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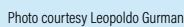
Q&A with Michael Boylan



Get To Know ... Glenn Ivie



Puzzles



Rotary Club of Mandarin: Spreading holiday cheer and making a difference

Rotary Year End Activities cont. on pg. 7

Photos courtesy Katheryn Donaldson

Philip and Katheryn Donaldson.

Parkinson's support group cont. on pg. 11


Photos courtesy Tim Durkin

Assistant Principal Tim Durkin and Principal Sara Bravo with a ceremonial truss during a "topping out" to signify the last of the roof trusses going onto the new building. I

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MHS new Medical Academy facility cont. from pg. 1

equipped to succeed in their careers.

The Mandarin High School Medical Academy currently mentors nearly 300 students, providing them with hands-on experience and a rigorous curriculum that bridges classroom learning with real-world healthcare practice. The program has earned recognition for its success in preparing students for post-secondary education and careers in the medical field.

“We are thrilled to continue to grow our Medical Academy and provide our students with the resources they need to thrive,” said Sara Bravo, principal of Mandarin High School. “The addition of this new building will not only allow us to expand the scope of our program but also enhance the learning experience with advanced medical technology, lab spaces and collaborative learning areas. This is an exciting step forward in our commitment to developing the next generation of healthcare leaders.”

The new facility will include cutting-edge classrooms, simulation labs and spaces designed for specialized healthcare training, providing students with the opportunity to work with the latest

medical equipment and techniques. These enhancements will ensure students are not only prepared for college and professional certification programs but are also exposed to the evolving demands of the healthcare industry.

“We are proud of the strong partnerships we have cultivated with local healthcare organizations, which provide invaluable mentorship and internship opportunities for our students,” said program director Renate Dewberry, NREMT.

Mandarin High School’s commitment to healthcare education is part of a broader initiative to expand career and technical education programs, preparing students for success in a wide range of fields. The school’s Medical Academy has seen an increase in enrollment and student interest year after year, reflecting the growing demand for healthcare professionals across the region and nationwide.

Contact Renate Dewberry at dewberryr@duvalschools.org or visit <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/olmhs/page/mandarin-medical-academy> for more information about the Mandarin High School Medical Academy or to learn how you can support the program.

Pumpkins in disguise at Crown Point



Photo courtesy Mary Eyster

During the month of November, the ELA Vertical Council at Crown Point Elementary held a book character pumpkin competition at the school. The point was to disguise the pumpkins, so they did not become pumpkin pies. Pre-K through fifth graders participated in the competition; they were able to disguise their pumpkins as a favorite character from the book of their choice. To facilitate the project, Mandarin United Methodist Church donated 40 pumpkins. The students, teachers, and staff created the cutest disguises from a variety of books, such as “The Wizard of OZ,” “Toy Story,” “Peter Pan,” “The Scarecrow’s Hat,” “The Best Thanksgiving Ever,” and much more. Pictured are a group of first graders with the best overall disguised pumpkin from “Just A Mess.”



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BFF

Best Furry Friend
of the month

Meet Abby!



Breed:

Scottish Terrier

Favorite Activity:

Chasing birds that get near our yard on the pond.

Favorite Food:

"Just Salmon Skin" baked dog treats.

Favorite Friends:

Sparky dog and any human willing to give her a treat!

How did your BFF get her name?

Abby was given to us by a family that already had too many dogs. When I brought her home, my father said, "I think she looks like an Abby"

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



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Happy
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From your friends at
Mandarin NewsLine!

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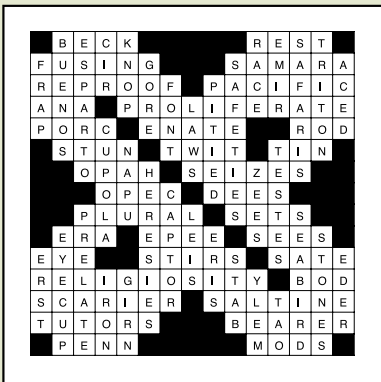
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MYSTERY PHOTO



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

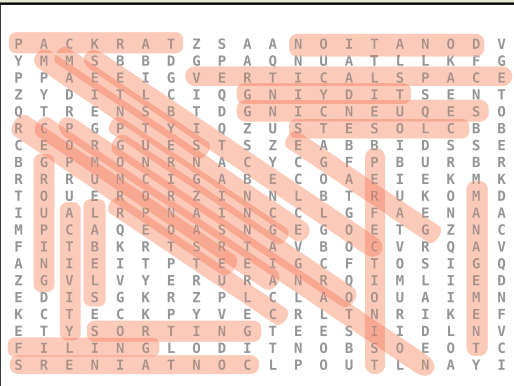
Last month's Mystery Photo was the Mandarin Library on Kori Road.



Answers
to our
Puzzles
PG 8



A. sorted B. system C. tidy D. clutter



Happy New Year,
neighbors.

Jim Register, Agent
12058 San Jose Blvd, Suite 302
Jacksonville, FL 32223
Bus: 904-268-5522 Fax: 904-262-7999
jim@jimregister.com

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January

Community Calendar

What's Happening in Mandarin

Shuffleboard is played on Tuesdays at 1 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.

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.

4th: 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, will be open on Jan. 4 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

4th: Meet the Maple Leaf Divers at the Mandarin Museum, 11964 Mandarin Road, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4. 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.

5th: 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 Sunday, Jan. 5 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.

7th: Honeybee Quilters Guild will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 7 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.

7th: GriefShare group will be meeting on Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 7 through April 8 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Cody Enrichment Center, 4152 Loretto Road. Visit griefshare.org

for more information or call (904) 318-9308 to sign up.

9th: Mandarin American Legion Post 372 general meeting will be held on Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. at Williams Family YMCA 10415 San Jose Blvd., on the second floor. Visit <https://al-post372fl.org/> for more information.

11th: Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market at First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. on Jan. 11 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit www.facebook.com/SecondSatMarket/ for more information.

11th: The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society will meet from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Jan. 11 at Mandarin Branch Library, 3330 Kori Road. 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.

12th: Mandarin Parkinson's Support Group meets at Church of Eleven 22, 4911 Losco Road, on the second Sunday of each month (this month, Jan. 12) from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Contact group leader Kathryn Donaldson at serving4_him@yahoo.com or (904) 710-1449 for more information.

16th: Mandarin Garden Club will hold a general meeting on Jan. 16 at 10 a.m. at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road. Kay Ehas, CEO of Groundworks will provide a program on Jacksonville's Emerald Trail. The public is welcome. Visit www.mandaringardenclub.org for more information.

20th: The All Star Quilters Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. for socializing prior to the 10 a.m. meeting on Monday, Jan. 20 at First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. The program will be a birthday luncheon and installation of officers. A modest fee is charged for lunch. "Show and Tell" is always a feature. Guests are

welcome. Visit www.allstarquilters.org for more information.

22nd: Chair Yoga, sponsored by Friends of the South Mandarin Library, will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays for six weeks beginning Jan. 22. Registration required on that date. Space is limited. The class is open to all; no physical limitations.

23rd: Mandarin Women's Club's luncheon will be held on Jan. 23 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Ramada Inn in Mandarin. Entertainment will be a string quartet from the Jacksonville Symphony Ensemble. The luncheon cost is \$25 and must be received by Monday, Jan. 13. 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.

23rd: Mandarin Republican Club will meet on Thursday, Jan. 23 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.

23rd: "The 25 Habits of Successful Gardeners" will be presented by Duval County Extension Agent Tonya Ashworth at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road, on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. Visit www.mandaringardenclub.org for more information.

25th: Mandarin Market, hosted by the Mandarin Garden Club will be held on Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Mandarin Garden Club, 2955 Orange Picker Road. Vegetable starts and plants for your yard will be available. The public is welcome. Visit www.mandaringardenclub.org for more information.

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with Jacksonville City Council Member Michael Boylan, District 6

Q: Can you update us on the end of the year/beginning of the new year City Council schedule?

A: We’re entering into a quiet time with the holiday break. Council meetings don’t start until Jan. 6 with the next full council meeting on Jan. 14. As always when contacting our office, I encourage the use of email as it allows us to be more organized and keep up with your concern.

Q: What’s the latest on the Mandarin Road sidewalks?

A: The intent has always been to extend the sidewalk all the way to Walter Jones Park once funds were available. I’d like to make it very clear that this is nothing new and this project has been in the works for 10 years. While I appreciate there are a few who fear the adverse impact this may have on the character of Mandarin Road, if you take the time to walk all or a portion of what was installed prior, you can see that the damage many feared then simply did not materialize. The Mandarin Road Overlay speaks to the importance of maintaining the tree canopy and we’re very sensitive to this. There will be a Town Hall meeting in late January/early February (date and time still to be determined). Please contact my office in January for more information.

Q: Is the Beauclerc Road resurfacing project scheduled to start soon?

A: This project is in the queue and I fully anticipate it to be started in January or February 2025. I’ve been working a number of years to get the City of Jacksonville to address this project and am happy it’s finally in the queue. It’s due to the active interest of constituents that we were able to get this done.

Q: What can you share about the city’s Solid Waste Disposal Fund and appropriations from the general fund to accommodate actual costs?

A: The solid waste fee program was put in place in 2010. Each residence is charged a monthly fee of \$12.65 per month and that rate has not changed since. The capacity was there for the council to increase this rate, but it wasn’t automatic and hasn’t been done. Instead, we’ve offset the difference between the costs we are paying the contractors (which have increased over the years) and what we collected from residences with funds from the operational budget. I anticipate the budget tightening in the coming years and that it will be more difficult to continue to use the operational budget to make up the differential. This will likely be addressed in the coming months.

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.

Knights of Columbus Council 10850 receives top award

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Knights of Columbus St. Johns River Council 10850 was awarded the distinction of Star Council, the international organization’s top honor for local councils. This is the second consecutive year and 14th year overall the council has been awarded this distinction. Last year the council also won the Star District and Star Assembly awards.

The Star Council Award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of growing membership, promoting Knights of Columbus insurance benefits, sponsoring Catholic faith formation programs and volunteering time through service-oriented activities.

“I want to thank our Regional Administrator Bill Kelly, District Deputy John Hashtak, and Parish Pastor David Ruchinski, as well as the Brothers of Council 10850 for their hard work and dedication,” Grand Knight Steve Roadruck said. “The Council completed 16 program events, hosted two fraternal benefit events, and increased membership by six percent for Fraternal Year 2023 – 2024.”

The council has four major program categories: Faith, Family, Community, and Life. All these programs have several sub-programs such as Building the



Photo courtesy Knights of Columbus

Domestic Church, Food for Families, Free Throw and Soccer Challenge, and March for Life. Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See.

For information on joining the Knights of Columbus contact local Membership Director Joseph Metzger at jmetzger1775@outlook.com.

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Ring in the New Year at the library

By Jeremy Yates
mail@floridanewsline.com

Stock your home library at The Friends of the Mandarin Branch Book Sale Friday, Jan. 31 and Saturday, Feb. 1 at 3330 Kori Road. There's a wide selection of books for every age. Fill up a bag for \$10. Individual items will be marked \$5 and under. This sale is cash only. Proceeds benefit the Mandarin Branch Library.

Kids can read to Yona, the Newfoundland therapy dog, on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 2:30 p.m. or Sammy, the Golden Retriever, on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 2:30 p.m. at South Mandarin Library.

Children aged nine to 12 can join Captain Raptor's brave crew of space-faring dinosaurs and learn about the engineering, science and history behind space exploration. Discover Lab: Astronautics runs Wednesdays from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

at South Mandarin Library and Thursdays from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Mandarin Library.

Teens aged 12 to 17 can explore paper crafts and card-making techniques like inking, embossing and quilling in Teen Lab: DMs IRL Fridays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. or make a zine at Teen Advisory Board (TAB) on Friday, Jan. 10 at 4:45 p.m. at South Mandarin Library. You can take a complete technology break with Teens Unplugged, Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. at Mandarin Library.

Teens and adults are encouraged to attend Craft & Chat every Tuesday at 5 p.m. at Mandarin Branch. On Jan. 7, we'll be doing some crochet. If knitting is more your style, join us on Jan. 21. On Jan. 28, we'll explore embroidery.

Visit jaxpubliclibrary.org/events to find more activities.



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Library
The Friends of the Mandarin Branch Book Sale will be held on Friday, Jan. 31 and Saturday, Feb. 1 at 3330 Kori Road.



with Duval County School Board Member Melody Bolduc, District 7

Q: How has your first month as a board member been?

A: Since being sworn in at the special meeting of the school board on Nov. 19, I participated in my first regular board meeting on Dec. 9. I have been attending/auditing all the school board meetings since I was elected in August to get up to speed. Also, as of mid-December, I have met all the principals and visited all

the schools in District 7. Our principals are incredible — they are happy at their jobs and supportive of their teachers and staff.

One thing I did learn is that we have some schools with high numbers of ELL (English Language Learners) students and without Title 1 funding, we're not able to get them the coaches they need. I'll be looking for creative ways to get

funding to fill these gaps.

Q: Were you able to attend the Town Hall meeting with Superintendent Christopher Bernier at Twin Lakes Academy Middle School on Dec. 10?

A: Yes, and it was a very productive meeting. I wish more people could have attended, but I was grateful for the opportunity to talk with those there. They were able to address their concerns with me and Superintendent Bernier. His presentation asked the questions, "What do we as a district do well?" "What can we do better?" and "What keeps you up at night?" He also presented some of the

challenges facing the district. We have to find \$100 million for our operational budget. This is what's driving the conversation about potential school closures as well as magnet school transportation. These are ongoing and difficult conversations. Superintendent Bernier made a point to note that cuts to staff haven't been mentioned yet, and the reason is because he is hoping that other things we are contemplating will be enough to prevent that drastic step.

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

A: I have some good news to highlight:

I learned from Principal Aurelia Williams at Twin Lakes Academy Middle School that they have an entrepreneurship program as part of their Career and Technical Education. It's a partnership with CSX. It's very impressive and I don't think it's been highlighted enough. Principal Williams is a strong and caring leader of her school.

At our Dec. 9 board meeting, the Treble Makers, a singing group from Bartram Springs Elementary, provided entertainment with an acapella holiday presentation that was very good.

At Mandarin High School's November SAC meeting, their academy culinary program students made the most deli-

Q&A with Melody Bolduc cont. on pg. 8

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By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Glenn Ivie

Glenn Ivie has been a painter all his life, but while a student at the University of Florida, he shied away from a degree in fine arts because of his perception of a “starving artist.” Instead, he earned a degree in advertising design and embarked on a career in commercial art. He spent 20 years working for the William Cook Agency in Jacksonville before deciding to make a go of it on his own in 2000. “Glenn Ivie Art and Design” kept him busy for another eight years, during which time he had the honor of producing a “pitch” book that was utilized during the bid to bring the Super Bowl to Jacksonville. He next developed a website that allowed users to convert their photos to paintings on canvas before deciding to retire just before COVID hit. “I missed the creativity after I retired, so I picked up the paint brushes again and started creating art,” Glenn said. Today he is a member of the St. Augustine Art Association and the First Coast Plein Air Artists group and his paintings are in acrylics and oils (rather than his original watercolors) with a more impressionistic technique. He and his wife Trish just celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary and live in St. Johns. They have three adult children and five grandchildren.



Photo courtesy Glenn Ivie
Glenn Ivie.

people. We reconnected in college at the University of Florida and by the end of college knew we were the ones for each other. We married over Spring Break, on March 17. We have found over the years that it is hard to go out for an anniversary dinner to a restaurant without corned beef and green beer.

Q: Tell us about your online business, YourPhotoToPainting.com.

A: I had gotten pretty good at using Photoshop, so I came up with the idea for this website in 2010. People would upload their photos and I used a proprietary blend of Photoshop filters to create a digital painting that I would put on canvas for a fraction of what a painting would cost. This led to NBC Sports commissioning a painting of the former US Open champions at Pebble Beach. I shuttered the business in 2019 when Trish and I decided it was time to retire.

Q: What made you decide to “unretire” in the time of COVID?

A: Once I retired, I started fishing because I thought that’s what you were supposed to do when you retired. But I quickly became bored and missed the creativity of painting. I started following various artists on Instagram and realized that painting didn’t have to always be so realistic. I decided to paint in a more impressionistic style and also changed from watercolors to acrylics and oils. I found that there is something magical about getting immersed in a painting — and not all paintings go the direction you originally thought.

Q: What is your favorite thing to paint?

A: Right now I am painting a lot of landscapes and local marshes. I’m fascinated by the shadows at sunrise and sunset. Trish is my scout to find locations. I have committed to painting three hours a day in the mornings and this has really given my spirit a whole new life.

Q: How did you come up with the idea for your blog, “Loving Perspectives?”

A: My new website had a blog platform that allows visitors to comment and get a conversation going, so I decided to start the blog. Everyone in life faces difficulties at one time or another and after 71 years of living, I feel I’ve accumulated a good perspective on life. I thought I could help by giving people encouraging words if they need it. I have a new blurb up every Friday.

[Author’s Note: Visit <https://glenniviefineart.com/> to view some of Glenn Ivie’s works and to read his “Loving Perspectives” blog.]

Rotary Year End Activities cont. from pg. 1

wise go without. Club member Mark O’Connor spearheaded this initiative, which included a contribution of more than \$2,000 to help cover food costs.

The Rotary Club of Mandarin also supported The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida. Rotarians rang bells and collected donations at the Mandarin Oaks Publix during multiple weekends, a project coordinated by Rotarian Michael Sullivan.

Continuing its commitment to local needs, the club partnered with Hart Felt Ministries to build another wheelchair ramp, ensuring accessibility for mobility-challenged residents. Rotarian Louis Dunbar led this project, which embodies the club’s dedication to making a tangible difference in the lives of those around them.

And the club’s commitment to service extends far beyond Mandarin. The Rotary Club of Mandarin continued its International Service work in partnership with 6:8 Ministries, assisting children in feeding centers and supporting homeless individuals in the Alajuelita and Horquetas regions of Costa Rica — some of the poorest areas in the country. This year, the club made a special effort to ensure that these children could enjoy the magic of Christmas celebrations. Rotarian Major B. Harding Jr. championed this initiative, bringing smiles to the faces of children in need.

The Rotary Club of Mandarin embodies the spirit of service, with the motto “Service above self.” With a focus on local engagement, global collaboration, and sustainable change, the club offers a unique blend of community involvement and fellowship. The club meets for breakfast every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Ramada Inn on Hartley Road in Mandarin. Contact Delonyx Cortez at membership@mandarinrotary.org or visit www.mandarinrotary.org for more information.

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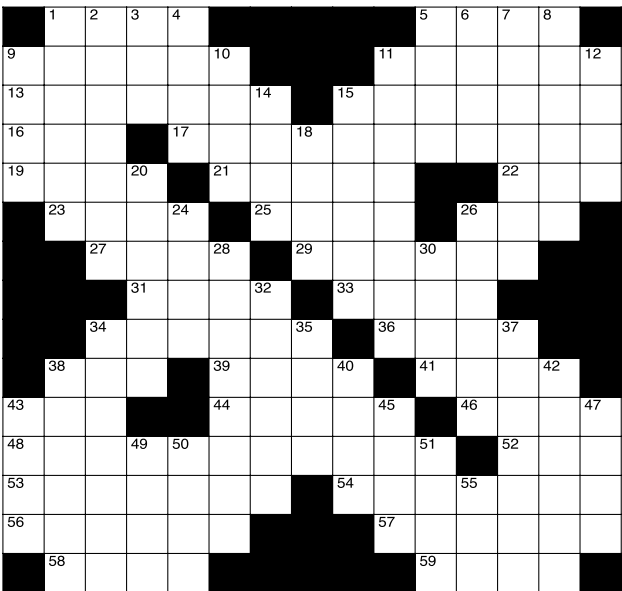
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. “Loser” rocker
5. Partner to relaxation
9. Mixing
11. Winged nut
13. Expression of blame
15. Vast ocean
16. Comedienne Gasteyer
17. Multiply
19. Meat from a pig (French)
21. Related
22. Rocker Stewart
23. Surprise completely
25. Loon
26. Canister
27. Large, deep-bodied fish
29. Takes forcefully
31. Oil cartel

33. Palmer and Hepburn are two
34. More than one
36. Places down purposefully
38. Pitching statistic
39. Type of sword
41. Witnesses
43. Body part
44. Mixes slowly
46. Satisfy
48. Strong belief
52. One’s physique (slang)
53. More frightening
54. Soup cracker
56. Teaches
57. One who carries something
58. Actor Sean
59. Changes

CLUES DOWN

1. __ Aires, city
2. Coarse grass
3. Type of gene
4. Door handle
5. Competition
6. Muslim ruler title
7. Hunting expeditions
8. Large mollusk
9. Bind securely
10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
11. 2-point plays in football
12. Breezed through
14. Type setting
15. Felt for
18. Codified rules
20. Small dome
24. Chevrotain
26. Male reproductive gland
28. Controversial beliefs
30. Z Z Z
32. One who confines another
34. Bishop
35. Garlands
37. Bird that flies by the coast
38. Optical device
40. Greek goddess of discord
42. Some are “Rolling”
43. Formerly (archaic)
45. Thrust a knife into
47. German river
49. Atomic #26
50. Make a grotesque face
51. Primordial matter of the universe
55. Chinese philosophical principle

NEAT AND TIDY WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

ACTIVITY
CLOSETS
CLUTTER
COLLECTIBLES
COMMON AREA
CONTAINERS
DONATION
FILING
GARAGE
GROUPING
LABELS
MAINTENANCE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZING
PACKRAT
PERFECTIONIST
PROCRASTINATION
PURGING
REPURPOSE
SEQUENCING
SORTING
SYSTEM
TIDYING
VERTICAL SPACE

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to organization.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 1 = T)

A. 5 10 3 1 7 16
Clue: Divided into categories

B. 5 18 5 1 7 9
Clue: Way of doing things

C. 1 22 16 18
Clue: Neat

D. 23 20 4 1 1 7 3
Clue: Scattered items

Q&A with Melody Bolduc cont. from pg. 6

cious homemade potstickers for the attendees. Also, the Mandarin High School Drama department recently presented an evening of two One-Act Plays: “The Actor Games” and “The Day the Internet Died,” which was student-directed.

Finally, I am so impressed with Principal Dr. Michael George at Atlantic Coast

High School. He actually doesn’t have an office so that his teachers have more space to work. He was a previous Principal of the Year and this is just one example of his servant leadership.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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

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Travel

Galloping through Kentucky's equine legacy

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewslines.com

After exploring the Tennessee Whiskey Trail, I drove on to Kentucky. I hoped to explore more than bourbon and bluegrass music; I wanted to see horses. The state's deep-rooted equestrian culture boasts some of the world's most renowned horse farms, racing venues, and equine traditions; however, I did not go at the right season to catch the world-renowned Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs in Louisville. The famous fastest two minutes in sports occurs every May.

Shelbyville: The Saddlebred Capital of the World

Instead, I began in Shelbyville, the "Saddlebred Capital of the World." As the name implies, the Saddlebred breeds are celebrated here for their beauty, grace, and versatility. Visitors can tour some of the prestigious Saddlebred farms in the area, but I chose to visit Lettleiki, an Icelandic breeding farm. I met the owner, Maggie Brandt, a warm, wonderful, and clever woman who exemplifies the char-

acteristics of the legendary and magical Iceland fairies. She shared her fondness for Icelandic horses by explaining their special features: they have five natural gaits, including the tölt, which is exceptionally smooth and comfortable for riders — no bouncing. Originally bred in Iceland, the breed features a muscular build, thick coats, and adaptability to various climates. Despite their smaller stature, they're incredibly powerful and agile, capable of handling leisurely trail rides and competitive events. Maggie convinced me that if I ever consider horseback riding, it should be done with Icelandic horses. Her farm includes some of the finest Icelandic horses in North America.

I moved on to checking out a farm with a program called HorseSensing. It's an equine therapy organization teaching humans how to interact with horses. The goal is to successfully help veterans transition back to civilian life from vari-

ous forms of addiction. The program places them in jobs, and it has changed lives.

While in Shelbyville, I stayed in a remarkable Cerulean Farm Bed and Breakfast, a restored 1860s mansion surrounded by the owner's horses. I highly recommend it.

Frankfort: State Capital

Being close to Frankfort on the banks of the Kentucky River, I didn't want to miss seeing the capital. Capitol buildings are always worth a stop, and Kentucky's was no exception. I also took a tour at Rebecca Ruth Candy, learning about the woman who perfected a recipe that led to her invention of the Bourbon Ball, a mint chocolate bourbon-infused candy.

Georgetown: Old Friends

The historic town of Georgetown is home to one of the most cherished stops for horse enthusiasts: Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farm. This sanctuary provides a loving home for retired racehorses, including past champions like Silver Charm and War Emblem, whom I saw. A guided tour offers a closer look at this heart-warming establishment.

Lexington: The Horse Capital of the World

I stopped at the Kentucky Horse Park, the ultimate museum of equestrian history. I had only a few hours here, but could have stayed the entire day. Visitors explore the International Museum of the Horse, a Breeds Barn, watch live demonstrations, and can even take a horseback ride through the scenic grounds.

Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farm.

It was finally time to head to the races. No equine journey through Kentucky is complete without a stop at Keeneland. Keeneland is more than a racetrack — an icon of thoroughbred racing. Established in 1936, Keeneland hosts prestigious racing meets every April and October and is a global hub for horse auctions, where some of the world's finest Thoroughbreds are bought and sold. The venue's historic grandstands, lush paddocks, and thrilling races make for an unforgettable experience, especially if you place a winning bet.

Whether you're watching a Saddlebred trot gracefully in Shelbyville, meeting retired champions in Georgetown, or cheering on Thoroughbreds at Keeneland, Kentucky offers an unparalleled equestrian experience.

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

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Briefs

Italian heritage scholarship opportunities available
The Order of the Sons of Italy in America (OSIDA) promotes, enhances, and encourages the study of Italian heritage and culture. The local chapter offers two scholarships to high school seniors of Italian descent who display academic excellence and leadership abilities. Applications are available for students from public and private high schools in Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, and Nassau counties.

For an official scholarship application, send your request to Lucy Cortese at lgcortese@att.net. Note that completed applications and supporting materials are due by March 14, 2025. Award decisions will be announced by April 4. Recipients will be honored at a recognition dinner on April 25.

Donations needed for ElderSource's new Sharing and Caring Closet
Nonprofit ElderSource's Sharing and Caring Closet will be accepting consumable medical supplies for local seniors in need during its second annual two-day Shop and Drop event Jan. 24 and 25 at its headquarters in Mandarin.

Visitors can drop off donated items at ElderSource from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 24 and from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25. To learn more, visit myElderSource.org and find a link to shop at Amazon and have donations shipped directly to the Sharing and Caring Closet at 10688 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville 32257.

Suggested donations include: Incontinence undergarments (both men and women, all sizes); waterproof pads for beds and furniture; Ensure nutritional drink (all flavors); disposable, personal hygiene wipes; moist or dry heating pads; memory foam cushions for chairs; pads, guards, shields for men and women; skin-soothing barrier, moistur-

izing creams; disposable gloves; instant heat and ice; and blankets and throws. Food and clothing items are not being accepted for the closet.

Archaeologist to discuss ancient Greek harbor sites
The Archaeological Institute of America—Jacksonville Society will meet at 12 p.m. on Jan. 18 in Building 51 at the University of North Florida to hear a lecture by Dr. Daniel Pullen from Florida State University. His lecture is titled "A Late Bronze Age 'Naval Station' at Kalamianos (Saronic Gulf), Greece?" He will discuss the Late Bronze Age port of Kalamianos as a possible Homeric locale and as a possible naval station and ancient Greek harbor site.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Complimentary refreshments will be served after the lecture in the Anthropology Lab. On Saturday, campus parking is free, and the faculty/vendor/staff spaces are available to everyone. Contact Melva Price at (904) 241-9411 or aiajaxsoc@gmail.com for more information.

Mandarin Women's Club welcomes Jacksonville Symphony ensemble string quartet
On Thursday, Jan. 23, Mandarin Women's Club members will be entertained by a string quartet from the Jacksonville Symphony Ensemble at their luncheon at the Ramada Inn in Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Road.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and reservations for the luncheon are required. The luncheon cost is \$25 and your check must be received by Monday, Jan. 13. 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.

Fishing

Jimmy's Fishing Report

By Jimmy Tomazinis
mail@floridanewslines.com

Happy New Year! Here's to having a safe, memorable, and productive upcoming year. As I talked about in the past, it's a great time to set out plans and make goals for the coming year. Whether it's catching your biggest bass or planning a trip to catch a new species of fish, you have plenty of time after sunset right now, so make good use of it. It is also pertinent to service boat motors, trailers, and fishing gear so you are not missing out when spring rolls around.

Specks were up and down through December, but they should be more consistent this month. Good numbers of smaller fish can be found in creeks around the area. A few larger fish will be mixed in, but they'll still be mostly in the river. Minnows and jigs still have you covered. If you're wondering where you can get minnows, we have a few options: Trout Creek Marina, Black Creek Marina, and Whiteys Fish Camp usually have plenty. If you have an aerator and a few buckets you can keep the ones you don't use alive between trips. Change

the water they are in and feed them every couple days and they can survive a long time. It makes it super convenient having them on hand.

Bass will be in the creeks and the river as well. I don't spend nearly as much time targeting them this month as I do specks. When I do, I use large wild shiners since I am looking for bigger bass. Artificial will still be productive and if I can give any advice on selecting those this time of year, go towards a smaller size and work them very slow. Everything moves slower when the water cools down.

Stripers are also worth looking for in the cold water. If the river is calm, you can look for schooling fish in open water. Birds can show where to look. Bridges will be the best bet in all conditions. Lipless crank baits, jigs, shrimp, and shiners are all good. Stripers tend to be near the surface early and late then mid column or towards the bottom when the sun is up. At least we still have some options out there. Tight lines.

Parkinson's support group cont. from pg. 1

ing and coping by painting, where participants will each paint a canvas, is planned for January. Other themes throughout 2025 include senior help-ers and fall prevention, board games and puzzles, and a CPR class.

Naturally something this labor in- tensive came about due to a personal connection. About four years ago, Philip Donaldson began experiencing symptoms, but like many with Par- kinson's, the formal diagnosis took a few years. Like many, the Donaldsons had questions and felt the need to seek out others like themselves. Since the Donaldsons are both still work- ing, one of the challenges they found was that most Parkinson's groups were aimed at retirees due to the times the groups met.

"We found and joined a Parkinson's group in Fleming Island a few months

ago, but it's a long drive for us and we were sure that there were others who could benefit from a support group in Mandarin," Katheryn Donaldson said. "We took the advice of a former pastor of ours who said, 'If you see a need, fill it' and so we decided to start this new group."

Donaldson said they are fortunate to have found Jax Hope, Inc., an organi- zation committed to creating a caring community for people with Parkin- son's disease in Northern Florida. The new Mandarin support group falls under the Jax Hope umbrella, joining five other groups in Jacksonville and two in the surrounding area.

Additionally, Katheryn Donaldson is in the process of being certified as a group fitness instructor. Her plan is to offer a weekly fitness class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers at the Church of Eleven 22 on Thurs- days from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. beginning

on Jan. 9.

"Exercise is the only thing that Parkinson's disease patients can do to slow the progression of the disease," she said.

Donaldson said she believes that even though someone has been diagnosed with Parkinson's, there is still a lot of life to live and that living it one day at a time is key. The support group's motto is "Together we are stronger than the challenges we face."

"We know there is a need for these groups," she said. "We want people to know they are not alone and we want to form a community. Philip and I are new to this and we need this too. We're all going to learn from each other."

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Gardening

A New Year, A New Approach?

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

Gardening confronts us with new challenges almost constantly. Cur- rently in the second week of Decem- ber, we've had our first cold weather. Some gardeners try to hold on to their late summer gardens for as long as possible before conditions make it impractical. My front yard is an example. I garden more for wildlife, especially birds, pollinators and other invertebrates than I do for people, so shelter and sustenance are important. This means that my less than ortho- dox front yard is not a green and tidy sward. The brown twiggy flower stems of my favored plants (*dotted horsemint*, *Monarda punctata*) still predominate. Clumps of now shaggy-looking lance leaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*) are scattered in. Straggly Indian blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*) is still producing a few flowers, and the clumps of Vir- ginia spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) are limping along, waiting for rain to pull them back from the brink. Most of these plants provide shelter. Poke- weed (*Phytolacca americana*) is holding on to its berries, as are the beautyberry shrubs (*Callicarpa americana*), both of which are relished by mockingbirds and cardinals. Whatever we think of autumn, this is how nature works. It's just not neat and tidy.

There are plenty of useful resources which explain how and why to be more wildlife friendly, particularly through the winter, and this article in the November issue of The Neighbor- hood Gardener is a great start: <https://tinyurl.com/4env94k6>. To receive The Neighborhood Gardener in your in- box, you may subscribe here: <https://tinyurl.com/38u7ftfu>.

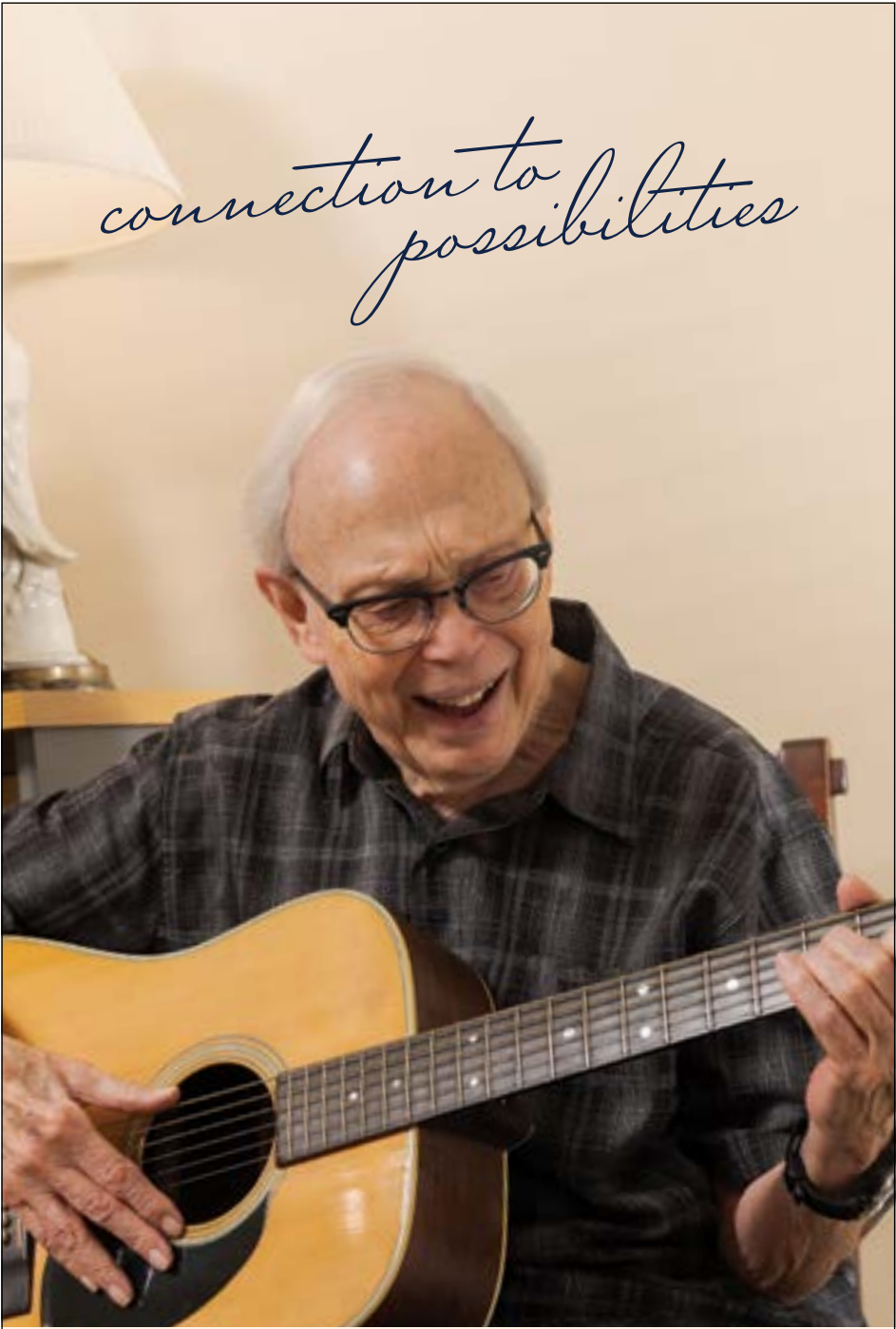
This year, I'm delighted to say that my yard is brightened by our Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*), the leaves of which have turned more red than brown. A first! Apparently, this is the result of a drier summer, followed by a cool down. The anthocyanins in the leaves have reacted to this and the red coloration is the result.

As the human year winds down, so does the natural year. By the time you read this, it will be our New Year and hopefully we will all be looking for- ward to a bright spring. In the mean- time, vegetable growers will be tend- ing to their crops, as well as planning for the spring garden. Historically our last frost date was around mid-March, but with the recent changes to our official climate zones, our spring may be earlier than usual. If you intend to grow flowers or vegetables from seed, forward planning is essential to make the most of the coming year.

Early January is a little late to sow some native wildflowers, but if you collected or bought any recently don't let that put you off trying. Annuals should bloom the first year, as the term suggests, but be prepared to wait longer for some perennials to flower. Sow seeds in small seed trays or cells in a seed-starter mix and keep them under grow-lights or on a bright win- dowsill. A heat mat could give them a head start. Try to avoid the seedlings getting leggy. Water them from below to reduce the risk of overwatering and causing damping off. For advice on this, see <https://tinyurl.com/ysnw3tdt>. Once seedlings have a pair of true leaves, begin a weekly application of a dilute liquid fertilizer.

These general instructions apply to most types of seed, but some veg- etables don't transplant easily, so check the Florida Vegetable Garden- ing Guide for all you need to know to start a successful spring garden: <https://tinyurl.com/2rneraa7>.

The first Extension newsletter of the new year will be available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3b3fx8xd>, as are all previous editions. Check it out for upcoming classes and timely articles. The Jacksonville library also hosts speakers, and some of the Life Lab classes might interest you. Check out <https://tinyurl.com/mtszmadb> for January's offerings.



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