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Volume 7, Issue 6

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March 2013

Challenge Day a big success at Mandarin Middle School

By Contributing Writer Cailah Bailey, MHS Student



Challenge Day had to be the best day in school, ever. I honestly expected it to be the same stupid intervention about our feelings and that bullying is bad, the epitome of a school assembly. I was so wrong.

When I walked in, I instantly felt welcomed as I ran through a tunnel of grinning teachers and volunteers giving me high fives and cheering me on. The Challenge Day leaders

were bright and they gave off a good vibe. I felt safe already. All the people around me were excited; it made me feel the same way.

It wasn't all fun and games, though. Before we got into our family groups, the leaders Michelle and Ev told us about their childhoods.

"If you really knew me, you would know that" Everyone was in tears except the guys

that were "too tough" to cry. Michelle told us that 10 percent of us shows and that is called out image. It is what we pretend to be, to be accepted. While in our groups, she encouraged us to drop our waterline, meaning that we need to spill out the real us. When it was my turn, I shared things that I had only told my best friend in the past because I knew that I could trust them. Hearing the other stories made me realize that everyone has a burden to carry. We are all in this together.

Fellow Challenge Day participant, Brendan Farrell, said, "My eyes were brimmed with tears as I watched some of my friends, teachers and peers that I barely knew cross the line. This activity was an emotional roller coaster that asked personal and tough questions. The group was asked to cross the line if they had any association with anything from suicide to addiction to family issues."

It made me realize that I was not alone. Nearly 300 Challenge Day cont. on pg. 9

Mandarin Arts Festival celebrates its 45th year!

By Donna Keathley

It all started in 1968, when the Mandarin Community Club decided to have a little fundraiser along with something the entire community could enjoy and the rest is history. This Easter weekend, March 30 and 31, the Mandarin Arts Festival Committee presents the 45th annual event.

Jim Barker, who lives in Mandarin, served on the original board of the event.

"Judge Ed Westbury was president of the Community Club that year; we put together probably around 40 artists and craftsmen and it was a real hit," Barker recalls. "I was assigned the job of treasurer and my job was to

keep up with the vendors' sales as they paid us 10 percent commission on their total sales. There was no booth rent like today. One artist named Leland Burdick who specialized in drawings horses and unicorns came that year and the next year his wife joined in and sold her pottery; they came for years and years."



he added. "I still volunteer and work the show; I really enjoy it."

Doris Hastings, a brand new young, energetic volunteer is looking forward to her first show.

"Going to the show has been an Easter family tradition of my husband's family for years, so

Art Festival cont. on pg. 10

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Argentina invades Mandarin High

By Zoe Smolios, MHS Student

Foreign exchange students from Argentina visited for two weeks last month. From the week of February 1 through February 16, 10 high school students who are learning English at their school in Bahia Blanca, Argentina, in the Buenos Aires province came to Mandarin High School to learn more about our culture.

Several of Spanish I and II teacher Sidney Forrest's students' families provided the exchange students with food, transportation and a place to stay while they were in Jacksonville. The Argentines went



to school with their host students and were able to participate in many other activities.

Some of the events included a welcoming dinner after they arrived and their own soccer game at Losco Park on February 7. The exchange students visited Sally Industries, attended the United States vs. Scotland soccer game at Ev-

erBank Field on February 9 and had some fun at Latitude 30. They also went to the Academy Center for students with ADD.

During the week, the students participated in Forrest's classes at MHS by talking to her students in fluent Spanish, explaining how accents differ in the different parts of Argentina and by teaching them more about the language.

"Shopping," was all Laura Kitlain, age 16, said when asked what her favorite part of

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Mandarin Rotary awards recognition to area Teachers of the Year

By Karl Kennell

On February 12, the members of the Mandarin Rotary Club gathered for a special breakfast at the Ramada Inn in Mandarin. It was to honor our local Teachers of the Year from Mandarin. Each year Mandarin Rotary members volunteer at our area schools to help teachers with reading and other related projects, thus they get to know a little better what makes a great Teacher of the Year. Teachers of the Year are chosen by a school for their dedication and service to the children and a special attribute that makes them stand out among the other teachers of the school.

This year's awardees for 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year were fifth-grade teacher Cynthia Ray from Bartram Springs Elementary; from Crown Point Elementary first-grade teacher Andrea Gore; fourth-grade teacher Donna Rea Ester of Greenland Pines Elementary; Erica Lindsey fifth-grade teacher at Loretto Elementary; first-grade teacher Jennifer Brown from Mandarin Oaks Elementary; and Mandarin Middle School's Teacher of the Year was seventh-grade science teacher John Wells.

Rounding out the awardees that morning was to be Scott Cason, social studies teacher at Mandarin High School. When MHS Principal Donna Richardson took to the podium to introduce Cason she made apologies for his not being in attendance.

"He is being held up right



School Board Member District 7 Jason Fischer and Rotary Club Member Gary Stasco presenting the Teachers of the Year.

now due to the fact he is undergoing a mandatory evaluation," she said. Richardson continued on to explain that Cason's evaluation was a good thing. He is one of the five finalists for the 2013 EDDY Awards and was being interviewed, carefully observed in the classroom and evaluated that very moment.

To be one of the five finalists for the 2013 Duval County Teacher of the Year EDDY Award is quite an achievement. The journey to an EDDY Award begins at the school level where teachers are selected among their peers based upon specific criteria. They then must complete an extensive packet that outlines their teaching philosophy, professional development activities, leadership roles and student achievement data. These packets are reviewed by over 60 community and busi-

ness leaders along with fellow educators and administrators. The nominees are narrowed to 15 semi-finalists and further narrowed to the five finalists. And there right there in the top five was Mandarin High School social studies teacher Scott Cason. At the time he was to be accepting his Teacher of the Year award from the Mandarin Rotary Club he was undergoing the scrutiny of the final selection committee for 2013 Duval County Teacher of the Year and the EDDY Award.

Attending the Rotary Club Teacher of the Year Awards breakfast were District 6 City Councilman Matt Schellenberg and School Board Member District 7 Jason Fischer.

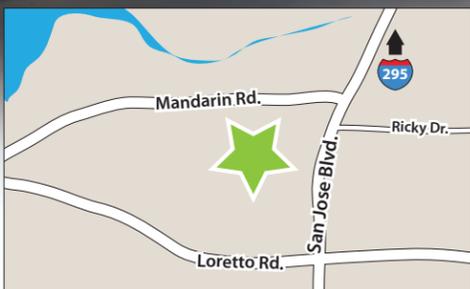
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, superintendent of Duval County Public

Rotary Teachers of the Year cont. on pg. 7

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What's New

Community Happenings

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Publisher Rebecca Taus
publisher@rtpublishinginc.com

Editor Martie Thompson
editor@rtpublishinginc.com

Advertising Sales, Linda Gay
LG@rtpublishinginc.com

Advertising Sales,
Kathrin Lancelle
KL@rtpublishinginc.com

Advertising Sales, Heather Seay
HS@rtpublishinginc.com

Graphic Design, Lisa Felegy
graphics@rtpublishinginc.com

RT Publishing, Inc.
12443 San Jose Boulevard
Suite 403
Jacksonville, FL 32223
Ph: 904-886-4919



Mandarin NewsLine Community Newspaper is a free monthly publication distributed via bulk mail to all addresses in Zip Codes 32223, 32258 and selected routes in 32257. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@rtpublishinginc.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of RT Publishing, Inc. Advertising Rates are available by request.

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The journey to end cancer begins with a single step. **Relay for Life of Mandarin** invites the entire Jacksonville community to join their journey on Saturday, May 4, 2013. The 24-hour event, which will take place at Mandarin High School, will feature traditional Relay for Life ceremonies, lively entertainment and unique fundraising ideas. The Relay has already kicked-off its 2012-2013 season, so do not delay when signing up. More information on becoming a sponsor or forming a team for Relay for Life of Mandarin can be found on www.relayforlife.org/mandarinfl or by calling the local American Cancer Society office. Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's largest fundraising event.

Duval County Master Gardener Becky Bathen will present a program on native plants

at the March 19 meeting of the **Dogwood Circle of Mandarin Garden Club**. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and refreshments will be served. The Mandarin Garden Club is located at 2892 Loretto Road. Please call 571-6765 for directions or additional information.

An official **American Flag Retirement Ceremony** was held the end of January at the Mandarin Community Club. This ceremony was in cooperation with and led by representatives of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). This was the fifth year this event has been held at the Mandarin Community Club. An additional date for 2013 may be scheduled for the fall and will be announced in advance if confirmed.

On March 2, the **Italian American Club** will once again be part of the St. Matthew's Fashion Show luncheon to benefit disabled children and young adults who attend Camp Promise and Camp I Am Special at Marywood Retreat each summer. This is the seventh year our club will provide the luncheon while the teens and young adults have a great time showing off fashions from local stores. It's a must attend event and a worthy cause.

We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a delicious
What's New cont. on pg. 6

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At RT Publishing we welcome Letters to the Editor. We request they be no more than 250 words. All letters must include writer's name, address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published. E-mail to editor@rtpublishinginc.com. Anonymously sent letters will not be published.

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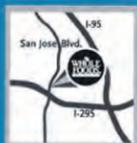
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From the City Council Member's Desk

By Contributing Writer Matt Schellenberg, City Council Member, District 6

Wow! This past month has been very busy at City Hall and in Mandarin. First, I'm absolutely delighted at the response I've received regarding the blue recycling bins. My aide and I have delivered over 100 recycling bins in the last two weeks. If you still need one, send your address to matts@coj.net and I'll be happy to drop one off at your driveway.

I am also pleased to report that the city's Solid Waste Committee, where I first learned the city had extra blue bins, will be issuing a recommendation for the Mandarin area to engage in a more comprehensive recycling program. Mandarin is second on the list to be given 96-gallon containers (lidded and on wheels!) to replace the small, blue bins. These larger containers will help divert more recyclable materials from the land-

fill, saving the taxpayer roughly \$55 per ton. We should see the rollout before the end of the year, depending on how quickly the administration acts.

Speaking of the administration, I was pleased but very confused about the mayor's announcement of an \$11 million savings in this fiscal year due to debt refinancing. I tried hard for several weeks to get the details of the deal and after much delay from the mayor's office, finally got an explanation. The breakdown is a savings in interest of approximately \$3 million, as well as \$8 million in deferred principal payments. Now I understand why they delayed in disclosing the numbers and details. A deferred payment is not a savings; you still owe that money down the road. And to top it off, the mayor is going to "reinvest" those 8 million

dollars of "savings" into downtown. Therefore, we are going to spend the money now and still owe the money later. Is this what passes for "savings" these days? You decide if the administration's announcement is truly transparent.

Here's some transparency for you: By now you have likely heard that I introduced legislation to reduce the number of members on the Human Rights Commission. My main reasons are two-fold: create a more efficient and productive group (I have researched attendance records, number of issues taken up by the commission, number of vacancies, etc.) and to bring the membership count in line with other city boards and commissions, which on average have seven to nine members. There are currently three vacancies on the Human Rights Commission and there are also five members whose terms have expired and cannot be reappointed. Meaning, the commission is currently operating with only 12 legitimate members anyway. I've had similar issues with other boards (JEA and JPA) and have not been shy about saying so, as many of you who regularly read this column are well aware.

Finally, I want to mention that while I was driving around Mandarin delivering bins, I was, once again, taken aback by our beautiful district. Thank you for taking such good care of your neighborhoods. Pride in ownership was evident and I felt proud to represent such a beautiful area.

Please feel free to contact me, Matt "The Blue Bin Guy" Schellenberg, at 630-1388 or MattS@COJ.net.

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North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership identifies regional boundary

By Contributing Writer Teresa Monson, St. Johns River Water Management District

The North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership stakeholder advisory committee has identified a regional planning boundary spanning two water management districts, defining the area where collaborative initiatives will address water resource challenges and ensure a sustainable water supply throughout north Florida. The North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan will encompass specific counties in both the St. Johns River and Suwannee River water management districts. Those counties are Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee and Union.

Over several months, the Partnership's stakeholder advisory committee reviewed and discussed the proposed boundary for the regional water supply plan. The committee approved the regional boundary at its January 23 meeting. While

the planning boundary encompasses 14 counties, groundwater modeling for the water supply plan will be significantly broader to ensure that sufficient data is gathered and analyzed.

The regional water supply plan will identify:

- Water use demand projections
- Water resource impacts that could occur if future demand were met solely from existing groundwater supplies
- Water conservation opportunities
- Potential water supply development projects that may be needed to supplement groundwater supplies

In the past, both districts worked independently on water supply planning. The St. Johns River and Suwannee River water management districts in collaboration with the Partnership will jointly develop the North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan, which is scheduled for completion in 2015. Because of the shared resource and shared impacts, the districts formally agreed in 2011 that only one plan for North Florida should be developed and implemented. The North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan will be a chapter in each district's overall water supply plan.

Water supply plans identify future water supply needs for a 20-year planning horizon, and programs and projects needed to ensure sustainable supplies. These plans are updated as needed – at a minimum, once every five years.

For more information about the partnership, visit northfloridawater.com.

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From the Florida House

By Contributing Writer Representative Charles McBurney, State Representative, District 16

On March 5, the State of Florida Legislature will convene for the start of the 2013 Session. Over the next 60 days, until May 3, 120 State Representatives and forty State Senators will work together for the people of Florida.

First and foremost on the agenda is passing a balanced state budget, which is the legislature's only annual constitutional requirement. Negotiations between the House and Senate will take place throughout session, all leading towards a final goal of a balanced budget that meets the critical needs of the state without raising taxes. As chairman of the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, I have been tasked with overseeing the budgets of the Department of Corrections, Department of Law of Enforcement, Department of Legal Affairs (Attorney General), Department of Juvenile Justice, the courts system, the Justice Administration Commission and the Parole Commission.

Currently, our projected state revenues are more positive than in years past. Since I was elected to the Florida House in 2007, I have spent that last five years working to balance our budget in the face of declining revenue. Through hard work, long hours and tough choices each year we were able to produce a balanced budget serving the critical needs without raising taxes. Due to the projected increase in revenue this year, Governor Scott has called for a \$1.3 billion increase in education spending.

Of course there is more to session than the budget. Each State Representative is allowed to file up to six bills to be considered during session. Each bill then has to go through various policy or budget committees to finally make it to the House floor for a vote. At the same time, a Senate companion bill must move through the Senate committees before the approved House Bill can be sent to the Sen-

ate floor for a vote. If the bill is amended by the Senate, the bill is then returned to the House to be voted on again. This process only allows a small percentage of filed bills to make it to becoming laws.

I currently have filed two pieces of legislation, a bill to increase participation in the fine arts in public schools (HB 283) and a bill to treat orders by the Florida Ethics Commission the same as court judgments (HB 285). I am very excited about both pieces of legislation and hope to see both passed this session.

If there is any legislation that you are interested in or if you would like to learn more about the bills I have filed, please email me at charles.mcburney@myfloridahouse.gov or you can call my Jacksonville office at 359-6090.

Attention high school seniors and first and second year college students

Looking for scholarships?

The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Mandarin Council announces the Mandarin Council Janice Meisel Scholarship and 2013 graduating seniors and students in their first or second year of post-secondary school living in Mandarin are invited to participate. A one year scholarship of \$2,000 will be awarded to a student who plans to pursue a degree in business.

To be eligible, the applicant must live in one of the three zip codes: 32223, 32257 or 32258. The student must also have worked while attending

high school. The post-secondary school that the applicant plans to attend or is attending must be an accredited school in the state of Florida.

For an application and additional information, please send a request to : mandarin-council@gmail.com. The application submission deadline is April 30, 2013. Mail completed application packets to Mandarin Council, c/o 3000 Hartley Road, Suite 7, Jacksonville, FL 32257.

Winners will be announced at a presentation of the Mandarin Council's May meeting.

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Exchange students cont. from pg. 1

the trip has been. She also said that she really enjoys Florida and its warm weather, even though it's summer in Argentina this time of year.

"I really wanted to come to meet new people and make new friends and be able to spend time with the friends I have that came with me from Argentina," said Kitlain.

The students had a blast while they were here, learned a lot about American culture and fit in really well with the rest of the Mandarin High students.

Correction:
Due to a reporting error, Don Juan's Restaurant owners Efrain and Dinora Quezada's first home in the United States should have been stated as Long Island, New York. Additionally, Efrain Quezada found work as an aircraft mechanic prior to opening their restaurant. "Don Juan's...A love affair of cooking" appeared in the February 2013 issue of *Mandarin NewsLine*.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused and once again wish to thank the Quezadas for sharing their interesting life stories with us!

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What's New cont. from pg. 3

corned beef and cabbage dinner on Sunday, March 17. Please check our website (www.iacofjacksonville.com) or call the club 268-2882 at for further information.

The March general meeting of the **All Star Quilters Guild** will be held on March 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the First Christian Church, located at 11924 San Jose Boulevard. The program, "Pot Holder Therapy," will be presented by Sunnie Malesky. Visitors are welcome. For more information, please contact Dot Butler at 642-6574 or visit us at www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild.

The AARP Driver Safety Course for drivers 50 and older will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, March 12 and 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Memorial Hospital, located at 3625 University Boulevard South. AARP members' fee is \$12 and non-members' fee is \$14. You must attend both days for certification to qualify for auto insurance discount. To register, please call 391-1320.

The Mandarin Garden Club announces their \$1.00 Clothing Sale to be held on Saturday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the garden club, located at 2892 Loretto Road. Gently used clothing, purses and shoes for women, men and children will be available. There is something for everyone: casual, dressy, formal, business suits, workout clothing, plus sizes and much more. The entire clubhouse will be completely filled with a wide selection of super great bargains, some still with tags. For more information, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or 268-1192.

The Mandarin Women's Club program for Thursday, March 28 will be a fashion show presented by Donna Keathley of Stein Mart. This program will be held at the Ramada Inn, located at 3130 Hartley Road; doors open at 10:30 a.m. The price of the luncheon is \$15.50 for members and \$16.50 for non-members. Club membership is open to all women no matter where they live. Reservations for the luncheon and fashion show are required; please call Marilyn 260-8431 by Thursday March 21. Call Diane at 880-5354 for more information about our club or check out our website at <http://home.comcast.net/~echoecho46/site>.

The Ancient Oaks Arts and Farmers Market is an open-air farmers market located at the historic Mandarin Community Club under the beautiful oaks at 12447 Mandarin Road. Hours

are 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. every other Sunday. The market has many vendors who supply products which vary by the seasons. These items include local produce, local honey, specialty foods, baked goods, art and crafts. Upcoming dates for the market in 2013 are March 10 and 24, April 7 and 21, May 5 and 19, June 2, 16 and 30 and July 14 and 28. The market will be closed in August and start up again on September 1. For additional information, please contact Todd at 607-9935.

The MOMS Club of Jacksonville/Mandarin-SE offers support for stay at home and part-time working moms living in zip code 32258. With the club, you will have enriching activities for you and your children, during the day when you need the most support. A sample of activities includes park days, beach days, monthly socials, playgroups and field trips to the zoo and museums. For additional information, please email semandarinmoms@yahoo.com.

Are you a compulsive over-eater? Do you eat when you're not hungry or not eat when your body needs nourishment? Do you have feelings of guilt, shame or embarrassment about how you eat? Do you eat sensibly in front of others and then make up for it when you're alone? If you answered yes to any of these questions, **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)** may help. The group meets every Thursday from 12:00 noon until 1:15 p.m. at Christian Family Chapel, located at 10365 Old St. Augustine Road, in Building D, Room 4. For information, please call 472-4067.

The Mandarin Chapter of AARP meets the third Friday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at Augustine Landing, located at 10141 Old St. Augustine Road. We are a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization, affiliated with the national AARP. Our activities and programs are designed to help people age 50 and over improve the quality of their lives. Visitors are welcome! For additional information, please call 733-0516 or email alex9520@comcast.net.

Shuffleboard is played on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. at Mandarin Park (south end of Mandarin Road) next to the tennis courts at the park entrance. These are new winter hours beginning in January. Beginners are welcome. Just show up, unless it rains.

The River City Women's Club will have feature a Spring Fashion Show featuring lovely clothes from Stein Mart on Wednesday, March 20. The

luncheon and show, which will include models from the club, will be held at the Mandarin Ramada Inn starting at 10:30 a.m. and the cost is \$15.50. Visitors are welcome! For reservations, please call 262-8719.

The Ramsgate Homeowners Association (RHA) recently hosted their annual meeting and dinner for members and neighborhood residents at the Mandarin Community Club. Guest speakers this year were St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman and Gary Dickinson of JSO Community Affairs. Governed by a volunteer board of directors, the RHA was founded in 1986, making it one of the oldest homeowners associations in Mandarin. It represents a subdivision of 264 homes located between Mandarin and Loretto Roads and hosts various other events during the year.

The NASJAX Skin and Scuba Diving Club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Golden Corral Buffet and Grill, located at 11470 San Jose Boulevard in Mandarin. The club is open to all divers and those who are interested in diving (military affiliation is not required). For more information, please visit the website at nasjaxscubadivers.org or contact the club president, Dave Martin, at 413-8773.

Are you troubled by someone's drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** can help. Let us share our experience, strength and hope. Join us every Monday night from 8:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Jacksonville, located at 11924 San Jose Boulevard or visit us at www.jaxafg.org.

The Northeast Florida Quit Smoking Now (OSN) Program is now offering a FREE class in Mandarin at Jacksonville Worship Center on Old St Augustine Road! The class will start Saturday, March 16 and meet once a week for six consecutive weeks. Free workbook, water bottle, stress ball, and nicotine replacement therapies (patch, lozenge or gum) will be provided. Please call early to register at 482-0189. Visit our website at www.northfloridaahec.org.

The First Coast Disability Advocates will meet on March 28, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the South Mandarin Regional Library, located at 12125 San Jose Boulevard. Is your favorite restaurant accessible for people with disabilities? Do you have a problem parking when there are no accessible spaces? Please attend this meeting and help Jacksonville become accessible for all patrons.



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E Pluribus Unum: Civics for one and all

By James A. Lee, M.Ed., Ed.D. ABD, Peer Teacher Evaluator, St. Johns County School District

Taken, obviously, from the motto on the Great Seal of the United States, E Pluribus Unum means "from one, many." As I considered how to approach a community newspaper column focused on civics, I selected this title because it best characterizes the concept of community, but community writ large. So whether we speak of community as the people who live on our street, or the people who live on our continent, we mean the same thing; a collection (Unum) of people (Pluribus) with common interests, needs and concerns or simply, issues. Neighborhood associations, county commissions, school districts, state governments, the national government and even multinational organizations and alliances, to name just a few, all have the same civic mission of serving their constituent communities and the individuals in them.

My hope for this column is to share my understanding of American political processes and problems similar to the way I have as a social studies teacher of 29 years. I am not a political scientist. My degrees are in history education. My expertise, such as it is, is leading students to learn about our world and its many fascinations and foibles. As in the classroom, perhaps through this column we will contribute to a more informed, civil-tongued and civic-minded citizens. I will always endeavor to do so without infusing my personal values, opinions or ideological leanings – to the extent that this imperfect human is capable. This column will not be just another forum for venting dogmatic opinions, ide-

logical endorsements or political talking points.

Each month we will consider a topic (an event, a policy decision or such) in the form of a basic civics question. For example, as I write this: America is discussing how we should respond to North Korea's third testing of a nuclear bomb; the president has stirred enthusiastic support and critical opposition with his State of the Union Address; personal and public budgets are being squeezed; and gun and ammunition sales have spiked. What do these things mean? Why does a (supposedly) unified "community" have such divisive controversies? These issues and questions will provide us plenty of (as a cattle farmer might say) fodder to chew.

The column will build on an idea by the education historian and philosopher, R. Freeman Butts. In his 1989 book entitled *The Civic Mission in Educational Reform: Perspectives for the Public and the Profession*, Butts posed the "Twelve Tables of Civism" as the best and most parsimonious agenda of the underlying principles and values of American citizenship that should be taught in schools. Next month I'll briefly explain the Twelve Tables and discuss the dynamic implications of the first of those twelve for our political and governmental systems and our democratic society.

I humbly invite you to consider my thoughts, weigh them for yourself and comment. Perhaps we can contribute something of value to an imperfect, but very good, 237 year-old system of managing community affairs.

Rotary Teachers of the Year cont. from pg. 2

Schools, addressed the Rotary membership thusly, "This type of simple recognition goes a long way – it is the little things that count – it is a great honor to commend these teachers for their superb efforts."

Of course teacher Scott Casson is waiting with studied patience to learn on March 14 at

the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts if he will be the winner of the 2013 Teacher of the Year EDDY Award. We wish him all of Mandarin's best wishes, for we know we have some of the greatest teachers teaching our community's children and to us they all are Teachers of the Year.

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Women's History Month: Celebrating women who helped shape our history and future

By Contributing Writer Ashley Johnson Scott, Hubbard House Community Relations Coordinator

March is Women's History Month, a time to reflect on the accomplishments of women and honor their role in helping to shape our nation and community's history and future.

This 35-year celebration of women began in 1978 in Sonoma County, California as "Women's History Week." In 1987, Congress expanded the week-long celebration to a month and March was declared Women's History Month. This year Hubbard House, the domestic violence center serving Duval and Baker counties, wants to take Women's History Month as a chance to celebrate the women who have made strides against domestic violence in our community.

Hubbard House's beginnings came on a mild Sunday afternoon in 1976, 37 years ago. Ellen Spangler and a few of her close friends were bicycling in downtown Jacksonville. As they bicycled into an old residential section called Springfield, Spangler suddenly stopped and

cried, "This is it!" She had found a haven of refuge on that small street.

That refuge became the first location for Hubbard House. The house was purchased by The Jacksonville Women's Movement (JWM) and named Hubbard House for the street where it was located. Soon after, as Spangler had intended, this house would serve as a place of refuge, a shelter for abused women and their children. Hubbard House became the first battered women's shelter in Florida.

Over the years, Hubbard House has expanded to provide services to meet the needs of women, children and men who have been affected by domestic violence, intervention for children who have lived with violence and programs that work with abusers on changing the attitudes and beliefs that sanction violence. Currently around 1,000 victims and their children stay in its emergency shelter and more than 4,000 women, children

and men are provided services through the Hubbard House Outreach Center.

The dream of a couple of women in 1976 who had just \$4,000 and great faith in the future has become a valued resource for our community. Hubbard House continues to write its 37-year history in parallel with the celebration of women which began on another coast.

Join the movement: This March, during Women's History Month, make the commitment that these brave women did 37 years ago and help raise awareness about domestic violence by participating in the fourth annual Setting the Pace for Peace Domestic Violence Awareness Walk on Saturday, April 6. Visit www.hubbardhousewalk.com to register.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship please call the Hubbard House domestic violence hotline at 1-800-500-1119 or 354-3114. Hubbard House can help.

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Political Commentary
Promises made should be promises kept, but we can't bankrupt city government

By J. Bruce Richardson

Here in Mandarin, we have a number of special people who, for a living, every morning strap on a gun before they go to work. Others in the same category, report for their assigned shift prepared to run into any burning building to save lives. These extraordinary people help maintain our quality of life. During prosperous financial years, combined with

mayoral administrations which sought to seek favor with these two groups of heroes, amazingly generous promises were made on pensions and some salary issues. Now, in trying economic times, those promises could bankrupt city finances, placing every taxpayer in jeopardy.

This is a regrettable common scenario in many city governments, from Maine to

California. We all believe in the righteous concept of "promises made, promises kept," especially to these people. But, this is a financial model which is unsustainable and could ultimately – fairly soon – strangle city government. Jacksonville has to do better and the public safety unions must agree to change the rules for the long term betterment of themselves and the city. A legally bankrupt city serves no one, especially these heroes.

The question becomes how to make these changes. First, current retirees must be kept whole after making life plans based on the pension system. Since for lifetime employees this included being exempt from Social Security and instead being part of the Jacksonville pension system, there is no "Plan B." We cannot disrupt their lives when they are unable to work elsewhere. It's a matter of honor and practicality.

Second, those deep into years of service to the city are

in the same boat as the retirees, so they need financial protection, too.

But, those just beginning their service and decades away from retirement and those who will be hired to replace those nearing retirement must be on a financially sustainable system, for their benefit, the city's benefit and the benefit of Jacksonville's taxpayers. In the real world – and, make no mistake, the real world came crashing down on us in 2008 – things have to change. Other city employees have embraced change, while police and firefighters sought to not only maintain current levels, but wanted increases, too.

We owe a huge moral and honorable debt to public safety employees. What we do not owe them is an exalted financial position above all other city and private employees. For too long, Jacksonville underpaid these stalwarts. Much of that has been corrected, but some progress

still needs to be made. As much as we would like to, it can't be made right now, when other city employees have been laid off due to economic uncertainties.

We are all in the same boat, rowing together for financial solvency. The police and firefighters have to be in that same boat, pulling along with everyone else. If they don't agree to reasonable changes which reflect modern economic realities, they could bankrupt the city. That would serve no one, especially them, who would find their contracts decided by a federal judge, not city leaders.

J. Bruce Richardson is a longtime journalist and consultant who writes in Jacksonville print publications exclusively for RT Publishing, Inc. He has led projects in Washington as well as Ottawa, Canada, and authors an Internet-based transportation column which is read in more than 60 countries. He lives and works in Jacksonville.

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Political Commentary

We must continue to take care of those who take care of us

By David Milton

Imagine you're on your way to Blue Spring State Park. You want to beat the crowds, so you've left home early in the morning. You're getting off of Interstate 295 and onto southbound Interstate 95. Just past the softball fields at Palmetto Leaves Park, you come upon a horrific accident. One of the cars involved is smashed up and smoking; the other car is down in the grass, flipped over on its roof. You know the people in the cars are in serious trouble. Who do you call? Your dentist? Your plumber? A financial analyst? The mayor?

Jacksonville's first responders – our police officers and firefighters – respond to some of the most traumatic events in our county: crimes, fires, fights and crashes. The tasks they perform and the relief they provide are critical our city. In fact, without functioning police and fire departments, I don't think you can call yourself a city. No question, the many services Jacksonville's police officers and firefighters provide are important.

But the services they provide come with a heavy price. For instance, first responders often see things most of us hope we never have to see. Those images don't disappear with a retirement ceremony and cake. In addition to the psychological strain, police officers and firefighters suffer physical injuries as a direct consequence of their

jobs. Those injuries – injuries like hypertension and herniated discs – affect them for the rest of their lives.

A first responder's family also pays a price for the responder's service. First responders are away from their families for long stretches of time or work odd hours and have to sleep during the day. Dealing with high-stress situations on a regular basis also wears on a person and that person, worn out from a day of responding to violent wrecks or violent crimes, may have a hard time wrestling with the kids.

Decent salaries and modest pensions won't fix the problems caused by service as a police officer or firefighter. But until we come up with a better way to compensate first responders, decent salaries and modest pensions are the best we can offer to make up for the long-term consequences suffered as a result of their public service.

Should anybody think I'm willing to write blank checks to our first responders, know this: I support reasonable pension reform. We must talk about Jacksonville's long-term pension obligations that threaten to bankrupt the city. I'll also acknowledge that our first responders – while often selfless and heroic – are far from perfect. I know about the allegations of racism at JFRD and about the number of JSO-

related shooting deaths.

But I don't think that many first responders are racists or eager to start shooting. No, most of Jacksonville's first responders are highly skilled public servants and we depend on them to provide the services they provide. It wouldn't make sense – and it wouldn't be right – to treat Jacksonville's first responders like any other city employee. Jacksonville's first responders deserve fair compensation – now and later – for the services they provide.

Dave Milton is a husband, father and local attorney who's interested in doing his part to make sure Jacksonville is a city where every person feels at home and every person has a chance to pursue his or her American Dream. When Dave isn't with his family or at work, he's involved with his church, scouting and other civic and non-profit organizations.

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Walk or run in support of Mandarin Museum and Historical Society in "The Human Race"

The Mandarin Museum and Historical Society is one of the non-profit teams participating in the "The Human Race 2013" on April 6 beginning at 8:00 a.m. This 5k or one mile walk/run event is organized by HandsOn Jacksonville and 1st Place Sports and will be held at the St. Johns Town Center.

The Mandarin Museum and Historical Society's mission is to provide a venue to foster greater understanding, appreciation, enjoyment and stewardship of the natural and cultural heritage of the lower St. Johns River basin through time. This is accomplished through educational programs, exhibits, special events and tours of the museum, Walter Jones Historical Park and the 1911 Store and Post Office.

HandsOn Jacksonville (HOJ) "promotes volunteerism and strengthens community service efforts by creating volunteer opportunities in which everyone can get involved." 1st Place Sports is a local running store and race promoter. These two organizations collaborate by bringing people together to support the non-profit community in Jacksonville through this annual walk/run event.

This year, for the first time, Mandarin Museum and Historical Society is fielding a "Human

Race" team and we are inviting the whole community to join us and be part of our team. As a member agency of HOJ, the society will receive 50 percent of registration fees and 100 percent of monies raised by walkers and runners who register on our team. The participants all receive a t-shirt, refreshments, a medal (5K only) and the thanks of a grateful organization.

It is very easy to register:

- Go to www.1stplacesports.com (race calendar/April/The Human Race/Sign me up). All walkers and runners must be registered (except babies in strollers). No pets please.
- Select Mandarin Museum and Historical Society from the drop-down list of participating agencies.

- On the registration form you also have the chance to win a cash prize of \$5000 by guessing the number of birdies that will be made in the 2013 PLAYERS Championship.
- After you register, we will be in touch with you to provide you with some more information as well as ideas and materials that will help you reach your goal.

The Mandarin Museum and Historical Society exists solely for the benefit of the community. We welcome you to become involved as a visitor, member or volunteer and be part of our everyday team.

Check us out at www.mandarinmuseum.net and www.facebook.com/mandarinmuseum. You can reach us at mandarinmuseum@bellsouth.net or 268-0784.

Challenge Day cont. from pg. 1



MMS students get fired up at Challenge Day

students and 100 volunteers were a part of this revolutionary change at Mandarin Middle School. The first meeting of the "Be the Change" club was a tremendous success. Students came in droves and not just for the free donuts.

In closing, our coordinator, Mrs. Duarte, had this to share:

"I feel honored and blessed to have been trusted with the task of coordinating Challenge Day. I am truly moved by the amount of students that want to 'Be the Change' in their school. We are incredibly lucky to have this opportunity as a school, staff and students."



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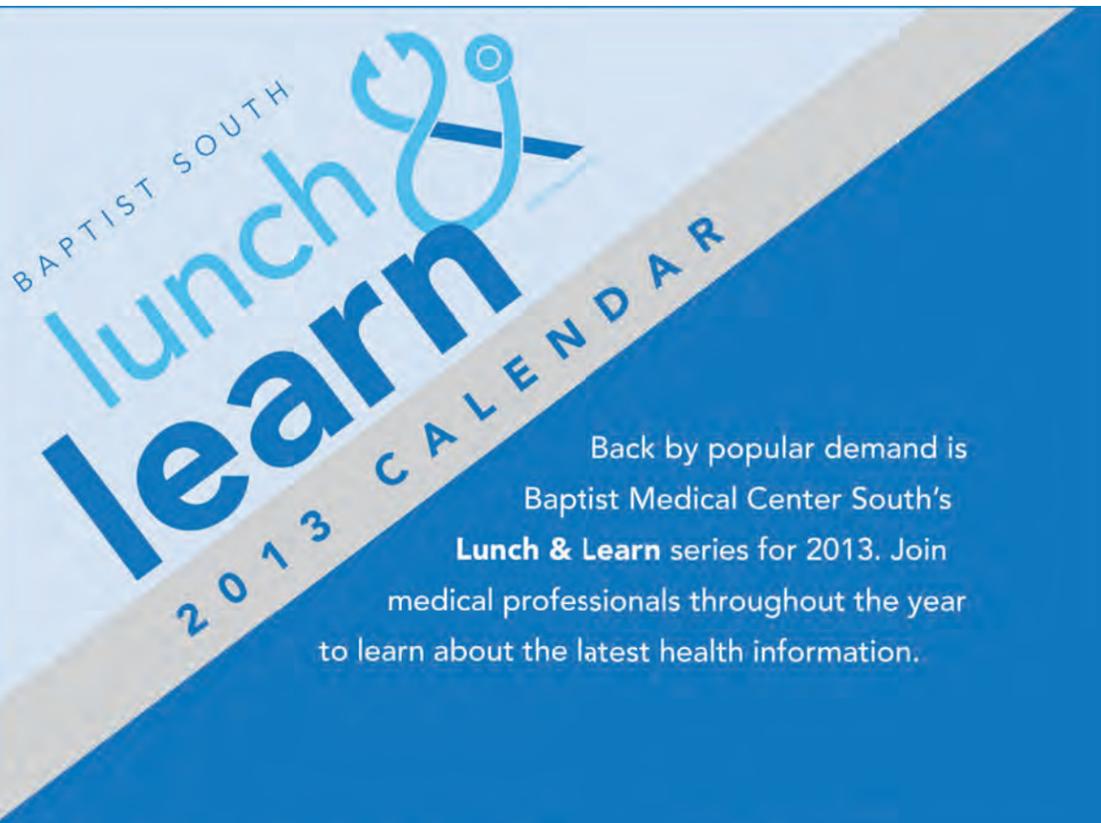
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Annual Children's Art Show featured during Mandarin Art Festival

By Contributing Writer Lynn Cuda, Mandarin Community Club

One of the most popular features of the annual Mandarin Art Festival is the Children's Art Show. Held inside the Mandarin Community Club building, work from as many as 20 local public and private elementary and middle schools will be on display and judged in several different categories.

Christine Buckley is the 2013 organizer and chairwoman of the Children's Art Show while local artist Reta-Russell Houghton will serve as judge. Young Rembrandts will once again offer art demonstrations and mini lessons both days of the Show. This activity is offered free of charge and will take place inside the club building.

For additional information or to volunteer with the Chil-

dren's Art Show, please contact Christine Buckley at buckleyk@ix.netcom.com or leave a message at 268-1622.

The 45th annual Mandarin Art Festival, organized and hosted by the Mandarin Community Club, will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 30 and 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) on the grounds of the Mandarin Community Club, located at 12447 Mandarin Road.

Your guide to area thrift stores

By Donna Keathley



niece at the ripe age of 14 paid \$20 for an evening gown at a thrift store in her downtown area and went out and won Junior Miss Northwest Georgia wearing it!

Our area has seen a rise of the number of thrift stores in the past few years. This goes hand in hand with the recent economy struggles and the "greening" of our life. To re-use and

recycle any and everything is "cool."

I went out on the "circuit" last Saturday morning and the crowds were out there, poking and peering into every corner of the stores. I witnessed several customers proudly marching up to the cash registers with brand new merchandise in hand!

One of the new kids on the block is down on Old St. Augustine Road. The members of St. Joseph's Church, as a ministry to the community, have opened a brand new thrift store named Divine Mercy House Thrift. It is located in a strip center at the red light of Old St. Augustine Road and Losco Road. Everything has been cleaned and

stocked for their recent grand opening. There are lots of baby goods, to include strollers and car seats. The front cabinet shows some nice art deco costume jewelry and other collectibles. Electronics are gathered in the back room and furniture sits in its own space to the left of the entrance. It's very nicely done, clean and easy to shop!

Goodwill's large location on San Jose Boulevard boasts its trademark layout of all the clothing nicely separated by color coding. They have some housewares and furniture along with a variety of computers and televisions.

Another "newbie" is Jax Thrift Avenue, which is located at the corner of Crown Point Road and San Jose Boulevard. A little fun here: guess what New York department store's name has this familiar ring? This store services a social mission as all proceeds benefit Girls Inc. of Jacksonville, a nonprofit organization. Most of the clothing is priced at \$2 and shoes are \$45. You can check out their Facebook page for daily updates.

A little reminder here, all the stores gladly accept donations from the public. Just stop by and drop off your gently used items. You will be helping out the Jacksonville community!

Happy Shopping!

One of the newest hobbies out there is thrift store cruising. It's described as "the thrill of the hunt" by most of the pros out there who fill their Saturday mornings visiting the wares of these establishments.

I must admit my family has thrift store stories. I once decorated a 1200 square foot cabin completely from thrift stores and garage sales. It filled a long cold winter in upstate New York with lots of fun moments! I must admit, the cabin turned out really cute and creative; I sure put that empty basement to good use, spray painting and embossing various and sundry pieces of furniture. The best thrift store story is that my

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Annual eye exams are important, regardless of your age or your physical health. When your eye doctor conducts a comprehensive exam, they are evaluating so much more than simply determining your prescription for glasses or contact lenses. Your doctor will also check your eyes for common eye diseases, assess how your eyes are working together, and evaluate your eyes as an indicator of your overall health.

According to David Green, O.D., Optometrist at Clay Eye, "In this day and age, computers, tablets and smart phones are a staple in every household. It is important to recognize that while these devices are beneficial on a daily basis, they might be harmful with regard to your eyesight.

During Family Eye Health Awareness Month, Clay Eye would like to emphasize the importance of the entire family having a routine eye exam. If you or a member of your family has symptoms of: eye strain, dry eyes, headaches, blurred vision or loss of focus, a comprehensive eye exam is a necessity."

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Be sure to look for their ad in this issue of *Mandarin NewsLine!*

Art Festival cont. from pg. 1

when we got engaged I caught the fever. I think it's a nice community event. I contacted them with an idea to include gluten-free and lactose-free baked goods to the bake sale so that there would be something there for everyone who attends," Hastings says. "Also I love the children's art show; I have a minor in art history so I gravitate to that area first. Their work is very good and it's interesting to see all of the versions of mediums they use to produce their work."

Today thousands of local residents attend the Mandarin Arts Festival over the two-day event. Shuttle buses run from Mandarin Presbyterian Church and from Albert's Field which is located on the corner of Orange Picker and Brady Roads.

Susie Scott, chairperson of the event this year, says that some of artists and vendors have been participating for 25 or 30 years.

"This show is a successful show for both the vendors and the public attending; these are high quality arts and crafts. The newest item we do is the Green Market which has been wonderfully successful; this is where local specialists sell items like handmade honey, soaps, candles and other 'green' items. This show is a real winner and we are excited about our 45th anniversary event," says Scott.

The hours both days are 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. For more information about the show or to volunteer, please email MC-CArtFest2013@gmail.com.

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Meet Dr. Nikolai Vitti

Duval County superintendent relates to all students

By Martie Thompson



New Duval County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nikolai Vitti did not always want to be an educa-

tor. On the contrary, when he was growing up in Detroit, he believed he was an athlete and aspired to play shortstop for the Detroit Tigers. He even played one year of collegiate football at Wake Forest University. He describes himself as an average student who identified more with sports than books—until a particular teacher intervened. It was this intervention that set the tone for the course of his career.

“I had a teacher who pushed me, who asked me, ‘Nikolai, do you know how smart you are?’ I started to apply myself to my studies somewhat in high school, but it all really came together in college,” Vitti explains.

A struggling reader, it took him awhile to “fall in love with books.” This is the experience that led him to become an educator. He feels that if it had not been for the support systems in place, he would not have the opportunities he had. Coming from immigrant parents, he feels that education is the true equalizer that can affect all students across the country. Vitti went on to earn a master’s degree in education and a doctorate degree in education administration, planning and social policy from Harvard University.

“Seeing the impact of what the right expectations and

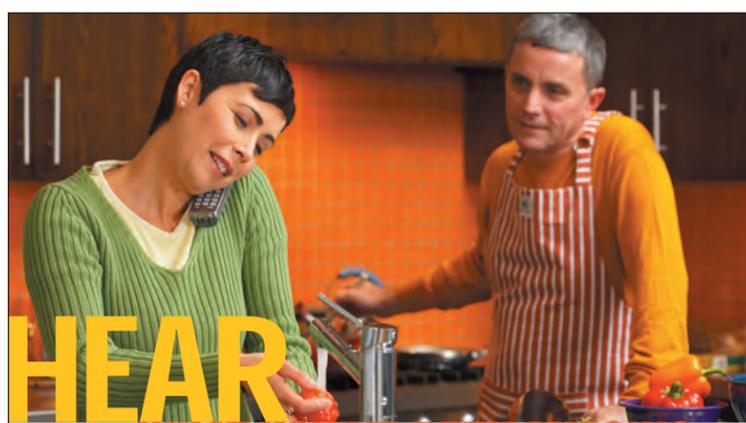
support systems coming together can do so that students reach their full civic, social and academic potential” is what he describes as the most fulfilling part of his chosen career field.

He particularly likes visiting students in all the schools throughout the school system. He feels he can see himself in every child, knowing what he overcame and knowing that they can as well. He likes to continually set expectations higher with each accomplishment.

He compares the Duval County Public School District with the Miami-Dade County Public School District, where he worked most recently as the Chief Academic Officer. During his tenure, he believes that district, which is the fourth largest in the country, was changed for the better and in fact earned the Broad Prize for Excellence in Education. He believes that although the challenges and opportunities are different, Jacksonville, as the 22nd largest school district in the country, can be similarly improved.

Vitti and his wife Rachel, whom he describes as his “rock,” have four children, ranging in age from four to 10. Both Vittis are active, hands-on parents, particularly Rachel Vitti who holds everything together at home while her husband is busy at work. Dr. Vitti says that with his wife he can both decompress and problem solve.

Problem solving is a com-



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mon theme for Vitti. He believes that the most important legacy he could leave as Duval County’s superintendent would be to transform the district by changing the way students are educated and by pushing children to critically think and problem solve. He employs the same theory at home. His children would say he is famous for his questions because, he wonders, how can you expect critical thinking if you don’t teach children think critically?

At the Vitti household, they are intentional about turning off the television and reading to their children. Most importantly, they talk to their children. Vitti

says it is not uncommon to ask even his five-year-old, “What do you think?” about an issue the family is discussing.

“These questions develop not only their critical thinking skills, but also their vocabulary and their voice,” Vitti shares.

Vitti feels that Jacksonville has a Midwest/Southern modern feel with which he is familiar and feels that the people here are genuinely good, pure hearted and nice people.

“I truly feel welcomed,” he says.

Additionally, he appreciates the lack of traffic as compared to South Florida!

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Hospital earns award for stroke program

For the third consecutive year, Baptist Medical Center South has earned the Get with the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Achievement Award from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. In each of the three years beginning in 2010, Baptist South has achieved an adherence rate of at least 85 percent with the required performance measures. Baptist South, a designated stroke center, has also earned more than 75 percent compliance with six of the program’s 10 quality measures.

“Our team focuses on providing the best and timeliest care to patients with stroke symptoms, and it is gratifying to see their efforts validated again,” said Baptist Medical Center South Hospital President Ron Robinson.

In addition to the Get with the Guidelines Stroke award, Baptist South has also been named to the association’s Target: Stroke Honor Roll for improving stroke care.

“Patients experiencing a stroke need to start receiving clot-busting treatments within four hours of the onset of symptoms,” said Tammy Daniel, assistant administrator of nursing, Baptist Medical Center South.

Florida law requires Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel to transport patients presenting with acute stroke symptoms to designated stroke centers. An important facet of Baptist’s Primary Stroke Centers is their focus on commu-

nity education and prevention of this potentially debilitating disease. One important focus of this effort is educating the public about the warning signs of stroke and encouraging them to seek help by immediately calling 911.

Do you know the warning signs of stroke?

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body

- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

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Local quilts now on National Quilt Index

On March 18, 2011, the All Star Quilters Guild held a Quilt Discovery Day to document quilts in our area. The quilts are now on The Quilt Index. To access the quilts documented online, the website is www.quiltindex.org under Collections - Florida Quilt Project. This lists all the quilts entered from Flor-

ida. Those of you who brought in quilts for documentation can take a shortcut by entering “ssqaas” in the keyword box in upper left of screen.

The All Star Quilters Guild appreciates your participation in this project and is happy to relay this information to you, so you and future generations can see the quilts from our area.

If you would like information on accessing the National Quilt Index, please contact Dot Butler at 642-6574.

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Jax Federal Credit Union celebrated the grand opening of their Mandarin branch location with a Ribbon Cutting event with the Mandarin Council of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce on Monday, February 11.

Membership drive update

By Contributing Writer Lynn Cuda, Mandarin Community Club

The 2013 Mandarin Community Club membership drive continues. Membership is open to all interested parties, especially those residing in Mandarin. Membership levels range from Individual and Family to a special Business level.

The club, located at 12447 Mandarin Road, is probably best known as the organizer and host of the annual Mandarin Art Festival held on the club grounds every Easter weekend. The club also owns and maintains three historic properties and holds various community-based programs and events

during the year. The Mandarin Community Club will celebrate its 90th birthday this July.

For additional information please visit www.mandarincommunityclub.org or call the club office at 268-1622.

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Visiting the Private Islands of Georgia

By Contributing Travel Writer Debi Lander, www.bylandersea.com

Who hasn't dreamed of owning their own island? My mind envisions a place of carefree adventure and seaside romance along with a sense of power and pride. But, you don't have to own an island to feel that way. Simply rent nearby Eagle Island, one of Andy Hill's Private Islands of Georgia and you'll be in a world of your own.

Ten-acre Eagle Island is a small sanctuary bursting with marshland, coastal wildlife and a warm inviting lodge. It's casually elegant with spacious bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen and killer wrap around porch including hammocks and a hot tub. Plus, there's Wi-Fi, if you must.

While an island can't be rated like a five-star hotel, owner Hill describes it as "the world's first five-moon destination." Along with the natural beauty, he further explains, "No agenda, no clocks, no deadlines."

Drive to Darien, Georgia and be met by Hill's staff. They'll whisk you via boat to "your" island where they'll leave you for the next few days or weeks. If you choose, bring your own boat or Captain Hill will find one for rent. He will even make sure you know how to navigate the area. Hill and staff try to exceed expectations. They will all but squeeze through a crab trap to meet your needs. They'll teach you how to bait



and use those traps, prepare and cook a low-country boil for you or even run an off-island errand.

However, it is the privacy that makes Eagle Island so special. You have all the comforts of home, but none of the intrusions. Begin by kicking off your shoes and slide into flip flops or hiking boots depending on the weather. Flop onto the hammock or soak in the hot tub, both screened in for evenings minus the mosquitoes. Fire up the fire pit for roasting marshmallows or utilize the full outdoor kitchen—under cover in case of rain.

Should you wish to explore the surrounding area, you might choose Sapelo Island. Hill will arrange for your party to tour a mansion once owned by R.J. Reynolds or visit Nanny Goat Beach, where hundreds of

sand dollars and shells await but likely no other humans.

Back on Eagle recharge and commune with wilderness as you stroll round the shrouded pathways, some lined with oyster shells. Play cards. Launch a kayak and glide through the lazy twists and turns of narrow waterways lined by Spartina grass and home to all sorts of coastal creatures. The tidal changes make Coastal Georgia one of the most fertile watersheds in the country, great for shrimpin'. Lookout for dolphins, shore birds and of course, eagles.

Whatever you choose, you can escape to peace and quiet or bring friends and family and whoop it up. It's your private island; do what you want.

For information: www.privateislandsofgeorgia.com.

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Therapy dog was well loved Remembering Cody



"Daddy, give me your hand," the young woman gently whispered as she leaned over her unresponsive father's bedside, "Cody is here with you."

As hospice volunteer Judy Zoller and her therapy dog Cody moved ever so close to the patient, the young woman took her father's hand in her own and placed it on the dog's head. Together, they lovingly stroked the retriever's soft fur. Cody could not have been more attentive at this special moment.

A smile slowly spread across the father's face as tears of joy began to flow from the daughter and others who gathered in the room at the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida Earl B. Hadlow Center for Caring. After a few minutes and with a hug of appreciation from the daughter, Cody and his owner left the room as quietly as they arrived.

The golden retriever mix was adopted in 1999 from the Jacksonville Humane Society. For 11 years, Cody and Zoller were an inseparable and effective hospice care team, adding an extra layer of compassionate support for patients receiving short-term acute care provided by the interdisciplinary professionals at the Community Hospice Hadlow Center, located on Sunbeam Road in Mandarin.

"Cody was well known for always carrying a stuffed animal in his mouth and never the same one twice," Zoller said. "He always enjoyed a game of keep away with the security guard and never turned down a back rub from the receptionist."

Most of all, Cody enjoyed visiting patients and their families.

"He taught me a lot about being happy and he always looked forward to seeing the next person to visit," Zoller said.

Cody was the featured canine model for December 2012 in the Community Hospice 2013 Volunteer Pet Therapy Calendar, which highlights these special animals and their owners who provide their unique service to patients and families. It was a fitting tribute to one who conveyed so much joy under trying circumstances.

Cody recently died, but he brought countless smiles and comfort during his years of service as a therapy dog at Community Hospice. Cody's warm-hearted personality and devotion will forever be remembered by those who were touched by his gentle spirit.

For more information about Community Hospice of Northeast Florida services or volunteering, visit CommunityHospice.com or call 407-6500.

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Mandarin teacher named as semi-finalist for 2013 Teacher of the Year

Fifteen outstanding teachers were recently named semi-finalists for the 2013 Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year, including Thomas Cason of Mandarin High School.

"The finalists aren't only elementary, middle and high school teachers but they are dream builders who build future leaders," said Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti, Superintendent of Duval Schools. "Selecting just one winner will be a difficult task when all of them are winners. I wish the finalists all the best."

The semi-finalists were

selected from the Teachers of the Year nominated from every public school in Duval County. From the 15 semi-finalists, five finalists will be selected. The winner will be named 2013 Florida Blue Teacher of the Year at the EDDY Awards on March 14 at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are available at eddyawardsjax.org. The program is a joint venture of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund and the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership.

"We are excited to showcase

our county's best educators," said Trey Csar, president of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund. "We have so much to learn from these talented professionals."

"Outside of the home, the greatest school factor in a child's learning growth is excellent teaching," said Deborah Gianoulis Heald, president and CEO of the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership. "The educators we honor through the EDDY Awards are Jacksonville's citizen makers and job creators."

Happy St. Patrick's Day

from your friends at
Mandarin NewsLine

River Celebration Clean-Up at Walter Jones Park

By Contributing Writer Sandy Arpen, Mandarin Museum and Historical Society

The Mandarin Museum and Historical Society, in partnership with the City of Jacksonville and the St. Johns Riverkeeper, will be participating in the 18th

St. Johns River Celebration Clean-up on March 16 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the Walter Jones Historical Park located at 11964 Mandarin Road. We will be picking up trash and tree debris along the shoreline, boardwalk, and within the park. We will also be removing invasive vines in the park in front of the historic Webb farmhouse.

Site captains from Mandarin will provide bags and plastic gloves. If you plan to work in the water area, please bring boots. If you want to work in the park, please bring a small pair of hand clippers and garden gloves. You will also be provided with a ticket that may be redeemed at Riverside Arts Market from 12:00 noon until

2:00 p.m.

Advance registration is not required, but if you know you will help or if you are bringing a group, please email us at mandarinmuseum@bellsouth.net. Everyone must check-in and sign a waiver between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. at the location. Youth under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please park in the Mandarin Presbyterian Church and cross Mandarin Road into the park at the little footbridge.

We can use all the help we can get to beautify our wonderful park and shoreline along our greatest natural resource, the St. Johns River.

For more information please email us at mandarinmuseum@bellsouth.net or call 268-0784. Check us out of Facebook at www.facebook.com/mandarinmuseum or our website www.mandarinmuseum.net.

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Gardening

Too early for tomatoes?

By Contributing Writer Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale with Duval County Extension, University of Florida/IFAS

So far this winter (early February) we have been experiencing very mild weather. Many trees and shrubs are blooming early and half-hardy perennials such as pentas which are normally nipped in the bud by a light freeze are continuing to flower.

It is not in our best interest to ignore the possibility of

cold weather, however. While we contemplate that home-grown tomato, making do with the one from the produce counter, we may hope to get a jump on spring planting, but without adequate light for newly emerging seedlings the result can be weak, spindly plants. And unless soil temperatures have warmed

sufficiently, we can't expect to be successful if we transplant our seedlings early.

One solution is to use a grow light, which is simply a light source which mimics daylight. There are fancy set-ups costing hundreds of dollars, but for a tray or two of seedlings one strip-light fitting, with either a purchased stand or something home-made (like my arrangement using a couple of chairs) is fine. For one seed tray, a two-foot fitting costs around \$12 at a big box store and for two trays, a four-foot light is just over \$30 online. For a heat source to help germination, set your newly sown seeds, covered with plastic wrap, above the refrigerator. Check regularly to avoid them drying out, spraying the compost carefully to keep it damp and once the seedlings start to show, remove the plastic and put them about two to three inches below your grow light. At this stage continue to be careful with watering; too much and they may dampen off (fall over and die!) or with too little water they will just shrivel away. By setting them in a tray and watering from the bottom, you can ensure the roots will be well moistened and the vulnerable stem protected. Drain any excess water away after about 20 minutes.

Once your seedlings have two true leaves, begin a once-weekly application of a half-dilution of a liquid fertilizer. For organic gardeners, seaweed is a good choice; if you are more economy-minded, there's nothing wrong with that water-soluble blue crystalline product (the name of which escapes me). As they grow, keep the light about three inches above your plants. As well as tomatoes, this method works well for hot and sweet peppers and different varieties of basil.

Transplant your seedlings carefully into clean four-inch pots, using a good quality potting soil. Before planting them out, after all chances of frost are over, harden off your plants by getting them accustomed to sunshine and breezes. Beginning with milder morning sunshine, put them out for a few hours a day and increase exposure gradually. By the time you come to plant them, they should be out for 24 hours and used to at least six hours of sun. But be careful still to keep the pots from drying out.

Either choose an overcast day to plant out or plant later in the day to avoid too much sun and water each plant well to minimize shock.

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What's New with Rotary Club of Mandarin

By Contributing Writer Ken McCauley



"Ranger" Bill Walker at Centennial Park.

darin Community Club and community programs.

Mandarin residents are invited to visit and enjoy Centennial Park, sponsored by Mandarin Rotary and located behind the South Mandarin Library on San Jose Boule-

The Florida Blood Alliance visited Mandarin Rotary on February 5 with their state-of-the-art Blood Mobile. Thank you to all of those who donated.

On February 12 we held our annual "Teacher of the Year" ceremony, honoring our local teachers for their dedication and service to the community's children. Those recognized teachers are: Loretto Elementary – Erica Lindsey; Greenland Pines Elementary – Donna Rae Ester; Mandarin Oaks Elementary – Jennifer Brown; Crown Point Elementary – Andrea Gore; Bartram Springs Elementary – Cynthia Ray; Mandarin Middle – John Wells; and Mandarin High – Scott Cason.

Mandarin Rotarians will be welcoming visitors to the 45th annual Mandarin Arts Festival on Easter weekend. Please come by to enjoy the art and exhibits by local and visiting artists and craftsmen. Gate proceeds help support the Man-

vard. The park construction started in 2007 under the leadership of Bill "The Ranger" Walker and Major Harding. The park, built in phases, includes natural walking paths, comfortable benches and a fenced natural area for display of native plants. Lastly a beautiful pergola was designed and then constructed by fellow Rotarians under the canopy of oaks that adorn the park. Twice a year we join with the Mandarin High School Interact Club in maintaining the park for the enjoyment of the residents.

Time is running out to purchase your tickets for this year's Rotary Gala "Laugh for Charity" on March 14 at the Ramada Inn Comedy Zone. A silent auction will be held prior to the performance. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the ticket sales will go to the Mandarin Food Bank and Junior Achievement. For more information, please contact us at MandarinRotary@aol.com. We hope to see you there.

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Louise Hill memorialized at Mandarin Garden Club

By Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

On an especially beautiful January day the Mandarin Garden Club celebrated and memorialized the life and accomplishments of long time member Louise Hill. Hill's family was in attendance along with many

club members as they dedicated a lovely engraved butterfly garden bench on the club grounds in her memory. This was no somber event and that's just the way Hill would have wanted it. She was known for her fantastic sense of humor. Mary Howe and Alice Stanley shared heartfelt stories of admiration and respect from their decades of friendship and volunteerism with Hill. Their personal stories combined with wonderful stories from Hill's family had the packed clubhouse beaming with smiles and lots of joyful laughter. One of the great stories Hill is most famous for is the fact that she and the late Bess Permenter signed the mortgage for the Mandarin Garden Club's Loretto Road clubhouse, unbeknownst to their husbands. Back then that was something that ladies just did not do.

Hill was a Mandarin Garden Club member for 55 years. Over her years of dedicated service she



The family of Louise Hill: Terry and Rick Hill (daughter-in-law and son), Jan Mills (daughter) and Ronnie Hill (son)



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held the office of Garden Club president along with most all other volunteer positions. She was a passionate educator about gardening, flower arranging and nature. She was always leading, teaching, working or doing whatever needed to be done for the success of the club's motto: to study, to conserve, to cultivate and to enjoy nature's bounty. Hill's late husband, Richard Hill, often joked that he should purchase the property next door to the club so he could see his wife because she spent so much time at the

garden club.

On one quiet day at the garden club when no one else was around, the 90-year-old Hill was seen walking arm in arm with her medical helper touring the grounds. Hill and the young lady were obviously from vastly different generations, but they seemed to be sharing interesting conversation as they chatted and strolled through the gardens. When this story was shared with Hill's family at the memorial, at the exact same time they all smiled and nodded their heads saying she was no

doubt taking that opportunity to teach her young companion that day about the beauty of nature. That day may have been Hill's last time at her beloved garden club. Her family said she was proud to the end of the Mandarin Garden Club.

Mandarin
NewsLine



For more information on advertising:
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Movie Review

Django Unchained

Directed by: Quentin Tarantino. Starring: Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio and Kerry Washington. Review by T.G. Stanton

Good Movie, Glad to Have Seen It (4  out of 5)

This month's movie review belongs to the film Django Unchained, an action packed western-drama, great for adults.

Somewhere in the South a slave, Django, portrayed by Jamie Foxx, is separated from his wife and sold. On his journey to new surroundings, a German bounty hunter-dentist, Dr. King Schultz, seeks him out for knowledge he may have regarding the group he is hunting. In this encounter, Django is offered freedom and the chance to train as a hunter. He proves to be a very adept and willing learner.

But all is not golden in his bounty-hunting, free-living world. Django's wife, Broomhil-

da, depicted by Kerry Washington, has been sold to a plantation specializing in mulatto fighting and providing slaves for pleasure purposes. Leonardo DiCaprio portrays the owner of Candieland plantation and the owner of Broomhilda. Django learns his new trade well and after multiple hunts with Dr. Schultz, they decide to seek out a means to buy Django's wife and that will never be as easy as it sounds. The South and the times were a violent place to be and even more so for slaves, so, can love triumph?

Quentin Tarantino is a master at presenting some of the most controversial subjects in a new light and he has done so with Django. Throughout the violence and action there is hope and comedy; in addition Tarantino always provides spot-on music for the stories evolving. Jamie Foxx and Kerry Washington show how dreams can come true; she is his muse and reason to fight overwhelming odds. Foxx also is surprisingly skilled as the new bounty hunter, a natural with a gun, even when facing the Klan. Christoph Waltz is funny, charming and understanding as the man who frees and trains Django, a stand-out in the world of violence and slavery. Samuel Jackson is also great as the man to hate as a black man doling out punishment to slaves. He is second only to Leonardo DiCaprio, who is the master, not only of the plantation, but masterfully wily, slimy and evil. His façade of civility is a thin blanket to his real nature and played well. Tarantino has provided humor and vast amounts of slick gun-fights in this story of tortured love and controversy, a time that will never live in infamy.

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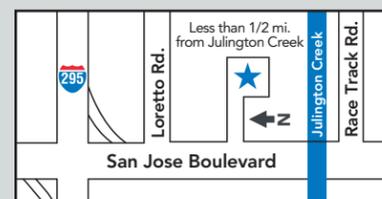
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Faith News

The Solid Rock Church of Mandarin will celebrate 25 years of service beginning on Friday night March 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., with a musical concert featuring gospel artist Helen Baylor, in the church auditorium located at 12855 Old St. Augustine Road. The Theme of the celebration is "A Basic Reunion." A Brothers and Sisters in Christ reunion, the ministry is welcoming old and the new friends and families to come and receive a "fresh start" on Sunday, March 10 at the conclusion of the celebration beginning at 10:00 a.m., with guest church, praise singers and praise dancers. All activities are free. Find out more about the event from src.office@comcast.net.

Shalom Jacksonville will host one of the Jewish Outreach Institute's signature programs,

Passover in the Matzo Aisle, on Sunday, March 10 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Lakewood Winn-Dixie. Volunteers will be stationed in the kosher food section of the store to welcome and engage customers, offer samples of Passover foods, distribute holiday recipes and synagogue information on congregational Seders and gift shops. If you would like more information about the Jacksonville Jewish community, please contact Shalom Jacksonville coordinator Isabel Balotin at 448-5000 x 206 or shalomjax@jewishjacksonville.org. The Jewish Federation's Shalom Jacksonville is the official Jewish welcome wagon of Northeast Florida.

Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversations about life and faith in a

casual coffeehouse-type setting. Upcoming topics are: March 5 and 6: Making Life's Toughest Decisions; March 12 and 13: Inside the Gun Debate - the topic of gun control will be explored; March 19 and 20: They Hijacked My Life - practical ways to protect against identity theft; March 26 and 27: Surrounded by Stuff - the hidden world of hoarding will be explored; April 2 and 3: An Encounter with God - Prime Minister's "God Encounter." Sessions are held each Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at Mandarin Senior Center (limited to those over age 60) and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church (open to everyone). Find out more about topics and location from the www.MandarinNewsLine.com calendar entry or call George Treiber at 731-0731. Admission is free. Please check us out at www.LTCHopeJAX.com

Making a mindful New Year's resolution

At the beginning of the year many people set out to fulfill New Year's resolutions of getting their bodies in shape and adopting a healthier lifestyle. Some may be choosing to improve their appearance, while others are making changes to address health issues.

Sadly many of the persons facing health problems have "fallen off the wagon" or abandoned their well-intended resolutions by March. The fact remains that although the body needs work, the brain is still making the choices. The brain is the central processor that regulates what we choose to do, how we do it, and ultimately what symptoms appear as a result of our choices.

By exercising our brains, also known as brain training, a person can reduce symptoms of anxiety, stress, compulsions, depression, trauma, ADD/ADHD and many others. The clinically-tested and approved method of training the brain is called neurofeedback.

Neurofeedback is a non-invasive, non-pharmaceutical method of training the brain to produce a desirable and more efficient brain wave pattern.

The training lasts approximately 30 minutes and is comparable to playing a computer game.

Dr. Ann Grenadier, a board certified neurofeedback therapist, licensed psychotherapist, and director of Biofeedback Associates of Northeast Florida, became involved with neurofeedback more than 30 years ago. Her son suffered from attention deficit disorder and she was seeking an alternative to medications, many of which have negative side effects that she believed far outweighed the benefits.

Since she began working with neurofeedback, the field has expanded well beyond the treatment of ADD/ADHD. While the American Academy of Pediatrics has now identified neurofeedback as the most effective way of treating ADD/ADHD, it can also be used to diagnose and treat a wide range of issues. Autism, Asperger's syndrome, anxiety, PTSD, depression, insomnia, and compulsive disorders are some of the many conditions that can be addressed with neurofeedback.

Neurofeedback is most effective when coupled with behavioral counseling and Dr. Grenadier's background as a psychotherapist has helped her apply the same therapy that she used for her child to the task of helping others. Most symptoms are part of a bigger picture and

neurofeedback allows the therapist to "peel the onion" and expose underlying issues that lead to the main focal point of the ailment. The combined method of neurofeedback and counseling uncovers problems with the body by focusing on the brain and as a result has produced dramatic and long-lasting results.

If you are one of the many people who have lost sight of your New Year's resolutions or are not motivated to eat healthier and exercise your body, why not start with your brain?

Be sure to see the Biofeedback Associates of Northeast Florida ad in this issue of *Mandarin NewsLine*!

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Knock out hunger food fight at the Jacksonville Jewish Center

By Contributing Writer Mimi Kaufman

Did you ever have a food fight when you were a kid? The Sisterhood and Men's Club of the Jacksonville Jewish Center will be conducting their first annual championship food fight to benefit the Jewish Family and Community Services Food Pantry.

We are asking everyone to help the two clubs in this endeavor. The food fight began on February 23 and will continue until March 18. We

are asking everyone, when they empty their pantries for Pesach, to bring their chametz to the center and deposit it in either the Sisterhood cart or Men's Club cart in the front lobby. Let's see which club can

bring in the most food.

The winner of this food fight will be the JFCS food pantry. The Jacksonville Jewish Center is located at 3662 Crown Point Road.

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Captain David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka

For anyone who loves to fish this an exciting time of year. With spring almost here it's time to start getting all your gear in order, beginning with your rods and reels. You can clean and lubricate reels, replace broken guides and tips on rods and swap out old line for new.

If you own a boat, now is a great time to start getting all your pre-season maintenance out of the way. Checking and charging batteries is a must to avoid getting stranded on the water or stuck at the dock. Having your engine serviced yearly is an easy way to help limit the chance of breakdowns. Fuel systems, ignition systems, lubricants and cooling systems should all be looked at annually. If you haven't already added a fuel stabilizer to your fuel tank, now is the time to do it.

Boat trailers are often overlooked when preparing for another season, but shouldn't be. A trailer that is not functioning properly could easily ruin your day before it ever gets started. Just like the rest of your equipment your trailer should be inspected and maintained annually. Lights, wiring, bearings, brakes and axles should all have a good looking over

and be repaired or replaced as needed.

With many months of fishing ahead having dependable, proper, and working equipment is a must. Being able to depend on all these different items could be the difference between losing or catching a really nice fish, to suffering a costly breakdown rather than a nice day on the water. Preparation is often the key to a successful outing and now is a great time of year to start preparing.

Fishing Report: Catfish in channels of creek mouths. Cut bait, dead shrimp or chicken livers should all produce a bite. A slow troll off the end of docks from Goodby's Creek to downtown Jax. should produce sea trout as days begin to warm and spring advances.

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



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Start Here! Go Anywhere!

By Contributing Writer Lynne Baldwin, Librarian Senior/Branch Manager, Mandarin Branch Library

Celebrate Spring Break at the Library! The Mandarin and South Mandarin Branch Libraries have a full schedule of programs and activities for the week of March 23 through 29.

The Mandarin Branch Library is located at 3330 Kori Road and the phone number is 288-9015. Here are some events at the Mandarin Branch:
 Saturday Sunshine: Saturday, March 23, 2:00 p.m. Children ages six through 12 will spend 10 minutes of reading Florida Sunshine State books and 20 minutes of arts and crafts based on the book.
 Spring Break Movie + Pop-

corn: Tuesday, March 26, 3:00 p.m. Children ages six and up will enjoy a movie and some popcorn at the Mandarin Branch Library.
 Spring Break Arts and Crafts: Wednesday, March 27, 3:00 p.m. Make something creative at our children's department and take it home. All supplies are provided. This is an organized art time for children ages six through 12. Younger children are welcome to participate with a parent. These programs encourage creativity and develop critical thinking skills through open ended projects and

activities. Projects build upon library resources and introduce foundational concepts of art, art history and artistic expression.
 Stories for Young Children: Wednesday, March 27, 10:30 a.m. This program is for children birth to five years with an adult caregiver. The program includes stories, fingerplays, nursery rhymes and songs that promote language development, vocabulary building, and comprehension.
 Teen Advisory Board: Thursday, March 28, 4:30 p.m. Teens meet to discuss the direction of future teen library activities and programs.
 Art Trading Cards 101: Friday, March 29, 2:00 p.m. Teens ages 12 through 18 create Art Trading Cards and experiment with fun stamping and painting techniques. Make two to keep and one to trade! A great way to build a personal mini art collection.

12125 San Jose Boulevard and the phone number is 288-6385. Here are some events at the South Mandarin Branch:
 "Wimpy Kid" Book Bingo: Wednesday, March 27, 3:00 p.m. Do you love the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series? Join us in the children's department for "Wimpy Kid" Book Bingo and a chance to win prizes! This program is for kids ages five to 12. Kids under eight should bring a grownup.
 Stories for Young Children: Friday, March 29, 10:30 a.m. This program is for children birth to five years with an adult caregiver. The program includes stories, fingerplays, nursery rhymes, and songs that promote language development, vocabulary building and comprehension. Attendance is limited.
 iCraft: Thursday, March 28, 3:00 p.m. Bored? Join us in the teen space for a fun craft and snacks. For teens only... ages 12 through 18 please. Call for more details. See you there!

The South Mandarin Branch Library is located at



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Stations of the Cross
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 Wednesday, March 13
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Parish Penance Service
 Wednesday, March 20
 7:00 p.m.
Holy Week
Holy Thursday
 March 28
 Reconciliation 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 Mass 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday
 March 29
 Reconciliation 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
 Stations of the Cross
 3:00 p.m.
 Reconciliation 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 Solemn Liturgical Observance with Holy Communion
 7:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday
 March 30
 Reconciliation 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 Easter Vigil Mass- 7:00 p.m.
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Local Sports Update

By Chad Cushnir

The Harlem Globetrotters will be in town on Friday, March 1. This touring basketball team always puts on a great show. Their performance begins at 7:00 p.m.

The college baseball season is in full swing. The Florida Gators will be making two trips to Jacksonville in March. On March 5, they visit Jacksonville University. Then on March 26, they'll face FSU in the annual showdown at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville.

The Jacksonville Sharks will be beginning their season this month. 2013 is the fourth season for this Arena Football League franchise which has made the playoffs in each of its first three seasons.

On Friday, March 15, the Sharks will be hosting the Orlando Predators in a scrimmage game at Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. Kickoff is set for 8:00 p.m. and admission is free. Fans are encouraged to bring pet food which will be donated to First Coast No More Homeless Pets. Cash donations are also welcome.

The Sharks will begin the

regular season the following week at Tampa Bay on March 23. This is the first of three straight road games to begin the season for the Sharks who won't play their regular season home opener until April 12.

Jeron Harvey, Jeff Hughley and Terrance Smith will form a formidable trio of wide receivers. Harvey is a Jackson High School graduate who is entering his fourth season with the Sharks. Cornelius Lewis (Raines), Jamaal Fudge (Ed White) and Charles Gilbert (Ridgeview) are a few Jacksonville area natives that are newcomers to the team this season.

Finally, the newest team in town plays its first home game on March 30. The Jacksonville Breeze of the Legends Football League, formally known as the Lingerie Football League, will host the Atlanta Steam on March 30 at the Veterans Memorial Arena. The Breeze franchise has moved from Tampa to Jacksonville. The ladies will play a four game schedule this season with two of those games at home.

Easter Worship
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JAX Chamber sets 2013 priorities

The JAX Chamber board of directors finalized its 2013 priorities and goals to help drive quality economic growth in Northeast Florida. The 2013 board priorities include revitalizing Downtown Jacksonville, enhancing education and workforce development, strengthening transportation and infrastructure needs, building strategic partnerships and promoting the area's community pride.

"The Chamber board identified key priorities that will help us drive business growth to the region," said 2013 JAX Chamber Chair Greg Smith, the Northeast Florida Market president for Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

"These initiatives are the Chamber's top priorities as they represent the economic drivers of high-wage jobs and investments to our region."

Revitalize Downtown - Downtown Jacksonville is essential for the region's economic success. The Chamber is contributing to re-energizing the urban core through multiple initiatives including renovating its Downtown headquarters, participating in the Downtown Marketing Collaborative (DMC), organizing and attracting residents to Community First Saturdays; and partnering with other organizations to tackle some of the tough issues

Jax Chamber cont. on pg. 19

March is St. Johns River Month

By Contributing Writer Jimmy Orth, Executive Director, St. Johns Riverkeeper

March is St. Johns River Month! For the fifth year in a row, St. Johns Riverkeeper is encouraging residents of Northeast Florida to explore, celebrate and help protect the St. Johns River during the month of March.

"March is a great time of the year to explore and celebrate the river and to adopt 'river friendly' practices to reduce our impact on the St. Johns," explains Lisa Rinaman, the St. Johns Riverkeeper. "We need to take the opportunity to enjoy this incredible resource, but we also need to make sure we use water, fertilizers and chemicals responsibly and wisely so we can protect the river for generations to come."

Here's how you can get involved:

1. Explore the St. Johns River. We are fortunate to have so many outstanding parks, boat ramps, and public spaces that provide access to the river and its numerous tributaries.

Visit the St. Johns Riverkeeper website and take a virtual tour of the river, learn about its history and ecology, or get a copy of our Get Your Feet Wet guide to the parks along the St. Johns from Palatka to Mayport. www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/the-river

As part of Mayor Alvin Brown's Water Access Plan, he has created dozens of canoe and kayak launches along the St. Johns and its tributaries. Learn more and download a waterways access map at www.jaxparks.com.

2. Celebrate the St. Johns River by attending the exciting events planned for March.

March 2: Community Day at The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens featuring a plant sale, rain barrel sale and eco village. Rain Barrels for the River pre-sale pickup one for \$65 and two for \$120. Visit www.rainbarrelprogram.org/rainbarrelsfortheriver.

March 2: St. Johns River Family - two-hour boat trip on the Ortega River from the Riverside Arts Market. Registration required: www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events/river-boat-trip-1/

March 2: River Hunt! River Friendly Scavenger Hunt. Find the St. Johns Riverkeeper at the Jacksonville Landing during Community First Saturday. Get your instructions and sprint away to scout out native plants, organic vegetables, recycled crafts, hidden creeks, pollution pipes, wetlands and more. Continue the hunt in the Cummer

Museum and explore portrayals of natural Florida and seek out changes in the garden landscape.

March 16: 18th annual St. Johns River Cleanup and Celebration. Participate at numerous cleanup sites throughout Northeast Florida. In Duval, call 630-3420 or visit www.coj.net and search "River Celebration" for site locations.

3. Protect the St. Johns by being River Friendly. March is a time of the year when we start working in the yard again. Remember to use water, fertilizers and chemicals wisely, and no more than is needed. Consider planting native and drought-tolerant plants that require little maintenance. Do your part for the river!

Check out our website to learn more about places to explore, businesses participating in River Month, upcoming events and River Friendly tips. Please visit www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

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LOCAL Garage Sales

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United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update Tune in to boating safety

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

If you ever needed to know how to do something, you understand why it is my pleasure to serve with talented auxiliary members. Yes, we have a doctor, a couple lawyers and successful business persons, but they and others bring some great boating related interests that put the icing on the cake by embellishing our abilities. Among these folks there is a marine lawyer, a doctor who also runs dolphin tours and a computer professional who works at a marina. That is to say Rusty Gardner is not alone.

Outside the Auxiliary, Gardner earns a living in education as an audio-visual director. For us he was recently a national-level public affairs officer and is currently digital media director for our District Seven, encompassing Florida to South Carolina. Gardner is an idea guy and a boat guy. About three years ago he came up with an idea that combined all his interests and brought him those extra positions. He is the catalyst for an effort to produce boating safety podcasts for the Auxiliary in association with the Florida State College at Jacksonville, United States Coast Guard, Florida Fish and Wildlife and the Clay County Sheriff's marine unit.

Three videos have been produced, covering the importance of life preservers, clear instructions to implement

Digital Selective Calling (DSC) to enable the Rescue 21 system to find your boat and issues presented by derelict boats. The productions are obviously professional, under five minutes each and are available on YouTube and periodically on Comcast's Channel 26. See the latest on derelict boats at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyZrZqc_kE With a smartphone you may even tune in during your next boat outing.

The podcast themes are selected for their pertinence to boating safety and are tailored to appeal to all boaters with an objective of succinctness and clarity. Most of the scenes will be familiar as they are local waters and facilities. The DSC presentation is so clear that I likely won't try to replicate its message in print, but will discuss derelict boats in the future.

Gardner's boating activity doesn't end there, but to cover all the boating initiatives he's involved in will take more space so I'll save that for next month. In the meantime, if you want to take advantage of our live eight-hour safety instruction, reserve your space for either March 9 or April 6 at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club, located at 9010 San Jose Boulevard. Check our website at www.safeboatingjax.com for more information or call Bob Strong at 721-1346.

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Jax Chamber cont. from pg. 18 facing Downtown.
Encourage Education and Workforce Development – Education is the key to success, providing the knowledge and skills necessary to compete and prosper in a challenging marketplace. High-wage job growth relies on an educated workforce. Chamber leaders will focus

on educational programs that prepare students for jobs within the targeted industries, including Advanced Transportation, Health and Life Sciences and Financial Services.
Transportation and Infrastructure – Northeast Florida's highways, seaports, railroads and airports are assets that make the region one of the top transpor-

tation gateways in the nation. The Chamber will work with transportation authorities to develop and market the region as a transportation gateway and will advocate for funding for physical infrastructure improvements.
Build Strategic Partnerships – The Chamber's public policy committee will lead efforts to form strategic alliances with several organizations to help develop and enhance economic development opportunities while strengthening economic partnerships.

Instill Community Pride – The Chamber's #ilovejax campaign will continue to highlight the region's business and economic strength and boost community pride in 2013. The #ilovejax campaign uses multiple communication methods with a focus on social media to promote the region. In 2012, the Chamber committed to a five-year #ilovejax campaign.

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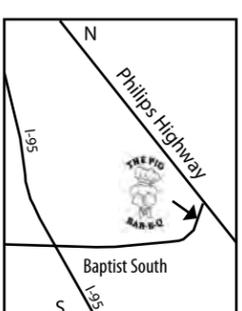
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Encore! Another special anniversary: Beaches Fine Arts Series

By Betty Swenson Bergmark, Professor Emeritus, Jacksonville University

Once again we are fortunate to be able to celebrate the longevity of a special arts organization. This time it is the Beaches Fine Arts Series (BFAS), which is celebrating its 40th year! During that time, it has become nationally known. This may be because in recent years many of its concerts were selected to be recorded by American Public Media for airing on the widely listened to "Performance Today." Also recently, it was honored to receive a State award from the Florida Music Educators Association for 2012 -2013. The Distinguished Service Award recognized their work with students in the Northeast Florida area. How fortunate Jacksonville is to have such a prestigious group devoting time and efforts to its educational outreach to children in the Duval County schools! A very special part of this program is the annual week or more when they bring in an artist or group for an extended residency and when selected schools host the artists in their classrooms for in depth study.

Still remaining in this year's series are two spectacular programs. On Friday March 8 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's by the Sea Episcopal Church, the Beaches Fine Arts Series will host the return of the Pablo Ziegler Classical Tango Quartet. With Ziegler (piano) will be Hector Del Curto (bandoneon), Pedro Giraudo (double bass) and Jisoo Ok (cello). To quote the Chicago Times, "There's no question that Ziegler takes the tango to levels of sophistication and refinement probably undreamed of by Piazzolla."

At 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 21, again at St. Paul's by the Sea, the featured artist will be R. Carlos Nakai, the world's premier performer on the Native American flute. This will be his third appearance for BFAS and he will bring with him the Wilde Boys Trio for a special afternoon of mesmerizing music. "Single-handedly.....R.Carlos Nakai has raised the music world's consciousness in terms of traditional indigenous music of Native North Americans with his recordings of the Native American Cedar Flute."(Dirty Linen).

featured.
For additional information, you can call 270 - 1771 or visit beachesfinearts.org.

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The Pig Barbeque
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If you are opening a new restaurant, please contact us at editor@mandarinnewsline.com to be included in *Food and Fun*.

Fortunately we are all able to enjoy the wonderful artistry they bring to the community. In 1972, the Beaches Fine Arts Series began offering the people of Jacksonville the opportunity to enjoy world class music and dance in eight free performances each year. Most, but not all of these take place in the beautiful St. Paul's by the Sea Episcopal Church. Following each concert, attendees are invited to attend a reception in honor of the performers, hosted by other community and arts organizations. This gives members of the audience an opportunity to meet the artists.

Check out Steamin' ...home of the steam burger

Steamin' is a brand-new restaurant concept in Jacksonville, bringing East Coast casual dining to the First Coast. Steamin' is locally-owned by St. Augustine residents Vasha Carter and Jay Davis, who created the East Coast-themed menu with their favorite dish from central Connecticut and Washington, D.C.

Steamin' proudly features one of the most famous foods to come out of Washington, D.C.: the Fat Dog. The "original" half smoke, aka the Fat Dog dates back to the 1930s and has been enjoyed by many of our nation's presidents since then.

In addition to the Washington, D.C.-style hot dog, the restaurant re-creates the Con-

necticut "steam cooking" technique for its signature Cheesy Steamer. Steaming the burger extracts most of the unwanted fat and oils grilled burgers retain. Steamin' features the Fat Boy Food Challenge that pays you to eat! If you fail to meet the challenge, be prepared to see your portrait featured on the "Wall of Shame."

Steamin's menu boasts great hot dogs, burgers, wings and Blue Bell ice cream—fun for the whole family. Lunch and dinner are served daily. You can enjoy their breakfast on week-ends.

Steamin' is located at 9703 San Jose Boulevard. Be sure to see their ad in this issue of *Mandarin NewsLine!*

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Food and Fun

The Pig has seafood and breakfast too!

By Donna Keathley



Welcome to The Pig!

The Pig, a fourth generation family run business in Jacksonville, was founded on serving award-winning barbeque in 1955 in its original store then located on Kings Road. Then in the early 1960s a friend of E. S. Murdock's, the original owner, convinced him to add a selection of seafood to the menu. So when he opened the Lem Turner Road store, he added an assortment of seafood items to the classic southern barbeque menu and it worked!

The Pig now has five locations in and around Jacksonville, with the newest store being located in the Mandarin area, on the corner of Old St. Augustine Road and Philips Highway. This location has a funny story about its origination, too. Mike Murdock Jr.,

of the fourth generation, chose not to go into the family business. He went to the University of Florida and graduated with a marketing degree. He then went to work as a claims representative for an insurance company. One day he was driving to work

down U.S. Highway 1/ Philips Highway and saw an empty building where a restaurant had closed. He called his dad, Mike Senior and told him about the building location and the rest is history! Mike Jr. went to work for the family and opened that location in 2011.

"We are doing well here in Mandarin," says Mike Jr. "We have an increase over our first year and it's great being on this side of the river again. We have a great lunch crowd with the medical community and other businesses around us. We run weekday specials from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for the workers, to include specials which get away from the traditional barbeque menu

like meatloaf or spaghetti. On Mondays, kids can eat free here all day long. Wednesday is our Trivia Night from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and it does well; our record turn out was 18 teams one night! Also some folks might not know that we serve breakfast seven days a week opening up at 6:30 a.m. I am sure enjoying being involved in the family business!"

All locations of The Pig have full service catering



Founder E.S. Murdock

offered for special events, whether it is lunch or dinner. You can visit their website at <http://thepigbarbq.com> to see their menu, locations with directions and specials. "The Murdock family serves your family" has been their motto since 1955.

Dining out drives U.S. job growth

(BPT) - Did you know that when you and your family dine out, you are helping your community's economy and the economy at large? That's because restaurants employ millions of Americans nationwide.

Overall, unemployment remains high as the nation slowly makes its way out of recession. One bright spot in the jobs picture is the restaurant industry, which continues to outpace the national economy when it comes to driving job growth.

Why is that? Because Americans love to dine out. In fact, more than nine out of 10 say they enjoy going to restaurants, and nearly half say it's an essential part of their lifestyle. National Restaurant Association (NRA) research also shows that two out of five consumers say they're not using restaurants as often as they would like. When more people dine out, order delivery and use takeout, restaurants staff up to keep up with demand.

The restaurant industry is currently the second-largest private sector employer, providing career opportunities for more than 13 million people, or one out of every 10 working individuals, according to the NRA's 2013 Restaurant Industry Forecast. Since the employment recovery began in March 2010, restaurants have created

more than 701,000 new positions - only the professional services and health care industries have created more jobs during that same time.

The rate of employment growth in the restaurant industry was more than double the overall economy over the last year, and restaurants will continue to be a major driver in job creation into the future. Restaurants are projected to add 1.3 million new positions in the next decade, with the fastest growing job categories being combined food-preparation and serving positions, cooks and supervisors.

From restaurant managers to chefs to servers, restaurants offer a wide range of jobs, often with quick opportunities to rise up the ranks. Restaurants are also a training ground for budding entrepreneurs and even careers in other industries, as half of all Americans have worked in a restaurant at some point in their lives. One-third of adults got their first job in a restaurant, and eight out of 10 restaurant owners started in entry-level positions.

So next time you dine out, you're not only getting a delicious meal and quality time with family and friends - you're doing your part in creating jobs for the U.S. economy.

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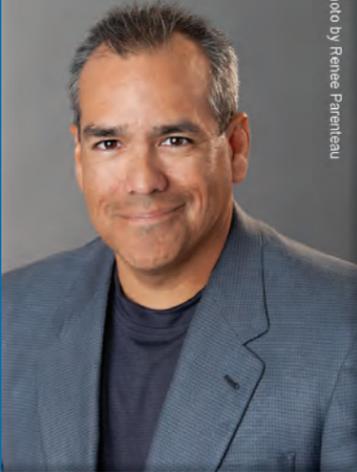
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Dynamic relaunch of Jaguar logo highlights "Stand United" movement



The Jacksonville Jaguars recently introduced a new brand identity that is inspired in equal parts by the bold vision and promise of a new generation for the club, the passion Jaguars fans have for their team and the exceptional relationship the Jaguars have shared with Jacksonville for the past 18 NFL seasons. Now entering their 19th NFL season and second under owner Shad Khan, the Jaguars will immediately march forward with a comprehensive rebranding effort tailored to reflect three distinct and powerful attributes that will describe and guide the Jaguars on and off the field – proud, bold and

committed. "To be a success in business or life, you have to stand for something and hold yourself accountable to the principles you believe in," Khan said. "The Jacksonville Jaguars will not be casual in this responsibility, which we owe ourselves, our fans and the

Jacksonville community. "From this day, the Jacksonville Jaguars will live a brand mission of being proud, bold and committed in everything we do. Our new logo and campaign theme are the first initiatives of what will be many examples of bringing this philosophy to life. A new era for the Jaguars begins today."

Highlighting the new brand identity is a vibrant redesign of the team's time-honored Jaguar logo that has adorned the team's helmets since opening NFL play in 1995, as well as a refinement of the Jacksonville Jaguars logotype and the intro-

duction of military- secondary logo. The brand identity will be brought to life in 2013 under the theme "Stand United," which universally speaks to the new era ahead for the team and the rallying spirit of Jaguars fans for nearly two decades.

"The new brand message, logo treatment and campaign theme we are introducing today will be critical components to the ongoing revitalization of the Jaguars franchise," said Jaguars President Mark Lamping. "Change is exciting and it is certainly ahead for all of us.

"But, we were careful to remain faithful to the values that Jaguars fans and the Jacksonville region have embraced since Day One, and the result is a new look and approach that we feel will make an immediate and lasting impact. We are grateful for the role the NFL played in this process, as no one understands better than the NFL the importance of balancing tradition with an eye to the future."

The new visual identity system is the result of several months of collaboration with the NFL, incorporating specific

insight from our fans in 2012 and in recent years.

"It was important to evolve the logo, in collaboration with the Jaguars, in a manner that recognizes the team's existing brand equity, embraces the organization's strong values, and undeniably reflects the direction of the team and the community of Jacksonville," said Jaime Weston, vice president brand and creative, NFL. "It was a terrific experience for the league to work with an enthusiastic and pioneering franchise like the Jaguars. The new logo will play a major role in the Jaguars' vision and mission to be proud, bold and committed."

Highlights include:

Jaguars Logo. The refreshed identity stays true to the Jaguars traditional colors of black, teal and gold while offering a fiercer jaguar, amplifying the powerful characteristics of the cat. Using more accurate detailing, the logo is now a closer depiction of a real jaguar.

Taking fan feedback into account, specific design changes include realigning the jaw, adjusting the positioning of the

ear and adding white around the mouth and eye to more closely reflect the animal. Additional details that further customize the jaguar design include accents to the eye and nose of the Jaguars' teal, a color unique within the NFL, and the addition of gold to create a more dimensional, realistic feel.

Logotype. The logotype, or word mark, has been slightly updated by removing the trailing lines from the bottom of the word "Jaguars." Additionally, each word is now one solid color following the removal of the outline around each letter.

Secondary Mark. The Jaguars will introduce a shield featuring the new Jaguars logo underneath a bold graphic treatment of the nickname "Jags," paying homage to the military roots of Jacksonville and celebrating the fan-inspired Jags nickname.

The rollout of the new logos will be celebrated throughout the 2013 season as part of the team's "Stand United" theme, which will embody the brand promise of proud, bold and committed in all corners of Jaguars nation. "Stand United" will drive all team marketing, advertising, website, public relations efforts and much more, beginning with renewal information being mailed this week to Jaguars season ticket holders.

"Stand United" is about the community and the team coming together and it represents a theme and way of life that anyone who loves the Jaguars and Jacksonville can personally understand and appreciate," Khan said. "Stand United" has great potential to become a grassroots movement, something our players and fans alike can adopt, activate and celebrate. It's time to make a statement and it starts with 'Stand United.'"

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MHS runner signs National Letter of Intent

Lucas Shannon of Mandarin High School has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend and run cross country at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida beginning in the fall of 2013.

Shannon is no stranger to success as he placed 18th and helped the Mustangs finish second overall in the FHSAA Class 4A Cross Country Championships. He holds a personal cross country best time of 16:07.91 for the 5,000m distance. On the track, Shannon has proven himself with top times of 4:38:00 in the 1600m, 10:13.91 in the 3200m and 2:03.02 in the

800m.

"Having Lucas sign with us today is a big step forward for cross country at Southeastern University," said head cross country coach Paul Kurtz. "He brings not only a tremendous amount of talent, but knows what it takes to be a part of a winning tradition. Lucas does not just want to be a good runner; he wants to help make his team be great. Having him at Southeastern will help us become just that!"

Shannon is the son of Frank and Jennifer Shannon of Jacksonville. He plans to major in communications in the fall.

MHS Sports Roundup

By Natalie Cleghorn, MHS Student

Lining the stage of the Mandarin High School auditorium on February 6, 11 seniors were eager to sign and continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Of the 11 seniors, each was a standout in his or her sport.

As Coach Hope Treece stood at the podium to share a little bit about Theresa Duncan who signed with Florida Atlantic University, she remarked, "Theresa quickly stood out as an elite level runner. She is a dedicated and driven athlete."

Along with Duncan, Daniel Sugishita as well as Kamrin Solomon signed with FAU.

Sugishita placed seventh in the 200 IM at states this year and Head Coach Mike Dingfield praised him saying, "Daniel is always encouraging his teammates and is quick with a joke."

Sugishita played a significant role on the swimming team this year as did seniors Clayton Alvarez and Dalton Goss who also participated in the state finals.

Softball is aiming to return to the state finals with standouts Abbie Millete and Dajia Jones, both of whom signed to continue

their softball careers. Millete will be playing at Seminole State College and Jones at Brevard State College. Those two add to the experience of the Mandarin softball team which returns with eight seniors to lead the team.

According to Coach Natalia Gonzalez, "Both Abbie and Dajia played significant roles in the success of the program."

Gonzalez also shared a story about Millete as a freshman that ultimately ended in a grand slam, enabling the Mustangs to take the victory over First Coast. Millete has continued to improve over the last three years, leading the Mustangs to three Gateway Conference Championships as well as two District Championships. The Mustangs will play Tuesday, March 5 against Sandalwood and Thursday, March 14 against Flagler Palm Coast. Both games will be home at 6:30 p.m.

Continuing to build the football team over the past couple years, former Head Coach Robert Dean was pleased to discuss his two signees as he grinned from ear to ear at the podium.

Dean praised Kamrin Solomon as "this year's leading receiver, averaging 15 yards a catch."

Signing along with Solomon was teammate Kingsley Opara, headed to Maryland.

Although Opara was offered a spot at Georgia Tech University, he ultimately decided to stick with Maryland as his future home.

And among the other signees, there is only one who has earned All-Conference Player for the past four years. Tessa Smith signed with St. Andrews Uni-

versity in North Carolina to play volleyball after an outstanding four years at Mandarin High. Smith has proved to be instrumental in the team's success and impressed Coach Laura Jutte from day one when she fought for her spot on the varsity team as a freshman.

Other signees included soccer players Kacper Grzeszczak and Mark Darling, both committed to Jacksonville University. Carly Meltzer also committed to play soccer at Flagler College and Lucas Shannon will continue to run cross country at Southeastern University.



Coach Paul Kurtz, Southeastern University; Frank Shannon; Lucas Shannon; Jennifer Shannon; Coach Jim Schmitt, MHS



Mark Darling, Carly Meltzer and Kacper Grzeszczak at National Signing day

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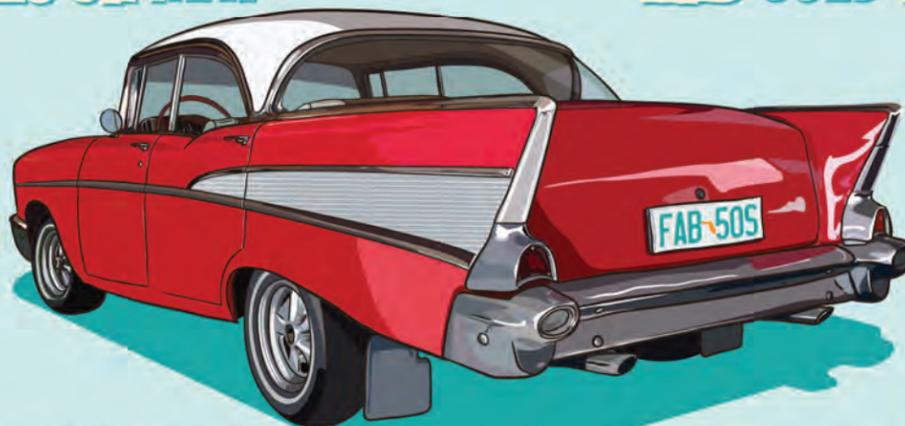
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