

Mandarin NewsLine

AUGUST 2020 Volume 14 Issue 10

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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Community Club blood drive a success ... again!

By Susie Scott
mail@floridanewslines.com

On July 18, the Mandarin Community Club hosted a second blood drive with OneBlood to meet the urgent medical need to maintain blood supply in these challenging times. The three buses on site served as donation centers on wheels with approximately 60 donor appointments. All successful donors got a free COVID-19 antibody test as part of the service. Many blood products and procedures will result from these donations.



Photo courtesy Brett Nolan
The OneBlood bus was at the Mandarin Community Club on July 18.

"We had an absolutely beautiful blood drive on Saturday," said OneBlood's donor recruitment supervisor, Lisa Morris. "It ran perfectly smooth."

Volunteers from the Mandarin Community Club provided bottled waters and social distanced seating inside the comfort of the air conditioned club building as donors waited their turn to make this life saving contribution. Chick-fil-A in Mandarin made sure all donors received a gift package of free cookies and a gift card to the restaurant.

The Community Club is committed to continuing its mission to serve when, where and how it is safely possible.

Native Sons and Daughters set to launch a new season

By Brian Quirk, Flaming Arrow
mail@floridanewslines.com

The Native Sons and Daughters program is a parent/child program enhanced by a Native American theme and is designed to create lifelong memories between fathers and their children. Founded almost 100 years ago, children aged five to 12 are eligible to join and all activities are age appropriate.

The Jacksonville chapter, known as the Timucuan Longhouse of Jacksonville, is in the planning stages of which events to offer this upcoming season. Previous years have seen the group participate in camping, canoeing, archery, fishing, Frisbee golf, ice skating, nature hikes and community service.

This is a special year for the local organization as Timucuan Longhouse member Ray "Creaking Oak" Junk was elected as the club's National Chief (president) at the recent National Board Meeting. Junk will oversee clubs from South Florida to Southern California. Both of his daughters, Silver Sky and Golden Meadow have enjoyed the program with their father.

Junk said, "I was amazed to watch my daughters grow in confidence and make lifelong friends."

Once school is back in session, the

club schedules events for just the dads/daughters and then just for the fathers/sons. This unique format allows a father to enjoy one-on-one time with each of his children and witness first hand the special qualities each child offers. Group events are scattered in during the program year as well.

Campouts are always a big hit with the group. Typically, the club hosts a fall, a spring and a family campout. The Longhouse also participates in the Sunshine State Pow Wow, which is a gathering of Native Sons and Daughters clubs throughout the state. This event is usually held in March. This year, leadership is discussing how to carry out social distancing while still enjoying each other's camaraderie.

Future events such as Costume Bowling, the Monster Jam, and outings to Jacksonville Icemen and Jumbo Shrimp



Photo courtesy Brian Quirk
New National Chief Ray "Creaking Oak" Junk with his daughters, Silver Sky and Golden Meadow.

games are all contingent on executive orders.

The Timucuan Longhouse is a friendly group of fathers who seek to spend exceptional quality time with their children. As the program teaches, "You only have 18 summers to make a difference in your child's life." Native Sons and Daughters members accomplish this one outing at a time.

"Each of us has had to learn resilience, preparedness and about what and whom is truly important in our lives," Junk said. "Capture these moments, learn from them and together we can continue on the long legacy of building positive parent/child relationships".

Email info@nsdjax.org or visit www.nsdjax.org for more information.

Duval County Public Schools adapts to fluid environment; offers options for fall semester

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Duval County Public Schools continues to adapt plans for the coming school year as the pandemic situation in the community continues to evolve.

At a special meeting on July 16, the Duval County School Board requested the administration consider additional alternatives for opening school.

While the situation remains fluid, one thing is clear in the district's plan: families will have options for learning if

their preference is to keep their children at home.

The district is offering two online learning programs for kindergarten through 12th grade students: Duval HomeRoom and the Duval Virtual Instruction Academy. The programs have different advantages depending on what families might be looking for in virtual education.

Duval HomeRoom is the program the district constructed last March when COVID-19 forced all schools into an unexpected home learning program during

community lockdown.

With Duval HomeRoom, students remain enrolled in their regular school. They participate in live lessons and follow the normal school schedule they would experience if they were inside the school building. If pandemic conditions improve and families want to send their children back to face-to-face instruction at the school, Duval HomeRoom supports that flexibility.

Duval County Public Schools cont. on pg. 5

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

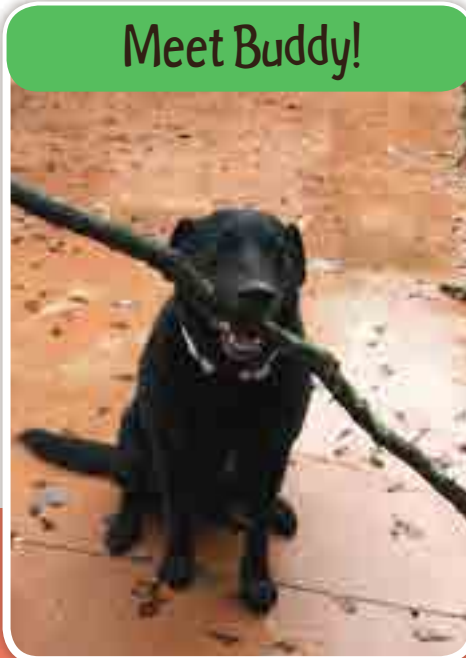
BREED:
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FAVORITE ACTIVITY:
Catching a frisbee or big stick (the bigger the better)

FAVORITE TREAT:
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His owner, Debbie

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When we were first introduced, we became best buddies and the rest is history!



This month's contest sponsored by:
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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!
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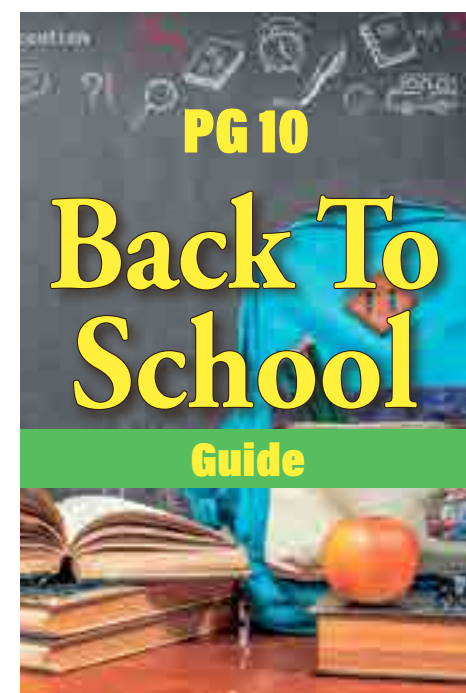


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MYSTERY PHOTO

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

Last month's Mystery Photo was the playground at Losco Regional Park.
Our winner was Stephanie Clement. Congratulations!

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. vision B. retina C. clarity D. distance

Answers to our Puzzles PG 12

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August

Community Calendar

What's Going On in Mandarin? A modified calendar of events

The Italian American Club of Jacksonville announces its Board of Directors meeting on Aug. 5 at 6:40 p.m., a Membership Dinner meeting on Aug. 16 at 1 p.m. and the popular Spaghetti to Go on Aug. 28, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. All activities are at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Visit www.iacofjacksonville.com or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

The shuffleboard group is again playing on courts at Mandarin Park on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. New players are welcome. Just show up about 10 minutes prior to starting time. The shuffleboard courts are at the park entrance next to the tennis courts.

The Mandarin Garden Club will hold its semi-annual \$1 Clothing Sale on Friday, Aug. 28 and Saturday, Aug. 29 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each day. The sale will be held at the club building, 2892 Loretto Road. Visit www.mandaringardenclub.org for more information.

Northeast Florida AHEC announces the following free Virtual Quit Tobacco Classes, which include free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges:

- Monday, Aug. 3, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Wednesday, Aug. 5, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Aug. 11, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 - Thursday, Aug. 13, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Aug. 18, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 - Friday, Aug. 21, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 - Wednesday, Aug. 26, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 - Thursday, Aug. 27, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Monday, Aug. 31, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Call (904) 482-0189 for more information or to sign up.

Email editor@floridanewline.com to have your community group's event included.



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

Q: Can you give us any insight on the mayor's budget that was recently released, especially as it pertains to Mandarin?

A: The City Council has so far only received the highlights of the budget, with details to come soon. The mayor's budget presentation was brief, but the total is \$1.342 billion, which represents a 5.9 percent increase over last year, or \$74 million.

Among other categories, the budget allocates money to the northwest part of the city to catch up on unfulfilled promises for that area. New sidewalks and drainage projects all over the city have funding allocations, as do non-profits and human trafficking.

Q: What happens next to the budget?

A: The mayor's budget is now our budget. The City Council can put more or less emphasis on things we feel are needed. Over the next two and a half months, the council will go department by department to fine tune the budget. The first committee meeting will be on Aug. 1 and then public meetings will be held. The budget must be passed by Oct. 1. Whatever we do, it will be the people's budget; no district will be left behind.

Q: Does the mayor's budget contain any tax increases?

A: There are no fee increases, but I think we need to have an option available should the pandemic get worse before we approve the budget.

Q: Do you know what the city will be responsible for with the upcoming Republican National Convention?

A: I'm asking what is our financial responsibility too. I've sent these questions to the mayor's office and am awaiting answers. The Office of General Counsel for the City of Jacksonville is drafting legislation with the general counsel for the Republican National Committee, which will determine how much the City of Jacksonville receives from the federal government for safety issues, as well as how and when we will receive it. This then has to come to the City Council for approval with a two-thirds vote. The difficult part to ascertain is the contract between the arena and the host party, much like is done with a concert — except this isn't a concert. This is about our health and safety and welfare and I think all state and local guidelines need to be abided by (such as masks/social distancing.)

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.

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with Jacksonville City Council Member,
District 6, Michael Boylan

Q: Can you give us the details about the coronavirus testing site that recently opened in Mandarin?

A: Logistics Health is hosting a testing site at the Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road. The hours are 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. The site is expected to operate for up to six months. While appointments are not required, they are strongly encouraged. Once registered at the testing center, COVID testing will be administered with a nasal swab test. Community members can call (904) 262-7033 for more information.

Q: What is the latest news you can share from the Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) committee?

A: City Council President Tommy Hazouri has appointed me to serve as the chair of this committee for the coming year. What with COVID-19 impacting our ability to host in-person meetings, there is a considerable backlog of applications (well over 125) the committee will be taking up in the coming months as the situation permits.

As you may know, there have been a number of those in District 6, two of which were concluded with the rezoning being approved: Goodby's Creek and Coleman Road. While I did not support the rezoning of the Goodby's Creek parcel on San Jose Boulevard out of traffic safety concerns I did support the Coleman Road, as I believed that the improve-

ments that would come with it would be to the benefit of those living nearby. I committed to nearby neighbors that I will stay close to its development so as to assure the developer lives up to what's been promised there.

Next up is 12-unit fourplex off of Barkoskie Road. It has already been recommended by the City's Planning Department and the recommendation was upheld by the Planning Commission at its June 26 meeting, despite the fact a number of residents spoke in opposition to the project. Should we be able to do so, the LUZ Committee will take up the matter at our Aug. 4 meeting at 5 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Q: Do you have an update on Palmetto Leaves Trail?

A: A new trail system at Palmetto Leaves Regional Park, south to the northwest corner of the intersection of Old St. Augustine Road and Bartram Park Boulevard, has been proposed. The design/build proposal has been approved by the city and the contract amendment has been returned to the city by the contractor. We are awaiting final approval from the Office of General Counsel.

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.

Duval County Public Schools cont. from pg. 1

In contrast, Duval Virtual Instruction Academy (DVIA) is the district's long-standing virtual school. Duval Virtual Instruction Academy is a full school of its own, with its own teachers and administration. It is based locally and under the leadership of the district school superintendent and Duval County School Board.

Participation in Duval Virtual Instruction Academy course work is more independent. Duval Virtual Instruction Academy is a true virtual school meaning students work with teachers, complete assignments, and demonstrate learning without necessarily having classes or lessons at a fixed time of the day.

Duval Virtual Instruction Academy learning support is provided through live chat with teachers. When COVID-19 conditions allow, Duval Virtual Instruction Academy students can have in-person

meetings with teachers and small groups at scheduled times using dedicated space at Wolfson High School.

With Duval Virtual Instruction Academy, instruction is self-paced. Attendance is based on course progression during the week. Because Duval Virtual Instruction Academy is an independent school, students must withdraw from their traditional school, and enroll in Duval Virtual Instruction Academy for the year. Duval Virtual Instruction Academy students may participate in activities and athletics at the physical school for which they are zoned. Home-school students can access part-time enrollment in Duval Virtual Instruction Academy as well.

Families who prefer either of the two at-home options are encouraged to register.

Visit www.duvalschools.org/backtoschool for enrollment information and all the back-to-school plans for the district.

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The outpouring of support by families and the community has been truly heartwarming.

This is a difficult and stressful time for all of us but we will get through it together. While our campus remains closed to visitors, we promise to continue doing all that we can to ensure residents are safe and feeling loved.

Briefs

June real estate: Most monthly sales since July 2019

While COVID-19 continued to be the hot topic of discussion, Northeast Florida's real estate market sizzled as well, according to a recent report released by the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors.

Spiking up from 2,337 sales in May, 3,021 homes changed hands in June, just three sales fewer than June 2019. June's closed sales were also the greatest number of monthly sales since 3,035 sales in July 2019.

Sales prices were equally hot, with a median of \$255,000 (up 5.4 percent from a year ago) and average of \$310,822 (up 4.4 percent from a year ago).

Fewer homeowners opted to become sellers in June, with 3,515 new listings being added (down 1.2 percent from a year ago).

Demand for homes continues to be strong. There was a 21.9 percent increase in pending sales from a year ago, equating to 3,626 contracts to buy a home being signed that did not yet close.

With demand strong, and fewer sellers entering the market, inventory tumbled to 7,545, a 24.1 percent plunge from a year ago. While inventory has been particularly low for several years, 7,545 is less inventory than any month since some point prior to 2009 (NEFAR's reports documenting inventory levels by month extend back through 2009).

Months' supply of home dropped to just 2.8, which is 26.3 percent less than June 2019. A balanced market is considered to be between five- and six-months of inventory. Days on market average for the month was 70, up from 64 days a year ago.

2020 NEFAR President Ron Harris said, "Despite COVID-19, consumers are demonstrating pent-up demand for homes and taking advantage of low interest rates. Sellers are capitalizing on robust sales prices and the lowest inventory in years, with 13.5 percent of June sales going for more than the original listing price."

Newcomers Alumnae launches new website

Newcomers Alumnae was formed more than 22 years ago to give graduates of newcomer groups an opportunity to continue growing in the community and to foster friendships through social activities.

"Even though the pandemic has temporarily forced us to cancel most of our functions, we are still continuing to reach out to our members," said Brooke Freeman, Membership Chair of Newcomers Alumnae. "We have more than 200 members from Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville, Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach and St. Augustine and we're proud to unveil our new website where the public can get more information about our club."

Visit <https://newcomersalumnae.wildapricot.org> or contact brookemeister@msn.com for more information. Find out about the group's many activities such as book club, Bunco, canasta, Happy Hour, Lunch-in, wine socials, mah jongg and adventures and outings.

Groundwater levels and spring flows increased in June

Groundwater levels across the St. Johns River Water Management District rebounded slightly in June after a late spring downward trend, while rainfall varied with above-average rainfall in the north and western portions and below-average totals in coastal and southern regions. A full report outlining hydrological conditions was presented at the district's July Governing Board meeting. Highlights included:

Rainfall

June rainfall varied geographically, with a flip flop from May's rainfall trend.

The district's western and northern counties received above-average rainfall last month, while in May those areas were drier. Coastal and southern counties received below-average rainfall in June, while those areas were the wet areas of the district during the previous month.

Counties with the highest June rainfall were Nassau, with 10.6 inches, Baker and Duval, which received 9.5 inches.

Flagler County had the least rainfall, with 5.7 inches.

Districtwide, the cumulative rainfall total over the last 12 months is 48.3

inches, which is 2.7 inches below the long-term average.

Counties with the greatest rainfall deficit through June were Putnam, Flagler and St. Johns counties, which continue to have a 12-month rainfall deficit of more than 10 inches. These counties have maintained this deficit since March.

Groundwater

Upper Floridan aquifer conditions (groundwater levels) at the end of June were mostly in the normal range throughout most of the district, increasing consistently across the district in June and reversing the downward trend of the previous month.

Groundwater levels are at the 56th percentile districtwide (up from the 39th percentile in May). This means that since 1980, about 44 percent of the time aquifer levels have been higher than they are now.

Visit sjrwmd.com to learn more about rainfall totals and other hydrologic data collected. The district's summertime water conservation message reminds water users to "Watch the Weather. Wait to Water." Visit the district's Water Less campaign webpage at WaterLess-Florida.com and follow the district on social media to learn ways to conserve water outdoors.

Organizations come together to spread joy to local children battling life-threatening illnesses

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Every Friday morning since late May, Community PedsCare along with the Dreams Come True team (dressed as loveable cartoon characters) have made surprise visits on the lawns of cherished families to spread love and joy.



Photos courtesy Community PedsCare

need us the most."

Dreams Come True is the First Coast's only locally-based, wish granting organization dedicated to using the power of a dream to bring hope and joy to every First Coast child battling a life-threatening illness. Since 1984, more than 4,000 children have seen their dreams fulfilled. No eligible child has ever been denied a dream or placed on a waiting list due to financial constraints. Unless otherwise designated, 100 percent of all donations go directly toward dream fulfillment. Visit www.dreamscometrue.org to learn more about the support and services of Dreams Come True.

"In a time of isolation, the Community PedsCare team and our Partners from Dreams Come True, will bring spirit, song, dance and love to our very precious families," said Patrice Austin, Director of Community PedsCare. "This is our version of social love and distance: An unexpected moment of surprise to bring extraordinary to an ordinary COVID day."

To date, nearly 10 homes have been visited by the team. While each stop includes special yard signs and joyous celebrations, music and messages of encouragement are tailored to each child.

"While dream trips and some activities are currently on hold due COVID-19, our determination to bring hope and joy to local dream families has not stopped. We want them to know they are missed and loved," said Ashley Smith, Dream Manager of Dreams Come True. "It is wonderful to have the opportunity to come together with the Community PedsCare team and create unforgettable memories. We look forward to continuing these special celebrations each Friday during these difficult times when our dream families

Since 2000, Community Hospice and Palliative Care has provided palliative and hospice care and support for children living with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions through Community PedsCare®, an award-winning pediatric care program in collaboration with Wolfson Children's Hospital, Nemours Children's Specialty Care and the University of Florida-Jacksonville. The program, one of only a few community pediatric programs in the United States offering both palliative and hospice care, provides clinical, social service, spiritual, child life, medical and volunteer support to improve quality of life for children from prenatal to age 21. Visit www.communityhospice.com to learn more about the support and services of Community PedsCare.

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Memphis Wood: Jacksonville's "First Lady of Art"

By Tracey Arpen
mail@floridanewsline.com

Memphis Wood, a long-time resident of Mandarin, was affectionately known as Jacksonville's "First Lady of Art." She excelled in many aspects of art, including drawing, painting, pottery and jewelry, but is probably best known for her unique and colorful work in fabrics and textiles.

Born in 1902 in a small town in North Georgia, Wood became interested in art when she was 17 years old and talked her older sister into paying 50 cents a week for art lessons.

Wood moved to Jacksonville in 1929 and secured a position teaching art at Landon Junior-Senior High School, where she was one of only three art teachers in Duval County. She taught at Landon until she retired from the school system in 1962. She also taught full time for five years at Jacksonville University, as well as teaching classes at the Jacksonville Art Museum (now the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville) and the Children's Museum (now the Museum of Science and History.)

When her San Marco garage apartment became too small for her to paint and store her works, she decided to move.

"I went out and bought a \$500 Ford, and I found a place in Mandarin where I could build a house," she said.

She built her home on Woodside Lane, just east of the Mandarin Community Club and almost across the street from Charlie Brown, who would become

her lifelong friend and artistic soul mate. She would reside there until she returned to Atlanta and her family several years before her death in 1989.

Through her artwork and her teaching, Wood taught or influenced many local and regional artists as well as the public at large. As Sally Ann Freeman noted, "She has probably done more to communicate what art is all about to the citizens of Jacksonville than any other single artist."

Wood was one of the founders of the Jacksonville Art Museum, which has grown from a house in Riverside to a location in the Koger Center to its present location downtown, where it continues as MOCA Jacksonville.

Many of Wood's works are found in museums and corporate, private, church and university collections. Prior to her death, she exhibited her work in New York, Atlanta, North Carolina. Many of her pieces are in the collection of Mandarin Museum & Historical



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society
A small Memphis Wood piece belonging to the Mandarin Museum collection.

Society, where they will be displayed periodically again once the museum reopens with a renewed art gallery after expansion completion.

An interesting short film titled "An Interview with Memphis Wood" by Peggy Friedmann was created by FSCJ. It can be viewed at www.mandarinmuseum.net/mandarin-history/mandarin-artists/memphis-wood.

Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net for more information about Mandarin's history. The Museum is closed currently due to COVID-19 and expansion construction.

Tracey Arpen is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society.

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RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS

Mandarin Community Club celebrates Independence Day – Virtually

By Susie Scott
mail@floridanewsline.com

This was certainly an unusual and stressful 4th of July as we all monitored the potential spread of the coronavirus over a holiday weekend. Because the Mandarin Community Club could not host an event for members or the community, one of our directors took on a virtual and “socially distanced” video project to help celebrate the occasion.

Brett Nolan (yes, the “Back in Time” author whose articles you may have read right here in Mandarin News-Line), took on the task of making a special video to share the history and

the recording date and worked every day until we shot the video.

Q: Was it scripted from beginning to end or spontaneous in part?

A: It was actually a combination of off the top of my head comments and reflections and scripted message.

Q: What are your goals for this video event?

A: I hope that next year we can celebrate the 4th of July together at a scheduled event at the Mandarin Community Club and hold an in-person



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— Resident Mary M. (with her dog, Jade)

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Photo courtesy Susie Scott

Brett Nolan read the Declaration of Independence in its entirety as part of his video project to celebrate the 4th of July.

significance of Independence Day. He decorated the Mandarin Community Club both inside and outside to commemorate the holiday and then filmed a personal message. He also read the Declaration of Independence in its entirety.

Following are some of his comments about his project, which is available on the Mandarin Community Club’s Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/mandarincommunityclub/>

Q: Why do this project and why now?

A: I felt it was timely for Independence Day and since we could not do an in-person event at the club, I could do something for the community. It also was a way to incorporate use of the club stage that has not been used in a while and fun to dress up in period appropriate apparel.

Q: How many hours did you dedicate to this video project?

A: I started decorating the week before

reading of the Declaration of Independence, along with guests from SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) or others to set the historical context — so we really understand the significance of the document and reflect on its importance. I also hope that next year we might have the historic bell discovered at the club in operating order to ring at the end to honor Independence Day. I think it’s important to go back in time and reflect on our history which tells us a lot and that we can be hopeful which is especially important now.

Nolan has also decorated many of the historic landmarks of Mandarin in the past year and encourages everyone to share the spirit of Independence Day and every holiday with suitable decorations to bring cheer to all in Mandarin, along with a shared sense of community. Nolan was joined in his recent efforts by Zach Stanch, Chelsea Stanch and Tyson Lassen.

Susie Scott is president of the Mandarin Community Club.



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Get to Know . . .

Brett Hartley

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Brett Hartley
Brett Hartley

Crown Point Elementary School principal Brett Hartley said that education is in his blood — his whole family is involved in education in some way and his father is even a retired principal. Strong in math and science, Hartley tried to go in a different direction than the family business; his original dream was to be a pediatrician. After graduating from high school in Polk County (he was in the International Baccalaureate program) he went to college at the University of North Florida to fulfill his dream. An upper level class in quantitative analytical chemistry made him change his mind when he decided that maybe chemistry wasn't as much fun as he originally thought. He ended up focusing on his more creative side and obtained his degree in communications with an emphasis on advertising instead.

Today, he is an accomplished educator who has earned Teacher of the Year honors twice — once in 2007 at Denison Middle School in Winter Haven and again in 2009 when he was also a semifinalist for Duval County Teacher of the Year, representing Twin Lakes Academy Middle School. He has been principal of Crown Point Elementary School since 2016.

Q: How did you get from your communications degree into the education field after all?

A: Even when I was still in college, when I went home to Polk County for winter break, I would substitute

teach at the middle school there. After graduation, I decided to give in to the education call and get my teaching certificate. I taught middle school math for four years at Denison Middle School and then a teacher who was a strong mentor for me retired. So I decided to go back to Jacksonville and teach there. I taught seventh grade math at Twin Lakes Academy Middle School for about five years before I was promoted mid-year to sixth grade assistant principal. From there, I served as assistant principal at Fletcher Middle School and Wolfson High School before coming to Crown Point as an assistant principal under retiring principal Jayne Owens-Thompson for a year. She was amazing and taught me so much. I became principal the next year.

Q: What was it like to transition from middle and high school to elementary school?

A: Going from middle school to high school wasn't too big of a deal, but it was very scary to go from secondary to elementary. It was a big decision for me, but I had a lot of people encouraging me to try it — and since I always want to do every experience I can get, I decided to try it. I'm so glad I had the year as assistant principal first. At this point, I don't want to go back to secondary school. I love elementary school — the positivity of the kids and their eagerness to learn. This is the right environment for me.

Q: What is the most challenging part of your job?

A: Definitely trying to balance everything. I want to create a positive environment where kids can learn and

that has to be balanced with the need for test scores and accountability. I try to push hard, but in a positive, warm and loving environment.

Q: What is the most enjoyable part of your job?

A: Definitely the kids and watching them grow and learn. I also have been known to slide down the playground slides with the five year olds! This year will be my sixth year at Crown Point and this year's fifth graders were kindergarteners when I started, so I've seen them the whole way. It's amazing to see their journeys. I also enjoy working with our teachers. I'm blessed to have an incredible and hard-working staff. They make my job so much easier.

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

A: I have two rescue dogs, both chihuahua mixes, that keep me busy: Sophie and Oliver. I also like to relax and maybe watch some television ... just zone out from the "busy-ness" of being a principal. I like to swim and visit friends and I just took up ballroom dancing lessons this past year. Sometimes I find myself dancing at Publix!

Did you know?

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 left no aspect of life untouched, and education was no exception. The short-term effects of stay-at-home measures were felt immediately by millions of students across the globe. But there will be long-term effects, too, and one of the first such long-term dominoes to fall was the relaxation of SAT requirements for aspiring college students.

As stay-at-home measures lasted longer than many people initially anticipated, high school students learned that SAT and SAT subject tests were being canceled. The Princeton Review® noted in late May that the College Board added a new test date for September after the June tests were canceled; however, many schools have dropped the SAT and ACT requirement for fall 2021 admissions. The University of California, which includes nine different schools in its system, suspended the requirement for students applying for fall 2021 in early April, and many schools followed suit in the ensuing months.

As prospective high school seniors prepare for their final year of high school and begin thinking about where they want to apply for college, they should work with their guidance counselors to determine just what is required of them during the admissions process.

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Back To School

Keep devices in top shape and running well

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The need for reliable technology has never been more apparent. When the world hit the proverbial pause button in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, technology was crucial to keeping people connected to the world around them, helping people maintain some semblance of normalcy as it pertained to work and education.

Students and families who have invested in various electronics to help keep their household running should understand that maintenance is required to keep these devices running effectively. These tips can help keep gadgets in tip-top shape.

- Protect devices from extreme temperatures. Electronic devices are designed to operate under an array of conditions, but pushing those conditions can result in damage. Most devices are fine between temperatures of 32 F and 90 F. But don't leave electronics in the car, in a sunny window or outdoors.

- Clean devices regularly. Refer to the user's manual for the proper ways to clean the devices you rely on each day. Some may require a specific cleaner or a particular fabric to help ensure the device isn't scratched or damaged. Spray cleaners on a cloth and then wipe off devices, rather than spraying cleaners directly on electronics. Try a can of compressed air to

remove dust from crevices or vents.

- Invest in a surge protector. While surge protector power strips multiply the number of available outlets, they also serve a more important purpose. These devices will cut off power to plugged-in electronics if there is a power surge, helping to prevent damage.

- Don't overcharge. It's essential to have gadgets charged and ready to go, but overcharging can reduce battery life. Do not leave devices charging overnight. Battery University[®], a free educational website offering battery information, says that nickel- and lithium-based batteries should be stored with a 40 percent state-of-charge. This level minimizes age-related capacity loss and keeps the battery in good condition.

- Use protective cases. Cases can prevent damage if devices are dropped and also may safeguard against scratched screens. Cases and covers also minimize dust and dirt on devices.

- Keep software up-to-date. Security issues may arise when software is not updated, and programs may not run effectively or be compatible with others. Along the same vein, routinely clean out unused files to free up space, and clear cookies and browser histories to maintain speed and efficiency.

How to prepare kids to go back to school

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The end of summer can be a bittersweet time for students. While many students look forward to seeing their friends, few want to say goodbye to the relaxing days of summer. Parents know that getting their children back in the school day swing of things can be a challenge. The following are some ways to make that transition go smoothly.

- Introduce more structure as summer vacation winds down. The chance to unwind in a structure-free setting can benefit students at the onset of summer vacation. Many parents grapple with the notion that their children's lives are overscheduled, and the Cleveland Clinic notes that limiting organized activities clears up downtime for kids to play and relax and spend time with their families. So it's important that parents afford their children this down time during summer vacation, only gradually introducing more structure as the school year draws closer. In the weeks before the school year is slated to begin, start waking kids up a little earlier and reintroducing bedtimes for younger children who may have been staying up later over the last couple of months. This can be an effective way to begin slowly preparing youngsters for the structure of the school year.

- Encourage children to read through-

out the summer. A report from the education publishing company Scholastic found that 47 percent of parents are unaware of the "summer slide," which refers to the loss of academic skills that occurs when school is not in session. Scholastic notes that the slide is largely attributed to a lack of reading when school is not in session. By encouraging kids to read during their summer vacations, parents can make sure youngsters' brains stay sharp and are ready to learn once the school year begins.

- Focus on the positive. Even kids who love school may be apprehensive about returning to the classroom. After all, summer vacation is fun. Parents can confront that apprehension by focusing on the positives of returning to school. Emphasize the chance to see friends every day or participate in a beloved extracurricular activity, like sports, band or a favorite academic club.

- Let kids do some of their own back-to-school shopping. The items that constitute back to school supplies may have changed since parents were in school. But many parents still take their children on back-to-school clothes shopping excursions. Let kids choose their own clothes, as an opportunity to wear clothes they picked themselves might make them excited for the new school year.

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Nutrition Check: Want to feel great? It's all in the plate!

By Kristen Hicks-Roof PhD, RDN, LDN and Marissa Schwam BS
mail@floridanewsline.com

Wanting to obtain a healthy lifestyle has become quite popular over the last decades; however, there is a lot of misleading information that people have been utilizing in order to obtain their goal of becoming healthier. There are countless "fad diets" that promise quick fixes, rapid weight loss, and even detoxification. The truth is, obtaining a healthy lifestyle doesn't mean you need to restrict food groups or starve yourself to lose weight. It's all about how you build your plate. Every plate we make is a building block for a healthier lifestyle, so it is important that we include all food groups as a part of our meals and snacks. Here are some easy steps to help you build your plate and obtain the goal of a healthier you.

1. Aim to make half of your plate full of fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables are full of nutrients that support healthy functioning of your brain, cells, skin, and everything in between. Try to include all different colors such as orange, red, purple, white and green.

2. Don't forget whole grains. Try to make at least half of your grains whole. Whole grains are a great source of B vitamins and natural fiber, which helps

reduce cholesterol and helps keep you regular. Try some ancient whole grains including barley, bulgur, quinoa, sorghum, or wild rice.

3. Protein should take up the last quarter of your plate. Choosing lean or plant proteins will help you reduce your intake of saturated fat, which has been shown to increase your risk for heart disease and strokes. Lean or plant proteins include chicken, turkey, nuts, beans, tofu, and even some cuts of beef such as flank or strip steak.

4. Switch it up by trying to add in some "new" foods to your regular routine. Keep mealtime fun by picking out foods you or your family have never tried before like chia seeds, lentils, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, or edamame.

5. Don't ignore your cravings. If you have a sweet tooth, you can always satisfy this craving in a healthy way. You can always do fresh fruit parfait with whipped topping, yogurt or some mini white chocolate morsels. If you like hot desserts, then you can try baking apples or peaches.

Improve your crossword-solving skills

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Crossword puzzles are an integral component of newspapers. In addition to their entertainment quality, crossword puzzles can help improve cognition and brain health in individuals of all ages.

The first known crossword puzzle to be published was created by a British journalist named Arthur Wynne, who is often credited as the inventor of crosswords. The first puzzle appeared in the New York World on Dec. 21, 1913. The original crossword was diamond-shaped and did not feature the familiar black squares.

Throughout the 1920s, crossword puzzles became a standard offering in many newspapers. During this period, puzzle shapes evolved to the more familiar form, and certain puzzle standards were established. Puzzles now appearing in most North American newspapers and magazines feature solid areas of white squares. Each letter is usually part of both an "across" word and a "down" word, and usually each answer must contain at least three letters. In these puzzles, shaded squares are typically limited to about one-sixth of the total.

It is estimated that around 50 million people in America routinely partake in crossword puzzles. Each year, one best-of-the-best is crowned in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament.

Here are some tips that can help improve your crossword-puzzling skills:

- Practice. A lot. Practice makes perfect, even with crossword puzzles. Start with simple puzzles and work up to the more difficult ones.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Crossword puzzles are a newspaper staple. Practice is one of the key strategies to improving completion rates on these word games.

- Divide and conquer. Divide the puzzle into smaller sections and complete each cluster before moving on. It's easier than completing all of the across or down clues.

- Watch "Jeopardy." Puzzles used to be comprised largely of definitions, but they now incorporate just about every subject. Improving general knowledge and perhaps watching trivia shows can help with puzzle completion.

- Learn repeat offenders. Over time you may recognize certain words appear in puzzle after puzzle. You'll soon be able to match the clues to these repeat words.

- Familiarize yourself with multiple word meanings. Remember to think like a puzzle creator, who is probably trying to stump you. The word "flower" may not imply the blooming plant. It may represent something that "flows."

- Take a break. Taking a few moments to step away from the puzzle before returning to it can clear the mind and make answers more apparent.

The Pantry Raiders

Turn your grill into a pizza maker

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Some say an outdoor kitchen isn't complete without a pizza oven. A delicious pie straight out of a blazing hot oven can be delectable when dining al fresco, but pizza also can be made right on the grill.

This recipe for "The Chicagoan" from Craig W. Priebe's "Grilled Pizzas & Piadinas" (DK) utilizes grilled beef and sliced potatoes to give this grilled pizza a steakhouse flavor. Use a homemade dough or your favorite premade variety available at your local grocery store.

The Chicagoan

(Makes a 12-inch pizza)

1 russet potato, peeled and sliced about ¼-inch thick
3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
8 oz. top sirloin or strip steak
½ tsp. salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1 grilled pizza crust
1 tbsp. grated Parmesan
1 cup shredded mozzarella
½ cup shredded cheddar
1 cup chunky tomato sauce
½ cup thinly sliced red onions
¼ cup sour cream
2 tbsp. minced fresh chives



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
The Chicagoan

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Place the sliced potato in a large bowl and toss with two tablespoons olive oil, salt and pepper. Line a baking sheet with foil and spread the slices in a single layer. Bake for about 15 minutes, until the potato is golden and tender. While still hot, loosen the slices with a spatula so they don't stick.

Prepare a grill for direct cooking over high heat. Season the steak liberally on both sides with the salt and pepper. Grill the steak over the hottest part of the fire for 4 minutes. Turn and grill for 4 minutes longer, until the steak is medium-rare and well charred. Remove and let sit for 5 minutes. Slice thinly.

Brush the grilled side of the pizza crust with the remaining one tablespoon olive oil and dust with the Parmesan. Sprinkle the mozzarella and cheddar on top. Drop spoonfuls of the chunky tomato sauce onto the pizza. Top with the potato, red onion and the steak.

Grill the pizza with indirect heat. If your grill is still hot, move coals to one side or turn off one burner and allow the pizza to cook on the side without a direct flame. Grill the pizza for 5 to 8 minutes, or until the crust is crisp and brown. The bottom may have a few black spots from charring.

Before serving, drop teaspoons of the sour cream onto the pizza, and garnish with the fresh chives.

(Grilling the crust: To grill a pizza crust for this recipe, roll out to a 12-inch circle and place on a cookie sheet. Adjust the grill to reach a temperature of 400 F. Slide the dough onto the grill. The dough should take about 3 minutes to cook. Watch for bubbles. The crust will be soft at first and tear easily. To check doneness, lift the underside. It should be an even light brown with brown grill marks. Pick up the crust using tongs and place it on your cookie sheet. Flip it over so the grilled side is face up. This browned side becomes the top of your pizza.

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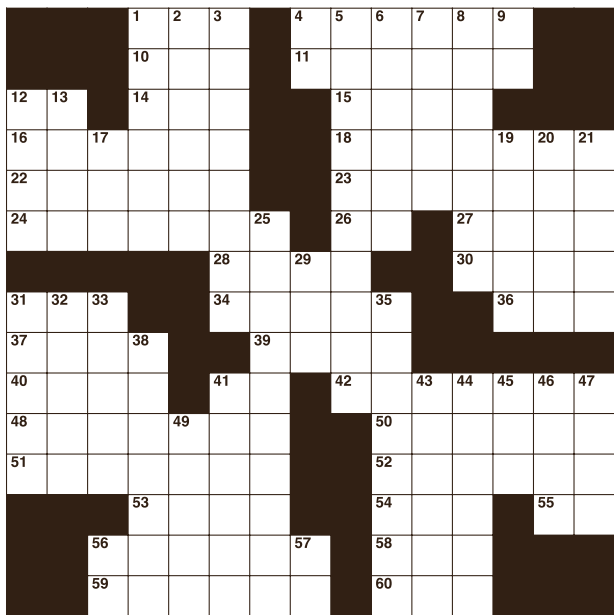
18001 Wells Rd. Jacksonville, FL

Donald Smith, Owner

donnietreelife@gmail.com

Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Opposite of on
- 4. Creator
- 10. No seats available
- 11. About springtime
- 12. Flagship ESPN show (abbr.)
- 14. Automobile
- 15. A matchup
- 16. Porous volcanic rock
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Not written in any key
- 23. Revolved
- 24. Archival
- 26. Within
- 27. Smoker's accessory
- 28. Disfigure
- 30. Primordial matter
- 31. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- 34. Kisses

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Passerine birds
- 2. Noisy quarrel
- 3. The front arm or leg of an animal
- 4. Early multimedia
- 5. Golden years
- 6. Large mollusk
- 7. Small arm of the sea
- 8. Persian jurisdiction
- 9. Atomic #81
- 12. From end to end
- 13. Adorable
- 17. Ma
- 19. Nearly falling
- 20. Portable conical tent
- 21. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 25. Fish with high dorsal fins

CLUES DOWN

- 29. Equal (prefix)
- 31. Aquatic plant genus
- 32. Choppers
- 33. Hand parts
- 35. Region bordering the sea
- 38. Well-liked
- 41. Nap
- 43. It's used to make beer
- 44. Related on the father's side
- 45. Senior officer
- 46. Delicacy (archaic)
- 47. Figures
- 49. A way to take away
- 56. Beloved sandwich __&J
- 57. Symptom typical of withdrawal (abbr.)



Solve the code to discover words related to eye health and safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 15 = I)

A. 26 15 17 15 2 4
Clue: Ability to see

B. 21 10 18 15 4 24
Clue: Part of the eye

C. 3 6 24 21 15 18 7
Clue: Sharpness of image

D. 19 15 17 18 24 4 3 10
Clue: Length between objects

EYE HEALTH WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ALLERGIES
- BLURRY
- CARE
- CATARACT
- CONTACTS
- CORNEA
- DEBRIS
- DILATED
- DOCTOR
- DOMINANT
- FLASHING
- FLOATERS
- GLASSES
- ITCHY
- MACULA
- OPHTHALMOLOGIST
- OPTOMETRIST
- PAIN
- PUPIL
- READING
- REDNESS
- RETINA
- SIGHT
- VITREOUS

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

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For all other information, please contact the park President Bernie Bernich at maabaseball0@gmail.com

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Travel

Road Trip: Sarasota

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
The Ringling Mansion, Ca D'Zan.

John Ringling made Sarasota his winter home as well as that of the circus during the early 1900s through 1959. The lush tropical grounds of the Ringling Museums are free to the public, but you need to buy a ticket to go into the Circus Museum or Ca D'Zan, Ringling's former home that looks like a Venetian palace fronting Sarasota Bay.

Marie Selby Gardens, an outdoor botanical garden in the downtown area, makes what I'd consider a somewhat COVID-safe destination. Specialty orchids flourish here with more than 4,000 live specimens. Selby's sister property, Historic Spanish Point, lies 11 miles south of the city center. I recently visited and discovered another oasis with canopy cov-



Miniature Circus in the Circus Museum.



Ringling Museum of Art Courtyard.

Road trips have become the way to travel this summer, especially those within our own state and those offering a variety of outdoor activities. Sarasota fits the bill, lying south of Tampa on the Gulf Coast, about a four-hour drive.

Sarasota prides itself on its white-sand beaches with Siesta Key beach appearing annually on "Top Beaches in the U.S." lists. Siesta Key Beach lies on a crescent-shaped barrier island and runs eight miles long. Visitors and residents also enjoy Longboat Key and Lido Key beaches. Venice earned the nickname the Shark's Tooth Capital of the World, due to the thousands of fossilized teeth that wash up each year on this south Sarasota County beach.



Yellow orchid at Marie Selby Gardens.

The Ringling Museum of Art (on the same grounds) offers complimentary admission on Mondays. Ringling left his treasured collection of Medieval, Renaissance, Greek, Roman, and Cypriot antiquities to the state of Florida upon his death. The luxurious pink building with a Renaissance façade stands as Florida's official art museum. The courtyard in the center ranks as my favorite spot in the city. Columned walkways, fountains, flowers, and statues, including an exact copy of Michelangelo's David, lie scattered within the space, a calm respite any day.

ered trails. It resembled an Adirondack style camp from a past era, except with palm trees. A cottage used by socialite Mrs. Potter Palmer overlooks the water with a formal sunken garden, pool, and pergola. Further along, a fern garden and a butterfly garden include imaginative statuary that captivated my interest.

Children (and photographers) love Jungle Gardens, featuring the chance to get close and/or feed pink flamingos. Reptiles and tropical birds thrive amongst other creatures in this 10-acre outdoor setting. Those interested in marine life should visit the Mote Marine Aquarium, where you will find a 135,000-gallon shark habitat, resident manatees, and sea turtles. Those look-

ing for more exotic species can visit the Big Cat Habitat.

Myakka River State Park offers a chance to kayak through a mangrove forest tunnel or bike along its 20 miles of trails. Florida's mangrove forests form shady canals where larger boats can't go.

Most Sarasota restaurants offer outdoor dining and covered terraces. The Columbia of Armand's Circle pleases many, or try Ophelia's on the Bay on Longboat Key.



Sunken Garden and Pergola, Historic Spanish Point.

If you go: VisitSarasota.com

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

Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
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What to do, what to do?

We have now reached the time of year when fishing on the St. Johns River is really beginning to turn up a notch or two — or three. We have shrimp in the river, and we have fish that feed on the shrimp in the river. Sometimes trying to decide whether to fish, shrimp, or fish and shrimp can be difficult. Making the right call could be the difference in coming home with a full or empty cooler.

To avoid a "feast or famine" type situation on your next trip out, think like a boy scout and "be prepared." If you are going shrimping, bring fishing rods. If you are going fishing, bring your cast net.

The best shrimping (like fishing) is often tidal. When the tide is not right, shrimping can be a lot of work with minimal results. When this happens, try taking off for an hour or so to your favorite nearby fishing spot. Set the rods out, relax and rehydrate. If the fish are biting, take advantage and keep on fishing.

The same can be done if you are fishing first. Try a few throws of your cast net

before you fish just to catch bait. If you just happen to get on them really well (like dozens per throw), then take advantage and load up. After getting enough shrimp for a dinner or two and bait, continue on with your fishing plans.

Through the month of August and into September we can expect shrimping and fishing to continue to improve. We can also expect the shrimp to get larger as the season progresses. Weather often



Photo courtesy Bill Edwards

Jim Bagnardi caught a 21" flounder in the Intracoastal Waterway near the St. Augustine inlet on July 10.

plays an important role in the length and quality of our shrimping season, and the fishing that coincides. Let's hope that this year's weather mix delivers the proper formula needed for a long and prosperous shrimping (fishing) season.

Just a thought. Often when culling our bycatch of smaller shrimp, we are tossing back shrimp that have already died. Keeping these same "toss backs" in the mix of your five-gallon bucket has been for many, a money saving practice. By saving these smaller shrimp for future fishing trips, the need and hassle to purchase bait is eliminated.

Fishing Report: Reds, drum, croakers (all cousins) being caught from Buckman to

Green Cove. Shrimp from Doctor's Lake to Green Cove. Still decent size whiting in surf at area beaches.

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

Email your Catch of the Month photo to catchofthemothpictures@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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Gardening

Summer - Bugs and More

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

I have had a small potted citrus tree — shrub, really — for quite a few years. It's a limequat, a cross between a kumquat and a Key lime. This year it began flowering a few months ago and I had

hopes of some fruit, but all the flowers fell. It was then I noticed that some leaves had been chewed ragged, and I found the culprit was a bright green American grasshopper (*Schistocerca americana*). It wasn't an insect that I had seen before, but I found a second one a few weeks later in among my tomato plants. This creature varies in color before it reaches its adult stage, depending on the number of them in proximity,

and thankfully green ones don't occur in large numbers: http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/field/american_grasshopper.htm. When you see multicolored grasshoppers, the population will be larger and you should be vigilant to protect your plants. I caught both of mine and disposed of them — underneath a brick!

Watching zebra longwing butterflies in my yard has been a wonderful diver-

sion, but I hadn't given their lifecycle much thought. Yes, they lay tiny yellow eggs on young passion vine shoots, which hatch into white caterpillars with black spines that then pupate and



Photos courtesy Metro Creative

form dark crinkly chrysalides with appendages like horns at the bottom. When they emerge, or eclose, the new butterflies rest while their wings expand fully and then they go on their way, to breed, lay eggs, and so on: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN80500.pdf>. Most butterflies' lives follow the same pattern, but the food for their caterpillars will vary from species to species. It wasn't until my husband asked

me how long they live that I took a closer look, and I was surprised to learn that zebra longwings can live up to six weeks, and the reason is that their diet includes nutrient-rich pollen as well as nectar, which is highly unusual. One chrysalis formed outside my kitchen window and my attention was drawn to it by the behavior of other zebra longwings: two or three at a time would flutter around it, as if they were checking it out, and further research told me

that they probably were. Males of the species are known to mate with females while they are still in their chrysalides. Finally I saw two butterflies resting on each side of the chrysalis, and they remained there for several hours at least, so perhaps the female had emerged to join her mate: www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/100years/zebra-longwing/.

It's truly summer, with temperatures in the '90s and high humidity, and when our days are rainy it's great not to have to water so much. This is a gentle reminder, particularly for anyone with an automated irrigation system, to make sure it is operating efficiently, and preferably employs a soil moisture meter to prevent the system coming on unnecessarily: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/irrigation/>. Overwatering is a major cause of lawns succumbing to disease, overgrowth of weeds, and even insect damage. Visual signs to indicate a thirsty lawn can include a slightly blue cast, folded leaf blades, and the impression of footprints remaining when it's walked on. It's also worth noting that lawns have different needs for water than do shrubs and flowerbeds, so make sure an irrigation system runs in zones accordingly.

Check out the latest New Leaf – Yard and Garden newsletter (<https://tinyurl.com/yxuhw2qq>) for topical information and advice.

Stay safe and keep cool.

News from the Mandarin Garden Club

By Diana Openbrier
mail@floridanewsline.com

Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road, will hold its semi-annual \$1 Clothing Sale on Friday, Aug. 28 and Saturday, Aug. 29 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each day. The proceeds made from this sale help to support the club's local charities and to care for the garden club grounds and building that is enjoyed by the community.

The sale will contain many tables of gently used clothing for men, women and children and a large area will be covered with beautiful clothing items and scarves, purses and other items for \$1. Jewelry is offered separately at bargain prices. There will be a small boutique area with name brand new and high end quality clothing; these items will be priced only a few dollars more. Good gardening gloves are also for sale.

Attending the sale is also a great opportunity to walk the beautiful gardens of the garden club and meet people from your community. CDC guidelines will be followed.

The garden club is available for rent for parties, weddings, reunions, and all kinds of special occasions. In trying to be of help to our community, the prices for renting the club are lower than many venues in the area.

Visit www.mandaringardenclub.org for more information about the club and the different subgroups called circles that meet at various times, including evenings.

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