average, so that frost date could be redundant. In contrast, during the same period we can expect lower than average rainfall, although drought is not likely through the end of May. If you're interested in long term weather forecasts, check out <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>.

Recently the city's Free Tree Planting Program (<https://www.coj.net/welcome/news/630-city-free-tree-planting-program>) fulfilled part of their obligation to mitigate tree loss, and there is now a Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*) just in front of my yard. It's easily 12 feet tall, and the trunk has a straight, good-looking single leader. I am delighted. My task is to make sure it's watered properly by topping up the water reservoir that's in place and if it doesn't survive, despite my taking care of it, I have instructions to let the city know. If you have city property abutting your yard, why not consider requesting a tree or even two? They are offering small, medium, and large trees, some of which are native to our area, and all are Florida-Friendly.

Many perennial plants that died back to their roots over the winter have already started to take off growing again. Deciduous shrubs have been budding out and showing fresh green growth. Once they have, it's time to trim back any dead or damaged wood. I know from experience that it's important to wait on any plants that seem slow to come back. Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), which is a wonderful plant to grow to support monarch butterflies, is especially slow to resprout. I have some in pots

and I'm hoping that they have survived the winter; I'm trying to resist poking around in the soil to see signs of new shoots. I've been careless in the past and have foolishly broken off new growth. This spring I'll just be watching to judge their progress.

Browsing the news, I discovered an interesting article about our native yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria* (<https://tinyurl.com/39w4838d>). Did you know that it's possible that vomitoria was used in the name to discourage the use of the tea made from its leaves? Apparently around the time of Britain's early trading with the Colonies, the tea was becoming very popular in Europe. The importers of what we think of as more traditional Asian teas were increasingly concerned that their trade was being threatened. So the name could have been concocted in an attempt to discourage Europeans from drinking it. On this side of the pond, the tea was used in Native American rituals involving vomiting, so perhaps the jury is out on the true motive for the name.

Yaupon holly can be a very useful shrub or tree in our yards, especially for the birds, even if we don't process its leaves for tea: <https://tinyurl.com/knzwdjvh>. I particularly like its smooth gray bark which contrasts beautifully with the evergreen dark green leaves and bright red winter berries. It has various forms, from dwarf to small weeping tree, and is fairly adaptable as to soil and water needs. Fruiting is best in part to full sun.

There are certainly other options for herbal tea plants we can grow here in Florida. If you're interested, check out <https://tinyurl.com/2b92y29v>. Happy brewing!

Eagle Scouts cont. from pg. 14

'21, Joey Eichler '21, Sean Meisler '21, Andrew Russell '21, Aden Dreher '22, Adam Shalley '23, and Ryan Spinelli '23 recently achieved this great accomplishment. The Eagle Scout rank was established in 1912 and represents a significant accomplishment and takes many years to achieve.

One of the main pillars of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout is the planning, development, and completion of a significant service project. As part of the project, the scout must successfully lead volunteers in helping to execute the project to successful completion.

This year the young men had a wide array of projects encompassing local church and community needs. Bailey built an agility course for Canine Services at a German Shepherd shelter, and Eichler designed, built, and installed

10 bird feeders and five bird houses for Westminster Woods Retirement Center. Meisler continued with the outdoor theme and designed and built an information board with wildlife and park activities for First Christian Church of the Beaches. Spinelli designed and built a fire pit and four benches for North Florida School of Special Education, and Dreher designed and installed a military memorial paver path outside San Juan del Rio Catholic School. Russell built and installed a multi-person shooting bench for the Atlantic Beach Police Station, and Shalley remodeled an art room for Geneva Presbyterian Church and converted it into a new space for the church community to use.

All projects benefit the local community and are funded at no cost to the public with the donated labor from the Eagle Scout.



"If I were still in my house I would not be doing half of what I'm doing here. And I've never had so many friends in my life."

— Resident Mary (with her dog, Jade)

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