

Mandarin NewsLine

September 2022 Volume 16 Issue 11

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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BFF Best Furry Friend

Q&A

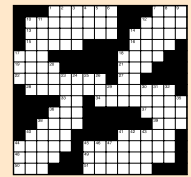
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Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society
Volunteers George and Cathy Barnwell

Mandarin Museum & Historical Society seeks volunteers

By Paula Suhey
mail@floridanewslines.com

When will the Mandarin Museum be open again?

First it was the pandemic and the world stopped; however, one thing didn't stop and that was the expansion and renovations that had been planned at the Mandarin Museum. Soon, there will be a dedicated room for the Maple Leaf story and artifacts. The exhibit space in the museum has been completely renovated to include new designs of some of the old exhibits and a brand-new permanent exhibit "The Untold Stories of Black Mandarin." Additionally, we will have an Art Gal-

Historical cont. on pg. 2

Mandarin heads back to school

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewslines.com

Students across Duval County, including local Mandarin schools, returned to school on Monday, Aug. 15. According to District 7 School Board Member Lori Hershey, for the first time in two years, all schools were open in the traditional sense.

"It was so exciting to see parents walking their students to class on the first day," Hershey said. "There was an energy that has been missing these past few years."

Hershey was scheduled to be a substitute at Crown Point Elementary on the first day of school, but since the school was fully staffed she was happy to spend her time opening the door and greeting visitors and welcoming everyone back to school.

At Crown Point Elementary School, home to about 750 students, Principal Brett Hartley said the first day of school is always one of his school's best days of the year, and this year was no exception.

"Everyone was excited in the building including teachers, parents, and especially students," Hartley said. "This year, parents were allowed back into the



Photo courtesy Mary Eyer
Crown Point Principal Brett Hartley with a group of third graders ready for the first day of school.

building to walk their students because it does give parents a sense of relief in making sure their babies arrive to the correct class. I can already tell this is going to be an amazing school year!"

Hartley said the school is adopting a new curriculum for reading and for math this year, as well as implementing the Four Disciplines of Execution for

Educators to help students and teachers reach their goals.

"At Crown Point we will continue, as last year, to implement our Leader in Me program to inspire our Panthers to be their best academically and socially," Hartley said. "Also this year Crown Point has new safety and security measures in place to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and all those who enter our building."

Principal Tammy Haberman of Loretto Elementary School said the first day of school was "perfect."

"It was great to see parents walking their students to class for the first time since COVID," Haberman said. "We also were able to bring our Boo Hoo Breakfast back for our kindergarten parents for the first time since 2019."

Loretto students will see a newly reorganized and redecorated media center this year. Haberman said it is a welcoming and cozy environment and students will be able to find their favorite books more easily.

This year is an "Ocean of Possibilities" at



Photo courtesy Tammy Haberman
Students line up to enter their classroom on the first day of school at Loretto Elementary.

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Historical cont. from pg. 1
lery again to exhibit Mandarin artists.

Since early 2021 the four historic buildings on the grounds of Walter Jones Historical Park have been open two Saturdays each month from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The museum’s volunteers have been very faithful, and they are so appreciated. When the museum reopens, the plan is to have volunteers in the main exhibit area and the schoolhouse each week and have the other buildings open on a monthly basis.

As soon as we have a date for the Grand Reopening, we will be shouting it from the rooftops. That will mean that we will need more volunteers!

What does a volunteer do? There are many areas one can share their time and talents, but the primary need is for

docents. A person who enjoys history and talking about it makes a great docent, also known as a museum guide. Docents greet guests and tell the stories of Mandarin’s rich history.

“Volunteering for me has always been about sharing the past,” said Losco Winery volunteer and Mandarin Museum & Historical Society member, Roger Sallas. “My biggest kick is to be able to share a history lesson and hear the visitor say ‘That’s really cool. I didn’t know that.’”

“I love to volunteer because it is a way to give back to our community,” said Cathy Barnwell who along with her husband, George, is a regular volunteer at the 1876 barn. “It’s great to watch visitors’ expressions when we show them artifacts. It’s a wonderful experience as a volunteer to talk and listen to our visitors in a relaxed setting and it’s a great way to build community.”

Mandarin has provided beauty and a rich heritage, and we believe volunteering at the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society gives one that opportunity to give something back and to build a greater sense of community. It is rewarding and can be fun.

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Contact Paula Suhey, volunteer coordinator, Mandarin Museum & Historical Society at mandarinmuseumvolunteers@gmail.com.

The Mandarin Museum & Historical Society is located at 11964 Mandarin Road in Walter Jones Historical Park. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net for more information about Mandarin’s history.



Greenland Pines Elementary School’s mascot welcomed students back to school. Photo courtesy Traci Gunston

Back to school cont. from pg. 1
Greenland Pines Elementary School, according to Principal Michelle Hinkley.

“Greenland Pines had an amazing first day! We welcomed back 674 students,” said Hinkley. “The school was filled with excitement as students returned. Our mascot was even in attendance to welcome students back.”

Hinkley was pleased that the school was able to host an in-person orientation the Friday before school started for families to meet the teacher, drop off supplies and pick up car tags. Over the summer, Greenland Pines had a new playground installed, which second through fifth grade students will enjoy climbing all over.

Districtwide, officials will continue to closely monitor the transmission of COVID-19 in each local community; however, the COVID-19 case tracking dashboard, nightly calls, and elementary classroom letters about individual cases at schools will be discontinued. Families can still access local positivity rates on the Florida Department of

Health website at <https://floridahealth-covid19.gov/>.

New this year, students will have free access to the district WIFI to do homework on their laptops while riding the bus. There will be posters on each bus with instructions on accessing the network.

Also, there is a new way parents must update their contact info in order for them to receive automated calls from schools/district. These calls include attendance calls as well as calls notifying them of a possible emergency. Visit <https://www.teamduval.org/2022/07/11/families-have-new-way-to-update-parent-contact-information/> for more information.

Finally, because of a national bus driver shortage, the district expects students and families may continue to experience several impacts. These include longer bus rides and wait times, as well as bus delays. The district will continue informing families of delays through its Bus Delays webpage, <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/busdelays>.

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BFF

Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Hazel!

Breed:

Double Doodle (Mix between a labradoodle and golden doodle)

Favorite Activity:

Making a massive splash as I jump in the pool after my humans which I refer to as "my puppies!" I've been known to add in a loud bark for effect.

Favorite Food:

Pancakes with butter and maple syrup

Favorite Friend:

Il the squirrels in my backyard.

How Did your BFF Get its Name?:

Originally I was going to be called "Beef Soft Taco," but on further thought, I was deemed Hazel Rose. It suits me well as both my curly hair and eyes are hazel.



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.



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Back to School Guide

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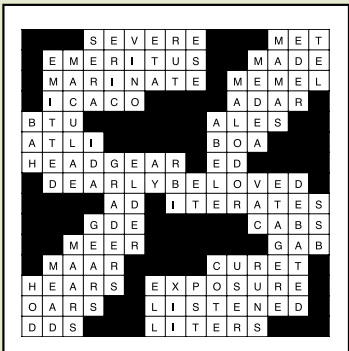
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MYSTERY PHOTO



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

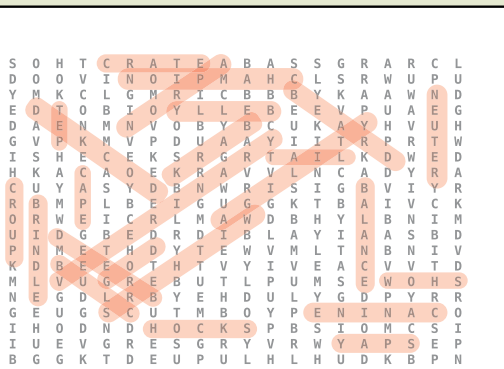
Last month's Mystery Photo was the courtyard at Mandarin High School.



Answers
to our
Puzzles
PG 10



Answers: A. canine B. bark C. care D. owner



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September

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 looming (with all items donated to charity) meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Panera Bread in the RiverPlace shopping center, 11111 San Jose Blvd. Visit the group's Facebook page (Playing HOOKie) or email playinghookie31@gmail.com for more information.

1st: The Jacksonville Camera Club will meet on Sept. 1 and Sept. 15 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Shepherd of the Woods Southside, 7860 Southside Blvd. There is a social "hour" of 30 to 45 minutes before the meeting. Visit jaxcameraclub.com for more information.

3rd: 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 Sept. 3 and Sept. 17 in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road. The 1911 Mandarin Store and Post Office will also be open on Sept. 17 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.

6th: Honeybee Quilters Guild will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Mandarin Presbyterian Church at the Mandarin Road Campus in the Woodie Room at 11844 Mandarin Road. Guild member Jeanie Jacobson will discuss Half Square Triangles. Wearing masks is optional. New members/guests welcome. Visit honeybeequilters.org for more information.

7th: "Give Me a Break! How Respite Care Can Support You and Your Loved One," a free workshop offering information about the different types of respite care available, associated costs, and what to ask or look for in a respite care provider and presented by Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida, a program of ElderSource, will be held from 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 7. The program will be presented both in person and online. Registration via Eventbrite (<https://bit.ly/3pnSK3b>). Call (904) 391-6603 for more information.

10th: Southside Multiple Sclerosis group meets on the second Saturday of each month (this month on Sept. 10) at 2 p.m. at the JCA, 8505 San Jose Blvd. Every other month there is a speaker and on alternate months there are group discussions on the current situation with our MS. Call group leader Susan Armstron, (904) 396-1082 for more information.

10th: Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market at First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. on Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit <https://localcorners.com/second-saturday-arts-and-farmers-market> for more information.

10th: The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society will meet Saturday, Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. at the Jacksonville Public Library located at 3330 Kori Road. Michael Ports will speak about "Free People of Color." This meeting is free and open to the public. Visit sgesjax.org for more information.

10th – 11th: The Jacksonville Orchid Society will hold its Fall Orchid and Plant Sale at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day. Visit www.jaxorchidsociety.org for more information.

14th: Art After Dark hosted by the Jacksonville Fine Arts Forum, has been rescheduled for Sept. 14 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse at Hampton Glen, 8515 Hampton Ridge Blvd. Attendees can mingle with artists and learn about the organization and its programs that include artists, musicians, writers, and collectors. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Marty Cawley at (904) 814-8516 or cnmcawley@gmail.com for more information.

15th – 17th: Annual Jacksonville Quiltfest will be held at the Prime Osborn Convention Center in downtown Jacksonville from Sept. 15 – 17, daily from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. with admission price of \$14 per person. More than 400 quilts will be on display as well as special exhibits, vendors, small charity auction quilts, a quilt sale room, a quilt appraiser, and more. This all volunteer event is hosted by six sister quilt guilds. Visit www.quiltfestjax.com for more information.

17th – 23rd: Constitution Week is Sept. 17 – 23 and the Jacksonville Chapter DAR will host daily live readings from the United States Constitution on the group's Facebook @ JacksonvilleFLDAR. Any Duval County fifth through 12th grade student who completes viewing the entire week of Constitution readings may notify the Chapter by email at JacksonvilleDAR@gmail.com to receive a certificate noting the student's interest in American History.

19th: The All Star Quilters Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. for socializing prior to the 10 a.m. meeting on Monday, Sept. 19 at the First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. The program will be "Quilt Chat: A Sampler of Sam-

plers" with Sunnie Malesky. Sew and Tell is always a feature. Guests are welcome. Visit www.allstarquilters.org for more information.

22nd: Mandarin Republican Club will meet on Thursday, Sept. 22 at St. Mary's Seafood, 11290 Old St. Augustine Road. Social time begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. First time visitors are welcome.

22nd: Mandarin Women's Club will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a "Cheers to 40 Years" party on Sept. 22 at the Ramada Inn Mandarin. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and reservations are required. The cost of the luncheon is \$25 and must be received by Sept. 15; to make reservations and obtain payment instructions, contact Susie at spm104@aol.com or (904) 885-8952. Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for more information.

24th: Farm Share food distribution will be held at Mandarin Oaks Elementary School, 10600 Hornets Nest Road, on Sept. 24 beginning at 9 a.m. This drive-through food distribution will be available on a first come, first served basis and is in partnership with School Board member Lori Hershey and City Council member Michael Boylan.

30th: The Italian American Club of Jacksonville will resume its popular Spaghetti to Go on Friday, Sept. 30 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.

30th: Mandarin Garden Club will host its annual Trash to Treasure Sale on Friday, Sept. 30 and Saturday, Oct. 1, at 2892 Loretto Road. A locally grown plant sale will be offered outside. Visit www.mandaringardenclub.org for more information.



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with Duval County School Board Member Lori Hershey, District 7

Q: With school starting, can you share some of the district’s plan to address the shortage of teachers?

A: Superintendent Greene has communicated her plan to parents and one of the things we are doing, as we did last year, is having district staff serving as substitutes. I was actually scheduled to substitute the first day of school at Crown Point Elementary, but since they were fully staffed, I helped out by welcoming everyone back inside the building. I have commitments on my calendar for the remainder of the month of August to substitute at Mandarin Oaks, Greenland Pines and Twin Lakes Academy Elementary. I’m available to do whatever they need.

Q: Can you tell us about the new metal detectors that will be installed in Duval County high schools?

A: The school board voted in mid-August to spend more than \$1 million to put metal detectors in all of our high schools. These are much more efficient than traditional metal detectors and are the type used by Baptist Health, the Florida Theatre and Walt Disney World. Multiple people can walk through them at a time and backpacks can be carried. A few years ago, there might have been resistance to metal detectors, but now they seem to be accepted as everyone wants to make our schools safe. I don’t think they will make the school seem any less welcoming and shouldn’t hinder students’ entrance to the building.

Q: What other steps is the district taking to help ensure student and school safety?

A: In August, a safety event was held at Atlantic Coast High School. More than 300 parents signed up to attend this event and Chief Gregory Burton, head of our school police, shared protocols and safety measures such as Raptor, an app that every teacher has on their phone that can call for a school lockdown.

I also encourage the entire community,

not just parents, to download the Fortify Florida app (getfortifyfl.com), which will allow people to identify and bring to attention any concerns at any of our schools. It’s a good way to have more eyes and ears in the community.

Q: What’s new with the district’s Career and Technical Education (CTE)?

A: We have exciting news: CTE is expanding at Atlantic Coast High School, which is adding a medical academy and a teacher academy. They will join the existing Engineering Academy and the Computer Technology Academy. I’d like to remind everyone that Mandarin High School has the VyStar Academy of Business, the partnership with Embry Riddle University which allows students to be certified in the use of drones, and the Mandarin Medical Academy.

Also in an effort to expand CTE, this year’s eighth graders will be first to go through Duval Ready, which is a diploma certification for students who want to go directly to the workforce upon graduation. This year’s seniors can fast track the program to get the designation and all ninth through 11th graders will have an abbreviated course.

Q: What else do you have to share with District 7?

A: We have the third Farm Share food distribution event that has been hosted in District 7 coming up on Sept. 24. It will be held at Mandarin Oaks Elementary, 10600 Hornets Nest Road, beginning at 9 a.m. I am partnering with Mandarin City Council member Michael Boylan for this event.

Also, save the date for our next Chat with the Superintendent, which will be held on Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. at Greenland Pines Elementary School.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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

Teachers return to school at Mandarin Oaks

By Debbie Scarborough
mail@floridanewsline.com

Learning is sweet at Mandarin Oaks and the teachers were able to experience that sweetness when they returned to school on Aug. 8. Mandarin Oaks’ PTA supplied a delicious breakfast to start the day and then teachers got to work taking part in training to continue to make Mandarin Oaks the best in Duval County. Teachers were busy all week from prepping their rooms to back to school orientation.

One of the trainings teachers took part in was the new physical education

program B3. Mandarin Oaks is one of eight Duval County schools that will be implementing this program. “B3: Brain, Body, Behavior” is a multimedia curriculum that helps students develop their fundamental motor skills.

Finally, Mandarin Oaks is hosting Farm Share Food Distribution and its partnership with our School Board representative, Lori Hershey, and City Council Member Michael Boylan. The Farm Share Food Distribution will be on Sept. 24 beginning at 9 a.m. It is a drive-through distribution and will be available on a first come, first served basis.



Photo courtesy Debbie Scarborough



Trash To Treasure Sale

September 30 and October 1, 9 am - 2 pm

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Church collects school supplies



Photos courtesy Mandarin Lutheran Church

The disciples of Mandarin Lutheran Church donated 20 backpacks and 99 pounds of school supplies to be distributed at a local school, the Mandarin Food Bank, and the MLC Baby Pantry. The donations, as well as our members who are teachers in our education program and in our local community, were blessed by Pastor Anna Enderle for the upcoming school year.



with Jacksonville City Council Member
Michael Boylan, District 6

Q: Do you have an update on the new special committee you received permission to form from Council President Terrance Freeman that will address Critical Quality of Life Issues?

A: We had the first organizational meeting for this committee in mid-August, with 15 people meeting to talk about process and structures. Basically, each of the three working groups, one each to discuss access to healthcare, affordable/workforce housing, and homelessness, will have five meetings between September and November to answer three questions:

1. What is the scope of each issue?
2. What is being done within the public, private and non-profit sectors to address each?
3. What are some of the best practices other communities have adopted to address each?

The whole committee will then provide the City Council a full report at its Dec. 11 meeting. We are relying heavily on subject matter experts for their input and recommendations on these issues. It's important to note that these issues are not unique to any part of the city; these are Mandarin issues as well.

Q: What can you share about the rezoning of the Cissell property at the corner of Loretto and Kennedy?

A: After more than two-and-a-half years of consideration, the rezoning of the Cissell property was approved by City Council. It permits up to 60 individual homes with a mix of 50 ft., 60 ft. and 90 ft. lots. There was much give and take along the way including the developer agreeing to donate the primary home on the property and \$100,000 towards its relocation (within the next six months) to anyone who would be interested in relocating the home. Also agreed to was closing off the north end of Fairbanks so that future residents would not use Kennedy as well as ingress and egress lanes at the entrance of the development.

I want to thank the group of neighbors, led by Tracey Arpen, who worked with the developers in negotiating the details. While I joined four of my colleagues in voting against the approval of the rezoning I did acknowledge the necessity of creating greater single family housing inventory and that even Mandarin had to play a part in that; however, my vote against this project was in support of my constituents who were opposed in light of the traffic issues along Loretto Road.

Q: What is the latest regarding the San Jose Boulevard medians upkeep?

A: The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) just confirmed to me that the median improvements south of Interstate 295 on San Jose Boulevard to

Q&A with Michael Boylan cont. on pg. 9

Mandarin Art Festival seeks show manager and volunteers

By Susie Scott
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Art Festival, founded and hosted by the Mandarin Community Club since inception in 1968, is getting ready to launch festival planning and assignments in September for the April 2023 event. The first planning meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 4 p.m. at the Mandarin Community Club located at 12447 Mandarin Road.

This annual Easter weekend event has been a Mandarin tradition for more than 50 years and is one of the longest running and successful Fine Art and Fine Craft Festivals in all of northeast Florida with more than 100 artist exhibitors, food court, Children's Art Show, and Green Market. Attendance in 2022 was estimated to approach 10,000 over the two-day weekend event.

The festival is manned primarily by volunteers from the 99-year-old Mandarin Community Club working hand in hand with residents and volunteers from within the community. Those volunteers have made the event possible for decades with the support of sponsors from the business and private

sector and the commitment and hard work of the community club board members.

As show planning begins, volunteers are needed for a range of activities. There is literally a job for everyone interested in seeing this event continue to be the largest in Mandarin.

For the last few years the show has been managed and many of the components coordinated with the assistance of Show Manager Krysten Bennett who had successfully managed the Riverside Arts Market (RAM) for more than four years. The show manager would help to recruit and coordinate artist exhibitors and many of the operations of the two-day event. As the club launches planning for the 2023 annual Art Festival, a new show manager is being sought to assist with some of those duties.

If you would like to put your talents to use and support this Mandarin tradition, contact the Mandarin Community Club at (904) 268-1622 or mandarinartfestival@gmail.com for volunteer and show manager information.

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Briefs

Rotary group collects for Ukrainian refugees

The Satellite Evening Club of Southpoint Rotary recently donated \$57,768 in school supplies and baby formula to help Ukrainian refugee children. The war in Ukraine has brought about 300 refugees to the Jacksonville area, mainly mothers and children. A local church and charter school have been directly assisting these refugees.

To also help, the Satellite Evening Club of Southpoint Rotary has been busy using the talents of their members to have supplies donated to both the church warehouse and the charter school campus. The most recent donation includes \$350 in school supplies and \$57,418 in baby formula. That joins previous donations from March through May of more than \$12,100 in household supplies, \$13,250 in baby formula and \$4300 in cash for relief aid in Ukraine.

Photo courtesy Marsha Peacock
Satellite Evening Club of Southpoint Rotary.

Mandarin Toastmasters announces special meeting

Mandarin Toastmasters will have a special meeting open for members, guests, and the public on Sept. 17 at the South Mandarin Branch Library at 12125 San Jose Blvd. This free event will be from 10:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. and will feature guest speaker Ken Remsen, author of the book “Get WalletWise” and founder of WalletWise, LLC, a Financial Coaching business. He will go in depth about financial tips and how to live a debt-free life.

What is Toastmasters all about? This international club is an opportunity to network with like-minded individuals who are supportive and eager to learn from others in the community and around the globe via zoom. For instance, the club met Saturday, Aug. 6 to listen in on great speakers discussing motivation and how to push yourself through day-to-day tasks. Toastmasters encourages learning and growing in a friendly, comfortable environment through local club meetings, training seminars, speech contests and a mentor program. Practicing public speaking and networking can help you advance your career, acclimate to a new city or even get a new job.

The next meeting of Mandarin Toastmasters will be Saturday Sept. 3 at 10:15 a.m. at the South Mandarin Branch Library. Visit Mandarin.Toastmasterclubs.org to learn more and fill out the “Contact Us” form to ask any questions and learn about how to get started.

Photo courtesy Mandarin Toastmasters
Mandarin Toastmasters at a recent meeting

Type O blood urgently needed

OneBlood is experiencing an increased need for Type O blood. Multiple hospitals throughout OneBlood’s service area are experiencing high usage of Type O blood and it is putting increased pressure on the blood supply.

“It is vital that a robust supply of Type O blood is available at all times. OneBlood is urging all eligible donors with Type O blood to please visit a OneBlood donor center or Big Red Bus blood drive as soon as possible,” said Susan Forbes, senior vice president of corporate communications and public relations.

Forty five percent of the U.S. population has Type O blood, making it the blood type in the highest demand by hospitals. Additionally, Type O blood is the blood type used to help save trauma patients.

Visit oneblood.org or call 1-888-9Donate to find a donation center near you.

Realty company donates backpacks and school supplies to local students

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty branch offices recently donated hundreds of backpacks filled with school supplies to Northeast Florida children during the company’s 23rd annual Backpack Challenge.

The backpacks filled with school supplies were donated to Northeast Florida schools and family/youth-centered organizations including Dreams Come True of Jacksonville, Doctors Inlet Elementary School in Clay County, Grace United Methodist Church in Lawtey, Hugs Across the County St. Johns, Mayport Elementary School in Duval County, Operation New Hope, John A. Crookshank Elementary School, R. B. Hunt Elementary School, Osceola Elementary School and South Woods Elementary School in St. Johns County, and Trinity Foundation of Florida.

During the campaign, monetary donations as well as new backpacks and school supplies for local students in kindergarten through grade 12 were collected at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty offices throughout Northeast Florida. The company used the donations to purchase additional backpacks and school supplies, and also encouraged donors to purchase backpacks and school supplies online via Amazon wish lists and ship directly to the charities.

Annual craft festival scheduled

The Mandarin United Methodist Women will host the 32nd annual Fall Craft Festival on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the church, 11270 San Jose Blvd. All items from more than 100 crafters are handcrafted, including clothing, jewelry and seasonal gifts. Concessions will be available. All proceeds support mission projects.

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Get to Know ...

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewslines.com

Rex and Norma King

Rex and Norma King just celebrated a milestone wedding anniversary: 71 years! The two met while in high school in Tennessee and married shortly after graduating. Rex enrolled in college at Memphis State and then went to seminary. He took a job as a youth minister at a Presbyterian church in California and while there he earned a doctorate in counseling psychology. Norma was busy raising their children and then becoming an optometric technician who went on to be an office manager for two different eye doctors. Eventually, the family moved back to Memphis to be near Rex's and Norma's parents when they became elderly and ill and needed assistance. The Kings retired to a lovely place on the Tennessee River known as Kentucky Lake and lived there until their adult daughters, who lived in Jacksonville, requested that they move to Jacksonville. In 2017 they made the move to be closer to family and have lived at Harbor Chase Senior Living since 2021.



Photo courtesy Karen Willett
Rex and Norma King

Q: Rex, how did you come to enter the Marine Corps while still a teenager?

A: Rex: I joined the Marines at age 16 and my parents had to sign for me to join. I just wanted to get away from home for a bit and I served as a Marine Guard MP. I was actually stationed at NAS Jacksonville. Eventually I realized how important education was for me, so I got out of the Marines and returned home to Memphis to finish high school.

Q: How did you two meet?

A: Norma: Rex was 19 and had just returned from the Marines. We were in 11th grade and met at Young Life, a church camp. Rex was a diver and was always practicing his back flips, so he did one in front of me. I told him, "I guess you can walk me back to my cabin." We dated on and off after that and after graduation, we married in August 1951.

Q: What advice would you offer to newlyweds?

A: Norma: Listen to each other!

Rex: I'd say listen too, but also keep humor in your life.

Norma: Oh yes, Rex has a great sense of humor. His favorite expression is "Do you miss me?" He asks the staff here at Harbor Chase all the time, so now they've started asking him that too.

Q: What do you enjoy doing at Harbor Chase?

A: Norma: We play Train dominoes and like listening to the visiting musicians the best.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Norma: We both used to paint and Rex used to ride a motorcycle. Today, he collects toy cars and I love to read and play games. We also both like to FaceTime with our four children, nine grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. We have their pictures all over our apartment.

Q&A with Michael Boylan cont. from pg. 6

Julington Creek Road will commence this fall. Right now, the medians on San Jose north of Interstate 295 are not included in the scope of work, but I am hopeful that we will be able to address them soon.

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

A: The city's annual budget review process is currently underway and while I am not a member of the council's Finance Committee, I've sat in on their meetings as my schedule permits. I'm keeping an eye on any capital improvement projects for Mandarin.

Also, at the Aug. 9 City Council meeting, it was my pleasure to introduce a resolution honoring Dr. William Bosworth, a long-time Mandarin resident. I was honored to share this with his wife, Wanda, and family and friends. Former Council members Sharon Copeland and Dick Kravitz spoke about Dr. Bosworth's many accomplishments and their fondest memories of their times together.

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

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

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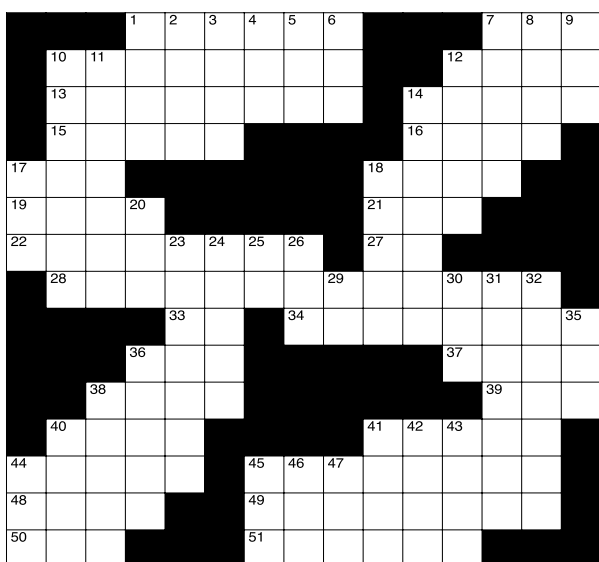
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904.246.6832
wbu.com/jacksonvillebeach

World Golf Village
180 Capulet Drive #5
(At Murabella)
904.209.5754
wbu.com/staugustine

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Grievous
7. Queens ballplayer
10. Honorable title
12. Created
13. Grillmasters do it
14. Wartime German cargo ship
15. Cocoplum
16. Hebrew calendar month
17. British thermal unit
18. Brews
19. One of Thor's names
21. Decorative scarf
22. Clothes
27. - __: denotes past
28. A way to address a lover
33. Commercial
34. Utters repeatedly
36. Google certification (abbr.)
37. Taxis
38. Belgian village in Antwerp
39. Talk excessively
40. Broad vulcanic crater
41. Surgical instrument
44. Listens to
45. Revelation of a fact
48. Paddles
49. Heard
50. Tooth caregiver
51. Metric capacity units

CLUES DOWN

1. Protein-rich liquids
2. Musician Clapton
3. Wine
4. When you hope to arrive
5. Something one can get stuck in
6. Midway between east and southeast
7. Mothers
8. German river
9. Israeli city __ Aviv
10. Discharged
11. Areas near the retina
12. Greek mythological sorceress
14. Very unpleasant smell
17. “__ Humbug!”
18. White poplar
20. Journalist Tarbell
23. Teachers
24. One older than you
25. Long Russian river
26. Run batted in
29. Beloved Hollywood alien
30. Holiday (informal)
31. Furniture with open shelves
32. Argued
35. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
36. Cars have them
38. Volcanic craters
40. Made of fermented honey and water
41. Shelter for mammals or birds
42. One who utilizes
43. Moves swiftly on foot
44. Builder's trough
45. Architectural wing
46. 12
47. Pacific Standard Time

GOOD DOG WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

AGILITY
APRON
BALANCE
BARK
BEARD
BELLY
BREED
BRINDLE
CANINE
CAPE
CHAMPION
CLUB
CRATE
CROUP
DOCKED
DOG
HOCKS
NEUTER
PET
SHOW
SPAY
TAIL
VETERINARY
WITHERS



Solve the code to discover words related to dog ownership.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 15 = E)

- A. 21 8 17 25 17 15**
Clue: Companion animal
- B. 7 8 23 24**
Clue: Dog sound
- C. 21 8 23 15**
Clue: Provide for health
- D. 22 14 17 15 23**
Clue: One who has a pet

Bulldogs return to school



Photos courtesy The Bolles School

It's back-to-school season, and Bolles Bulldogs came back to all four Bolles campuses on Thursday, Aug. 11.

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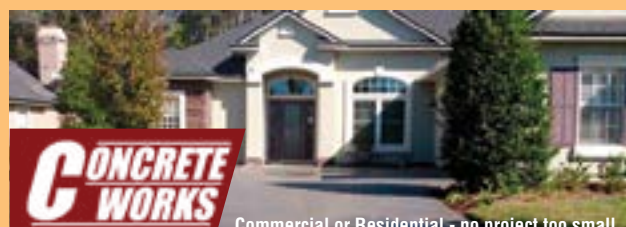
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Nutrition Check

World Alzheimer's Day and the food/brain connection

By Kristen Hicks-Roof PhD, RDN
mail@floridanewslines.com

This month, World Alzheimer's Day will be recognized on Sept. 21. There is a lot of recent and emerging research on the food-brain connection and the importance of food on the aging brain's ability to function, remember and think. This topic is so important to the state of Florida that Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed a University of North Florida Department of Nutrition faculty member, Dr. Corinne Labyak, to the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee.

Much of the research is showing that there are dietary patterns that can show promising results and others report that there are specific nutrients that contribute to brain health. I'm going to break down some of the latest research:

Dietary Patterns:

• DASH Diet/Mediterranean Diet/MIND: Each of these dietary patterns help to support lowering blood pressure. These dietary patterns emphasize fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, seafood, and unsaturated fats. It is recommended to limit foods with high saturated fat and cholesterol (including butter, shortening, lard, and fatty cuts of meat). Want to learn more? Connect with a Registered Dietitian to talk about your dietary patterns and ways to improve. (Find one at www.eatright.org/find-a-nutrition-expert)

Specific Nutrients/Individual Foods:

• Omega-3 fatty acids (particularly

DHA): Studies have shown that supplementation (approximately 2 grams) can help improve learning and memory, and others to help slow cognitive decline.

• Vitamin D supplementation: Studies have shown that daily supplementation (approximately 800 IU) can help improve cognitive function. Additionally, Vitamin D deficiency is associated with an increased risk of Alzheimer's.

While there is still a lot to learn about the food-brain connection, it is important to take care of your health and improve your dietary patterns to support optimal brain health during aging periods.

Learn more and find references at:

- National Institute on Aging (www.nia.nih.gov/health/what-do-we-know-about-diet-and-prevention-alzheimers-disease)
- Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/daily-care/food-eating)
- USDA Dementia and Alzheimer's (www.nutrition.gov/topics/diet-and-health-conditions/dementia-and-alzheimers)

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.

Fishing

Jimmy's Fishing Report

By Capt. David Lifka
mail@floridanewslines.com

By Jimmy Tomazinis
mail@floridanewslines.com

Usually by the time September rolls around, I have already made at least one comment to my wife about how I'm ready for some cooler weather. It's not that I don't enjoy summer, it's just that eventually the heat and humidity gets old and some change would be nice. September typically doesn't bring relief for that, especially lately. While we are waiting for a temperature shift to cue us into seasonal changes, the fish have already been noticing. Days have been growing shorter since the summer solstice and one day of wind with a northerly component can set off large movements of baitfish and their predators to areas south of here.

The mullet run is one of the larger and more obvious of these movements. Even if you're not into fishing, you can spend an evening on the beach watching this migration through September and into October. Tarpon, sharks and dolphins all seem to have more energy when mullet are on the menu and they can really put on a show right off the beach. Closer to home the mullet will be moving into the river. These

mullet have to go north before they go south, so this run can extend into November. Tarpon, jacks, and redfish will take up the antagonist role for the local mullet schools.

If you're looking to net shrimp for dinner then September and October are going to be your best months for that on average. These shrimp have traveled south of Palatka and fattened up all the way down and back. With the numbers we saw earlier this year we have the foundations of a decent shrimp run. The only wrench or two that may lessen the chances are: one, a large rain event such as a tropical storm or hurricane and two, an algae bloom. The excess rain from the storm can really upset the shrimps' movements and cause them to leave in mass rather than the waves they usually move in. The algae blooms can produce toxins harmful to humans, so contact with the water during shrimping isn't ideal.

Any way you look at it, September is the start of our fall fishing season, which holds some of the best fishing we have in our area. Keep an eye on the winds and get out there and wet a line when you can.

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Illustration showing four community newspapers (Creek, Mandarin, News, Ponte Vedra) and a person using a laptop, with a large red arrow pointing upwards.

Linda Gay
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By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

There are many reasons for parents to encourage children who express an interest in volunteering. Volunteering is a social activity that can help children develop their social and networking skills, and many parents credit volunteering with instilling a sense of perspective in their children that they might not have gained had they not been exposed to people from different backgrounds.

Volunteering also has been linked to

stronger academic performance. The Corporation for National and Community Service reports that students who indicate they're doing better in school are more likely to be volunteers than students who report doing less well. The broadened exposure to people and places that students may otherwise not encounter without volunteering also can benefit them in the classroom, helping them more readily identify with cultures and societies they're studying.

College applicants with volunteering ex-

perience also may set themselves apart in the increasingly competitive application process. Though a 2019 Pew Research study reported that most schools admit more than two-thirds of their applicants, that figure is significantly lower at many of the more highly rated institutions in the United States. For example, Stanford University (4.3 percent) and Harvard University (4.9 percent) recently reported acceptance rates below 5 percent. Though volunteering alone won't help applicants gain acceptance to such competitive institutions, it can serve as a strong résumé builder and be even more effective if it also produces the previously noted improvements in academic performance.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Volunteering also has been linked to stronger academic performance.

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Mandarin Garden Club announces Trash to Treasure Sale



The Mandarin Garden Club's recent \$1 Clothing Sale was a success, with some shoppers scouting out bargains for Back to School.

By Juliet Johnson
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Garden Club will host its annual Trash to Treasure Sale on Friday, Sept. 30 and Saturday, Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. each day at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road. Perfect for those who enjoy garage, yard and garage sales, the Trash to Treasure Sale will feature items that have been generously donated by the club's members.

The sale will include household items, electronics, glassware, kitchen items, pictures, books, lamps, toys, crafts, baskets, small tools and gardening tools. There will also be a "Treasure" section that will feature fine china, crystal, signed pottery, one-of-a-kind pieces and fine art. The Café will offer tempting homemade baked goodies each day and the Masons will return

with their popular BBQ for sale as well.

September begins the club's new year with all the various Mandarin Garden Club Circles resuming monthly meetings. There are three daytime circles and one evening circle and a game day once a month for members only, which is an opportunity to meet more people in the club. There is even a regular weeding morning, every Wednesday, for those looking for hands-on fun in the garden. Various crafts are worked on weekly from September through May by the Crafty Ladies group, whose projects will be featured during the club's Craft and Gift Bazaar on Nov. 5.

Visit www.mandaringardenclub.org for more information including details on renting the garden club building for special events.




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Gardening

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By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

The wildflower garden in my front yard is shaping up quite nicely. As expected, a few of the original plants haven't survived and some have sown themselves around, as if to make up for the losses. Since volunteer plants seem to do well where they find themselves, I'll only move any that are in awkward places and try to find those alternative homes. I also have some small plants that I've grown from seed, but because the sun has been so harsh I'm waiting till the weather moderates before planting them out, and I'll wait on moving the volunteers too.

Now is a good time to consider possible tweaks to a garden or landscape. Plants can outgrow their spaces and pruning is not always the solution. For instance, some perennials can form sizable clumps after a few years and can be divided to produce two or more new plants. This technique is known as division (see <https://bit.ly/3bPeDp2> and <https://bit.ly/3Ptak0a>). As long as a plant has a spreading root system and does not grow from a single stem, it is likely a candidate for division.

So many natural areas around town are being swallowed up by new developments and the wildlife is left homeless — but individuals can make a real contribution to help support wildlife. Planning our plantings in "layers," from the ground up to the tree canopy, we can make our yards into sanctuaries. Beginning at the ground level, leaves and natural mulch like pine straw should form the basis of our ecosystem or habitat. Ground dwelling invertebrates like worms and other little "creepy crawlies" — a term from my childhood — are among the creatures that transform dead plant matter into rich soil: the foundation. From there on up, add ground cover plants, perennials and sub shrubs, large shrubs, and small trees. If, and only if, you have the space, a larger tree would complete the picture. There's no need to dwarf a

small property when smaller trees could supply shelter and food. These are the classic elements of garden design. For information on Florida-Friendly design, including how to cater to wildlife by incorporating native plants, please see <https://bit.ly/3QKBBMA>. For more articles on gardening with wildlife check out <https://bit.ly/3SRNz8W>.

One aim for the sustainability minded is to avoid invasive plants. My bugbear is cat's claw vine (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*), a vine that can envelop the tallest tree. It produces beautiful yellow tubular flowers, which is the other problem: the long lightweight seed pods are blown far and wide and the seeds germinate readily. Once established they grow fast, and their underground tubers make them hard to pull out. Check out <https://bit.ly/3STKPbw> for more information. But this is not the only invasive vine we have to deal with. For more information see <https://bit.ly/3zUsFqx>.

As the summer wears out its welcome, it's time to plan the fall vegetable garden. Don't be too quick to get things growing outside though. We are still looking at heat into October at least (<https://bit.ly/3zSxOGp>), and those wonderful salads and other leafy vegetables can rapidly bolt in hot weather.

The following classes will also be held in September: Sept. 7 and 10: Fall Vegetable Seed Starting Workshop: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-vegetable-seed-starting-workshop-tickets-384638593387?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>. Sept. 6: Tips for the season: <http://events.jaxpubliclibrary.org/event/6872925>. Sept. 14: How to Water Your Landscape and Lawn: <http://events.jaxpubliclibrary.org/event/6717612>.

Master Gardener Volunteers are available to take your questions Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at (904) 255 7450, or email duval@ifas.ufl.edu. If you would like to receive our newsletter in your inbox, just let us know.

Travel

River cruising on the Seine:
Paris and Normandy

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

Most Seine River cruises start in Paris, then head into Normandy toward the English Channel. Guests take excursions to explore Normandy’s highlights: Rouen Cathedral, the 950-year-old Bayeux Tapestry, and the stirring WWII D-Day landing sites. Honfleur is the last stop before turning around, and the climax of the return route becomes Claude Monet’s House and Gardens.

When I saw the Riviera River Cruises itinerary, I knew this trip was for me — an art, history, wine and cheese lover. I flew to Paris and boarded their ship, the “Jane Austen,” which carries a maximum of 140 passengers. I prefer fewer people and the smaller river cruise to mega ocean-liners. The cruise commenced with dinner in the evening. After a late sunset, the captain moved the boat near to the small replica of the Statue of Liberty and the glittering Eiffel Tower in the distance. It’s magical to see the illuminated icon sparkling like a fireworks display.

The next morning, we reached the village of Les Andelys, seeing Chateau Galliard on the hillside. The buildings are ruins of Richard the Lionhearted castle built between 1196 – 1198. Riviera took guests on an excursion to the site in the afternoon; then, we walked downhill into the charming town with half-timbered buildings.

The cruise moved to the medieval city of Rouen in time to see the evening sound and light show projected onto the cathedral’s façade. The explosion of vibrant colors and technological mastery mesmerized the audience, who watched in stunned silence. Incredible! The following morning guests took a guided walking tour of the city, learning about the cathedral’s long history and Joan of Arc. Joan was burned at stake in Rouen after her trial. A modern church stands on the site, architecturally unappealing to me, but once side, aglow with a wonderful wall of stained glass windows.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Chateau Galliard ruins.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
The “Jane Austen.”

My cruise traveled to dock in Caudebec, and the guests were bused to Bayeux the following day. The little town contains another great cathedral, but its calling card is the priceless Bayeux Tapestry. Having done needlework in my younger years, I appreciated the intricate detail and symmetry throughout the 230-foot-long exquisite masterpiece. It tells the story of William the Conqueror and the Battle of Hasting.

The D-Day landing sites came next, starting at Pointe du Hoc. Here the U.S. soldiers climbed the steep cliffs while encountering enemy fire. The courage of these young soldiers overwhelms you when you see the bombed-out landscape and base of the German artillery guns. We moved on to Omaha Beach, another landing site. The sandy expanse surprised me; it was full of sunbathers and swimmers. A stunning memorial remembers the critical events along this lovely beach in 1944.

The last stop was the 172-acre American Cemetery, with 9,387 American War

Dead graves. The cemetery honors those lost in the Normandy battles. It’s an emotionally difficult place to visit, but one that keeps alive the memory of those who lost their lives during their brave fight for global freedom. We owe them much.

Honfleur, a medieval town with narrow cobblestone alleys and a central rectangular harbor in the middle of the old village, provided the next day’s visit. It was market day, so overly crowded for my liking.

Monet’s House and Garden named Giverny became a delight as we neared Paris. His colorful home features a yellow dining room and a blue and white tiled kitchen. Of course, the water lily ponds that he painted remain favorites.

The cruise returned to Paris, a city that never disappoints. Viva la France.

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