

Mandarin NewsLine

JUNE 2019 Volume 13 Issue 8

A Florida NewsLine Publication



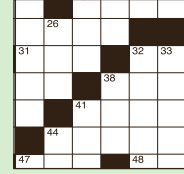
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Coast Guard Auxiliary and local flotilla celebrate milestones

By Paul Tynda
mail@floridanewsline.com

This year is a significant year for the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Flotilla 14-8. In April, Flotilla 14-8 started its 50th year as a flotilla serving the Jacksonville area. The Coast Guard Auxiliary in June will be celebrating 80 years of service to the nation as the civilian volunteer arm of the Coast Guard. These are huge milestones in the organization's and the flotilla's history. Over the past 80 years, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has gone through many changes in its missions and how it serves the boating public.

On June 23, 1939, as World War II was ramping up for the United States, the Coast Guard Auxiliary was founded. Originally called the Coast Guard Reserve, it was the civilian volunteer organization responsible for promoting recreational boating safety. Later, in February 1941, Congress changed the name to the Coast Guard Auxiliary and established the Coast Guard Reserve as the military branch of the Coast Guard that had enlisted and officer members. In the summer of 1942 the Coastal Picket Force, sometimes called the Corsair Fleet or Hooligan Navy, was started to help defend the coastline from the threat of Nazi U-boats that plagued shipping efforts during World War II. The Coastal Picket Force was Auxiliary members and newly recruited boaters, fishermen, people who were too young, too old, or ineligible for active duty. As the war was coming to a close, the

Coast Guard cont. on pg. 11

Easter weekend welcomes another Mandarin Art Festival

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The 51st annual Mandarin Art Festival once again proved that the show must go on ... and it did!

"The Easter weekend event was sunny and bright — after some bumpy weather on Friday as exhibitors and vendors arrived to set up," said this year's Mandarin Art Festival chair, Susie Scott.

After a very early morning arrival and some time waiting out the storms, exhibitors got busy setting up the more than 120 tents to display their artistic creations and prepare to impress the patrons over the weekend.

When Saturday morning arrived with



Festival grounds

beautiful weather, thousands of patrons shuttled, drove, walked, or biked to the Mandarin Community Club grounds to enjoy the festival activities. Award-winning art, live music, Spanish dancers, locally sourced items at the Green Market, the Children's Art Show, a Bake Sale and more awaited festival-goers under the majestic oaks of Mandarin Road.

One local Jacksonville artist, Tim Bullard, walked away with the Best of Show honors from the dozens of national and local exhibiting artists — and what a fitting tribute to Bullard, who may well be the longest participating exhibitor in the show. Bullard even apprenticed under



Photos courtesy Mandarin Community Club
Tim Bullard, Best of Show winner with Susie Scott.



Jan Lindahl, Judges Choice winner in Recycled/Reclaimed with Susie Scott



Debbie Stillman, Judges Choice winner in Jewelry with Susie Scott



John Cheer, Judges Choice winner in Sculpture/Glass with Susie Scott

nationally acclaimed artist and potter Charlie Brown, who had a studio across from the Mandarin Community Club back in the '60s.

The Mandarin Community Club founded and continues to host the Mandarin Art Festival, with the help of hundreds if not thousands of volunteers over the years. All are dedicated to its excellence and continuity. The festival is the oldest continually running event of its kind in northeast Florida and is a multi-generational Easter weekend family tradition.

"If you missed this year, not to worry, we will see you on Easter weekend of 2020 for the 52nd annual Mandarin Art Festival," Scott said.

Crown Point holds Star Wars Carnival

By Mary J. Eyler
mail@floridanewsline.com

On Saturday, May 4, Crown Point Elementary School's PTA held the school's annual Spring Carnival. The theme for this year was "May the Fourth Be with You!"

The students and their families enjoyed games and activities such as face painting, Disc Toss, Dino Dig, Tin Can Alley, Flip a Chick, Plinko, and Dunking Booth. The carnival included two bouncy houses, one for toddlers and one for all ages. School Business Partners Chick-fil-A of

Mandarin and The Icee Spot were on hand to provide food and refreshments. Cotton candy and popcorn were also sold at the event to benefit the PTA. Stormtrooper and Lady Jedi from the 501st Legion's volunteers, an organization which seeks to promote interest in Star Wars, added a special excitement to the event. They both walked around greeting everyone and posing for pictures.

The carnival provided the opportunity for the Crown Point community to come



Photo courtesy Mary Eyler
Mandarin High School volunteers taking a break to pose with "Lady Jedi" and "Stormtrooper."

together, enjoy the beautiful weather, and participate in fun activities. A large group of volunteers from Mandarin High School, ROTC were there to help, along with teachers and parents.

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Summer Fun Guide
focus for the
July issue.



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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Griffey!

BREED:
Mini Golden Doodle
FAVORITE ACTIVITY:
Stealing my human's socks
FAVORITE TREAT:
Peanut butter filled pretzels
FAVORITE FRIEND:
Anyone that pets me
HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:
Named after the coolest baseball player with the best swing of all time: Ken Griffey Jr.



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

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

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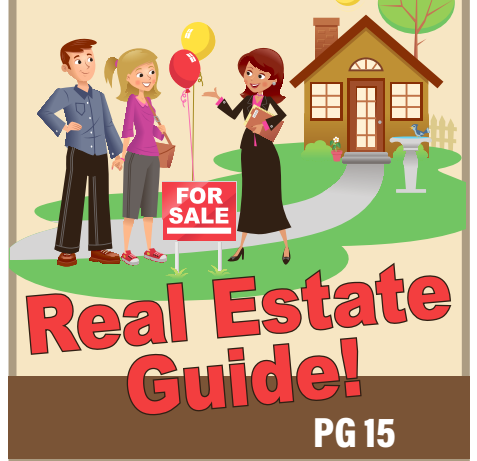


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MYSTERY PHOTO



Win two free day passes to Adventure Landing's Shipwreck Island (value \$65) by correctly guessing our Mystery Photo this month. We will hold a random drawing of all correct answers. Email your guess to mail@floridanewslines.com. Good luck!

Last month's Mystery Photo was Mandarin Lutheran Church. Our winner was Harold Kendall. Congratulations!

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around town

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June 1
About Boating Safely class
 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Florida Tackle and Gun Club, 9010 San Jose Blvd.
www.safeboatingjax.com

Mandarin Republican Club breakfast meeting
 10 a.m.
 Golden Corral, 11470 San Jose Blvd.
 Breakfast cost is discounted; all who attend must purchase breakfast. rmclean1@bellsouth.net

Bingo Night at St. Joseph's
 Doors open 6:15 p.m.; Games start 7 p.m.
 Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road
 Open to the community; (904) 742-8777

June 2
Under the Oaks music jam
 2 p.m. – 4 p.m., weather permitting
 Mandarin Museum, 11964 Mandarin Road
www.mandarinmuseum.net

June 3
Joint Town Hall Meeting with District 6 Councilmember Matt Schellenberg and District 6 Councilmember-elect Michael Boylan
 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.

Southside Newcomers Club First Monday Coffee
 10 a.m.
 Secret Garden Cafe, 10095 Beach Blvd.
snmembership84@gmail.com

June 4
Shuffleboard
 9:30 a.m. (repeating event on Tuesdays)
 Mandarin Park, next to tennis courts at park entrance
 Just show up unless it rains

Honeybee Quilt Guild
 6:30 p.m.
 Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 2501 Loretto Rd.
www.honeybeequilters.org (Repeats first Tuesday of each month)

June 4 – 5
AARP Safe Driving Class
 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.
 Register at (904) 414-0007. \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members

June 5
Jacksonville Camera Club
 6:45 p.m.
 Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6595 Columbia Park Ct.
www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)

June 7
Summer Concert Series: Tropical Luau Party
 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 Starling at San Jose, 9075 San Jose Blvd.

June 8
Friends of the Mandarin Branch Library
 2 p.m.
 Mandarin Branch Library
 (904) 262-5201

Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market
 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.

Frog Painting
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Mandarin Museum and Historical Society,
 11964 Mandarin Road
www.mandarinmuseum.net

Hazardous Waste Drop Off Event
 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Fort Family Regional Park at Baymeadows, 8000 Baymeadows Road E.

Toast of Jax Toastmasters meeting
 7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
 Baha'i Community Center of Jacksonville,
 5034 Greenland Road
www.toastofjax.com (Repeating event on Saturdays)

June 10
Living with Lung Cancer Support Network
 6 p.m.
 Ackerman Cancer Center, 10881 San Jose Blvd.
 RSVP: (904) 880-5522

June 12
Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Support
 3:30 p.m.
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
 Repeating event, second Wednesday of each month

Playing HOOKie crochet, loom and knitters group
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Whole Foods on San Jose Boulevard
paulab2097@gmail.com (repeating event on Wednesdays)

Community Lunch Discussion: Preserving Independence at Home
 11:30 a.m.
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
 RSVP for lunch: kbell@rivergarden.org or (904) 288-7855

"Hall's Closet" presented by Joyce Hall; guest speaker Leighton Serlo
 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.
 Presented by First Coast Jacksonville Women's Connection, affiliated with Stonecroft
 RSVP by June 5: (916) 662-2263 or mihae.brown@gmail.com

June 13
Mandarin Council networking luncheon
 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.
mandarinCouncil.org

Book Club/Friends of the South Mandarin Library meeting
 1 p.m. / 2 p.m.
 South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.
 (904) 288-6385

June 15
Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society library open
 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 6215 Sauterne Drive, Jacksonville
www.sgesjax.org or (904) 778-1000

June 16
Meet the Maple Leaf Divers
 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 Mandarin Museum, 11964 Mandarin Road
www.mandarinmuseum.net

June 17
All Star Quilt Guild
 9:45 a.m.
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 735-0506

June 18
Summer Teen Volunteer Orientation
 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
 South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.
 (904) 288-6385

Jacksonville Herb Society
 7 p.m.
 Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road

Ixia Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society general meeting, "Conserving Our Native Florida Bees"
 6 p.m.
 Willow Branch Library, 2875 Park St.
www.ixia.fnpschapters.org

June 19
River City Women's Club featuring District 6 City Councilmember-elect Michael Boylan
 10:30 a.m.
 Ramada Inn, 3130 Hartley Road
 RSVP: Florence, (904) 262-8719

June 24
Men Helping Men Prostate Cancer Support Group
 6 p.m.
 Ackerman Cancer Center, 10881 San Jose Blvd.
 RSVP: (904) 880-5522

June 25
Free Tools to Quit Smoking class
 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 Humana, 9965 San Jose Blvd., Ste. 12
 Call Northeast Florida AHEC, (904) 482-0189 to register

June 26
Veteran Benefits for Seniors, presented by Jeff Faulkner, NAVF
 11:30 a.m.
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road
 RSVP for lunch: kbell@rivergarden.org or (904) 288-7855

June 27
Mandarin Council monthly breakfast
 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
 Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.
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take 5

Maple Leaf divers at Mandarin Museum

The Maple Leaf divers will appear at Mandarin Museum in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. on June 15. Attendees may meet and talk with Dr. Keith Holland and the men who found the Maple Leaf shipwreck and recovered the Civil War artifacts from this National Historic Landmark site in the St. Johns River at Mandarin Point. For more information, visit www.mandarinmuseum.net or call (904) 268-0784.

Bishop Kenny student receives Mary Award

Bishop Kenny High School senior Lucia Macchi was recently selected as a recipient of the Mary Award for Philanthropy. The Mary Awards honor exceptional young women who serve as a role model in the community, and who demonstrate the core values of Service to the Poor, Reverence, Integrity, Wisdom, and Creativity and Dedic-



Photo courtesy Bishop Kenny High School
Lucia Macchi

tion. Macchi also received the Meninak Leadership Grant Award and \$5,000 from the Meninak Club of Jacksonville. Macchi is active in the Bishop Kenny and Jacksonville communities and has accrued more than 500 service hours since her freshman year. Macchi is a National Hispanic Scholar, the captain of the Brain Brawl team, a member of the National Honor Society, the National Spanish Honor Society, the History Honor Society, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She will attend The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 2019.

Smart Driver course offered at library

AARP will hold its Smart Driver course for drivers 50 and older from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4 and Wednesday, June 5 at South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd. You must attend both days to qualify for auto insurance discount. Bring your driver's license and AARP membership card (if applicable) and arrive 15 minutes early on the first day to register. To enroll, call (904) 414-0007.

Florida Native Plant Society announces general meeting

The Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will hold its monthly General Meeting on Tuesday, June 21 at 6 p.m. at the Willow Branch Library, 2875 Park St. The public is welcome. The featured speaker will be Dr. Rachel

Mallinger, presenting a talk on "Conserving Our Native Florida Bees." In this program, Mallinger will describe the diversity, biology, and behavior of native wild bees in Florida, and ways that we can conserve their populations from backyard gardens to large-scale habitat restorations.

The program will focus on identifying bee-attracting wildflowers and best management practices for bees in different ecosystems. Mallinger is an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida. Visit www.ixia.fnpschapters.org for more information.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

Mandarin Council announces activities

Mandarin businesspeople are invited to network with local businesses during the Mandarin Council's monthly lunch and breakfast meetings. The Mandarin Council's next lunch meeting is on June 13 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Bonefish Grill. The cost is \$16 for Mandarin Council members and \$20 for visitors/guests, all with advance registration. The monthly breakfast and networking meeting is held at Jumpin Jax House of

Food on the fourth Thursday of every month. The next breakfast is Thursday, June 27 from 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and the cost is \$8 for Mandarin Council members or \$10 for visitors/guests, all with advance registration. Visit www.mandarinCouncil.org for up-to-date meeting and speaker information.

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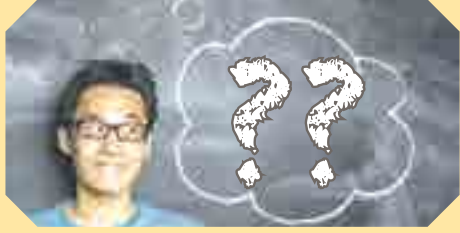
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Inquiring Minds want to know!

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Are you puzzled about something going on in Mandarin or wondering about whatever happened on a topic from a previous issue? Email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.com by the fifth of the month and we will do our best to track down the information for you.

Email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.com



with Jacksonville City Council Member
Matt Schellenberg (District 6)

Q: Can you give us an update on sidewalk construction?

A: The sidewalks along Orange Picker Road should be complete before the end of summer. The Mandarin Road sidewalks, which are being built northward to Red Cypress Road, should be completed in the fall.

Q: Do you have anything to report about sidewalk repairs on Julington Creek Road over Oldfield Creek or on Marbon Road (which has evidently had signs notifying that the sidewalk is closed for a couple of months)?

A: I am always happy to direct these types of inquiries to our Public Works Department. It is much better for citizens to email rather than call with these inquiries as it allows for more accurate tracking. We need to know not only the street, but also the nearest cross streets so that we can investigate further.

As for the repairs on Marbon Road with the sign, those repairs are mostly likely in progress, but sometimes progress can take a long time.

This is one reason I have advocated for a City of Mandarin. I believe this type of thing could be taken care of much more quickly.

Q: What is the latest on the Scott Mill Road turn lane?

A: This will surely help traffic travelling south on Scott Mill Road. At the dead end intersection with Mandarin Road, a right turn lane will be constructed so cars turning right will not have to wait for the cars turning left. Finally after two years, this project will move forward before the end of the year.

Q: What other updates do you have for Mandarin?

A: The dock at County Dock will finally

see some construction commencing in July. After three years, we are finally getting our dock back.

The Mandarin Senior Center addition is progressing well and will probably be finished in Spring 2020. Included in the construction cost is a nice roadside sign for the center, which should make it more visible.

More sidewalks are coming to Palmetto Leaves Park. Also, the Parks Department is working with JEA to construct bike paths beyond the softball field as part of a larger bike trail to be built west towards the South Mandarin Library along the powerlines.

An informational walking park is to be constructed behind the South Mandarin Library. Money has been allocated for this.

And finally, the dog park. Hopefully the land will be purchased by the time readers see this column. Then we can move forward with a nice dog park and also additional parking for Alberts Field. It will be a great facility, scheduled to be completed by the first of next year.

Q: Your time as City Councilmember for Mandarin is drawing to a close. What's next for you?

A: I have enjoyed being a public servant. Right now, I've been asked to be on the city's Charter Revision Commission, which meets every 10 years. If citizens have any ideas or thoughts on how to make Jacksonville a better place and how to make bureaucracy more responsive, email me at my personal email, mover-sclaimjax@aol.com.

It has been an incredible honor to represent Mandarin these last eight years.

Matt Schellenberg cont. on pg.10

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MEMBERS



with Duval School Board Member,
District 7, Lori Hershey

Q: Can you give us an update on the board's proposal to fund the facilities project with a voter referendum for a half-cent sales tax?

A: The legislation for the referendum was passed by the school board in April and has been filed with the City Council. It will go through the Rules and Finance committees on June 18, then it is scheduled for a vote by the City Council on June 25. The school board cannot increase taxes; we must allow voters to make that decision. It is up to the City Council to determine if they want to let the voters decide. The school board will honor the results of the vote by the community.

Q: When does the school board propose for the referendum to go before Duval County voters?

A: The request as filed is for a special election in November 2019, because we have some failing infrastructure and want to address it sooner rather than later. Naturally, we will respect the decision of the City Council as to timing. We have not had a community conversation about the state of our schools, but we continue to see decreases in capital dollars over the past decade and feel we are at a critical juncture. Our goal is to provide 21st century learning environments for our students and our teachers. We also need to keep our schools updated to the state's safety standards. For more information on this, readers can visit: www.ourduvalschools.org.

Q: What are some of the planned improvements for District 7 schools if the half-cent sales tax is passed?

A: District 7 would see many benefits, including but not limited to: a new K-8 school between Nocatee and Atlantic Coast High School; a rebuild onsite for Loretto Elementary, with preservation of the original six-room schoolhouse and majestic oak; and expansion of classrooms at Mandarin and Atlantic Coast high schools. All schools in our district will see improvements to existing facilities. I would like to remind our community that the district is unable to go out for a bond without an additional revenue source, which this proposed sales tax would provide.

Q: What is the latest on the Seventh Generation Classical Academy charter school application?

A: The application for this charter school was previously denied by the board because it failed to meet requirements set by the State of Florida. The applicant remedied the issues and the application has now been approved. It will open in August as a K-3 school and eventually expand to a K-12 school. The school will be located on Old St. Augustine Road, very near River City Science Academy - Mandarin and Christ Church's private school.

Q: Is there anything that can be done about the already congested traffic in that area of Old St. Augustine Road?

A: The City of Jacksonville will be installing a traffic light on Old St. Augustine Road that has been funded by the River City Science Academy. The River City Science Academy is not in charge of when the light is installed, however. That is up to the city and at this point we do not have a definite date.

Q: Do you have any other updates for District 7?

A: The school board will participate in Master Board training beginning in June. This is an opportunity to increase professional development and build a strong team.

The school board would like to remind everyone that the access to Loretto Elementary School via a private gate in Oldfield Point is for residents of Oldfield Point only. The roads in this neighborhood are not designed for heavy traffic flow and congestion and safety issues result when the gate is utilized by more than its intended purpose.

Finally, congratulations to the Class of 2019! It is always exciting to see students who graduate from high school with their A.A. or A.S. degree. I'm always impressed with the amount of scholarship dollars earned by students at each respective school.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

A: They can email me at HersheyL@duvalschools.org or call me at (904) 316-3609.

Calling for World War II Veterans

The Mandarin Museum & Historical Society will host its 20th annual Winter Celebration on Dec. 7, 2019. Because of the significance of this date in history — the date in 1941 that Pearl Harbor was attacked and WWII began for the United States — the organization would like to honor those who served in World War II at this event. We know that there are few veterans left, but we hope to be able to identify a few here in Mandarin. If you are or know of a veteran from WWII who lives in Mandarin, contact Mandarin Museum & Historical Society at mandarinmuseum@bellsouth.net or (904) 268-0784 to learn more. Pictured is well-known Mandarin resident Mont W. "Billy" Barwald, who served in the Army Air Corps in England during WWII. Billy Barwald passed away in 2016.



Photo courtesy Billy Barwald to Mandarin Museum & Historical Society

Kindergarten registration is open

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Kindergarten registration for school year 2019 – 2020 has begun. Parents of Duval County children who will turn five years old, on or before September 1, 2019, can begin registering their future kindergartener for the upcoming school year. Registration can be completed in three easy steps:

1. Find your school by using the school locator online.

2. Claim your seat online by enrolling your student in the school district.
3. Complete registration at the assigned school by bringing all necessary documents.

Visit www.duvalschools.org to find additional registration information, including the school locator and a complete list of the documents required for registration. The new school year begins on Monday, Aug. 12.

FYI Contact Numbers

Duval County Local Government (coj.net)

Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Mike Williams, (904) 630-2120
Patrol Zone 3: Assistant Chief Mat Nemeth, (904) 828-5463

Property Appraiser: Jerry Holland, jholland@coj.net; (904) 630-2011

Supervisor of Elections: Mike Hogan, mhogan@coj.net, (904) 630-1414

Tax Collector: Jim Overton, taxcollector@coj.net, (904) 630-1916

Clerk of Court: Ronnie Fussell, (904) 255-2000

Jacksonville City Council

District 6: Matt Schellenberg, matts@coj.net, (904) 630-1388
At Large, District 3: Tommy Hazouri, thazouri@coj.net, (904) 630-1396

Duval County School Board

(www.duvalschools.org)
District 7: Lori Hershey, hershey@duvalschools.org, (904) 390-2375

State of Florida Elected Officials

Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146
State House District 16: Representative Jason Fischer, (850) 717-5016
State Senate District 4: Senator Aaron Bean, (904) 757-5039

Federal Elected Officials

U.S. Congress District 4: Representative John Rutherford, (202) 225-2501
U.S. Senate:
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Law office holds ribbon cutting ceremony



Photo courtesy Heather Seay

Jenna M. Houser of The Houser Law Firm, PA celebrated the grand opening of her new office at 6100 Greenland Road on May 10 with friends, colleagues and members of the Jax Chamber.

Briefs

Trimming trees part of JEA's year-round storm preparations

At JEA, storm preparation is a year round activity, as the utility works to ensure its facilities and the community are prepared for hurricanes and other weather-related emergencies. Over the last several years, JEA has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in hardening its electric, water and sewer systems to make them more resistant to storm-related disruptions. "These critical repairs and improvements help us restore power and return to normal operations more quickly after a major storm," said JEA spokesperson Gina Kyle.

In addition, Kyle said JEA's storm preparation plans include year-round tree trimming, especially in established neighborhoods such as Mandarin, where large, mature trees pose a danger come hurricane season.

"Most storm-related power outages result from tree branches falling on power lines," she said. "That makes Mandarin and other tree-lined neighborhoods more susceptible to service interruptions when a major storm hits."

To reduce the risk of downed branches causing outages during a storm, JEA trims trees across the city all year long, working on a 2.5-year cycle to cover JEA's 900 square-mile service territory. In some cases, Kyle said, JEA will remove a hazardous tree that is interfering with power lines.

When a major storm causes widespread power outages, JEA goes into emergency operations mode, implementing its Restoration 1-2-3 process to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. During Phase 1, JEA repairs its power facilities and restores power to local hospitals, shelters and police and fire stations. Once these critical public safety facilities are restored, JEA moves

to Phase 2, at which time the utility is ready to accept outage reports from individual customers.

"Just as you'd pull over on the highway to let an ambulance pass," Kyle said, "you can help save lives by waiting until Phase 2 to report your individual power outage."

During Phase 2, JEA restores power by targeting specific sections of the electric grid — or "circuits" — giving top priority to repairs that will restore power to the most customers at one time. In Phase 3, JEA completes power restoration, focusing on the few isolated areas still without power.

Visit www.jea.com for more information.

Mandarin Women's Club offers summer fun

The Mandarin Women's Club's Game Day had a large turnout at the April luncheon as members spent the morning playing Bunco or Mexican Train. After the prize money was distributed, club members held the election of the club's 2019-2020 officers, who will serve under the guidance of Linda Peacock, president.

The Mandarin Women's Club's annual picnic was held on May 4 and was a huge success. A great time and great food was enjoyed by all who attended.

As summer approaches, the club will take a break from its monthly luncheons, but that doesn't mean the fun winds down. Some of the activities available to active members during the summer months are Bunco, Mexican Train, Dining Out, and Mah Jongg. Don't miss out on your chance to participate in these activities. Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for more information or to find a Membership Form.

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Summer Learning = Books, brains, prizes and fun

By Olga Bayer
mail@floridanewline.com

Summer Learning — Mandarin and South Mandarin branch libraries' most anticipated event of the year — is back! The two-month reading challenge helps students build and retain academic skills while having a ton of fun over summer break. With an out-of-this-world theme encompassing a Universe of Stories, kids of all ages can track their reading (pick up a bookmark/tracker each week at the library), earn books and prizes, and attend special programs featuring live music, live critters, clowns, puppets, and authors.

Summer Learning kickoff parties take place at Mandarin Library on June 5, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. and at South Mandarin Library on June 6, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. To encourage reading daily, library staff will host a “15-minute Drop Everything and Read” session Monday through Saturday at the branches. Mandarin’s read aloud time will begin June 3 at 4 p.m. and South Mandarin starts June 7 at 1:30 p.m.

Save the dates and the 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. time slot for Wednesday kids’ programs at the Mandarin Branch Library. June 12, jazz it up with the Noteworthy band; June 19, Mr. C the Clown entertains with magic and puppets; and June 26, author Jennifer Swanson presents “Astronaut or Aquanaut?” On Mondays, June 10, 17 and 24 at 2:30 p.m., school-agers will delight in STEAM ‘n’ Stories at the Mandarin branch as they solve storybook problems with the power of STEAM.

Mark your calendars for Thursdays, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m., at South Mandarin



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Library
Youth services librarian Joanna Nigrelli and Sarah Miller, shelver, had fun playing their roles in the Harry Potter series last summer. The Harry Potter Universe series at Mandarin library will be even more amazing this year.

for more cool stuff. It’s Drumming for Everyone with Alisha Ross, June 16; Jerry Walls brings Scales and Tails with live animals, June 20; and Magic and Mayhem Productions present The Moon Bunny, which includes a meet and greet with ChaChing, the Amazing Bunny, June 27.

Muggles and wizards aged 12 – 17 will be mesmerized by the magical fun of Harry Potter Universe, Tuesdays, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m., on June 11, 18 and 25, and July 2, 9 and 16, at the South Mandarin Branch Library. Teens can also take off on a new and exciting cosmic journey each Tuesday, June 11, 18 and 25, at Mandarin Branch Library, when Cosmic Destiny explores signs and symbols from the universe, how to predict the future, reading palms, tea leaves and tarot cards.

Visit jaxpubliclibrary.org/summer to find more details about Summer Learning. You can also find information about additional events for Mandarin and South Mandarin branch libraries at jaxpubliclibrary.org. Call Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 262-5201, or South Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 288-6385.

River City Women enjoy Brown Bag Auction



Photo courtesy Marsha Easley

The River City Women’s Club’s annual Brown Bag Auction was once again a successful fundraising event. Members bring in decorated gift bags that are judged; then the bidding begins. The contents of each bag are a secret until after the bidding. The River City Women’s Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Ramada Inn. Reservations are required and guests are welcome; call Flo at (904) 262-8719 to reserve your spot.



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Church welcomes U.S. Representative for Family and Friends Day



Photo courtesy Rev. Roger Williams

United States Representative Valdez "Val" Demings, U. S. House District 10, was the featured speaker at Philip R. Cousin AME Church of Mandarin's Family and Friends Day on April 28, 2019. Rep. Demings is a Mandarin native and graduate of Wolfson High School. She was the first woman to serve as City of Orlando Police Chief.

Matt Schellenberg cont. from pg. 6

There is still plenty to be done and I'm sure Councilmember-elect Michael Boylan will do a great job. I encourage readers to reach out to him as they have done with me.

We will be hosting a joint Town Hall Meeting on Monday, June 3 from 6:30

p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the South Mandarin Branch Library. It would be great to see a lot of people there.

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

A: Community members can email me at MattS@coj.net or call (904) 630-1388.

Back in Time with Brett

By Brett Nolan
mail@floridanewline.com

Steamship Maple Leaf – Part 3

Last month, we learned about the last voyage of the Union steamship "Maple Leaf." For nearly 125 years, the "Maple Leaf" was just a story lingering in the depths of Father Time's mind.

By 1984, Dr. Keith Holland, a local Jacksonville dentist, and the St. Johns Archaeological Expeditions, Inc., located what was left of the "Maple Leaf," confirming the contents inside the vessel's hull in near excellent condition. With the technology of yesteryear, Holland used navigational river charts from 1884 and layered them with modern day maps. He was able to use his findings to begin years of legal negotiations — including filing a lawsuit against the United States — finally receiving access into the ship's mucky hull.

Beneath the pitch-black, tannin river water, lights were useless. Divers could not see their hands in front of them. While not even 30 feet below the surface, diving to the boat was not a hard task, but scary would be an understatement. They were the first human contact the ship had longed for since the Union boots paraded her decks to and fro, loading the 800,000 pounds of luggage in preparation for her terminal voyage. By 1994, the St. Johns Archaeological Expeditions, Inc. concluded expeditions to the wreckage and the site received National Historic Landmark status. By then, more than 6,500 artifacts had been excavated from the muck; however, this representative sample was only a mere 0.01 percent of what was in the cargo hold.

The tragedy of the Union Transport Ship "Maple Leaf," though small in the scheme of the battle amid the North and South, paints a picture of the cultural significance behind the life of a soldier during the Civil War. It tells the stories of men who have lost their voices to history, those who never wrote letters



Photo courtesy of Keith Holland.

Lee Manley and Keith Holland examining a recovered "Maple Leaf" artifact.

or journals — but the contents in their trunks talked to us. The artifacts detail what troops valued enough to take with them on the battlefield, things looted out of abandoned plantation homes — fine china, window panes, door knobs — even seashells collected along the shore of Folly Island to take home to their families as souvenirs (some never imagined traveling that far south had it not been for the call for service). Ambrotypes depicting loved ones, musical instruments, ceremonial military items, pipes and buttons — thousands of things still sit in the river waiting for their chance to see the light again. The "Maple Leaf" provides a world of cultural artifacts that are imperative to understanding the history of one of the darkest times in America.

You can view about 70 of these recovered "Maple Leaf" artifacts on any Saturday at the Mandarin Museum in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road. And, you may actually meet and talk with Dr. Holland and his team of divers on the third Saturday of most months from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Brett Nolan is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net for more information about Mandarin's history and schedules.

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Get to Know . . .

Caleb Carpenter

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewline.com

Mandarin High School rising senior Caleb Carpenter has grown up in the area and found a passion for football when he started playing in eighth grade. He plays right tackle for the Mandarin Mustangs and along with his team, recently received his State Championship ring.

The 3.8 GPA honor student sets an example both on and off the field. His parents, Christopher Carpenter and Patricia Spraggins, reside in Mandarin and on the Southside. Carpenter's future plans involve hopes of playing college football, but he doesn't plan to rely on that hope. He would like to stay local for college, possibly Jacksonville University or the University of Central Florida. His current choice of study is chemical engineering. Carpenter enjoys staying active in the Mandarin community. He is interested in becoming even more involved in his school and in sports leadership next year.



Photo courtesy Caleb Carpenter
Caleb Carpenter

1. What do you enjoy most about going to high school in Mandarin?

Mandarin High is where my mom when to school, so I'm happy to follow in her footsteps. The community support is great as well.

2. Who has been your greatest inspiration?

I'm blessed to have a great family that always supports me, but my mom

is one of my biggest influences. She's helped me push through the pain this sport can bring on and encouraged me to get back up and do my best.

3. Are you a big football fan yourself?

I'm a big Dallas Cowboys fan. I love football to death and follow the sport like the back of my hand. This sport has built me into what I am today and helped me build good leadership skills.

4. What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I weight lift a lot. I like to run and play basketball as well.

5. How did it feel to win the State Championship title with your teammates?

That was one of the best moments I've ever had in my life. Most of us were crying. I still remember it like it was

yesterday. It took a lot of commitment to get us to that point. Players were getting hurt and others had to really step up.

Coast Guard cont. from pg. 1

need for the Coastal Picket Force started to diminish and was disbanded at the end of the war.

Post-World War II, the Coast Guard Auxiliary returned to its primary mission and job number one — recreational boating safety. The Coast Guard Auxiliary began offering the Courtesy Marine Examinations to recreational boaters in 1947 starting in Coast Guard District 7, which is made up of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and the Caribbean. The Courtesy Marine Examination is better known today as the Vessel Safety Check. The Auxiliary started to offer more to the boating public in 1950 with the launch of the first eight-lesson safe boating course.

As time progressed, the Auxiliary was given more responsibilities. In 1955 the Academy Introduction Mission was started to help recruit prospective cadets to the Coast Guard Academy. In 1964 the Auxiliary started providing the Coast and Geodetic Survey (NOAA in 1970) chart updating information for the publishing of new nautical charts. In 1990 the Coast Guard began including the Auxiliary in everyday operations supporting the active and reserve Coast Guard. In 1996, Congress expanded the Auxiliary's missions by authorizing the Coast Guard Auxiliary to perform all the roles the active and reserve do with the exceptions of direct law enforcement and military roles. This is still true today, as many Auxiliary members have supported

the day-to-day operations and responded to disasters and incidents that severely impacted our nation.

Flotilla 14-8 has had the honor of serving the boating community in Jacksonville and the surrounding areas for 50 years. Members look forward to what the next 50 years will bring.

The next boating safety classes are scheduled for Saturday, July 6 and Saturday, Aug. 3. Visit www.safeboatingjax.com for more information, to sign up for a safe boating class, or to schedule a free vessel safety check.

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

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“Ain’t Misbehavin’” swings at the Alhambra

By Emily Whitehead
mail@floridanewsline.com

Alhambra Theatre and Dining’s production of “Ain’t Misbehavin’” had the audience toe-tapping and singing along all night. This tribute to the Harlem Renaissance jazz singers of the 1920s and ‘30s and a celebration of legendary jazz writer Thomas “Fats” Waller was a boisterous night of rib-tickling songs.



Photo courtesy Alhambra Theatre and Dining
The cast of “Ain’t Misbehavin’”

“Ain’t Misbehavin’,” winner of the 1978 Tony Award for Best Musical, was full of early swing songs that took the audience through a wide range of moods. Some of the songs were lighthearted and fun like “T Ain’t Nobody’s Bis-ness If I Do” and “Lounging At The Waldorf.” Some were flirtatious, full of innuendo, like “Keepin’ Out of Mischief Now.” And there was even a somber ballad, “Black and Blue.” The musical was produced and directed by Tod Booth and the cast of singers couldn’t have performed better.

Tarra Jones led the singing cast with her full vocal range and powerful presence. She sang a very lighthearted and flirty

“Keepin’ Out of Mischief Now” and then performed “Black and Blue,” so full of emotion and message. The cast collaborated on several jazz songs with hilarious lyrics like “Cash for Your Trash” and “Fat and Greeasy.” Other notable performances were E. Mani Cadet’s “Your Feet’s Too Big That Ain’t Right” and Christopher G. Patterson’s “The Viper’s Drag.”

The jazz band, led by pianist Anthony Felton, received much applause as the musicians carried the audience through the range of moods. Chef DeJuan Roy created a delicious meal to complement the Harlem Jazz scene. Guests had a choice of spinach salad or atlas mountain soup for the first course. The second course options were pork rib eye, fried flounder, home-made dumplings, or BBQ jackfruit. Save room for the final course of apple cake or sweet potato cheesecake.

“Ain’t Misbehavin’” will appear at Alhambra Theatre and Dining until June 9. Visit www.alhambrajax.com for tickets and more information.

Mandarin Garden Club announces Yard of the Month

By Betty Waldrep
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photos courtesy Wanda Bosworth



The home of Karen and George Stanley has been selected by Wanda Bosworth, co-chair of Education and Community, as Mandarin Garden Club’s Yard of the Month. Bosworth said she was “blown away” by their yard when she visited it.

The Stanleys have created a special place for rocking and enjoying nature. They have a beautiful twining wisteria over their arbor providing shade. Other jewels in their yard include a mock orange tree, butterfly plans, fruit trees, and several Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow plants. A show stopping angel trumpet bleeding heart and herbs make the garden a beautiful place to enjoy. A vegetable garden was planted on one side of the yard surrounded by concrete blocks as a border.

Various walkways and paths mingled throughout the yard with jasmine, blue sage, hydrangeas, azaleas, camelias, gerber daisies, glades, and amaryllis blooming. There was incredible ground cover of iron plants along a side walkway.

Karen Stanley’s grandmother inspired her interest in gardening. She and George Stanley are very talented people and if they can imagine it, they can design it. They have a Serenity Garden featuring family garden crafts such as a tile walkway with a center ball circle and a beautiful bird bath. Cement poured yard art, painted ladybugs and rocks are in this area.



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Gardening

Allergies, anyone?

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

I think we are probably over the worst of the pollen season involving common trees like oaks and pines, but my daughter recently found an article in Scientific American, "Botanical Sexism Cultivates Home-Grown Allergies" (<https://tinyurl.com/y8trc4ep>), which she knew I would appreciate. The title certainly piqued my interest! Apparently plant breeders have unwittingly added to our pollen burden by employing specialist cloning techniques in order to offer male trees to the public, so that we don't have to bother with the messy fruits and seeds of female trees. One tree introduction that springs to mind is the sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*; apparently the cultivar *L. styraciflua* 'Rotundiloba' has been bred to produce only small sterile flowers, and since we all know how troublesome the round prickly seed balls can be, that seems like a good thing.

There are not only male pollen-producing clones of trees in the market, but also shrubs. The article made the point that an overabundance of male pollen-producing trees could be causing the increases in allergies and asthma, especially among children. It is also the case that toxins are absorbed by trees, but then they may be released back into the air in wind-borne pollen, which is alarming, since we breathe in those toxins with the pollen.

The article also described how female trees produce an electrical charge that literally attracts wind-blown pollen

to their flowers, thereby reducing the amount of pollen that reaches our olfactory systems. It seems to me that we may need to strike a better balance for our well-being by planting a more natural mix of plant material, and simply enjoy their female flowers. This next article may help: <https://tinyurl.com/yxt6tx6b>. It describes some of the less allergenic woody plants we could use in our landscapes.

Already the weather is heating up. As of early May we have had a reasonable amount of rain, but according to the drought monitor, areas of central north Florida are "abnormally dry" (<https://tinyurl.com/y6d3kkh2>). Perhaps it's time to check on your irrigation practices if you haven't done so already, since we often miss out on those eastward-sweeping rain bands at this time of year.

The latest edition of A New Leaf is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6hszolv>, and is well worth reading, particularly if you have an interest in becoming a Master Gardener volunteer. Classes are open to all and you don't need a vast background in horticulture to be considered, just a general interest in gardening and a willingness to learn. The main requirement is that you want to volunteer your time. For vegetable, herb, and fruit growers, Beth Marlowe, our new Urban Garden coordinator, describes the Urban Garden Program and how it benefits our citizens. Terry DeValle reminds us of best lawn mowing practices, and our Ur-

ban Forester, Larry Figart, fills us in on the history of our famous Treaty Oak. As always, there are upcoming classes for the general public, and timely tips on what to plant now.

I encourage all NewsLine readers to do their bit for our wonderful Florida. We each have an opportunity, however small our outdoor space, to cater for our wildlife by keeping our immediate environment as chemical-free as possible, and planting beautiful flowers for our valuable pollinating bees and butterflies, and for the other unsung beneficial insects that also do their part. Almost

all our birds rely on insects to feed their young, even the delightful ruby-throated hummingbird, and in doing so they keep insect numbers in check. The more we keep our environment in balance, the more we benefit. This summer I hope that by simply keeping grass clippings, fallen leaves, and fertilizer well inside our own properties, either composting those leaves and clippings, or using them as mulch, or even bagging them for collection, the excess nutrients that fueled the algae in the St. Johns River in recent years will be reduced, and the river will stay healthy. We shall see!



Photo courtesy Diane Frisco

Mandarin Place announces Yard of the Month

Sonja McCallie, 12566 Brady Place Court was awarded the Yard of the Month for the subdivision of Mandarin Place off Mandarin Road.



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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
 mail@floridanewsline.com

*With water temps pushing eighty degrees,
 Salinity levels are on the increase
 And little shrimp are beginning to show
 So fishing the St. Johns is beginning to grow.
 Yes, summertime fishing has arrived,
 So gather your gear and don't be deprived*

Summertime fishing is finally here, and as always, is greeted with great expectations. As the summer progresses, we can only expect to see a steady increase in the variety, quality, and quantity of our fishing efforts.

Current indicators are promising that we are off to a good start for this summer's fishing. A mild winter accompanied by less than normal rainfall has certainly contributed to this current outlook.

With juvenile shrimp starting to show throughout the river, we can now expect the larger species of the underwater food chain to be not that far behind. As summer progresses, the shrimp get larger as does the quantity and quality of the fish that feed on them. With the right weather conditions, late summer and early fall have the potential to provide as good fishing as nearly anywhere else in the state.

Almost certainly we can expect croaker, yellowmouth, redfish, flounder, black drum, seatrout, and sheepshead. If it's a really good year we could even see additional species such as mangrove snapper

and even tarpon. Not bad for our local area of the St. Johns, which is considered from downtown Jacksonville to the Shands Bridge. Officially this area of the river is considered to be freshwater, but in reality it is brackish for most or all of the year.

The latter part of the summer season is looked upon with great expectation as the St. Johns River food chain is made complete by the above water feeders (that's us). Late July or early August is usually when we can expect our annual shrimp run to begin; sometimes lasting well into October, shrimping is a favorite activity for many. A good year shrimping could add up to a freezer full, while a slow year should still provide shrimp enough for bait.

Fishing Report: St. Johns croaker bite continues to warm up with reds showing around docks and pilings. Bonnet-head sharks should be plentiful in the surf this time of year. They're smaller, harmless, easy and fun to catch. Should be a great time for the kids.

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

Email your Catch of the Month photo to catchofthemonthpictures@gmail.com. Be sure to include the name of the person(s) in the photo, the name of the person who took the photo, the type of fish and date and location of the catch. We will select a photo each month for publication.

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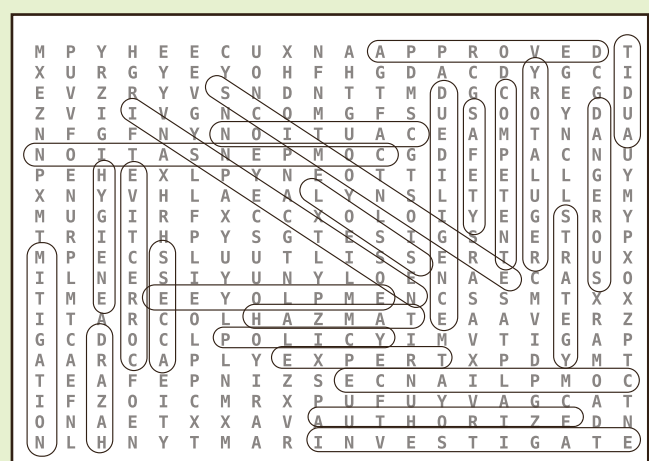
Answers to puzzles on page 16

Answers

to our Puzzles



Answers: A. dairy B. food C. milk D. cow





Real Estate Guide

Northeast Florida average home sales price largest since June 2018

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

April was a busy month for real estate activity in Northeast Florida, with 2,889 homes being sold. This figure is a 6.5 percent uptick from a year ago, and the largest number of monthly sales since August 2018. There were also 3,171 pending sales (those on which a contract has been written but did not close). The pending sales activity was a 5.8 percent increase from a year ago.

The median sales price of \$225,000 was up 2.3 percent from a year ago, but was down from \$229,900 in March. The average sales price was significantly higher at \$276,712, the largest average sales price since \$280,880 in June 2018.

Homes sold quickly in April, with 67 days on market being the average.

A reduced inventory continues to be a major factor in the market, with only 3.6 month's supply on hand.

"Sellers are finding that their properties are selling very quickly and pricing is robust," said 2019 NEFAR President Jeanne Denton-Scheck. "In April, 14.3 percent of homes sold by NEFAR member Realtors were for more than the original list price."

Visit www.nefar.com to view the April 2016 housing market reports for Northeast Florida, made available from the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors. As all St. Johns County and Nassau Realtors are not participants of the NEFMLS, reports provided do not represent the full extent of Realtor sales in those counties.

Did you know?

Of the 29 projects it studied for its 2017 "Cost vs. Value Report," Remodeling magazine found that the average payback in resale value was 64.3 cents. The lone project in the 2017 report to return a higher value than its cost was the installation of loose-fill insulation in an attic, which provided a return of 107.7 percent.

Homeowners who replaced an existing entry door with a 20-gauge steel unit recouped 90.7 percent of their investment at resale, placing that project second on the list.

What helps homeowners who finance such projects recoup their associated costs is the relatively low sticker price of the projects, which both rank among the five least expensive projects examined in the 2017 report. But a recovering real estate market has helped homeowners recoup more of their investments on some expensive projects as well.

For example, the 2017 report saw the biggest year-over-year percentage increases in value on expensive projects like upscale bathroom remodels, upscale master suites, two-story additions, grand entrance installations, and family room additions. The increase in value on those projects ranged from 5.6 percent to 7.4 percent from a year earlier.



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JUN 11 **Should you Buy, Build or Renovate?**
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JUL 9 **Top 10 Things to Know Before Selling Your Home**
Selling a home you have lived in for decades can seem like a daunting task, but it doesn't need to be so overwhelming. Whether you are planning to sell this month or not for a few years, do your homework now and be prepared! • Where do I begin? • How do I prepare my house for sale? • Can I sell as-is? • What should I expect when my home goes on the market? • What are the costs involved in selling? Get the **FACTS** about what is involved in selling a home in today's market and the top 10 Mistakes to Avoid!

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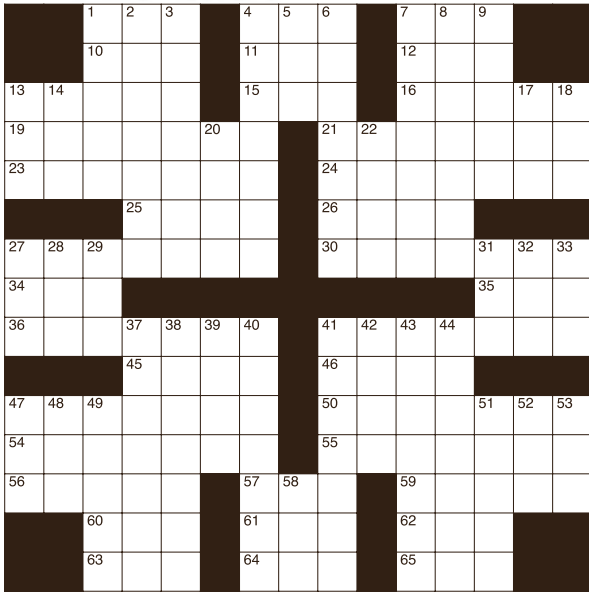
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 14
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mathematical term (abbr.)
- 4. Seaport (abbr.)
- 7. "Unforgettable" singer
- 10. The GOAT
- 11. Used to harvest agave cactus
- 12. Luke's mentor ___Wan
- 13. Muses
- 15. IBM operating system
- 16. Hungarian village
- 19. Popular conversation topic
- 21. N. Atlantic island
- 23. Fail to discern correctly
- 24. The President has one
- 25. Irish Gaelic language
- 26. Gasteyer and Ivanovic are two
- 27. Garnished
- 30. National capital
- 34. Basics
- 35. Initial public offering

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Belongs to the daughter of Chaos
- 2. Wardrobe
- 3. Derek and Jeff are two
- 4. Disfigured
- 5. Hawaiian dish
- 6. What a hack drives
- 7. Horse gear
- 8. Do away with
- 9. Narrow straits between Sinai and Arabian peninsulas
- 13. Corrie
- 14. Hawaiian flower necklace
- 17. Midway between northeast and east
- 18. Insecticide
- 20. Comfort
- 22. Town in Galilee
- 27. Informal greeting
- 28. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 29. Used to check the heart
- 31. Western India island
- 32. Credit card term
- 33. Female deer
- 37. British football team
- 38. Persian jurisdiction
- 39. Freshwater mussel genus
- 40. Opposite of happiness
- 41. Ban on trade
- 42. Bitterly regrets
- 43. Assented
- 44. Well-proportioned
- 47. Part of (abbr.)
- 48. Indigenous people of Thailand
- 49. A man of your stature (abbr.)
- 51. Advantageous
- 52. Female sibling
- 53. Electronic countermeasures
- 58. Swiss river

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 O N A E T X X A V A U T H O R I Z E D N
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WORDS

- ACCESS
- APPROVED
- AUDIT
- AUTHORIZED
- CAUTION
- COMPENSATION
- COMPETENT
- COMPLIANCE
- CORRECTIVE
- DANGEROUS
- DUE DILIGENCE
- EMPLOYEE
- ERGONOMICS
- EXPERT
- HAZARD
- HAZMAT
- HYGIENE
- INSPECTION
- INVESTIGATE
- LOSS
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- A. 6 10 13 19 8**
Clue: Type of food or beverage
- B. 2 1 17 16**
Clue: Sustenance
- C. 24 13 25 14**
Clue: Healthy beverage
- D. 4 15 26**
Clue: Dairy animal

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Travel

Fort Lauderdale: Beyond Spring Break

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

When envisioning South Florida, Miami's South Beach, Art Deco style architecture and an enticing food scene come to mind. Always exciting, but I chose to visit Fort Lauderdale. It's less crowded, carries a similar vibe, and sits just 45 minutes away. Many think of Fort Lauderdale as a party-haven for college students on spring break, but it is also known as the Yachting Capital of the World. The 165-mile network of boat canals crosses the area earns it the nickname, the Venice of America. More than 100 marinas berth some of the largest mega yachts.

Even if you aren't invited on one of those, you may yet embark — on a cruise from Fort Lauderdale's Port Everglades, which ranks as one of the top three cruise ports in the world. It's always a good idea to arrive a day early, so I offer a few suggestions of places to visit and things to do.

To get an authentic feel for the city, hop aboard the water taxi. Pleasing water views of the homes and canals accompany an informative narration about the history of the stunning area. Get off at one of the canal-side restaurants (I loved Shooters), then hop back on with your day pass.

Don't miss driving along Las Olas Boulevard, home to many jaw-dropping mansions and 17 blocks of upscale shopping, sidewalk cafes and nightlife. Make reservations to dine in the rear courtyard at Louis Bossie, an Italian eatery whose magical outdoor setting mesmerizes, especially at sunset.

Shoppers might pop into the New River Fine Art Gallery to gaze upon some original modern art or famous artists' works from the past. I was told that browsers are welcome, even those that can't afford anything. The shop owners encourage everyone to gain an appreciation for visual art.



Bonnet House and gardens

Besides, it's fun to imagine where you might hang or place a piece in your home.

North on A1A, but hidden off the highway, you'll find the Bonnet House, a historic home now managed by the Florida Trust. Anyone interested in history or gardening should not miss this unexpected gem built in the 1920s. Eclectic artists Frederic and Evelyn Bartlett embellished the 1930s beachfront estate. Their family left the property, brimming with a bounty of

colorful art, to the state in 1983. Today's docent-led tour provides fascinating insights into the era. I could have stayed for hours roaming the orchid house, hibiscus gardens and nature trails.

While visiting, I stayed at the centrally located W Fort Lauderdale Hotel and Spa on Beach Boulevard. The posh resort shines bright and airy after a recent \$55 million renovation. The living room style lobby feels welcoming and comfortable. It's also a great place to dine, enjoy cocktails or just people watch. My favorite hangout, however, was the hotel's street-level Mexican themed restaurant, named El Vez.

The Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, just off the ocean, provides one of the calmest and picturesque kayaking spots ever. One moment you might be lying on the beach and less than five minutes later, paddling a kayak or paddleboard among mangroves. The 180-acre park offers greenery-lined biking, jogging and walking trails.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
House along canal

I can't forget to mention Fort Lauderdale's famous seven miles of beach, or 23 miles if you add the Greater Fort Lauderdale area. Whether you want to take a stroll in the sand, spend a day sunning, or merely enjoy the view from the drive, this beach is one of Florida's finest.



Kayaking in Birch State Park

Travelers find the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport easy to navigate and convenient to Port Everglades, as well as the beach. A drive to Fort Lauderdale from Jacksonville takes you about five hours.

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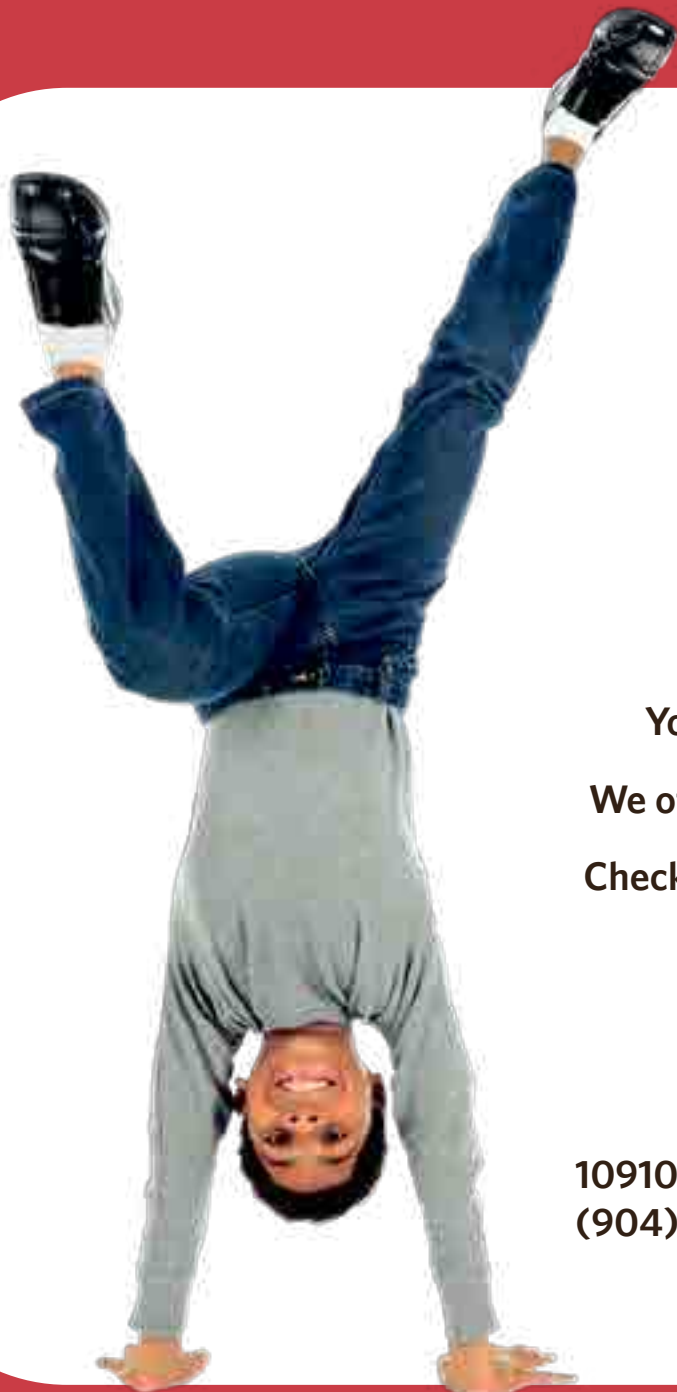
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