

Mandarin NewsLineSM

SERVING THE MANDARIN COMMUNITY SINCE 2006

MEMBER OF THE RT PUBLISHING GROUP OF COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Volume 8, Issue 4

Visit our online edition at www.mandarinnewsline.com

January 2014

Radio controlled boats not just for young children anymore

By Karl Kennell



On Saturday, October 26 the lake at Losco Regional Park at 10851 Hood Road South in Mandarin was overflowing with activity. A flotilla of boats and ships of all types, shapes and sizes sailed upon the lake's smooth waters to the joy and amazement of the spectators. Kids of all ages gathered to watch the ORCAS annual Model Boat Regatta. The regatta is sponsored each year by the North Florida Operational and Radio Control Association of Shipwrights (O.R.C.A.S.) and is a sanctioned event of the Scale

Ship Modeler's Association of North America.

The makeup of the fleet covers everything from tugboats and a submarine to fishing boats and yachts. Two boats really stood out this year. One was named "Bootlegger," which is a replica of a 1920s rum runner. It is about three feet long, made of small teak planks varnished to a bright sheen and held together by over 3,000 little brass nails. When it took to the water it wowed the crowd as it sped away at a very historically

accurate speed, throwing up a wake just like the original.

Another that was a little more laidback was the 42-inch long yacht built by Lee Cantrell. It harkens back to the "Great Gatsby" days, when cruising the Hawaiian Islands in private yachts was high adventure for the speakeasy set. Cantrell built the yacht from scratch. It includes forward and reverse gears, 21 lights and even has a sound system. Yes, you read that right! He has installed a radio controlled music player in the cabin and enjoys playing old Hawaiian favorites from Don Ho.

"Now if I could just figure out how to install a bar. Then I could enjoy a Mai Tai or two while cruising," he quipped.

Awards were given at the end of the regatta for Captain's Choice, Best in Show, Designers Award, Navigational Course and Disabled Vessel Rescue. In addition to the annual regatta they have club Fun Sails monthly on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Losco Regional Park. ORCAS cont. on pg. 13

Charity tournament benefits Toys for Tots

By Contributing Writer Melissa Salek, Mandarin Athletic Association



MAA teammate Caiden Zuravnsky and his brother Austin pose with Marines at the Toys for Tots Baseball Classic tournament. Photo courtesy of Lauren Zuravnsky.

Association's (MAA's) second annual Toys for Tots Baseball Classic charity tournament, the boys collected about 210 new toys and enjoyed playing a lot of baseball.

"Some kids don't have as much as we have and we should be grateful for what we do have," said MAA player Landon Winsett, age 10. "I like playing this tournament," Winsett added, "because the teams come from a lot of places and it's a fun way to play baseball."

John Redenius, founder of the MAA-based tournament, created the tournament as an inexpensive way to get teams together to play ball and also to teach the players about charity. The entry

Jacksonville area nine- and 10-year-old baseball players recently hit a homerun for the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. As part of the Mandarin Athletic

fee per team was one new toy per player and three from the coaches.

"Kids can learn a lot of life lessons from playing sports,"

MAA charity tournament cont. on pg. 14

Bring business to your door in 2014!

Call (904) 886-4919

Fall Festival and Chili Cook-Off entertains community, supports causes

By Hazel Odell

The rich smell of chili, the sound of acoustic guitar and the feeling of fall approaching filled the air during the 17th annual Fall Festival and Chili Cook-Off, presented by the Mandarin Council of the JAX Chamber. Held in the RiverPlace Shopping Center at 11111 San Jose Boulevard, contestants cooked in hopes of winning the \$500 best in show prize. Crafters sold unique goods and children played in a bouncy house in the midst of the competition. Attendees purchased bowls



and samples of chili in order to taste each chili and support the Mandarin Food Bank, Junior Achievement and the Janice Meisel Scholarship Fund.

One chili station that stuck

out was the Orange Theory Fitness station. Their energetic booth-workers and bright display drew hungry attendees in.

"We wanted to make a chili that is as good for you as it tastes," said Sara Johnson. Orange Theory Fitness planned on donating any money they won to the Mandarin Food Bank.

Perhaps the youngest contestant was Hunter Brooks, who manned his station with help from his mom. His venison chili was served with Doritos, which Chili Cook Off cont. on pg. 13

What's Inside

- Page 3 What's New
- Page 4 From the City Councilmember
- Page 5 Soil and Water Board
- Page 6 Political Commentary
- Page 7 DCPS high school grades
- Page 9 Native Sons & Daughters
- Page 10 Loretto hosts Lego tournament
- Page 11 MHS Band update Women visit Biltmore
- Page 13 MMS Challenge Day
- Page 16 Speakeasy supper
- Page 17 Mandarin Libraries
- Page 18 Front Porch Chats
- Page 19 MHS Happenings
- Page 20 Movie Review
- Page 21 Faith News
- Page 24 MHS Sports Roundup
- Page 25 Garden Club news
- Page 27 Squash Day!

Presorted Standard US Postage Paid Callahan, FL 32011 Permit No. 4

Mandarin NewsLine
12443 San Jose Boulevard, Ste. 403
Jacksonville, FL 32223

Your local neighborhood gym
Workout 24 hours a day.

STRENGTH TRAINING PERSONAL TRAINING

CARDIO TRAINING WEIGHT LOSS

ANYTIME FITNESS

4268 Oldfield Crossing Drive #201

24 HOUR CLUB ACCESS **904-268-0411** **SEE OUR WEBSITE**

ANYTIME FITNESS

Healthcare is expensive, staying healthy isn't.

anytimefitness.com/mandarin

MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS

\$20.14 INCLUDES ENROLLMENT AND FIRST MONTH (Reg. \$180.83)

Must Present Coupon To Anytime Fitness Mandarin With Coupon Only • Key card activation applies • Expires 2/1/14

\$20.14 **1 MONTH UNLIMITED TURBO TANNING**

No Gym Membership Required (New Bulbs) Must Present Coupon To Anytime Fitness Mandarin With Coupon Only • Expires 2/1/14



Coupon not Valid online

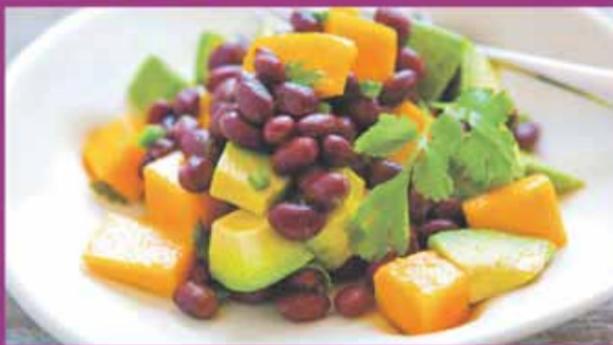
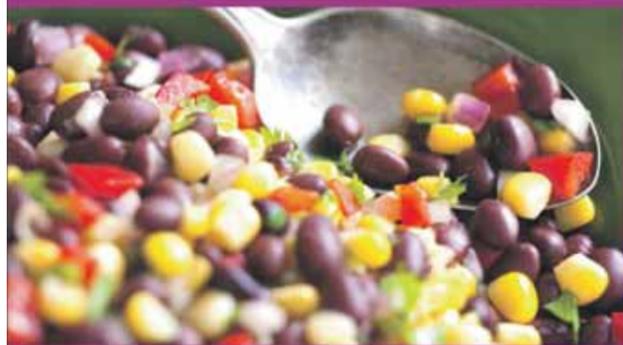
WHOLE FOODS MARKET



WHOLE FOODS MARKET JACKSONVILLE

10601 San Jose Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32257
(904) 288-1100

wholefoodsmarket.com/jacksonville



Find healthy eating inspiration— including recipes, cooking videos and meal-planning tools. wholefoodsmarket.com/healthyeating



PROVEN GREAT RATES

Save up to \$1,133 with a JAXFCU Auto Loan*

Call, click, or visit our Mandarin branch to purchase or refinance your auto loan today!



JAX FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



In the Publix Shopping Center at Mandarin Rd. & San Jose Blvd.

904-475-8000

www.jaxfcu.org

All loans are subject to final credit approval and underwriting standards.

* \$1,133 is the difference between the amount paid in interest between Jax Federal Credit Union's rate at 1.74% APR compared to 3.88% APR for the Jacksonville, FL market average over the life of a \$25,000 used auto loan over 48 months.

Datatrak certifies that Jax Federal Credit Union auto loan rates outperform the Jacksonville, FL metro market by up to 55% as of December 19, 2013. Please visit www.jaxfcu.org for details.





RT PUBLISHING, INC.
 The CreekLine
 Mandarin NewsLine
 Southside NewsLine
 Coastal NewsLine
 Players Journal
 Ocean Breeze

Publisher Rebecca Taus
 publisher@rtpublishinginc.com

Editor Martie Thompson
 editor@mandarinnewsline.com

Advertising Sales, Linda Gay
 LG@rtpublishinginc.com

Advertising Sales, Heather Seay
 HS@rtpublishinginc.com

Advertising Sales, Jasmine Quezada
 JQ@rtpublishing.com

Graphic Design, Lisa Felegy
 graphics@rtpublishinginc.com

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






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

RT Publishing, Inc. is not responsible for advertisement content or accuracy of information provided by its advertisers. Nor does RT Publishing, Inc. endorse any of the products or services included in this publication. RT Publishing, Inc. reserves the right to refuse advertisement or copy from any advertiser. All rights are reserved and no portion of this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the publisher. ©2013.

What's New

Community Happenings

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.

The River City Women's Club will hold their January luncheon on January 15 beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Ramada Inn Mandarin. The program speaker will be Jo Ann Hickox, founder and executive director of Seniors on a Mission. The cost of the luncheon is \$15.50 and reservations are required; please call 262-8719. For general information about the club, please call Marian at 288-0078.

The Mandarin Toastmasters



Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/mandarinnewsline

Club meets the first and third Saturday of each month in the South Mandarin Library, located at 12125 San Jose Boulevard (at the intersection of Orange Picker Road and San Jose Boulevard, across from Walgreens). The meeting time is 10:15 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The meetings are open to all and visitors are always welcome. January's meeting dates are January 4 and January 18. For additional information, please contact the Mandarin Toastmasters at mandarintostmasters.org and/or president, Morgan North, at 268-9380.

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. January's meeting will be held on Friday, January 17 with guest speaker and travel specialist, Maggie Kossick whose presentation is entitled "Life's a Trip." Visitors are welcome!

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 addi-



Bring business to your door in 2014!

Call (904) 886-4919

tional information, please email semandarinmoms@yahoo.com.

The Dogwood Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club will meet on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the clubhouse, located at 2892 Loretto Road. The guest speaker will be Kathie Goodrum, from Wild Birds Unlimited. Visitors are always welcome! For additional information, please visit www.mandaringardenclub.org or call 268-1192.

The North Florida Acoustic Neuroma Support Group will meet on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at Mandarin United Methodist Church, located at 11270 San Jose Boulevard. Please call 287-8132 for additional information.

Please help celebrate the recent retirement of long-time **Crown Point Elementary School kindergarten teacher Dennis Russo!** If you are a former student or parent, wife Janet Russo would like you to contact her at jrusso062@gmail.com if you are interested in attending a surprise party for him on January 26, 2014. If you know Dennis Russo and would just like to send a card, please mail it to: Russo, P.O. Box 56722, Jacksonville, FL 32257. The Russo family would like to thank everyone in advance for helping to honor Dennis!

Shuffleboard is played on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. at Mandarin Park (south end of Man-

What's New cont. on pg. 4

Art, art and more than art at the 46th annual Mandarin Art Festival

By Contributing Writer Susie Scott

The 46th annual Mandarin Art Festival is up and running and planning for yet another success! The Mandarin Community Club, host and founding organization of the long-standing community event, recruits club members and community volunteers to work side by side with board members to organize what is now the longest continually running show of its kind in northeast Florida. Held each year on Easter weekend, the 2014 festival will be on Saturday and Sunday, April 19 and 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

Thousands will stroll under the shady oaks off of Mandarin Road to admire the selection from over 100 exhibitor booths featuring fine art and fine crafts of renowned artists from around the country. As a result of a reputation as one of the best established and friendliest shows, many exhibitors who have participated for decades return annually along with a great variety of new artists.

Don't miss this chance to make this your Easter weekend

tradition!

Visitors and festival guests can enjoy the array of tempting festival foods in the food court, purchase baked goodies from the bake sale, groove to live music, check out local foods and handcrafted items at the Green Market and so much more! And our local youth show off their art skills in the Children's Art Show, which represents many area schools.

Want to be a part of this special community tradition? Volunteer by contacting the club at 268-1622 or email mandarinartfestival@gmail.com. The club and festival location is 12447 Mandarin Road under the historic century oaks of Mandarin Road.

Founded in 1923, the Mandarin Community Club is dedicated to the preservation and beautification of Mandarin; to providing educational forums for the community; to enhancing the cultural and recreational life of the area; and to maintaining the club's historic properties.




Jan 11
NATALIE MERCHANT

New Years Eve with Gregg Allman and JJ Grey & special guest Mofro Tues, Dec 31, 9:00 pm	William Shatner Sat, Jan 18, 8:00 pm
Natalie Merchant Sat, Jan 11, 8:00 pm	Swamp Radio Sun, Jan 19, 3:00 pm
ABBA: The Concert Thurs, Jan 16, 8:00 pm	Engelbert Humperdinck Tues, Jan 21, 8:00 pm
The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion Fri, Jan 17, 7:30 pm	Rodney Atkins Fri, Jan 24, 8:00 pm
	Jake Shimbukuro Thurs, Jan 30, 8:00 pm

WWW.FLORIDATHEATRE.COM
 Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com & the Florida Theatre Box Office.

For more information, please call 904-355-ARTS
 Box Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
 128 East Forsyth Street, Downtown Jacksonville



From the City Council Member's Desk

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

I have some great solutions for the hectic holiday season. In fact, I have four ideas in no particular order.

- 1) Walter Jones Park off Mandarin Road has 15 acres of enjoyable paths that also provide a great education of Mandarin history along the way. Don't forget to walk out on the over 200 yard pier. This option should relieve a lot of stress during the holi-

- 2) For boaters, tennis players and walkers, the Mandarin Park on the south-end of Mandarin Road is a cornucopia of activity
- 3) Palmetto Leaves South is one of Mandarin's smallest parks but offers a launch pier for our many kayak enthusiasts
- 4) Mandarin is blessed with two libraries where you can relax and read a good

book or surf the internet. Enjoy Mandarin, for it offers much for us to keep our sanity during the holiday season. I hope and pray you enjoyed the Hanukkah and Christmas season and I wish you a prosperous and blessed New Year! Please do not hesitate to contact me at MattS@coj.net or 630-1388.

What's New cont. from pg. 3

darin Road) next to the tennis courts at the park's entrance. Beginners are welcome. Just show up, unless it rains.

The AARP Smart Driver Class will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 14 and 15, from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon at Memorial Hospital, located at 3625 University Boulevard South. The fee for AARP members is \$15; non-members' fee is \$20. You must attend both days for certification to qualify for an auto insurance discount. To register, please call 391-1320.

The Mandarin South Library recently honored its volunteers with a potluck luncheon. There was great food and praise for those giving their time to assist in operations. **The Friends of the South Mandarin Library** have been searching catalogues and visiting other local libraries to look at seating and activity modules, which will help in choosing items for the children's department. New

members are welcome at the monthly meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 2:15 p.m. The Book Club meets at 1:15 p.m., so check out the Book Club and stay for the Friends meeting at 2:15 p.m. Visit your library and you will be impressed by number of people using the services and enjoying great books!

The Italian American Club would like to wish everyone a very Happy Healthy New Year! The year will begin with our annual Installation Dinner on January 11 with the installation of the new board and officers for 2014. The board of directors includes John Koch, Mella Carroll, Joe Cornello, Madaline Gagliano, Frank Mullaney, Diana Najm, Sandy Smith and Linda Springsteen. The officers are Greg Clapp, Anna Mullaney, Peter Carroll, Palma Nowicki, Vicky Clapp and Patty Koch.

Mandarin resident and artist **Marie Shell** has been selected to have her works exhibited

in the Haskell Gallery at Jacksonville International Airport beginning December 29. The show will continue until late March, 2014.

The Mandarin Garden Club will be celebrating Arbor Day on January 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the clubhouse at 2892 Loretto Road. The public is invited. There is no charge and no reservation is required. Guest speaker Gene Bushor of Bushor's Tree Surgeons will discuss care and preservation of home trees. The meeting will be followed by a potluck luncheon. For more information, please email info@mandaringardenclub.org or call 268-1192.

The Sierra Club, Northeast Group will host Miranda Jones, who has just spent five months hiking the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, on January 9, 2014. She will relate lessons learned on the trek. The program will be held at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, located at 2001 Uni-

versity Boulevard, West, in the education building. Social time will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7:00 p.m. The program is free and all are welcome. Please bring your own cup to reduce waste in the landfill. For additional information, please call Janet Larson at 247-1876.

Atlantic Coast Bank will host the first annual **Nor-**

mandy Block Party on Saturday, January 25 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the bank's Normandy branch, located at 8048 Normandy Boulevard in Jacksonville. The event will feature a shred service, bounce house, pony rides, children's finger printing kits and food and drink. The community is invited and asked to bring a canned good to benefit The Food Pantry local food bank.

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, jal@rtpublishing.com

Every New Year brings another round of resolutions—getting back in shape, financial responsibility and being more responsible. Some people attempt more unusual resolutions such as if you're rich, hire your own personal butler to take shopping with you; master the names of famous flowers; and break your own rules. Though personal resolutions can be important, I think we should consider a community resolution.

St. Johns County schools, as well as others, emphasize educating our students in the Character Counts program's six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Each month is devoted to one character and special events are held in schools promoting these values. As I researched famous, or at least important, speeches for the last several articles, I found one from 1910 by then former President Theodore Roosevelt entitled Citizenship in a Republic, better known as The Man in the Arena speech because of its most famous quote,

"It is not the critic that counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a

worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Roosevelt, speaking at The Sorbonne, the famous Parisian medieval university, compared the university's impact of raising European culture to higher standards to the frontier settlers who sought a similar higher standard, what Roosevelt called "the uplift that comes from devotion to loftier ideals." He discussed in length the ideal character traits for citizens of a republic. After noting the French history of promoting literature and art, military leadership and statescraft, Roosevelt stressed, "...let us remember that these stand second to other things. There is need of a sound body, and even more a sound mind. But above mind and above body stands character—the sum of those qualities which we mean when we speak of a man's force and courage, of his good faith and sense of honor."

I believe another of his thoughts states well what I wish for our collective resolution.

"The stream will not permanently rise higher than the main source; and the main source of national power and national greatness is found in the average citizenship of the nation. Therefore it behooves us to do our best to see that the standard of the average citizen is kept high; and the average cannot be kept high unless the standard of its leaders is very much higher."

Looking for Low Auto Rates?

you found them.

1.29 % APR **As Low As** **1.74** % APR

up to 36 months **37 to 60 months**

Payment Example: \$15,000 at 1.29% APR for 36 Months: Monthly Payment: \$425; Interest: \$300; Total Cost: \$15,300

Payment Example: \$15,000 at 1.74% APR for 60 Months: Monthly Payment: \$261; Interest: \$673; Total Cost: \$15,672

Apply Online | 121fcu.org
By phone | 723.6300
In Person | any branch

Your local branch: 12250 San Jose Blvd. 32223

Approval and rate based on creditworthiness.

121 Financial CREDIT UNION
Banking Focused on You
Federally Insured by NCUA

VARSITY INSURANCE, INC.

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS

268-6365

www.varsityinsuranceagency.com

Your local Independent Insurance agent

Wishing everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Thank you Mandarin and Northwest St. Johns County for ten years of loyal support! We look forward to a second decade of protecting your financial security.

Bob Ebersberger
President/Agent

Ken Densmore
Agent-Seven Years

Cole Warthen AAI
Agent-Six Years

Mandarin resident appointed to local conservation board

Mandarin resident Greg Tison has been appointed to the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District to serve the remaining term of a vacated seat. He will serve until January, 2015.

Tison has spent most of his career working in the agricultural and environmental engineering fields as well as over 15 years as a manager in the retail grocery business. Tison comes from a family spanning back more than six generations in Duval County. He was born and raised most of his childhood on Jacksonville's Northside and Westside. Tison feels it important to keep our young people today educated in areas of conservation and agriculture. He is on the board of directors for the North Florida Christian Camp, a member of the National Association of Produce Market Managers, is second vice president of the Northside Business Leaders Association, a member of the Jacksonville Fair Association and is involved with Duval County Farm Bureau as well as the Duval County Cattleman's Association. He has also served as vice-chair of the Duval Food

Policy Council and continues to participate with the group and its affiliates on initiatives. He meets often with community groups and organizations to participate in discussions promoting healthy eating and access to food. Tison also meets with local, state and federal officials concerning community issues.

Tison is the general manager of the Jacksonville Farmers Market, a 75-year-old retail and wholesale produce establishment serving businesses and shoppers from northeast Florida and southeast Georgia. Tison oversees the day-to-day operations of the market and directed the revitalization of the market, its growth planning and market-



ing outreaches.

He has been married to his lovely bride of 25 years, Joy and has two step-children and five grandchildren.

Tison will begin writing columns in February for *Mandarin NewsLine* about news and activities from the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District.

DCPS and JAX Chamber partner to elevate career academies for students

Duval County Public Schools and the JAX Chamber have partnered to enhance the district's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and Career Academies. CTE curriculum introduces students to the skills required for careers in numerous targeted industries supported by local businesses. This partnership broadens the curriculum by including mentoring and on-site training.

"This partnership gives us a unique opportunity to invest in Jacksonville's future while making the high school experience more relevant," said Superintendent Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti. "We not only introduce our students to college-ready careers and opportunities but we are also building and inspiring future employees and business leaders."

The JAX Chamber partnership will initially serve a handful of career academies in Duval County including Edward White, First Coast, Jean Ribault, Robert E. Lee, Mandarin and William Raines. Benefits provided through this initiative include employer site-based mentorship programs, teacher externships and the heavy promotion of engagement opportunities to the

business community by the JAX Chamber.

"Supporting public education has long been a priority for JAX Chamber members, both for the sake of quality of life in our community and to ensure today's students are on track to meet our region's workforce needs," said JAX Chamber President Daniel Davis. "With the district's new leadership and renewed emphasis on aligning career academies to our targeted industries, it makes sense for us to step up our efforts to link our members with these academies in a meaningful and strategically focused way. Talent—who's growing it regionally and who's retaining it—is a major factor in economic development, and this partnership is a continued step in the right direction."

The partnership with the JAX Chamber aims to bring more local businesses to career academies, subsequently increasing the success and visibility of the program, in addition to connecting business and education in a strategic, meaningful way that impacts students. The program is scheduled to begin in early 2014.



JFRD Pipes and Drums Band opened the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society's 14th annual Winter Celebration in Mandarin on December 7 on a beautiful day at the Walter Jones Historical Park. Photograph by Kurt Sigmund, museum volunteer.



ROBERT E. BURKE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT



Robert E. Burke, CPA



The CPA Never Underestimate the Value®

- Tax Preparation
- Tax Planning
- Financial Statements
- Estate & Gift Planning
- Business Solutions
- Bookkeeping
- Quickbooks Pro Advisor®

3000 Hartley Road, Suite 7
Jacksonville FL 32257
904.260.3812 • www.reburkecpa.com

Prudential Financial Planning Services



Andrew Laino, CLU®, CFP®, CLTC
CA Insurance License Number
0E93910
Financial Planner
904-313-4553

Sound Advice, Comprehensive
Financial Planning



Financial planning and investment advisory services offered through Prudential Financial Planning Services, a division of Pruco Securities, LLC. 0223493-00002-00

Mandarin NewsLine APP is now



Available for both iTunes
and Google Play!





Be a Safe Sitter

Taking care of someone else's child is an important job.

Learn how to do it safely.

Safe Sitter Classes for Ages 11 to 14

February 8
April 26
September 13
November 8

8:30 am – 2:30 pm • Baptist Medical Center South
Cost: \$45 (includes training manual and lunch)
Please call 202.CARE (2273) to register.

Topics will include:

- First Aid
- Behavioral Advice
- Choking Infant/Child Rescue
- Injury Management
- Safety for the Sitter
- Babysitting as a Business
- Preventing Injuries

baptistjax.com/south



Changing
Health Care
for Good.

McBurney files bill to assist law enforcement

In December, Representative Charles McBurney (R- District 16) introduced HB-427, a bill to add an additional charge to an offender who crosses county lines to commit a felony. The bill will add an additional felony charge to an offender who crosses out of their resident county to commit a felony crime. Violation of this provision would be punishable as a third degree felony and the defendant would not be eligible for release on bail or surety bond until after first appearance.

The inspiration behind this bill was derived from the difficulties the Martin County Sheriff's Office faced while trying to capture the 2013 Pillowcase Burglars. This group of criminals moved from county to county for the purpose of committing burglaries and eluding

law enforcement.

"Criminals that cross county lines for the purpose of committing crimes are a clear and present danger to all citizens of our state. This law would give law enforcement an unprecedented tool to combat this growing trend of traveling criminals," said Representative McBurney.

"Traveling criminals frustrate the normal investigative methodologies employed by law enforcement agencies. Traditional investigative tools such as pawn shop data banks, confidential informants, surveillances and the like are made obsolete by the actions of these modern day traveling outlaws," said William D. Snyder, Sheriff of Martin County.

Senator Dorothy Hukill (R-District 8) stated she will also be filing the same bill in the Senate.

Political Commentary

Dredging the St. Johns River will provide for economic growth; how soon can we start?

By J. Bruce Richardson

Is it another knee-jerk, automatic reaction by tree huggers or is it a real concern?

The question is, should the St. Johns River at the mouth of the river at the ocean through to the port area in Jacksonville be dredged to allow for newer, larger, money-producing ships to be able to make port calls in Jacksonville? The answer is absolutely yes. Here are some things we know for sure:

- The St. Johns River is often Jacksonville's signature. Before Jacksonville was Jacksonville and quaintly known as Cow Ford in the early 19th Century, we were a burg because the river was shallow enough where downtown is today for cattle to traverse the river.
- Through the centuries the river has remained an important part of Jacksonville, bringing industry, progress (before progressives ruined the word and changed it as a code word for rampant liberalism) and growth. Ocean-going ships called at Jacksonville bringing passengers and cargo, connecting with Jacksonville's growing railroad system. River steamers went upstream from Jacksonville to tourist and residential spots such as Mandarin, the healing waters at Green Cove Springs, Palatka and to Sanford. The

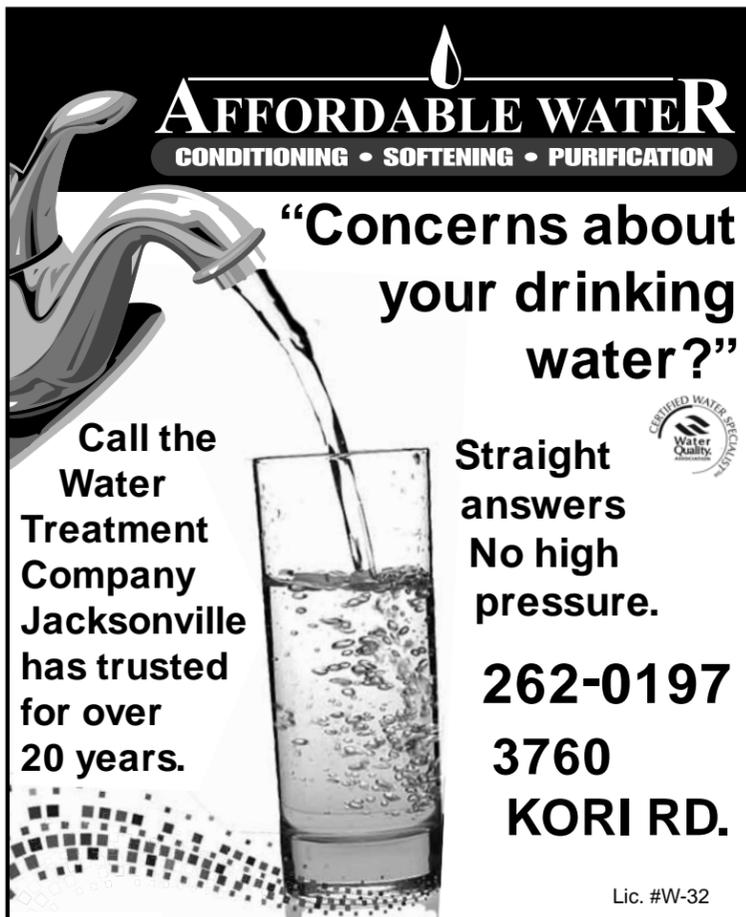
river was the lifeblood of Northeast Florida.

- Northeast Florida timber helped make Jacksonville a shipbuilding city and two world wars saw shipbuilding blossom in Jacksonville. Today, in smaller numbers, ships are still built here.
- After the conclusion of World War II, over 800 Navy surplus ships were moored in the St. Johns River at Green Cove Springs, forming a huge ghost fleet which stayed there into the 1960s. Today, those same sturdy Navy-built concrete piers bring revenue in different ways.
- The Port of Jacksonville has grown over the years and proudly serves all types of ships from around the world. The economic impact on Northeast Florida runs into the hundreds of millions of dollars annually with everything from support jobs to chandlery services to pilot boat captains and crews.
- Ironically, Jacksonville's iconic river bridges are as much of a signature for the city as the river itself—but they restrict some cargo and passenger shipping because newer ships are taller and can't clear under the Dames Point Bridge. Carnival Cruise Line bases older ships here because its newer ships can't

fit under the bridge. In an endless discussion about a new, money-generating cruise terminal east of the Dames Point Bridge, tree huggers and NIMBYs seem to thwart every plan for replacing the current terminal for any number of questionable reasons.

Jacksonville's port, which is trying to carry on a long and distinguished heritage of Jacksonville welcoming modern sea-going ships is again battling the environmentalists and obstructionists. The earth must be protected for future generations, but it must be done rationally and with consideration of all factors. To deny growth and jobs linked to the Port of Jacksonville for lack of dredging a short part of the river is not a rational conclusion. Dredge the river and get on with commerce. A strong Jacksonville is what will best protect all concerned in the future.

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.



AFFORDABLE WATER
CONDITIONING • SOFTENING • PURIFICATION

"Concerns about your drinking water?"

Call the Water Treatment Company Jacksonville has trusted for over 20 years.

Straight answers No high pressure.

262-0197 3760 KORI RD.

Lic. #W-32

Comedic spitfire returns to Jacksonville

By Contributing Writer Elizabeth Hecht

Veteran comedian Ral- phie May has proven to be a truly iconic entertainer of 21st century. He has a stage presence uniquely his own and can entertain an audience full of a diverse crowd. A well-crafted talent can transcend the most sensitive social boundaries and May is a part of this rare breed. In 2003, May was invited to join the first season of the NBC reality television show "Last Comic Standing." His popularity erupted after placing second overall and he steamrolled through appearances on multiple comedy and late-night primetime shows. He was voted one of Variety's "Ten Comics to Watch" in 2010 and has proven himself worthy of such a title as his career continues to grow.

May is a comedic genius with exceptional timing and a brand of humor that allows him to cross social, cultural and ethnic barriers. His witty word play and spot-on delivery make his act charmingly hilarious and a must see. May is not only a comedian, but also a writer, producer, actor and, now, entrepreneur. He will be releasing his own line of barbecue sauce aptly named "Fat Baby Jesus" in time for Valentine's Day.

May shares the love of comedy with his wife, Lahna Turner, and they created the "Perfect Ten" podcast together. Turner writes the episodes and they share the performance spotlight. The two take regular topics such as food, sleep and entertainment and explore them with out of the box routines. Their children April May and August May clearly inherited the comedy gene as they contribute to the episodes. The family dog, Hoochie Mama, even makes a few cameos.

May will be performing at The Comedy Zone January 9 through 12.

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

JAX Chamber announces 2014 Small Business Leader of the Year winners

The JAX Chamber announced its 2014 Small Business Leader of the Year winners in December. The winners are:

- Matthew Wilson, Monument Road Animal Hospital, Arlington Council
- Lynda Culhane, Culhane's Irish Pub and Restaurant, Beaches Division
- Carter Funk, DeLuxe Cleaners, Downtown Council
- Rose Conry, Staff Time, Entrepreneurial Growth Division
- Ellen Sullivan, Doctors Express Urgent Care Centers, Health Council
- Joe Flask, BrightLink Technology Incorporated, Jacksonville IT Council

- Brett Goodnough, Culture Index, Mandarin Council
 - Paris Hurley, Holy Hands Cleaning Services, North Council
 - Jeannie Fredrick, WSI - We Simplify the Internet, Professional Women's Council
 - Ellen Bushnell, Bushnell and Company P.A., South Council
 - Scott Schilbrack, Luten Insurance Agency, West Council
- "We congratulate the 2014 Small Business Leader of the Year winners," said John Bryan, director of the JAX Chamber Beaches Division and Chamber Councils. "Individually and collectively, they have achieved great success in their respective

fields and they are exemplary leaders and outstanding representatives of the chamber's membership."

The 11 Northeast Florida business leaders were selected for the honor by the Chamber Councils, the Beaches Division and the Entrepreneurial Growth Division. One of the 11 business leaders will be named the overall 2014 Chamber Small Business Leader of the Year at the JAX Chamber's annual meeting in January.

got news?
editor@mandarinnewsline.com

The Helpful Handyman Inc. Since 1981 **260-4820**

We fix nearly everything!

Carpentry

- Granite Countertops
- Siding Replacement
- Termite & Wood Rot
- Damage Repair
- Attic Stairs, Floors
- Sheetrock
- Attic and Ceiling

Exhaust Fans

- Mantles & Surrounds
- Custom Build Pantrys & Closets
- Window, Door Installation; Mirrored & Bi-Fold, New and Replacement

Flooring Laminate & Tile

- Crown Moldings
- Tile Work, New Installations & Repair
- Skylights
- Wallpaper Removal
- Vinyl Shutters

Pressure Washing

- Drives Walkways
- Buildings
- Mildew Removal
- Roof Tops & Fences
- Painting-Interior & Ext.
- Faux Finishes, Murals

Licensed Bonded & Insured Member of BBB, WMA & WOF, N.A.A.A.

LEGO Club
(Grades K-6)

Wed., Jan. 8 • 3pm
South Mandarin Branch Library

Come into the library to play with our LEGO bricks and pieces. We supply the LEGO bricks and fun - all you need to bring is your imagination.

Tree Work by **Mitch Drake & Sons**

Over 35 Years Experience

- Tree Trimming & Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Debris Hauling
- Wood Chips
- Crane Service
- Land Clearing
- Firewood

Free Estimates & Consultations

(904) 703-5040 Licensed, Insured & Workman's Comp **(904) 287-3819**

www.treeworkbymitchdrakeandsons.com

If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves.

~Maria Edgeworth, Irish author



GENERAL & COSMETIC DENTISTRY
GUSTAVO J. GARI, D.D.S.
"A GREAT SMILE IS A BEAUTIFUL THING"



Starting from left to right: Pam Parker (Off. Coordinator), Cindy Johnston (Dental Asst.), Dr. Gus Gari, Joy Major (Dental Hygienist), Caroline (Off. Manager)

Gari Dental provides a family friendly atmosphere with a skilled and qualified team, that is knowledgeable in all your dental needs. Our valuable team has over 100 years of collective experience.
Call today to schedule your appointment and experience the difference.

287-0033 • www.garidental.com
1631 Race Track Road, Suite 104 • St. Johns, FL

November 2013 Northeast Florida housing sales released

November 2013 real estate market statistics are now available from the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors. Except where otherwise indicated, statistics reflect combined results for single-family residential and condominium properties.

Median sales prices in northeast Florida continue on the upswing. A \$154,000 median marked an 18.6 percent increase from a year ago and a 15.9 increase year to date. The rising sales prices equated to sellers receiving an average of 93.2 percent of the original list price of their homes.

The number of closed sales finished out with 1,531 properties; a 1.9 percent dip from a year ago but up 22.5 percent year to date. Lender mediated sales are making up less of the pie these days—there were 558 (36.4 percent) lender mediated sales versus 973 traditional sales.

Homes are changing hands fairly rapidly, with days on market dropping to 79, a 25.5 percent shorter time than 106 days last November. Pending sales topped out at 1,813 for

a 14.7 percent increase from a year ago and a 23.2 percent increase year to date.

Despite an influx of 2,357 new homes to hit the market during November (new listings), the overall inventory dropped to 9,203; 10.7 percent less than a year ago. The reduced supply equates to just 4.9 months' worth of supply on hand; 26.9 percent less than last year at this time.

NEFAR President Carol Zingone says, "November's numbers are encouraging and show a substantially stabilized market. Lender mediated properties are declining, and while prices have risen to the point where sellers are getting more of a return on their investment, prices overall are still within reach for most buyers."

For these and numerous other real estate market statistics, take advantage of the free market reports available on the Market Stats tab of the new nefar.com.

need customers?

886-4919

Political Commentary Dredging decision demands deliberation

By David Milton

Remember when people were afraid of the St. Johns River? For many years, people dumped trash and toxins into the river because they misunderstood the river's true value – the river was treated like a liquid landfill. But within the past few decades, we realized the importance of a healthy river and started cleaning. Today, although our river still needs help, the St. Johns River is better than it was in 1970s. Our hard work and sacrifices are making a difference.

Within the last few months, political leaders from northeast Florida sought federal funding to dredge parts of the river to enable larger ships to access our port. Dredging proponents claimed the larger ships would bring more jobs and economic growth, while dredging opponents warned of irreversible damage to our river. Before the dispute could be resolved, the United States House of Representatives killed legislation that would've made federal dollars available to dredge the river. Although dredging has dried up (at least temporarily) as an issue, here's this month's topic: should the river be dredged properly to keep JaxPort competitive with other East Coast ports?

I can't answer the question – yet. But I'll share a few thoughts on some things to con-

sider when deciding the issue. First, we should recognize the difficulty of the decision. There are two apparently competing interests: the health of our river and a growing economy. If my experience has taught me anything, it's that none of us falls completely under one label or another. Here, we're all pro-business and we're all pro-river. We want to make the best decision for Jacksonville, but it won't be easy.

Second, we should base our decision – whether for or against dredging – on strong evidence, not on ideology or speculation. Both sides of the dredging issue should provide us with real, verifiable data addressing dredging's potential problems and possible benefits. It doesn't seem wise to rely on incomplete information or half-truths to make a decision that will have a lasting impact our river and our city.

Did you know that Jacksonville was recently ranked number three in the nation for "Hottest Market for Small Business Vitality" by the American Business Journals? This brings up my third thought: we should consider how larger ships – and the use of 380 million tax dollars to dredge the river for those large ships – will benefit Jacksonville's small businesses. Our small, locally-owned businesses provide goods and services,

hire employees and pay taxes. Because small businesses can be flexible and innovative, they're also the lifeblood of a vibrant, growing economy.

Dredging the St. Johns River is a big decision, a decision we must get right for us, our families, our city and our river. If we want to make the right decision, we need the best evidence available. False promises and inflated fears won't help us choose the best path forward. Once we have that best evidence, we must deliberate and debate thoughtfully and reasonably. Collecting the best information and asking the right questions is critical. After all, if our decision-making process is flawed, we're crazy to expect anything less than a flawed outcome.

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.

Mandarin Women's Club announces January 2014 luncheon

By Contributing Writer Sharon Weed

The Mandarin Women's Club has an exciting program planned for our January 23 luncheon. Since January is the month for New Year's Resolutions, we have asked nutritionist Julia McRae to be our speaker. Her program will be titled "Slimming Down with Super Foods."

McRae has been a licensed nutritionist for over 20 years. Her early years of practice were in Santa Monica, California where she quickly became known as the nutritionist to the stars. Demi Moore, Ringo Starr, Dick Clark, Paul Michael Glaser

and Clint Black were among the many celebrities that frequented her practice. From the start, her advanced level of natural health-care has provided individualized attention in a nurturing and supportive environment. McRae lectures nationwide on a variety of health topics and is in private practice here in Jacksonville.

The luncheon is held at the Ramada Inn, located at 3130 Hartley Road in Mandarin, with the doors opening at 10:30 a.m. The price to attend is \$16; reservations are required and can be made by calling Marilyn at 260-

8431 by Thursday, January 16.

The Mandarin Women's Club is a social club with numerous activities and is open to all women no matter where they live. We're always eager to meet new friends! For further information about the club and how to join, please call Diane at 880-5354.

Bring business
to your door!

Advertise in
Mandarin NewsLine
886-4919



ENJOY HEALTHY
SKIN YOU CAN
FEEL GOOD IN



DAVID BOYD, MD MADELIENE GAINERS, MD DOUGLAS ROBINS, MD KRISTEN STEWART, MD

FULL-SERVICE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL
DERMATOLOGY FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN

SKIN CANCER EXAMS
MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY
NON-SURGICAL SUPERFICIAL RADIATION
THERAPY (SRT 100) FOR SKIN CANCER

COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY
BOTOX®, Restylane®, Juvéderm®, Dysport®

GENITAL DERMATOLOGY
Southpoint Drive Office
(904) 446 - 3274



ADVANCED
DERMATOLOGY
and Cosmetic Surgery

FOUR JACKSONVILLE LOCATIONS:
4100 Southpoint Dr. East, Suite 1
14810 Old St. Augustine Rd., Suite 100
7855 Argyle Forest Blvd., Suite 701
2255 Dunn Ave.

866.202.6813 | ADVANCEDDERM.COM

Sell, Buy or Franchise a Business



John Zarou: (904) 716-7861
jzarou@tworld.com

Call today for a confidential no-cost valuation of your business



Bank's Mandarin office moves to new location

First Southern Bank is pleased to announce that its Mandarin office recently moved to its new permanent location at 10024 San Jose Boulevard and is now open to customers. The bank opened the original Mandarin office in April 2013 to meet the growing community banking needs of local small and mid-size business owners and consumers living in the Mandarin/Julington Creek communities and moved to the new location in December 2013.

Nina Howell, vice president

and market manager of First Southern Bank's Mandarin office, oversees the bank's services in the Mandarin community. As a 10-year resident and banker in the Mandarin area, Howell understands the market, as well as the needs of local businesses and consumers.

First Southern Bancorp had total consolidated assets of \$1.0 billion at September 30, 2013. The company provides comprehensive banking products and services through its First Southern Bank franchise.

Mandarin High School earns an "A" "A" and "B" high schools in Duval reach record highs

The Florida Department of Education announced high school accountability grades in mid-December, revealing that nearly 70 percent of Duval County high schools are an "A" or "B." After earning record achievement rates with graduation and college readiness, Duval County has the highest number of "A" high schools and the highest combination of "A" and "B" high schools in its history. Nine schools earned an "A" grade, up from seven the previous year; five earned a "B" compared to six in 2012; and six earned a "C," compared to eight the previous year. For the second consecutive year, Duval County does not have any "F" high schools. The district's record setting high school performance will likely improve after appeals are approved for both First Coast and Englewood, which earned enough points for an "A" and a "B" respectively. In addition, Duval County leads the largest seven school districts in the state in the percentage point increase of "A" high schools, and will match the state average in the percentage of its "A" high schools upon approval of the First Coast appeal.

"The work I have seen in Duval County high schools is improving; our teachers and leaders are demanding and supporting our students to become college and workforce ready," said Nikolai P. Vitti, Superintendent of Schools. "These results will only continue to improve as our systems to refine the quality instruction mature and develop over the years."

Leading the list of "A" schools with the most points gained (165) over the previous year is Duncan Fletcher High School, who earned a "B" in 2012. The additional schools earning an "A" are Atlantic Coast, Frank H. Peterson, Mandarin, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Paxon School for Advanced Studies, Stanton College Preparatory,

Darnell Cookman and Robert E. Lee which increased two letter grades. Schools improving to a "B" letter grade for 2103 are First Coast (on appeal to earn an "A"), Wolfson, Sandalwood, Ribault and Randolph. The schools earning a "C" letter grade include Edward White, Forrest, Baldwin, Terry Parker, Andrew Jackson and Englewood (on appeal to earn a "B").

Since 1999, the Florida Department of Education has assigned letter grades to individual schools based on student performances on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

High school grades are determined by 16 factors of student performance – reading, math (algebra 1 and geometry), biology and writing proficiency, overall learning gains in reading and mathematics, learning gains of the lowest 25 percent in reading and mathematics, four year graduation rate, modified five year graduation rate, four year at-risk graduation rate, five year modified at-risk graduation rate, acceleration participation and performance and college readiness in reading and mathematics.

99% Delivery • See menu online
FiveStarPizza.com



Happy Holidays!

262-9590
 Your community Pizza Shop in the Outback Plaza



Happy holidays to you!
 Choice of free garlic rolls, garden salad, brownie OR 2 Liter with purchase of Large One topping pizza for just \$12.99
EXP. 1/20/14. Mention coupon when ordering.

Visit our website: www.MandarinNewsLine.com

Mandarin Senior Center update

By Contributing Writer David Wunder, Center Activities Specialist, Mandarin Senior Center

January's here and we have what you need to keep those New Year resolutions! The Mandarin Senior Center has fun and exciting exercise classes and activities to help you shed those pounds. We have exercise classes every day of the week. Classes include stretching, line dancing and yoga, as well as Bokwa and Zumba Gold (exercise classes set to music). We're also adding belly dancing and a walking program this month!

Exercise not your thing but enjoy dancing and socializing? Mandarin Senior Center is the place to be on Thursday eve-

nings as we have a live band—Jacksonville's own 2nd Time Around—playing from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Singles or couples, come and see what you're missing! We have great music, dancing and socialization with interesting people. We serve dinner and everyone brings some snacks to share.

Check out our Wednesday evening activities as we offer Dinner and a Movie, Bingo and trivia throughout the month.

Please contact David Wunder at 262-7309 for further details on any of these events. The Mandarin Senior Center is located at 3848 Hartley Road.

Local CEO earns award for community leadership

Modern Healthcare magazine has announced Baptist Health President and CEO Hugh Greene as the winner of its 2013 Community Leadership Award. The magazine began this recognition last year to honor healthcare executives for their efforts to improve the health and well-being of people in their communities. Nominations were accepted for several months and Modern Healthcare editorial leaders chose 10 finalists from the national pool of nominees. Profiles of each of the 10 finalists were posted on the Modern Healthcare website

and online votes were accepted between August 5 and September 20. The overall winner was chosen by a combination of online voting and nomination review by senior editors at Modern Healthcare.

"I see this award not as a personal recognition as much as a reflection of our mission at Baptist and the fulfillment of our community social responsibility," Greene said.

Greene has dedicated countless hours to community service, serving in leadership roles on numerous boards, including the Sulzbacher Center, United Way of Northeast Florida, the University of North Florida and JAX Chamber.

He was the founding chair of JaxCare, a program for the working uninsured and, as chair of the Sulzbacher Center Board, he received the Excellence in Healthcare Award for his efforts on behalf of the homeless. Additional awards include the 2006 Leadership Jacksonville Community Trustee Award, 2012 OneJax Humanitarian Award and the 2013 University of North Florida's Coggin College of Business Distinguished Business Leader Award.

"Hugh is a trusted community leader and is always at the table when the most important issues in our community are being discussed," said Baptist Health Board of Directors Chair Robert Hill Jr.

BELIEVE

NOW in Jacksonville

WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE

Join Orangetheory & transform your body in 6 weeks. **\$2,500 IN CASH AND PRIZES**

MEMBERS CAN LOSE UP TO **8 POUNDS A WEEK**

Coming Soon! See Studio for Details

COMING SOON

orangetheoryfitness.com

1111 San Jose Blvd, Suite 13
Jacksonville, FL 32223
904-238-5272

Orangetheory FITNESS

Mandarin NewsLine
 YOUR
 Community Newspaper
 editor@mandarinnewsline.com

Local leader named state chief

National Longhouse, Ltd. announces that Brian Quirk (Flaming Arrow) has been named the Florida State Chief for the Native Sons and Daughters parent/child program. In his role, Quirk will be responsible for the dissemination of program information, growth of new Longhouses, training of new leadership and creating a storehouse of best practices. During his 12 years in the program, he has held various leadership positions at the local, state and national levels.

Quirk states, "I am excited to be a part of the continued growth of our unique parent/child program throughout the state of Florida."

The Native Sons and Daughters program has been in existence for more than 80 years and many of the dads who are currently involved were participants with their fathers when they were children. Those dads want to create some of the same lifelong memories that they established with their fathers. The Native American theme serves as a common level of interest between parent and child and reinforces traditional family values.

Once a father and child join a tribe, only their imaginations limit the activities they may encounter. Some of the activities include campouts, nature hikes, star gazing, tribe meetings, building crafts, Pinewood Derby racing, parades, canoeing, cookie decorating, ice skating, zoo sleepovers, bowling, kite flying, fishing, swimming, horseback riding, critter races, laser tag, go carting, putt-putt golf, totem pole building, rock climbing and many others.

Quirk shares, "When I first joined the program, one of the senior members asked if any of the dads did not have enough time. We all raised our hands. He then said, 'You are exactly the type of parents we are looking for.' You only have 18 summers to make a difference in your child's life. The first three to four years they don't remember. Once they hit their teenage years, their friends and activities begin to define them. So, the focus of our program is on children ages five to 12."

For more information on our program, visit our website at www.nationallonghouse.org or www.timucuan.org or www.floridanativesonsanddaughters.org.

Chiropractor

Stop suffering from:

- BACK PAIN
- NECK PAIN
- HEADACHES
- LEG PAIN
- DISC PROBLEMS
- HIP PAIN
- SHOULDER PAIN
- FIBROMYALGIA
- NUMBNESS / TINGLING OF ARMS & HANDS

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS

We Accept: Aetna • Blue Cross Blue Shield • Blue Care HMO • PHCS
United Healthcare • Cigna • Medicare • Coventry • Automobile Insurance

Sambursky Chiropractic, LLC
683-4376

See the Doctor today!
Immediate same day appointments available.

No Insurance, High Co Pays & Deductibles? *No Problem!*

12421 San Jose Blvd. #300 (just North of Sonny's BBQ)
Serving the Mandarin and Julington Creek area.
www.backbonejax.com



Dr. Bruce Sambursky
Chiropractic Physician
Over 25 Years
of Experience

Now
accepting
Blue Care
HMO!

Sherrer appointed to advisory council

Prudential Network Realty founder, president and CEO Linda H. Sherrer has been appointed to Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Luxury and Resort Advisory Council for 2014.

"I am honored to be asked to serve as an inaugural member of the Luxury and Resort Advisory Council for our new brand," Sherrer said. "Prudential Network Realty is the luxury leader in Northeast Florida and I look forward to using our 25 year history of success in this market to launch a fresh luxury campaign for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices."

Members were selected through a nominating process based on outstanding professional achievements and contributions to their communities and offices. As founding broker, president and CEO of Prudential Network Realty, Sherrer has successfully guided the company from its inception in 1988. Today, Prudential Network Realty is one of the most dynamic and respected real estate firms in Northeast Florida with nearly 300 real estate professionals in eight branch offices. Since its first listing at Epping Forest

Yacht Club, the company has been the market leader in the luxury home division.

During her tenure as president and CEO, Sherrer has received numerous honors including being named Prudential Real Estate Affiliates' National Broker of the Year in 1998. She has served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Jacksonville International Airport Board of Directors, on the board of directors of the Florida Association of Realtors and IM Sulzbacher Center, as past president of the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors and formerly held the position of Commodore at Epping Forest Yacht Club. Sherrer also served on the Jacksonville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Board of Directors for six years, including a term as chairman.

"Our company's success is a direct reflection of Linda's vision, mission and high standards, which is why Prudential Network Realty continues to significantly outpace the market in all areas of the business," said Christy Budnick, executive vice president of residential real estate, Prudential Network Realty.

"We are proud of our success in the luxury real estate sector and honored that Linda will have the opportunity to share her expertise with other members of our new brand."

S&J TREE FARM & NURSERY

2264 SR 13 N. 32259 • 7280 SR 13 N.

Call NOW for Your FREE Landscape Estimates

- Mulching
- Sodding
- Pavers
- Irrigation
- Landscape Plants
- Underbrushing
- Living Fences
- Plant Replacements

FREE LANDSCAPE ESTIMATES
Call us at 904-522-1786
or visit us at www.sjtreefarm.com

TAYLORMADE SOLUTIONS Co.



Over 30 years experience:

- Managerial Accounting Services
- Income Tax Preparation - Personal & Business
- QuickBooks for Windows & Mac
- QuickBooks Windows Certified ProAdvisor
- Excel® Spreadsheet Design & Support
- Year-End Accounting Reconciliation & Review

Contact Jim Taylor at 904.705.1692
or TaylorMade4You@att.net
or visit www.TaylorMadeSolutions.co

Duval County reaches record achievement levels in graduation rates

According to graduation rates released in early December by the Florida Department of Education, Duval County Public Schools has earned its highest achievement levels in the district's history. More than 72 percent of its students are graduating, an increase of 4.4 percentage points over 2012, making Duval County the leader in gains among the state's seven largest school districts (Broward, Dade, Duval, Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas). In addition, college entrance and

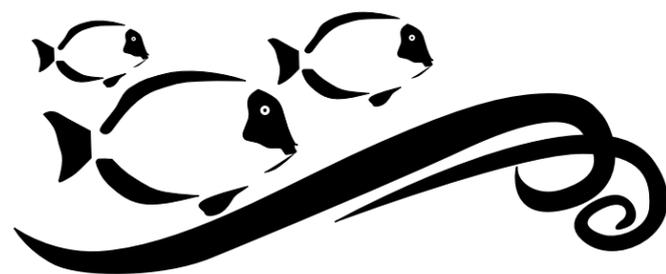
placement exam results have increased, showing that 80 and 60 percent of Duval County's 2013 graduates are college-ready in reading and math, respectively—an all-time high.

"One of our first areas of focus upon my arrival was developing the systems and expectations to increase our graduation rates," said Nikolai P. Vitti, Superintendent. "These outcomes released today demonstrate that students, principals, teachers and district staff have met the challenge, moving us closer to the state average and cutting the gap nearly in half. Not only are we posting gains in overall achievement, but our lowest performing students are graduating at higher numbers; we are on way to becoming a model urban school district."

- District highlights:
- District's rate of increase

was four times that of the state

- Ninth highest graduation rate increase in the state (out of 67 districts) and the highest among the seven largest districts
- Closed the achievement gap by nearly half as compared to the state average (6.8 percentage points to 3.5 percentage points)
- Greatest increase in the African-American graduation rate among the seven largest districts
- Third highest graduation rate among African-American students of the seven largest districts
- Increase in at-risk graduation rate (47.6 percent) by four percentage points
- Tied for the highest increase in the at-risk graduation rate among largest seven districts



Coral Reef Junkies

New Aquarium Store!

Saltwater Fish ~ Freshwater Fish
Live Coral ~ Starfish ~ Crabs
Fish Tanks ~ Aquarium Supplies

Come in
for your
FREE GIFT!

One Per Customer
Expires 1/31/14
While supplies last.

Now Open in Mandarin
9633 Old St. Augustine Rd.
(904) 551-2008

www.CoralReefJunkies.com
HOURS 10-7 • TUES-SUN (CLOSED MON)
Hablemos Español

Bring business
to your door!
Advertise in
Mandarin NewsLine
886-4919

Loretto Elementary hosts FIRST Lego League regional competition

By Contributing Writer Doug Riley



We couldn't have done it without the support of Mark McCombs from UNF and our own FLL Wisdom Warriors team parents," says Gina Riley, Loretto fourth grade teacher and one of the main organizers of the tournament. "We have a great group of parents in our school community that really took volunteerism and participation to the next level and they are the main reason this was a great experience for all the students that took a part in this challenge."

On Saturday, November 23, Loretto Elementary was full of enthusiasm, anticipation and learning as it hosted 16 teams comprised of North Florida youth in a FIRST Lego League (FLL) regional qualifying competition. Over 400 people attended this high-energy, fun-filled and sports-like robotics tournament. Teams from all over northeast Florida elementary and middle schools demonstrated their problem-solving, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play and sportsmanship skills.

"We are proud to be the first school in Duval County to host a qualifying tournament.

playing surface as well as create an innovative solution to a problem as part of their project, all while being guided by the FLL Core Values. The Core Values act as the cornerstone of the FLL program and teach participants that friendly competition and mutual gain are not separate goals and that helping one another is the foundation of teamwork.

The three elements—the robot programming, the research project and the Core Values—combine to create a yearly challenge. This year's challenge, Nature's Fury, calls

on FLL teams to research natural disasters and problem solve what can be done when intense natural events happen in the areas where people live, work and play. During the tournament, the teams had three rounds on the robot competition tables to get the best score possible. When not competing with their robots, teams gave their research presentations, were interviewed about the technical design of their robots and completed an activity illustrating how well they work as teams.

The following qualifiers

advanced to regionals, where they will compete for a chance to attend the state tournament to be held at the University of Central Florida in Orlando later in the year:

Team Green, Creekside Middle School, Port Orange, Florida
 Robonauts, Shadowlawn Elementary, Green Cove Springs, Florida
 Veerabots, Gandhi Memorial Society, Jacksonville, Florida

To learn more about the 2013 Nature's Fury challenge, please visit <http://firstlegoleague.org/challenge/2013naturesfury>.

Jacksonville Health & Wellness Center

Chiropractic ~ Massage ~ Mental Health Counseling ~ Functional Medicine ~
 Yoga ~ Spinal Rehab ~ Nutrition Counseling ~
 Meal Planning and Supplemental Guidance ~ Natural Hormone Balancing

Let Chiropractic help you with
 Headaches, Back, Leg, & Neck Pain, Work & Auto Injuries

Let our multidisciplinary approach help you with:
 Weight Loss, Fatigue, Diabetes, Depression, Anxiety, High Blood Pressure, Fibromyalgia, ADHD, Autoimmunity, Gluten Intolerance, to name a few.

268-6568
 9957 Moorings Dr., Ste. 403 (off of San Jose Blvd)
 Mandarin, Jacksonville 32257
www.DrRepole.com



Want your school's *Good News* to appear in Mandarin NewsLine?

Let us know what is happening in your school or classroom and we'll share it with your neighbors in Mandarin!

Send an email to editor@mandarinnewline.com
 Deadline is the 10th of each month!



Lights, camera, action!

By Contributing Writer Jill Donnellan, Acting Coach/Writer/Manager, Actors in Motion

Do you dream of seeing yourself in movies, on television and in commercials? Becoming an actor is one of the most fulfilling and fun career choices anyone can make.

How do I get into acting? Take acting classes. Do school plays and local theater. Learn your craft! Acting classes build confidence, public speaking

skills and allow you to find your creative genius in a safe, nurturing environment.

What's the difference between acting for the stage and acting for the camera? To be a theatrical actor, you must be able to project your voice and emotions and engage your audience. The acting style is much bigger than it is for film.

Because film is such an intimate medium, you must come from a place of honesty and develop your character well. Each line must be real. You can't fake cry or laugh for the camera! Less is more.

How do I know when I'm ready to audition? When you can do any role in your class or theatrical production and not feel nervous or out of your depth...you're ready. You must have confidence when you walk into an audition. Remember they're expecting you to be great. So go prepared.

Once I have my acting skills down, what do I do next? You will need 8 x 10 good quality headshots and a resume. I advise getting a smiling commercial shot, a dramatic shot and a character shot. Your resume should have your name, height, weight, hair and eye color at the top. Below you need to state the acting work you've done, acting training and any special skills. Staple it to the back of your picture.

How do I get an agent? Submit your headshot and resume with a cover letter seeking representation to a legitimate talent agency. You can find such agencies on S.A.G (Screen Actors Guild) and A.F.T.R.A (American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) websites. If your agent is local, make sure they have a state license. Personal managers are also a good way to go, but check them out and ask for references. Stay away from rip offs and scams on the radio and internet.

The most important thing to remember in learning to act is to enjoy the journey of discovery. Acting workshops give you a great way to unleash your potential star within.

For more information, please contact actorsinmotion@yahoo.com.



Come visit us at one of our new locations Bartram Walk Salon and Spa in Julington Creek!



BEFORE



AFTER

Complimentary Consultations for the Latest Advances in:

- Facial Rejuvenation
- Non Surgical Facelifts
- Contoura™ and Contoura Plus™

CALL NOW: 904-567-3841

Something NEW for 2014!

Purchase 1 syringe of Juvederm Ultra Plus & 20 units of Botox for \$750
 or
 Purchase 2 syringes of Juvederm Ultra Plus (to be used on the same visit and person) & 20 units of Botox for \$1250



J. Phillip Garcia,
MD, FACS



Roberto E. Garcia,
MD, FACS



5A Sanchez Ave,
St. Augustine, FL 32084

— the —
SPA & SALON
at bartram walk

108 Bartram Oaks Walk Dr.
Suite 201
St Johns, FL 32259



700 3rd St | Neptune Beach | FL
www.garciainstitute.com
904-567-3841

Mandarin Band News

Contributed by Levana Osher



Mark, Jay, Mikyla and Bailey—the four members who went to Tri-State at Florida State University.

Concert Band is officially in full swing for the Mandarin Mustangs. As the young musicians prepare for their many concerts and ultimately Music Performance Assessment also known as “districts,” they have more freedom to expand their individual world of music.

For some, this means practicing their music every night or starting private lessons, but for others it means playing for an advanced honors band.

We would like to congratulate our very own Mustangs who were accepted into these prestigious musical programs. Matt Turner, Amanda Olsavsky and Karen Eberhart played with the Gold Band at University of South Florida’s Festival of Winds. Mark Mc-

Cain, Jay Morgan, Bailey Peacock and Mikyla Hall were members of the Tri-State band at Florida State University. Zachary Schoonmaker and Alex Spock both represent Mandarin High School in the Jacksonville Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Mandarin High School has 10 musicians playing in All Districts this year: Alex Spock, Bailey Peacock, Mark McCain, Christen Owens, Davis Benfer, Mikyla Hall, Jay Morgan, Joe Russo, Matt Turner and Mark Coughlin.

Again, we would like to congratulate these wonderful musicians and thank everyone for supporting the Mandarin High School Band!

Mandarin Women’s Club members enjoy holiday trip to Biltmore Estate

By Contributing Writer Sharon Weed

On a glorious day last March, a group of ladies from the Mandarin Women’s Club were on a “Top to Bottom” walk in downtown Jacksonville led by Gary Sass, a local tour operator, when for some reason the subject came up of how beautiful the Biltmore Mansion in Asheville, North Carolina is at Christmas-time. Some expressed a wish to go and Sass responded with: I can take you! We decided to go for it and try to fill a tour bus. Sass came up with a marvelous itinerary and great price and we started to spread the word—that was the start of a summer-long effort to fill up that tour bus. We finally accomplished it by extending the invitation to members of the Mandarin Garden Club, the Bartram Trail Newcomers Club and all our friends, neighbors and relatives. We held an organizational meeting for other folks to meet Sass, meet each other and ask questions. And on August 8, Sass sent the email we had all been waiting for: “We’re going to the Biltmore!”

So on a cool morning in November, we all boarded that tour bus and were off. As those of us on the walking tour had already found out, our tour guide Gary is a hoot! As he welcomed us, he donned his antlers cap, which he wore the whole trip and got lots of laughs. After lots of conversation, several



potty stops, Cracker Barrel for lunch and a toast with White Russians and mud slides furnished by Tour Guide Gary, we arrived at the Hampton Inn Asheville. It’s amazing how quickly strangers can become friends.

We had a quick barbeque dinner, got into warmer Christmas attire and headed for the Candlelight Christmas Tour at the Biltmore mansion. It was breathtakingly beautiful all decorated for Christmas, including a 40-foot live Christmas tree in the banquet hall. Oh, did it smell nice! Music in the Winter Garden, a billiard room, a bowling alley, swimming pool (empty), 43 bathrooms, lots of bedrooms and on and on and on! There sure were lots of stairs to climb.

The next day it was back on the bus to the mansion for a daylight tour, but some of us toured the gardens and conser-

vatory instead or just shopped. Lunch was at Deerpark Restaurant on the Biltmore Estate followed by wine tasting at the Biltmore Winery and a tour of downtown Asheville. We spread out for dinner at a number of restaurants then boarded the bus for the trip back to the hotel. After a good night’s sleep, we were off for the trip home, with more potty stops and again Cracker Barrel for lunch, arriving in the worst weather we’d seen in three days.

A wonderful time was had by all with so many laughs our tummies are still hurting—and we’re now thinking about where we’re going next year!

Members of the Mandarin Women’s Club enjoy many fun activities and the club is open to all women no matter where they live. We’re always eager to meet new friends! If you’d like to join the fun, please call Diane at 880-5354.

We Offer Fastbraces!



Convenient Appointments
Before & After
Work or School!
Call today for your
FREE consultation!



KrantzDentalCare.com • (904) 880-3131

North Florida TPO elects 2014 officers and committee chairs

The North Florida TPO Board has elected St. Augustine Commissioner Nancy-Sikes Kline its chairman, succeeding Nassau County Commissioner Daniel Leeper who held the post two years. Sikes-Kline had been serving as vice chairman. Jacksonville City Council Member Doyle Carter was elected vice chairman and Clay County Commissioner Diane Hutchings was elected treasurer.

In addition, two TPO committees elected their leadership for 2014. Jeff Beck, Clay County Engineering Department, was elected chairman of the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) succeeding Mark Knight, St. Augustine Planning Depart-

ment. Beck had been serving as vice chairman. Calvin Burney, Jacksonville Planning Department, was elected vice chairman. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) re-elected long-time member Bernie O’Connor, a Duval County citizen, as chairman and Frank Riner, citizen of Orange Park, vice chairman.

The TCC is comprised of primarily planners and engineers representing various local governments within the TPO boundary who evaluate the technical sufficiency, accuracy and viability of proposed plans. The CAC is a volunteer body of residents and business people who review transportation plans from a community perspective.

The North Florida TPO handles a wide range of initiatives and projects that include the long range transportation plan; a five-year Transportation Improvement Program; Com-

muter Services/car and vanpool program; freight mobility and congestion management studies; coalitions for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and Clean Fuels; forums on integrating land use and transportation, public private partnerships, alternative fuels and global trade and transportation, to name a few.

The TPO is governed by a 15-member board of elected officials and transportation agency representatives. For more information, please visit www.northfloridatpo.com.

Support our fine Advertisers!

Tell our advertisers you saw them in

Mandarin NewsLine

COMEDY ZONE CELEBRATES NEW YEAR’S EVE

DINNER & SHOW CELEBRATION

CRAB LEG BUFFET,
COMEDY SHOW,
MUSIC & DANCING,
WITH CHAMPAGNE TOAST

\$65⁰⁰
per person

COMEDY ZONE BLAST OFF

COMEDY SHOW,
MUSIC & DANCING,
WITH CHAMPAGNE TOAST

\$35⁰⁰
per person

NOW AVAILABLE AT 904-292-4242 OR

COMEDYZONE.COM

Schedule subject to change. Check www.comedyzone.com for the latest information!
I-295 & San Jose BLVD | 3130 Hartley Rd Jacksonville FL 32257 | 904-292-4242(HAHA)



Virginia Arena and her grandmother Jane Throne, with Mandarin Community Club board members Pat Wojceichowski and Wanda Bosworth at the club's recent Speakeasy Supper. Throne celebrated her 90th birthday as well with the Mandarin Community Club.

Idaho: Lots more than potatoes

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

Idaho was one of those distant states I'd never visited, but after receiving a guidebook from the state tourism office, I couldn't wait to go. Promises of waterfalls, canyons, river rafting, hiking, fishing, skiing, wineries and yes...potatoes awaited me.

First stop was Boise, the state capital. I found a small city surrounded by foothills, a smaller version of the DC Capitol building, an interesting Basque museum and a football field with blue AstroTurf. Next up was posh Sun Valley, the first ski resort in the United States and one that is still highly prized. The Lodge offers top-of-the-line excel-



lence with numerous activities including an outdoor ice skating rink that's open all year. Ride

the gondola up to the summit for fabulous views and walk into the enchanting town of Ketchum—the epitome of what a ski town should be: a few small streets, hole-in-the-wall breakfast places, sports shops, lots of rough-hewn bars and taverns and casual dining on fabulous fare. Hemingway liked this town surrounded by mountains and you will too.

Onward to Twin Falls and the Snake River Canyon, a spot famous to those of us old enough to remember Evel Knievel and his infamous jump. The nearby Perrine Bridge is now famed by BASE jumpers (those who parachute off the bridge platform) and the river is outstanding for rafting.

If daring adventure is not your thing, visit Clear Springs Foods, the world's largest Rainbow Trout farm. The amazing company sits at the edge of canyon walls where water from an underground aquifer shoots through, creating ideal conditions for farming trout. At any time about 10 million trout are in residence! From Twin Falls I took off in a rental car and headed east towards Grand Tetons National Park, justifiably one of the most famous scenic wonders in the country. Stay on the Idaho side at the Tetons Springs Lodge and Spa, near Victor, for rustic western luxury in the shadow of the looming peaks. I could have easily stayed a week in this idyll spot.

Sadly, I did not leave enough time to fully explore the Tetons and would recommend a minimum of two to three days—but I was scheduled to go north to Yellowstone. While the park officially lies in the state of Wyoming, you get there through gorgeous sections of Idaho. It was all I could do to keep driving instead of stopping to take photos every mile. Talk about a big sky...wow! This part of the country is jaw-dropping delicious.

Yellowstone remains the Grand Dame of National Parks for good reason: simply the most astonishing and diverse landscape I have visited anywhere. One moment I was driving through a forested (and yes, snowy) mountain pass, the next gazing on a grassy valley filled with bison. I passed geo-thermal hot spots, boiling mud pots and shooting geysers like Old Faithful.

Truly, a western trip through Idaho, the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone is memorably outstanding and these parks should be a "must see" on everyone's list.



Recognize the symptoms of a stroke

Strokes are the leading cause of disability in the United States and the third-leading cause of death. Prompt treatment can limit the damage and save lives. If you suspect someone near you is suffering from a stroke, remember the acronym FAST:

F = Face. Examine the person's features. Ask him or her to smile. If one side of the person's face droops, it's possible that a stroke is coming on.

A = Arms. Can the person raise both arms above his head?

S = Speech. Listen to the person speak. If the words are slurred or the person can't answer questions clearly, the brain may be impaired.

T = Time. Act fast if the person exhibits any of these warning signs. Get him or her to a hospital right away.

Come Grow With Us!

Few industries have changed as fast—or as much—as the banking industry over the past few years. Atlantic Coast Bank has weathered the storm and looks forward to a prosperous future. Our newly appointed President and CEO, John Stephens, is enthusiastic about our bank's growth opportunities and invites you to join us during this exciting time.

Current Openings

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

COMMERCIAL CREDIT ANALYSTS

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

FINANCIAL ANALYST

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

MARKETING COORDINATOR

RECRUITER SPECIALIST

RETAIL BUSINESS BANKER

TELLER

TRAINING COORDINATOR

VP RETAIL ADMINISTRATION

VP RETAIL SALES



Atlantic Coast Bank is looking for talented people like you.

It is our goal to be the employer of choice. We strive to provide an engaging atmosphere that fosters professional development. We are looking for candidates with a passion for people. We are dedicated to providing personal service and helping our customers meet their unique banking needs. And as a community partner, we are focused on giving back in the markets we serve.

www.AtlanticCoastBank.net



An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

keyboardconnectionjax.com
9912 San Jose Boulevard

880-0002



Challenge Day once again a big success at Mandarin Middle School

By Martie Thompson



Mandarin Middle School hosted their second annual Challenge Day in the school's gym on December 9, 10 and 12. The successful event brought together 300 students plus community volunteers including local youth pastors and even Paul Spicer from the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The Challenge Day mission is to provide youth and their communities with experiential programs that demonstrate the possibility of love and connection through the celebration of diversity, truth and full expression. Founded by Rich and Yvonne Dutra-St. John, the six-and-a-half-hour experiential program is presented at schools across the country.

According to local event coordinator Jenn Duarte, "The purpose is to come together as a school and a group realizing that we all have baggage. It is how we deal with that baggage that counts. We learn empathy for others and the knowledge that you are not going through things alone. There is always someone there to help."

Duarte continued, "Challenge Day this year at Mandarin Middle School has been filled

with amazing breakthroughs, self awareness, empathy, emotion, love, friendship, compassion and overall respect for each other. We have received the best comments from outside volunteers about how wonderful our faculty and students are. In my humble opinion, we have the best faculty and students in the county. I am grateful for everyone for making Challenge Day another huge success. Notice, Choose and Act."

To get an idea of how well Challenge Day went at Mandarin Middle this year, here are some comments from participants:

"Challenge Day really opened my eyes to what people's lives are like. I look at

people in a different way now." (Christian Rodriquez)

"Challenge Day was a real reality check. It made you think about who you really are." (Lyric Washington)

"Challenge Day was a great experience. Without it, I never would have known that so many people had the same feelings that I have." (Rafael Peres-de Silva)

"Challenge Day was a true eye opening experience for our school, for me and all the adults that participated." (Melissa Bobija)

"Challenge Day was life changing." (Rachel Clayton)

"You are not judged, just loved in Challenge Day." (Cam Terry)



Chili Cook Off cont. from pg. 1



Brooks said his mom uses when she makes chili at home and it balances out the chili. If he won, Brooks would put most of the money toward a new hunting gun.

Max Mason and Shane Strickland, who used trial and error to find their chili recipe, ran the Care Spot station. Care Spot placed second last year and planned on donating any money back to the chamber, in support of what they do.

Mother of two boys with chili around their mouths, Jamie Ellis, enjoyed the A.R. chili station. So did her sons, who commented that it wasn't too spicy for them. Within the JAX Chamber inter-council competition, the West Council won. Howard Weiner won the People's Choice award, as well as second place according to the judges.

Chili-lover Troy McMullen won first place and a grand total of \$500, which he donated back to the JAX Chamber, who will use the money to support community programs.

ORCAS cont. from pg. 1

Members come from all over the area including Mandarin, Southside, Julington Creek and as far away as Fernandina Beach. The public is always welcome. As club President Gary Dickinson says, "Sailing or not, bring what you got."

In addition to the monthly sails at Losco Park they hold a monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at the American Red Cross Northeast Florida Chapter building located at 751 Riverside Avenue.

If you would like to learn more about the North Florida Operational and Radio Control Association of Shipwrights (O.R.C.A.S.) you can visit www.northfloridaorcas.org. There you will also find a photo gallery of the club's fleet.



Now Open, Completely Remodeled!

11262 Old St. Augustine Road
(located next to Hobby Lobby)

Call for Bookings!
904-899-9000
www.hiejax.com

kazu
JAPANESE RESTAURANT

MON-THURS 11am-10pm
FRI/SAT 11am-11pm
SUN noon-9:30pm

9965 San Jose Blvd. #35
Jacksonville, FL 32257
(904) 683-9903
www.KazuJapaneseRestaurant.com

Grand Opening!

We offer Kazu Kitchen Specials, Lunch Entrees, Dinner Entrees, Sushi Specials and Much More! Come Celebrate the Holidays with us! Highest quality in Jacksonville!

Bring your church bulletin and get 15% off every Sunday

20% off
the entire check
EXP 1/31/14



Love To Wear

WOMEN | JUNIORS | ACCESSORIES | SHOES | PURSES

We are a fun, fresh, fashion resale **clothing store** focusing on popular **brand names**, great quality apparel for women and teens, **all at budget friendly prices!**

WHY PAY RETAIL?

January Special
**BUY ONE,
GET ONE 40% OFF!**
Must present Offer. EXP 1/31/13
Limit 4 items per coupon, no cash value
Love to Wear

Restyle Refashion

11018 Old St Augustine Rd., Suite 121 • 32257
904-288-9555 • www.facebook.com/lovetowear
Hours: M-F 11-6, Sat 10-6

Online Christian business directory launches

Jax Christian Business creator and director Lynn Erhorn launches a new website this month, its mission to unify the Jacksonville business community around excellent customer service and ethics driven by their personal faith in Christ. All are welcome to browse the site and participate in the community, though business owners listing there sign a statement

of faith and Scripture-inspired code of ethics to qualify. Because a key strategy for growth is network marketing and word-of-mouth, the website has been announced with about 40 businesses in the directory and an invitation for the community to actively participate in referring new businesses and reviewing the ones already listed.

Plans for 2014 include

feature articles showcasing a business each month, mini-devotionals, coupons, an events calendar and more. And, to bring the online community together in person, plans are underway for several local events that include vendor meet and greets, prizes, special guest speakers and Christian performers.

“The idea of unifying the believing community is at the heart of the project, because it is my heart,” says Erhorn, a licensed Christian counselor and life coach. “If we stand together on these principles, we not only serve our customers with excellence, we have an opportunity to represent God in the marketplace.”

She makes the point that, regardless of the customer’s faith, they may rely on these businesses because they serve God first in order to serve them best.

The website was custom designed by Erhorn and built by eHermits, Inc., an Ohio-based web development company. Making the directory available quickly took precedence over perfecting every aspect of the design because they wanted the public to grow with them. A new design, mobile app and enhanced features are in production now.

“We like the idea of growing together,” Erhorn says. “That’s how communities do their best.”

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



Cindy's Cuts ■ 9735 Old St Augustine Rd #21 (Across from Big Lots)

Cindy Maule (904) 260-7071
Owner of Cindy's Cuts for 10 years. 30 years experience.

JoAnn LoSchiavo (904) 403-7803
Specializing in men's haircuts.

Janice Vincent (904) 923-8455
Specializes in color and highlights.

MAA charity tournament cont. from pg. 1

said Redenius. “In addition to sportsmanship, players in our tournament also get to learn about giving.”

Brad Coe, coach for the Ponte Vedra Athletic Association (PVAA), also noted the importance of having the Marines present at the tournament, especially on the anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941.

“We shared with our boys what happened at Pearl Harbor and how we pulled together as a country and used it as an analogy for working together as a team,” said Coe. “The tournament helped us teach our kids the importance of charity, patriotism, sacrifice and teamwork.”

The tournament attracted eight teams from Jacksonville-area athletic associations. Ten and under (10U) teams represented MAA, Orange Park Athletic Association (OPAA), PVAA, Fort Caroline Athletic Association (FCAA), Whitehouse and Fernandina Beach Athletic Association. Atlantic Beach Athletic Association (ABAA) fielded both a 9U and a 10U team. Seeding games were held at MAA’s home

fields in Burnett Park December 5 through 7 and the semifinals and championship games were played on December 8.

Many of the teams from last year were back again.

“We played last year,” said James Richard, assistant coach with OPAA. “We enjoyed the fact that the boys were not only able to share with the community, but also able to share that experience with fellow players and teammates.”

Redenius hopes to expand the tournament next year to include more age levels.

“We had six teams last year and eight this year. I am hoping to get twice as many teams participating next year and maybe double the amount of toys collected,” Redenius said.

For more information about MAA’s Toys for Tots tournament, contact John Redenius at jredenius@comcast.net. To learn more about MAA’s baseball program, go to MAA’s website at letsgomaa.org.

Registration is now open for the Spring 2014 baseball season. Go to www.letsgomaa.org to register (click on the same



Tournament director John Redenius speaks at the opening ceremony. Photo courtesy of Lauren Zuravnsky.

link for flag football). Registration fee for the spring season is \$120 until January 14, 2014 and the registration fee is \$135 from January 15 through January 31, 2014.

Bolles science students connect with aquanauts

As part of an interactive science experience, several classes on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus and both lower school campuses were able to Skype with aquatic scientists working in an underwater laboratory two and a half miles off the coast of South Florida. The real-time, virtual field trip provided students an opportunity to see for themselves what it’s like to live under the sea and ask questions of the scientists working there.

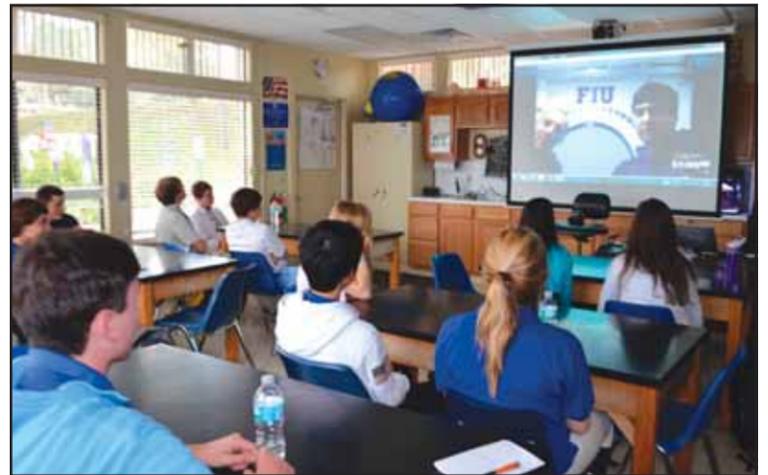
Bolles science classes participating in the Skype exchange included students of Nancy Hazzard, Rad Murphy and Jennifer Marees. Lower School Science Curriculum Specialist Carolyn Houston also hosted Skype sessions with the researchers for students on the Bolles Lower School Whitehurst and Ponte Vedra Beach Campus. Students spoke to several scientists doing research in Florida International University’s Aquarius, an underwater laboratory and home to scientists on underwater missions. Aquarius is located in a sand patch adjacent to deep coral reefs in the Florida Keys National Marine

Sanctuary at a depth of 63 feet, according to the website.

In addition to a tour of the underwater habitat facilities and science labs, students saw fish and other marine life swimming by the scientists’ portal to the ocean. They also were able to participate in a question-and-answer session with scientists and graduate students onboard who spoke about their field and various programs of marine study. Special lesson addendums also were available to students interested in learning more about the work.

Scientists onboard Aquarius are studying everything from herbivores and underwater predators to carbon dioxide concentrations and general health in the coral reef habitat. They spend roughly six hours a day in the water, 100 feet below sea level.

“Exchanges like these help put science in a real world context for our students,” Houston said. “It is exciting to connect students with scientists in the field, especially when they are more than two miles off the coast underwater.”



Business not as big as it used to be?

Call for a free consultation & we’ll work at increasing your business!

Mandarin NewsLine
886-4919



Now Enrolling for Voluntary Pre-K (VPK)

Register Now for the 2014 School Year

At Episcopal Early Learning Academy you will find a home-like environment that is warm and inviting. Nurturing early childhood professionals provide a sense of security that encourages children age six weeks through VPK to discover the world around them.

Call us at 904-394-0600 to schedule a tour today.

Lic. #C04DU1042



EPISCOPAL
Early Learning Academy
SAN JOSE
episcopalearlylearning.com

Welcome to the neighborhood



Branch Manager Darren McElhattan and local dignitaries cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening of the Chase Bank in Fruit Cove on December 5.

Japanese Restaurant
Sashimi Shrimp New Style
200+ Styles of Special Rolls
 Reserve space for your large groups.
 Fresh Daily Specials!

11531-09 San Jose Blvd.
Tel: 880-8888 • Fax: 260-6999

Delivery ~ Limited Area
 ~OPEN DAILY~
 Sun: noon-10pm Mon-Thurs 11am-10pm
 Fri-Sat 11am-11pm

\$10 Off
SUNDAY ONLY
 min. \$20
 Good with coupon only
 Expires 2/15/14

10% Off
EVERYDAY
 with \$5 purchase
 Good with coupon only
 Expires 2/15/14

Simple ways to make resolutions stick this time

A New Year often begins with good intentions, as thousands resolve to make positive changes in their lives. Resolutions are easy to make when one is toasting at midnight and ready to take on the world. But resolutions can be harder to keep as the days turn into weeks and weeks become months. Researchers at the University of Minnesota found that 80 percent of resolution-makers have given up by Valentine's Day. A January 2012 poll conducted in England found that, of the 3,000 respondents, roughly three-quarters of them admitted they were no longer confident they would stick to their resolutions for the rest of the month.

There are several different reasons why resolutions fail and recognizing potential pitfalls can help people stick with their positive changes throughout the new year. The following are a few ways to ensure your resolutions last the year.

- Don't make an unrealistic resolution. Losing weight is a popular resolution. Some resolve to drop dozens of pounds in an effort to completely transform their bodies. However, when the weight doesn't magically come off, it can be easy to grow discouraged. Weight loss is not instantaneous, and healthy weight-loss plans advocate gradual weight loss, such as one to two pounds per week. It can take several months to see a considerable difference if you're aiming to lose 50 pounds. Instead of setting such a lofty weight-loss goal, establish incremental milestones with tangible dates. For example, your resolution may be to lose 10 pounds by March 1. That is an attainable goal.
- Don't go it alone. You're more likely to have success with keeping a resolution if you have outside support. Enlist a buddy to go to the gym with you or provide support as you attempt to quit smoking. Having a support system in place can motivate and inspire, knowing someone will be keeping tabs on you may instill enough anxiety to propel you through your resolutions.
- Make resolutions for the right reasons. Making resolutions for the wrong reasons can be counterproductive. If you want to lose weight for cosmetic reasons and not to improve your overall health, you may find your motivation waning as the weeks turn into months.

Making resolutions for the right reasons often provides ample motivation.

- Avoid boring resolutions. Many people make boring resolutions that often focus on the mundane instead of more positive things. Resolutions need not be changes that profoundly alter your mental or physical well-being. Making fun resolutions will probably help you stick to them. Perhaps you will resolve to spend more

time with the kids or promise to try more adventurous activities. Maybe you decide it's time pursue a hidden passion, such as music or art. Enjoyable resolutions are much easier to keep.

- Avoid expensive resolutions. Before making a resolution, research how much a resolution might cost. Gym memberships or new hobbies may stretch your budget, and if you cannot afford a resolution, how can you keep it? If

money is a concern, choose resolutions that are fiscally possible.

- Keep resolutions private if you so prefer. Many people are compelled to share their resolutions with friends and family. However, that can lead to feelings of competition or animosity if someone is realizing goals before you. Feel free to keep your resolution private as you go through the process. Once you have met your goal,

then you can share your success with others.

- Don't give up too easily. Some people are up for a challenge and others are not. Resolutions typically require a little extra effort, especially in the early stages. Resolutions will not necessarily be easy to keep, but the longer you stick to a resolution the easier it becomes to make it a reality, so resist the temptation to throw in the towel too early.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Join a COMMUNITY

...NOT JUST A GYM.

NO JOINING FEE

FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH OF JANUARY

And get a welcoming gift while supplies last!

NO CONTRACTS AND INCOME-BASED RATES

Stop by, go online or give us a call to get started today!

FLAGLER CENTER YMCA
 12735 Gran Bay Parkway W, Suite 250
 Jacksonville, FL 32258
 904.370.9622

WILLIAMS FAMILY YMCA
 10415 San Jose Boulevard
 Jacksonville, FL 32257
 904.292.1660

CONNECT WITH FirstCoastYMCA



DOWNLOAD OUR APP



FirstCoastYMCA.org

- **FastForward Fitness, our free 90-day training and support program**
- **Unlimited group exercise classes with hundreds offered each week**
- **Guided play and learning for kids while parents work out**
- **Preferred member pricing on all Y programs, services and activities**





Mandarin Community Club celebrates holidays & anniversary at speakeasy supper

By Contributing Writer Lynn Cuda, Mandarin Community Club

The Mandarin Community Club hosted their annual holiday dinner for their members on Monday evening, December 16. Held at the club building located at 12447 Mandarin Road, this year's event featured a 1920s style Speakeasy Supper in celebration of the club's 90th anniversary. Period dress and music were part of the festivities. Donations for the Mandarin Food Bank were collected, a tradition the club has sponsored for over a decade.



Election of the officers and board for the upcoming year also took place on December 16. Those elected for 2014 were President, Emily Lisska;

Vice President, John Holloway; Treasurer, Melissa Chorpene and Secretary, Betty

Wolfe. A complete listing of the newly elected At Large members appears on the club website, www.mandarincommunityclub.org.

Perhaps best known as the host and sponsor for the annual Mandarin Art Festival held every Easter weekend, the Mandarin Community Club invites all interested parties to become members. The 2014 membership drive starts this month. For more information, please visit www.mandarincommunityclub.org or call 268-1622. Membership categories range from Individual and Family to Life. Businesses are encouraged to join at a special Business Level.



Clay Eye is proud to offer laser cataract surgery, the first of its kind approved by the FDA. It is designed to provide more accuracy, safety and precision to the cataract procedure. This laser uses 3-D image guided technology that maps the eye, allowing precise blade-free surgery.



Clay Eye Physicians & Surgeons
2023 Professional Ctr Dr.
Orange Park, FL 32073

Call 904-272-2020 or visit our website at www.clayeye.com to learn more about Laser Cataract Surgery.



This procedure is not suitable for all patients, individual results vary and are not guaranteed, ask for more details.

ATTN: COACHES!

Are you a youth league coach?

Send us photos of your team!

Just write up the:

• Who • What • When • Where • Why

Send to our Editor: Martie Thompson,
editor@mandarinnewsline.com

Lactation group celebrates third year at Baptist South

By Contributing writer Kristin Mackery, Coordinator, Community Relations and Volunteers, Baptist Medical Center South



The Baptist South Lactation Support Group recently celebrated its three-year anniversary. The group meets the fourth Wednesday of every month to encourage breastfeeding by offering support and reassurance to new

mothers, as well as practical advice from experienced mothers. During the last year, the group has averaged 14 moms in attendance each month.

New moms can sometimes feel overwhelmed with motherhood and breastfeeding, and the support they receive from each other is priceless. The motto for the group is "Never give up on a bad day!" The Lactation Support Group has led to lifelong friendships, as well as play groups and Facebook groups.

Baptist South is proud to support breastfeeding to help protect new babies from illness and infections. All moms need support in their decision to breastfeed, whether it is from a family member, friend or support group.

Lisa Hays, RN, IBCLC, facilitates the group at Baptist South.

She said, "The Lactation Support Group has been a highlight of my life in helping these moms reach their goals of breastfeeding their babies."

Mandarin NewsLine
is
YOUR
Community
Newspaper!

Send us your
community news!

editor@mandarinnewsline.com

7th Annual BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Mulch Madness

Fundraiser
Preorder Now for only
\$3.00 per bag FREE DELIVERY*
(Delivered between March 7th & 8th)
Natural Color & Red Mulch • Pine Bark Nuggets
Go to www.troop473.com for more information.
*32092, 32223, 32256, 32257, 32258, AND 32259 Only



AHCA and CMS
A 5-STAR RATED COMMUNITY
★★★★★

Complimentary Transportation
to and from referring physician follow-up appointments

11401 Old St. Augustine Road • Jacksonville, FL 32258
904-886-8454 • www.rivergarden.org/rehab

Short-Stay Rehab Programs Include

Post-surgical conditions
Orthopedic joint replacement
Orthotic and prosthetic training
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
Stroke and neurological conditions
Back pain and spinal procedures

Special Rehab Programs Include

Parkinson's Specialty Care
Dysphagia management
Osteoporosis management



Get Back

to what you enjoy most...

Your Life

RIVERGARDEN | Rehab
PERSONALIZED CARE WITH EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS

Start Here! Go Anywhere!

Hear stories! Talk about books! Prime Time comes to the Mandarin Branch Library!

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

Get ready for Prime Time! Make 2014 a really Happy New Year by reading with your child at the Mandarin Branch Library! For six weeks beginning on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m., the Mandarin Branch Library is hosting Prime Time, a free family reading program designed to build reading comprehension and critical thinking skills for families with children ages six and older. This family-focused program helps children succeed academically and brings families together around the joy of reading. Each weekly session begins with a healthy meal before focusing on storytelling, reading and discussion topics based on award-winning children's books with discussion groups conducted by scholars and storytellers. The award-winning books introduce fairy tales and folk tales from around the world, stories about problems children encounter and tales from history. An additional benefit is that the library staff will work closely with the parents and children on how to select books and become active users of library resources.

Prime Time is open to the public but is especially helpful for children that are struggling with reading comprehension skills and families who may not have the most positive past experience talking with their children about their school work or successfully helping their children with their school work. The program is also designed to foster academic success and achievements for children from underserved,

and/or low-literacy families as well as encouraging parents to start or continue with their own educational programs. Parents or caregivers must attend each session with their child and daycare will be provided for preschool age siblings. Prime time is all about spending quality family reading time in a fun and encouraging environment. Make plans today to get ready for Prime Time by calling the Mandarin Branch Library at 262-5201. Advanced registration is required.

Help us celebrate Snapshot Day on Wednesday, January 22. We will be taking photos all day long to make a record of a day in the life of the Mandarin Branch Library. We need your help! We need to take your picture! Stop by the Mandarin Branch Library between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on January 22 you will receive a new and improved JPL tote when you have your picture taken holding your favorite book. Light refreshments will be served. The photos will be displayed at the branch in January and sent to the Florida Library Association as a part of the state wide Snapshot Day



Library Board Of Trustees Chair Brenda Simmons-Hutchins and Deputy Director Carolyn Shehee Williams congratulate Mandarin Branch Library Clerk Jessica Jones on receiving a JPL Award for Modeling the Way.

program. The South Mandarin Branch Library will be hosting a Wednesday early release school age program called Cook a Book on January 22 at 3:00 p.m. The branch is hosting two programs on Thursday, January 23: Homework Success (formerly Parent Academy) with DCPS at 6:30 p.m. and Mother Daughter Book Club for grades four through six at 7:00 p.m. The mothers and daughters will be reading "Little House in the Big Woods" by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Please note all Jacksonville Public Libraries will be closed on Monday, January 20 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday.

Keep warm and cuddle up with a good book! See you at the library in February!

need customers?

886-4919

Crown Point Elementary—Family Fun!

On Saturday, November 16, Crown Point Elementary School Panthers celebrated fall during a fun family event. The second annual Fall Festival was filled with lots of exciting activities. The students, parents, teachers and staff enjoyed face painting, a balloon artist, and karate and gymnastics demonstrations and games. The dunking booth was a huge crowd pleaser and the bounce houses and slides were perfect for those who wanted some fun and exercise. Everyone enjoyed a variety of food from Dickey's Barbeque, Chunky tomatoes—and what is a Fall Festival without popcorn and cotton candy? The event was a huge success! Thank you, PTA, for a job well done!



HOME HEALTH AUTHORITY

YOUR CARE IS OUR PRIORITY

Do you know someone struggling with the daily tasks of living at home, or with finding reliable and continuous care for a loved one? Could they benefit from In-Home Care?

Home Health Authority provides compassionate, and affordable non-medical in-home care services to our clients. Available hourly around the clock 24/7.

— A Few Of Our Services Offered —

- Companionship • Medication Reminders • Transportation • Respite Care • Meal Preparation • Light Housekeeping • Personal Hygiene Care, Laundry • Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Care • Special Needs Children Care • Pregnant and New Mother Care



License # 299993967

Call today 904-388-4558

www.HomeHealthAuthority.com

Available 7-days a week, 24 hours a day. Offering hourly and 24-hour home care services.

Happy Birthday, Ginny Brunzela



The Barettes, a group known as the "Mandarin Ladies" when they worked together as Super Bowl volunteers back in 2005, hosted a surprise 90th birthday celebration for one of their own and everybody's favorite, Ginny Brunzel at the Blackstone Grill on November 22. A fine time was had by all!

Marinela M. Nemetz, D.D.S.
Board Certified Pediatric Dentist

Robert J. Nemetz, D.D.S., M.S.
Adult Dentistry | Periodontics | Prosthodontics

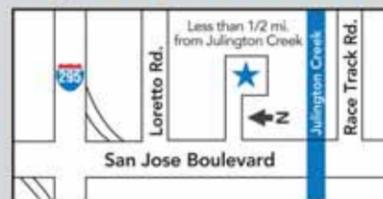


NemetzDentalAssociates
SPECIALTY DENTAL CARE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
Pediatric Dentistry • Adult Dentistry • Periodontics • Prosthodontics
www.nemetzdental.com

We are in-network providers with MetLife, Delta, Cigna, United Healthcare and most other PPO Plans.

Mandarin South Business Center
12421 San Jose Blvd. • Suite 310/320
Jacksonville, FL 32223
(Between Sonny's BBQ & Care Spot)

(904) 292-2210





Phuong Spa Room
SKIN, HAND & FOOT SERVICES

1 Hour Custom Facial
Only \$39
(Reg. \$65)
New Clients Only

Gel Polish Mani & Pedi
Only \$35
(Reg. \$55)
New Clients Only

Come experience the difference.
Phuong Spa Room
3956 Sunbeam Rd. #3
Jackconville, FL 32257
www.phuongsparoom.com
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
904.994.3215

Medically sanitized • Deluxe Treatment in PRIVATE Treatment Room

ADD/ADHD without MEDICATIONS

The American Academy of Pediatricians has given neurofeedback the highest grading of effectiveness for ADD/ADHD.



Provides a non-drug approach for diagnosing and treating ADD/ADHD and is based on research that has been widely replicated all over the world.

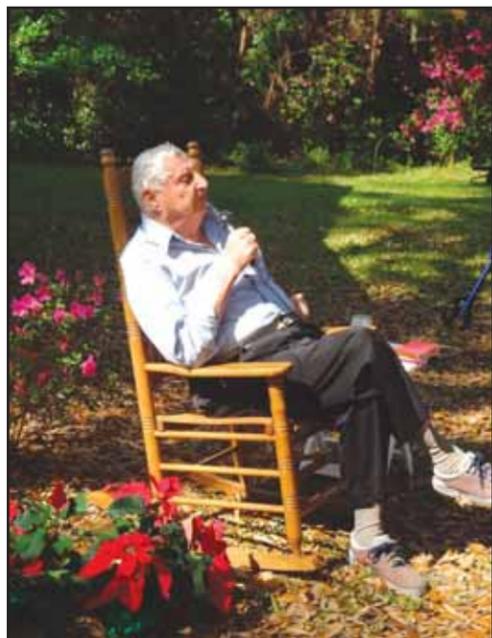
Other benefits include:

- Overcoming academic difficulties
- Progress is maintained once program is completed
- Better social skills
- Improvement of the emotional climate at home

BIOFEEDBACK ASSOCIATES
of Northeast Florida
Change your Brain. Change your Life.

904.646.0054
www.biofeedbackassociates.com

Front Porch "Chats" coming soon to Mandarin Museum



Mandarin historian Billy Barwald

Remember the great "Front Porch Stories" featuring long time Mandarin resident Billy Barwald earlier this year? This program was one of most popular events in 2013. Well, Barwald will be hosting a three session series inside the museum in January 2014. Instead of being stories, these will be more interactive with broad topics related to things that happened in the past that changed our lives—so we are calling them "chats."

Topics are open-ended and perfect for just having a

good old fashioned discussion. They include: "How one word changed each of us"; "What is the biggest change in our lives since the telephone and electricity?"; and "The politics of war—England and her people before and after World War II."

The dates are Sundays, January 12, 19 and 26 from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Mandarin Museum, located at 11964 Mandarin Road. Please come out and visit the beautiful Walter Jones Historical Park and the Mandarin Museum and meet one of Mandarin's elder statesmen – Mont William "Billy" Barwald.

For more information about Mandarin Museum please visit our website at www.mandarin-museum.net or call the museum at 268-0784.

got news?

editor@mandarinnewsline.com

Community Hospice grateful to receive Thanksgiving baskets

Merrill Lynch donated 120 cheerfully decorated baskets of food to Community Hospice which will be distributed to home care and Community PedsCare patients and their families in time for Thanksgiving.

"This is the 16th year Merrill Lynch has been donating themed food baskets to

Community Hospice during this time of year. A big thank you for their continued commitment to provide these gifts of love," said Dan Batty, manager of volunteer services for Community Hospice.

This event started at the request of a Merrill Lynch associate as a way to give back to Community Hospice for the services and support provided to patients and their family. The tradition has carried on ever since.

"We love this event and the opportunity to give back to Community Hospice," said Jessica Esquierdo, a Merrill Lynch employee. "Every year the week after Halloween I start receiving messages from associates wanting to know if we will be doing the Thanksgiving baskets again. The Merrill



Lynch employees get excited to participate in the basket decorating contest and I am always amazed at their creativity—they keep getting bigger and better."

Support our fine Advertisers!

Tell our advertisers you saw them in
Mandarin NewsLine

Mandarin Community Club membership drive is open

By Contributing Writer Lynn Cuda, Mandarin Community Club

The 2014 membership drive for the Mandarin Community Club (MCC) is underway. Membership is encouraged and open to all interested parties, especially those residing in Mandarin and NW St. Johns County. Founded in 1923, the club celebrated their 90th anniversary last year.

Located at 12447 Mandarin Road, the MCC sponsors and holds various events during the year, including political forums and community educational topics. It is probably best known as the organizer and host of the annual Mandarin Art Festival held on the club grounds every Easter weekend. The 46th annual Mandarin Art Festival will be held April 19 and 20, 2014. The Community Club also owns and maintains three historic properties: the Mandarin Community Club building (1872 Mandarin



School), the adjacent 1911 Mandarin Post Office and General Store and the Billard Commemorative Park (Brady Road). The Mandarin Post Office and General Store is leased to the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society for historical tours and educational purposes.

Membership levels range from individual to business cat-

egories. Complete information can be found on their website, www.mandarincommunityclub.org or by calling 268-1622. Membership application forms are also available in the box in front of the building on Mandarin Road and in the lobby of the Mandarin South Branch Library at San Jose Boulevard and Orange Picker Road.

Travel with us



Venice & the Italian Lakes
9 days March 31- April 8, 2014

\$2,999* per person/double (Chamber Members)

\$3,099* per person/double (Non-Chamber Members)



Treasures of Ireland

9 days April 21- April 29, 2014

\$2,999* per person/double (Chamber Members)

\$3,099* per person/double (Non-Chamber Members)



*Trip fee includes airfare from Jacksonville, hotel, ground transportation, some meals and planned excursions.

For more information, call (904) 366-6627 or email Larissa.Hicks@myjaxchamber.com

Recognize the symptoms of a stroke

Strokes are the leading cause of disability in the United States and the third-leading cause of death. Prompt treatment can limit the damage and save lives. If you suspect someone near you is suffering from a stroke, remember the acronym FAST:

F = Face. Examine the person's features. Ask him or her to smile. If one side of the person's face droops, it's possible that a stroke is coming on.

A = Arms. Can the person raise both arms above his head?

S = Speech. Listen to the person speak. If the words are slurred or the person can't answer questions clearly, the brain may be impaired.

T = Time. Act fast if the person exhibits any of these warning signs. Get him or her to a hospital right away.



Sushila's
BEAUTY CARE

FULL SALON & SPA

Now Offering:
Hair, Skin & Nail Services, Waxing,
Bridal Makeup, Henna Tattoos

5111-18 Baymeadows Rd.
Near Old Kings Rd. S.
Next to Raja Indian Grocery
904.731.7010
www.sushilabeautycare.com

10%-15% off All Products

Watch our "Sushila's Beauty Care" & "The Art of Eyebrow Threading" Videos on YOUTUBE

5111-18 Baymeadows Rd.
904.731.7010
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. EXP 1/31/13

Endulge in Exotic Beauty Treatments

Celebrate Our Grand Opening With Us!



www.jaxchristianbusiness.com

Visit our brand new online Christian business directory and become a part of an exciting community! Whether you need a real estate or insurance agent, a roofing contractor, new kitchen countertops, lawn service, a tailor, or a personal organizer, these businesses are among the best available because they serve God first to serve you best.

Features

- Business Directory (over 30 categories)
- Customer Reviews
- Coupons
- Church Directory
- Faith Community Events Calendar
- Ministry and Missionary Profiles
- Local Christian Artist Showcase

*Click on the **First Time Visitor** button for details on how you can help us grow!*

Jax Christian Business is a faith-based directory offered to everyone in this spirit:
 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." ~ Matthew 5:14-16

Business Owners: Apply TODAY for our Grand Opening package! 

Serving God First to Serve You Best



Yoga Den Studio

2929 Plummer Cove Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32223 • In Mandarin, south of I-295, across from Walmart • (904) 268-8330

Beginner and all Level classes:
Yoga Basics, Restorative Yoga, Mind Body Yoga, Yin Yoga

High energy, heated classes:
Power Vinyasa, Bhakti Power, Yogalates, Hard Core, Yoga Burn

Prenatal Yoga Sundays at 4pm

Teacher Training at the 200hr (starting Jan.) and 500hr level, certifying teachers for 10 years

Yin & Meditation Workshop Jan 31-Feb 2

www.yoga-den.com

Eric Paskel is coming to Jacksonville 2/28/14!

Yoga Den Studio and Boutique, Proudly serving Jacksonville and St. Johns for over 11 years!

\$65 a month unlimited, Student and military discounts!

Over 40 classes a week, from 6am to 7:45pm!

Coming Soon ~ New Location in Fleming Island early 2014!

First class always FREE!

MHS Happenings

Holiday fever at Mandarin

By Zoe Smolios, MHS Student

With the holiday season in full gear, Mandarin students are looking forward to the greatest gift of all: no school. The holiday break begins after the bell rings on Wednesday, December 18, after both of the winter sports pep rallies taking place that day. Since they will be out of school for a total of two and a half weeks, MHS students have a lot planned for their break away from stress.

Sophomore Ena Strikovic said that she will be spending the break watching Christmas movies and the Christmas episode of her favorite show, Doctor Who.

"I'll probably just go to the beach and surf and then come home and sleep," said Jake Jaquett, a junior at Mandarin.

Sophomore Savannah Mitton said, "I plan to get together with friends over break. I also want to go ice skating and my family always has a party on New Year's Eve."

A sophomore in AICE, Timmy Lynch says that he will be staying home with the family and mostly doing the homework he's assigned.

While many students plan on staying home and relaxing over the break, there are other students who are planning to travel to other states and even countries, for the holidays.

Sean Adams, a sophomore, said, "I go to Mississippi every year to spend the holidays with my family."

Whether students plan on staying home and relaxing with their friends and family or are going to travel to other parts of the country or world to spend the break, they can all agree that they are excited for a break away from it all, considering they will be returning to preparing for semester exams when they go back to school on January 6, 2014.

How to prepare for tax time

Although some are ready to say their fond farewells to 2013, thought needs to be given to the 12 months that just passed as tax-filing season approaches.

Tax season is a few months away, but it's never too soon to begin preparations for filing income taxes. Some people prefer to toast the New Year and then arrange appointments with their accountants, while others use the New Year as an opportunity to get organized and start compiling paperwork and tax questions. Preparing for tax time at the dawn of a new year can make the process go more smoothly in the months ahead. Here are some tips on how to prepare for the upcoming tax season.

- Start a documents folder. Employers, charitable organizations, banks and other financial institutions begin mailing out tax forms from the previous year in early January. Individuals should keep their eyes open for any mail that appears to be tax-related. Store these documents in a folder that can protect any sensitive information. Such folders also make information more accessible as more and more documents arrive in the mail.
- Begin collecting receipts and itemizing expenses. Many expenses are tax-deductible. These can include education costs, moving expenses, home improvements, medical expenses, charitable donations and childcare costs. Store receipts and other documentation, including canceled checks, with the other tax documents. These will come in handy should an audit ever be ordered.
- Create a spreadsheet of important information. It is handy to have all financial information at the ready. Some accountants will lower their fees if people do some of the filing preparation work themselves. This can include creating a profit/loss statement on investments, or working up a tally of charitable donations. Make an itemized list of all pertinent information so it will be handy when tax-filing time arrives.
- Decide on a filing option. Technology has made filing taxes much easier. Tax preparation software is available for those who choose to file their taxes themselves. There also are walk-in centers that will prepare tax-filing documents. Individuals also can visit a certified public accountant. Whatever method taxpayers choose, allow for ample time to gather information and get the taxes filed by the deadline. Leave some wiggle room in case one filing method doesn't work out.
- Start saving money. Although the goal is to get a refund each and every year, taxpayers sometimes owe money, which can be troublesome for men and women whose budgets are stretched thin already. Those who owed money in the past should begin saving money for tax expenses as early as possible.
- Develop a good filing system. Many financial professionals will advise people to keep financial records for seven years. Any tax documents should be kept together should they need to be referenced or if an audit is ordered. Designate a filing cabinet or a box specifically for tax documents.

Doing a little LIGHT entertaining?

Shop during our Holiday Sale!

21% Off

All Chandeliers



Shop Jacksonville's largest selection of chandeliers. Choose from 100's of styles and finishes just in time for the holidays.

*Sale Ends Jan. 31st. Excludes prior promotions, sale items as marked. In stock items only.

WE WON'T BE BEAT ON INTERNET PRICING!



Jacksonville • 10130 Philips Highway • (904) 262-8113
 Across from Avenues Mall, exit 339 Open 7 Days A Week AveLighting.com

COME VISIT OUR **ZOO-THEMED PEDIATRIC DENTAL OFFICES!**

YOUR CHILD'S DENTAL VISIT WILL BE AS ENJOYABLE AS A TRIP TO THE ZOO!



WEAVER & STRATTON PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT CALL OR VISIT US ONLINE:

904.264.KIDS | 264KIDS.COM

TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS!

JULINGTON CREEK OFFICE • 112-203 BARTRAM OAKS WALK • ST JOHNS, FL 32259
ORANGE PARK OFFICE • 1584-1 KINGSLEY AVENUE • ORANGE PARK, FL 32073



We are in-network providers for MetLife, Delta, AETNA, Cigna, United Healthcare, and most other PPO insurance plans.



facebook.com/264KIDS

School adds enrichment opportunities

By Contributing Writer Dr. Madelyn Speagle, Principal, Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran School

Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran School (SOTWLS) added sixth grade this year and several new opportunities for students to expand their horizons: Patrols, Journalism Club, Homeless Pet Club, after school soccer, archery and dance. Students in second through sixth grade in the Journalism Club meet after school three times a month to learn about writing, speaking and publishing. The Journalism Club is publishing a monthly newspaper and the school's yearbook. Following is their first article.

Nature in Action at the Lakeshore by SOTWLS Journalism Club

On November 6, 2013 the students of Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran School had a rare chance to see nature in action. Just after recess a turtle was spotted crossing the road behind the sanctuary. One of the students went and got a teacher who went to investigate. What the teacher found was simply amazing. The turtle had started to dig her nest right behind the sanctuary just off a road that runs along the back of the

building. She dug a deep hole of nearly 6 inches and began to lay her eggs. In all she laid between 10 and 15 eggs in the nest before covering it up and making her way back to the pond she calls home. The staff quickly erected a barrier around the nest so that it would not be disturbed. The students in Pastor Peacock's class were given the task of researching the turtle's species, nesting habits and the incubation period for the eggs.

After extensive research the students determined that the turtle was a yellow bellied slider, a common turtle for the North Florida area. They tend to live in ponds, marshes, slow moving rivers and swamps. The can live for around 30 years in the wild and will grow to a size 9 to 13 inches with the females being larger than the males. Yellow bellied sliders are also a popular species to be kept as pets. In captivity they can live to be nearly 40 years old.

Sometime between late January and early February we expect to have baby turtles poking out of their nest ready to greet the world and move into our lake. Stay tuned!

New Year Special!

Bring in this ad and receive

\$15 OFF

from your First Session fee valid until 1/31/14



Our #1 Priority: Your Children!

Classes are exciting and motivating!

CALL TODAY! • 260-4866

www.starlightjax.com

Join the Fun!

• Great Birthday Parties • Fun Fridays • Camps

We are conveniently located at the corner of I-295 and San Jose Blvd.

Movie Review

Thor, the Dark World

Directed by Alan Taylor. Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman and Tom Hiddleston. Review by T.G. Stanton

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

This month's movie review belongs to the film *Thor, the Dark World*, a fantasy, action, adventure for adults and teens to enjoy.

Dark elves seem to love a dark world. At least, that seems to be the case when after thousands of years of captivity, the first thing they seek is a weapon known as the Aether, an indestructible tool that can plunge the universe into darkness. Thor, portrayed by Chris Hemsworth, has been cleaning up and saving the nine realms governed by Asgard for the last two years. His goal was to complete these tasks to return to the woman he loves, Jane Foster, played by Natalie Portman, but now the elves see a chance to find their weapon and destroy Asgard. A hero's work is never done.

While continuing her study of the scientific anomalies that brought Thor to her two years ago, Jane discovers a portal that brings her into contact with the Aether and puts her life in dan-

ger. Now, against the wishes of his father Odin and with the aid of his brother Loki, played respectively by Anthony Hopkins and Tom Hiddleston, Thor will fight his way through dark elves and seek a way to save Jane and the earth, as well as Asgard. But can he trust a brother who once tried to kill him and their parents? Loss and revenge may guide them both.

For one of his first feature film directions, Alan Taylor knocked it out of the park. The film is action-packed while still packed with emotion. From family strife and losses

to saving realms and fighting elves, the action and story go hand-in-hand, seldom lagging in between. Chris Hemsworth plays a great super hero, even to strangers on a subway. In addition, Tom Hiddleston made Loki the next best thing to being a superhero; he's the bad boy trying a ride on the other side. Natalie Portman has once again played the simple woman, Jane, as plucky and brave, even when faced with dangerous phenomenon and beings that fly through the air. The story made the sequel engaging and makes you hope for another one.

Want your school's Good News to appear in Mandarin NewsLine?

Let us know what is happening in your school or classroom and we'll share it with your neighbors in Mandarin!



Send an email to editor@mandarinnewsline.com
Deadline is the 10th of each month!



San Juan del Rio Catholic School
1714 State Road 13, St. Johns, FL 32259



~Please join us at our Open House~
January 26th
12:00-2:00p.m.

San Juan del Rio Catholic School, just south of the Julington Creek Bridge on State Road 13, serves the Mandarin area and Northwest St. Johns County. Established in 1995, SJDR offers an Award winning and Gold Seal accredited Pre-K3 and VPK program for 4 year olds, as well as Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Students may participate in a variety of athletic programs as well as school activities. A full extended day program both before and after school are available.

In the tradition of Catholic education, San Juan del Rio Maintains a strong academic program in a Christ-centered environment. A caring faculty instructs students using the comprehensive curriculum established by the Diocese of St. Augustine. Learning support and academic enrichment are available.



Please call 904-287-8081 for more information.

Grandparents raising grandchildren group forming

By Contributing Writer Isabel Balotin, Shalom Jacksonville

When Susan and Larry Tallis moved with their grandson to Jacksonville in 2011 they came as full time guardians for their three-year old grandson Bryan and adopted him this past January. The phenomenon of grandparents raising grandchildren has increased significantly over the past decade. At a time in their lives when thoughts of retirement and traveling are pleasantly pressing issues, raising a child or a grandchild somehow isn't in the plan for most grandparents.

Newcomers come to new communities with a variety of needs. Some can be filled by the Federation, others by Jewish Family and Community Services, the JCA-Jewish Community Alliance, River Garden or our synagogues and schools. Every now and then there is a need to be filled and it takes a newcomer to create the awareness.

I was the first person Tallis called when he came to Jacksonville. In addition to his desire to share his photography with Federation, he shared with me his family nucleus and at that point was not sure how permanent it would be but wanted to know if there were other people in the community raising grandchildren. At that time there was no organized group. For the last two years Tallis has been vocal about the need for support groups for "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" in our community and he is willing to lead the charge. Tallis sees that there is no commonality with young parents and just has little in common with "normal" or "typical"

grandparents who are done raising their family and are focusing on adult activities.

He says, "Sometimes it would just be nice to be with people experiencing what we're experiencing. While others might crave good Chinese food, good pizza, Susan and I crave good adult conversation where we feel we fit in. Most of our commitment to Bryan is 100 percent joyful, but it's that every so often that we take a deep breath and say, "Wouldn't it be great if there were others we could share with?"

Tallis also points out that there are many three generational families. The difficulty of recent college graduates finding employment makes it sometimes impossible for young graduates to live on their own and they come home to the nest.

While Shalom Jacksonville's mission is to help newcomers and those newly interested in making Jewish connections to our community, sometimes we can help create an awareness or even facilitate the creation of a program and then hopefully, it will find a permanent home in our community. If you are interested in attending a meeting to discuss the formation of a support group, please contact Larry Tallis at larry@tallisphoto.com.

For more information about our many newcomer programs, please contact Isabel Balotin, at 448-5000 x206 or shalomjax@jewishjacksonville.org. Shalom Jacksonville is a program of the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville and is the official Jewish welcome wagon of Northeast Florida.



Faith News

DivorceCare for adults and DivorceCare for Kids (DC4K) ages five through 12 begins January 9 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Freedom Christian Fellowship, located at 3423 Loretto Road in Mandarin. The DivorceCare support group consists of 13 sessions meeting each Thursday. More than 50 top experts on divorce and recovery topics are featured on the DivorceCare video sessions, followed by discussion. DivorceCare for Kids works in conjunction with the adult DivorceCare program, blending videos, games, music,

crafts and activities to create a warm, caring environment for children of divorce. To sign up for DivorceCare, log onto their website: www.divorcecare.org and click on "Find a Group" on the menu bar and enter our zip code, 32223, or call us at 268-2244.

Start off the new year with a fresh cup of java and lots of friendly conversation at our monthly **Jewish Java** on Wednesday, January 8 from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at the Village Bread Café on San Jose Boulevard. Please note the date

change. Join our friendly regulars and make new friends in a very casual atmosphere. Purchase a bagel, Danish or breakfast and get a free cup of coffee or tea. This month we are delighted to welcome Leslie Held who will share some of the volunteer opportunities available at River Garden Senior Services. We meet the first Wednesday of every month and invite everyone to join us no matter how long you have lived in Jacksonville. For more information about the Jewish community, please contact Isabel Balotin at 448-5000 x 206 or shalomjax@jewishjacksonville.org.

jewishjacksonville.org.

The Jewish Community Alliance will close its 17th annual **Book Festival** with a special event featuring author A Jay Cristol on Sunday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. Judge Cristol is a federal judge in South Florida and the author of *The Liberty Incident Revealed: The Definitive Account of the 1967 Israeli Attack on the U.S. Navy Spy Ship*. More than 45 years after the deadly attack on the USS Liberty by Israel's Air Force and Navy in 1967, the incident is still a matter of controversy.

After years of intensive research in both Israel and the United States, Cristol establishes definitively that the Israeli attack was a tragic mistake. Judge Cristol served as a naval aviator in Korea and Vietnam, as a military and civilian lawyer and spent a decade researching the Liberty incident. His collection of research material on this subject is considered to be the largest and most complete of any collection on the subject in the world. The book will be available for sale and signing. The event is free and open to the entire community.



HARDAGE GIDDENS

FUNERAL HOMES & CEMETERIES



Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home of Mandarin
11801 San Jose Blvd • Jacksonville, FL 32223
904-288-0025
www.hgmandarin.com

Jeana G. Lind, LFD, Location Manager
Jim Turtur, LFD • Shannon Curry, LFD



Lifetree Café Jacksonville celebrates two years of community service

In a world where powerful interests emphasize the differences between groups and individuals, the Lifetree Café weekly conversation events bring a new sense of community and understanding to Jacksonville through small group conversations—conversations where attendees share their own experiences. When we share our own stories and listen to the stories of others, we gain insight into our differences, realize how much we are all alike and improve our sense of community belonging.



Lifetree Café is a place where you are welcome just as you are. Your thoughts are welcome; your doubts are welcome; it is where people get together for stimulating conversations about topics of interest in today's world. Some topics are fun like the recent event titled "Body Language," while others are about more sensitive subjects.

At a recent event where the topic for discussion was "The Black and White Truth About Racism" a participant mix of approximately 50/50 blacks and whites had frank yet civil discussions. Individuals shared their own stories and experiences with racism and also lent a listening ear to the stories and experiences of others. New friendships were made and by the end of the session, there was general agreement that racism will only be banished when each one of us is willing to get up, put one foot in front of the other, leave our comfort zone and get to know people who are

different from us.

That's the Lifetree Café way—to foster understanding through conversation. Lifetree Café events are often spiritual, but never religious. The events help to grow inter-generational, inter-racial, inter-religious and inter-gender understanding and bonds by providing a safe environment where people can share of themselves, their stories and their feelings about sensitive topics without fear. Lifetree Café friends agree to disagree agreeably!

Lifetree Café is offered as a community service. Admission to the one hour event is free and so are the refreshments; there is nothing to join. Friends come as frequently or infrequently as they want; however, be aware that meaningful conversations on a deeply personal level can be addicting – you'll want to come again and again!

- Lifetree Café at Mandarin Senior Center, located at 3848 Harley Road, meets on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.
- Lifetree Café at Hope near Baymeadows and Interstate 95, located at 9000 Cypress Green Drive, meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Check the Mandarin NewsLine and Southside NewsLine online calendars to see a preview of each weekly event. Check us out at LifetreeCafeJAX.org.

org or direct questions to George Treiber at 731-0731 or gtreiber.hopejax@gmail.com.

Purposeful Parenting

Don't forget to say "Thanks!"

By Allie Olsen

I am so glad things have slowed down. January brings calm after the busyness of the holidays... right?

Ha! If your family is anything like mine, you aren't exactly kicking back on the couch eating proverbial bon-bons every evening. It's back-to-school, time to re-organize and find room for all the new toys and time to get back in shape after eating all those Christmas cookies.

Even knowing your family is quite busy, may I exhort you to add one important thing to your to-do list? Help your kids say "thanks"!

Each January I hit this same topic. It is so important, especially in our "me" centered and stuff-centered culture, to teach gratitude. As I considered gratitude freshly for 2014, I freshly realized I can't make my children be grateful—gratitude comes from the heart. I can, however, encourage a grateful mindset. One of many ways to do this is to have my children say and write thanks.

When the Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it," it clearly isn't talking about beautiful handwriting and eloquent thanks. So as you help your children develop gratitude, feel free to be creative!

I think it's most special when the thanks flows from the child's particular gifts. Not Christmas gifts, but God-given gifts. My

artistic Timothy may draw his thanks while his structured, first-born older brother prefers to write a detailed thank-you note. If you need some fresh ideas, here are some ways we've said thank you:

- Draw a "thank you" picture. Glitter wins over the four-year-old every time
- Write a funny/exaggerated story about how much the toy has changed their life
- Take a thanks picture (especially appreciated if you didn't send a Christmas photo!)
- Set aside time for a phone call

Our goal as parents shouldn't be to look like the perfect family. So please don't make your child feel compelled to thank perfectly! Instead, use this as an opportunity to incorporate love and gratitude into your family culture.

I put thank you cards in each of our six kiddos' stocking each year. And I often say they need to thank for a toy before they play with the toy. But this is to reinforce our family culture of gratitude (instead of entitlement), not a hard and fast rule.

Who knows what they'll look back on fondly in years to come?! I hope and pray my hubby and I have modeled respect, gratitude, faith and love so that we can sit back and watch them pass on these same Biblical traits to our grandchildren! Maybe they'll even say thanks!

NEW PATIENTS ALWAYS WELCOME!



12058 San Jose Boulevard
Suite 102
Jacksonville, FL 32223
(904) 880-3131
www.KrantzDentalCare.com

New More Convenient Hours!
Appointments as Early as
6:30am & as Late as 6pm!

- No Insurance? Affordable Dental Coverage as Low as \$17/mo.
- Same-Day Appointments
- Emergencies Welcome



We Will Maximize Your Insurance Benefits!

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Reconciliation

Saturday - 4:30 p.m.

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday - 8:00 a.m.,

10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon

Hispanic Mass

Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

Historic Church

Polish Mass

2nd & 4th Sunday -

10:00 a.m. - Historic Church

Traditional Latin Mass

Sunday

11:15 a.m. - Historic Church

Brazilian Mass

Sunday

6:00 p.m. - Historic Church

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. Historic Church

Friday

8:15 a.m. Main Church

11730 Old St. Augustine Rd.

Jacksonville, Florida

904-268-5422

Helping your small business grow BIG!

Leave A Lasting Impression!



- Sales training for your small business
- Inside and Outside Sales Training
- Cold Call training
- Coaching and mentoring
- Working to ensure your marketing efforts generate revenue
- 17 Years Sales Training Experience

Promotional Presence

450-106 State Rd. 13 N, # 274
Get started today! Call 904-287-7574
www.promotionalpresence.com

Did you know? Fun January facts

January is a time of change and new beginnings. People often look forward to January as a chance to wipe the slate clean, often resolving to make changes to improve their quality of life in the months ahead. Such traditions may date back to the ancient god for which the month of January was named.

January is named after the ancient Roman god Janus, who

was the god of beginnings and transitions as well as the god of gates, doorways and passages of time. Janus also was believed to preside over the beginning and ending of conflicts. Janus is usually depicted as having two faces that point in opposite directions. Because of these dual faces, Janus was seen as duplicitous and being in charge of opposites. According to Roman

mythology, Janus was able to see into the past and the future. He also was depicted as guardian of the new year and keeper of the calendar. There was no counterpart to Janus in Greek mythology.

When examining the many attributes of Janus, it is easy to see why the month of January would be named after this multifaceted ancient Roman god.



Exercise benefits the brain, too

Regular exercise can benefit the body in many ways, helping men and women maintain healthier weights and lower their risks for developing potentially deadly diseases. Though many people are quick to associate exercise with its physical benefits, those hours spent on the treadmill also can boost brain power.

According to Dr. Barry Gordon, professor of neurology and cognitive science at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions and coauthor of "Intelligent Memory: Improve the Memory That Makes You Smarter," exercise has a direct impact on the brain. That's because exercise works directly on brain tissue, improving the connections between nerve cells, creating new synapses, growing new neurons and blood vessels, and improving cell energy efficiency. So while many people may begin an exercise regimen with a goal of trimming their waistlines or toning their bodies, they might be happy to know that those physical benefits are accompanied by several cognitive benefits as well.

As the American Psychological Association acknowledges, the connection between exercise and mental health is hard to ignore and the APA notes that the following are just a few of the mental benefits men and women might reap from regular exercise.

Improved mood: Many people feel great after exercising, especially if that exercise comes at the end of a particularly stressful day; however, those extra laps on the track or those hours spent on the tread-

mill don't just pay short-term dividends. In a controlled trial overseen by Duke University researcher and clinical psychologist James Blumenthal, sedentary adults with major depressive disorder were assigned into one of four groups: supervised exercise, home-based exercise, antidepressant therapy or a placebo pill. Those in the exercise and antidepressant groups had higher rates of remission than those in the placebo group and Blumenthal concluded that exercise was generally comparable to antidepressants for men and women with major depressive disorder. In addition, in following up with patients a year later, Blumenthal found that those who continued to exercise had lower depression scores than those participants who were less active. Blumenthal's study was not the only one to conclude that exercise can have a positive impact on mood. In a review of 11 studies that examined the effects of exercise on mental health, Boston University professor of psychology Michael Otto and his colleagues found that exercise could be a powerful tool when treating clinical depression and even recommended clinicians include exercise as part of their treatment plans for depressed patients.

Antidote to anxiety: Some researchers, Otto included, have begun to examine the effects of exercise on treating and possibly preventing anxiety. The body's nervous system responds quickly when people feel frightened or threatened, often causing the body's heart rate to increase and sweating and dizziness to occur. Those people

who are especially sensitive to anxiety respond to these feelings with fear, and that makes them more likely to develop panic disorders. But Otto and fellow researcher Jasper Smits of the Anxiety Research and Treatment Program at Southern Methodist University studied the effects that regular workouts might have on people prone to anxiety. Since exercise produces many of the same physical reactions, such as sweating and an elevated heart rate, the body produces when responding to fear or threats, Otto and Smits wanted to determine if exercise might help people prone to anxiety become less likely to panic when experiencing fear or threats. In studying 60 participants with heightened sensitivity to anxiety, Otto and Smits found that the subjects who participated in a two-week exercise program exhibited marked improvements in anxiety sensitivity compared to those participants who did not take part in the exercise program. Otto and Smith concluded that this improvement was a result of the exercise group participants learning to associate the symptoms common to both fear and exercise, such as sweating and an elevated heart rate, with something positive (exercise) instead of something negative (anxiety).

Regular exercise benefits the human body in numerous ways, not the least of which is its impact on the brain. More information on the link between exercise and improved mental health is available at www.apa.org.

American Heritage Girls keep busy serving community

By Contributing Writer Carey McGuirk, Vice-Coordinator, American Heritage Girls Florida Troop 1512

American Heritage Girls Florida Troop 1512 officially started here in Mandarin on September 30 and since that time, these girls have had almost 100 hours of service as a troop! They have worked in the Christ Church food pantry, made Christmas cards for military service members, packed 27 Operation Christmas Child boxes, honored veterans at the Billard Park ceremony for Veterans Day, rang the bell for the Salvation Army for a whole day and will place wreaths on the graves of Veterans at the Jacksonville National Cemetery before Christmas. We have also been invited to march in the parade for the Gator Bowl event on

January 1, 2014.

What a great group of girls who are learning to serve in the community of Mandarin and to honor America's military and veterans!

In addition to serving, they have also completed a cooking badge and will next work on a badge called Social Skills and Etiquette. Keep an eye out for these girls because they are truly making a difference in our community!

Currently our group of girls range in age from kindergarten to sixth grade and if you are interested or have any questions, please email the troop at AHGFL1512@gmail.com.

THE FOLLOWING ADS HAVE NOT BEEN SCREENED BY THE SOUTHEASTERN ADVERTISING PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION (SAPA); Therefore, any discrepancies thereof shall not be the responsibility of the aforementioned association. Your publisher has agreed to participate in this program and run these ads as a service to the Southeastern Advertising Publishers Association.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beware of loan fraud. Please check with the Better Business Bureau or Consumer Protection Agency before sending any money to any loan company. SAPA

AUTOMOBILES

TOP CASH FOR CARS, Call Now For An Instant Offer. Top Dollar Paid, Any Car/Truck. Any Condition. Running or Not. Free Pick-up/ Tow. 1-800-761-9396 SAPA

BLOWN HEADGASKET? Any vehicle repair yourself. State of the art 2-Component chemical process. Specializing in Cadillac Northstar Overheating. 100% guaranteed. 1-866-780-9038 www.RXHP.com

TOP CASH FOR CARS, Any Car/Truck. Running or Not. Call for INSTANT offer: 1-800-454-6951

BUSINESS SERVICES

High-Speed Internet is available where you live today with HughesNet! Get SUPERFAST internet available anywhere for only \$39.99 per month with FREE installation! Ask about our NEW phone service! Call Today! 1-800-266-4409 www.probroadbandsolutions.com

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

My Computer Works: Computer problems? Viruses, spyware, email, printer issues, bad internet connections - FIX IT NOW! Professional, U.S.-based technicians. \$25 off service. Call for immediate help. 1-888-582-8147

EDUCATION/INSTRUCTION

EARN YOUR High School Diploma at home in a few short weeks. Work at your own pace. First Coast Academy. Nationally accredited. Call for free brochure. 1-800-658-1180, extension 82. www.fchighschool.org SAPA

EMPLOYMENT / HELP WANTED

\$\$\$ Get Loaded \$\$\$ Exp Pays-up to 50 cpm New CSA Friendly Equip (KWs) CDL-A Required. 1-888-592-4752. www.ad-drivers.com

FINANCIAL

Beware of loan fraud. Please check with the Better Business Bureau or Consumer Protection Agency before sending any money to any loan company. SAPA

\$\$\$ACCESS LAWSUIT Cash Now! Injury Lawsuit Dragging? Need fast \$500-\$500,000? Rates as low as 1/2% month. Call Now! 1-800-568-8321. www.lawcapital.com Not valid in NC SAPA

HEALTH & MEDICAL

Canada Drug Center is your choice for safe and affordable medications. Our licensed Canadian mail order pharmacy will provide you with savings of up to 90 percent on all your medication needs. Call Today 1-800-265-0768 for \$25.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. SAPA

VIAGRA 100MG and CIALIS 20mg! 40 Pills + 4 FREE for only \$99. #1 Male Enhancement, Discreet Shipping. Save \$500! Buy The Blue Pill! Now 1-800-491-8751 SAPA

VIAGRA 100MG and CIALIS 20mg! 50 Pills \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 1-866-312-6061

MISCELLANEOUS

Dish TV Retailer -SAVE! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months.) FREE Premium Movie Channels. FREE Equipment, Installation & Activation. CALL. COMPARE LOCAL DEALS! 1-800-351-0850.

Wrap up your Holiday Shopping with 100 percent guaranteed, delivered-to-the-door Omaha Steaks! SAVE 67 PERCENT - PLUS 4 FREE Burgers - Many Gourmet Favorites ONLY \$49.99. ORDER Today 1-800-715-2010 Use code "4937 CFW" or www.OmahaSteaks.com/holiday33

DONATE YOUR CAR - FAST FREE TOWING 24 hr. Response - Tax Deduction UNITED BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION Providing Free Mammograms & Breast Cancer Info888-759-9782. SAPA

Medical Guardian - Top-rated medical alarm and 24/7 medical alert monitoring. For a limited time, get free equipment, no activation fees, no commitment, a

2nd waterproof alert button for free and more - only \$29.95 per month. 800-983-4906

* REDUCE YOUR CABLE BILL! * Get a 4-Room All Digital Satellite system installed for FREE and programming starting at \$19.99/mo. FREE HD/DVR upgrade for new callers, SO CALL NOW. 1-800-725-1835. SAPA

MEET SINGLES right now! No paid operators, just real people like you. Browse greetings, exchange messages and connect live. Try it free. Call now 1-888-909-9978. SAPA

DIRECTV, Internet, Phone \$69.99/mo +Free 3Months: HBO*Starz*SHOWTIME*CIN-EMAX*+FREE GENIE 4Room Upgrade +NFL SUNDAY TICKET! 1-855-302-3347

CASH FOR CARS, Any Make or Model! Free Towing. Sell it TODAY. Instant offer: 1-800-864-5784

Meet singles right now! No paid operators, just real people like you. Browse greetings, exchange messages and connect live. Try it free. Call now 1-888-909-9905

Dish TV Retailer-SAVE! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months.) FREE Premium Movie Channels. FREE Equipment, Installation & Activation. CALL. COMPARE LOCAL DEALS! 1-800-309-1452

Have fun and find a genuine connection! The next voice on the other end of the line could be the one. Call Tango 1-800-807-0818. FREE trial!

PERSONALS

Have fun and find a genuine connection! The next voice on the other end of the line could be the one. Call Tango 1-800-984-0160. FREE trial!

SATELLITE TV

DISH TV Retailer. Starting at \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) & High Speed Internet starting at \$14.95/month (where available.) SAVE! Ask About SAME DAY Installation! CALL NOW! 1-800-351-0850

REDUCE YOUR CABLE BILL Get a 4-Room All-Digital Satellite system installed for FREE! Programming starting at \$19.99/MO. FREE HD/DVR upgrade for new callers. CALL NOW 1-800-795-1315 SAPA

VACATION/TRAVEL

NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAINS Start a family tradition for the Holidays! Cabins, Vacation Homes, Condos. Pets welcome! Boone, Banner Elk, Blowing Rock, Foscoe Rentals 1-800-723-7341 www.foscoerentals.com

CAVENDER CREEK CABINS Dhalonega, North Georgia Mountains. **WINTER SPECIAL: Buy 2 nights, 3rd FREE! 1.2 & 3 bedroom Cabins with HOT TUBS! Virtual Tour: www.CavenderCreek.com CALL NOW Toll Free 1-866-373-6307 SAPA

WANTED TO BUY

CASH for unexpired Diabetic Test Strips! Free Shipping, Friendly Service, BEST prices and 24 hour payment! Call Mandy at 1-855-578-7477, or visit www.TestStripSearch.com Espanol 1-888-440-4001 SAPA

CASH PAID- up to \$28/Box for unexpired, sealed DIABETIC TEST STRIPS. 1-DAY PAYMENT. 1-800-371-1136

Wants to purchase minerals and other oil and gas interests. Send details to P.O. Box 13557 Denver, Co. 80201

ADVERTISE to 10 Million Homes across the USA! Place your ad in over 140 community newspapers, with circulation totaling over 10 million homes. Contact Independent Free Papers of America IFPA at danielleburnett-ifpa@live.com or visit our website cadnetads.com for more information.

Reader Advisory: The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather supply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID, or credit card numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or may not reach Canada.

CommunityMarketplace

Attention Small Businesses!!!

For just \$39 per issue you can reach 26,000+ addresses
(min. of 6 issues) Call 886-4919 today!



JOB Finder

Looking for a job in Mandarin?
Here's where you can find one close to home.

Massage Therapy
Alicia Hunter LMT
Only \$50 an hour #MM12329/MA53865
Swedish • Deep Tissue
Neuromuscular Therapy
(904) 514-5788
www.hunterlmt.com
A New U Massage located in San Jose Office Center, Next to Sonny's and Ace Hardware
\$5 OFF with this ad.

American Eagle
Lawn Care
Quality Services
Affordable Rates
Licensed & Insured
No Contracts
FREE Estimates
502-0891

ICE SKATING
LEARN TO SKATE
Public Sessions Everyday
Olympic Size Birthday Parties
Hockey and Figure Skating
ice & sportsplex
JACKSONVILLE
904.399.3223
JAXICEANDSPORTSPLEX.COM

CONCRETE WORKS
Catering to the needs of the Homeowner
• Driveways • Concrete Removal
• Patios • Driveway Extension
• Walkways • Pavers
FREE ESTIMATES
838-1836
Call Today for Free Decorative Trim with Driveway Job!

Crystol's
Exquisite Catering
Let Crystol's cater your wedding, open house, luncheons and holiday parties. We make every event memorable.
(904) 448-1500
www.crystols-exquisite.com

Janitorial Office Cleaners
EXPERIENCED Evening Janitorial Office Cleaners Needed.
Weeknights and/or Weekends
Part-time ONLY
Submit application to:
www.environmentcontrol.com

ANDY ONCALL®
Repair and Remodeling
~ Pricing by the job - not by the hour ~
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
Call about FREE Window Cleaning
213-8701
Lic. #CRC1330545
FREE ESTIMATES

Breakthrough Age-Defying Treatment

hsey.nerium.com

T.V. AND FILM ACTING CLASSES
For all ages. On camera each week. Dramatic & Comedy Scene study Commercial & Audition Techniques, Improvisations and Monologues Taught by Top Hollywood Acting Coach
JILL DONNELLAN
Julington Creek Plantation Club location
(818)879-0486
www.actorsinmotion.com

Kirkland's Lawn Care
We Take Pride in Your Lawn
www.prideinyourlawn.com
(904) 451-9824
We do it ALL!

Ideal Weight Loss

12276 San Jose Blvd. #512
(904) 880-0202
www.dietjacksonvillefl.com
at Life Mission Chiropractic

thirty-one™
independent director
FUN FUNCTIONAL GIFTS
Lorraine Inman • 352-275-2035
OrganizeU@mangocats.com
https://www.mythirtyone.com/Autism

SHOE REPAIR & ALTERATIONS
• Shoes • Handbags • Leather Jackets • Expert Alterations •
10601 San Jose Blvd. 32257, Ste. #103
Mon-Fri 9:00-6:00 • Sat 10:00-2:00
904-292-0246
Mandarin Landing Shoe Repair

All Pro Grooming
Now at All Pro Grooming
Pet Stylist
Natalie Hamlin
Formerly of Petco
FOR AN APPOINTMENT
CALL 904-292-3844

Steam Lux
Refresh Renew Restore
Professional Cleaning
Carpet • Tile/Grout • Upholstery
Residential & Commercial
904-240-9324
www.SteamLux.com

Everybody reads Mandarin NewsLine!
Shouldn't your ad be included?
886-4919

SNIP'S
TREE & STUMP SERVICE
Bucket Truck/Bobcat Tractor Services
Paul Oklevitch
ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST
Over 25 Years Exp.
FL-5456A LICENSED & INSURED
268-1017
www.snipstree.com



Help Wanted

F/1 reception/Doctors office please fax resume to 683-4378.

Barber with clientele wanted for Mandarin shop. 9043618550.

Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home of Mandarin has a Part-time On-call Funeral Staff Associate opening. Must be available days, evenings and weekends. 904-288-0025

Full time and part time servers/bus person/hostess needed. Contact David at 904-683-9903 or dchen1987@gmail.com

Busy Dog Grooming Shop looking for a dog bather. Hours 9 am til all dogs bathed. Will train. Call Sharon Lucas 904 813 0918

Pool cleaner to maintain residential customer accounts. 1 year experience required. Pool service and repair technician. 2 years experience in all aspects of pool repair cleaning, and renovation. Must have valid clean driving record and pass background test. Please respond to r.schmitz@comcast.net with applicable work history or a resume.

Water Treatment Installer (plumbing skills required) needed for 23 year old water treatment

company. Must have clean drivers record and clean background. Benefits. Immediate opening. Please call: 262-0197 or e-mail: Terri@affordablewaterjax.com

Join the Baptist South circle of care. Visit e-baptisthealth.com for the most up to date list of job openings. Listings are updated daily and change often. If you have any questions, please call Human Resources at 271.6078.

Seeking Licensed Massage Therapist @ A New U Massage(MM12329) Mandarin furnished massage room available NOW. Room rent is \$375+ 7% tax (\$401.25) a month. Rent can split w/other LMT. Phone: 904-288-0064.

Hood Cleaning Technician - This is a part-time position starting at \$10.75/Hour. Work hours during the night or early morning hours when restaurants are closed. Power washing of kitchen exhaust systems including hoods, duct work, filters and exhaust fans. Please respond to this ad with cover letter and resume to jeff.sowell@hoodz.us.com

HELP WANTED! If you like music (and other arts) and would like to volunteer to support a non-profit organization bringing music to the community, please call 374 8639



Did you know? Helmets

Cyclists may soon rethink their helmet choices. Anna Haupt and Terese Alstin, two post-graduate students at the University of Lund in Sweden, designed an invisible helmet that is actually an air bag cyclists can wear around their necks. Named the "Hoevdig," the protective gear employs sensors to detect sudden jolts. When such jolts are detected, the sensors trigger a helium gas cylinder to inflate the helmet and prevent injury. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, cyclists account for 2 percent of motor vehicle crash deaths in the

United States, and 72 percent of those fatalities are adults over the age of 20. Helmets can significantly reduce head injuries and death, but many adults do not like wearing the standard helmets made of styrofoam and plastic, feeling such helmets are cumbersome. The Hoevdig is poised to change how cyclists view helmets, but it may take some time for the helmet to catch on in North America. So far it is available only in Europe and would have to meet requirements established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to be sold in the United States.

What do you think?
www.research.net/s/190276
Mandarin Newsline would like to learn about readers like you! Please participate in this quick online survey so we can keep bringing you the best community newspaper in town. You can take the survey online at: **www.research.net/s/190276**
Or scan the QR Code with your smart phone.

Participate and you could win a \$50 Gift Certificate to Whole Foods Market!



Meet Mandarin's new school board member... Jason Fischer



17th Annual
MANDARIN
FALL FESTIVAL
& CHILI COOK-OFF

PRESENTED BY:
JAX FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Thank you
to our Sponsors, Volunteers,
Chili Cook-Off Participants
Crafters, and Attendees!

Sponsored by:
MANDARIN COUNCIL OF THE JAX CHAMBER
RT PUBLISHING, INC. – ROBERT E. BURKE, CPA – VYSTAR CREDIT UNION
GOLD STAR ADJUSTERS
ATLANTIC SHORES REALTY OF JACKSONVILLE – GOLD HILLS JEWELRY
FIT BODY BOOT CAMP - SWIMMING SAFARI – CARESPOT
ARTHUR MURRAY – JAX FIT BODY BOOT CAMP

Special thanks to:
SAFEGUARD PRINTING – STEPHENS ADVERTISING
MANDARIN HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS – RIVERPLACE SHOPPING CENTER
CHASING TYPE

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
STAY UP-TO-DATE ON NEXT YEARS' FESTIVAL AND MORE!

FB.COM/MANDARINFALLFESTIVAL MANDARINCOUNCIL.ORG

Design Courtesy of ChasingType.com

MHS Sports Roundup

By Hazel Odell, MHS Student

The soccer, basketball, wrestling and girls' weightlifting season was short and sweet at Mandarin High school this winter.

The girl's varsity soccer team held its own with 10 wins, one tie and two losses as of December 12. The tie was between MHS and Episcopal, on Wednesday, October 30. The two losses were against Fletcher (2-0) and Bolles (2-1). The junior varsity girls have also had a winning season with eight wins, one tie and three losses as of December 12. The tie was against Fletcher and the losses were against Episcopal (1-0), Bishop Kenny (3-1) and Fletcher (3-2).

"The team has made a big turnaround since the first game; we've been playing Mandarin soccer the way it's meant to be—intense and as a team," said sophomore and junior varsity player Ena Strikovic.

The boys' varsity soccer team has a lot of support from the students. This was seen back in November, when countless students proclaimed, "support the jorts" across social net-

works. They embraced rival Atlantic Coast's insult that "MHS wears jorts."

The support does not come without reason. The boys have won five games, tied one and lost one as of December 12. Both the tie (2-2) and the loss (4-0) were against Fletcher.

The soccer teams can't really complain about their results this season, besides the fact that Fletcher has been a cleat in their butts.

The varsity boys' basketball team has struggled to make a strong impression. They began with a close loss of 52-51 against Terry Parker on November 21. After that game we have witnessed a depressing four losses and two wins as of December 12. But there is plenty of room and time for improvement, since their season will only end on January 30.

The varsity girls' basketball team's future looks a little brighter. As of December 12 they have won five games and lost three. Two of the losses were 10 or fewer points away

from a win. Their season will end on January 25.

Mandarin's girls' weightlifting team has done exceptionally well, despite the fact that most people (including students) do not know that the sport even exists.

The team of 33 girls competes in "benching" as well as the "clean and jerk" at meets. Two lifters' cumulative scores are counted in each meet. The team with the girls that earn the most points wins a meet. The fact that the team had lifters in every weight class, aided them in earning points and winning every one of their meets.

Sophomore Brooke Feltman said, "Coach Nosse and Coach Braddock have worked really hard to make weightlifting a true sport this year and it has paid off. We are ready for districts coming up in January and I am looking forward to the competition!"

Top lifters will compete in a district-wide competition on January 11. The team's final meet was held on December 16.

Gardening: Winter wonders

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

December began with a cold snap, but temperatures rebounded rapidly to the low 80s. That shouldn't have been a surprise, given our location, but it makes gardening quite challenging.

During the first week of December, my neighbor's evergreen azalea boasted a single flower; you know, the old fashioned type that blooms reliably year after year, but usually in one relatively brief show, in spring. Nowadays there are true exceptions to this rule, however. Azaleas sold under the trade names Encore, Bloom-A-Thon and ReBLOOM should flower at least twice a year, in spring and late summer through fall, depending on weather conditions.

The Encore and ReBLOOM types are lower growing than the Bloom-A-Thon series, so would be a good choice for traditional foundation planting. Be aware that azaleas thrive in acidic soils and concrete foundations can raise the pH of soil to the detriment of acid loving plants. A free soil test done at the Extension Office (located at 1010 North McDuff Avenue, phone 255-7459) could be useful.

For household maintenance, consider the mature width of plants, as well as their height when deciding where to place them. For four-foot wide shrubs, allow for two feet of plant plus

two feet of space, so plant at least four feet away from your house. The taller Bloom-A-Thon azaleas would be quite at home in a partially shaded mixed border. Choose the size of shrub that suits your space and rid yourself of that yearly pruning chore. Your shrubs should develop more naturally and look more graceful.

There are several native azaleas that can flourish here, given the right circumstances. They bloom in spring and are deciduous, so again, towards the back of a mixed border could suit. They are wonderfully fragrant, however, so don't plant them where that attribute would be missed. See <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp503> and <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp504>

For flowering winter shrubs, camellias fit the bill. From the early blooming *C. sasanqua* through to *C. japonica*, there is a shrub for everyone. For more information, visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep002>

Another shrub for winter interest is the sweet or tea olive, *Osmanthus fragrans*. When I first encountered this modest looking plant it blew me away with its perfume and I planted one near my garage as soon as we moved here. Beginning early in December, particularly on sunny days, the tiny flowers never fail to welcome me home with their lovely perfume and this from a plant that I really must confess to neglect; it has an iron constitution!

The native *Osmanthus americanus*, or Devilwood, is a large shrub or small tree and is also fragrant, but it flowers in spring. It prefers a moist, well drained soil, but is drought tolerant once established. Like native azaleas, it is becoming more widely available.

November through February is a fine time to plant shrubs—put the right plant in the right place and water carefully until it's established.

Happy New (gardening) Year!

Mandarin NewsLine APP is now **LIVE!**



Available for both iTunes and Google Play!

We're proud to give our loyal readers an easy way to digitally access Mandarin NewsLine. A new, simple-to-use app will allow you to read each edition in its entirety on your tablet.



Happy New Year from
Don Juan's
MEXICAN RESTAURANT
Authentic Mexican Cuisine
LUNCH • DINNER • TAKEOUT
Celebrating 10 years of service
Thank you for your patronage
Visit: donjuansjax.com
12373 San Jose Blvd. • 268-8722

\$3 Off Lunch or Dinner Special
with purchase of two lunch or dinner entrees
Excludes Speedy Gonzalez and Daily Lunch Specials.
Good with coupon only,
Expires 1/31/14.

Don Juan's
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Margarita Monday \$2.50 all day with purchase of an entree or appetizer



Vertigo - What is it?

What can cause dizziness/imbalance?
BPPV Explained
What is Vestibular Rehab Therapy?
When should you seek treatment from a Physical Therapist?

Yearly more than two million people visit a doctor for dizziness, and an untold number suffer from motion sickness. Although patients complain of similar symptoms, there are different treatments available. Vertigo and dizziness are among the most common symptoms prompting patients to visit a physician. Join in as we discuss vertigo, causes and treatment, and how it differs from various balance disorders.

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014
10:00-11:30am
FREE
Must RSVP
292-0195

ATLAS
PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS MEDICINE, INC.
12421 San Jose Blvd, Ste 100
(904) 292-0195
www.atlasphysicaltherapy.com



Mandarin | St. Johns | WGV

The nutritive power of apples

Who has not heard the old adage, "an apple a day keeps the doctor away?" It may seem unlikely that one fruit could be so effective at maintaining good health, but apples really are a super food.

Apples are a member of the Rose family and are related to pears, peaches, apricots and plums. Though considered a fall fruit, apples can be enjoyed year-round thanks to commercial food production and importing.

Apart from being sweet,

sometimes sour and refreshingly crisp, apples pack a number of nutritional benefits. Research has shown that apples can help to reduce a person's risk of heart disease and help those with diabetes. In addition, apples can help fight cancer and prevent dental problems.

According to new information from long-running studies published in the British Medical Journal, eating at least two servings a week of whole fruit, particularly apples, blueberries

or grapes, reduces a person's risk for type 2 diabetes by around 23 percent.

Apples are high in many antioxidants and, as a result, this makes them especially valuable at fighting illness. For example, the disease-fighting compounds in antioxidants have been shown to reduce the risk of certain cancers by neutralizing free radicals.

Apples also are very high in fiber. Fiber is needed to help a person feel full and can also regulate digestive function. Fiber also can help reduce cholesterol by preventing the buildup of cholesterol-causing plaques in the blood vessels, improving cardiovascular function and possibly reducing risk of a stroke as a result.

In addition to working their magic inside of the body, apples can have a noticeable impact on physical appearance as well. Apples are sometimes referred to as "nature's toothbrushes" because they can brighten and clean the teeth. The crisp, abrasive texture stimulates the gums and removes debris from the teeth. What's more, the natural mild acidity of apples helps to stimulate saliva production that can rinse away germs that lead to plaque.

An apple weighs in at under 100 calories per serving, making them a low-fat and

New Years Resolution Kickstarter!

FITBODY BOOT CAMP
UNSTOPPABLE FITNESS FORMULA

\$67 for a 28-day body transformation!

Discover Jacksonville's premier indoor fitness bootcamp that will help you burn fat and build lean muscle in just 30 minutes!



*First time clients only. Not to be combined with other offers.

10210 San Jose Blvd.
(904) 232-8700 | www.jaxfitbodybootcamp.com

Community Classes

Managing Finances in Today's World

Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. begins January 8
Learn to develop a practical financial spending plan based on biblical principles during this 7-week workshop.

Single and Parenting

Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. begins January 8
Discover fresh biblical approaches to child rearing through instructional videos and small group discussion over 12 weeks.

DivorceCare, DivorceCare 4 Kids & Teens Too!

Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. begins January 9
Find help and healing for adults through practical, bible-based instruction in a support group environment over 13 weekly sessions. There are simultaneous sessions for children ages 5-12 and teens with age appropriate activities.

GriefShare

Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. begins February 5
Experience comfort and encouragement while grieving the loss of a loved one. 13-week video seminar and group discussion.

Free Childcare Available

email: classes@cfcjax.com or call 262-3000

Offered by Christian Family Chapel
10365 Old St. Augustine Rd.
cfcjax.com

Lunar Phases

New: January 1

First Quarter: January 8

Full: January 16

Last Quarter: January 24



Mandarin Garden Club news

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann

The Mandarin Garden Club will be celebrating Arbor Day on January 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the clubhouse, located at 2892 Loretto Road. The public is invited to learn about caring for and preserving their trees with Gene Bushor of Bushor's Tree Surgeons. Bushor has been servicing greater Jacksonville's trees for over 50 years and they now have three generations of certified arborists on staff. The meeting will be followed by a potluck luncheon. There is no charge to attend the meeting and no reservation is required.

For those gardening en-

thusiasts who work during the day, you are invited to the Live Oak Circle meeting on Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m. This group is specially designed for those with busy day schedules who still want to be part of the garden club. The Live Oak Circle evening monthly meetings always have an informative guest speaker or activity and the members are fun and love gardening from beginners to experts.

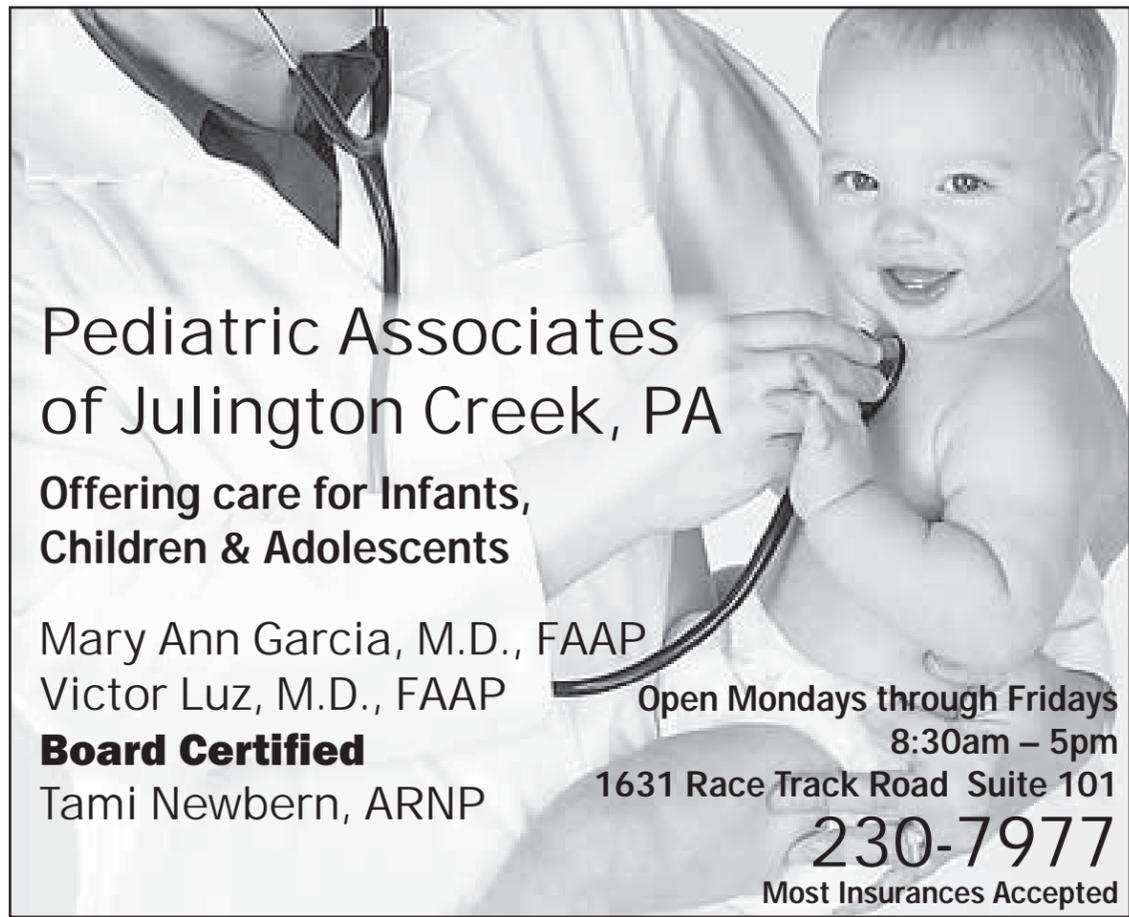


The Florida state tree the sabal palm.

Arbor Day is a celebration of the signing of Arbor Day proclamations. Individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees on Arbor Day. Each state celebrates Arbor Day on different dates. Some are held as early as January in southern states and as late as May in more northern locations. Florida officially celebrates Arbor Day on the third Friday in January. Nationally Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. Now that explains why the date of Arbor Day is so confusing—because there is not just one official Arbor Day date! A fun Arbor Day fact that all Floridians should know is that the Florida state tree is the sabal palm. For those of us who live in Mandarin, we sort of consider the

Live Oak as our own special official tree. Florida designated the sabal palm as the official state tree in 1953. The sabal palm (also known as cabbage palm, palmetto palm or cabbage palmetto) is the most widely distributed palm tree in Florida. It is cold hardy, grows in almost any soil and has many uses, including food, medicine and landscaping. The sabal palm is also the state tree of South Carolina.

For more information about garden club meetings, membership, special events building rental or anything about the Mandarin Garden Club, please see our website at www.mandaringardenclub.org, e-mail info@mandaringardenclub.org or call 268-1192. Everyone is always welcome at the Mandarin Garden Club!



Pediatric Associates of Julington Creek, PA

Offering care for Infants, Children & Adolescents

Mary Ann Garcia, M.D., FAAP
Victor Luz, M.D., FAAP
Board Certified
Tami Newbern, ARNP

Open Mondays through Fridays
8:30am – 5pm
1631 Race Track Road Suite 101
230-7977
Most Insurances Accepted

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Update Supporting Mandarin and Jacksonville

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

In addition to the evident activities an auxiliary flotilla does to benefit its home community are others that are obvious only when you see their context. If you know of the auxiliary from previous articles or other sources, you know our evident roles include teaching boating safety, performing waterborne security and safety patrols at public events, offering free recreational boat safety exams, supplying boating safety information through local marine outlets, assisting local environmental efforts and being St. Johns River advocates.

One of the other major community impacts a flotilla has is economic and is a by-product of its public and membership activities. For instance, a flotilla has an annual cycle that begins anew with each year change. Autumn elections provide our

new or reelected leadership. In either case, a Change of Watch ceremony in January provides the opportunity to meet over dinner, install leaders and staff, award noteworthy and humorous achievements and reminisce. The point is that the ceremony is held at a local facility, usually a restaurant and infuses revenue into that business. The 2014 occasion will be held at the Mediterranean Restaurant on Baymeadows Road. Past events were held at the Ramada Inn and Santioni's among others.

Throughout the year we also meet monthly for a fellowship get-together, picking a different eating place, mostly in the Mandarin area. Some 2013 sites included the Red Elephant and Los Lobos. Besides patronizing restaurants, our economic impact extends to office supply purchases for the unit as

well as for education classes, public affairs events and the needs of our vessel examiners. Our patrol craft are fueled and maintained locally as well. Of course, individual members buy uniform parts at local bases and commercial businesses and utilize dry cleaners. Members also purchase computer and office supplies and fuel to attend various events. Overall, we haven't figured it up, but the unit cycle involves a considerable economic impact on the local area. Not the least of the flotilla's impacts is to foster one of Mandarin's and Jacksonville's groups of responsible citizens dedicated to the local community.

Contact us through our website, <http://SafeBoatingJacksonville.com> for membership, vessel exams, classes or any reason.

Barry P. Setzer, D.D.S. Karen A. Hubbard, D.D.S.
Stephen D. Cochran, D.M.D. Flavio M. Soares, D.D.S.

Pediatric Dentistry



8355 Bayberry Road
Jacksonville FL 32256
(904) 733-7254

Accepting New Patients!

Most Insurance Plans Accepted

www.setzerandcochran.com



Your Second Shot at a Fabulous New Wardrobe.

Name Brand and designer fashions at a fraction of retail prices.

\$5 off
\$25
(please bring coupon)

Store Hours:
Mon-Sat 9am-6pm
11531-4 San Jose Blvd.
Mandarin, FL 32223
904-262-7231

 www.msmulligans.com

2013 Jags Teen Talk television show wins regional Emmy® award

The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences awarded a regional Emmy® in the community service category to the Jaguars Foundation for the 2013 Jags Teen Talk... Game Plan for Success television program. In a unique and unprecedented partnership, the Jaguars, Florida Blue, local media including all of the Jacksonville television stations and nonprofit organizations collaborate to produce an annual prime time television show to provide a forum for teens and parents to help teens develop their own game plan for success in life. The program helps teens focus on setting goals for success and deal with obstacles they may encounter on their path to success such as cyberbullying, teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, drugs, alcohol and tobacco.



Jaguars' linebacker Russell Allen teamed up with Shenette Howard from The ROAR of the Jaguars Cheerleaders to co-host the show and Jaguars Head Coach Gus Bradley appeared as

the featured special guest. The 2013 show was produced and filmed at WJCT- Public Television studios in Jacksonville under the direction of WJCT senior producer Stephen Jones. Jennifer Candelino was the show's producer. Each television station aired the show between May 30 and June 2, 2013.

Peter Racine, foundation president, expressed, "Teens today are subjected to a barrage of negative influences that

can derail them on their path to become successful adults. This regional Emmy award reflects the amazing power of our tremendous media partners who work together to promote the important message to teens that making positive choices today will lead to a better future."

The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences is the standard-bearer for excellence in the television industry and awards the prestigious regional Emmys for the Suncoast Region. The 37th Annual Suncoast Emmy® Awards were held Saturday, November 23, 2013.

The 2013 show featured four area teen initiatives: APEL Project YouthLink, Landrum Middle School Ride With Pride and anti-bullying programs, PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida - Beyond School Walls at Andrew Jackson High School. Students from these programs along with 30 middle and high school students in the studio audience discussed developing their game plan for success. Cyber expert Theresa Payton gave tips on internet safety and local DJ T-Roy kept the set energetic throughout the show. Special guest Jaguars Head Coach Gus Bradley answered questions and shared his personal experiences growing up; encouraging teens to keep strong bonds with their parents, avoid risky behavior and overcome challenges.



Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2014!
From everyone at Mandarin NewsLine



SUMMERTON

At Landon Homes, we are confident we can build an exceptional home. Beyond that our goal is to see to it that you enjoy the process, and that your home-building experience will be pleasant and stress free. That's why communication, honesty, integrity and getting it right the first time are so important to us. We want to create a relationship with you that continues beyond the sale and closing as you continually discover the delights of living in your dream home.

The team at Landon Homes consists of dedicated, talented, experienced, highly qualified professionals whose goal is to make your dream come true. Let us show you why that sets us apart from other builders and why choosing Landon Homes is the best decision you'll ever make.

- Homes Starting in the \$200's
- Secluded, Wooded Community with large homesites nestled among the sweeping oak trees
- Variety of unique home designs available
- Close to all Mandarin has to offer with dining, shopping, retail, waterways, Mandarin park and convenient to I-95 and I-295.
- Ask about our Current Promotion and Quick Move In Homes



Landon Homes

(904) 868-8986 • Landon-Homes.Net



Contact us today for more information:

Susan Penta
(904) 868-8986
spenta@landon-homes.net
Landon-Homes.Net

Squash Day at local school a great success!

By Contributing Writer Dr. Madelyn Speagle, Principal, Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran School



squash. Squash is an excellent food because of its low fat, high fiber and high vitamin contents. So, which, if any, squash do you think was the favorite at school? It was a tie between butternut and spaghetti squash with the students and teachers and staff overwhelmingly favoring the sweet dumpling squash.

“While at the grocery store Dustin and I passed by the squash section and he named off all of the different types of squash. He then asked if we could have spaghetti squash for dinner and told me how the inside looks like spaghetti noodles, that he learned at school all about squash and even got to taste some. He then asked for it every night that week and ate a healthy portion and reminded us that eating squash will make you healthy and grow. Over Thanksgiving break we went shopping for our Thanksgiving meal and he asked me for acorn squash this time. We baked it and mashed it up with our sweet potatoes for our sweet casserole. It was delicious and fun!”

What is Squash Day? Squash Day was a day dedicated to learning about and eating squash! As part of Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran School's wellness initiative, one day a month we are introducing and focusing on a fruit or vegetable.

Several days after the introduction of the squash, Keira Packard, mother of one of our VPK students, come into the office asking, “Who is responsible for having Squash Day?”

In November, the students learned about the health benefits of squash and tasted a variety of squash, including butternut, yellow, zucchini, spaghetti and sweet dumpling

I answered, “Mrs. Kovar and Mrs. Ervin.”

She said, “Well, they deserve brownie points!” Then she described her son Dustin's reaction to Squash Day as fol-

low. “We are looking forward to the students' responses to all the new fruits and vegetables to which they will be introduced for the remainder of the school year.”

<p>New Patient Special</p> <p>\$99 <small>Reg. \$180</small></p> <p>Exam, Digital X-Rays</p> <p><small>This offer is exclusive to self-pay patients and may not be used with any insurance program. Must present coupon. Expires 1-31-14. Dr. Brian Floro D.M.D. P.A. 11701-32 San Jose Blvd. • 268-0830</small></p>	<p>Whitening for Life!</p> <p>\$99</p> <p>Contact the office for details.</p> <p><small>Must present coupon. Expires 1-31-14. Dr. Brian Floro D.M.D. P.A. 11701-32 San Jose Blvd. • 268-0830</small></p>
<p>Brian E. Floro DMD, PA</p> <p>General and Family Dentistry</p>	
<p>Exams and Cleanings</p> <p>Placing and Restoring Dental Implants</p> <p>Extractions • Root Canals</p> <p>Crowns and Bridges</p> <p>Veneers and Teeth Whitening</p> <p>Clear Braces with ClearCorrect</p>	
	<p>Located in the Memorial Imaging Center</p> <p>Corner of Loretto Road and San Jose Blvd.</p> <p>11701-32 San Jose Blvd., Suite 215 • Jacksonville, FL 32223</p> <p>268-0830 • www.florodental.com</p> <p><i>Preferred Provider of Most Major Dental Insurance</i></p>

Ideal Weight Loss

12276 San Jose Blvd. #512

(904) 880-0202

www.dietjacksonvillefl.com

at Life Mission Chiropractic

Start off the New Year with a BANG!

Call 886-4919

to reserve ad space today!

Start Looking For The Signs

Beginning January 29th, Prudential Network Realty will be Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Same Local Ownership. Same Local Commitment.

Kids Are Not Little Adults

We understand that kids are not little adults. They have special needs and an emergency room can be an anxious place for a child.

Our physicians are board certified in emergency medicine and our registered nurses are certified in pediatric advanced life support and trained in pediatric medication administration. The Memorial Emergency Center - Julington Creek offers rapid response for pediatric patients - children will be seen quickly in one of our two pediatric rooms.



42 Doctors Village Drive • St. Johns, FL 32259 • (904) 230-5000
www.memorialhospitaljax.com



How well does your investment firm fit your needs?

Those XXL investment firms are great — as long as you have an XXL amount of money to invest. VyStar has investment services that are tailored for the rest of us. All of our Financial Advisors are experienced at helping small, medium, and large investors with solutions that fit their needs. Whether it's annuities, 401(k), stocks, bonds, mutual funds, insurance — we never forget that it's your money.

Successful investing takes time, research, and experience. Call me today for a no-cost, no-obligation meeting.



Stephen Kowitski
CRPC® (Chartered Retirement Planning CounselorSM)
(904) 908-2495
Outside of Jacksonville (800) 445-6289

www.vystarcu.org



Investment Services

We never forget that it's your money.