

Mandarin NewsLine

February 2025 Volume 20 Issue 2

A Florida NewsLine Publication



page 3

BFF Best Furry Friend



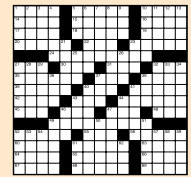
page 5

Q&A with
with Michael Boylan



page 7

Get To Know ...
Vincent Terlizzi



page 8

Puzzles

February brings variety of kids' programming to the library

By Jeremy Yates
mail@floridanewsline.com

This year marks the 125th anniversary of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," written by Jacksonville's own James Weldon Johnson and his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson. Celebrate this song with us Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 4 p.m. at South Mandarin Library.

Speaking of singalongs: Little Readers storytimes (for birth to age five) continue Fridays at 10:15 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Mandarin Library or Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. or 11 a.m. at South Mandarin Library. We also offer a Sensory Friendly Storytime Wednesdays from 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Mandarin Library (for ages two to five). Note: Registration is required and attendance is limited to enhance the experience.

Are your kids (aged five to eight) curious about Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math? Do they light up when they get a chance to express themselves? Explore S.T.E.M. books and hands-on activities with Junior Scientists. Or read about and create your own art with Junior Artists. Stop by the Mandarin Library Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. or South Mandarin Li-

Mandarin libraries cont. on pg. 2

Harriet Beecher Stowe now a permanent resident of Mandarin

By Brittany Cohill
mail@floridanewsline.com

On Nov. 17, 2024 and with hundreds in attendance, Mandarin Museum & Historical Society unveiled a new public art installation in Walter Jones Historical Park. Titled "Harriet Beecher Stowe in Mandarin," the installation is a life-size bronze sculpture featuring Harriet Beecher Stowe, the 19th-century abolitionist and author of the 1852 anti-slavery novel, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Mandarin Museum commissioned artist Brenda Council to sculpt "Harriet Beecher Stowe in Mandarin" to reflect Stowe as she was while living in Mandarin during the winters of 1867 through 1884.

While in Mandarin, Stowe was a vocal advocate for Florida's uplift following the U.S. Civil War. She published "Palmetto Leaves" in 1873, a

Harriet Beecher Stowe cont. on pg. 2



Photo courtesy Olis Garber

Eynn Wilson, Beckham Morgan, Ebony Monroe, Devin Wilson, Mandarin Museum Executive Director Brittany Cohill, COJ Director of Parks Daryl Joseph, Sandy Arpen, Patrick Plumlee, Councilman Michael Boylan, Emily Lisska, Wanda Bosworth, and Brenda Council.

Gearing up for Mandarin Art Festival

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Excitement is building as the time approaches for the 2025 Mandarin Art Festival on April 19 and 20, 2025. The annual Mandarin Art Festival has been an Easter weekend tradition since 1968 and is the longest-running festival of its kind in northeast Florida.

The festival is a juried fine art and fine craft show with more than 100 regionally and nationally recognized artists who create paintings, sculptures, jewelry, and more. Each year there are roughly 30 artists who are new to the festival, so there are always new and exciting artworks for patrons to enjoy. The event also features a food court with a variety of offerings, a Green Market for local products, a

Mandarin Art Festival cont. on pg. 7



Photo courtesy Susie Scott

The Mandarin Art Festival will be held on Easter weekend, April 19 – 20.



Support
our
Advertisers!

Boston Scientific
Advancing science for life™

Living with Parkinson's Disease or Essential Tremor?

Join us to learn more about advanced treatment options to help manage your Disease.
Family and friends are welcome to attend this educational event. *FREE meal provided.

Option 1

Date: Tuesday February 18, 2025 • 11:00am

Location: The Yards, 254 Alta Mar Drive,
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Register to Attend in Person: <http://learndbs.com/1613>

Option 2

Date: Tuesday February 25, 2025 • 11:00am

Location: Sacred Heart Catholic, 7190 Hwy 17 S
Fleming Island, FL 32003

Register to Attend: <http://learndbs.com/1599>

RSVP also available by phone: Alaine Keebaugh, PhD (c) 770-356-6410

Give your brain what it needs so you can hear better

Introducing **Oticon INTENT™** a life-changing hearing device with **BrainHearing™** technology.

Oticon **INTENT™** helps your brain decipher intricate details of relevant sounds for **better speech understanding** with **less effort** and the ability to **remember more**.



You're invited to try **Oticon INTENT™** *RISK FREE*

Dr. Leslie A. Staverman
Audiologist/Owner



- **FREE** Consultation
 - **Risk-Free 60-Day Free Trial**
- Try it at home, work and play!

300+ Five Star Reviews

Call 904-262-5550 Today! *Your Community Resource for Better Hearing*
www.StavermanHearingCenters.com 12276 San Jose Blvd. , Suite #710



connection to joy



Join the fun at our
79th Anniversary Celebration

BBQ | Pony Rides | Face Painting | Music

Sunday, March 23
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



11401 Old St. Augustine Road
Open to the Public



Scan to visit RiverGarden.org or call
904.260.1818.

A not-for-profit agency sponsored by
the organized Jacksonville Jewish community.

Harriet Beecher Stowe cont. from pg. 1

collection of essays regarding her life in Mandarin that also promoted Florida's potential for tourism, industry, and expanded education. Stowe was also a woman of action. She helped found and raise funds for the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour located on Mandarin Road; she operated an orange grove and shipped her produce to northern markets; and in 1869 she worked with the Freedmen's Bureau to establish a school for Black children in the community, providing the land and hiring the first teacher.

It is Harriet Beecher Stowe's devotion to greater access to education that the museum and Brenda Council hoped to capture. The bronze sculpture features two young boys in addition to Stowe. The scene imagines the boys as laborers in her orange grove who have taken a break to sit with her as she reads to

them and provides instruction.

"Harriet Beecher Stowe in Mandarin" is on permanent outdoor display alongside Mandarin Museum and the park's 1898 St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African American Children. Also on permanent display inside the 1898 Schoolhouse is a time-lapse video showcasing the project from concept to completion. Brenda Council's creative and sculpting process was meticulously documented by Olis Garber and Keith Bartholomew, local professional photographer-videographers. The results demonstrate the significance of this project and Council's dedication to the "lost wax" method of bronze sculpting, a method requiring great skill and patience.

"Harriet Beecher Stowe in Mandarin" was made possible through the support of so many in the Mandarin community and the City of Jacksonville.

Mandarin libraries cont. from pg. 1

brary Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Note: Program alternates week to week between "Scientists" and "Artists." Check ahead of time at jaxpubliclibrary.org/events.

With S.T.E.A.M. & Stories (for ages five to 12), you get the best of both worlds: S.T.E.M. + Art with reading and fun, hands-on activities Mondays at 3:30 p.m. at Mandarin Library. Kids (aged nine through 12): Embark on thrilling journeys, hone your artistic skills and outsmart Carmen Sandiego as you claim your title as the ultimate art forger! Discover Lab: Art Forgers Academy runs Wednesdays from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at South Mandarin Library (for nine weeks, starting Feb. 5) and Thursdays from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Mandarin Library (starting Feb. 6).

Kids can drop in at the South Man-

darin Library and read to Yona, the Newfoundland therapy dog, Saturday, Feb. 8, at 2:30 p.m. or read to Sammy, the Golden Retriever, Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 2:30 p.m. Yona also visits the Mandarin Library on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 2:30 p.m.

Teens (aged 12 - 17): Are you curious about space travel? Journey into the unknown and learn about the engineering, science and history behind space missions at Teen Lab: Astroneer Fridays from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at South Mandarin Library. Or stop by after school and talk My Hero Academia and other popular manga in Teen Advisory Board (TAB): Manga 101 Friday, Feb. 7, at 4:45 p.m. at South Mandarin Library. If you're into escape rooms and puzzles, don't miss TAB: Hidden Legacy Friday, Feb. 21, at 4:45 p.m.

Bolles musicians shine at Florida All-State conference

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Two exceptional musicians from The Bolles School, Lucas Costas '28 and Amanda Tun '25, were selected to perform in the prestigious Florida All-State ensembles this year.

Costas, a freshman violinist, made his debut in the Florida All-State Concert Orchestra. In addition to his accomplishments on the violin, Costas also plays flute in the Bolles Symphonic Band, showcasing his versatility and dedication to music.

Tun continues to set the bar high with her fifth consecutive selection to Florida All-State on oboe. Her remarkable achievement reflects her consistent hard work and passion for her craft over the years.

The Florida Music Education Association (FMEA) Professional Learning Conference, held Jan. 8 - 11 at the Tampa Convention Center, serves as the backdrop for these students' performances. As one of the largest music education conferences in the country, the event features approximately 250 clinic sessions and concerts as well as

performances by 23 All-State Ensembles. These ensembles are composed of Florida's top student musicians and conducted by renowned teachers and conductors from around the world.

Students auditioned in September, competing for a limited number of spots in each ensemble. In addition to performing, the All-State participants have the opportunity to engage in professional learning and network with peers, music directors, college professors and industry professionals. The event attracts over 10,000 attendees, including family members and fans of the performing students.



Photos courtesy The Bolles School
Amanda Tun.



Lucas Costas.

450 State Road 13 North
Suite 106 PMB 101
St. Johns, FL 32259
(904) 886-4919
www.FloridaNewsLine.com

Publisher

Mark Pettus

Publisher@FloridaNewsLine.com

Editor

Martie Thompson

Editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

Bookkeeper

Emily Whitehead

Accounting@FloridaNewsLine.com

Social Media

SocialMedia@FloridaNewsLine.com

Advertising Sales

Linda Gay

Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com

(904) 607-5062 cell

Mandarin NewsLine community newspaper is a free monthly publication delivered to all addresses in Zip Codes 32223, 32258, and selected neighborhoods in 32257. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@FloridaNewsLine.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Florida NewsLine. Advertising Rates are available by request. Florida NewsLine is not responsible for advertisement content or accuracy of information provided by its advertisers. Nor does Florida NewsLine endorse any of the products or services included in this publication. Florida NewsLine reserves the right to refuse advertisement or copy from any advertiser. All rights are reserved and no portion of this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the publisher. ©2025.



BFF

Best Furry Friend
of the month

Meet Rosie May!



Breed:

English Bulldog

Favorite Activity:

Snoring contests with my dad

Favorite Food:

Not what's in my bowl, but on your plate

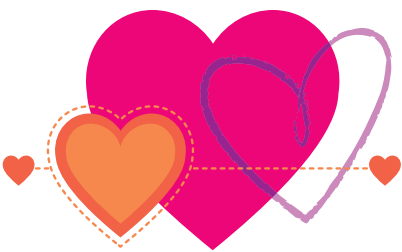
Favorite Friends:

My little human sister.

How did your BFF get her name?:

Rosie had the pinkest lips and cheeks when she was a little pup. Plus she's as beautiful as a flower.

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answer to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Also tell us you saw the BFF contest in Mandarin NewsLine. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and appear in Mandarin NewsLine! Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet.



Happy Valentine's
Day!
from your friends
at Mandarin
NewsLine

Table of Contents

- 4 What's Happening in Mandarin
- 5 Q&A with Melody Bolduc
- 9 Briefs
- 10 Jimmy's Fishing Report
- 12 Travel



When you advertise, you encourage
repeat business, create traffic, and
attract new customers!

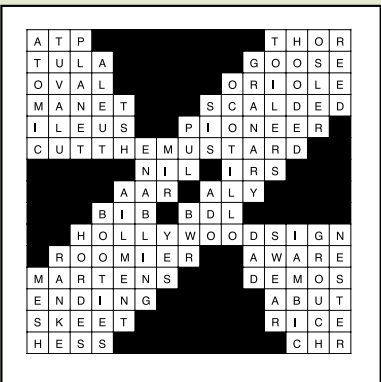
Don't miss our March Issue!
Deadline 2/12/25

Call Linda Gay today
to reserve your space!
904.607.5062

MYSTERY PHOTO



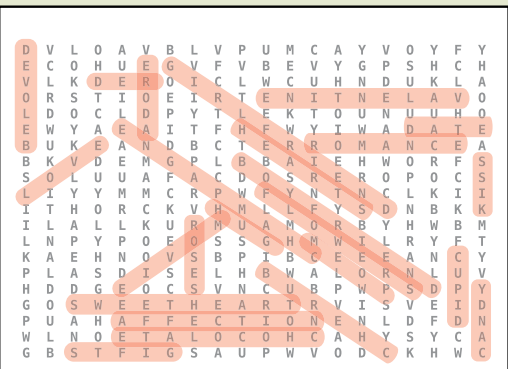
Can you guess where this is?
Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.
Last month's Mystery Photo was the entrance to Red's Gait.



Answers
to our
Puzzles
PG 8



A. cards B. roses C. romance D. February



Our team at Nemetz Dental Associates
is ready to help you with all of your
dental needs and we look forward to
providing you with personalized
service and unparalleled treatment.



Nemetz Dental Associates
SPECIALTY DENTAL CARE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
Pediatric • Adult • Periodontics • Prosthodontics

Your New Smile Awaits!

Mandarin South Business Center 12421 San Jose Blvd.
Suite 310/320 • Jacksonville, FL 32223

Pediatric Dentistry: (904) 292-2210

Adult Dentistry: (904) 886-4867

Marinela M. Nemetz, D.D.S.

Board Certified Pediatric Dentist

Robert J. Nemetz, D.D.S., M.S.

Adult Dentistry | Periodontics | Prosthodontics

We offer

- Pediatric Dentistry
- Family Dentistry
- Periodontics/ Prosthodontics



We Welcome New Patients



www.nemetzdental.com

February

Community Calendar

What's Happening in Mandarin

Shuffleboard is played on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. at Tommy Hazouri Park (formerly Mandarin Park). The courts are at the park entrance next to the tennis courts. Try to get there a few minutes early for court assignments. Beginners are welcome. Just show up (a few minutes before playing time), unless it rains.

Parkinson's Exercise Group meets every Thursday from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. at 4911 Losco Road. People of all ages and stages of Parkinson's as well as spouses and caregivers are welcome to attend these free classes. Contact group leader Katheryn Donaldson at serving4_him@yahoo.com or (904) 710-1449 for more information.

Toast of Jax Toastmasters meets every Saturday, except on holiday weekends, at 8:30 a.m. at Baha'i Community Center, 5034 Greenland Road. Guests are welcome. The meetings can also be attended online at <https://toastofjax.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

Acoustic Jam Session is held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Kids' Building of Trinity Mandarin, located at 2955 Orange Picker Road. This jam is open to everyone and all levels of ability are welcome. Come to play with the group or just sit back and enjoy the music. For more information, contact Burt Coulliette at (904) 302-0423.

Playing HOOKie, a group for those who enjoy knitting, crocheting and looming (with all items donated to charity) meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Maple Street Biscuit Company, 1627 Race Track Road in St. Johns. Visit the group's Facebook page (Playing HOOKie) or email playinghookie2022@gmail.com for more information.

MomCo (formerly known as MOPS), a fun and safe place to connect with other moms, share breakfast, and hear from guest speakers on various topics, will meet every other Tuesday from 9:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. on the Mandarin Presbyterian Church /Loretto Road Campus with childcare provided. Space is limited; visit mandarinpres.com/momco to register. Email MOPS@mandarinpres.com for more information.

1st: Walter Jones Historical Park buildings, including the 1898 St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African American Children, the 1875 Webb Jones Farmhouse, the 1876 Barn, and the Losco Winery, are open the first Saturday of each month (this month, Feb. 1) from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Historic Mandarin Store & Post Office, located at 12471 Mandarin Road, will also be open. Museum volunteers will be inside each building for guided tours. Admission is free; Donations help support the museum's programming and operations. Visit

1st: Meet the Maple Leaf Divers at the Mandarin Museum, 11964 Mandarin Road, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month (this month, Feb. 1). This is an informal, conversational-style event; drop in anytime within the two hours to chat with Dr. Keith Holland and his team and view the museum's expanded Maple Leaf exhibit. Admission to Meet the Maple Leaf Divers and Mandarin Museum is free. Donations help support the museum's programming and operations. For more information, visit www.mandarinmuseum.org or call (904) 268-0784.

2nd: Music Under the Oaks community music jam, hosted by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society and North Florida Folk Network will resume on Mandarin Museum's front lawn on the first Sunday of each month (this month, Feb. 2) from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket and relax and listen. This is a free event; donations support the operations and programming at Mandarin Museum. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.org or call (904) 268-0784 for more information.

4th: Honeybee Quilters Guild will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Mandarin Presbyterian Church on the Loretto Road Campus in the Kids Space at 2501 Loretto Road. New members/guests welcome. Visit honeybeequilters.org for more information.

8th: Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market at First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. on Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit www.facebook.com/SecondSatMarket/ for more information.

8th: North Florida Genealogical Society (formerly SGES) will meet from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Feb. 8 at Mandarin Branch Library, 3330 Kori Road. Melody Porter, a 40-year genealogy researcher, will discuss her research saga of how she not only found her Indian ancestry but documented it. Email Sgesjax@att.net to reserve a space. Visit www.sgesjax.org to register for the meeting or call (904) 778-1000 for more information.

9th: Mandarin Parkinson's Support Group meets at Church of Eleven 22, 4911 Losco Road, on the second Sunday of each month (this month, Feb. 9) from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. This month will feature practitioner-assisted stretching as well as a puzzle social. Contact group leader Katheryn Donaldson at serving4_him@yahoo.com or (904) 710-1449 for more information.

13th: Mandarin American Legion Post 372 general meeting will be held on Feb. 13

at 7 p.m. at Williams Family YMCA 10415 San Jose Blvd., on the second floor. Riders of the Legion will be held on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. and Sons of the Legion will be held on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the same location. Visit <https://alpost372fl.org/> for more information.

13th: When to Trim Plants will be the program at the Magnolia Circle on Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road. The public is invited. Call (904) 268-1192 for more information.

14th: Trivia Night will be held on Feb. 14 at Mandarin Lutheran Church, 11900 San Jose Blvd. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the game starts at 7 p.m. The cost is \$10 per guest with a maximum of six people per table (bring snacks to share with your table). Proceeds benefit Mandarin Lutheran Church's Baby Pantry, helping to provide nearly 50 local families with diapers, wipes, and formula. Call (904) 268-4591 for more information.

15th: Archaeological Institute of Americas – Jacksonville Society will meet at 12 p.m. on Feb. 15 in Building 51 at the University of North Florida to hear a lecture by Andrea Torvinen with the Florida Museum of Natural History. She will discuss Ceramic Technology in Mexico. The lecture is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Anthropology Lab. On Saturday, parking is free, and the staff/faculty/vendor spaces are available to everyone. Contact Melva Price at (904) 241-9411 or aiajax-soc@gmail.com or visit website aiajax.org for more information.

17th: The All Star Quilters Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. for socializing prior to the 10 a.m. meeting on Monday, Feb. 17 at First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. The program will feature a "Past and Present" trunk show. "Show and Tell" is always a feature. Guests are welcome. Visit www.allstarquilters.org for more information.

18th: Fertilizing Gardens will be the program at the Dogwood Circle on Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road. The public is invited. Call (904) 268-1192 for more information.

20th: Third Thursday Lecture hosted by Mandarin Museum will be held Thursday, Feb. 20, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road. Author Jonathan Rich will present on his book, "Spires in the Sun: The Carpenter Gothic Episcopal Churches of Florida," which features stories of the oldest surviving wood-frame Episcopal churches in Florida, including Mandarin's Church

of Our Saviour. Refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m., the program is at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

20th: Veggie Gardening presented by Master Gardeners will be the program at the Cherokee Rose Circle on Feb. 20 at 10 a.m. at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road. The public is invited. Call (904) 268-1192 for more information.

22nd: Exhibit Come to Life: The Untold Story of Black Mandarin will be hosted by Mandarin Museum on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The community is invited to experience Mandarin Museum's permanent exhibit, The Untold Story of Black Mandarin. All historic buildings in Walter Jones Historical Park will be open to the public, including the 1898 St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African American Children. Area non-profits and historians will be on hand to speak to guests about Mandarin's link to the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.org or call (904) 268-0784 for more information.

27th: Mandarin Women's Club's luncheon will be held on Feb. 27 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Ramada Inn in Mandarin. Kim Marsh, a certified Direct Support Professional and Home Health Aid, will present an energetic chair dance class. Attendees are encouraged to wear workout clothes. The luncheon cost is \$25 and must be received by Monday, Feb. 17. To make reservations and obtain payment instructions, contact Barbara at (904) 612-6494 or email her at barbara.metallo@outlook.com. Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for more information on events, photos, and membership forms.

27th: Florida Friendly Landscaping presented by Master Gardener Stephanie Means will be the program at the Live Oak Circle on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road. The public is invited. Call (904) 268-1192 for more information.

27th: Mandarin Republican Club will meet on Thursday, Feb. 27 at St. Mary's Seafood, 11290 Old St. Augustine Road. Social time begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. First time visitors are welcome.

28th: The Italian American Club of Jacksonville will hold its popular Spaghetti to Go on Friday, Feb. 28 from 5 p.m. until the spaghetti is gone at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Take out only; cash, credit and debit cards are accepted. Dinners cost \$13 and there are small charges for extra meatballs, cannolis and pizza rolls. No phone orders. Call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

Join us for The Brooke Davis Angel Fund proceeds night at

WICKED BARLEY
4100 Baymeadows Road
Jacksonville, FL 32217

Monday, February 24th
From 4 - 9pm



Wicked Barley will donate 10% of the sales to BDAF during that time!
All donations go towards grants awarded to board approved applicants for animals in need of medical veterinary care

Brooke Davis Angel Fund is a 501c3 Organization

You can visit us online to donate



Brookedavisangelfund.org



WE ARE OPEN!

Serving Maryland inspired dishes in Jacksonville since 1996!
On Julington Creek Road - Off San Jose Blvd
Tues-Sat 4:30pm - 9pm
Sun 12pm - 9pm

Celebrating MARDI GRAS all month long
Cajun inspired dishes & drink specials!



On the Menu...

Escargot a'la Bourguignonne
Mississippi Fried Catfish
Oysters Bienville
Shrimp Etouffee
Po' Boy Sandwiches
Warm Bread Pudding
and MORE!



Call or visit us online today!

www.BlueCrabCrabhouse.com (904) 260-2722





with Jacksonville City Council Member
Michael Boylan, District 6

Q: How did you spend your recent three weeks of council recess?

A: The break gave me the opportunity to enjoy family time and the holidays, like many others; however, it didn't preclude us from responding to individual constituents' concerns.

Q: What can you share about the stages and general status of projects in progress in Mandarin?

A: There are three different stages for projects (for instance public works projects): planning, design, and construction. I have learned to not commit to specific timelines for these projects, as there are many possibilities for delay in the procurement process, interaction with utilities etc. For example, the Burnett Park Road drainage project to replace damaged drainage pipes and re-grade drainage ditches has been delayed and the scope of work has increased significantly. It is one of eight projects that have already gone through committee for reassessment with additional funding and the full council is expected to approve it at its meeting on Jan. 14.

Q: Are there any updates on Mandarin parks [as of interview date of Jan. 13]?

A: I recently met with Daryl Joseph, director of the city's Parks and Recreation Department, to talk about several projects, including the new playground at Tommy Hazouri Park. He also plans to provide a timeline for the improvements to Alberts Field to include parking on the north side of the park and the new dog park.

Q: With the recent redistricting, have you had occasion to meet with your new constituents along Bartram Park Boulevard?

A: Starting with the last election, District 6 now extends nearly all the way to Interstate 95, including almost all Bartram Park communities. I recently had an interesting meeting with representatives from a homeowners association along Bartram Park Boulevard and am looking forward to a future Town Hall meeting (date/time to be determined) with residents in this area. I'd ask anyone living in this area to please reach out to our office with any questions or concerns.

Q: What's the latest on strategic planning for Mandarin?

A: Previously, I shared plans to spend the \$200,000 earmarked from council for Mandarin to try to establish a type of preservation society along the lines of the San Marco Preservation Society. There has been a decrease in the amount of money available, now down to \$150,000, and while I'm still hopeful at some point for a preservation society, right now I'm hoping to retain consultants who can facilitate hosting meetings of citizens to help us implement strategies to maintain the character and quality of main arteries in Mandarin. I'm talking about roads like Old St. Augustine Road, San Jose Boulevard, Jurlington Creek Road, Hartley Road, and Bartram Park Boulevard, among others. We'd like to preserve these areas with things like maintenance and the quality of landscaping of both residential areas and businesses. I hope to introduce an ordinance to council to create an RFP sometime in February.

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.



with Duval County School Board Member
Melody Bolduc, District 7

Q: Can you comment on any security changes the district is undertaking?

A: We are working actively to repair any holes in our security practices at all of our district schools. We are auditing our entry gates for buses as well as general school entrances. This will require some time and procedural changes, but work is underway.

Q: How did the recent Academy Showcases go?

A: Academy Showcases were held in individual schools in early January. Our district had excellent participation. We had four showcases in District 7: Mandarin Middle, Mandarin High School, Twin Lakes Academy Middle and Atlantic Coast High School. Anyone who has not had a chance to check out District 7 schools ... you can still call the school and

schedule a tour.

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

A: Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year finalists for the district. Two of the teachers are from Mandarin schools: Kimberly Niebauer from Lorretto Elementary and Aubrey Albaracin from Greenland Pines Elementary. The VyStar 2025 Teacher of the Year will be announced at the EDDY Awards on Jan. 18 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront.

Also, we will be featuring the Twin Lakes Academy Middle School Robotics and Entrepreneurship Program at the school board meeting in February.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

A: They can email me at BolducM@duvalschools.org or call me at (904) 927-1699.

Personalized financial
advice to help achieve
your goals

Not FDIC or NCUA Insured | No Financial Institution Guarantee | May Lose Value
Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® and CFP (with plaque design) in the U.S.
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2022 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.



Chris Thompson
CFP®, CMFA®, CRPC®
Managing Director – Private Wealth Advisor
Certified Financial Planner
Certified Military Financial Advisor
Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor
904.380.2290
818 A1A North, Suite 301
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
chris.thompson@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/chris.thompson
St Johns County resident since 1993

Smiles by
DR CRAIG HADGIS
ORTHODONTIST



Dr. Craig Hadgis
Board Certified Orthodontist

TWO
STATE-OF-THE-ART
LOCATIONS

ST JOHNS

ST AUGUSTINE



Free Initial Visit
904.79.SMILE (797.6453)
www.DrCraigOrtho.com



Thrive
Coffee

FarmHand
Foundation

Lippman
Farms



HARVESTING
RICH REWARDS

Unearthing Mother Nature brings gifts of abundance.
At HarborChase, a bounty of locally grown produce,
dairy and seafood artfully moves from land and
sea to the well-appointed table.

Senior living inspired by new heights of excellence.

WATCH OUR FARM
TO TABLE JOURNEY



Mandarin | (904) 584-9806

Reading Under the Stars at Crown Point

By Mary Eyer
mail@floridanewslines.com

On Thursday, Dec. 12, Crown Point’s leadership event team hosted the fourth annual “Reading Under the Stars” event. Crown Point families came out to experience the joy of making holiday crafts and reading holiday books. Teachers and volunteers read many stories, including

“Snowmen at Christmas,” “Sneezy the Snowman,” “How to Catch a Snowman,” “12 Groovy Days of Christmas,” and much more.

The Crown Point PTA opened its holiday gift shop during the event to provide an opportunity for students and their parents to purchase gift items.



Photo courtesy Mary Eyer
Fourth graders making snowmen out of marshmallows.



Susan Lawson and Nancy Townsend Reading to second graders.

Mandarin Middle School news

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Mandarin Middle School students are soaring in their community. The Math Field Day team won first, second and third place in multiple events in December. National Junior Honor Society members cleaned up the courtyard

and spread mulch to help beautify the campus. Ella McKenzie won the Mandarin Middle School spelling bee and Mason Parillo was the runner-up. Lastly, the school had big winners for the art contest sponsored by the Len Mattiace Anti-Bullying Campaign.



Photos courtesy Jennifer Litchfield
The Math Field Day team.



Spelling bee winner and runner up, Ella McKenzie and Mason Parillo.

PARISH BINGO

Bingo Night at St Joseph

LOTS OF GAMES, 50/50'S & DOOR PRIZES

CASH BINGO

PLENTY OF LIGHTED PARKING AND SECURITY ON THE PREMISES. GREAT FOOD, DRINKS, & SNACKS.

DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM
GAMES START AT 7:00PM

Cody Center - Tally Room
4152 Loretto Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32223

NO CHILDREN ALLOWED PER STATE LAWS.

849.0931(10)(A)

GAME DATES: February 15 | March 15 | April 19

For more information, contact Vinny Terlizzi at 904.742.8777 or vaterlizzi@gmail.com

Dollar Clothing & Jewelry Sale

Friday, March 7 - 9 am - 2 pm
Saturday, March 8 - 9 am - 2 pm

Mandarin Garden Club

2892 Loretto Rd, Jacksonville FL 32223



Prudential Financial Planning



Andrew E. Laino
CLU®, CFP®, CLTC®
Financial Planner
CA Insurance License #0E93910
844-954-8700
andrew.laino@prudential.com
Comprehensive Financial Planning

Offering financial planning and investment advisory services and programs through Pruco Securities, LLC (Pruco), under the marketing name Prudential Financial Planning Services (PFPS), pursuant to a separate client agreement. Offering insurance and securities products and services as a registered representative of Pruco, and an agent of issuing insurance companies. 1008115-00005-00



AFFORDABLE WATER

CONDITIONING • SOFTENING • PURIFICATION



Residential Commercial

CLEAN WATER FOR YOUR HOME

Affordable Water solutions for your home with the best customer service in the industry.

- Water Softeners & Filtration Systems
- Service on most makes and models
- Delivery of Salt & Potassium for your system



Call today 904-262-0197 for your Complimentary Water Test & Analysis.

3760 Kori Road • www.affordablewaterjax.com

WE BUY, SELL AND TRADE ELECTRONICS

TURN YOUR TECH INTO CASH WITH US!

We're here to give you top-dollar payouts for your favorite gadgets

- latest iPhones
- Sleek MacBooks
- Premium Cameras

or other high-tech treasures.

You'll walk away with cash in hand, instantly!



12525 Philips Hwy Suite 109, Jacksonville, FL 32256
904-496-0074



travel • pantry raiders • gardening
fishing • entertainment • puzzles

Life

Get to Know ...

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Vincent Terlizzi

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Vincent Terlizzi is well known around St. Joseph's Catholic Church as director of the church's popular monthly Bingo games. Born in Staten Island, NY, he initially considered becoming a doctor. He graduated from Staten Island Community College and began his medical career as an EMT stationed in the Bronx. He went on to work at the public health hospital in Staten Island before being lured away by what would become a successful career in the car business. After 29 years working at a dealership in New Jersey, he and his wife Eileen had the opportunity to move to Clearwater for a similar job. A job offer from Coggin Nissan brought the Terlizzi family to Jacksonville, where they have remained despite Vincent being out of the car business now for a number of years. He has worked at some other businesses, but is passionate about serving his church with the Bingo event and also at the Christmas tree lot. He and his wife Eileen have two grown children, Patricia and Vincent, Jr.

Q: How did you get into the car business?

A: I was working at the hospital when I bought a car from Autoland in Springfield, NJ. They had a referral program and I referred so many people to them that the owner asked me to work for him. I wasn't sure about it, so I took my two weeks vacation from the hospital and tried out working full time at the dealership. In those two weeks I



Photo courtesy Vincent Terlizzi
Vincent and Eileen Terlizzi

made the same amount of money that I would have made in three months at the hospital. So I went back to the hospital and gave my two-week notice. I soon became the youngest finance department director in the car business in New Jersey.

Q: What do you think made you so successful?

A: Customer service is so important. We never had any complaints in our department. I always found a way to close the deal. Also, I liked to hire young salespeople and mentor them. Some of them own dealerships today and many still keep in touch with me.

Q: How did you meet your wife?

A: Eileen also worked in the car business, for a car credit company. One time, I was trying to get a particular bonus and needed to have three applications processed by her before midnight. One of them had an issue and, being diligent, she wouldn't process it. I went over her head and called her boss and talked him into accepting the contract, which was for a conversion van for a doctor's family. I got my bonus. A couple of days later I asked her to lunch to apologize for going over her head to her boss. That's all it took;

I married her in 1988. Although I did have to call her boss back after lunch and tell him he needed to take her off my account since now that we were dating it would be a conflict of interest.

Q: How did you end up in Florida?

A: Unfortunately, the owner of Autoland eventually passed away. The new managing team fired a lot of the salespeople and we went from selling 1,000 cars a month to 600 cars a month in just two months. They wanted me to stay and I did for a little while, but if the salespeople weren't selling cars, I didn't have as much opportunity for work. So I moved around a bit, went to Clearwater and eventually came here to Jacksonville.

Q: What is it that you enjoy about Bingo?

A: I actually volunteered at Bingo back at my church in New York. I don't like to play Bingo, but I like to manage the event. When we moved here, I asked the priest at St. Joseph's if we could start Bingo. He said no, but eventually we got a new priest and he approved it. We had our first event in 2019 with about 60 people. In November 2024, we had 280 people, but our biggest event was last July when we had attendance of 360. All proceeds go to St. Joseph's, some to the capital campaign. But all of us who work there are volunteers. It's the same with the Christmas tree lot. In the early summer, we plan to have a special (additional) Bingo event to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital. So stay tuned for more details!

[Editor's Note: Bingo is hosted monthly at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in the Cody Center at 4152 Loretto Road. Contact vaterlizzi@gmail.com for dates and more information.]

Mandarin Art Festival cont. from pg. 1

Children's Art Show, a bake sale, live music, children's activities, and more fun events for the family.

With free parking and free shuttle service from several convenient nearby locations in Mandarin, the Mandarin Art Festival is the perfect way to spend Easter weekend with your family. The Mandarin Art Festival will take place from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 20.

The Mandarin Art Festival benefits the Mandarin Community Club, a non-profit dedicated to the preservation, beautification, and environmental well-being of Mandarin. The Mandarin Community Club is the oldest non-profit in Mandarin and has been in existence for more than 100 years.

What do you
want to see
in Mandarin
NewsLine?

editor

@floridanewsline.com



Get to Know ...

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

Creating Smiles & Relationships for a Lifetime!

Our Group of Dental Specialists Provide Expert Care from Simple to Complex Cases

- Dr. Obdulia Rondon, DMD
- Dr. Yaney Gonzalez, DMD
- Dr. Annie Vu, DMD
- Dr. Peter Farag, DMD
- Dr. Swati Gupta, DMD
- Dr. Kevin Vera, DDS

At Our Specialty Center:

- Dr. Yianne Krtizas, Oral Surgery
- Dr. Annette Lorenzo-Reyes, Orthodontics
- Dr. Eric Olson, Prosthodontics
- Dr. Haider Alramli, Periodontist



JR DENTAL

General | Specialty | Dental Lab

JRDentalCare.com

12276 San Jose Blvd. • Suite 314
Jacksonville, FL 32223
904.786.9200

7030 Normandy Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32205
904.786.5850

7855 Argyle Forest Blvd. • Suite 104
Jacksonville, FL 32223
904.786.9200

JR Dental



Call 904.807.8744
for an appointment
today or scan
the QR code

Appointments

Accepting
New
Patients
of All
Ages

\$59*
NEW PATIENT SPECIAL
Includes Comprehensive Exam,
Full Mouth & Panoramic X-Rays
*Cash patients. (D0150, D0220, D1110) No gum disease.

\$299
SURGICAL TOOTH
EXTRACTION
Self Pay Only. Excludes Most Wisdom Teeth.

FREE
IMPLANT CONSULT
with 3D X-RAY – \$500 Value!
Safe and quick implant placement with 3D Cone
Beam Scan, for implant supported denture, single tooth/bridge.
To determine implant fee starting at \$1500.

\$500 – \$5000 OFF*
DENTAL IMPLANTS
*Ask about All-On-X Dental Implants

\$29
LIMITED EMERGENCY
EXAM & ONE X-RAY
Not Valid with other offers.

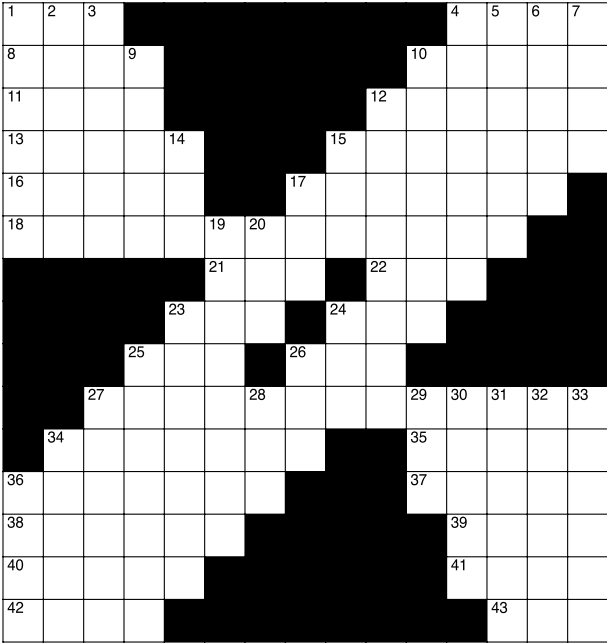
\$500 OFF
INVISALIGN
Includes Free Blanching Trays &
Whitening Gel with Finished Treatment

FREE
ORTHODONTIC
CONSULTATION
Your smile and investment
deserve a second opinion.



Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Racquet sport group (abbr.)
4. Norse god of thunder
8. Russian industrial city
10. What's good for the ____
11. Round-ish shape
12. Baltimore MLBer
13. French modernist painter
15. Burned with water
16. Intestinal issue
17. Take the lead
18. Prove oneself worthy
21. None
22. Tax collector
23. Swiss river
24. Gymnast Raisman
25. Baby's dining accessory
26. Canadian beer distributor
27. Iconic American tourist destination
34. More expansive
35. Alert
36. Popular boots Doc ____
37. Showings
38. Conclusion
39. Share a common boundary
40. Shooting sport
41. Popular side dish
42. Global energy firm
43. Chronicles (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of bomb
2. Polynesian island country
3. Heavenly body
4. Hard workers
5. Covered
6. Johns Hopkins Hospital founder
7. Plant of the grass family
9. Island person of the Bering Sea
10. Storehouse
12. Scarlet-flowered desert shrub
14. A pituitary hormone
15. Female sibling
17. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
19. Empowering
20. Space station
23. Disorder
24. State of fuss
25. Footwear for babies
26. Nuclear reactor (abbr.)
27. Drove
28. Affirmative
29. Male parent
30. Utter obscenities
31. Type of verse
32. Unpleasant person
33. One who settles down
34. Founder of source-based history
36. A way to snarl

VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

D
E
V
O
L
E
B
B
S
L
I
I
I
L
K
P
K
A
P
U
W
G
B

V
C
L
R
D
K
V
D
D
A
H
N
O
E
T
A
L

A
H
U
E
E
A
N
D
E
M
G
F
A
F
F
E
T
A

V
G
V
I
C
I
R
T
E
R
B
C
T
E
R
S
A

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

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

WORDS
ADORE
AFFECTION
BELOVED
BOYFRIEND
CANDY
CHAMPAGNE
CHERUB
CHOCOLATE
CUPID
DATE
FLOWERS
GIFTS
GIRLFRIEND
HEARTS
HUG
KISS
LOVE
MOVIE
POEM
RED
ROMANCE
ROSES
SWEETHEART
VALENTINE

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to Valentine's Day.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 3 = R)

A.

23 14 3 18 16

Clue: Greetings

B.

3 9 16 20 16

Clue: Popular flowers

C.

3 9 19 14 24 23 20

Clue: Strong feeling of attraction

D.

17 20 10 3 4 14 3 5

Clue: Second month

Did you know?
Archived issues of Mandarin NewsLine
may be found online!
Visit www.floridanewsline.com

Advertise in our March issue!
Contact Linda Gay today!
Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com

Community Marketplace Call (904) 886-4919 for advertising rates

SNIP'S TREE & STUMP SERVICE

Tree Preservation • Plant Health Care • Insect & Disease Treatments

Paul Oklevitch

ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST Over 30 Years Exp.

FL-5456A – LICENSED & INSURED

(904) 268-1017 www.snipstree.com

American Eagle

Lawn Care

QUALITY SERVICES

LICENSED & INSURED

No CONTRACTS

FREE ESTIMATES

(904) 502-0891

St. Johns Co. Concrete Service LLC.

Professional • Reliable • Quality Commercial • Residential

Specializing in Homeowner Improvements

Driveways – Patios – Sidewalks

LICENSED • BONDED • FULLY INSURED

"Call us for your concrete needs." FREE ESTIMATES

Danny Pinkerton (904) 534-5011

Serving Jacksonville Since 1985

CONCRETE WORKS

Commercial or Residential - no project too small

• Driveways • Walkways floridaconcreteworks.com

• Pavers • Concrete Removal Free Quote Today!

• Patios • Driveway Extension Catering to the needs of the homeowner since 2002

Call 904.838.1836 and let's talk about what we can do for you!

FICTITIOUS NAME REGISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that the under signed pursuant to the Fictitious Name Statute, Chapter 865.09, Florida Statutes, will register with the Division of Corporations, Department of State, State of Florida upon receipt of this notice, the fictitious name:

Baldrige Piano Tuning

Under which (I am) (we are) engaged in business at address that the (party) (parties) interested in said business enterprise is as follows:

Baldrige Music LLC

12760 Ginger Dr.,

Jacksonville, FL 32223

Duval

We offer Fictitious Name Advertisement
Call for more info! (904) 886-4919

AUTOS WANTED

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

HEALTH & FITNESS

Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Get your free Information Kit with details! 1-855-526-1060 www.dental50plus.com/ads #6258

Attention oxygen therapy users! Discover oxygen therapy that moves with you with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. Free information kit. 1-866-477-9045

HOME SERVICES

Aging Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work.

Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

Water damage cleanup: A small amount of water can cause major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out wet areas & repair to protect your family & your home value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809. Have zip code!

MISCELLANEOUS

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-948-6176 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936

Job Finder February:

River Garden is seeking a Maintenance Technician. Experience as a building maintenance tech is a plus, but not required. Full-time with competitive pay and free lunch! Please visit www.rivergarden.org/careers or call (904) 260-1818 to speak to Human Resources

Bath & shower updates in as little as 1 day! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit dorranceinfo.com/ads

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of

your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-866-859-0405

Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders.)

1-833-370-1234

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/30/25.) Call 1-844-501-3208

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-833-399-3595

Home break-ins take less than 60 seconds. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets now



CALL TODAY FOR A
FREE INSPECTION!
1-855-595-2102

20% OFF

Your Entire Purchase*

10% OFF

Seniors + Military



++ We offer financing that fits your budget!¹

* See Representative for full warranty details. ¹One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ¹Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR 366020923, AZ ROC 344027, CA 1035795, CT HIC 0671530, FL CIRC056678, IA C127230, ID REC-51604, LA 559544, MA 178447, MD MHIC111225, MI 262300173, 262300318, 262300328, 262300329, 262300330, 262300331, MN R731804, MT 226192, ND 47304, NE 50145-22, 50145-23, NJ 13AH09953900, NM 408693, NV 86990, NY H-19114, H-52229, OR 218294, PA 179643, 069383, RI GC-41354, TN 10881, UT 10783658-5501, VA 270516445, WA LEAFNW8232, WY WWO56912.



**Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE
PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB**
1-855-417-1306

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082163 NCSB 0082999 0083445

SPECIAL OFFER

for as little as 70¢/day! 1-844-591-7951

MobileHelp America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! Call 1-888-489-3936

We buy houses for cash as is! No repairs. No fuss. Any

condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer & get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-844-877-5833

Consumer Cellular - same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees free activation. All plans

feature unlimited talk & text, starting at just \$20/mo. Call 1-877-751-0866

Portable Oxygen Concentrator may be covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 877-305-1535

Briefs

Mandarin Women's Club gets moving with chair dancing

On Thursday, Feb. 27, the Mandarin Women's Club will welcome Kim Marsh at its luncheon held at the Ramada Inn in Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Road. Marsh is a certified Direct Support Professional and Home Health Aid. She has designed energetic chair dance classes and has choreographed dance moves to timeless music that encourages movement while enhancing flexibility, mood, and functional skills. Attendees are encouraged to wear workout clothes and get ready to have some fun while getting fit.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and reservations for the luncheon are required. The luncheon cost is \$25 and checks must be received by Monday, Feb. 17. To make reservations and obtain payment instructions, call Barbara at (904) 612-6494 or email her at Barbara.metallo@outlook.com. Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for more information on events, photos, and membership forms.

Mandarin Garden Club announces \$1 clothing sale

The Mandarin Garden Club will host its semi-annual clothing, jewelry and plant sale on Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Gently used clothing for men, women and children will be on sale for \$1. Items from the Boutique and jewelry section will be priced separately. In addition, a pop-up plant sale outside in the gardens will offer additional bargains on green plants for your yard. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions about plants and gardening.

The garden club's circles are continuing their meetings each month. The Magnolia Circle will meet on Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. for a program on "When To Trim Plants." Dogwood Circle will have a program on "Fertilizing Gardens" on Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. "Veggie Gardening" will be presented by three Master Gardeners at the Cherokee Circle meeting on Feb. 20 at 10 a.m. and finally, on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m., Stephanie Means, Master Gardener will provide a program on Florida Friendly Landscaping. All programs are open to the public and held at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road.

The Mandarin Garden Club is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that relies on fundraising to support the club and its gardens. The gardens have been designated a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. The gardens are open to the public to enjoy and learn about the beauty of nature from dawn to dusk, except during special rental dates. Visit www.mandaringardenclub.org for more information or to take a virtual tour.

River City Science Academy to host 12th annual STEM and Health Expo

River City Science Academy (RCSA) has announced the upcoming annual STEM and Health Expo, scheduled for Feb. 8, at the school's Innovation campus located at 8160 Baymeadows Way West.

This year's Florida STEM and Health Expo by River City Science Academy promises an exceptional experience, redefining the traditional county science and health fair exposition in Florida. Students from all six campuses will pres-

ent their scientific projects in an engaging and unique setting, offering valuable learning opportunities for families.

This cost-free, one-day event will feature captivating science demonstrations, STEM educators, scientists, interactive experiences, intriguing robotics, community health advocates, medical experts, dedicated community members, fire and police departments, engaging vendor booths, public servants, and much more. Attendees can also look forward to food trucks and a plethora of entertainment.

The Expo will showcase interactive activities presented by a diverse range of organizations, including B3 – Bricks, Bots, and Beakers, Bath Fitter, The Duval Soil and Water Conservation District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO), RoboThink First Coast, Step Up For Students, The Family Nut Hut, The YMCA, University of Florida-Jacksonville, and UNF STEP Lab.

Visit us online!
www.floridanewsline.com

GROW YOUR BUSINESS!

Advertise with Mandarin NewsLine!



Linda Gay
904-607-5062
Linda@floridanewsline.com

Mandarin Arms Apartments

11648 Pine Acres Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223
Phone (904) 268-7251

- South Mandarin school district
- Garbage/Pest Control Paid
 - Playground
 - Fully Electric
- Equipped with Stove, Refrigerator, and Mini blinds

2 Bedroom Townhouses

- On Site Manager

Rental Assistance
Rents: \$0-\$1208 Monthly

Office Hours~9am-5pm M-F

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."
FRC (TTY) # 1-800-995-8770





**Legacy
Grandparenting
Summit • 2025**


March 1, 2025
Mandarin Presbyterian Church

An event designed to help grandparents
build a spiritual legacy within their families

Save your Spot Today!



mandarinpres.com/legacy




**DON'T LEAVE
YOUR FUTURE
TO CHANCE**

SECURE A PLAN FOR LIFE

Make the safe bet with an active, engaging, maintenance-free lifestyle at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. Enhance your lifestyle with:

- Housekeeping
- 24-hour security
- Delicious, chef-prepared dining options
- Fishing and boat docks
- Heated, outdoor swimming pool
- A wide range of important aging services
- And more!

*Call (904) 861-6425 today to learn
how you can save thousands!*



**Westminster
Woods**
on Julington Creek
WestminsterWoodsFL.org

25 State Road 13
Jacksonville, FL

Fishing

Jimmy's Fishing Report
By Jimmy Tomazinis
mail@floridanewsline.com

Brrrr, it's cold! But not for too much longer hopefully. February is traditionally the last of the stranglehold that winter puts upon us from year to year. Come March, the birds will be singing loud, welcoming new leaves and flowers to the world, but let's not wish away February just yet. There's more wintertime fishing fun to be had.

February is a month to pay close attention to water temperatures since bass and specks will be waiting for them to warm up enough for them to move up into cover to spawn. The closer the temperatures get to the numbers they want, the closer they will stage to those places.

Those "numbers" are always up for debate, and this is not an exact science, but 67 – 68 degrees would be a good bet. That's not to say that fish won't spawn in lower temperatures. After all, they will decide when the time is right. You just need to keep an eye out.

One of my favorite ways to fish for specks this time of year is to fish minnows on slip floats at varying depths in deeper water, while throwing a jig towards the bank and working it back to the boat. The minnows will catch the fish still waiting to move into staging areas, but you can use the jig as a search bait looking for fish that have already moved up there. On many days, the jig has found me bigger fish between the boat and the bank. Once you find them you can move up with the minnows and thoroughly cover those areas.

Bass will also be staging near spawning locations this month. Points, inside bends, and creek mouths are all good areas to look. Slow trolling shiners along the vegetation in these places is a good way to locate the bass. If you find one, then there's likely others there for the same reason. It's a trophy hunt though, so don't expect big numbers.

I also want to put a little selfish conservation plug out there since we're talking about catching fish during spawning periods. This is the most crucial time for them to reproduce so that we might have lots of fish to catch next year and the year after that and so on. Only keep what you need and handle fish gently that you plan to release. Let's all do our part. Tight lines.

**Mandarin Women's Club members
celebrate the New Year**



Photo courtesy Anita Owens

Several Mandarin Women's Club members rang in the New Year with dinner. Pictured are Toby Richmond, Shirley Wright, Jo-Ellen Baxley, Anita Owens, Joyce Keithley, Barbara Ivoise and Dora Rhodes. Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for more information on events, photos, and membership forms.



Brian E. Floro DMD, PA
General and Family Dentistry
(904)268-0830 • www.florodental.com

Located near Quest and Brooks Rehabilitation
Corner of Loretto Road and San Jose Blvd.
11705 San Jose Blvd., Suite 211 • Jacksonville, FL 32223

**Exams and Cleanings • Placing and Restoring Dental Implants
Extractions • Root Canals • Crowns and Bridges
Veneers and Teeth Whitening • Clear Braces with ClearCorrect**

New Patient Special
\$99
Exam, Digital X-Rays
This offer is exclusive to self-pay patients and may not be used with any insurance program.
Must present coupon. Expires 02/28/2025
Brian E. Floro DMD PA
11705 San Jose Blvd. • 268-0830

Whitening for Life!
\$99
Contact the office for details.
Must present coupon. Expires 02/28/2025
Brian E. Floro DMD PA
11705 San Jose Blvd. • 268-0830



**Voted one of the top dentists
in Jacksonville
by Jacksonville Magazine**
Brian E. Floro DMD

Gardening

Weather – Always our guide

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewslines.com

It's the second week of the New Year as I write, and we're in the throes of our first real freezing weather of the winter. This morning the water in our birdbaths froze for the third time, and the grass was touched with frost. I've tried to reduce the amount of work needed to protect my plants, mainly by growing fewer tropicals, but potted plants always need attention. Wrapping pots, protecting citrus grafts, taking more tender things into a shed or garage, but first ensuring they are well watered before the cold sets in, is all part of the gardening year.

Most of our seasonal vegetables will survive a short freeze, particularly brassicas like collards, broccoli, and kales, which taste all the sweeter after a frost. Lettuce can be damaged, so laying a frost cloth lightly over the plants will keep them safe. If you have casualties, begin growing more plants indoors and plant out when they are sufficiently well grown and hardened off. For vegetables to plant in February, check out this useful link: <https://floridafresh.ifas.ufl.edu/>. Just input your zip code to see what comes up and click on a vegetable for more information. For more detailed information, use the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide (<https://tinyurl.com/59xyb9tt>). If you like to browse around the topic of vegetable gardening, see also <https://tinyurl.com/e96zxzyk>, where you can find articles like "Veggies and Herbs made in the Shade" and "Growing Potatoes in the Florida Home Garden."

Tidying up after a freeze is not as simple as it may seem. For woody plants it may not be obvious which parts are dead. It's safest to wait to prune out dead material until you can see active growth; otherwise you risk cutting into live wood which makes the plant more vulnerable to the next cold snap. By leaving 12 – 14 inches of dead growth on perennials you can protect any insects that are overwintering in the stems.

If you feel you must cut them back farther, by gathering them up and placing them in an out-of-the-way place you can still protect any insects sheltering there.

If you're already thinking about your lawn and how to treat it coming out of the winter, hold off for a bit, as it won't yet be actively growing. Fertilize too early and the product will leach out of the soil before the grass is able to take it up. Similarly, trying to fertilize the grass and control weeds with a one-and-done application of a "weed and feed" product doesn't do either job well, as the timing of each function is necessarily different. Check out this link where you can find all the information you need to follow best management practices and keep your lawn in good condition, and if necessary rectify any problems: <https://tinyurl.com/2fpy55y5>.

I'm all for finding good articles to read on topics that I find most useful, and I particularly like the blogs written by Duval County Extension's Stephanie Means, our program assistant for the Florida-Friendly Program: <https://tinyurl.com/mspupxmy>.

And here I've found more information on wildlife-friendly gardening, which is really important to me: <https://tinyurl.com/2bkvar7n>. Designing an attractive yard which caters for both humans and wildlife can be achieved!

As always, the Duval County Extension newsletter is useful, offering timely tips, articles, and information on upcoming programs: <https://tinyurl.com/4fs4rvnd>. And finally, our statewide Master Gardener Volunteer newsletter, The Neighborhood Gardener, is always a good read: <https://tinyurl.com/38svv7fn>.

Now spring is almost on the doorstep and the year unfolds, I hope you enjoy your gardening projects, whatever they may be.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



20% OFF
One Regularly
Priced Item

Valid in-store the participating stores listed. Coupon not valid for Seed/Bird Food, Camera Feeders, Optics, Gift Cards, DSC Memberships, or Sale Items. Cannot be combined with other coupons/discounts. Offer expires 02/28/25
ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER

St Johns

450 SR13 at Racetrack Rd
(next to Publix)
904.230.3242
wbu.com/jacksonville

Jax Beach

4138 Third Street South
(between Trader Joes & Staples)
904.246.6832
wbu.com/jacksonvillebeach

World Golf Village

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



Dianne K. Briery
CPA PLC
Certified Public
Accountant

LET US SIMPLIFY YOUR ACCOUNTING NEEDS

46 years of serving clients!

- Tax Planning and Prep for Business/Individual
- QuickBooks Consulting/Training
- Church Accounting - Clergy Taxation
- Pension Plans - IRAs

TAX TIP

Because of the extreme growth of issues with identity theft in regard to individual tax returns, we strongly suggest that at least one person on your return request an IP PIN (identity protection pin). This is a number that you would get annually and it MUST be entered on your return in order to efile your return. The 'Pin' is mailed to the taxpayer in early January. It is important to keep the letter when it is received, as a paper return will be required if you do not have it.

Call today for your no cost consultation

No cost consultation limited to ½ hour.

904-880-3200 | www.dkbrierycpa.com

Located in the Julington Creek Business Park • 12627 San Jose Blvd, Suite 601 • Jacksonville, Florida 32223

Mandarin NewsLine reaches your target market!

Get your business in front of our readers!

Affordable Rates

Multi Issue Discounts

Complimentary Graphic Design

We make advertising easy...
Call today!



Linda Gay
904.607.5062
Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com



Your carefree oasis of luxury awaits!

Feel right at home at one of our Starling communities.

Live in unparalleled environments that feature resort-style amenities and comfortable residences. Select from luxurious independent living, assisted living or memory care lifestyles.

Whether you're sampling the delectable dining options, enjoying the full-service salon or pursuing a new hobby, Starling is all about embracing life with friends, family, and community.

Learn more at www.StarlingLiving.com.




STARLING
AT PONTE VEDRA
ASSISTED LIVING
and MEMORY CARE
904-686-3700
ALF#12887


STARLING
AT NOCATEE
ASSISTED LIVING
and MEMORY CARE
904-834-4199
ALF#13109


STARLING
AT NOCATEE
INDEPENDENT
LIVING
904-834-4511


STARLING
AT SAN JOSE
ASSISTED LIVING
and MEMORY CARE
904-337-6350
ALF#12887

WELLNESS • ENGAGEMENT • CULINARY • SERVICE

Call today to learn about current specials!

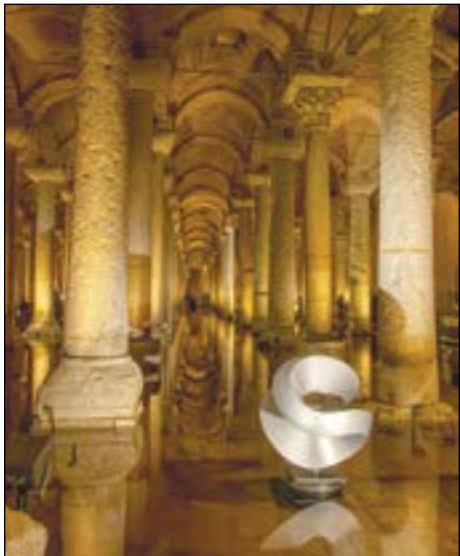
Travel

Revisiting Istanbul

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewslines.com

Whether traveling abroad or exploring my home state, I find something comforting about revisiting a place. Familiar landmarks, like Cinderella’s Castle at Disney World bring back vivid memories of past visits. Of course, changes are inevitable — sometimes enhancing the experience, other times altering it in unexpected ways. Regardless, returning always offers the opportunity for new memories, especially when revisiting an international destination.

In 2016, I had my first encounter with Istanbul, a city rich in history and culture. Now officially spelled “Türkiye” instead of “Turkey,” the country continues to evolve. Recently, I returned to Istanbul and revisited three historical monuments, each offering a fresh perspective.



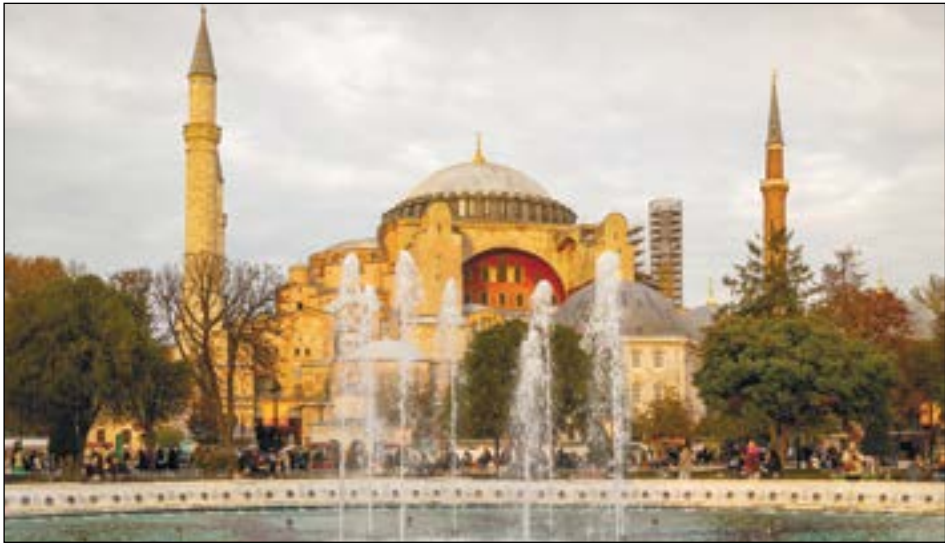
Basilica Cistern with modern artwork.

Hagia Sophia is a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture, originally constructed as a cathedral in 537 AD under Emperor Justinian I. This UNESCO World Heritage Site features four minarets, a stunning dome and intricate mosaics. Over the centuries, it has served as a church, a mosque, and a museum.

In 2020, however, Türkiye’s President Erdoğan decided to convert Hagia Sophia back into a mosque. This marked a significant shift in its identity. For nearly 900 years, it was a Christian cathedral until the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453, after which it became a mosque. In 1935, as part of Mustafa Atatürk’s secularist reforms, it was turned into a museum.

Today, Hagia Sophia serves as an active place for Muslim worship while remaining accessible to visitors. Changes are immediately evident: the iconic Byzantine mosaics of Jesus and Mary are veiled during prayers, and soft green carpets now cover the marble floors. Unlike my previous visit, the ground level is no longer open to all visitors, a change I found disappointing. In 2016, I recall standing in awe beneath the immense dome, overwhelmed by its magnificence and history. During this trip, I was directed to the balcony level, where I looked down at the breathtaking interior. While the view from above was still mesmerizing, I missed the immersive experience of standing beneath the dome’s grandeur.

One of my favorite attractions visited in 2016 was the Basilica Cistern, an illumi-



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Hagia Sophia.

nated underground wonder beneath Istanbul’s streets. Upon my return, I discovered that the site had also undergone a transformation. A restoration project from 2017 to 2022 revitalized this subterranean marvel, making it safer and more accessible. New, sturdy walkways replaced the older paths, allowing visitors to explore the 336 ancient marble and granite columns with ease.

Modern LED lighting now enhances the cistern’s ethereal quality, casting enchanting shadows and reflections. Contemporary art installations float in its shallow waters, blending modern creativity with the past. While these additions are lovely, I found myself nostalgic for the original, simpler design.

The iconic and unforgettable Medusa heads have been cleaned and preserved. They appeared green during my first visit, likely due to algae or mold, but now they glimmer in a cream-colored hue. The addition of a metallic Medusa statue, with dramatic shadow play, offered a delightful surprise; however, I wish the lighting on the statue remained constant instead of

cycling on and off.

Topkapi Palace, once the heart of Ottoman power, continues to captivate visitors with its grandeur. Recent restorations have opened sections of the sprawling complex that were previously inaccessible. Visitors can now explore newly unveiled courtyards, though some areas that were once open now require separate tickets.

The highlight of my visit was the refurbished Imperial Treasury, where I finally saw the famed Topkapi Emerald dagger. Fans of the Peter Ustinov movie “Topkapi,” which dramatizes a heist involving the dagger, will appreciate the cinematic connection.

Revisiting Istanbul was certainly worthwhile, yet reminded me that changes are an integral part of any journey.

For more: goturkiye.com

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

Expert family-focused care in Mandarin.

Welcome to Mandarin South,
Catherine lyoha-Idiong, MD.



Baptist Primary Care is excited to welcome **Catherine lyoha-Idiong, MD**, to our Mandarin South primary care office. Dr. lyoha-Idiong is now accepting new patients age 18 and up.

Dr. lyoha-Idiong’s goal as a primary care physician is to build trusted relationships with the people she cares for as she empowers them to take charge of their health journey.

She specializes in:

- Preventive care
- Women’s health
- Wellness exams
- Behavioral health
- Chronic disease management

To book an appointment
scan the QR Code or
call **904.292.9033.**



 **BAPTIST**
Primary Care
Baptist Medical Group
11261 San Jose Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223