

Mandarin NewsLine

JUNE 2020 Volume 14 Issue 8

A Florida NewsLine Publication



page 3
BFF Best Furry Friend



page 7
Editorial



page 9
Get To Know ...
Charleen Morency



page 12
Puzzles

Should you walk or run with traffic or facing traffic?

By Beverly Webb
mail@floridanewsline.com

Which side of the road does one use when walking or running on a road that has no sidewalk? Even if a driver is strictly obeying the 25 mph speed limit in many neighborhoods, blind curves can prevent a driver from seeing a pedestrian until it may be too late. With the recent beautiful weather and people trying to stay fit during the "Safer at Home" order, it has become even more important that walkers, runners, and skateboarders, all of which are considered pedestrians, do their part to be safe. A driver and a pedestrian facing each other are much more likely to be aware of each other's presence.



Photos by MetroCreative

Not only is it safer for pedestrians to walk facing oncoming traffic, it is Florida law. According to Florida Statute 315.130 (4), where sidewalks are not provided, any pedestrian must walk facing traffic. Law enforcement officers generally do not make these noncriminal pedestrian violations a top priority for ticketing, but per Florida Statute 318.18, the amount of penalty for a pedestrian

Traffic cont. on pg. 9



Vegetable garden cared by volunteers of the Jacksonville Extension Office



Mandarin Community Club



Photos courtesy Shelley Howard
Mandarin Museum at Walter Jones Historical Park



Flower bed maintained by volunteers at Walter Jones Historical Park



Gazebo at Billard Park

Mandarin mainstays honored with Beautification Awards

By Betty Waldrep
mail@floridanewsline.com

Mandarin Garden Club has selected two properties to receive its annual Non-Residential Beautification Award for 2020. This award is given to a local business or organization whose property reflects an effort to maintain the natural beauty of Mandarin.

The two organizations selected this year are Walter Jones Historical Park and Mandarin Museum, and the Mandarin Community Club. Both organizations certainly meet the requirements of making efforts to maintain the natural beauty of the area.

The historical park is full of beautiful



Magnolia at Mandarin Community Club



Orchid tree by the schoolhouse at Walter Jones Historical Park



Cherokee Rose blossom found at the Walter Jones Historic Park

oaks, native plants, seasonal beds, a kitchen vegetable garden, orange trees, an orchid tree, and many other blooming plants through the seasons. The artfully maintained museum and five other historical structures make the park a pleasant place for walks through the trails or on the walkway along the St. Johns River, as well as for picnics, photography, family gatherings, and other social events.

Mandarin Community Club is located farther down Mandarin Road from Walter Jones Park, and is an historical building and property that has huge

oak trees that are hundreds of years old at the entrance to the club and back of the post office. The quaint club house and historical post office located on the property are decorated with seasonal pots of blooms throughout the year. There is a botanical butterfly garden located by the white gazebo. The property has many native plants and the white picket fence adds to the charm of the property.

Congratulations to these two organizations for their attractive properties and for maintaining the natural beauty of Mandarin.

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

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FAVORITE TREAT:
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FAVORITE FRIEND:
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HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:
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This month's contest sponsored by:
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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@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet or sponsor the BFF contest.

Table of Contents

- 4 Q&A with Lori Hershey
- 4 Q&A with Tommy Hazouri
- 5 Q&A with Michael Boylan
- 6 Briefs
- 7 Mandarin student
- 8 Staycations
- 10 Gardening
- 11 The Pantry Raiders
- 14 Fishing
- 15 Travel

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MYSTERY PHOTO



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Last month's Mystery Photo was Julington Creek Marina.
Our winner was Bill Osborn. Congratulations!

Answers to our Puzzles PG 12

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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. fireworks B. lit C. display D. sparkle

WORD SEARCH

Answers to our Puzzles PG 12

Advertisers' Index

Ackerman Cancer Center - Urology.....16	Family Remodeling.....12	Mint Cleaning Services 1	Snip's Tree Service.....12
Affordable Water.....6	George R. Hentschel CPA.....12	Mobility Plus.....15	Starlight Gymnastics12
Alive Credit Union.....15	Harbor Chase of Mandarin.....2	Nemetz Dental Associates.....7	Starling Senior Living.....6
Baptist Health.....11	Jacksonville Singing Telegrams.....9	Pavers Concrete & More.....12	Staverman Hearing Centers.....6
Bishop Kenny High School5	Jim Register - State Farm.....10	Quality Eye Care14	Tousel & Tease.....8
Concrete Works12	JR Dental10	Railing Chiropractic & Acupuncture.....4	Vincent Terlizzi Notary.....12
Dr. Brian Floro DMD.....15	Kim Kessler Legends Real Estate.....4	Renee Lewis.....12	Wild Birds Unlimited.....4
Dr. Erick Aguilar Campaign.....5	Laino & Assoc Financial Group.....2	River Garden14	
Edgewater Realty2	Legal Shield.....8	Smart Choice Medical2	
Elder Source - SHINE.....8	Mandarin Veterinary Clinic.....16	Smiles By Glenos & Hadgis.....9	



with Duval School Board Member,
District 7, Lori Hershey

Q: Do you have an update on graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2020?

A: High school graduation for Atlantic Coast is set for Tuesday, July 21, at 8 p.m. and Mandarin High School is set for Monday, July 27 at 10 a.m. Both graduations are scheduled for the VyStar Arena. If your student attends a high school outside of District 7, please contact me if you need the date and time of graduation for your student.

Q: Will we have any end of the year changes in principals for any schools in District 7?

A: Mandarin High School will welcome Principal Sara Bravo for the 2020 – 2021 school year. Greenland Pines will see the addition of Principal Michelle Hinkley, as Principal Beverly Walker is scheduled to retire in early 2021. Both Principal Walker and Principal Hinkley will lead Greenland Pines for the remainder of the 2020 school year, creating consistency with the overlap.

I have had inquiries from Mandarin High School parents requesting meeting the school's new principal. I am trying to get a date set for this via Superintendent Diana Greene; it will likely be in July.

Q: Is the district looking ahead as to how to proceed with the 2020 – 2021 school year?

A: Both the governor and the president are pushing for schools to reopen. The question is what does that look like? The school board is just beginning to have this conversation regarding the 2020– 2021 school year. At this point, the only thing I am confident about is that next school year will look different from previous years ... at least at the

beginning of the school year. There are so many issues to consider and there are no easy answers.

Q: Will the district allow schools to offer their summer camp programs as in the past?

A: All summer school programs, including reading and math intervention, secondary credit acquisition, English for Speakers of Other Languages maintenance, and Extended School Year Summer Services for students with disabilities — will remain in a virtual environment through the month of June. There will be no Duval County Public Schools summer enrichment camps, community partner camps, or programs on school campuses during the month of June. Some schools may offer virtual summer camps. Families are advised to check with their school regarding availability of virtual camp options. Summer driver education programs are suspended until further notice. We are waiting for state guidance on summer Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten.

As we see how the pandemic situation changes, we will be able to make decisions about summer programs for July, and we will communicate those decisions as soon as they are made.

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

A: I would like to say Congratulations to the Class of 2020! Despite the pandemic, this is a joyful time and you and your families should be very proud.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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



with Jacksonville City Council Member
Tommy Hazouri, At Large District 3

Q: Do you have any updates regarding the park to be built behind the South Mandarin Library?

A: This park is shaping up quite nicely even with COVID 19 delays. The playground equipment/benches and picnic tables have been on backorder with the manufacturer; the installation will happen by the end of 2020.

Q: What's the latest on the newly expanded and renovated Mandarin Senior Center?

A: The Mandarin Senior Center is still closed due to COVID 19. The grand opening will be rescheduled.

Q: An unintended consequence of the virus and the safer at home order has been an increase in overdoses. Can you share local statistics?

A: The Jacksonville Fire Department has seen an increase in opioid overdoses during the COVID 19 quarantine. This time last year, from March 2019 to May 2019, vs. March 2020 – May 2020, the statistics for the following zip codes have increased, in some cases dramatically:

- 32256: up 41 percent
- 32257: up 33 percent
- 32258: up 250 percent
- 32223: down 10 percent

Q: Do you have any City of Jacksonville updates that would be of interest?

A: Starting Monday, May 18, Mayor Lenny Curry suspended the "Work from Home" executive order that requires employees that can work from home, to do so. The city removed the mandate, but hopes that employers and employees continue to allow remote access for those with children and vulnerable populations.

On April 6, the City Council unanimously approved a relief package that allows small business owners to have a no interest, low cost loan to help them keep our Jacksonville citizens employed, and our business owners weather this economic storm. As of May 14, 2020, VyStar has approved 1,099 loans for a total of \$38.6 million and will continue to approve up to \$50 million.

Finally, on May 12, the City Council unanimously approved Ordinance 2020-0254-A supporting restaurants, bars, and retail businesses to allow the sale of alcohol for off-site consumption. This ordinance was approved to allow local business owners to recover from the economic losses suffered during the emergency, while still providing more flexibility for social distancing.

Q: What else do you have to share with Mandarin residents?

A: I'd like to talk about the 630-CITY Tree Planting Program. Would you like a tree planted in the right-of-way in front of your home? If so, the City of Jacksonville will do just that! Simply call 630-CITY and request a tree and you will be contacted by one of the city's arborists. The funding comes from the city's tree fund and the trees are planted at no cost to you.

Additionally, 38 crimes have occurred in the month of April for the Mandarin and Julington Creek areas. This is a good time to remember to be diligent about your safety, especially at home. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office again encourages homeowners to lock your vehicle and house doors at all times.

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

A: They can email me at THazouri@coj.net or call (904) 255-5217.

FYI Contact Numbers

Duval County Local Government (coj.net)

Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Mike Williams, (904) 630-2120
Patrol Zone 3: Assistant Chief Paul Restivo, (904) 630-8100

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: Michael Boylan, MBoylan@coj.net, (904) 255-5206
At Large, District 3: Tommy Hazouri, thazouri@coj.net, (904) 255-5217

Duval County School Board (www.duvalschools.org)

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

State of Florida Elected Officials

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State House District 16: Representative Jason Fischer, (850) 717-5016

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with Jacksonville City Council Member, District 6, Michael Boylan

Q: Can you give an update on how the city is conducting business at this time [as of interview date of May 18]?

A: The City Council is still working to make sure we successfully engage the public. We are still meeting virtually for the May 26 meeting, but I expect that to be the last one. We are working on making accommodations for safety and security purposes, but should have availability for community involvement, especially for committees like the Land Use and Zoning (LUZ), which I know is of great interest to Mandarin residents.

Q: Do you have any updates on ongoing projects that LUZ is involved with?

A: We fully expect to take a few of the deferred projects, like the Loretto Road and the Barkoskie Road issues, up in June.

Additionally, the property on the east side of San Jose Boulevard south of Goodby's Creek that was already approved by LUZ (largely due to it being a land swap) was referred back to the committee to consider some changes. If it passes LUZ again, I expect it to pass the City Council. I did not support this project, largely because of safety issues pertaining to traffic. I felt the safety

concerns of constituents were not sufficiently addressed.

Q: Will you be starting up Town Hall meetings again?

A: I don't have a firm date yet, but I hope to have a community meeting in early July. It will probably be a combination of virtual and in person to accommodate social distancing. I will have the exact date in time for the July Q&A.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 6?

A: While the work of government has continued, especially as pertains to inquiries and constituent assistance, I am looking forward to getting back to business in a more communal environment that is not hindered with the necessity of virtual meetings.

Also, if anyone is interested in receiving my weekly/periodic update email, please let me know. You can email me at MBoylan@coj.net to subscribe.

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.



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society

Just for Fun

This is a postcard of the "Little Train" operated by Mr. Ward in the area where Publix now stands at San Jose Boulevard and Mandarin Road. Folks could take a ride through the woods (now Ramsgate) for 10 cents.

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Briefs

Real estate sales down, pricing up in Northeast Florida

As COVID-19 continued to assert itself throughout April, real estate activity in Northeast Florida kept to a steady pace. There were 2,334 closed sales, similar to February (2,348 sales) or November 2019 (2,354 sales), but a 22.9 percent drop from a year ago in April 2019.

While the quantity of sales were down, pricing took an opposite track. The median for April was \$250,000 and the average sales price topped out at \$298,438. Of all the sales that occurred in April, 15.2 percent were for more than the original listing price.

Surprisingly, although Realtors and others involved in the industry were faced with conducting business using vastly different methods than are considered traditional, sales still took place in an average of 67 days, the exact same number of days as a year ago.

Not surprisingly, the number of sellers adding their home to the market in April dropped 22.4 percent from a year ago, resulting in 3,107 new listings.

Overall inventory dropped to 8,545 properties, or 14.2 percent less than the same month last year. Here's a breakdown, by price, of the 8,545 homes in inventory:

- 2,243: less than \$200,000
- 2,388: \$200,000 – \$299,999
- 2,263: \$300,000 – \$499,999
- 1,244: \$500,000 – \$999,999
- 407: \$1,000,000 or more

April 2020 real estate market reports for Northeast Florida are now on NEFAR.com (Market Stats tab). The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) provides professional development,

political advocacy, professional standards administration, media relations, and promotional activities and exchange of information among its members.

Rotary Club meets via conference call

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rotary Club of Mandarin transitioned its weekly in-person breakfast meetings at the Ramada Inn Mandarin to virtual Zoom meetings.

Additionally, the group looked for new ways to continue its regular service projects. With so many people out of work because of this public health crisis, food banks are struggling to keep up with the increased demand. To continue Rotary's charitable work during this social distancing time, the Rotary Club of Mandarin donated the money that it saved from the missed breakfast meetings, a total of \$5,400, to the Mandarin Food Bank as a virtual service project. If you are looking for a way to help our community and make a difference during this crisis, join the Rotary Club in donating to the Mandarin Food Bank.

Hospital nationally recognized with "A" rating for dedication to patient safety

Baptist Medical Center South received an 'A' rating in the spring 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades, a national distinction recognizing achievements in providing the safest health care for patients. Baptist Beaches, Baptist Nassau and Baptist Jacksonville also received A safety ratings.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, infec-

Briefs cont. on pg. 7

Editorial

Mandarin Museum & Historical Society invites you to become involved with Mandarin's history

By Sandy Arpen
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Museum & Historical Society invites all individuals, families and businesses to become supportive members and volunteers of this exciting and growing organization. This volunteer-led organization has existed for 30 years due to the generosity of the community members' time, talent and financial support. Members and volunteers have always been the foundation of the organization.

"Mandarin Museum & Historical Society shares the stories of Mandarin's history, culture and natural resources by providing engaging programs that educate, entertain and inspire." This mission will be enhanced later this year when Mandarin Museum & Historical Society completes an expansion of the Mandarin Museum building. When this is complete there will be a brand-new interpretive exhibit room dedicated to the story of a National Historic Landmark — the Civil War steamship "Maple Leaf." It will have a revised art gallery and special exhibit room and a totally refurbished main hall, which will include a new "Black History in Mandarin" exhibit as well as an expanded exhibit about Harriet Beecher Stowe and many other stories that have not been told in the past.



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society
Mandarin Museum at Walter Jones Historical Park

Due to the expansion of the museum and the desire to open the four historic buildings in Walter Jones Historical Park more frequently, there is a need for more volunteers to serve as docents on Saturdays and school tour guides during weekdays of the school year. These positions are very flexible and easy to work around any schedule.

We also invite and encourage you to become a supportive member. Being a Mandarin Museum & Historical Society member and/or volunteer will give you the satisfaction and pride of being part of a team of people who value the history of Mandarin and the people and events that were here before our time. Check out our website for a description of member benefits and volunteer opportunities. You can join through a safe and easy way online at www.mandarin-museum.net/join; membership and volunteer applications are right there. We hope you'll join our team and help us as we move ahead in 2020. For more information, call (904) 268-0784.

Sandy Arpen is president of the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.



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Mandarin student tackles global water crisis

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Katia Barker never imagined an eighth grade homework assignment would result in her presenting to the Mandarin Rotary Club on March 3, but inspired by a theology project titled “Making History” at Sacred Heart Greenwich, the high school senior has fought for girls’ education in the developing world ever since by tackling one of its root causes — the global water crisis.

Her presentation described how girls in underprivileged countries walk up to five kilometers each day to the nearest, often contaminated water source to fetch water for their families. Not only does the filthy water carry parasites and illnesses that kill 4,100 children per day — more than AIDS, malaria, and world violence combined — the physical strain of carrying five-gallon, 44-pound jerry cans balanced on their heads subjects them to miscarriages and spinal deformities while crowding out time for school.



Photo courtesy Melina Barker
Katia and Kenn Allen, president of the Mandarin Rotary

Barker is the largest individual fundraiser for Thirst Project, the world’s leading youth water organization. She has raised more than \$43,000 to date and is just \$5,000 away from her fourth well in Eswatini, a land-locked country located between South Africa and Mozambique. She said that new wells drive down disease rates 90 percent overnight and free girls to continue their education.

The Rotary Club of Mandarin made a donation in Katia’s honor to End Polio Now to immunize 50 children against polio. Donations to Thirst Project can be made on her fundraising site at my.thirstproject.org/groundswell.

The appeal of stand-up paddling

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Recreational activities entice people to embrace the great outdoors, particularly in summer. Stand-up paddling is one such activity that has become more popular in recent years. Recent research from the Physical Activity Council, a collective effort on the part of eight leading trade associations in sports, fitness and recreation, found that 3.5 million Americans participate in stand-up paddling. Participation in the sport is split up almost 50-50 by gender (51 percent female, 49 percent male), indicating that stand-up paddling is equally attractive to both men and women.

In addition to serving as a relaxing way to enjoy the beauty of nature, stand-up paddling gets some of its appeal from its relative ease of participating. The Physical Activity Council notes that minimal equipment is needed to engage in stand-up paddling and participants typically spend minimal time and effort preparing for an outing. That makes stand-up paddling an ideal respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and a perfect way to spend some time outdoors for people

whose schedules suddenly clear up.

Would-be paddlers who are curious about the availability of places to paddle should know that more than half of all stand-up paddlers travel less than 10 miles to paddle, proving that just about any body of water provides an opportunity to engage in this activity. People interested in stand-up paddling but unwilling to make any significant financial commitment before trying it out should know that 42 percent of people who do not own paddle boards rent them from local businesses such as on-site rental providers at boathouses or marinas and independent outdoor specialty stores. That makes stand-up paddling among the more accessible activities for people looking to enjoy the great outdoors this summer and beyond.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Stand-up paddling has become more popular in recent years

Editorial

The importance of physical and health education during COVID-19

By William Jackson, M.Ed.

There are times when parents wonder why physical education and health education are important. Online instruction on this recent massive scale is challenging parents, administrators and teachers to adapt to new platforms of teaching. There is a correlation of academic performance for students in elementary school being involved in physical activity and being engaged in health lessons that inspire thinking critically.

Physical activity requires knowledge of how the body works, how the body moves, how the body aligns with skills that grow through engaged physical activity. I have seen students who cannot throw a ball grow into good kickers; their confidence builds and skill sets in fine and gross motor skills develop. I have seen students that are robust in size and weight move across monkey bars with ease, climb over the climbing bars and jump for heights that others half their size cannot do. Kids can accomplish great things as PE and health teachers will tell you — when kids are encouraged and supported. Students look forward to being engaged in physical activity and learning new skills to apply to other areas of their lives. To encourage them to think, reason, grow in areas of interest and importantly fun. Structured physical activity teaches discipline, it builds self-esteem, self-confidence, creates a mindset that life-long learning of physical fitness and health is important.

Health education teachers have been teaching personal skills that are real-life lessons — why hand washing is important, why being mindful of where you put your hands and why you wash your

body regularly and eat healthy foods is important.

This pandemic gives clarity as to why more emphasis needs to be placed on health education and the value of physical and health education lessons. A passionate and purposeful physical education and health education teacher is very important in elementary education to start the foundation for learning, engagement and application of creating fun and enjoyable moments for learning.

How important is the profession to keeping students’ knowledge growing and academically engaged? Physical activity is essential to academic performance of all students. Physical education is not a goal to make every child an athlete, but to share the joy and excitement of physical exercise for their lives and create a value for healthy living and life-styles.

Health education is not a goal to make doctors, nurses or physical therapists, although that would be encouraging. The goal is to teach and reinforce the thinking of learning how to maintain a healthy body, how to care for minor injuries, how valuable eating a healthy diet is to preventing diseases, illness and prevention of obesity. Health education even teaches preventing mental illness because exercise is important for the whole body.

William Jackson, M.Ed., is a physical and health education professional with 32 years experience.



Photo courtesy William Jackson
William Jackson

Briefs cont. from pg. 6

tions and other harms among patients in their care. Developed under the guidance of a national expert panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,600 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade’s methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

“We’re committed to providing quality care that exceeds the expectations of our patients and their families, especially when it comes to safety,” said Nicole Thomas, FACHE, hospital president of

Baptist South. “Our team members and physicians are dedicated caregivers, making sure they adhere to the highest safety standards every day. We monitor, measure and make constant improvements year-round.”

Baptist Health’s safety and quality protocols have been further enhanced during the COVID-19 crisis through a number of additional measures. Separate respiratory care units for COVID-19 patients, designated staff and equipment for COVID-19 rooms, and using advanced UV technology for decontamination are among the many safety reinforcements.

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Enhance staycations with themed fun days

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Staycations are an option for budget-conscious vacationers or people who simply do not want to travel too far from home due to mobility issues or other restrictions. Enhancing staycations with entertaining themes can improve the fun factor. While any themed day can be inspired by an active imagination, these ideas can get the creativity flowing.

- **Superhero day:** Embrace your favorite superhero by dressing up in his or her colors, donning a superhero T-shirt or watching an action-packed superhero movie.
- **Pajama day:** This is a fun theme for rainy days when Mother Nature keeps you indoors. Stay in your pajamas all day and enjoy a cozy, lazy day.
- **Alma mater day:** Parents and children can pull out their trusted college T-shirts, sweatshirts or other school attire. Bake up some tasty treats in school

colors and then find some old photos or look for highlights of your alma mater's sports teams online.

- **Throwback day:** Take a step back in time by playing games or engaging in activities from your youth. Teach youngsters about the toys you enjoyed or watch movies from the era in which you grew up.
- **Crazy hair day:** Embrace bed head, plug in the curling iron, double down on hair gel or pomade, or put those wacky coiffures into full effect.
- **Cultural day:** Tap into your personal heritage by researching your family tree and then preparing a meal that coordinates with your heritage.
- **Arts and crafts day:** Get crafty by tackling a creative project that the family will enjoy. Or engage in individual projects before comparing the final results collectively.

Massacre! The Seminole War comes to Mandarin

By Tracey Arpen
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By December 1841, the Second Seminole War had dragged on in Florida for almost six years and it would not wind down for another eight months. Throughout that time, attacks by groups of Seminoles infrequently reached as close to Mandarin as Julington Creek, but no lives of Mandarin settlers were lost — until Dec. 20, 1841.

Before that night was over, four Mandarin residents would be dead, homes would be destroyed, and a community would be living in fear. The death toll and destruction may have been greater had not a captured slave convinced the party of approximately 20 Seminoles that soldiers were stationed in the heart of the settlement.

The unidentified slave was captured in the afternoon of Monday, Dec. 20. The Seminoles did not believe the slave's report that many men were in the neighboring houses, telling him they had seen the men go out hunting earlier in the day. The following account of the massacre that followed is taken from the St. Augustine Herald of Dec. 31, 1841:

"After nightfall, they approached the house of William Hartley — he was from home — his wife, with an infant in her arms, and Mr. Domingo Acosta, were sitting by the fire — three rifles fired into the open door, behind, by a noiseless, stealthy foe, laid them prostrate in death, with the last words of their peaceful conversation still quivering on their lips. Mr. Malphus, shot through the body, ran out, about thirty yards, to a thicket, where he was found dead in the morning.

"The Indians then proceeded to the home of Nathaniel Hartley, from which the family, alarmed by the three rifle shots, escaped, but not thirty yards in advance. This house they plundered and burnt, as well as the next house belonging to George Hartley, from which also the family providentially escaped."

According to news accounts, they then

proceeded about a mile to the center of the Mandarin settlement, intending to plunder a store; however, the slave convinced them that troops were stationed there, and they turned back. Returning to the vicinity of the Hartley properties, they destroyed citrus trees and hogs, and burned the William Hartley home. Early news reports stated that the Hartley infant was shot in the initial attack, while later accounts said the infant was still alive when the house was set afire. After feasting on the butchered hogs, the Seminole raiding party departed, taking with them stolen gunpowder and about \$1000, of which \$300 reportedly belonged to the slave they finally released.

News accounts of the attack, primarily those in the St. Augustine Herald, were quickly picked up by the national media. The phrase "Mandarin Massacre" would appear in newspapers from Charleston to New York. Some expressed shock that it could have happened in Mandarin, a settlement the St. Augustine Herald described as a "happy and prospering community" of 40 or 50 residences.

This unexpected attack in an area previously felt to be relatively safe from danger, prompted immediate cries for increased protection. In response, Col. W.J. Worth, Commander of the Army of Florida, dispatched soldiers to capture Chiefs Halleck-Tustenuggee and Powisfixico (Short Grass), who were believed to have led the attack. Both were captured by April 1842. Chief Halleck was removed to the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), where he fought for the Union Army in the Civil War.

After the massacre, the Hartley and Acosta families remained in Mandarin, primarily in the Loretto area. They left behind numerous descendants, some of whom still live in Mandarin.

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



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Get to Know . . .

Charleen Morency

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Charleen Morency
Charleen Morency

Charleen Morency grew up knowing the importance of fitness and sports, thanks to her father who was the wrestling, track and football coach and physical education teacher for 33 years at Humboldt High School in Minnesota. He required that all nine children in the family stay active. Morency, the youngest of the family, and her siblings had to choose a sport to play and earn an "A" in PE class. So, she played basketball, softball, volleyball and then settled on the Highlanders Dance Line at Highland High School. Morency also earned that "A." Morency's father worked at the rival high school, so they always played homecoming games against each other. That introduction to health and sportsmanship has served Morency well throughout her life and in her business. Morency, a 25-year Mandarin resident, currently teaches low impact, fusion and Active Older Adults (AOA) fitness classes at both the Brooks Family and the Flagler Center YMCAs. She is also the owner, along with her husband, Dave, of two Wing-It restaurants, one located in Mandarin and another in Oceanway. They love to host "server night" and raise money for the Brooks Family YMCA, raising \$900 – \$1,200 each time to help meet community needs.

A: It all started with fitness instructor Joanie Greggains after high school, basically an aerobic workout. I used to listen to the workout on cassette tape and did it in my bedroom or in the basement. When we moved to California, step aerobics was introduced at the gym. I hated it at first, but then, when we moved back to Minnesota, my sister was teaching it. She taught me how to teach, and it really made sense in my brain when it came to the choreography. I became American Council on Exercise (ACE) certified at that time and began to teach step and hi/lo at a community center. Once we moved to Florida, I started teaching at what was then Planet Premier and eventually became the group fitness manager. Later, I taught at Cory Everson's (a gym for women). In 2005 and in 2008, I got certified in Les Mills' BODYSTEP and BODYVIBE, respectively.

Q: How have your restaurants managed during the COVID-19 crisis?

A: The first couple of weeks I thought that we would go bankrupt. We were offering carry out, but not that many folks were coming in, and it was very scary. We were doing maybe 25 percent of our normal business. We felt badly for our employees, and we were very aware that with our employees we had people's lives in our hands. After Easter, things began to improve as there was more of a support local push. We were able to keep both restaurants open, and we did not have to let any employees go. We have the best customers on the earth. They have supported us, and they routinely give our employees very generous tips. The beautiful thing about our employees was that everyone did what was best for each other, giving shifts to those who needed it the most. And if someone was not comfortable working, they did

not have to work. It all worked out, and we were so grateful for that. The reopening went well. People are definitely cautious about being out, but they are coming out. So, it is a start back to normal life.

Q: You mentioned having health issues for many years and not being able to figure out what was wrong. Explain more about this.

A: I did not feel well for several years with lower back pain and not wanting to eat. I kept going to different doctors, but they could not find anything wrong with me. I finally saw a doctor and inquired about my gallbladder. I ended up having my gallbladder removed, and the doctors found that it had cancer in it. There is a one percent survival rate with that type of cancer. I was very lucky because I did not have to have any chemotherapy or anything. It was a life-changing moment. After that news, I decided that I did not want to spend 24/7 in the restaurant, and I wanted to teach more active adult classes. They are so grateful for what you give them. You give them joy, and they can feel if you are genuine. It became very meaningful and brings me joy to teach seniors.

Q: What is your life philosophy?

A: What I really believe in totally and completely is live and let live. Don't judge other people. Everybody has a story.

Traffic cont. from pg. 1

an violation is \$15 and a possible court appearance.

News stories of injury accidents caused by distracted drivers happen almost daily. Walkers and runners should keep distractions to a minimum. Wearing headphones with inspirational music is popular, but the volume should be low enough as to not to drown out sounds like bike bells or warnings from other walkers and runners. Texting while walking on a roadway is as dangerous for the walker as texting while driving.

Pedestrians need to stay aware of everything around them when they walk or run. Most importantly, always walk or run facing traffic. It is the law.

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To our readers: Remember all the local small businesses that you've asked for years to donate and sponsor your organizations, sports clubs and school events? Right now, they're in need of your support.

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Q: Where are you from?

A: I am from St. Paul, Minnesota. We moved to California, North Carolina, back to Minnesota and then in 1995 to Florida.

Q: How did you get your start in teaching fitness classes?

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Gardening

Still close to home

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

As of early May I'm contemplating a slow, relatively confined summer — staying safe is our family's focus, since we all fall into the "vulnerable" category of folks.

There is a remote, ongoing, free vegetable gardening class available from our Urban Garden Program through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-vegetable-gardening-10-weekly-webinars-tickets-101647614752?aff=ebdssbeac>. Once you register you will have access to the whole series, including previous webinars, which are recorded. It's very popular.

For more information on vegetable gardening, there is a new website from the Extension Service: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/get-growing/>. With the still-restricted services from our local office, this is another useful resource. There is also our own Master Gardener Volunteer help-line: duval-mastergardener@gmail.com as well Extension's latest innovation, a virtual office visit for you to get person-to-person advice: www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b4ea9ae28a3f94-virtual.

I'm attempting to grow summer vegetables and hoping that the harmful insects that are beginning to show up aren't going to be a big problem. So

far I've seen a few whiteflies and some tiny inchworms on our collards. The predatory guys are in evidence, particularly small wasps, cruising around the flowering parsley. While they certainly aren't on everyone's favorite insect list, they do feature on the "beneficial" list. Many wasps are actually harmless to us, and since we know not to antagonize the larger species we can normally co-exist comfortably.

Growing vegetables in the summer can be brutal, but there is an unusual climbing bean that likes our hot humid conditions: the Asian long bean or yard-long bean. It's a rambunctious grower and needs a tall framework on which to climb. Its pea-type flowers are a pretty pale lavender color, which is a plus. There are several varieties, but they should all be picked when the pods are young and firm, not a yard long, for the best texture. They are perfect for stir-fry dishes, or use them like any green beans.

Watching birds has been a pleasure. With an unruly backyard the more timid species have opportunities to move around safely without having to brave open spaces. Recently I observed some migrants, notably an ovenbird, and male and female black-headed blue

Gardening cont. on pg. 14

When to use soap and water, and when to use hand sanitizer

By NewsLine Staff
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In the wake of the global COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020, millions of people across the globe found themselves scrambling for hand sanitizer. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that cleaning hands at key times is one of the most important steps people can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs, there are differences between washing with soap and water and washing with alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

The CDC notes that preventing the spread of sickness through handwashing is most effective when people know which method to use when cleaning their hands.

When to use soap and water: The following are common situations when the CDC advises using soap and water to clean hands.

- Before, during and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the bathroom, changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the bathroom
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal food or treats, animal cages, or animal waste
- After touching garbage
- If your hands are visibly dirty or greasy

When washing with soap and water, the CDC advises people to wet their hands with clean running water (warm or



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
When washing with soap and water, lather and then scrub all surfaces for 20 seconds before rinsing.

cold) and apply soap. Lather the hands by rubbing them together with the soap, making sure to scrub all surfaces of the hands, including palms, backs, fingers, between fingers, and under the nails. Scrub for 20 seconds before rinsing hands clean under running water and drying your hands, be it with a clean towel or air drying.

When to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer: Hand sanitizer should not be applied to hands that are dirty or greasy. Hands that become dirty or greasy after activities such as gardening or fishing should be cleaned with soap and water. The CDC advises using alcohol-based hand sanitizer:

- Before and after visiting a friend or a loved one in a hospital or nursing home, unless the person is sick with Clostridium difficile (if so, use soap and water to wash hands).
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol, and wash with soap and water as soon as you can.

Children should always be supervised when applying alcohol-based hand sanitizer. When using alcohol-based hand sanitizers, the CDC recommends covering all surfaces of the hands with the product before rubbing hands together until they feel dry, which should happen after roughly 20 seconds.



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Nutrition Check

Creating healthy habits

By Kristen Hicks-Roof, Ph.D., RDN, LDN; Marissa Schwam, B.S.
mail@floridanewsline.com

Have you ever thought to yourself, “If I could just stop eating _____, I could lose a few pounds?” Well, you’re not alone. This thought is quite common when trying to identify/change poor eating habits. Even though some are aware of not-so-healthy eating patterns, they can still be very difficult to change, and we may not be ready for change. Most individuals blame it on lack of self discipline, but this can be discouraging and steer us away from making healthier choices. They say it takes 21 days to break a habit — but what if we focused on creating new habits instead of breaking old ones? What we don’t realize is, it is just as easy to form healthy habits as it is to form bad ones! It is said that a habit can be formed in just three days, so, just as we form poor eating habits, we can form healthy habits. All it takes is some determination and these five simple steps:

Determine Readiness for Change. Just because you feel you need or should change a habit, are you truly ready to make this change?

Think SMART. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely. Focus on one habit and be realistic about what you think you can accomplish.

Think Simple. Rather than trying to

change a million behaviors at once, focus on just one. Make specific actions for change.

Setup an Environment for Change. Working with family/friends to achieve similar goals and removing tempting foods from your kitchen, fridge and drawers can be motivating to continue to change and build healthier habits.

Reward Yourself. Once you have set a simple SMART goal, check back in a short period to check your progress. A reward can be small or large; find something that motivates you!

Write down a habit you want to form and why this behavior change is important to you and what outcomes you would like to see. Share your motivations and goals with your family/friends to help you stay on track if you are struggling. Record your progress and on days that may be difficult, you can look at how far you have come. At times, you may feel like you have “failed,” but stay focused and keep trying to change this habit and better the quality of your daily life.

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

The Pantry Raiders

Country favorite makes perfect side dish

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

“Country cooking” has different connotations depending on where one might be in the world. Many people attest that country cooking involves comfort cuisine foods that originated in the southeastern United States. Quite often such cuisine includes biscuits, gravy, fried chicken, boiled greens, and other delicious items made from simple ingredients. Corn muffins can be another staple of country cooking. Corn meal is a versatile ingredient that is the star of this simple side dish that can be made sweet or savory with just a few substitutions. Check out this lip-smacking version of corn muffins, from “Virgil’s Barbecue Road Trip Cookbook” (St. Martin’s Press) by Neal Corman.

Lip-Smacking Corn Muffins

(Serves 4 – 6)

1 ½ cups yellow cornmeal
¾ cup all-purpose flour
½ cup, plus 1 tbsp. granulated sugar
1 tbsp. kosher salt
¾ tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
2 cups buttermilk
½ cup whole milk
2 eggs, beaten
6 tbsp. unsalted butter, melted
½ 8-ounce bag shredded cheddar cheese
1 cup fresh corn kernels

3 tbsp. chopped scallions
3 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
½ tsp. hot sauce



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Lip-Smacking Corn Muffins

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Butter a muffin tin and dust it with flour.
2. Thoroughly combine the first six ingredients in the bowl of a stand mixer or a large mixing bowl, if using a hand mixer. Combine and mix the remaining ingredients in a separate mixing bowl.
3. Slowly add the wet mix to the dry, while blending on low speed. Continue blending until entirely incorporated.
4. Fill each muffin tin three-quarters full of the batter. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes, or until light golden brown on top.
5. Remove the muffin tins from the oven and allow to cool for 15 to 20 minutes. Serve slightly warm.



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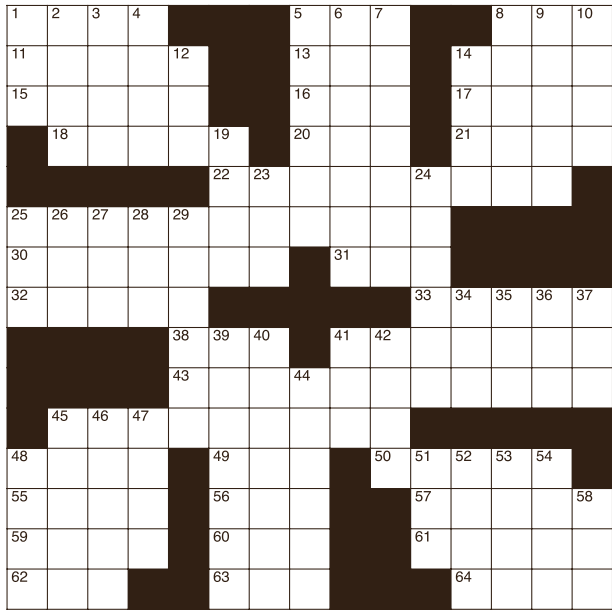


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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Swiss shoe company
5. ___ Caesar, comedian
8. ___ and flow
11. Horsefly
13. Egyptian pharaoh
14. African nation
15. Tony-winning actress Daisy
16. Initial public offering
17. Long-winding ridge
18. Guinea peoples
20. Fellow
21. About aviation
22. Able to make amends
25. Easy to perceive
30. Cut off
31. Northeast Thai language
32. Earthy pigment
33. Water nymphs

CLUES DOWN

1. Indicates a certain time (abbr.)
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Central American lizard
4. Muslim military commanders
5. One who takes to the seas
6. Select jury
7. Parts of the small intestine
8. Painter's accessory
9. Honk
10. Ballpoint pen
12. Large, dark antelope
14. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
19. Exhausts
23. ___-bo: exercise system
24. Not written in any key or mode
25. Chinese principle underlying the universe
26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
27. Powdery, post-burning residue
28. Company that rings receipts
29. Rugged mountain range
34. Commercials
35. NY football player
36. A form of be
37. Soviet Socialist Republic
39. Kindnesses
40. Natural electrical phenomenon
41. Your
42. Diana ___, singer
44. Upper surface of the mouth
45. National capital
46. Fluid in Greek mythology
47. Renowned jazz trumpeter
48. Freedom from difficulty
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Revolutionaries
58. Criticize



Solve the code to discover words related to fireworks. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 12 = L)

A. 10 4 9 21 25 18 9 20 2
Clue: Pyrotechnics

B. 12 4 11
Clue: Ignited

C. 26 4 2 16 12 22 13
Clue: Showcase

D. 2 16 22 9 20 12 21
Clue: Shine bright with flashes of light

FIREWORKS FUN WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- BROCADE
- CAKE
- CHRYSANTHEMUM
- CRACKLING RAIN
- CROSSETTE
- DAHLIA
- FALLING LEAVES
- FARFALLE
- FIREWORKS
- FISH
- FLARES
- GLITTERING
- MINE
- PATTERN
- PEONY
- PISTIL
- ROMAN CANDLE
- SALUTE
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- TAILS
- TOURBILLON
- WATERFALL

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

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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewline.com

We are finally reaching the summer months when the best St. Johns River fishing action begins to occur. So far this spring, a noticeable increase of baitfish, such as finger mullet and early shrimp, are positive indicators of good fishing soon to come.

Like every summer, we can expect a croaker run to start early and last through fall. Redfish will be on docks and pilings, and eventually end up schooling in the river's channels. Flounder, weakfish, and numerous other saltwater species will also be part of the mix.

For many, their favorite time of our summer fishing season is when the shrimp begin to run in the river. Usually by middle or late July, shrimp will have begun their exodus from St. Johns. As the summer progresses, the quantity and quality (size) of the shrimp will increase.

Salinity and the presence of shrimp will be the greatest contributors to the success of this year's fishing season. Too much rain usually has the most influence on both these contributors. Normal summer thunderstorms are just fine and needed, but any kind of tropical disturbance anywhere along the river can often disrupt

good fishing and a summer shrimp run. Remember, the St. Johns River flows north. At any time, 10 or 12 inches of rain in Central Florida will end up coming this way.

Remarkable numbers of folks have been taking advantage of the outdoors in recent weeks as an apparent response to the loss of other activities due to coronavirus restrictions. Boat ramps on weekdays now look like how weekends used to, and weekends now look like the 4th of July. Whether it be hiking, biking, paddling, fishing from a boat, fishing from the surf, or a round of golf, people now seem to be getting outside more and learning to enjoy the great outdoors. Perhaps this could be one positive change in lifestyle that will last long after the pandemic has passed. Wouldn't that be great?

Fishing report: Time to start looking for a croaker or two in the river. Whiting in the surf along with a few bonnethead sharks. Plenty of bream in the shade of area creeks.

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

Gardening cont. from pg. 10

warblers, common yellow throats, and American redstarts. Warblers are often difficult to identify, but these species are very distinctive and are worth looking up online if you haven't seen them before; the Cornell website is a wonderful resource: www.allaboutbirds.org/news/. As well as being lovely to watch, warblers eat a variety of insects and are great garden allies.

In a large stand of shell ginger (probably *Alpinia galanga*), I was fascinated to see how at least one large bee took its fill of the nectar at the base of the flower. Expecting it to either land and

go straight into the flower, or "rob" the flower from the outside by piercing it at the base, I was astonished to see what happened. After landing, the bee maneuvered itself onto the bulky stamen overhanging the lip of the flower and, clinging on, turned upside down to hang from the stamen. From that position it crawled into the flower, thereby dislodging pollen onto the bee's hairy lower abdomen! Since then, I have seen more large bees robbing the flowers, so I'm left wondering if the behavior is species specific.

Stay safe and well, and enjoy your garden!

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Travel

A Ferry to Dry Tortugas National Park

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

“You’re standing in front of Dr. Mudd’s cell,” said the park ranger at Dry Tortugas National Park. “He was an inmate for four years.” During the Civil War, Fort Jefferson served as a prison and physician Samuel Mudd, found guilty of conspiracy in President Lincoln’s assassination (he claimed innocence), was its most famous prisoner. He’s the doctor who set John Wilkes Booth’s broken leg.



tropical terrain — the bizarre ruins of Fort Jefferson encompassing nearly all of the small island.

I joined the others leaving the ferry and unpacked my camera despite the dark clouds and drizzling rain. I’d come to investigate a National Park few are fortunate enough to see. And fortunate I was; soon the clouds cleared and the sun began

to shine.

As I wandered around the grounds, the walls of this behemoth six-sided structure began to speak. They moaned with pain and hardship from those who died here due to the lack of freshwater and rampant yellow fever. Dr. Mudd helped out during the yellow fever epidemic and was later pardoned; however, he was never accepted back into society, which many believe is the origin of the phrase “your name is mud.” A quick check reveals the falsehood.

Today, the National Park in the Gulf of Mexico protects 64,000 acres, but only 93 of those acres float above water. It’s the farthest offshore National Park in the U.S. system. Transport by ferry boat or seaplane is the only way to arrive.

The park survives mainly as a bird and marine sanctuary, drawing birders to the migration of terns. Snorkelers and scuba

divers like to explore the shipwrecks and some of the most pristine coral reefs in North America. The islands sport more loggerhead and green sea turtle nests than anywhere else in North America. Unobstructed dark starry nights attract some astronomy enthusiasts who camp out with park permits. Historians love the site, too, but most are day-trippers.

The park ranger’s guided tour tells the story of 16 million bricks. “The structure is



a 45-foot-high, three-level hexagon, whose 2,000 archways run half a mile around. Still unfinished after nearly 30 years of on-and-off construction, the nicknamed ‘Gibraltar of the Gulf’ succumbed in 1874 to yellow fever, hurricane damage, and the new rifled cannon, which rendered its eight-foot-thick walls obsolete.”

The fort was revived in 1898 as a Navy coaling station and then permanently abandoned in 1907. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt named it a national monument, and it became a U.S. National Park in 1992. A visit makes a great escape.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander

Check for park opening/closing information: <https://www.nps.gov/drto>

Florida Keys information: <https://fla-keys.com>

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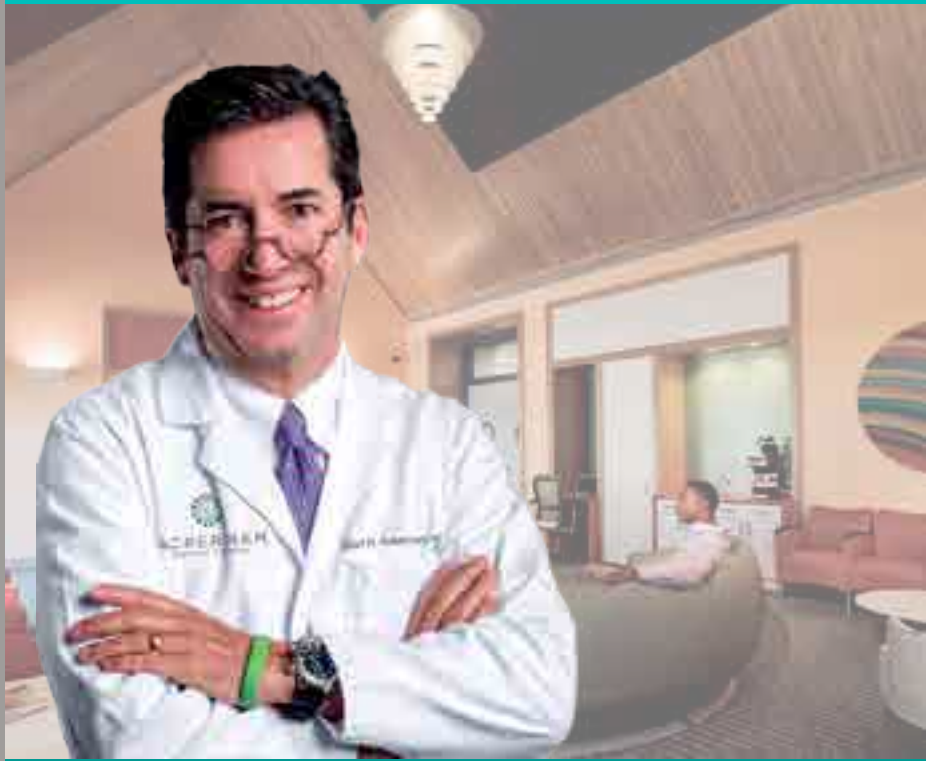
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