

Mandarin NewsLineSM

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September 2013

Mustang Band looks back fondly and then forward with anticipation

By Contributing Writers Brooke Sapolsky and Levana Osher, Historian, MHS Band



New members of the MHS band with the two drum majors and drum major in training.

This past year in the Mandarin Mustang Band, we had a wonderful group of graduates. These graduates have suffered through a lot of two and a half hour marching rehearsals with little water and a lot of repetition. They have spent numerous Saturdays drenched in sweat with their hair in tight knots marching alongside classmates and friends to create the perfect formation. They played songs as loudly as possible for hundreds of Friday night football games hoping to energize the team and its fans.

Sure, sometimes they felt like it was all too much, but they never gave up. They knew that the band as a whole needed them as individuals to make the show work. Maybe they were just a group of separate individuals, but on that field, the individuals made the team. This is why they stayed committed to band—to be a part of something larger than themselves and to play alongside many other people who shared their passion of music.

As the senior class of 2013 leaves us, we will have an in-

complete formation. Of course, new members will join the band family and take those spots to continue to help the Mighty Mustang Marching Band create the exemplary shows we pride ourselves for, but they will never be able to truly replace the wonderful musicians

that have recently graduated. Each person was an important member of our band, so we would like to mention every graduate. Our graduates include Mason Anthony, Jackson Benfer, Ronald Brame, Anthony Cassette, Brandon Henderson, Preston Jones, Ryan Lastrapes, Elijah Mize, Terence Moultrie, Brooke Pitts, Cody Rigby, David Stevenson, Brittany Teal, Rachel Thompson, Jennifer Tipton, Andrew Turner, Nick Williams and Klaudio Xhindoli.

Music is a lifestyle and cer-

Mustang Band cont. on pg. 18

Record breaking summer at the Mandarin libraries!

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

September is here and school is back in session. Summer is winding down and the holidays are on the horizon. It is a good time to thank the people of Mandarin for helping all of us at the Mandarin and South Mandarin Libraries make this year one of our most successful summers yet. Here are some of the library highlights of summer 2013:

The BreakSpot Summer Lunch Program sponsored by the Jacksonville Children's Commission served 973 free lunches to children under the age of 18 between June 11 and August 9 at the Mandarin Branch Library. State Representative Charles McBurney visited the South Mandarin Branch Library on Wednesday, July 18 and State Senator Aaron Bean read stories at the Mandarin Branch Library on Thursday, June 24. A record number of



Local author T. L. Randall, pictured with library assistant David Foster, read from her book "Don't Try to Kiss A Lizard" at the Mandarin Branch Library on August 8.

Teen Volunteers at both the South Mandarin and Mandarin Libraries helped customers with computer questions, shelved books and assisted with branch programming and submitted original short stories as a Mandarin libraries cont. on pg. 9

Win & Get Thin!



Turn to page 18 to find out how!

"Catholic Night at Ballpark" thrills fans

By Karl Kennell

It brought back fond memories of days gone by when Mama and Papa would gather the kids together for a real treat, a live baseball game at the local ballpark. On Wednesday, August 14, the families and parishioners of the Diocese of St. Augustine gathered at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville to watch the Jacksonville Suns take on the Birmingham Barons. Over 550 tickets were sold to members of the Diocese making "Catholic Night at the Ballpark" account for half of the evening's attendance for the game.

Just like in the old days, as everyone made their way through the turnstiles to the



Bishop Felipe Estevez with Southpaw. Photos courtesy of St. Augustine Catholic Magazine/Woody Huband.

concourse and to take their seats, old friendships were renewed. And the chatter was about bringing each other up to date with what was going on in each family's lives. After grabbing a soda and hot dog the seats filled. Then Bishop

Felipe Estevez came to the mound escorted by Southpaw, the Jacksonville Suns Mascot. Southpaw had made sure Bishop Estevez was appropriately outfitted for his upcoming duties in a Jacksonville Suns jersey and ball cap. After taking the mound, the Bishop made his windup and threw a right hand one hop pitch straight to home plate, which was quickly scooped up by the Suns' catcher.

Later Bishop Estevez was openly excited about the more than 550 Catholics from around the Diocese who came out to support "Catholic Night at the Ballpark" and support the Jacksonville Suns. The spectacular Catholic Night cont. on pg. 18

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What's New

Community Happenings



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Do you have community or club news you would like included in Mandarin NewsLine? Then contact Martie Thompson at: editor@mandarinnewsline.com or 886-4919.

On Saturday, September 7 Whole Foods Market will host a **Kids Day of Service** from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at Mandarin Park. Volunteers will help beautify the park by removing litter and debris from the park grounds and finish the day by eating a rainbow of fruits of vegetables as kids build their own salads. Whole Foods' goal is to make this experience fun, uplifting and meaningful as well as a way to celebrate the joys of healthy eating and healthy communities! For additional information, please contact Adrienne Cartagena at adrienne.cartagena@wholefoods.com.

QuiltFest 2013 will be held in the Prime Osborne Convention from September 26 through 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., featuring over 400 quilts, a quilt sale booth, vendors, silent auc-

tion, kid's corner, free demos, quilt appraiser, charity corner and quilter's walk. For more information, please contact Gay Montgomery at 742-1372 and visit www.quiltfestjax.com.

The AARP Driver Safety Program for drivers 50 and older will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, September 10 and 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Memorial Hospital, located at 3625 University Boulevard South. AARP members' fee is \$12; non-members' fee is \$14 and participants must attend both days for certification to qualify for auto insurance discount. To register, please call 391-1320.

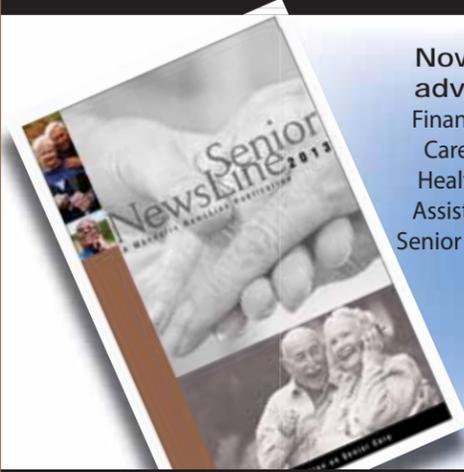
The Teen Advisory Board at the Mandarin Branch Library is meeting on Thursday, September 26 at 4:00 p.m. Please call Don Carpenter at 262-5201 for more information.

The Mandarin Women's Club will be playing Bingo as they swing back into action after a lazy summer with a luncheon on Thursday, September 26. It will be at the Ramada Inn, located at 3130 Hartley Road in Mandarin, with the doors opening at 10:30 a.m. The luncheon cost is \$16 per person for members or non-members and the cost to play bingo is \$5 for 10 cards. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Marilyn at

Letters to the Editor policy

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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260-8431 by Thursday, September 19. For information about the club and how to join, please call Diane at 880-5354 or check out our website at <http://home.comcast.net/~echoecho46/site>.

The Friends of Mandarin South Library are working on projects to use the funds they have raised at their recent book sale. New members are welcome! For more information, please email friendsmandarinsouthlibrary@gmail.com.

The Italian American Club is busy getting ready for its annual Festa Italiana, to be held October 18, 19 and 20. The club is open to all our Mandarin neighbors and all our friends throughout Jacksonville. Come and enjoy this special three-day event. The Italian American Club is also

open for membership; we welcome everyone who loves Italian culture, heritage and cuisine.

The September meeting of the **River City Women's Club** will be a Bingo Party held at the Mandarin Ramada Inn on September 18 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Members of the club have made gift baskets as prizes. All monies received will go into the charity fund. Guests are invited to attend! For reservations, please call 262-8719. For information, please call Marian at 288-0078.

The September general meeting of **The All Star Quilters Guild** will be held on Monday, September 16th at 9:30am in the First Christian Church, located at 11924 San Jose Boulevard.

What's New cont. on pg. 4



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From the City Council Member's Desk

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

In July 2013, the City Council affirmed the settlement of over \$3.4 million in a case against the city for not cutting down a dead tree limb in the Mandarin area. Unfortunately, in 2010 the limb fell, hitting and paralyzing a young boy.

Six months prior to the incident, a Mandarin constituent contacted the city and asked that the limb be cut down. Nothing was done and the tragedy occurred. I mention this because part of the beauty of Mandarin is its tree-lined streets. I find I walk a fine line with constituents who request to remove limbs that could be obstructively dangerous and those who object to any trimming of the trees. It is absolutely imperative that we maintain the beauty of Mandarin while also ensuring that they do not present a danger to our residents.

Another matter recently brought to my attention is the addition of the newly painted bike stencils on Mandarin, Beauclerc and Scott Mill Roads. While unbeknownst to me as to why these stencils were appearing, I contacted the Public Works Department and was told that according to state law, a road 14 feet or less in width allows bicyclists to use the road and control the lane. While this is a concern to many of us, it is imperative that drivers and bicyclists use extreme caution while on these roads and strive to be courteous to each other.

City Hall news: Yes, I voted against the mayor's pension proposal. Why?

- A vote for the plan would have affirmed the current

plan that still has a life of 17 years left, generous benefits and several unfunded liabilities;

- The current plan is undergoing legal challenges in the courts; anything we do now could be null and void.
- The mayor's plan did nothing to address the unfunded liabilities;
- The mayor's plan only puts a band aid on a serious problem. This is the same behavior by previous mayors that brought us where we are today.

Also, I did not vote for an increase in the millage rate to fund the pension issue. I strongly believe raising taxes is not the answer. The mayor made a very poor attempt to solve the pension problem and tried to use scare tactics of severe budgets cuts to manipulate the council into agreeing with his plan. Needless to say, it did not work.

The city does not have a revenue problem; it has a pension agreement problem! In just the last 12 years, our pension obligation has increased from \$10 million to \$160 million due this year; in 10 years, the city's

obligation will be \$200 million; and in fifteen years, \$250 million. How much more can we take?

The mayor's proposal did little, if anything, to stop this steep climb. Why am I not surprised?

Please do not hesitate to contact me at MattS@coj.net or 630-1388.

Mandarin NewsLine

Everybody Gets It.

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What's New cont. from pg. 3

The program will "The History of American History—c2000 to present." Visitors are welcome! For more information, please contact Dot Butler at 642-6574 and visit us at www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild.

College graduates interested in part time employment at the South Mandarin Library, please contact Keli Likins at 288-6385 for more information.

The Mandarin Book Club is meeting on Thursday, September 5 at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Mandarin Branch Library. Please contact Stacey Van Hoy at 262-5201 for more information.

New co-chairpersons for the Dogwood Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club are Judy Strassenberg and Marvine Thompson.

Clarification:

Baptist Medical Center and Mayo Clinic are tied for first place among metro Jacksonville hospitals in the *U.S. News and World Report* annual Best Hospital rankings. This clarifies the press release entitled "Baptist Medical Center ranked No. 1" which appeared in the August issue of *Mandarin NewsLine*.



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Dogwood members met in July at Krispy Kreme for coffee and doughnuts. Dogwood's first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m. The program will be "We've Got Talent" and members are asked to bring and show off that special thing they do or collect. What a great way to get to know each other! For more information, please email info@mandaringardenclub.org.

Shuffleboard is played on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Mandarin Park (south end of Mandarin Road) next to the tennis courts at the park entrance. Beginners are welcome! Just show up, unless it rains.

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.

The Duval County Extension Office is offering a "make-and-take" Rain Barrel Workshop on Friday, September 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Attendees will make their own 55-gallon plastic rain barrels to take home. You will learn how to connect a rain barrel to a rain garden and learn some important information on water conservation. The workshop will be located at 1010 North McDuff Avenue in Jacksonville. The cost is \$45 per person to make a rain barrel or \$5 for attendance only (no rain barrel). Pre-payment and registration are required for barrel and payment must be received by Monday, September 16. Make check to DCOHAC and send to Rain Barrel Workshop, 1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jax., FL 32254. You can register with credit card at <http://rainbarrel92013.eventbrite.com>. Seating is limited to 35 pre-paid registrations and there are no walk-ins for "make and take." For questions, please call 255-7450.

The North Florida Acoustic Neuroma Support Group will

meet on Saturday, October 12 at 1:00 p.m. at Mandarin United Methodist Church, located at 11270 San Jose Boulevard. Please call 287-8132 for additional information.

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. Remaining dates for 2013 are September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 3, November 17, December 15 and December 22. For additional information, please contact Todd at 607-9935.

The Mandarin Branch Library presents **Stories for Young Children** each Thursday morning at 10:15 and 11:00 am. This program is for children birth to 5 years with an adult caregiver. For more information, please call 262-5201.

Sierra Club, Northeast Group will celebrate 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act with Warren Anderson and Andy Miller of the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida at a meeting on September 9 at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Boulevard West from 6:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The event is free and all are welcome! Please bring your own cup to reduce waste in the landfill. For more information, please contact Janet Larson at 247-1876 or visit www.Florida.SierraClub.org/northeast.

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.

What's New cont. on pg. 6

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Your Voice, Your Vote

By Contributing Writer Jerry Holland, Supervisor of Elections, Duval County

September greetings! As the slower pace of summer quickly fades and the back to school schedules begin full of excitement that same emotion is felt in your election office. The past several months have been full of excitement, planning and preparation for the Elections Office. My office has enjoyed great experiences through these summer months by our involvement in community outreach events, foreign delegation visits, reviewing and implicating the election reform bill passed in the 2013 legislative session and wrapping up the August 27 Atlantic Beach Primary Election. With so much enthusiasm I am pleased to share some stimulating changes that I feel will provide a positive effect on Duval

County voters in 2014!

Our office is kick-starting our "Connect with Us in 2014" campaign—encouraging voters and citizens to not only come out and vote but also becoming involved in the electoral process working with us as a poll worker. Our Office is hosting educational presentations, voter registration drives and voting machine demonstrations to jump start "Connect to Us" this fall.

In light of our "Connect with Us" campaign the Outreach Department is focused on voter awareness and education. We are encouraging voters, organizations and service groups to contact us for the following services:

- Educations presentations

- Voter registration drives
- Voting machine demonstrations
- Tours of the Elections Office
- Poll worker recruitment and training

If you are interested in learning more about our outreach programs, contact Garrett Dennis, director of outreach at 630-8012 or gdennis@coj.net

As we move towards the 2014 elections season, I encourage every voter and citizen to review his or her voter information to make certain it is current and up to date. Voter Registration records are very important to maintain accuracy. If your signature or address needs to be updated a quick call or simply completing a voter registration application will ensure your information is up to date. Voters may verify their information by visiting our website at DuvalElections.com and clicking on "Voter Status" tab on the title bar or contact the Elections Office at 630-1414.

If you are interested in staying on top with the latest election news let us know by contacting our office at mhinson@coj.net. Once signed up you will receive a quarterly newsletter via email of up to date events and changes with our office.

As Supervisor of Elections, my staff and I are working hard to make sure that this upcoming election season is conducted accurately and accessible for all voters with the transparency and integrity Duval County residents have come to respect. Thank you for granting my office another opportunity to commission one of the superior commendations of liberty, the right to vote!

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The Jacksonville Public Library was pleased to see two columns in the August edition of Mandarin NewsLine in support of libraries. While we greatly appreciate the intent of Mr. J. Bruce Richardson's column titled, "Libraries are essential for having freedom," we take issue with statements about volunteers and our employees.

Mr. Richardson is incorrect in saying volunteer programs have "never been mentioned in Jacksonville." Last year, more than 200 volunteers contributed nearly 30,000 hours to Jacksonville libraries; 4471 of those hours were spent at Mandarin's two libraries. Volunteers not only assist with shelving books; they teach English and computer skills to non-native speakers, help customers navigate websites in search of a job, assist librarians with our programs, and much more. If you'd like to help out at your neighborhood library, go to www.jaxpubliclibrary.org

and click on Volunteer!

We disagree with Mr. Richardson's negative categorization of library employees as "drones" with "little devotion to customer service." Despite years of budget cuts and the elimination of 71 positions last year, JPL employees remain dedicated to serving our customers in a professional and courteous manner. Libraries are one of the most popular city agencies in Jacksonville, with more than 4.6 million visitors last year. Our staff is working harder than ever to meet the diverse and rapidly changing needs of our customers.

We do thank Mr. Richardson for his many supportive comments, including the "Jacksonville public library system is a proud gem." We agree. We appreciate the opportunity to serve our Mandarin neighbors.

Barbara A. B. Gubbin
Director, Jacksonville Public Library

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Smithsonian Magazine "Museum Day Live!" celebrated

Mandarin Museum and Historical Society is participating in this special 2013 Smithsonian event—a day designed to offer free admission as an incentive for people to discover the wonderful museums, big and small, in their own communities.

At Mandarin Museum admission is always free, but on September 28, in honor of this event the historic 1875 Webb farmhouse will be open for tours, as well as the Mandarin Museum which is located at the entrance to Walter Jones Historical Park.

The farmhouse, furnished with items from the Walter Jones family and period pieces from the early part of the 20th century, allows visitors to really visualize what life was like in our then sleepy little village called Mandarin. Life before

electricity, before automobiles and good roads, and before indoor plumbing! Life when it was peaceful and quiet and you knew all of your neighbors.

Let your imagination take you on a journey back in time as you stroll through the beautiful Walter Jones Park. Visualize the steamboats coming up the St. Johns and arriving at the wharf with your mail and dry goods. Then walk on out to County Dock and look for manatees around the pilings or fish jumping in the waters.

Be sure to stop in also at the museum to relax in the front porch rockers, have a cup of lemonade and see all the wonderful history exhibits and works of Mandarin artists.

Please obtain your ticket at this website: www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/venues/Mandarin_Museum_Historical_Society.html and bring it with you. This will help us and the Smithsonian Magazine track how many people took advantage of this special day. The ticket indicates a two person limit, but since this is always a free venue, we invite you to bring as many people as you'd like with your ticket.

The Mandarin Museum and Historical Society is located at 11964 Mandarin Road and it will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please visit www.mandarinmuseum.net for more information about the museum.

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The Sheriff Reports

By Contributing Writer John H. Rutherford, Duval County Sheriff

Back-to-School safety tips

School is back in session and parents need to spend some time thinking about back-to-school safety issues.

- **Traveling to and from school.** There is no "right" age for kids to start walking or biking to school alone or with a friend. Each family needs to consider the maturity of their child, how many busy streets have to be crossed and if these streets have lights or crossing guards. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/9e3s2vz> for bicycle safety materials including, "Ten Smart Routes to Bicycle Safety" and "McGruff says Be Bicycle Safe!"

- **Being home alone.** A big safety concern for parents is how to protect kids who are home alone after school. The favorite rule uttered by parents is: "Don't let a stranger inside the house." It's a good rule, but should be reworded. "Stranger" is not a good word to use. Kids expect strangers to be "scary" when indeed they look like an everyday person and kids need to know that. Some of the greatest threats to a child's safety can come from someone on the internet and not at the front door.

There are a few rules parents need to teach a child who is left home alone:

- **Keep all doors closed and locked:** Instead of telling kids not to let a stranger in, the real rule needs to be: "Keep the doors closed and locked at all times." Instead of filling your child's head with "don'ts"; simply tell them to keep all the doors to the outside (including the garage) closed and locked. If someone comes to the door, your child can communicate

with this person through the door.

- **Have a check-in time:** Another thing parents should ask their child to do is call and let a parent or guardian know that he/she has arrived home safely. Set a consistent time for the child to call you (or email/text, if allowed) each day. Give him/her 10 minutes (plus or minus to allow for a slow bus) or any other event that might occur and disrupt the schedule. You can start to worry if he/she doesn't meet this deadline. Find a trusted neighbor who is usually home around this time. If the parent can't be reached, make sure the child knows to call this person to check in. Grandparents can provide an excellent "assist" to parents and might welcome a call from a grandchild to say he/she is home from school.
- **Have a plan:** Parents need to remember that kids who are home alone are much more likely to encounter dangers such as fire from burning popcorn or falling down the stairs than being abducted by a stranger. It is very important that the family has a plan and knows how to react to different situations that may occur, including household emergencies. Run practice drills and make sure your child does not hesitate or deviate from the plan that you have enacted.
- **Rules for internet use:** Children need to know what is OK to do until mom or dad get home and what is not. Getting started on homework, letting the dog out, having a snack, what friends can come over, what websites they can visit and which are off limits. These are decisions and rules that a parent or guardian should discuss with the child and decide on, before school

begins. There can be structure to a child's afternoon, even if no one else is home, leaving less opportunity for an unsupervised child to get into trouble.

Does Jacksonville have a curfew? Yes! And it is enforced throughout the year. A curfew applies to persons under 18 years of age. The curfew is 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday nights and midnight on Friday and Saturday nights. A person under 18 is exempt if he or she is:

1. With a parent or guardian or other person 18 or over who is authorized by the parent to have control over the child,
2. At or going to or from a job, school or church function,
3. Attending an event open to the public and supervised by adults and beginning no later than 10:00 p.m.
4. In an area immediately adjacent to his or her residence
5. Running an emergency errand.

For more information about the curfew law please visit <http://tinyurl.com/9gplljq>.

Truancy: In addition to the curfew law, the city of Jacksonville abides by Florida State Statute 232.19 regarding truancy and the penalties regarding the mandate for school attendance by children, ages six to 16 years of age. Parents and children are subject to penalties for truancy under this law.

For more information about truancy please visit <http://tinyurl.com/9gplljq>.

More safety tips can be found under the "Community Education Brochures and Videos" section on www.jaxsheriff.org.

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better quality and improved outcomes for patients, with lower rates of complications following certain cardiac procedures and lower rates of healthcare associated infections.

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For more information, please visit www.bcbs.com/why-bcbs/blue-distinction/

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What's New cont. from pg. 4

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 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.

Are you a compulsive over-eater? Do you eat when you're not hungry or not eat when your body needs nourishment? Do you go on eating binges for

no apparent reason? 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 Northeast Florida Quit Smoking Now (QSN) program is now offering free tobacco cessation classes at Baptist Medical Center South in the Azalea Conference Room. The classes meet once a week for six consecutive weeks and provide a free workbook, water bottle and stress ball as well as free nicotine replacement therapies (patch, lozenge and gum) to assist tobacco users in their quit attempt. Classes will be held on Thursdays through September 26 from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please call 482-0189 to register or visit our website at www.northfloridaahec.org.

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Political commentary

Taxes and civilized society

By David Milton

Let's talk about taxes. Some of you, having read those four words, may skip to the next article. Others could experience a knee-jerk response: you might assume I'm a big government, tax-and-spend liberal who fights any spending cuts, even for programs or policies that aren't working. Or you might assume I'm a government-hating, tax-cutting conservative who opposes any proposal that raises taxes, even if necessary and by just a few dollars per person.

But those stereotypes don't fit me or most people, despite the media and some self-serving politicians telling us otherwise. To move past those stereotypes and on to more productive discussions, we – including our elected officials – have to listen to each other.

For example, if we'll listen, we might be reminded that services that make our city livable – services like roads and other infrastructure, schools, libraries and summer programs, police officers and fire fighters, parks and recreation, public health and public works – come with a price tag. We might be reminded that taxes and budgets reflect our values and priorities and have a real and immediate impact on individual people and on our entire city.

Similarly, if we'll listen, we might be reminded that most taxpayers aren't hedge fund managers sitting around counting piles of money and that those tax dollars aren't just numbers on a piece of paper. Those tax dollars represent our hard work and sacrifice. We might be reminded that if we're irresponsible with taxes or budgets, we are disrespecting the hard work and sacrifice of the taxpayers who fund the budgets.

So here's the basic question for September: in light of Jacksonville's anticipated budget shortfall, does our city need to raise more revenue via taxes?

Here's the short (and perhaps unpopular) answer: probably. If we've tapped all other potential revenue sources and trimmed the budget where possible and if the services or programs we're funding with the increased revenue are truly necessary, we should consider seriously a proposal to raise taxes. If we're talking about properly financing the services and programs that make Jacksonville a pleasant place to live, the city might need to increase revenue.

Raising taxes is usually politically taboo. Thus, we need the Mayor and the City Council – our elected officials with a solemn responsibility to tax and budget honestly and openly – to work together, to ask hard questions and to give honest answers. We also need our elected officials to make difficult decisions that promote best interests of our city and its people, even if those decisions might dampen a political future or offend an interest group.

Most people I know are willing to pay taxes because most people agree with Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes's observation: "Taxes are what we pay for civilized society."

We just don't like irresponsible taxing or spending. So, Mayor Brown and City Council members, we're counting on each of you to listen when it's time to talk taxes.

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. If you have any thoughts or other comments to share, please email Dave at davidm.milton@gmail.com.

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Political commentary

Jacksonville's ruling class wants increased local taxes

By J. Bruce Richardson

In a recent Sunday column, the editor of Mandarin's other newspaper laid out a case for higher local taxes. His argument was Jacksonville has lower taxes than other Florida cities of equal size, so we need more taxes to "keep up" with other cities. A cadre of Jacksonville's ruling class are also calling for increased local taxes, saying the city can't grow without them. The irony is these people are mostly conservative and Republican.

Liberals and their ilk always seem to be in favor of more taxes because it gives them more of someone else's money to bring "social justice" to those they feel are deserving recipients of others' accumulated wealth.

Mayor Alvin Brown – a Democrat – wants no new taxes. He is a good man.

In the spirit of full disclosure, in 1990, this writer put together a successful campaign in Clay County to raise the local sales tax. The voting public agreed and the local sales tax helped pay for new roads, much needed infrastructure and other priorities. Clay County was morphing into a busy bedroom community from its traditional role as a mostly rural county. Today's Clay County would not be nearly as dynamic as it is without that local sales tax increase.

Jacksonville has been established as a busy metropolitan area for more than a century. During that time, many city government fiefdoms were created and many departmental empires built. While we hear of poor technical capabilities in one part of city government, we hear of excess capabilities in another. And, of course, there

is the ongoing need for viable pension reform for public safety employees.

Here's the bottom line: Before taxes are raised because our elected leaders aren't clever enough to ferret out waste and abuse in all areas of city government, including the slaughter of more than a few sacred cows, somebody, somewhere, needs to take a critical look at everything city government does and figure out what is right and what is wrong. We hear constantly about visionary city programs for taking Jacksonville into the future, but we hear very little about cleaning up the messes left from Jacksonville's past.

While it is true long recessionary periods such as we're in now are great motivators for reducing city government because of less tax money coming in due to reduced economic activity and the city has tightened its governmental belt by laying off employees or reducing overtime hours, did we go far enough?

Talking heads of late have begun the conversation about career government employees and the costs associated with them, including lifetime pensions and healthcare. Does Jacksonville city government need employees who spend a lifetime in public employment, with no employees being added to the system which bring pri-

vate company experience and entrepreneurial values? Government creaking along "because we've always done it that way" is bad government. Government needs to be both dynamic and small, without a pool of lifetime employees.

Jacksonville needs smart taxation, not taxation to support an outdated, outmoded governmental structure.

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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Credit union celebrates the grand opening of 31st full-service branch

Terry R. West, president and chief executive officer of VyStar Credit Union, announced the official opening of the credit union's new Riverside Branch location at 760 Riverside Avenue in Jacksonville. VyStar Officials cut the ribbon launching the Grand Opening Celebration of the new branch, in a special ceremony on Wednesday, August 7.

The new branch is a full-service VyStar branch with

four teller stations, four member service offices, two internet banking stations, one drive-up ATM, four drive-through lanes and safe deposit boxes. This is VyStar's 36th branch, which includes 31 full service branches and five high school branches.

Gene Moore will serve as branch vice president of the Riverside Branch. He has been with VyStar for eight years and

most recently held the position of branch vice-president at VyStar's Downtown Jacksonville Branch.

"We are very enthusiastic about offering VyStar services to Jacksonville's Riverside and Avondale neighborhoods. A large number of our members have resided in the area for some time, and they have encouraged us to open an office here," said West.

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

Patriotism: an emotion associated with national pride, civic duty and even a willingness to sacrifice. Among my most patriotically exhilarating experiences was attending the Independence Day festivities in Washington, D.C. The first time was in 1995 when I was a participant in the National Geographic Society Instructional Leadership Institute with 40 other teachers from the United States and Canada. Several of us attended the concert and fireworks extravaganza on the Capitol lawn. Among the thousands there that day were a multitude of languages, religions, ideologies, ethnicities and nationalities. The revelry was extraordinary. Afterward, my Canadian friends commented that American patriotism and our "flag-waving" was curious if not a little excessive. I'm certain they meant no disrespect, but were merely comparing our two countries. The thought, though, is interesting. Can patriotism be excessive?

Over the last months I've discussed R. Freeman Butts' principles of "Civism." This

month we consider the last two, patriotism and human rights. Patriotism is necessary for the survival of any society. A prosperous, healthy people feel pride and responsibility for their nation and its posterity. Otherwise, they are doomed to a fate of decline and dissolution. But, again, what about excessive patriotism? Butts said patriotism in its corrupted form is chauvinism and xenophobia, that is, excessive devotion to one's own people and hatred of strangers and foreigners. Despicable acts and ideologies such as Nazism, terrorism, human trafficking and radical Islamism are certainly worthy of America's hatred.

Where, though, is the line between healthy patriotism and the corrupt extremes? Current immigration policy debate provides us an interesting perspective on that difficult question. The debate is concerned primarily with how to manage future immigration and what to do about the millions of undocumented immigrants. Being a nation of immigrants, the goal of proudly protecting Ameri-

can's lives, values and future is delicately balanced with the obligation to allow others the opportunity God has given us.

Additionally, when we apply our values to international affairs, other concerns arise. Butts warned that protecting human rights can devolve into cultural imperialism. Consider two historical attempts by the United States to protect human rights abroad. First, during America's involvement in "third-world" countries during the Cold War, were we sincerely attempting containment of communism or were we guilty of cultural imperialism? Second, some critics of the Bush/Cheney administration accused them of nation-building in Iraq by forcing American values where they weren't wanted. One could argue that in each instance, the United States was guilty of both good intentions and misguided ambitions.

Is the goal of spreading democracy a noble effort to help others acquire fundamental human rights or is it imperialistic to assume that all other cultures should share our values? America is a strong nation of



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diverse compassionate people thriving to live in a world of peaceful free people. Conflicts inevitably arise. We are not called to dictate and to conquer. Rather, we are summoned to work fervently to whatever compromised solution possible or to whatever bitter struggle is necessary to protect and serve the well-being of all.

Leadership
is the ability to get extraordinary achievement from ordinary people.

-Brian Tracy

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update Three things

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

After examining many boats, a few things stand out. I'll share three issues that most commonly decide whether a boat and operator receive the annual decal signifying a successful safety exam. Clutter and condition are important issues, but the first impression and an indicator of success is the registration number on the bow or documentation lettering on the stern. These designators attest to the legal status of the vessel and, like your road vehicle, you must carry matching registration when in operation. If their placement, spacing, contrast and size are not in accord with standards, your exam won't succeed. And for registered boats, be sure to place a current State registration decal on the port side within six inches of the number.

The next most common failure-producer is to not have adequate distress signals. The rules are different for coastal and inland use, by vessel size and for night and day. The bottom line is that any boat will pass this requirement that carries both night and day signals. Although not required on inland waters, the easy way to do that is to have three current day-night handheld or pistol flares. Flares expire and at most are good for 42 months. An orange flag for day and an SOS-flashing light can also qual-

ify and don't expire. While fewer boaters ply the water at night, all are subject to circumstances or periodic night operation. Non-motorized boats and those under 16 feet aren't required to carry day signals, but it sure is a good idea to do so.

Another common issue is not having the correct number of fire extinguishers. Again, there are conditions and technically most boats (outboards under 26 feet) may not be required to have them. Required or not, I really don't see the point to object to carrying the one B-1 type extinguisher in any motorized boat. All boats carrying flammable fuel are subject to fire.

For more details, check our website www.safeboatingjax.com and select Public Information, then Free Vessel Safety Check. The Virtual Safety Check will guide you. The Florida and Federal Boater's Guides, available at marine stores, marinas or from Auxiliary Examiners also provide full information. You can also request a Vessel Safety Exam or check out our safety instruction class featuring live, experienced boat handlers. Reserve your space for the next class on September 21 at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club, located at 9010 San Jose Boulevard. You can also call Bob at 721-1346.



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Mandarin Museum & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mandarin libraries cont. from pg. 1

part of the Summer Volunteer Program.

The Mandarin Branch Library served as a mentor to Tamera Surrency who worked at the library as a part of Mayor Brown's Summer Employment Program. More than 1000 children, tweens and teens registered for the Dig into Reading and Beneath the Surface Summer Reading Programs at the Mandarin area libraries. More than 3,000 Mandarin area children and their families attended Summer Reading Programs this summer showcasing a diverse array of presenters such as the Jacksonville Zoo, the Curious Moon Puppets, The Hampstead Stage Company, Geddy Gecko, the Jacksonville Suns and juggler Ron Anglin.

The Mandarin Branch Library hosted local author T.L. Randall who delighted story time audiences by reading from her book, "Don't Try to Kiss a Lizard" on August 8. The Friends of the South Mandarin Branch Library held their first book sale at the branch on June 28 and 29 to raise money to support the branch. From June through August, more than 90,000 customers used the Mandarin area libraries, checking out more than 250,000 books, music CDs, audio books and DVDs. And that's not counting customers checking out items from our E Library

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Collection.

To top off a very busy summer, the Jacksonville Public Library introduced Zinio, the world's largest newsstand, offering full color, interactive digital magazines for your enjoyment. You can browse from the library's collection of popular titles with no holds, no checkout periods and no limit

to the number of magazines you can download. Wow! What a summer!

Once again, thank you again for your support this summer. The Mandarin Branch and the South Mandarin Branch Libraries are essential to the quality of life in this community. We look forward to seeing you in September!

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BAPTIST
Medical Center South

Mandarin neighbors cheer returning wounded soldier

By Karl Kennel



On Friday, August 16 the children of St. Joseph's Catholic School were let out to join Mandarin neighbors in a special tribute. "St. Michael's Soldiers for a Hero's Welcome!" organized a gathering of well-wishers at the corner of Old St. Augustine Road and Loretto Road in front of the school, St. Augustine Diocese Offices, Cody Center and the Historic Church.

American flags were waving and the crowd cheering as First Lt. Ryan Timoney made his way in a motorcycle escorted motorcade south on Old St.

Augustine Road from Interstate 295 and down Loretto Road to San Jose Boulevard and finally on to Race Track Road. This journey for Timoney brought him home for the first time after being wounded and having his left leg amputated. It was only fitting that the school children and everyone else came out to welcome him home because he is one of our brave.

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Protect yourself against the flu this season by getting vaccinated

One of the most important things seniors and caregivers can do for themselves is to safeguard their health, especially during the flu season. ElderSource, the Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center, has joined the National Council on Aging's (NCOA) Flu + You campaign to inform adults 65 and older and their caregivers about the seriousness of the flu and the importance of vaccination. The flu is a serious and potentially life-threatening disease and best prevented with an annual vaccination.

Flu + You, a free event designed to educate older adults the increased risk of complications from the flu, is scheduled for Friday, September 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Williams Family YMCA in Mandarin, located at 10415 San Jose Boulevard. The free event will feature flu shots from Winn Dixie, health screenings and exercise demonstrations from the staff and the Williams Family YMCA and other health screenings offered by Baptist Health. People are reminded that flu shots are a covered benefit with Medicare/insurance. The goal of the event is to improve flu immunization rates in Duval County.

No matter how healthy or youthful we feel, as we age, our immune system weakens, leaving people 65 and older more vulnerable to the flu and its related complications. In fact, each year in the United States, about nine out of 10 flu-related deaths and roughly six out of 10 flu-related hospital stays occur in people 65 and older, making flu vaccination especially crucial for this population.

The good news is adults 65 and older have vaccine options available to help protect against the flu. In addition to the traditional flu vaccine (which



First Coast News' Ken Amaro, who emceed and was vaccinated at last year's Flu + You event, will be on hand once again for this year's event.

helps protect against three strains of the flu virus), there is also a quadrivalent vaccine (which helps protect against four strains) and a higher dose vaccine.

Whichever vaccine option is selected, the annual flu shot is a Medicare Part B benefit covered with no co-pay for Medicare beneficiaries 65 years of age and older. Those getting flu shots are encouraged to bring

their Medicare ID card or insurance card.

Talk to your health care provider about the dangers of the flu, the benefits of vaccination and the best flu vaccination option to meet the needs of your age group and visit www.ncoa.org/Flu for more information.

For more information about the ElderSource Flu + You event, please call 391-6692.



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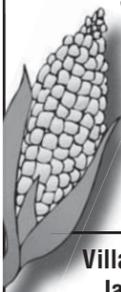
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Free breast care symposium provides answers

Women want answers and dialogue about breast cancer from area physicians and experts. In order to continue to meet this important need, the sixth annual Pink Ribbon Symposium will be held at the Thrasher-Horne Conference Center, located at 283 College Drive in Orange Park, on Saturday, October 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Founded by Drs. Cynthia Anderson and Linda Sylvester, the event is proudly presented by ICON Oncology at Orange Park Cancer Center and F.R.O.G. (Florida Radiation Oncology Group). Important up-to-date information about breast cancer prevention, early detection and treatment options, the side effects of treatment and survivorship will be discussed. Plus, it will offer good health and wellness topics, along with a keynote presentation entitled, "Laughter is the Best Medicine" and a "Meet the Experts" session, which will allow guests to ask questions of local doctors. More than 500 attend this free symposium annually.

This year's special guests are two regional female comedians, Gwen Templeton and Roz McCoy, who will headline the event and offer insight into how laughter can ease pain and help the cancer journey in an up-close and personal way.

Guests will be treated to a delicious, healthy continental breakfast. Topics include an update on breast cancer research, genetics, caregivers, stress relief, caring for your body, health,

nutrition and exercise. Everyone is invited to the Expo, where up to 60 local and national businesses will showcase their services to help cancer patients and their families. Guests will learn how to care for their body, how sleep can affect cancer treatment and how best to deal with relationships (family, friends).

- The schedule is as follows:
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Exhibits and Continental Breakfast
 - 9:00 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. Opening remarks
 - 9:40 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Session 1 – Meet the Experts (latest updates on radiology, medical oncology, surgical oncology, reconstruction, etc.)
 - Session 1 – Caring for Our Bodies (nutrition, exercise, family genetics, coping with emotional stress, sexuality, etc.)
 - 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Exhibits/Intermission (Silent auction closes at 11:00 a.m.)
 - 11:00 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. Session 2 – Meet the Experts; Session 2 – Caring for Our Bodies
 - 12:05 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Guest speakers: Laughter is the Best Medicine
 - 12:30 p.m. – 12:40 p.m. Closing remarks
 - 12:40 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Silent auction winners claim winnings.



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Rabies Alert

Duval County's second rabies alert of the year has been issued for the Mandarin area. The alert is in effect through October 25, 2013.

The rabies alert area is bordered on the south by Julington Creek at Duval/St. Johns County Line, on the north by Loretto Road at San Jose Boulevard, on the west by Orange Picker Road at Mandarin Road and east by Julington Creek Road at Aladdin Road.

The alert follows the discovery of a rabid bat in the Mandarin area.

Stray animals should be reported to the City of Jacksonville Animal Care and Protective Services at 630-2489.

For further information or to report animal bites, contact Rabies Control at 253-1280.



Shelby loves her library! Shelby Boyter shows off her "I Love My Library" sticker with a friend at the Mandarin Branch Library. Jacqueline Boyter shared this photo of her daughter Shelby while attending the Stories for Young Children Program on Thursday, August 15.



Proton Equipment Arrives at First Coast Oncology

You may have noticed some construction along San Jose Boulevard lately, especially as First Coast Oncology, a radiation oncology practice nestled between Walmart and I-295, is building a Proton Therapy Center.

Recently, 74 tons of equipment, including the gantry arms and counterweights (roughly the weight of ten elephants), was delivered and lifted by crane into the Proton Therapy Center.

First Coast Oncology will be the first private practice in the world to offer Proton Therapy, one of the most precise and advanced forms of radiation treatment available today. Construction for the new addition began at the end of May 2012 and First Coast Oncology expects to start treating patients in 2014.



FirstCoastOncology.com



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Scot Ackerman, MD
Ryan Perkins, MD
Paul Ossi, MD

Jacksonville Zoo announces Jaguar cub naming contest

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens and Jacksonville Jaguars are excited to announce a naming contest for the Zoo's new baby Jaguar cub who shares his birthday with Jaguars owner Shad Khan.

"With all of Northeast Florida eagerly awaiting the start of the Jags season and the Zoo's 100-Year Anniversary Celebration, we felt this was the perfect opportunity to involve the entire community," said Tony Vecchio, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens executive director. "We look at this cub as more than a mascot for the Jags and for the Zoo. We'd like to think of him as the City of Jacksonville's mascot."

Based on the general feedback of name suggestions from Jaguars fans, people will have the option to vote on the following five names: Khan, Shad, Jaxson, Jax and Pounce de Leon. Voting for the contest will run until 11:59 p.m. Monday,

September 2. Fans can cast their vote on the Jaguars' website at www.jaguars.com/babyjag where voters can also find a complete list of rules and regulations.

In response to the cub's popularity with Jacksonville residents, the Zoo has installed a monitor to view live footage of the cub with mother Zassi in their den. This will allow guests the opportunity to get to know the cub and his personality before he is able to be seen on exhibit. This monitor is located in the Temple at Range of the Jaguar.

"The display screen set up in the Temple will provide our guests the same camera-view our keepers have to monitor the cub's initial development," said Sheryl Staaden, supervisor of mammals at Jacksonville Zoo. "This footage is not normally available to the public and is a great behind-the-scenes sneak preview!"

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Pet Fair is coming soon

Saint Philip Neri Ecumenical Church and Saint Francis Animal Hospital will host a Family Pet Fair on Saturday, October 5 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Ecumenical Church, located at 9050 Cypress Green Drive in Jacksonville. Bring your family pet and come out to enjoy food, vendors and festivities. There will be a \$5 charity dog wash and a professional dog trainer will be on hand to answer questions about dog training. Saint Francis Animal Hospital will have a technician available for free doggie nail trims. Finally, at noon there will be a blessing of the pets with the Reverend John Oliver. All pets are welcome – please ensure that dogs are on a leash and cats are in carriers.

Started in 2008 by St. Philip

Neri Ecumenical Church members, the St. Philip Neri Animal Ministry raises money to help pay for medical care for pets in need. People and pets of every faith are always welcome at St. Philip Neri. For more information, please visit www.nerichurch.org.

St. Francis Animal Hospital is a not-for-profit veterinary hospital conveniently located in San Marco. Founded in 2003 by San Marco resident and veterinarian Dr. Susan Green Shelton, St. Francis Animal Hospital's mission is to provide veterinary care to all owned pets in the Jacksonville area. In support of their mission, St. Francis Animal Hospital treats every patient with compassion, providing quality and comprehensive care that protects the special bond

that exists between people and their pets. For so long, it has been the philosophy of some veterinarians—and even some pet owners—that if you can't afford to care for an animal, you shouldn't have a pet. As common as this theory may be, it is flawed.

St. Francis Animal Hospital believes everyone deserves the unconditional love of a happy and healthy pet and all pets deserve to be in a loving home. Furthermore, St. Francis Animal Hospital believes it is not right to let an animal suffer with less than ideal treatment because their owner can't afford to pay. This is why it is a priority for St. Francis Animal Hospital veterinarians to provide the same high level of care to pets of all families over making a profit. Through their dedicated work and support from donors, St. Francis is keeping pets healthy and helping families keep their pets in their homes and out of local animal shelters.



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Thrills and spills white water rafting in Columbus

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

Twelve years ago the Chattahoochee River and the city of Columbus were in need of urban renewal, but the private and public sectors worked together to change the tide—literally. Today, the city boasts the longest urban white water course in the world.

I recently investigated some of the 15-mile Columbus RiverWalk in the morning—a place where folks stroll, exercise, bike and fish. When I got down to the area with rock studded "big water" I nearly changed my mind. Recent

rains have swollen the river and the water truly rushes along. This gnarly section of class 4 rapids looked more powerful than I could handle.

However, when 1:30 came and it was time to don on a life jacket and helmet, I wasn't about to let this opportunity slip by. Casey, my raft guide, was confident and couldn't wait to give my foursome an exciting adventure. After a general group briefing, we hopped into the van along with our oars and were driven to the loading zone. No sooner

did we enter the Chattahoochee River than we encountered our first series of rapids.

"Dig," hollered Casey and the four rafters onboard attempted to stroke together.

The splash and spray of the river felt exhilarating as the sun was out and temperatures were running in the low nineties. Woo-hoo; bring it on. That was fun!

We lazed through the next section, the river doing the work of pushing the raft forward. We enjoyed views of Blue Heron around the Habitat Pool, a man-made zone created by the river project engineers. Shoal Bass, who spawn in rough water, have returned now that the river churns with rushing tides. In all two dams were removed from the river along with any sharp rock formations.

Casey mentally prepared us for the challenging lower course and let those of us on the raft decide how we wanted to approach. No wimpy rafters here; we choose the hot and spicy route.

Oh my gosh, we had a

wild ride as our raft bounced along, waves crashing in and over the sides. I screamed—but with delight, not fright. I momentarily thought we would flip, as the raft seemed to fold up in the middle. My friend fell forward while I slipped backward. But, with Casey at the bat, no one fell out and we soon recovered control of the course. Casey called for a high five of our oars and we were all elated.

We were offered the option of running the course again, from a slightly shorter launching location. We all choose to return, so once again our raft bounced by the old brick denim mills at river's edge and the newer convention center and historic downtown Columbus. How very cool to have what I think of as a rural adventure in the center of town. No need to drive hours to a park and camp out in order to get to a white water course. In Columbus, the adventure waits just outside your hotel or restaurant door.

For information: www.visitcolumbusga.com.



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Mandarin Women's Club Antiques and Collectibles Group holds planning luncheon

By Contributing Writer Sharon Weed



The ladies in the Mandarin Women's Club stay busy, busy, busy with many activities and they even make their planning sessions fun events! Thirteen ladies gathered for lunch recently to decide where the Antiquing and Collectibles Group

would be going shopping each month during the coming year.

The season always starts with a Dump Salad lunch with "Show and Tell" at a member's home, where some of the treasures the ladies have are shown off. It can be a family heirloom or a treasure found on a previous shopping trip and we've seen some wonderful things!

Then each month October through May, they travel to places like Micanopy, St. Augustine, Mt. Dora, Daytona or the lovely stores right here in town and sometimes we hit all the thrift stores on Beach Boulevard. Never a dull moment for these enthusiastic shoppers!

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Miniature telescope implant to restore vision loss performed

Fifteen million Americans have Age Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD), a slow, deterioration and loss of one's central vision. Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons have been selected as the only center in Northeast Florida to perform a new surgical procedure to help improve central vision in patients with end-stage ARMD. This procedure involves surgically placing a miniature telescope in one eye that

magnifies images, allowing macular degeneration patients to see magnified images in their central vision, while the non-telescope eye would continue to see peripheral images.

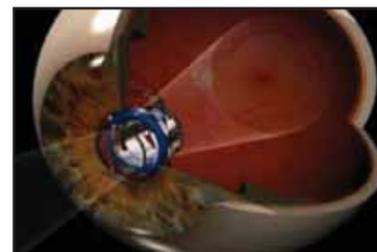
Russell Pecoraro, M.D., Board Certified Ophthalmologist and Retina and Macular Degeneration Specialist says, "Age Related Macular Degeneration is the leading cause of vision loss in our senior population. The fact that a new FDA approved device allows these patients the opportunity to see more clearly, is very exciting."

Donald Downer, M.D., Cornea and Cataract Surgeon, and the lead surgeon for the implant states, "A lot of work goes into screening and select-

ing the appropriate patients for this surgery. Prior to surgery, patients undergo extensive therapy, which trains their eye to use a telescopic magnifier. They will also work with a low vision specialist to help adapt to their new world."

This device is approved by Medicare for implantation.

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Gala chairs announced

By Contributing Writer Sharon Leahy

River Garden is pleased to announce that Arlene Adelson and Diane Rothstein will chair the 21st annual River Garden Gala. Diane and Dr. Mitchell Rothstein moved from New York 25 years ago and have made Jacksonville their home. While raising their three wonderful children, Rothstein has served as a board member for a number of both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations. Rothstein, an RN, has owned and managed businesses over the years and currently is the practice administrator in her husband's medical practice. Known for being organized, Rothstein's enthusiasm is galvanizing. She is having a great time with Adelson planning this year's fabulous gala.



with a group of nine including a horn section and another female vocalist. Anita has recorded and toured with Cameo, as a Supreme, as a featured vocalist with Peabo Bryson and finally with Celine Dion. She received a gold album for background vocals on Cameo's Alligator Woman Album. Motown was never this hot!

Adelson and her husband Dr. Tony Adelson moved to Jacksonville four years ago and have made many new friends in a short period of time. After her mom had a stint at River Garden recovering from surgery, Adelson joined the Gala committee so that she could make a difference. Adelson is mother of three grown children and one grandchild. She is a native of Detroit and is especially excited about this year's theme, "Anita and her Motown Review." Anita will be entertaining at the Gala

The community is invited to attend this fun-filled evening of music, dinner and dancing, to be held on November 16 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Resort in World Golf Village. We are pleased to have SunTrust Bank again as our premier sponsor. For tickets and reservations, please call Michelle Branley at 886-8431 or via email at MBranley@rivergarden.org. We hope you will be able to attend but if you can't and would still like to donate to River Garden, please call Michelle for information.



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Mandarin Garden Club news

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

September Meetings

Bumblebee Circle (kids five years and up): September 11 at 4:00 p.m. Topic: Design and plant individual garden in the Bumblebee section on the Mandarin Garden Club grounds. Reservations required for first-time attendees and a list of planting supplies to bring. Email info@mandaringardenclub.org or call 268-1192.

Magnolia Circle: September 12 at 10:00 a.m. Topic: Using Color in Your Garden, Flower Beds and Borders with Master Gardener Becky Bathen. No reservation required.

Dogwood Circle: September 17 at 10:00 a.m. Topic: We've Got Talent - Get To Know Each Other. Bring or show off that special thing you do or collect. No reservation required.

Cherokee Rose Circle: September 19 at 10:00 a.m. Topic: The Shady Side of Green. Learn about shade gardening with guest speaker Tess Hart-Ross. No reservation required.

Live Oak Circle: September 26 at 7:00 p.m., Topic: Identifying Pests/Beneficial Nematodes with Jacksonville Landscape Designer Julia from Julia's Digs. No reservation required.

Mark your calendar for the Garden Club's much anticipated Trash to Treasure Sale on October 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Mandarin Garden Club's third annual Plant Exchange on July 20 was a great success. Members from all circles participated in 10 rounds of swapping wonderful plants and miscellaneous garden stuff. Also invited were the Mandarin Demonstration Garden Master Gardeners and Jacksonville V.I.G.s (very important gardeners). The V.I.G.s were: Linda O. Cunningham, local herb expert featured on Facebook; Linda Jones, local garden blogger <http://southernruralroute.wordpress.com>; Janese Warner, local expert gardener; and Tatyana Vaynberg, retired from Trad's Garden Center. This event was a fantastic way to get new and interesting plants for free. Garden books, magazines, tools, garden art and ceramic pots were also swapped. Attendees enjoyed refreshments made with ingredients from the garden and recipes to take home. Even better than all the new plants and garden stuff was the great fun all participants had talking about the plants they brought, sharing gardening knowledge and catching up on the latest in everyone's gardens. See more pictures from the event and get recipes that were served at www.mandaringardenclub.org then click Blog and Gallery.

A few months ago the Mandarin Garden Club started a Facebook page.

This has turned into a forum for showing off the best of what is currently blooming in Mandarin gardens and timely gardening helpful hints. Learn about what's going on right now in Mandarin gardens on the Mandarin Garden Club's Facebook page.

September is the perfect time to join the Mandarin Garden Club. This month the five different circles are starting up the new club season at the clubhouse at 2892 Loretto Road. All gardening enthusiasts from beginner to expert are welcome. Visitors are welcome to attend meetings to try the club. Annual membership dues are only \$35 individual/\$50 couple/\$5 per child with paid individual adult membership. For women and men who work during the day the Live Oak Circle has meetings in the evenings. Cherokee Rose, Dog-



wood and Magnolia Circles meet during the day for adults. Children have their own group, The Bumblebees, which meets at 4:00 p.m. based on the Duval County Schools early release dates. Please email info@mandaringardenclub.org for a membership application. For more informa-

tion about the Mandarin Garden Club see our website, www.mandaringardenclub.org or call 268-1192. Everyone is welcome at the Mandarin Garden Club.

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The MOMS Club gets fit!

The summer months, busy vacation schedules and a lack of routine can often contribute to adding on pounds. Members of the MOMS club of Jacksonville/Mandarin-SE held its most recent "Mom's Night Out" at the Mandarin location of Fitness Together to see first hand what it takes to get healthy and back in shape.

Fitness Together owner, Colin Woodmansee hosted the group, showcasing healthy eating and how MOMS Club member Amanda Stalford lost nearly 70 pounds after her second pregnancy.

"I look forward to continuing my journey toward better health," said Stalford. "I thank everyone at Fitness Together who was a part of my success and Colin for bringing out my inner warrior princess!"

The other moms in Stalford's group were so impressed with her success, they let her plan the night out event and show them some of the exercises that have gotten her in such great shape.

The MOMS Club of Jacksonville/Mandarin-SE is lead by and comprised of approximately

40 stay-at-home moms, work-from-home moms and part-time working moms. Mandarin Fitness Together owner Woodmansee says he was excited to host the group. The fact that they provide support to each other is exactly what he believes is the recipe for success when it comes to being healthy.

"The best part of Stalford's success is that she didn't go it alone," said Woodmansee. "The group training that we have at Fitness Together is a great way to have support and a plan to achieve whatever challenge, moms or anyone else sets for themselves."

Stalford is looking forward to having some moms from her group join her in her workouts. She just recently completed another 5K where she placed first in her age group and 31st overall!

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



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Football aplenty in September

By Chad Cushnir

Training camp is over, the preseason is over and now the games count. The Jaguars begin the 2013 regular season with a home game against the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m. This matchup features the two teams with the worst records from a year ago. Both the

Jaguars and Chiefs had a 2-14 record in 2012 and now both teams have new head coaches and new general managers.

After the game against Kansas City, the Jaguars will be spending a couple weeks on the west coast. First up is a visit to Oakland on September 15, then instead of flying

home to Jacksonville after the game, the Jaguars will stay on the west coast for the following week until their game at Seattle on September 22. The Jaguars will conclude the month of September with a home game against the Colts on September 29.

In college football, after the University of Florida's season opener vs. Toledo on August 31, the Gators travel to the University of Miami for a noon kickoff on Saturday, September 7. They'll get a week off after that game and will conclude the month with a home game against Tennessee on September 21 and a trip to Kentucky on September 28.

Florida State begins its season on Labor Day with a prime time matchup against ACC newcomer Pittsburgh at Heinz Field. The Seminoles' next two games will be at home against Nevada (September 14) and Bethune-Cookman (September 21). They'll wrap up the month with a visit to Boston College on September 28.

Finally, the JU Dolphins begin their season with a pair of games on the road. They visit the University of Delaware



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on August 29 and Jacksonville State on September 7. They will then have three consecutive home games to finish out the month. JU hosts Morehead State on September 14, Warner University on September 21 and Butler on September 28.

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LifeFlight visited Memorial Julington Creek in July. The helicopter is here in Mandarin, off Old St. Augustine Road. Be sure to follow LifeFlight on Facebook.

Veggie "thyme"

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

With summer still very much with us, it nevertheless is time to begin planting a fall garden. If you enjoy sowing seeds, in September you have plenty to choose from: bush or pole beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, cucumbers, endive/escarole, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions both bulbing and bunching, shallots, radish, summer squash and turnips.

The Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide is invaluable: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>. For instance, you can plant your crops in succession, following the guide, to extend your harvest through to spring. If you don't have access to the internet, call the Extension Service at 255-7450, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon or from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and ask to speak to a Master Gardener. They will be glad to mail you a copy.

Check the guide for good varieties for our area (north Florida) and which vegetables are best sown directly where they are to be grown. Not all of them can be transplanted successfully. Others like the brassicas (broccoli, kale, collards, etc.) transplant very easily and can be sown in small pots or seed trays, where it is easier to control watering and exposure to sun while the seedlings are still fragile.

Certain herbs do well here in the cooler months, so if you

have a culinary bent check out "Herbs in the Florida Garden" (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH020>). It covers most of the more common herbs as well as more unusual ones like anise and lovage. A printed version is also available from the Extension Service.

For a successful vegetable garden, choose an area with at least six hours of sunshine a day. Sandy soils particularly benefit from the addition of home-made or purchased compost and well-rotted manure. If your garden doesn't drain quickly after heavy rains, build raised beds, either contained in a frame or simply heaped up. If possible choose a different site. Whatever the length of your bed, it should be no more than four feet wide to allow you to work from either side without stepping into it. For larger gardens a hill and furrow system would work well.

To encourage bees to pollinate your crops, there are fall-flowering perennials which will attract them. Disk or daisy-like flowers are ideal, as are trumpet shaped flowers like salvias. Avoid fancy double blooms as they don't contain much nectar and the bees won't be interested. If your garden is near your home, why not border it with some flowers and mixed herbs to add color and interest to the view?

Vegetable gardening can be very satisfying, but don't

despair if you don't get bumper crops. Having worked a garden for several years I find some crops more successful than others and it's not always the same from year to year. Build up your soil to discourage soil pests, hand-pick caterpillars and other leaf-eating insects and keep those weeds at bay. Mulch around plants to keep soil temperatures more even and to minimize soil splashing onto leaves. Have fun and eat those vegetables young, tender and fresh!

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Gallery to show photographic works of Lloyd Roberts

The Vandroff Art Gallery will exhibit the work of Lloyd Roberts from Sunday, September 1 to October 2. Roberts, a Ponte Vedra-based photographer, is known for his photographs of exotic animals in the wild. The community is invited to meet the artist and view his work September 1 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

After retiring from a career involving international travel, Lloyd decided to take his travels to a new level. He began planning trips to some of the most remote places on Earth where he could photograph creatures that most people only dream about seeing up close.

Lloyd's talent is not limited to photography. He is an ac-

complished watercolor artist and sculpts in bronze. It's primarily photography that has allowed him to realize his passion.

The Vandroff Art Gallery is located at the Jewish Community Alliance, located at 8505 San Jose Boulevard.

For more information, please call 730-2100 or email Thelma Nied at thelma.nied@cjajax.org.

I write the community to your House of Worship

editor@mandarinnewsline.com



Faith News

Trivia is back and this time we will test your knowledge of the Jewish High Holy Days: Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Shemini Atzeret and weave some pop culture questions into the mix. Join newcomers and friends for Jewish Java on Wednesday, September 11 from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at Village Bread Café on San Jose Boulevard. This coffee and schmoozing program is the perfect place to meet new friends, a neighbor and at the same time find out the latest happenings in the community. Enjoy a dutch-treat breakfast and free coffee and tea. For more information, please contact Isabel Balotin at 448-5000 x 206 or shalomjax@jewish-jacksonville.org.

Dr. Robert Delcamp, Professor of Music and University Organist at the University of the South (Sewanee) will present a **free organ recital** at St. John's Cathedral, located at 256 East Church Street in downtown Jacksonville, on Friday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m. Music includes selections by Gigout, Franck and Guilment. Everyone is invited. For further information, please call 356-5547.

Congregation Ahavath Chesed, the Temple, located at 8727 San Jose Boulevard, held a **back-to-school drive** in August. The drive resulted in donating much needed school supplies to children in the Child Welfare, Prevention, Foster Care and Achievers for Life programs at Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS). The drive was coordinated by Cara Jackson and Hallie Wright, both 13-year-old students wanting to get involved with a community project. The Temple will also be holding a **food drive** to benefit

the Winn-Dixie Emergency Food Pantry at JFCS. Non-perishable food items can be brought to that location as well during the first two weeks of September. For more information, please call JFCS at 448-1933 or the Temple at 733-7078.

Lifetree Café is like a book club without the need to read a book. Everything you needed for an hour of interesting, lively, stimulating conversation is here, except for you. We meet for weekly for conversations about life and faith in a casual coffee-house-type setting. The discussion topics in September are: September 3 and 4, "Children With No Place To Call Home" - Exploring children in crisis; September 10 and 11, "The Art Of Loss" - A Lifetree Classic discusses the loss of a loved one; September 17 and 18, "Religious Freedom" - Standing Up For What You Believe.; and September 24 and 25: "Secrets of Finding Contentment" - Live a Satisfying Life. Lifetree Cafe is held Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. at Mandarin Senior Center, located at 3848 Hartley Road and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church (open to everyone), located at 9000 Cypress Green Drive. Admission is free. Find out more about topics and location from the www.MandarinNewsLine.com calendar entry or call George Treiber at 731-0731.

San Juan del Rio Catholic Church will be hosting the nine-week **Financial Peace**

University class starting Monday, September 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ever wish you could pay down debt? Or save for your kids' education? Or afford the vacation you've always wanted? Learn how you can meet your financial goals using Christian principles for handling money. More than one million families have graduated from this life-changing program, where the average turnaround is \$8,000 in just three months. The class will meet weekly and all are welcome. Learn more and register for the class at <http://bit.ly/19owV8Z> or email fpu.sjdrparish@gmail.com.

Mandarin United Methodist Church, located at 11270 San Jose Boulevard, will have the following orientations on Wednesday, August 28, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center: Orientation for Dave Ramsey's nine-week Financial Peace University. This class provides hope, empowerment and brings families closer together. The average couple who takes FPU pays off \$5300 of debt and saves \$2700; Orientation for Dave Ramsey's seven-week The Legacy Journey (Financial Peace University II.) Have you taken FPU and wondered what's next or are you already debt free and building wealth? Then this is the course for you; Orientation for Disciple I: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study, a 34-week study of the Bible equally divided between the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible.

Operation Isaiah in forefront

On April 2, 2013, the daily newspaper reported that poverty in Duval County is 14.9 percent, the highest it has been in years. It also reported that more than \$4 billion in cuts is proposed in the House for food stamps.

What does that mean for those living in Jacksonville? It means that the local food banks are in dire straits and that in order to prevent these statistics from getting drastically worse, everyone must take that extra step to do what we can to help those in need.

Over the past several years, the Jacksonville Jewish Center has been in the forefront with its year-round support of Operation Isaiah, a program sponsored by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

During the High Holiday Service, we read from the book of Isaiah: "It is to share your bread with the hungry and to take the poor into your home..." This year's High Holiday appeal will kick off on September 4 when congregants will receive a shopping bag to take home and fill with non-perishable food items. The drive will continue for the entire month of September. All foods will be donated to the Jewish Family and Community Services food pantry and Second Harvest of Northeast Florida.

Martin and Mimi Kaufman, chairpersons for Operation Isaiah, would like to see us pass last year's goal of 3,500 pounds and are urging everyone in our community to please participate in this drive and to continue

donating foods and toiletries all year. Food donations can be dropped off at the Jacksonville Jewish Center, located at 3662 Crown Point Drive in Mandarin Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday morning. There are carts in the front lobby and in the school lobby.

For further information, please call the center at 292-1000.



Join ElderSource at its upcoming Flu + You community education event and flu clinic for Duval County seniors!

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For more information call: 904-391-6692.

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Brooks Rehab Hospital seeking full time RN Charge Nurse. BI/Peds Unit. 3-11pm. For more info please call 904-694-4139.

Brooks Rehab is seeking full time IT Team members for corporate office. Positions include: Security Specialist, System Developer and Systems Engineer. For more info 904-694-1198.

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Jacksonville Ice and Sportsplex is looking for Happy, Energetic Part Time help to enhance our Public Sessions and Birthday Party experiences. Skate Guards must be a strong ice skater. Birthday Hostesses are hourly plus TIPS. No Experience necessary, we will train you. Both must work well with children and adults. Please e-mail resume to: hr@jaxiceandsportsplex.com.

Jacksonville Ice and Sportsplex is looking for a Food Court Manager -3+ years' experience in food and beverage, cash handling and customer service. Ability to multi-task in a fast paced environment. Would be responsible for Supervising food court staff, maintaining/replenishing food inventory, Maintain stock in vending machines. Demonstrate the ability to interact with the public and coworkers in a friendly, enthusiastic and outgoing manner. Must be available to work Tuesday night, Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. This is a part-time position with about 20-25hrs per week. Please e-mail resume to: hr@jaxiceandsportsplex.com.

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Contest deadline is Monday, September 30, 2013

See our ad on page 13

Mustang Band cont. from pg. 1
tain young and talented musicians have decided to take it to the next level. Anthony, Benfer, Brame, Cassette and Rigby are going to continue with band at the University of Florida. Stevenson will also be continuing with music in college. Turner is intending to continue band after his freshman year. Lastrapes is going to be continuing in band

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either at Valencia College or at Florida State College at Jacksonville. Mize is going to major in music at the University of Central Florida. Congratulations to all of the Mandarin Mustang Band graduates of 2013!

Marching season is in full swing for the Mandarin Mustang Band, which means it's time for pre-season camp and a lot of practice. It is time for the intensity level to be knocked up a notch to prepare the premier marching band in North Florida for the intense season ahead. Beginning the week before

St. Johns Riverkeeper offers tour of St. Johns River

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

On Thursday, October 10, the next St. Johns Riverkeeper Eco-Heritage Boat Trip will begin a two-day journey along the St. Johns River between Palatka and Sanford. This incredible overnight guided tour of the lower and middle basins of the St. Johns River is the only one of its kind - offering a historical and ecological interpretation of our majestic St. Johns River.

Two trips are offered: October 10-11 and October 12-13. Each trip departs from Crystal Cove Marina in Palatka and includes round trip transportation at the culmination of our journey in Sanford. Passengers will cruise around Dunns Creek

Catholic Night cont. from pg. 1
tors came from many different parishes and represented many Catholic church ministry groups.

Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate. Heavy thunderstorms rolled in during the third inning, cutting the game short. The game was called and was finished the following evening as part of a double header. All those who have tickets for "Catholic Night at the Ballpark" purchased through the Diocese are able use their ticket to attend any home Jacksonville Suns home game until the end of the season.

Even with the swirling breezes of the thunderstorm making their way through the stadium and lightning crashing just beyond the outfield fence, yielding quite a natural fireworks display, the spirit of "Catholic Night at the Ballpark" wouldn't be washed out.

"It was a great time had by all, even though the game was called early due to rain. There were no complaints," said Bishop Estevez.

This was the first year the Diocese of St. Augustine hosted "Catholic Night at the Ballpark" in support of the Jacksonville Suns.

Director of Communications for the Diocese Kathleen Bagg said, "This was a great event for families! We hope to make it an annual event with Catholics joining other local fans in support of the Jacksonville Suns."

school starts until November, we have afternoon practices every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. During these practices the band will learn the spectacular halftime show that will be performed at every football game. For more information please visit the band website, www.mandarinband.com.

We hope to see all musicians there and ready to march with the Mighty Mustang Band and the rest of the community at the first football game ready to cheer and show your Mustang pride!

and Murphy's Island, each lunch on the bluffs of Welaka, travel across the second largest lake in Florida (Lake George), sleep comfortably at a waterfront hotel in historic Astor and visit Hontoon Island and Blue Spring State Park.

The speakers on this guided tour include Bill Belleville, the acclaimed author of "River of Lakes: A Journey on Florida's St. Johns River," documentarian of Florida Springs and co-founder of Friends of the Wekiva. Folk Historian Bill Dreggors, commonly known as Mr. DeLand, will tell stories of growing up in "Old Florida." Time-travelers Wayne and Jane Sims will portray Wil-

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liam Bartram, the famous 18th century naturalist and Constance Fenimore Woolson, the 19th century writer, recounting their experiences traveling the St. Johns while in period costumes. Lastly, learn about the health and issues affecting the St. Johns from the St. Johns Riverkeeper herself, Lisa

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The cost of the Eco-Heritage Boat Trip is \$350 per passenger and includes boat and bus transportation, guest speakers, overnight accommodations, catered lunch, travel guide, snacks and drinks. To register, visit stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events.

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Back to School Guide



Back to School for Mandarin High Mustangs!

By Zoe Smolios, MHS Student



Dr. Donna Richardson

School is in session for the students at Mandarin High School and with a new school year comes new changes.

The 2013-2014 school year, which started on Monday, August 19, has a lot of new firsts. The students at the high school will start classes at 7:15 in the morning and end their days at 2:00 in the afternoon, unlike the previous years when the days ran from 7:30 a.m. until 1:45 p.m.

Some other changes are that the school has brought in four new administrators, including a Dean of Students,

Joyce Jones, who will deal with student discipline. Also, instead of naming their five houses after street names, such as Greenland, San Jose, St. Johns, St. Augustine and Julington, they will be named after colleges: Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, etc.

All these changes can be somewhat confusing, but Dr. Donna Richardson, the principal of Mandarin High, believes that they will have a positive effect on this school year.

"Our slogan for this year is 'Inspiring Excellence' so we're really pushing on improving our reading and math scores," said Richardson.

To achieve this goal the school has brought in a tutor to help improve the scores, even though they did improve a lot from previous school years.

MHS will now be offering an SAT and ACT prep class for juniors to prepare them and there will be about four or five new dual enrollment classes at Florida State College at Jacksonville for college credit.

Richardson said, "I believe we will be an A school this year."

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The past two years Mandarin High has been a B school, but the advanced placement has improved by 4 percent, so it will most likely be made an A school this year.

Local scout could win \$5,000

Scholarship Chairman Patricia McQuaig of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Charles E. Bennett Post 1689 announced the kick-off of this year's Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary "VFW Scout of the Year Scholarship Competition." The "VFW Scout of the Year Scholarship Competition" provides a \$5,000 award to an outstanding scout who is the recipient of a Boy Scout Eagle Award, a Venture Scouting Silver Award, a Sea Scout Quartermaster Award or a Girl Scout who has received her Gold Award.

The deadline to submit entry to Charles E. Bennett Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1689 is March 1, 2014. VFW Post winners advance to Department of Florida Veterans of Foreign

Wars. Department of Florida winners are submitted to Veterans of Foreign Wars National.

Interested scouts may visit the Veterans of Foreign Wars website, www.vfw.org, and download the VFW Scouting Scholarship form.

Questions regarding the program may be directed to Patricia McQuaig, Charles E. Bennett Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1689 Jacksonville by phone at 743-6767. For more information, please contact www.vfw.org.



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Patriot's Pen essay competition announced

Scholarship Chairman Patricia McQuaig of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Charles E. Bennett Post 1689 announced the kick-off of this year's Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary "Patriot's Pen Essay Competition." Students in grades six through eight in this area have the opportunity to compete in the VFW's annual essay competition and win thousands of dollars the top 45 national winners all receive at least a \$1,000. The first-place award

is currently a \$10,000 plus an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D. C. for the winner and a parent or guardian.

Students begin by competing at the local Post level. Deadline for entries at the Post is November 1, 2013. Post winners advance to District. District winners compete in the state competition.

Each year, more than 130,000 students participate in the Patriot's Pen Essay Competition. Students are invited to write a 300 - 400 word essay on a patriotic theme. This year's theme is "What Patriotism Means to Me."

Interested students and teachers should contact the Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship Chairman, Patricia McQuaig, Charles E. Bennett Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1689 Jacksonville by phone at 743-6767 or for more information, please visit www.vfw.org.

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Back to School Guide



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MHS Sports Roundup

MHS cross country teams prepare for the fall season

By Hazel Odell, MHS Student

The Mandarin High School boys' and girls' cross country athletes have been training hard all summer and have high expectations for the fall season. Beginning in May, the cross country girls have been following a rigorous training schedule, meeting up to six days per week and often running up to eight miles during a workout.

"The practices were something very very important to be at," said sophomore Ania Grzeszczak.

Once school starts, they will be meeting daily after school and Saturdays.

In July, the girls attended a week-long training camp in Georgia, where they increased endurance and strengthened team bonds.

With the new school year comes a new coach for the girls' cross country team. Their previous coach, Hope Treece, is moving due to her husband's job. Replacing her will be Sidney Forrest, a Spanish teacher at MHS. Forrest was the junior varsity cheerleading coach at MHS last year. Despite this change, the girls are still confident in their team.

"This season, our Lady Mustangs XC team will be the strongest and most powerful it has ever been," said Grzeszczak. She goes on to add that they run with no regrets.

Junior Julianna Favale said, "I think we are going to do really well this year! We have a lot of returning talent coming back and a lot of new runners that have shown a lot of talent."

"This year we've been ranked first in the region of death, third for the 4A division at states and 18th in all of Florida," said Grzeszczak. "These rankings are such an honor and bring so much joy to us, for we

know that all our hard work is paying off."

Also beginning in May, the cross country boys have been meeting every day of the week except for Sunday, when they run on their own. They run nine to 10 miles each day, depending on the workout.

Sophomore Michael Cassette hopes that they will make it to the state level as a team this year, just like they did last year.

"To prepare we've been training all summer, with our full dedication," said Cassette.

The boys were ranked ninth in the state last year, according to flmilesplit.com. They were conference champions, district champions, regional runners-up and state runners-up last cross country season.

Cross country is a fall sport consisting of 5,000 meter or 3.1-mile races. Unlike track, which is run around a track, athletes run over grass, mud, wood and more in cross country races. Seven athletes from each team compete in a varsity race and the placing of the top five team-members are added together to make the team's overall score. The team with the lowest score wins.

The teams will attend their first meet of the school year, the Spikes and Spurs Classic, on August 31. It will be held at the Flagler County Fairgrounds in Bunnell, Florida. Eight other high schools will also be competing.

More information about upcoming meets can be found at fl.milesplit.com/teams/MAND/schedule.



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Back to School Guide



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- The number of buses on road – 950
- The number of bus drivers/attendants - 1200
- The number of miles traveled – 50,000
- The number of maintenance workers- 280
- The number of custodial staff - 920
- The number of food service workers - 960
- The number of teachers – 8,164
- The number of volunteers – 30,211
- The number of kindergarteners – 9,165



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School launches young learners program

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children develop spiritually, socially, emotionally, intellectually, creatively and physically. Collectively, the Pre-K3 through kindergarten classes are named San Jose Episcopal Day School's Early Explorers Program.

The classroom environment allows students to investigate their world while learning skills in language arts, math, social studies and science. Students also participate in music, Spanish, library, physical education and religious education through drama (Kingdom Theatre) classes. SJEDS' character education program, Keys to the Kingdom, is interwoven throughout the day with all that is taught and experienced. The San Jose Episcopal Day School global studies program provides students the opportunity to experience the

culture of different countries around the world. The weekly chapel service, designed for this specific age group, teaches the children the power of God's love through scripture lessons, songs and active student participation.

The school encourages children to think and work both collaboratively and independently, as well as engage in tasks that motivate and challenge. Within the curriculum, the children engage in direct experiences with opportunities to review, reflect and discuss what they've learned. The student's natural curiosity is fostered as the foundation of personal motivation and problem solving abilities are created.

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Back to School Guide



Time to sign up your child for Native Sons and Daughters

Fathers, do you have too much to do, not enough time in the day to do it or would you like to spend more quality time with your children? If you answered "yes," then read on as the Timucuan Federation chapter of the Native Sons and Daughters program is organizing new tribes in southern Duval County and northern St. Johns County.

The Native Sons and Daughters program (formerly known as Indian Princess/Indian Guides) offers a wide variety of events for Father/Child interaction and is meant for children ages five to 12. Not only do the children learn about Native American history and traditions, but also have the opportunity to participate in events such as tubing, canoeing, costume



bowling, camping, ice skating, attending a Jaguars football game and even walking in the Gator Bowl parade.

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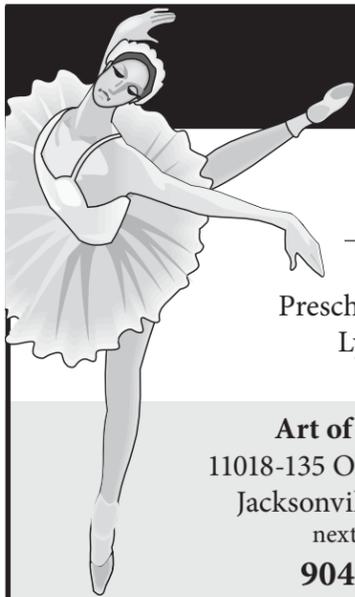
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Back to School Guide



**Atlantic Coast High School
2013 Varsity Schedule**

Location/Opponent	Time
8-22-13	Raines 7:00 pm
8-30-13	Jackson 7:00 pm
9-6-13	Englewood 7:00 pm
9-13-13	@ Wolfson 7:30 pm
9-20-13	Oakleaf 7:00 pm
9-27-13	First Coast 7:00 pm
10-4-13	@ Fletcher 7:00 pm
10-11-13	@ Sandlawood 7:00 pm
10-24-13	Fleming Island 7:00 pm
11-1-13	@ Buchholz 7:00 pm
11-8-13	@ Mandarin 7:00 pm

**Mandarin High School
2013 Varsity Schedule**

Location/Opponent	Time
8-23-13	@ Bartram Trail 7:00 pm
8-30-13	Terry Parker 7:00 pm
9-6-13	@ Wolfson 7:00 pm
9-13-13	@ Ed White 7:00 pm
9-20-13	Ocala West Port 7:00 pm
9-27-13	@Baldwin 7:00 pm
10-4-13	@First Coast 7:00 pm
10-11-13	Ft. Pierce 7:00 pm
10-24-13	Sandalwood 7:00 pm
11-1-13	@ Flagler Palm Coast 7:00 pm
11-8-13	Atlantic Coast 7:00 pm

**Wolfson High School
2013 Varsity Schedule**

Location/Opponent	Time
8-23-13	@ Andrew Jackson 7:00 pm
9-6-13	Mandarin 7:00 pm
9-13-13	Atlantic Coast 7:00 pm
9-20-13	@ Bishop Kenny 7:00 pm
9-27-13	Baker County 7:00 pm
10-4-13	Yulee 7:00 pm
10-11-13	@ Stanton Prep 7:00 pm
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First day of school a success!



Students arrived at all four Bolles campuses on August 20 with big smiles and full backpacks to ring in their first day of the 2013-14 school year. Seniors on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus started off with the traditional off-campus Senior Breakfast, donning black dresses and tiaras, black ties and pants for the event and their first day of classes that followed. Bolles remains strong in its enrollment with approximately 1,700 students starting school this year on four separate and unique campuses in Northeast Florida.

Coupled with boarding students representing more than 21 countries – including Australia, Denmark, Honduras, the Netherlands, Singapore, Vietnam and China – this year's student body is as globally-minded and diverse as it is happy to begin a new year together.

August 20 was also a first day back for President and Head of School Brad Johnson '79. While the father of three Bolles sophomores has spent plenty of time on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus in various volunteer roles, Johnson is

enjoying his first full-time position at the school since his days as a student in the late-1970s.

"The excitement here today is rejuvenating, I am thrilled to be a part of the 2013-14 school year," Johnson said. "Students and faculty on all four campuses seem happy to be back, that says so much about the appeal of our Bolles community."

On the Bolles Lower School Whitehurst and Ponte Vedra Beach Campuses, it was a flurry of new school action as parents delivered their students to school and stayed to enjoy post-drop-off "Coffee and Kerchiefs" receptions. Planned for Pre-K, kindergarten and first grade parents, the welcome gatherings were held in Ponte Vedra

Hall on the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus and the Copeland Library on the Bolles Lower School Whitehurst Campus. While there were feelings of mild disbelief that their children were growing up, parents felt confident and happy their students made such successful transitions back into the classroom on their first day. The Bolles Parent Association hosted the events on both lower school campuses.

On the Bolles Middle School Bartram Campus, students enjoyed checking out the newly renovated

campus bookstore and getting re-acclimated to their school schedules. WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) leaders helped sixth-graders and other new students feel welcome on their first day.



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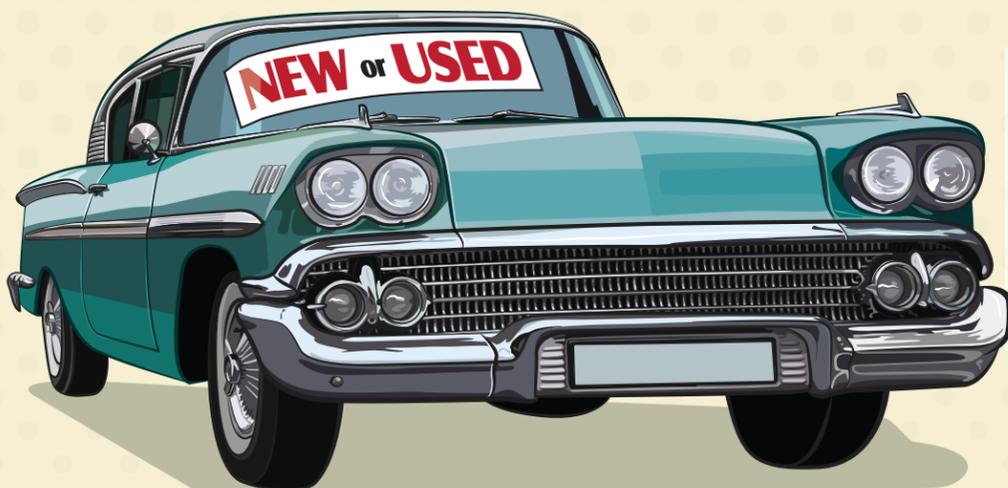
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