

Mandarin NewsLine

June 2022 Volume 16 Issue 8

A Florida NewsLine Publication



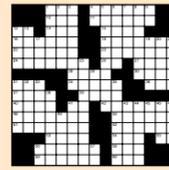
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Photo courtesy J. Michael McCormick Florida Poison Information Center - Jacksonville/USVI

Taylor Banks from Mandarin Middle School shows Florida Poison Information Center Director Dr. Dawn Sollee her prize for winning the National Poison Prevention Week video contest for middle school students.

Mandarin Middle School student wins national video contest

By J. Michael McCormick, Florida Poison Information Center - Jacksonville/USVI mail@floridanewsline.com

A Mandarin Middle School student showed she is best in class nationally in video production by capturing first place in the National Poison Prevention Week video contest. Taylor Banks' video on food poisoning took the top prize for grades five through eight from all across the country.

Her Mandarin Middle School class had more entries in the contest than all other schools in the

Mandarin Middle School student cont. on pg. 9

2022 Miss Aggie Award presented to Yvonne Monroe

By Sandy Arpen
mail@floridanewsline.com

"Miss Aggie" Day is celebrated every spring to honor Agnes Jones, Mandarin's postmistress from 1928 - 1963, and to honor a resident who has contributed to the Mandarin community in the areas of business, civic, educational or charitable accomplishment.

On April 23, Alberta Yvonne Anderson Monroe became the 2022 recipient of the Miss Aggie Award. She is the daughter of Walter and Estelle Anderson and wife of David Monroe and has served the community her entire life. Following in her grandmother Lena Anderson's footsteps, she has been very involved with the nonprofit Harriet Beecher Stowe Community Center, serving for many years in various roles, currently as chairperson. The property of this center on the corner of San Jose Boulevard and Orange Picker Road was given to Mandarin's Black community by philanthropist Eartha White in 1938. The center hosted BBQs, parties, dances, contests, special events, a well baby clinic and music lessons over the years — and it continues to serve as a gathering place for a variety of community happenings and as rental space for special occasions and classes.



Photo courtesy Sandy Arpen

Yvonne Monroe, the 2022 Miss Aggie Award recipient.

Monroe also serves on the Lofton Cemetery Association, assisting families during their time of grieving, and is recently retired from the position of comptroller of one of Mandarin's historic African-American churches, Hopewell Church, formerly First Baptist Church of Mandarin, founded in the late 1800s.

Many recall Monroe and her family members' efforts to change the name of the ballpark on Orange Picker Road to honor her father, Walter Anderson. Mr. Anderson, a highly respected Mandarin resident, donated the park's land to the county so the Black citizens of Mandarin would have a place to play baseball

during the time of segregation. In 2019, the park was renamed Walter Anderson Memorial Park. This park is the first public place in Mandarin to be named for one of our Black residents.

Monroe, also a keeper of Mandarin's Black history, has also been a tremendous help to the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society during the development of the "Untold Stories of Black Mandarin" exhibit, which will be open to the public in the future.

Congratulations to Yvonne Monroe! Past recipients, since 2003, include: Kate Monson, Karen Roumillat, Rhonda Reese, Mary Ann Southwell, Mary Kaminski, Bonnie McNulty, Jane Cooksey, Susan Earnhart, Alice Stanley, Betty Wolfe, Virginia Barker, Emily Lisska, Linda Levin, Sandy Arpen, Sarah Bailey, Susie Scott, Donald Bowden, Lynn Cuda, Sam Folds, Wanda Bosworth, and Orren "Bo" Phillips.

Sandy Arpen is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. The Mandarin Museum is located at 11964 Mandarin Road in Walter Jones Historical Park. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net for more information about Mandarin's history and Mandarin Museum & Historical Society information.

Neighborhood volunteers complete native plant project



Photos courtesy Anjie Palmer
Project volunteers.

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

On April 1, 2022, the plan came together as native plants were installed in the Garden Homes of Lake Mandarin's Ricky Road neighborhood park. The City of Jacksonville planted oak trees in the neighborhood with a matching grant program decades ago. Then, in March 2021, the neighborhood was the recipient of almost 50 native trees through Jacksonville's mitigation program.

"I have always enjoyed the outdoors and have been a native plant enthusiast since the 1970s," said resident Anjie Palmer. "Early on my interest and passion for

plants was dedicated to my own yard, then volunteering with a non profit that installed a native garden for the Town of Orange Park. We did not design it well and it was removed, but I sure learned a lot."

When the native trees were planted in March 2021, Palmer found that walking her dog was more enjoyable. The trees already provided some shade and improved the view and she wondered if the HOA would be interested in planting some native shrubs and grasses in the Ricky Road park.

Neighborhood volunteers cont. on pg. 11

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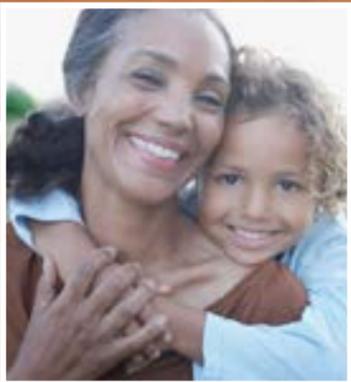
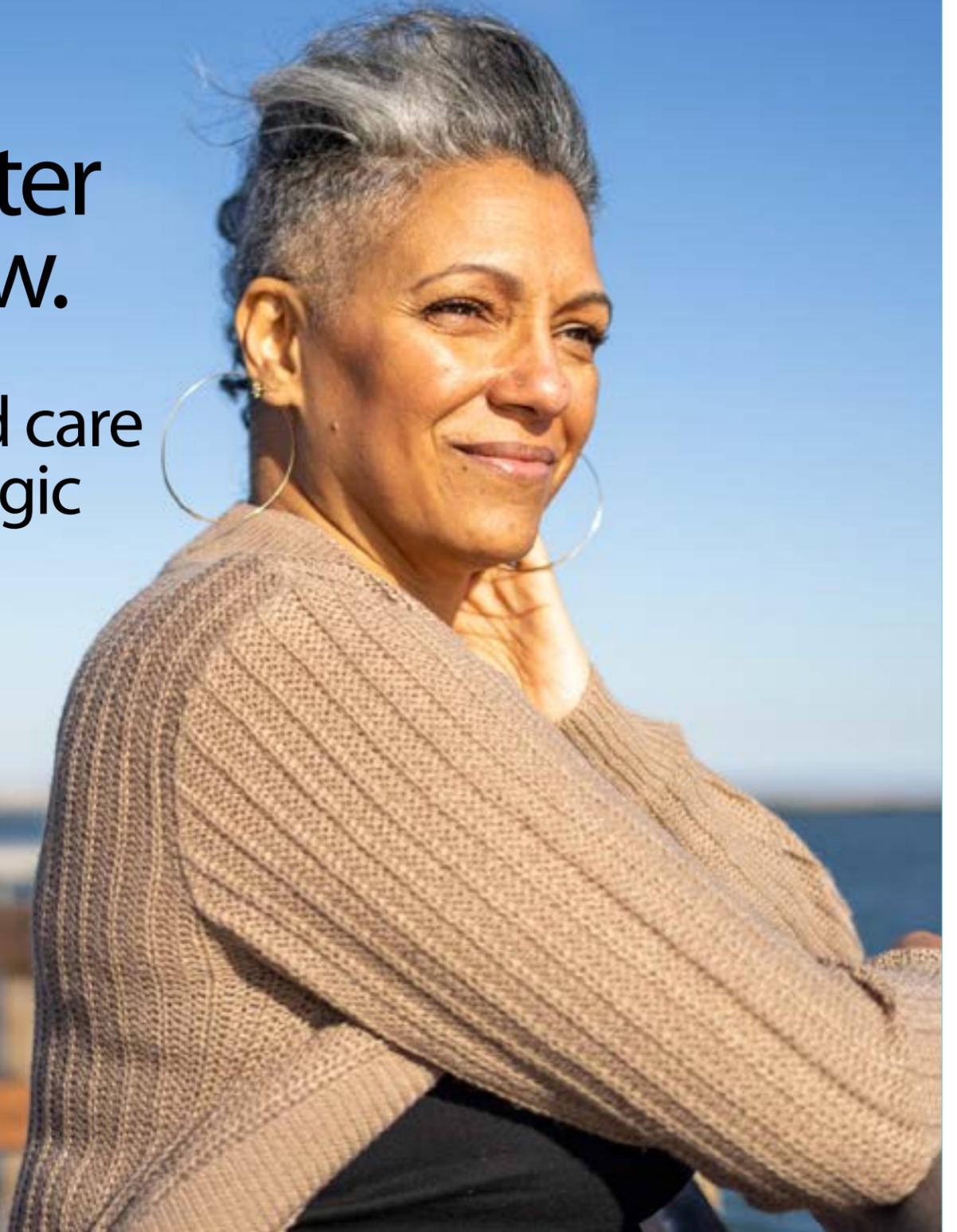
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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Chloe!



Breed:
Mini Goldendoodle

Favorite Activity:
Zoomies in the backyard

Favorite Food:
Liver

Favorite friend:
Sami, another Mini Goldendoodle

How your BFF got their name:
Chloe was the first name she responded to from my list of five favorite names

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answer to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Also tell us you saw the BFF contest in Mandarin NewsLine. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and appear in Mandarin NewsLine! Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet.



Happy Summer!
from your friends at
Mandarin NewsLine

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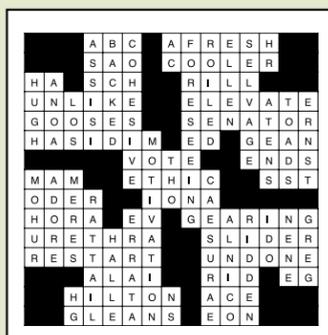


MYSTERY PHOTO



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

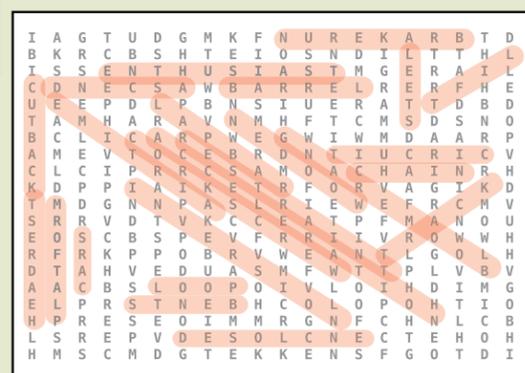
Last month's Mystery Photo was the picnic table outside the Mandarin Publix facing Mandarin Road. Our winner was Katharine Healey. Congratulations!



Answers
to our
Puzzles
PG 10



Answers: A. drop B. speed C. thrills D. ride



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June

Community Calendar What's Happening in Mandarin

Shuffleboard is played on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Mandarin Park. The courts are at the park entrance next to the tennis courts. Try to get there a few minutes early for court assignments. Beginners are welcome. Just show up (a few minutes before playing time), unless it rains.

Acoustic Jam Session is held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Annex Building of Trinity Mandarin, located at 2955 Orange Picker Road. This jam is open to everyone and all levels of ability are welcome. Come to play with the group or just sit back and enjoy the music. For more information, contact Burt Coulliette at (904) 302-0423.

Playing HOOKie, a group for those who enjoy knitting, crocheting and loom-ing (with all items donated to charity) meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the outside eating area at Belgian Sweet House Bistro, 12276 San Jose Blvd. (next to Harbor Chase). Visit the group's Facebook page (Playing HOOKie) or email playinghookie31@gmail.com for more information.

2nd: **The Jacksonville Camera Club** will meet on June 2 and June 16 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Shepherd of the Woods Southside, 7860 Southside Blvd. Visit jax.jaxcameraclub.com for more information.

4th: **The historic buildings of the Mandarin Museum**, including the 1875 Webb/Jones farmhouse, 1876 Barn, 1898 St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children, and Losco Winery log cabin will be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on June 4 and June 18 in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road. The 1911 Mandarin Store and Post Office will also be open on June 18 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 12471 Mandarin Road, just a mile west of the Walter Jones Historical Park. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net or call (904) 268-0784 for more information.

5th: **The Under the Oaks community music jam**, hosted by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society and North Florida Folk Network will resume underneath the beautiful trees in front of Mandarin Museum on Sunday, June 5 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. If you play an acoustic instrument, feel free to join the song circle. If not, just bring a chair and relax and listen.

7th: **Honeybee Quilters Guild** will meet on Tuesday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Mandarin Presbyterian Church in the Loft on the County Dock Road side of the church at 2501 Loretto Road. Wearing masks is op-

tional. New members/guests welcome. Visit honeybeequilters.org for more information.

7th: **Lifetree Café** will meet at the Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road, on Tuesday, June 7 and Tuesday, June 21 at 1 p.m. Lifetree Café events allow attendees to share thoughts and experiences on a wide variety of life and faith subjects. June topics are "Coping with Grief" on June 7 and "Who was Jesus — Really" on June 21. Visit www.LTCJax.com for more information including a video trailer about each topic.

8th: **The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society** library, 6215 Sauterne Drive in Jacksonville, will be open on Wednesday, June 8 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society is offering a one-year trial membership; applicants must be a resident of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, or St. Johns counties and apply before July 30, 2022. Visit www.sgesjax.org for more information and to apply.

9th - 11th: **The Friends of the South Mandarin Branch Library Book Sale** will be held Thursday, June 9 and Friday, June 10 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 11 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Support your library and find great deals on

books.

12th: **Social Security Optimization Class** will be held at 2 p.m. on June 12 and again at 6 p.m. on June 13 at the Hilton Garden Inn, at 1201 Kings Avenue. Claiming Social Security at the wrong age may reduce your benefit by up to 57 percent. This complimentary educational event will cover the basics of Social Security and reveal the latest strategies for maximizing your benefits. Seating is limited. Register by phone at (833) 901-1727 or online at www.youRSVP.com and enter code VEXKEB.

20th: **The All Star Quilters Guild** will meet at 9:30 a.m. for socializing prior to the 10 a.m. meeting on Monday, June 20 at the First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. The program is "Color" by Kathryn D'Elia. Sew and Tell is always a feature. Guests are welcome. Visit www.allstarquilters.org for more information.

24th: **The Italian American Club of Jacksonville** will hold its popular Spaghetti to Go on Friday, June 24 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Visit www.iacofjacksonville.com or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

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with Jacksonville City Council Member Michael Boylan, District 6

Q: Can you give an update on the Sissel property at the corner of Loretto Road and Kennedy [as of interview date of May 16]?

A: Last month we discussed that this application was scheduled for Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) on May 17, but the Planning Department has not yet filed its recommendation. The earliest this application will now be heard by the Planning Commission is June 2.

Q: What can you tell us about the cell tower bill that you introduced to City Council, which had its third reading and was approved on May 10?

A: I had the idea for this bill, which requires cell tower owners to prominently display, via appropriate signage, ownership and contact information at the site so that neighbors can report any maintenance issues directly to the cell tower owners, when I heard from constituents about noisy generators or "limbs" falling from a cell tower "tree." I found it to be a circuitous and time consuming endeavor for us to ascertain the owners of the towers, despite a requirement for the companies to annually report ownership of the cell towers to the city's Planning Department. I found that once we identified the cell tower owners, they were quick to respond and address our concerns, but this bill will make it easier for them to be identified and will also allow constituents to contact the cell tower owners directly to report any issues.

Q: Is there a possibility of getting more funding for additional sidewalks along Mandarin Road?

A: Although early in the process, we are working in conjunction with the

Jacksonville Transportation Association (JTA) to secure federal funding in the amount of \$3 million to complete the sidewalk project along Mandarin Road from Red Cypress to Walter Jones Historical Park. Despite a large influx of interest from constituents for these sidewalks, I also receive some concerns regarding preservation of the trees along Mandarin Road. I would encourage anyone with these concerns to walk the recently installed sidewalks and see for themselves the care taken to preserve trees. I would say that with the improved quality of the roadway along Mandarin Road, we've seen an increase in speeding, which has drawn the attention of JSO. So safety continues to be of concern and these sidewalks may address this.

Q: Are you available to address homeowners associations and neighborhood groups?

A: Yes. I always enjoy the opportunity for face-to-face meetings with neighbors in addition to our Town Halls. I am available to go to people so they don't have to come to us. We can discuss the particular concerns of a group regarding items such as drainage, traffic and what's happening in terms of development in the Mandarin area — or other topics. If your homeowners association or neighborhood group would like for us to be a part of an upcoming meeting, we would certainly welcome the opportunity. Please contact our office to arrange.

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.

Mandarin Rotary honors Policeman of the Year



Photo courtesy John Hart

The Rotary Club of Mandarin recently honored Officer Jason Ingham as the 2022 Policeman of the Year. Within 24 hours after a home invasion and assault on a resident, Officer Ingham identified the perpetrator and made the arrest that protected our community from that individual. The Mandarin Rotary Club annually honors local police officers for their exemplary service. Officer Ingham's quick thinking and professionalism were truly exemplary and worthy of this year's award. Pictured are Officer Ingham, his supervisor Sergeant Paul Napoli, and Rotary Club member Fred Pozin.

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with Duval County School Board Member
Lori Hershey, District 7

Q: Can you give an update on the Great Hearts Academy charter school and how the newly passed bill by the legislature will affect charter schools in the future?

A: On June 7, the School Board will vote on the Great Hearts Academy application at the School Board meeting, which will begin at 6 p.m. Public comment is welcome and this will be the last opportunity to vote locally on a charter school application in light of recently passed legislation. Senate Bill 758/House Bill 865 creates the Charter School Review Commission (CSRC), a seven-member board appointed by the State Board of Education to operate within the Florida Department of Education. The CSRC will review and approve charter schools to be sponsored and supervised by district school boards where the charter schools are located, removing the school district from the authorization and approval process. This means that going forward, charter school applications for Duval County will be approved without input from our local school board.

Q: Can you comment on another recently passed education bill that deals with end of year (FSA) testing?

A: The state’s current assessment system will be replaced in 2022 – 23 by a standardized system of coordinated screening and progress monitoring from Pre-K through second grade in math and English Language Arts. The current Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) will be replaced in grades three through eight math and grades three through 10 English Language Arts with progress monitoring and a comprehensive final assessment. The tests will occur near the beginning of the year, near mid-year and end with a comprehensive exam similar to the current FSA.

The scores will still be used for school grades, teacher evaluations and student

retention and graduation. The tests are required to be computer-adaptive by the 2023 – 24 school year and results will be returned by May 31, beginning in 2024. Detailed results are to be returned to teachers within one week and parents within two weeks.

The bill also requires a taskforce be set up to study the testing results with an eye towards reducing student assessments by using results from the first two assessments. “Hold harmless” provisions for the 2022 – 23 school year include the first year of implementation for school turnaround, virtual school, high-performing charter schools and school districts, along with good cause exemptions for third grade retention, and high school graduation. The bill sets the baseline for school grades using the 2021 – 22 results for the first year of the new assessments to the 2023 – 24 school grades.

The state has not yet identified the software to be used to measure student growth and progress.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 7?

A: I have a couple of things. First, Mandarin High School girls brought in a pair of state championships: a shot put crown by DaMoni Kelly and the other in the 400 by Terren Peterson. The Mustangs placed five athletes and a relay team in the top five of their events. As a team, Mandarin finished third.

Also, congratulations to the Class of 2022! I hope everyone has a great summer. I’d like to encourage summer reading by reminding everyone, “Reading 20 minutes a day paves the way!”

Q: How can our readers contact you?

A: They can email me at HersheyL@duvalschools.org or call me at (904) 390-2375.

Keep your kids reading and learning all summer long at the library

By Jeremy Yates
mail@floridanewsline.com

Join us at one of two Summer Kick-Off Parties for an “oppo-r-tuna-ty” to learn all about our “o-fish-ial” Summer Learning Program, “Oceans of Possibilities,” running June 1 through July 30. Drop in Friday, June 3 at the South Mandarin Branch Library or Monday, June 6 at Mandarin Branch Library. Both events run from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

We all know how important it is to keep young minds active. Reading 20 minutes a day paves the way! Pick up a reading tracker bookmark at your local library (or request one through curbside pickup). For every 15 days read, youth (aged birth to 17) will earn one free book.

All of your reading fun adds up. Participate at in-branch programs and tons of interactive virtual events to earn raffle tickets for a chance to win more awesome prizes.

Here are a few ideas:

Stop by Fridays at the Mandarin Library for Little Readers storytime (for ages birth to five) at 10:15 a.m. or the encore performance at 11 a.m. Or join us outside in the park at the South Mandarin Library every Thursday at 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. for a Little Readers Pop-Up Storytime.

Bring your Junior Scientists to the Mandarin Library to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through crafts and activities Wednesdays (for ages five through eight) from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. or Thursdays (ages nine through 12) from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Junior Artists meets every Saturday at the South Mandarin Library. Younger kids (aged five through eight) are encouraged to attend the 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. program and older ones (aged nine through 12) the 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. program.

Teens (ages 12 – 17) are invited to join

Briefs

Elder abuse: It's more than scams

June 15 is National World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Elder abuse affects one in 10 adults over the age of 60, yet only one in 24 cases are reported to authorities. It's estimated that up to five million older Americans are abused every year totaling a loss of at least \$36.6 billion.

ElderSource and six other Florida Area Agencies on Aging are presenting "Elder Abuse: It's More Than Scams," a free virtual workshop on Wednesday, June 15, from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The free workshop features several experts providing information and tips on how to report elder abuse, how to protect yourself against cybercrimes and how to uncover the unsuspecting traps of financial scammers.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide older adults with the information they need to make informed decisions to protect themselves and others against elder abuse. While this silent problem can often rob older adults of their dignity and independence, this workshop will help empower them instead.

The workshop is presented in collaboration with Senior Connection Center, Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast Inc., Advantage Aging Solutions, Area Agency on Aging of Broward County Inc., and Area Agency of Pasco-Pinellas Inc.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3rFNSaY> to sign up for the workshop.

Art contest to promote Book Sale

The Friends of the South Mandarin Library will sponsor an Art Contest to promote the group's October Book Sale. The contest is open to artists in age groups five to eight, nine to 12 and 13 to 17.

Entries will be accepted from June 1 through July 31. Application forms are available in the library. Posters will be on display and there will be prizes awarded.

The Honor Shelf and the group's book sales are made possible by the donations of community readers.

Mandarin Women's Club offers summer activities

The Mandarin Women's Club's popular Game Day had a large turnout at the April luncheon as members spent the morning playing Bunco or Mexican Train. After the prize money was distributed, club members held the election of their 2022 – 2023 officers who will serve under the guidance of Kathy Sisbarro, president.

During summer, the group will take a break from its monthly luncheons, but that doesn't mean the fun winds down. Some of the activities available to active members during the summer months are Bunco, Dining Out, Mexican Train, and Mah Jongg.

Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for information regarding summer activities and to complete the Membership Form.

Library events cont. from pg. 6

Teen Advisory Board (TAB). Groups meet in-person and online from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. at both Mandarin and South Mandarin libraries on every other Saturday (June 4 and 18).

Register for programs at jaxpubliclibrary.org or talk to library staff.

You can also drop-in at South Mandarin Library for Building with LEGO bricks

Tuesday, June 14 from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. and wow us with your best brick creations! Or Read with Tenor the Newfoundland Therapy Dog from 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 11.

Support your library and find great deals on books. Shop the Friends of the South Mandarin Branch Library Book Sale Thursday and Friday, June 9 – 10 from 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 11 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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MMS Scholar Bowl team wins District Championship



Photo courtesy MaryLou W. McDonald

The Mandarin Middle School Scholar Bowl team is the new district champion. Led by coaches Brett Goldberg and Rob Viola, this team fought off challenges from the top schools in Duval County to claim the title and bring the trophy home.

Crown Point celebrates National School Principals' Day

By Mary Eylar
mail@floridanewslines.com

Sunday, May 1, was National School Principals' Day. On Monday, Crown Point students, teachers, and staff took the opportunity to celebrate their principal, Brett Hartley.

Principal Brett Hartley played a central role in the success of our students and the school as a whole. He loves Crown Point and enjoys seeing all the children learn and grow.



Photo courtesy Mary Eylar

Crown Point Elementary celebrated Principal Brett Hartley.

Crown Point Panthers of all grades worked on creating a book, titled "What Does Our Principal Do All Day?" Being a principal is a tough job. Besides encouraging and guiding students, balancing budgets, and making sure that Crown Point is a safe place for all, Hartley steps in at times when a sub is needed.

Students shared their perspectives on what Hartley does every day as principal. Autumn Harmon, a kindergartener in Andrea Gore's class, wrote, "Mr. Hartley works on his computer. He has a lunch break. He hugs people."

When asked about his day, Hartley said, "The shirts, faculty gift, and the letters from the students made it very special!" He added, "I couldn't have asked for a better day!"

Hartley's leadership has played an es-

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Get to Know ...

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewline.com

Annabelle Hynes

Mandarin High School senior Annabelle Hynes was adopted from China when she was about a year old by adoptive parents Amy and Joshua and brother Finn. When she was seven years old, her parents divorced and then she learned what living in a large family was like when her mom married her stepdad, Cole, who had six children of his own. She has lived her whole life in Mandarin, and attended Crown Point Elementary School, Mandarin Middle School, and will graduate this year from Mandarin High School. She will attend New College of Florida this fall.

Q: What was the most challenging aspect and what was the most fun thing about growing up in a large family?

A: The most challenging thing growing up in a large family was patience. The adjustment from a family of four to a family of eight was difficult since I was not used to a lot of new people living with me at once while also trying to get to know everyone and get along with our differences. The most fun thing about growing up in a large family was that there was always something interesting to do, such as playing with my siblings or going to our various events together. We were always



Photo courtesy Annabelle Hynes
Annabelle Hynes

so occupied with our shenanigans that I don't remember being bored much growing up.

Q: What classes and extracurriculars keep you busy at Mandarin High School?

A: I am in the Medical Academy and recently passed the certifications for being an EKG tech as well as CMAA (Certified Medical Administrative Assistant). I'm very interested in the medical field. I'm also a member of the Leadership Program at my school; we plan and execute the school's social events, such as pep rallies. I'm the captain of the girls' varsity lacrosse team and a member of the National Honor Society and the National Art

Honor Society. And I dress up as the school mascot at football games and pep rallies!

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

A: I've been doing roller derby since I was eight years old. It's an all-contact sport and I'm the captain of my team, Jax Junior Roller Derby. We go to tournaments frequently and one time I was injured during play at a tournament in California. I didn't know it, but I had a punctured lung, which I only found out after I had already flown an airplane back to Jacksonville — and the doctor told me I shouldn't have done that. Our team has qualified as one of the top 10 teams to participate in the postseason championship in Denver, Colorado this June.

Q: Why did you select New College of Florida and what do you plan to study?

A: I fell in love with the academic freedom there. Plus it's beautiful and peaceful on the campus. I've applied for their Environmental Studies program and I'd like to combine it with medical, particularly the alternative, holistic medicine area.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

A: I see myself being busy practicing naturopathic or lifestyle medicine, while also traveling and being an environmental activist. I'd like to help promote a sustainable lifestyle while helping patients.

Mandarin Middle School student cont. from pg. 1

nation combined. Teacher Jenny Prescott has encouraged her students to enter the contest for years to help teach the importance of poison prevention for all ages while showing off their video production skills.

"I have had to call Poison Control twice," Prescott told her class during a surprise visit to the school from Florida Poison Information Center — Jacksonville director Dr. Dawn Sollee. "It's an important service."

The students showcased the importance of knowing the Poison Control Helpline number 1-800-222-1222 in their videos.

"Students talking to other students is one of the best ways we can reinforce our poison prevention message in this age group," Sollee said. "We are really proud of Taylor and her classmates for their attention to this important topic, their creative efforts and showcasing the talent we have in Jacksonville Schools."

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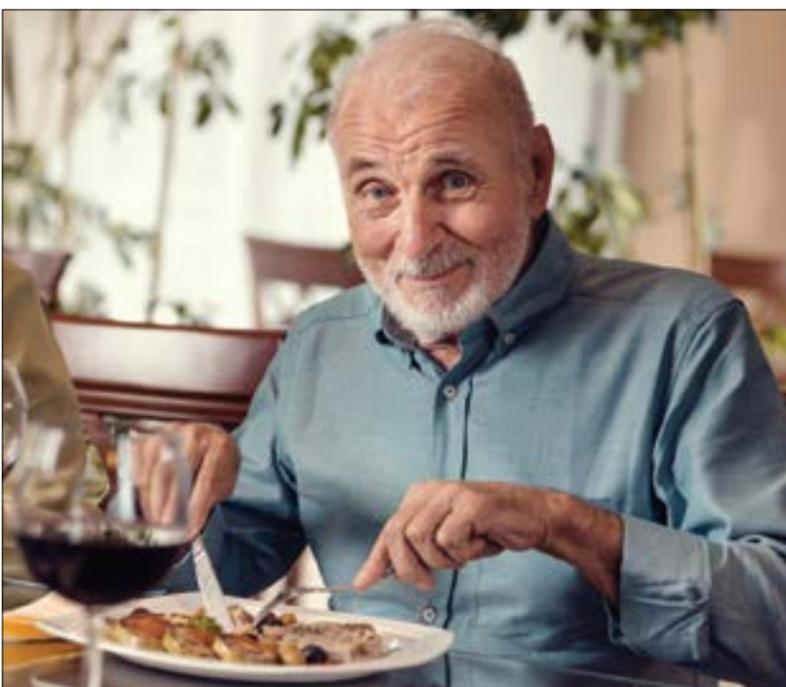
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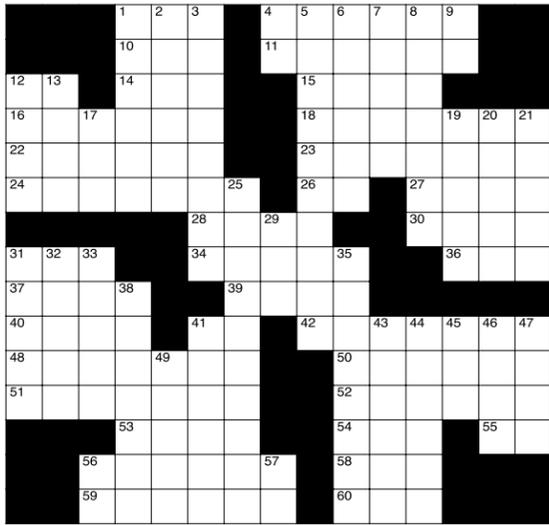
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics
4. In a new way
10. __ Paulo, city
11. Jailhouse
12. Expresses surprise
14. Trigraph
15. A small stream
16. Dissimilar
18. Promote
22. Gives a boost
23. Lawmaker
24. Orthodox Jews
26. Actor Harris
27. Wild cherry
28. Participate in democracy
30. Opposite of begins
31. A Brit's mother
34. Set of moral principles
36. Very fast airplane
37. Czech river
39. Private school in New York
40. Israeli dance
41. Electron volt
42. Adjusting
48. Duct by the bladder
50. Small burger
51. Begin again
52. Unstuck
53. Jai __, sport
54. Get free of
55. For instance
56. Hotel chain
58. A team's best pitcher
59. Extracts from various sources
60. Indefinite period of time

CLUES DOWN

1. St. Francis of __
2. Supported
3. United in working
4. It cools your home
5. Predicting
6. Irritated
7. Popular talk show host
8. Fabric edge
9. A resource for employees
12. Broadway's Jackman
13. Small water buffalo
17. City of Angels: __ Angeles
19. Asteroids
20. Tailless amphibians
21. German expressionist painter
25. What drives you
29. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
31. Gold coin used in British India
32. Have deep affection for
33. Ponds
35. Breaks between words
38. Hairstyle
41. Print errors
43. Family of iron alloys
44. Sidelined in bed
45. Many couples say it
46. Brazilian hoopster
47. Allman Brothers late frontman
49. German city
56. One hundred grams (abbr.)
57. One billionth of a second (abbr.)

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

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

WORDS

- ACCELERATION
- AIRTIME
- ASCEND
- BARREL
- BENTS
- BOOMERANG
- BRAKE RUN
- CARS
- CHAIN
- CIRCUIT
- CORKSCREW
- CUTBACK
- ENCLOSED
- ENTHUSIAST
- HEADREST
- INVERSION
- LAPBAR
- LIFT
- LOOP
- PLATFORM
- RESTRAINT
- STEEL
- TRACK
- WOODEN

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(Hint: 12 = D)

- A. 12 6 1 16**
Clue: Fall vertically
- B. 9 16 14 14 12**
Clue: Velocity
- C. 17 10 6 25 19 19 9**
Clue: Exciting experiences
- D. 6 25 12 14**
Clue: Amusement structure

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Steven Eugene Hutchins

Steven Eugene Hutchins, 12270 Mandarin Road, Jacksonville, Florida, died April 26, 2022, after a lengthy illness. Steve was born in New Haven, Connecticut to Sue Cardinale Hutchins and Eugene Lewis Hutchins.

He had an idyllic childhood and youth on the U.S. Virgin Island of St. Croix and on Lake Mooselookmeguntic in Maine. After studying and playing football at St. Croix Country Day, he graduated from Pratt Institute School of Architecture in 1983. He spent his early career working for JPJ Architects but soon branched out on his own, starting his highly successful Steven E. Hutchins Architects Inc. While he designed many important and amazing structures in Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands, his greatest professional collaborations were with his wife, interior designer Vibha Seth Hutchins, who he met at Pratt Institute and married in 1988 with ceremonies on St. Croix. Their proudest joint projects, though, were their son Benjamin and daughter Ena. A close third to them was the work on the family home on Mandarin Road in Jacksonville, built in 2006. Steve was happiest when traveling with his family and spending time in his other home on St. Croix.

A widower since August of 2021 after a 33-year marriage, Steve is survived by his son Benjamin Hutchins and his daughter Ena Hutchins, both of Jacksonville, Florida, and his brother Eric Hutchins of Big Horn, Wyoming. He was predeceased by his parents and brother Thomas Hutchins.

Graveside funeral service will be conducted at Mandarin Cemetery on Sunday May 8th at 2:30 p.m., with Pastor John Harmeling officiating. Services in the care of Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home of Mandarin in Jacksonville, Florida.

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Mandarin veteran honored

On June 15, 2022 at 9 a.m., Retired Major Ralph E. Elliott III (Butch) will be inducted into the U.S. Army Engineer OCS Hall of Fame in the Regimental Room at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Major Elliott is the son of Ralph Elliott Jr. and Patricia Elliott. Navy Captain Ralph Elliott Jr. retired in Jacksonville in 1963 and practiced law in Jacksonville for the next 40 years.

Major Elliott, while flying a recovery mission in a UH-1H, Huey helicopter, on March 4, 1971, was shot down in the Republic of Laos in the headquarters of a North Vietnamese Division. He was accompanied by his co-pilot Lt. Richard Gebauer, his crew chief Harold Brasket, door gunner Dave Smalley, and army helicopter mechanics Jim Watkins, Rumaldo Salinas and Mike MacFadden. During the

three days and two nights of intense enemy contact, Elliott had called in 97 air strikes on enemy positions including attacking enemy forces, a 51 caliber machine gun position and a fuel pipeline. The pipeline discovery culminated in a B-52 bomb strike only two miles from his location on an enemy fuel farm. All were rescued by South Vietnamese Rangers who traveled two miles over two days of intense fighting. All his men made it out without injury. When Major Elliott returned to CONUS he was awarded a Silver Star while stationed at Fort Leonard Wood and is the first person to be inducted into this Hall of Fame since 2008. He is a Life member of the VFW, the Society of American Military Engineers, the Army Engineer Association and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.



Photo courtesy Retired Major Ralph E. Elliott III



Photos courtesy Anjie Palmer

More native plants in the park after completion of the project.

Neighborhood volunteers cont. from pg. 1

So in July 2021, she reached out to HOA president, Don Lindstrom with this idea.

"The park borders my cul-de-sac, so I volunteered to attend to the after planting needs — mostly watering," Palmer said. "Lindstrom was receptive and asked for more details. He was anticipating questions the board might ask and prompted me to carefully research and provide details that I would have never thought."

When he had his questions answered, and thought it may just work, he asked for a design and plant list so Palmer recruited her friend, Laurie Gilmore, master gardener and fellow plant enthusiast to design an area of approximately 1,000 sq ft. Gilmore's design was fantastic and practical, incorporating plants best suited to the conditions of the area.

Palmer said that Lindstrom then presented the plan to the board of directors and the design was approved with a \$1,000 budget. RFPs were sent out. Clean Cuts, the HOA's landscape and maintenance company, proposed to provide the labor at no charge. This allowed the group to add a 30 gallon pine tree, additional highbush blueberries and fakahatchee grass.

Lindstrom waited until the next board meeting and presented the new information which was also approved. Plant orders and deliveries were scheduled in coordination with volunteers and installation was set for April 1, 2022.

Williams Plant Nursery has a wide selection of healthy native plants which they delivered. Chiappini Farms in Hawthorne has acres of hard to find natives. Gilmore picked up blueberries from Chiappini and the installation began.



After completion of the project.

Longtime resident Jimmy Badolata helped unload and immediately began digging and planting. Another neighbor, Bonnie Miller Ciaravino, brought refreshments. Walter Bryant, with the Ixia chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, jumped right in with planting and also helped with some last minute design ideas for the additional plants they were able to purchase.

Once Brent Hobbs and his Clean Cuts crew arrived, the installation accelerated. The installation only took about three hours. The Gleba family was recruited and are helping out with the watering.

On April 29, Clean Cuts applied the mulch and the project was completed.

Palmer said that neighbors are now looking forward to a few more birds singing, a few more flowers blooming and a little more shade.

"We hope that our native planting project might encourage others to propose incorporating native plants to their HOA's common areas," Palmer said. "It might just be easier than you think when you have a well thought out plan and folks working together for the betterment of the community!"



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Rotary Club gives more than \$16,000 in aid to help Ukrainians



Photos courtesy Marsha Peacock

In March the Satellite Evening Club of Southpoint Rotary Club gave \$2,150 in cash which was matched to become \$4,300. The funds were designated to the Rotary Foundation Ukraine Disaster Relief. In April and May the Rotary club also collected more than \$11,800 in requested supplies — specifically \$1,828 in baby formula, \$2,000 in socks, \$350 in diapers, \$260 in shampoo and body wash, \$5,000 in clothes, \$900 in household items and

\$500 in feminine products. Some supplies were sent by ship to Ukraine in one of four cargo containers, but most are being used to help those Ukrainian mothers, children and elderly who have arrived to join family members living in Jacksonville. At least 150 Ukrainian refugees have come to the Jacksonville area. The club meets every Tuesday evening on Baymeadows Road. Visit www.SouthpointRotaryEvening.com for more information.



More Than a Home Away From Home

The Adult Day Program at River Garden offers a purposeful, safe environment for seniors who require extra support. Each day features a variety of activities designed to engage clients' physical, social, occupational and intellectual needs. It also provides a worry-free time during the week for caregivers to work, relax or tend to their own needs.



For more information or to schedule a tour, call (904) 288.7858 or visit RiverGarden.org



A not-for-profit agency sponsored by the organized Jacksonville Jewish community.

Mandarin Rotary honors Teachers of the Year

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

On April 26, the Rotary Club of Mandarin honored six Mandarin area educators who were selected by their peers as Teachers of the Year in their respective schools. All of the teachers spoke of their love for their profession and for the children under their care. All of them were honored not only for their

educational expertise, but also for their dedication to their students.

The Club meets every Tuesday morning at the Ramada Inn on Hartley Road in Mandarin. Contact Membership Chairman Wes Caldwell at Wes@cmabenefits.com if you would like to learn more about the club and its opportunities for service and fellowship.



Photo courtesy John Hart

Dawn Holcomb of Mandarin High School, Amanda Hildenbrand of Crown Point Elementary, Jennifer Rogers of Bartram Springs Elementary, Candice Lilly of Mandarin Oaks Elementary, Miranda Murdock of Greenland Pines Elementary, and Samantha Fox of Loretto Elementary (along with their principals).

Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Capt. David Lifka
mail@floridanewline.com

So sad to say, but this is my final and farewell article. When I was first given the opportunity to write this monthly article, I was asked to keep it around 400 words. I was thrilled to think that this "bucket list" item had been offered to me, but 400 words seemed like an awful lot and I didn't know if I could do it.

I wanted to share my passion for fishing with others. My hopes were that maybe just a little bit of this passion would be recognized by the readers enough to actually give fishing a try. I wanted families to know that fishing could be a family event.

When writing this article, I mostly targeted area fishing to let readers know what was available in our own backyards. That fishing didn't have to be complicated or expensive, and that it was an activity that practically anyone could enjoy.

Often I tried to introduce the basics of catching the many different species of fish in our local waters, hoping by keeping it simple, would encourage them to actually go out and give it a try.

If nothing else, I had hoped to just get people and families outdoors to see and experience how beautiful Florida is, and how they can enjoy Florida's great outdoors with a fishing pole in hand.

In the beginning, 400 words seemed like an awful lot; however, it did not take long for me to learn that four hundred words was not near enough to express what I wanted to pass on to readers. Hopefully the articles were enjoyed, somewhat helpful, and there are a few more folks and families that now enjoy fishing because of them.

My heartfelt thanks to Martie Thompson, editor of The Creepline and Mandarin NewsLine, and all the readers, for allowing me the past decade or more to write this article. Also, thank you to my dad, who 60 plus years ago started taking me fishing with him on weekends. We are now into the fourth generation of fishing families. Here's to wishing everyone tight lines and God's Blessings.

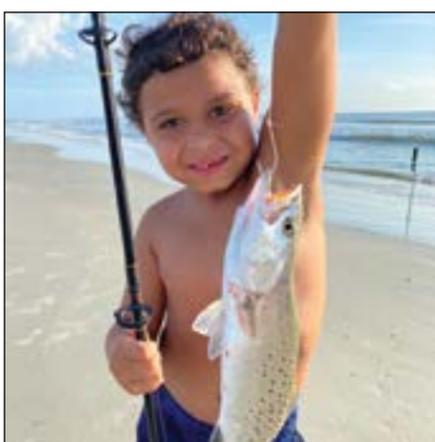
Fishing Report: Fishing should be really heating up in the St. Johns. With a similar weather pattern this year as to last year's spring, fishing got really wild until late June when heavy rains slowed fishing for much of the summer. High salinities had everything biting, including a large number of yellowmouths and even snook at the Buckman. Time to get out and give it a try and hope for a repeat.

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

[Editor's Note: It has been our pleasure to feature Capt. David's fishing articles for the past decade. He has provided fishing advice for thousands of readers over the years and hopefully has imparted his love for fishing and the outdoors. We wish Capt. David all the best as he sails on to his next adventure!]



Photos courtesy David Lifka
Abram Carter, grandson.



Ezra Carter, grandson.



Natalie Carter, daughter.



Andrew Lifka, son.



Capt. David Lifka



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Nutrition Check

Celebrating fruits and vegetables

By Kristen Hicks-Roof PhD, RDN and Caroline Jury BS

Let us celebrate National Fruits and Vegetable month by putting the rainbow on our plates.

Both fruits and vegetables are excellent sources of vitamins and minerals, fiber, and even water. Adding produce will make the plate more colorful, add a great taste, and provide additional health benefits. The challenge most individuals have these days is to get themselves and their families to eat these nutrient-dense foods. Here are some tips to encourage them:

1. Be a good example. Both adults and children learn more by observing their caregivers/peers; another person is more likely to eat them if they see you enjoying fruits and vegetables.

2. If you take your child(ren) grocery shopping, let them help you pick one or two vegetables or fruits for the week. This allows them to have shared decision making for meals and snacks that include produce. It may take a bit longer than your usual grocery run, but this will give your child(ren) a new appreciation of these healthy treats.

3. Eating fruits and vegetables for snacks, why not? Some examples include:

1. Celery sticks, carrots, bell peppers, broccoli, cauliflower, squash slices or peas with natural peanut butter, hummus or a salad dressing of your choice. To add some sweetness, add some raisins

in the mix.

2. Fruit slices or whole fruits (apples, bananas, avocado, mango, pineapple, papaya, melon)

4. Provide positive reinforcement by praising your child, friend, and family members when they eat fruit/vegetables, especially if they try something new.

5. Try a new vegetable or fruit every time you go to the grocery store, or you can make it one to two a week. Another option is to visit a non-chain grocery store to see what varieties you may try. Some non-chain grocery stores include international markets (African, Caribbean, Spanish, Asian etc.)

Exploring the different colors of fruits and vegetables is an excellent way to put the rainbow on your plate. It adds color with a bonus of much-needed nutrients like vitamins and minerals to help our bodies be in their best condition, regardless of our age. So what color are you going to try today? You can also visit Florida Medical Association's Healthy Living Toolkit to get more ideas of fruits and vegetable colors and their benefits: www.flmedical.org/Florida/Florida_Public/Docs/Healthy-Living-Toolkit.pdf

Kristen Hicks-Roof PhD, RDN, LDN, CLC, FAND is an assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Brooks College of Health, University of North Florida.

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Gardening

Consider the soil

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley ArrandalE
mail@floridanewsline.com

It's early May and I've been watching the ground become parched. Our rain gauge measures zero for the past week's total, which is miserable enough, but it has been even longer without rain. I've been hand-watering the Simpson's stoppers (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) and Darrow's blueberries (*Vaccinium darrowii*), which were planted less than a year ago. A length of soaker hose around the Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*), which has been in the ground a little longer, will give it a long slow drink when needed. Last year's perennial wildflowers are holding their own with just a little help and I'm delighted to see them growing so well, but plants installed this spring need close attention. It's a trade-off between using potable water in a landscape that I've been hoping will be able to survive drought periods and losing precious plants that would be costly to replace.

Some wildflowers that have volunteered unexpectedly in my garden are the sort

that probably get overlooked. They have small flowers and delicate foliage but are pretty nonetheless. Blue toadflax (*Linaria canadensis*, www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-linaria-canadensis) first caught my eye about 25 years ago, flowering in the grounds of my daughter's primary school. About a foot tall, it covered the field in a haze of lavender blue. About the same time, I found clasping Venus' looking glass (*Triodanis perfoliata*, www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-triodanis-perfoliata) while browsing in a native plant nursery. It wasn't for sale, but growing quite happily in a small display garden; the owner seemed to think I was a bit sad, for finding it so lovely! Oakleaf fleabane (*Erigeron quercifolius*) is a diminutive member of the aster family that I would also like to see in my yard. Its flowers can be white or lavender, with a yellow center, but the lavender is most appealing. These wildflowers are hosts and nectar sources for insects that we barely notice, but which

are all part of a balanced ecosystem.

Drought is a potent reminder to add compost and replenish mulch to enhance the ability of soil to hold water. Adding organic matter also supports the "SFW," or the soil food web. If you're unfamiliar with the term, it refers to myriad organisms that dwell in healthy soils. This article gives a very clear explanation, and I encourage you to check it out: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ss664>.

During Earth Month I discovered a movie called "Kiss the Ground," about regenerative farming. It was heartening to see how some farmers have employed techniques, including no-till sowing, to turn their businesses around. Back in the '90s, one farmer in the rural heartland suffered catastrophic crop losses for three or four consecutive years and decided things had to change. Now he runs a profitable mixed farm, takes no government subsidies, and has beautiful fertile living soil which enables him to do so. His land is also home to innumerable birds and other wildlife, as well as native plants. No mean feat. The answer is in the soil.

For the homeowner, composting, mulching, leaving fallen leaves in place and grass cuttings on the lawn go a long way to building up soil. But, as with regenerative farming, an important step is to cut way back on chemical use and avoid physically disturbing the soil unnecessarily. Every assault on the soil, which includes pesticide applications, reduces the numbers and the health of soil-dwelling organisms. Bacteria and fungi, as well as the tiny animals living in soil, together make it healthy and supremely able to support healthy plants. And healthy soils keep carbon in the ground — which is an absolute necessity if we are to rein in rising global temperatures.

Rethinking gardening from the soil up is fundamentally what we all need to do.

As always, timely advice is available in "A New Leaf – Yard and Garden": <https://tinyurl.com/2p899u5c>, and the Master Gardener Volunteer newsletter, "The Neighborhood Gardener": <https://tinyurl.com/2p8bmajf>. And there is also the UF/IFAS gardening calendar, <https://tinyurl.com/3fyzv79w>, to keep us moving along.

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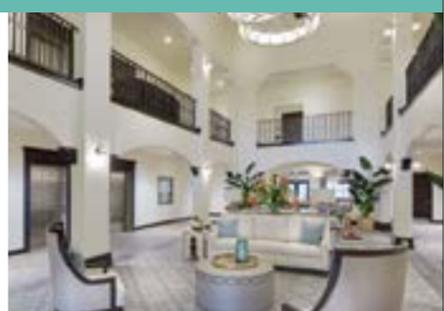
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