

Mandarin NewsLine

October 2022 Volume 16 Issue 12

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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BFF Best Furry Friend



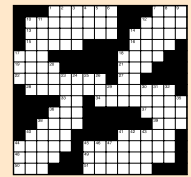
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Michael Boylan



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Julie Fetzner



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Puzzles



Photo courtesy Steve Gallagher

President Marc Hassan, Mandarin Food Bank Director
Bonnie McNulty and her assistant Burt Davison.

Mandarin Rotary Club raises \$36,000 for local charities

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

The Rotary Club of Mandarin recently raised more than \$36,000 for local charities — \$25,000 of which went to the Mandarin Presbyterian Church's Daily Bread Food Pantry and the Mandarin Food Bank. Club President Marc Hassan and fundraising chair Wes Caldwell coordinated the fundraising efforts, which included an online auction and a "Race to Feed the Hungry," which was run with the support of First Place Sports and Mandarin Presbyterian Church. Additional donations will be made in the near future to other local charities.

If you are interested in learning more about the Rotary Club and its opportunities to serve the community, contact membership chairman Wes Caldwell at Wes@dannergracey.com for more information or visit <http://mandarinrotary.org>. The club meets for breakfast every Tuesday at the Ramada Inn on Hartley Road in Mandarin.

"Olde Mandarin Come Together Day 2022" celebrated

By Dana Monroe Myers
mail@floridanewslines.com

On Saturday, Sept. 3, a large gathering of Mandarin's Black residents came together at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Community Center in celebration of a biennial reunion referred to as "Olde Mandarin Come Together Day."

Since the early 1800s, Mandarin has had a large population of African-American residents. Some descendants of those early residents still call Mandarin home. Many others moved to other areas across the city and other places across the country during the mid-to late 1990 expansion in the Mandarin area.

In an effort to stay in contact with one another, "Come Together Day" was initiated in 2014, after the Home Going services (funerals) of several prominent pioneers from the community. Although sad occasions, many residents hadn't seen each other in years, and were happy to see each other. Many would often stay long hours at the wake or repast catching up.

David Monroe, who grew up in Fruit Cove with his family during his early years, moved to Mandarin at 12 years old and has called Mandarin home since

that time. Monroe, along with a volunteer planning committee pioneered the first event and subsequent events. Since the onset, hundreds of Olde Mandarin residents return to the area and spend the day breaking bread together, usually with a fish-fry or BBQ picnic, games/bouncing house for the children, catching up on life events, fellowshiping, and reminiscing on their life in Mandarin.

Monroe emceed an appreciation portion of the day where residents aged 75 years or older were recognized and appreciated (Monroe was also a recipient). He went on to reiterate the importance of the event, stating that after the first Come Together Day in 2014, more than 21 Olde Mandarin residents passed away before the next biennial event, and after these last two years of the pandemic, many more of those pioneers have passed on.



Photos courtesy Dana Monroe Myers
Yvonne and David Monroe.

Mandarin's Black residents have contributed greatly to the Mandarin area and have a rich legacy and heritage in the community. The Mandarin Museum & Historical Society will feature a significant and permanent exhibit, "The Untold Stories of Black Mandarin," when it reopens. David and Yvonne Monroe and many other historically-connected residents were instrumental in helping create this important exhibit.

Dana Monroe Myers is a volunteer for the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society, which is located at 11964 Mandarin Road in Walter Jones Historical Park. Visit www.mandarin-museum.net for more information about Mandarin's history and Mandarin Museum & Historical Society information.



Photos courtesy Dana Monroe Myers

"Olde Mandarin Come Together Day 2022" was celebrated on Sept. 3.

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Libraries are busy with fall programming for teens and kids

By Jeremy Yates
mail@floridanewsline.com

“Teentober” is a nationwide celebration hosted by libraries every October that helps teens find ways to fuel their passions and learn new skills in and outside the library. How? Well, first off, the library has the best (and newest) in young adult books, graphic novels and manga. Not sure what to read next? Subscribe to Get Lit — a library book subscription service for teens — at bit.ly/LitSwag.

Busy? Get the library on your phone. Get free streaming movies, e-books, and more with apps like Kanopy, Libby, and Hoopla. Find out more at jaxlibrary.org/streaming

Want to hang out with other teens? Drop in the second Thursday of each month for a Teen Book Club at the Mandarin Library. Join us Thursday, Oct. 13 at 4 p.m. (we’ll bring the snacks) for “Unwind” by Neal Shusterman. Or join Teen Advisory Board at South Mandarin Library and see what changes you can make! Next meeting: Friday, Oct. 7 at 4:45 p.m.

For more, check out the new teen page at jaxlibrary.org/teen

For all ages, there will be lots of “Halloween Happenings” at the Mandarin Library. Join us Saturday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. for spooky mini-golf, games and indoor “trick or treat.” Plus, show off your costume with a mini parade

through the library at 3 p.m.

Or drop in at the Mandarin Library and read your favorite fall tale with Trey the dog on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 1:30 p.m. or read with Tenor on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 2:30 p.m.

Junior Scientists (for ages five through eight) meets Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. at the Mandarin Branch Library. Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math with crafts and hands-on activities! Have older kids (aged nine through 12)? Do they like building robots? Check out our new series, Junior Scientists: Robotics Lab, Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

If your kids are more artistically inclined, join us Tuesdays at 4 p.m. at South Mandarin Library for Junior Artists (ages five through eight). The new Junior Artists: Animation Lab (for artists aged nine through 12) meets Wednesdays at 4 p.m. and covers slightly more advanced art and some really cool animation techniques.

For your Little Readers, there’s storytime (for ages birth through five years) Fridays at the Mandarin Library at 10:15 a.m. and an 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.

Visit www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/events for the whole schedule of events.



Raise your hand if you’ve ever had shoulder pain.

5 symptoms you shouldn’t ignore

If you have shoulder pain, even raising your hand can hurt. How do you know when it’s time to see a doctor?

If you’re experiencing any of these symptoms, you could be making your shoulder worse by waiting:

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Mabel!

Breed:
English Pointer/Setter Mix

Favorite Activity:
Going in and out of doggie door to find things to chew on.

Favorite Food:
Any dog treat as long as it doesn't have sweet potato or pumpkin.

Favorite Friend:
Ruby the rescue dog.

How did your BFF get their name?
Mabel is a character in the book/movie "Where the Crawdads Sing."



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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Happy Halloween!
From your friends
at Mandarin NewsLine



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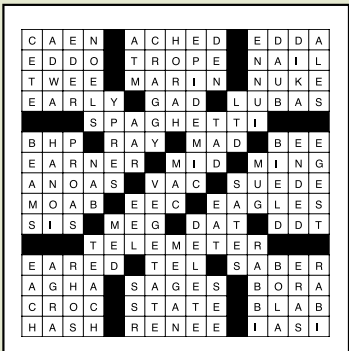
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MYSTERY PHOTO



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

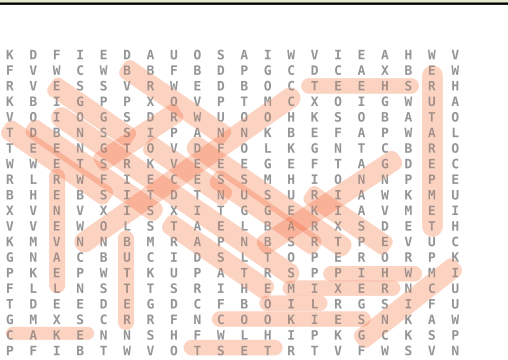
Last month's Mystery Photo was the Lofton Cemetery off Mandarin Road.



Answers
to our
Puzzles
PG 10



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(At Murabella)
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October

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

1st: 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 Oct. 1 and Oct. 15 in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road. The 1911 Mandarin Store and Post Office will also be open on Oct. 15 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.

2nd: 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, Oct. 2 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. The schoolhouse, farmhouse and gift shop will be open during this time.

3rd: Square Dancing is offered every Monday night at 6:30 p.m. at the Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road. The first two sessions are free and then the cost is \$5 per person. Call (904) 255-6750 for more information.

4th: Honeybee Quilters Guild will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Mandarin Presbyterian Church at the Mandarin Road Campus in the Woody Room at 11844 Mandarin Road. Members will share their favorite tools. Bring a notepad to write ideas for your holiday shopping. Wearing masks is optional. New members/guests welcome. Visit honeybeequilters.org for more information.

6th: Chat with the Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools, Dr. Diana Greene, on Oct. 6 beginning at 6 p.m. at Greenland Pines Elementary School. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend.

6th: The Jacksonville Camera Club will meet on Oct. 6 and Oct. 20 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.

8th: The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society will meet on Saturday, Oct. 8 beginning at 10 a.m. at the South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd. Speaker Susan Swiatosz will present "Preserving Your Family Photographs." This meeting is free and open to the public. Visit www.sgesjax.org or call (904) 778-1000 for more information.

8th: Southside Multiple Sclerosis group meets on the second Saturday of each month (this month on Oct. 8) 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 Armstrong, (904) 396-1082 for more information.

8th: Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market at First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. on Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit <https://localcorners.com/second-saturday-arts-and-farmers-market> for more information.

11th: The Jacksonville Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution welcome guests and prospective members to their meeting in the Avondale area on Oct. 11 and 11 a.m. Email JacksonvilleDAR@gmail.com for more information.

17th: The All Star Quilters Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. for socializing prior to the 10 a.m. meeting

on Monday, Oct. 17 at the First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. This month will feature a potpourri of quilt entertainment paired with a "Tea and Hat" luncheon fundraiser, \$10 for a ticket. Wearing a hat is encouraged. Tickets are not required to attend the meeting only. Sew and Tell is always a feature. Guests are welcome. Visit www.allstarquilters.org for more information.

26th: Town Hall meeting with City Councilmember Michael Boylan will be held on Oct. 26 from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road.

27th: Mandarin Republican Club will meet on Thursday, Oct. 27 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.

27th: Mandarin Women's Club will hold its annual BINGO event and luncheon at the Ramada Inn, 3130 Hartley Road in Mandarin on Oct. 27. BINGO cards are 10 for \$5, and 10 games will be played. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and reservations are required. The cost of the luncheon is \$25 and must be received by Oct. 20; to make reservations and obtain payment instructions, contact Susie at spm104@aol.com or (904) 885-8952. Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for more information.

28th: The Italian American Club of Jacksonville will hold its popular Spaghetti to Go on Friday, Oct. 28 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Visit www.iacof-jacksonville.com or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

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with Jacksonville City Council Member Michael Boylan, District 6

Q: What’s contained in the Capital Improvement Plan in the 2022-23 City of Jacksonville budget for Mandarin?

A: There are a few line items affecting Mandarin, including the Orange Picker Road realignment/Alberts Field improvements/dog park; repairs to the Julington Creek Bridge; the Loretto sidewalk extension from Flynn Road to Mandarin Road; and funds to repair Tar Kiln Bridge. On the horizon, in the 2025-26 fiscal year, are sidewalks along Plummer Grant Road. There will be a significant investment this fiscal year for a marine fire station, which I suspect will be in the Julington Creek area.

I have requested the Public Works Department report for 2022-23, which details proposed sidewalks, road resurfacing and drainage improvements. This is important because with this report I can answer constituents’ questions as to where they are in the queue for work to be done.

Q: What’s the latest on the Melcon Farms development adjacent to The Wilderness?

A: We’ve been working with the developer to relocate the Arpen Farmhouse from this property to a new location on Sunbeam Road. Now that development has started, I have been assured that the developer is adhering to all the tree clearing requirements as agreed upon.

Q: San Jose medians again. Any updates?

A: I continue to work with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the City of Jacksonville and have been promised that improvements to

medians from Interstate 295 south to the Julington Creek Bridge will start this fall. As background, recall that while the medians along San Jose Boulevard (State Road 13) are under the jurisdiction of FDOT, they have contracted with the City of Jacksonville to maintain medians south of Interstate 295 and a private contractor is to maintain medians from Interstate 295 north to Sunbeam Road.

This whole situation continues to be a great source of frustration to me and to residents. I continue my crusade with the city and the state to ensure that this area receives the same attention as other parts of the city and surrounding counties. I remain hopeful that we can get this situation addressed in a professional manner.

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

A: I recently received a letter from a constituent who was concerned about the impact on traffic on Marbon Road once The Julington apartment complex opens. I reached out to the city’s traffic engineering department and have requested an assessment of the current capacity on Marbon Road, an analysis of the impact of the apartment complex as well as the Melcon Farms development on Marbon Road, and what steps can be taken to ameliorate this. I’ll report back as soon as I have this information.

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

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

Dr. Bosworth honored with City Council Resolution



Photo courtesy Wanda Bosworth
At the Aug. 9 City Council meeting, Jacksonville City Council Members Michael Boylan and Matthew Carlucci introduced a resolution honoring the life and mourning the passing of Mandarin’s Dr. William P. Bosworth. Former Council Members Sharon Copeland and Dick Kravitz spoke about Dr. Bosworth’s many accomplishments and their fondest memories of their times together. Pictured are Wanda Bosworth with Lynne Lanham and Sarah Lanham.

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with Duval County School Board Member Lori Hershey, District 7

Q: Can you shed some light on the recent grand jury investigation in which Duval County was mentioned?

A: This grand jury report was the result of a grand jury investigation that Gov. DeSantis instigated upon becoming governor. The purpose was to investigate all Florida schools with an eye to school safety in an effort to try to avoid another tragedy like what happened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

What’s important to understand is that the practices in place in Duval County during the years the grand jury investigated, 2016 – 2020, were put in place by our previous Superintendent Nicolai Vitti. The concerns identified by the grand jury report were the result of a goal of his administration to move towards restorative justice. In that approach, students were given the opportunity to correct their behaviors. Duval County was cited for under-reporting incidents of a disciplinary nature as a result of these previous policies.

In 2019, new superintendent Dr. Diana Greene took active steps to ensure incidents were reported correctly and the district is continuing to address concerns that have arisen out of the grand jury report. The school board is currently reviewing policies to ensure compliance with state law. Additionally, we’ve had a change in leadership for our school police. New chief Gregory Burton now oversees our school police department.

Q: Can you give an update on the adopt a teacher initiative by Mandarin High School?

A: Mandarin High School has had great success with its Mane Initiative. They had such good response from the community that they were able to cover not only all teachers, but also office staff and coaches. Now Mandarin Middle School is looking for community members to adopt teachers at its school. Suggestions include sending the teacher little notes or coffee, helping in the classroom, or perhaps a birthday or holiday surprise — anything to communicate appreciation throughout the year. If you would like to participate or if you have any questions, you can contact Mandarin Middle School at (904) 292-0555.

Q: Are there any other opportunities for the community to be involved with neighborhood schools?

A: Yes. Our schools are open and we invite community members to get involved with their neighborhood school. There are many volunteer opportunities. Just call your local school and see how you can help. Strong schools are a sign of strong community support.

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

A: I will be hosting a Chat with the Superintendent on Oct. 6 beginning at 6 p.m. at Greenland Pines. This is an excellent opportunity for parents and community members to come out and learn about all the exciting things happening in Duval County schools.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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

Learning in full swing at Mandarin Oaks Elementary

By Debbie Scarbrough, Mandarin Oaks Elementary
mail@floridanewsline.com

Students are busy developing rituals and routines to ensure that this school year is a success at Mandarin Oaks Elementary. September was full of family events like Open House, Grandparents’ Bingo Night, and All Pro Dad activities. October promises to be a month full of opportunities, too — Mandarin Oaks’ PTA will host a Family Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 15, sure to be a fun time for the whole family.

The third graders at Mandarin Oaks are preparing for their Hispanic Heritage Celebration Program. Music teachers Elizabeth Martelli and Jeffrey Royal have planned a wonderful performance. The students will perform Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mandarin Oaks multipurpose room. In addition to preparing the third grades for this performance, the music teachers are also working with second graders for their annual Veterans Day Program, which will be held on Nov. 8.

October is also the time for Kindergarten Trick-or-Treat Street at Mandarin Middle School. Before heading over to Mandarin Middle school for candy, the kindergartens dress up as their favorite book character and walk the halls of Mandarin Oaks. This has been a tradition for more than 25 years.

Additional important dates to remember include:

- Oct. 14: Weather Day: No school for students and teachers
- Oct. 17: Teacher Planning Day: No school for students
- Oct. 26: Early Dismissal

Briefs

Mandarin Senior Center offers new programs

The Mandarin Senior Center on Hartley Road has added clay crafts to its already established ceramics program. Ceramics is offered on Mondays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m., with clay crafts on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Whether you are a novice or more experienced in working with these materials, stop by and enjoy the opportunity to indulge your creative nature.

Just a reminder that the Center is open to all adults over the age of 60. A cold breakfast is served daily at 9 a.m. and a warm lunch is served daily at 12 p.m. daily at noon.

Those interested may visit the Mandarin Senior Center any weekday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. to inquire about membership and activities and enjoy the friendly atmosphere and fun. For more information about any activities and services, call (904) 255-6750.

South Mandarin Library book sale coming soon

The Friends of South Mandarin Library are moving toward the Fall Book Sale, scheduled for Nov. 17,18 and 19. There will be books, CDs and DVDs for all ages.

Winn Dixie is supporting library programs by offering a reusable bag for patrons of the book sale. A portion of the sale will be donated to Friends of the South Mandarin Library. The group meets the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. and new members are welcome.

New glaucoma specialist joins practice

Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons recently welcomed glaucoma specialist, Yasmin Islam, M.D. to its practice. Dr. Islam received her medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine. She completed her internal medicine internship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Mass., and her ophthalmology residency at the University of Florida. She furthered her training at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Palm Beach Gardens completing her glaucoma fellowship.

Dr. David Hayes, ophthalmologist and glaucoma specialist with Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons said, “We are very fortunate to have Dr. Islam join our team. As a fellowship-trained glaucoma surgeon, her knowledge and expertise in glaucoma will be invaluable. We have a significant population of glaucoma patients and with the addition of Dr. Islam, we have now expanded our resources to care for them. She’s



Photo courtesy Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Yasmin Islam, M.D.

a welcome addition and we’re excited about her contribution to the future of Clay Eye.”

Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons offers comprehensive eye care in the following specialties: glaucoma surgery, cornea surgery, diabetic eye disease and macular degeneration, laser cataract surgery, laser floater lysis, medical retina, retinal surgery, LASIK surgery, cosmetic eye procedures, pediatric ophthalmology, and pediatric eye exams. In addition, they offer routine eye exams, contact lenses, and boutique eyewear for the entire family. Visit www.clayeye.com for more information.

Volunteers sought to help local taxpayers

AARP Foundation has kicked off volunteer recruitment for its Tax-Aide program, the nation’s largest volunteer-based tax preparation service. Volunteers may sign up to assist taxpayers either in person or virtually, with a number of roles available.

In addition to tax preparers, whom the program will train, Tax-Aide needs people who can provide technical and communications assistance, interpreters, and program leaders. Volunteers come from a variety of industries and range from retirees to university students. All levels and types of experience are welcome.

Tax-Aide offers free in-person and online tax preparation and assistance nationwide to taxpayers with low to moderate income. Because of the complexity of the U.S. tax code, many taxpayers overpay their taxes or turn

to paid tax services they cannot afford. Some may forgo filing their taxes and miss out on the credits and deductions they’ve earned because they are unable to pay for assistance. Tax-Aide volunteers can help by providing necessary services in communities where there is the greatest need.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has grown since its inaugural team of just four volunteers in 1968 and has served over 68 million taxpayers since its inception. The program has volunteers in every state who typically number more than 30,000.

To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-OUR AARP (1-888-687-2277). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in coordination with the IRS.

Adopt a dolphin to support UNF’s Dolphin Research Program

The University of North Florida’s Dolphin Research Program provides critical information on the population of bottlenose dolphins inhabiting Jacksonville’s estuarine waters. Over the past 10 years, Dr. Quincy Gibson, associate professor of biology, and student researchers have identified and conducted studies on the behavioral ecology of over 500 individual dolphins in the St. Johns River, approximately half of which are year-round residents.

To help support the program and its research, the Dolphin Research Program offers the unique opportunity to symbolically “adopt” a local dolphin that has been identified during marine

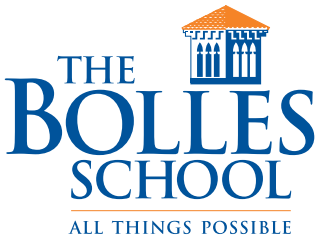
Briefs cont. on pg. 8

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Briefs cont. from pg. 7

mammal research. All donations will support UNF’s important research and conservation work while helping to build a better future for these magnificent creatures.

The “Basic” adoption donation is \$40 and the special “Name Your Dolphin” adoption donation is \$80. All donations are tax-deductible and proceeds go directly to UNF’s Dolphin Research Program. To adopt a dolphin and support UNF research, contact Dr. Quincy Gibson at quincy.gibson@unf.edu.

New leadership at the Rotary Club of Mandarin

The Rotary Club of Mandarin recently installed the following leadership team for 2022. President: Marc Hassan; President-Elect/Fundraiser Chair: Wes Caldwell; Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Hall; Sergeant-at-Arms:

Mac Farnham; Membership Director: Michael Sullivan; Service Projects Chair, Jimmy Johns; Speaker/Programs Chair: Hugh Darby; Foundation Chair: Ed Washington; Club Executive Director: Dorrie Felder; International Service



Photo courtesy Rotary Club of Mandarin
2022 – 23 President Marc Hassan.

Chair: Major Harding; Youth Services Chair: Craig Fertenbaugh; Bulletin Editor: Jock Hart; Public Relations Chair: Steve Gallagher, and Immediate Past President: Liz Shaw.

Moderation in the housing market shows a shift toward affordability
In most areas of Northeast Florida, the August housing market reflected a slight drop in median prices while the number of days homes sat on the market has gradually continued to climb. Buyers can relish the good news that, for single-family homes, the percent closed-over list price

went down 27.7 percent as did the average list price, 1 percent, indicating a small tick up in affordability throughout the region. As far as affordability goes, the market still has a way to go to get back to the point where homes are affordable for people making the median family income; however, there are many indications that it is finally moving in the right direction. For instance, the region’s Home Affordability Index inched up 2.9 percent to 70 for single-family homes. The index measures housing affordability by measuring whether a typical family earns enough to qualify for a mortgage on a typical home, based on current interest rates, median income, and median home prices. A higher number means greater affordability.


“Moving into fall 2022, we continue to see the residential real estate market, which includes single-family homes, condos, and townhomes, continue to moderate and normalize,” said NEFAR 2022 President Mark Rosener. “While still an 18 percent increase year over year, the median price in our six-county market has shown mild fluctuations month to month of between \$350,000

and \$365,000 since March. This indicates that the dramatic increases that were seen during the pandemic are coming to an end. Closed and pending sales have leveled off in the 2,300 to 2,500 range over the past several months and are now well below the 3,000 to 3,500 peak a little more than a year ago. Median days on the market have continued to increase to 31 days with only 19.1 percent of homes selling over list price and the sale-to-list price ratio settling into a more normal 98.6 percent.”

St. Johns County remains the most expensive area to live, with a median single-family home price of \$555,000 and a Home Affordability Index number of 49. Yet the August median days on the market for single-family homes leaped up 34.6 percent to 35 days.


In Duval County, the August median price of single-family housing was \$343,995, a nearly 1 percent drop from June and July. The median days on the market in August was 28, a 33.3 percent increase over July and a 115.4 percent increase from the year before.

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Halloween boasts a rich history

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Costume-clad kids, bags of candy and jack-o'-lanterns are some indelible images associated with Halloween. Those images may forever be linked to this beloved, fun-filled holiday, which boasts a rich history that varies depending on where in the world you might be.

Celebrations around the world may not mirror those in the United States, where trick-or-treating youngsters travel from house to house in search of candy. But true Halloween enthusiasts may be interested to learn the history of the holiday and how it has changed over the centuries.

El Dia de los Muertos: In parts of Mexico and Latin America, El Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead) is celebrated each year in early November. The day is designed to honor the dead, who Day of the Dead celebrants believe return to their earthly homes each Halloween. Families may burn candles and incense in an effort to help their deceased relatives and ancestors find their way home.

Guy Fawkes Day: For many years, England had reason to celebrate around Oct. 31, but those celebrations did not mirror the Halloween festivities familiar to those across the pond. While recent years have witnessed more and more Brits adopting

the Americanized celebration of Halloween, for many the true holiday this time of year will always be Guy Fawkes Day. Celebrated on Nov. 5, Guy Fawkes Day is a commemoration of the foiled Gunpowder Plot. Smithsonian notes that this was a failed attempt by disgruntled Catholics to blow up the British Parliament building while King James I was inside. Fireworks, parades and bonfires marked Guy Fawkes Day celebrations, which in recent years have gradually begun to transform into something that more closely resembles American Halloween.

Samhain: History.com notes that Halloween can trace its origins to Ireland. But those origins did not involve giggling youngsters carrying plastic pumpkins around in search of candy. Halloween's origins can be traced to the Celtic festival of Samhain. Samhain was considered the Celtic New Year and was sacred to the ancient Irish. The festival was celebrated as the days became shorter, and offerings were left for the dead, who celebrants believed could cross over into the land of the living at this time; however, they also believed demonic spirits could follow such a path during Samhain, giving the festival the taste of the macabre that many still enjoy imparting on their Halloween celebrations today.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Halloween has a rich and interesting history that gals and ghouls from all walks of life might find interesting.

travel • pantry raiders • gardening
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Get to Know ...

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Julie Fetzter

Mandarin artist Julie Fetzter is probably best known for her work *Bridges of Jacksonville*. She said the idea for the piece just came to her: “Sometimes you just have to get out of your own way and draw — it’s amazing what will come out.” Born and raised in California, Julie started college as a music major before realizing that wasn’t a good fit. She moved on to architecture and spent 15 years working in landscape architecture. She met and married her husband, Dirk Fetzter, and in time the couple moved to Oregon and had a daughter, Michelle. A lack of enjoyment of the winter weather there led the family to relocate to Jacksonville, specifically Mandarin, when CSX recruited Dirk to work in its technology division. At that time, Julie became a stay at home mom to young Michelle. In time, a neighbor introduced her to the Riverside Arts Market, and Julie, who said she has drawn and painted since a young age, started showing her artwork — including the *Bridges of Jacksonville*, maps, and wayfarer signs — there. In short order, her husband passed away and a few months later the global COVID pandemic hit; Julie calls those pivotal events in her life “gamechangers.” She is still processing the events and reinventing herself, and credits a phenomenal support system of friends, both old and new, along with adult



Photo courtesy Julie Fetzter
Julie Fetzter

daughter Michelle, a beautician who lives in Ponte Vedra Beach. Julie has three pets that keep her busy: Ginger the Wonder Dog and two cats, Calypso the Terrible and Clover the Sweet.

Q: What do you like most about living in Mandarin?

A: The location is fabulous. We initially moved here for the schools, but moving from an urban area to a half-acre lot at the end of a half-mile street is wonderful. I love having my own space. We call it “Fetzter Farms” and this is the longest in my life that I’ve lived in any one place.

Q: What inspired you to be an artist?

A: When I was five years old, I was in a serious car accident. I spent a lot of time in the hospital and in a wheelchair and this is when I developed my love of reading and drawing. My mother was also very creative. So, I’ve pretty much always drawn and painted.

Q: What inspired your work, the *Bridges of Jacksonville*?

A: Well, you can’t get around Jacksonville without going over the bridges! I also liked that each one looks different

and is unique to draw.

Q: How did you reconnect with your art career post-COVID?

A: It was difficult. I had a lot of inventory when the pandemic hit, because I was gearing up for shows at RAM and the upcoming Mandarin Art Festival. Finally at one point, a prior customer of mine contacted me and asked if he could buy some artwork. I started opening up my garage as a little store (I call it my Studio Annex) on the first Sunday of every month. I advertised it on social media and of course word of mouth. I haven’t returned to doing shows, but my artwork is available in the Historic Post Office and it’s been in the gift shop of the Mandarin Museum for years.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: I’m reinventing myself at this point. I’m doing a few commissions and doing some selected events, like the upcoming Winter Celebration at the Mandarin Museum where I’ll be a plein air artist. It’s so out of my comfort zone, but that’s why I wanted to do it. I’m planning on getting more involved with the Mandarin Museum as well.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: I have an extensive portfolio and in the past, I’ve not always been the most organized person! So I’m taking some time now to get organized and catalog my items. I’m getting a better handle on my portfolio and am considering things like what can I make into prints? I’m also working on ideas for new maps and improving my social media presence. I also have a line of holiday cards that I’ve produced annually for ongoing clients, whom I call “collectors.”

Get to Know ...

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

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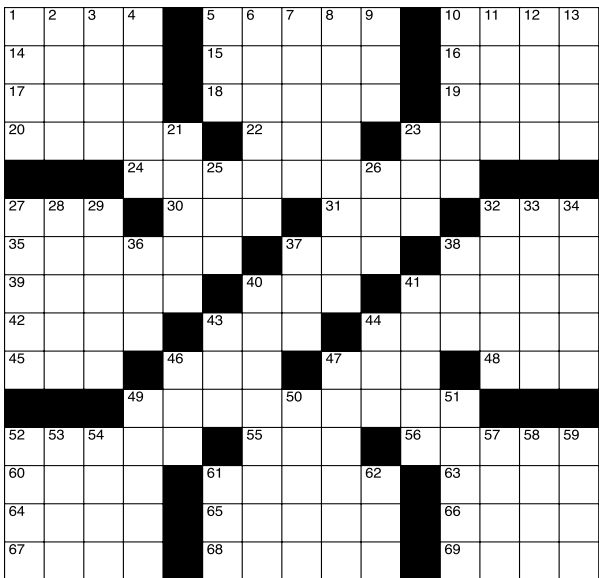
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Bay Area humorist
5. Hurt
10. Icelandic poems
14. A taro corm
15. Metaphorical use of a word
16. It fears the hammer
17. Excessively quaint (British)
18. Laid-back California county
19. Cook in a microwave oven
20. Not late
22. Go from one place to another
23. Peoples living in the Congo
24. Popular pasta
27. Available engine power (abbr.)
30. Popular musician Charles
31. Angry
32. Spelling is one type
35. One who makes a living
37. Indicates location
38. Imperial Chinese dynasty
39. Small water buffaloes
40. Hungarian city
41. Fabric
42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
43. Precursor to the EU
44. Philly footballers
45. Female sibling
46. "When Harry Met Sally" actress
47. Magnetic tape of high quality
48. Insecticide
49. Apparatus to record and transmit
52. Some is considered "dog"
55. Israeli city __ Aviv
56. Fencing sword
60. Ottoman military title
61. Wise people
63. Cold wind
64. Popular type of shoe
65. Administrative district
66. A way to reveal
67. Cooked meat cut into small pieces
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

1. Small town in Portugal
2. Site of famed Ethiopian battle
3. German river
4. Christmas carols
5. Cash machine
6. Rough and uneven
7. Rumanian round dance
8. Widespread occurrence of disease
9. A place to relax
10. Feeling of listlessness
11. Coat or smear a substance
12. Wild mango
13. Brews
21. Belgian city
23. Confined condition (abbr.)
25. Swiss river
26. Small amount
27. Part of buildings
28. Vietnamese capital
29. Sailboats
33. Shelter
33. Terminated
34. Discharge
36. Snag
37. Partner to cheese
38. A container for coffee
40. Spend time dully
41. Satisfies
43. Snakelike fish
44. Consume
46. Type of student
47. Erase
49. Instruct
50. Girl's given name
51. Jewish spiritual leader
52. "To ____his own"
53. North-central Indian city
54. Greek alphabet characters
57. Weapon
58. Amounts of time
59. American Nobel physicist vital to MRIs
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

BAKING TREATS WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- BAKING
BROWN
BUTTER
CAKE
CONFECTION
COOKIES
DESSERT
EGGS
ICING
INGREDIENTS
LEAVENER
MIXER
OIL
OVEN
RISE
SHEET
SIFTED
STIR
SUGAR
SWEET
TASTE
TEMPERATURE
TEST
WHIP



Solve the code to discover words related to baking and decorating
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 6 = E)

- A. 1 21 16 6**
Clue: Confection
- B. 24 22 12 10 21 12 3**
Clue: Sugary cake topping
- C. 20 18 24 3**
Clue: Separate flour
- D. 1 9 6 21 3 6**
Clue: Make something

Student engineers recognized



Photo courtesy River City Science Academy

River City Science Academy Mandarin SeaPerch Program submarine engineers and Coach Rodriguez were recognized during the Duval County Public Schools board meeting in September for their international achievements: Second place, Middle School Technical Design Report and third place, High School Obstacle Course.

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Countdown to 100 Years!

A glance at the 1940s

By Emily Lisska
mail@floridanewsline.com

Countdown to the Mandarin Commu-
nity Club centennial began with a 99th
anniversary kick-off in July, recognizing
the July 2, 1923 date a group of area
citizens decided to transition from their
former World War I role as the Mandarin
Liberty League to a civic organization
enhancing Mandarin community life.

When the 1940s arrived, the Manda-
rin Community Club was nearly 20
years old, and its clubhouse, the former
Mandarin School, neared an aging 70. As
a hub of area cultural and civic life, the
old school was now called the Mandarin
Community Club. Joseph L. McMath,
club president in 1940, spearheaded re-
vised club by-laws and extended free use
of the building to the P.T.A. and religious
groups, including “community” Sunday
school taught at the club.

By the 1940s, the club had tirelessly led a
successful effort to secure municipal elec-
tricity for Mandarin. The group contin-
ued to improve and use its building for
cultural activities, including a Mandarin
library, a first for the community. The
club also provided a home for the area
baseball team, the Mandarin Orange
Pickers, a semi-professional team that
played their games next to the club.

The community was rocked to its core
on Dec. 7, 1941 when news of the Pearl
Harbor attack arrived. Soon, the club’s
free uses expanded to cover War II activi-
ties, including first aid classes. The view
across the St. Johns from Mandarin,
along with the pulsating hum of WWII

flight instruction, provided residents a
front row seat to the nation’s war efforts
at the recently established NAS Jax, the
site of the old Joseph E. Johnston World
War I Camp. During 1942 and 1943,
Leslie B. Jones, a name and family still
associated with Mandarin, led the club.

In 1944 and 1945, Harry Gray served
as club president. Gas rationing and
other war limitations were perhaps a
factor in the decision to allow free use
of the building on Saturday nights to
the “Teenage Club.” A state census
conducted in 1945 records the Manda-

rin township at 1,861, but the popula-
tion numbers varied, depending on
the boundaries used. Not yet a part of
Jacksonville, the growing village still con-
tinued to offer a quiet rural life to Duval
County residents.

Approximately eight weeks after the end
of WWII, on Nov. 2, 1945, the Man-
darin Community Club established the
Mandarin Garden Club from a Beautifi-
cation Committee instituted the previous
year. Eventually, the Mandarin Garden
Club moved from its “mother club” site,
establishing its own building and large
membership.

James A. Austin served as Mandarin Com-
munity Club President in 1946 and ‘47,
and Glen Calmes in 1948, when a signa-
ture project was implemented — regular
use of the club for the site of a Well-Baby
Clinic, an activity lasting decades.

Ending the decade was Walter W. Ar-
rowsmith, who led the club during 1949
and 1950. During his term, records
state on June 3, 1949, the club’s board
requested H. Chapman organize live
theater at the club. These theatricals
welcomed a new era for club activities,
including major building renovations in
the decade to come. President Arrow-
smith completed his term in 1950, with
one of the club’s most important efforts
— establishing a Volunteer Fire Depart-
ment.

(Note: Next month, the “Countdown to
100” features the club’s activities of the
1950s. Any and all information related
to the club’s history or full names and
biographies of club presidents would be
appreciated. The Mandarin Community
Club celebrates its centennial on July 2,
2023. You are invited to join the mem-
bership!)



The Mandarin Orange Pickers, a semi professional baseball team, played its games next to the Mandarin Community Club from 1925 until the end of the 1940s.

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The

Pantry

Raiders

Classic cookies get a fall makeover

Flavor, versatility and health benefits are some reasons to enjoy oatmeal, especially when preparing baked goods like cookies. Enjoy "Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies" from "Live Well, Bake Cookies" (Rock Point) by Danielle Rye.

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies

Makes 24

1 cup all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled

1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

½ tsp. ground cinnamon

½ tsp. baking soda

¼ tsp. salt

1 ½ cups old-fashioned rolled oats

½ cup unsalted butter, softened

½ cup packed light brown sugar

¼ cup granulated sugar

⅓ cup pumpkin puree, squeeze out the excess moisture with paper towels

1 large egg yolk, at room temperature

1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats and set aside.

2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk to-

gether the flour, pumpkin pie spice, ground cinnamon, baking soda, and salt until well combined. Stir in the old-fashioned rolled oats and set aside.


3. In a large mixing bowl, beat the butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar together for 1 to 2 minutes, or until well combined.

4. Mix in the pumpkin puree, egg yolk, and vanilla extract until fully combined.


5. Mix in the dry ingredients until just combined, then mix in the chocolate chips on low speed until fully incorporated.

6. Using a 1 ½ tablespoon cookie scoop, scoop the cookie dough onto the prepared baking sheets, making sure to leave a little room between each one. Gently press each ball of cookie dough down to slightly flatten it.

7. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes, or until the tops of the cookies are set. Remove from the oven, and allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheets for 5 to 10 minutes; then carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely. Store the cookies in an airtight container for up to five days.



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Jimmy's Fishing Report

By Jimmy Tomazinis
mail@floridanewslines.com

I hope everyone had a great September. Good numbers of shrimp showed up in our area of the river and with a little work some freezer stocking was possible. Fingers crossed that they stick around a little while longer. The mullet run started in earnest earlier in the month and for a few days it seemed there was a constant stream of mullet from Fernandina to St. Augustine. If you were lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time, there was some great fishing to be had and quite a show if nothing else. Let's hope they stay around too.

I got to talking about transitions in last month's report. September is typically the beginning of our fall transitional fishing period, but by October it's in full swing. Water temperatures begin to creep down, warm water fish head south, and our local temperate water species really start fattening up in one of the last bountiful months of the year. Take advantage of that.

Hit the surf to target pompano, whiting, and just about anything else as the water temperatures get in the 70s. Keep in mind that if you're specifically after pompano, it will be worth your time to look for favorable

conditions — good water clarity being the most important. Clams, sand fleas, and the freshest shrimp you can get are my baits of choice. Get live shrimp at the bait shop and throw them in your cooler. Keep them out of your ice though.

Close to home, the river will continue to reward those using shrimp. Stripers will fire off with the cooler water and have a lot more energy to pull against. Fishing local shell beds can produce hefty croakers and yellow-mouth trout. Drop a piece of crab in some of the same areas for redfish. Flounder will be on docks and drop offs. Target them with shrimp tipped jigs or finger mullet if you want to use live bait. Gulp can produce just as well sometimes. Work areas slowly and methodically. They are ambush predators, so present them with an opportunity. Remember flounder regulations recently changed, so familiarize yourself with those if you're wanting to keep one.

If I could pick just one month to fish in our area it would be a toss up between September and October, so take that for what it's worth. Go get 'em.

Nutrition Check

Allergy Friendly Spooky Treats for Halloween

By Kristen Hicks-Roof PhD, RD and Rayonna Hills BS

Halloween is a day full of surprises, laughter, and treats, no matter if you are at home, at the office or at school. This is a holiday celebrated by many across the United States, a day that allows for children (and adults) to be whomever they desire for one special day. Trick or treating can be traced back to the early 20th century. In fact, Walt Disney first introduced an animated short film in 1952 starring Donald Duck that was based on Halloween fun.

While the concept of Halloween is all about tricks, treats, and disguises, that doesn't mean the same concept should go for treats and sweets consumed. Research indicates that 1 in 13 children have food allergies, which is estimated to be around 5.6 million children in the United States. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) In addition, there have been recent claims of unsafe treats, leading to many parents inspecting the foods their children receive.

As the holiday approaches around the corner, it is the perfect time to start to think about what Halloween goodies you want to hand out in your cauldron, at your children's school, or at the workplace. The best way to ensure you are providing the safest options for the

trick-or-treaters and office peers is to be sure that candy or treats do not contain any of the seven major allergens:

- Peanut butter
- Seeds
- Milk
- Eggs
- Wheat
- Soy

Instead, think about offering treats and goodies that are allergen-friendly for all to enjoy, some suggestions may include:

- Clementines or juice boxes
- Glow bracelets and/or necklaces
- Stamps and stickers
- Bouncy balls or temporary tattoos
- Allergy friendly candies (e.g., Swedish fish, starburst, dots, skittles)
- Fruit snacks

Regardless if your child or coworkers have known food allergies or not, it is still best to check and/or label all the goodies prior to consumption to ensure food safety.

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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Mandarin’s creative community celebrates 13th annual Craft Fair; crafters sought

By Juliet Johnson, Mandarin Garden Club
mail@floridanewsline.com

With Thanksgiving just around the corner and Christmas close behind, it’s time to decorate and buy gifts for friends and family. You’ll want to bring your list, your appetite, and your wallet to the festive 13th annual Mandarin Garden Club Craft Fair. This colorful event, held at the Mandarin Garden Club at 2892 Loretto Road, opens at 9 a.m. sharp on Nov. 5, and you can shop until you drop at 4 p.m.

Crafters are still welcome to sign up to display their wares. Just a few outdoor 12 x 12 ft. spaces remain at \$35 each; email Joyce Datz at mgcraftyladies@gmail.com to save a place.

The Craft Fair will feature many one-

of-a-kind items, such as nativity sets, bird houses and gourds, hand-carved wood items, framed photography, floral items, candles, soaps, scented soaps, embroidery and crochet, original art, sterling silver and beaded jewelry, blankets, scarves, honey, beachy décor and seasonal items including greeting cards. The Masons will serve their succulent BBQ and the Café will feature delicious baked goodies, prepared by the members of the Garden Club. Some hard-to-find, cool plants will be for sale in the gardens. The Craft Fair is free and open to the public. Free parking will be available next door at the Masonic Lodge.

Visit mandaringardenclub.org for more information.



Photo courtesy Mandarin Garden Club
Bonnie Myers and Betty Waldrep work on the inside setup for the Mandarin Garden Club's annual Craft Fair.

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Gardening

Welcome to Fall

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

There is an inevitability to the seasons, but they are certainly less predictable these days. Across the country we’ve had an unprecedented summer of appalling floods, terrifying wildfires, and some areas in the west are dealing with a mega-drought. In northeast Florida I am thankful that, as of the second week in September, we seem to have escaped more extreme climate conditions.

As the summer garden winds down, my patch of cardinal’s guard (*Odontonema strictum*) has been coming into its own. Its stunning red flower spikes are attracting hummingbirds, which chase each other around furiously, as if there aren’t enough flowers to feed them all. There are masses of firebush (*Hamelia patens*) flowers too, so they really don’t need to worry. There are butterflies galore because we also feed their larvae: exotic Dutchman’s pipevines (*Aristolochia* sp.) provide food for gold rim swallowtail caterpillars and maypop vines (*Passiflora incarnata*) feed the caterpillars of zebra longwings, our state butterfly, and gulf fritillaries. Add to the mix a variety of beneficial pollinators like bees, syrphid flies, wasps, small skippers, larger swallowtail butterflies, and yellow sulphur butterflies, well, the garden is never dull.

With the numbers of pollinators and insects in general falling, now is a good time to add suitable plants to the

landscape to help them. Shrubs and hardy perennials planted in autumn will establish their root systems in the cooler winter months as well as provide shelter for overwintering insects. For more ideas about what to grow, see <https://tinyurl.com/2vcvzcdz>.

If you have a flower garden, check to see if there are any volunteers that could be moved to better positions. Perennials that have finished blooming can be moved now and if large enough they could be divided to make more plants. Wait to move fall-flowering perennials until they have finished their show. This publication, <https://tinyurl.com/mrxx8bhx>, is a useful resource, especially if you’d like to try propagating plants from your own yard.

The Florida Wildflower Foundation has some great information if you want to try your hand at growing your own wildflowers: <https://www.flawildflowers.org/brochures/>. You’ll find out how to collect and sow seed, and importantly when to do so for the best results. There’s a brochure on 20 Easy to Grow Wildflowers, information on how to select suitable plants for your particular site conditions, and a whole lot more besides. The Florida Wildflower Cooperative has more information on growing wildflowers and sells seeds: <https://www.floridawildflowers.com/>.



Photo courtesy Lesley Arrandale
Cardinal's guard.

Growing vegetables in the cooler months can be very rewarding. After the hot, humid summer months, the gentler weather is something to really appreciate. Picking fresh leafy produce and bringing it straight to the kitchen can’t be beat. I’ve found brassicas, like cabbages, kales, and broccoli, do well. Onion seedlings, bought locally in bundles of 50 or 100, work for me, rather than growing from seed. In October, fall-planted vegetables include lettuce, Swiss chard, mustards, carrots, and spinach. To spread the harvest, sow smaller amounts of seed at intervals. For more details, see the Florida Vegetable Gardeners Guide (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/VH021>). In early November, it is still possible to plant strawberries. Refer to the monthly gardening calendar, another useful resource: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ep451#SECTION_10.

Happy cool season gardening!

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Travel

Visits to Literary Landmarks

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

Avid readers often become curious about their favorite authors and may enjoy a visit to the author's home or sites from a novel. Here are a few worth considering.

Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum in Key West

Legendary writer Ernest Hemingway lived an adventurous life in Florida and Cuba during 1931 – 1939. Visit his restored Spanish Colonial-style house in Key West, including his writing studio and swimming pool — the first in-ground pool in the Keys. Guided tours inform visitors about Hemingway's writing and lifestyle, his six-toed cats, and the pet cemetery. Add a visit to Sloppy Joe's Bar in downtown Key West, a favorite of Hemingway and as colorful as the author.

Savannah: Flannery O'Connor's Childhood Home and Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil

Flannery O' Connor grew up in her family home near St. John the Baptist Cathedral in historic Savannah. Each room of her former house has been restored to the Depression era, presenting insights into the childhood of one of America's greatest short story writers. She later moved to Andalusia, a family farm near Eatonton, Georgia, when diagnosed with Lupus. You can tour this farmhouse, where she lived

until she died in 1964.

In Savannah, fans of John Berendt's bestseller "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" relish seeing the sites from the non-fiction story of a mysterious murder and trial. The sultry city becomes as much a character in his tale as the other memorable personalities. Don't miss touring the Mercer Williams House, filled with notable antiques, and walking among the Spanish moss-laden live oaks and funeral statuary in Bonaventure Cemetery.

Carl Sandburg's Home: Connemara Farms in Flat Rock, NC

Carl Sandburg, known as the "Poet of the People," lived from 1878 – 1967. Sandberg authored a variety of books, including a biography of Lincoln, children's books, and poetry. He won three Pulitzer Prizes. His country house sits on 270 acres in western North Carolina, now a National Historic Site. You must hike to the hilltop house, but it's a fascinating place that feels like he and his wife lived there yesterday. His office overflows with paperwork, books, artwork, and personal artifacts. The upstairs bedrooms and displayed clothing take you back to the 1950s. Sandburg's wife raised prize-winning goats, and visitors, especially children, adore seeing the descendants of her dairy goat herd near the barn.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Key West: Hemingway Office.

William Faulkner's Home: Rowan Oak in Mississippi

William Faulkner, a prolific author, and Nobel Prize winner, hailed from Oxford, Mississippi. His beloved home, Rowan Oak, offers visitors a peek into his private life. The large columned Greek Revival house rests at the end of a tree-lined path. One wall in his office includes a penciled outline of a novel, like a storyboard, and his typewriter. You can follow Oxford's Faulkner Trail to visit other sites in the city dubbed "the Cultural Mecca of the South."

Zora Neale Hurston's Home in Florida

Fort Pierce, Florida, near Port St. Lucie on the eastern coast, showcases the two-bedroom house of Zora Neale Hurston, playwright, and anthropolo-

gist best known for her novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God." Follow the Dust Tracks Heritage Trail to learn more about this African American storyteller and her achievements.

Other literary landmarks in the South include the Marjorie K. Rawlings homestead nestled amongst citrus groves in Cross Creek State Park, Florida. The Thomas Wolfe Home and Visitor Center is in Asheville, NC, and Margaret Mitchell's house, author of "Gone with the Wind," is in Atlanta. My list could go on, but I'd love to hear of readers' visits to literary attractions.

Visit www.bylanderseas.com to read more of local travel writer Debi Lander's stories and travel tips.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Savannah: Bonaventure Cemetery.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Mississippi: Rowan Oak.



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