

# Mandarin NewsLine<sup>SM</sup>

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Volume 8, Issue 6

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March 2014

## Local resident riding to stop diabetes at the annual Tour de Cure

By Contributing Writer Beverly Scarbrough, Team Captain, North Florida Bicycle Club



Beverly Scarbrough rides for a cure.

Over the next few weeks and working up to eight miles, I saw a sign for Tour de Cure! I quickly registered. This would be my motivation. I continued to train on the eight mile route in preparation for the upcoming event. On Sunday, May 23, I cycled the 12-mile Family Health Ride. I did it! Twelve miles and almost \$600 in donations! This is when I fell in love with the idea of cycling. There were hundreds of cyclists and they were having the time of their lives.

I continued riding my cruiser building up to an average of 80 miles a week. I soon joined North Florida Bicycle Club with my brand new hybrid. I had high expectations find someone to ride with that was really nice and cycled my speed. A large group of really nice people that cycled my speed!

They called themselves "Social Riders." The following months were awesome. I made new friends and found another in an activity good for the body, mind and soul.

While I had set simple goals for my first club year, the members encouraged and supported me to go way beyond those goals. At Tour de Cure 2011, I cycled the century route. The camaraderie was like no other. These experiences resulted in my accepting the position of team captain for the North Florida Bicycle Club Charity Ride Team. My new goal was to serve the team with the same commitment as I gave my cycling. I wanted to see everyone with a desire to participate in a charity ride, do so with the support and camaraderie that I had experienced.

On February 5, 2012 our youngest grandson was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. On May 19, 2012, I cycled "for the cause" and on May 18, 2013 I became a Champion Fundraiser for the first time. May 17, 2014 will be my fifth "Tour" team captain for year three and I strive to be a Champion fund-  
Tour de Cure cont. on pg. 5

## Cheers of "goal!" for Mustangs boys' soccer

By Karl Kennell



Congratulations, Mustangs!

You actually may be able to say the boys' soccer team at Mandarin High School is a real "Kick in the Grass." Now, don't think of that as boasting. It is real close to fact, as both the MHS Mustangs boys' soccer varsity and junior varsity teams just won back to back tournaments in January.

On January 10, the varsity team captured the Gateway Conference title for their fourth consecutive year by dominating the Fletcher High School Senators, 2-0. The following day, January 11, the junior varsity

team won the championship of the annual Episcopal JV tournament. The team finally beat the Stanton High School Blue Devils in the group play to get out of their bracket and win the tournament against the Providence High School Stallions.

On Friday, January 24, the Mustang varsity team beat the Fletcher Senators again to earn District 1-5A honors. This time, the score was tied 0-0 after regulation, which included two scoreless overtimes, and the Mustangs won on penalty kicks,  
Mustangs soccer cont. on pg. 19

In April 2010 I decided I needed to improve my health. I pumped up the tires on my recently purchase mountain cruiser and pedaled off. After riding one mile I was exhausted.

Club with my brand new hybrid. I had high expectations find someone to ride with that was really nice and cycled my speed. A large group of really nice people that cycled my speed!

### Appearing again in April



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## The Maple Leaf: Be sure to check out these 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events

On Friday April 1, 1864, on a moonlit night, the Union steamship *Maple Leaf* headed back to Jacksonville after dropping off men, horses and supplies in Palatka. At 4:00 a.m. she was sunk by a Confederate torpedo in the St. Johns River just off Mandarin Point. And thus starts 150 years of fascination about this beautiful ship, her crew, her cargo, her mission and the stories that are held deep in the mud of the St. Johns.

In 1984 Dr. Keith Holland was a young dentist who also liked to dive. The *Maple Leaf* captured his interest to the



Painting by Donald G. Ingram.

point of founding the St. Johns Archaeological Expeditions, Inc., locating the wreckage and directing and participating in underwater exploration and artifact recovery that took years and provided a treasure—a treasure of personal belongings of Union soldiers, United States

they found was not gold, but was much more valuable because of what could be learned from it. The chief historian of the National Park Service at the time stated that the wreck of the *Maple Leaf* "is the most im-

*Maple Leaf* events cont. on pg. 14

Army-issued equipment and items taken from plantations in South Carolina. Thousands of these artifacts were brought to the surface and preserved for future generations to learn about life and culture in Civil War America.

The treasure

### What's Inside

- Page 3 What's New
- Page 4 From the Council Member's Desk
- Page 5 The Sheriff Reports
- Page 6 School District Journal
- Page 7 Conservation board Florida House news
- Page 8 March is St. Johns River month
- Page 9 Political Commentary
- Page 10 Recycling part 2
- Page 11 Mandarin Art Festival
- Page 13 MHS signings Loretto Wisdom Warriors
- Page 15 International softball
- Page 16 Mandarin Libraries
- Page 17 Faith News
- Page 20 Your Home Improvement Guide
- Page 21 Visit a flea market
- Page 23 Mandarin Garden Club

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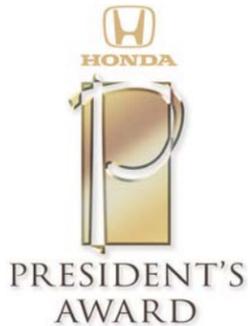
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## Teenager walks to cure diabetes

By Contributing Writer Chelsea Moffett, JDRF Intern



Photo courtesy of 8.08 Photography

On April 12 an estimated 6,000 people will participate in this year's Walk to Cure Diabetes at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) North Florida Chapter. Everyone participating in this annual event has a personal reason why they walk, whether it is for themselves, a loved one, a child or to help raise awareness of the impact that Type 1 diabetes has on an individual.

Twenty-four million people are estimated to have diabetes in the United States, with only five percent of those diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune deficiency that has killed off all working insulin producing cells in the pancreas. The result is constant insulin injections and as many as eight to 10 finger pricks a day to monitor blood

sugar levels.

One incredible young woman, Mary Margaret Flynn, has shown that she will not let Type 1 diabetes control her life, but will battle this disease and succeed above and beyond in everything she does. Flynn, who is 13-years-old, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes only six months ago. Even though Flynn's life has just recently been impacted by Type 1, she continues to show everyone how strong she is while conquering the day to day struggles with Type 1 diabetes.

She says that the hardest thing she has to deal with is "always keeping up and checking my blood sugar all the time."

By being one of JDRF's Youth Ambassadors for the 2014 Walk to Cure Diabetes, Flynn hopes to inspire others with Type 1 diabetes to never give up and never lose hope.

The question that is asked to all JDRF walkers is, "Why do you walk?"

Flynn graciously said, "I walk because I want a cure. I walk because I know that if I participate in this walk and raise as much money as I can, I can try to help find a cure for type 1 diabetes."

Please help improve life for Mary Margaret Flynn and the three million people living with Type 1 Diabetes by registering to participate in this year's Walk to Cure Diabetes or make a donation to Flynn's team, Team M&M.

Like she says, "Walking won't cure diabetes, but fundraising will."

When a cure is found for Type 1 diabetes, Flynn said that she would be one of "the happiest girls in the world and I would have a weight lifted off my shoulders!"

Learn more or register for the Walk to Cure Diabetes at northflorida.jdrf.org or call 739-2101.

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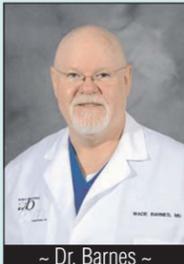
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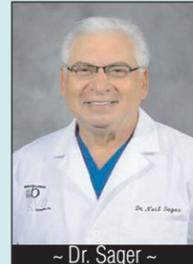
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 The CreekLine  
 Mandarin NewsLine  
 SouthSide NewsLine  
 Coastal NewsLine  
 Players Journal  
 Ocean Breeze

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**RT Publishing, Inc.**  
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 Suite 403  
 Jacksonville, FL 32223  
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Mandarin NewsLine Community Newspaper is a free monthly publication distributed via bulk mail to all addresses in Zip Codes 32223, 32258 and selected routes in 32257. Submission of articles and photographs are received by mail or email, although email to editor@rtpublishinginc.com is preferred. The writers' opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of RT Publishing, Inc. Advertising Rates are available by request.

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# 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 Mandarin Athletic Association (MAA)** will host its annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, March 8 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the baseball fields at Burnett Park, located at 3740 Burnett Park Road. Open to the public, the event will feature bounce houses, slides, carnival booths, a live DJ, and food. Children ages five through 12 are also invited to participate in a Home Run Derby on March 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the same location. All proceeds benefit MAA's baseball program.

**Award 2014** will be honored on Miss Aggie Day, Sunday, March 16, at the historic Mandarin Store and Post Office, located at 12471 Mandarin Road. The store museum will be open from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. with the presentation at 1:00 p.m. Moon Pies and RC Cola will be served. For more information, please call the museum at 268-0784 or via email at mandarinmuseum@bellsouth.net. Check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mandarinmuseum and our website www.mandarinmuseum.net.

The Mandarin woman selected for the Miss Aggie

**AARP Tax Assistance** will be available each Tuesday at the South Mandarin Branch Library from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. through April 8. For a complete list of the free tax assistance sites, please visit the library website at http://jaxpubliclibrary.org.



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## Letters to the Editor policy

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



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**The Model Citizens of Mandarin** are looking to recruit new members who enjoy building scale models, whether plastic, wood or otherwise, to join us every Wednesday at the Hobby Lobby located on Old St. Augustine Road in Mandarin. We are into all phases of model construction from model cars, planes, dioramas and complex sailing ship models and everything in between. Meetings last from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. and are held in the store classroom. Membership is free! Please

**The Italian American Club** is hosting its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and general meeting on Sunday, March 9 with a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner prepared by John Buffa Koch. The Italian American Club welcomes everyone! Come and find the best kept secret in Mandarin. For additional information, please visit www.iacofjacksonville.com.

What's New cont. on pg. 4



Microcredit clients and staff in Guatemala with Whole Foods Market's Jeff Teter, Co-CEO John Mackey, Whole Planet Foundation's Philip Sansone, Steve Wanta, and Lee Valkenaar with Vidar Jorgenson.

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## From the City Council Member's Desk

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

Mandarin News: Chick-fil-A is coming to Mandarin at the corner of Oak Bluff Lane and San Jose Boulevard. For those who were not involved in the process and discussion, let me explain. There are two properties on the southwest corner of that intersection, both of which have always been zoned commercial and by right, were allowed access via Oak Bluff Lane. The southernmost property was zoned for a restaurant with a drive-through and was allowed access from Oak Bluff via a "right-in" and "right-out." The corner lot was zoned for a restaurant without a drive-through, but with a "right-in, right-out" as well as a "left-in, left-out" from Oak Bluff. The Land Use and Zoning change now allows for a restaurant with a drive-through on the corner, but with the condition that the "left-in, left-out" from Oak Bluff be eliminated. This condition should help alleviate potential traffic disturbances. An added benefit of these new businesses is the thousands of dollars in ad valorem taxes that will be collected, not to mention the 50 to

70 new jobs that will be coming to Mandarin.

Other good news for District 6: I was able to secure funding for the new fire station on Bartram Park Boulevard, which opened in January. It's important because the long distances from the fire stations in the area caused insurance rates in the Bartram Springs subdivision to soar. Homeowners were paying double and triple the usual rates. For the subdivision, the total additional penalty was almost \$10 million a year. The addition of the new fire station will greatly reduce insurance premiums and make the area (which previously had issues with rescue taking up to 30 minutes to arrive and fires that went unquenched, completely destroying homes) safer for us to live and work. More good news: A constituent emailed me about the cracked tennis courts at Mandarin Park. I not only checked those courts, but the courts at Brady Park as well. I'm now working with the Parks Department to get both courts repaved and improved.

The positive reaction to

the proposal for a sidewalk on Mandarin Road (which I mentioned in my previous article), was greatly appreciated and it prompted several constituents to suggest additional areas for sidewalks, such as Plummer Grant Road. All of these ideas will be discussed at my next Town Hall meeting, to be held at 6:00 p.m. on April 24, at Loretto Elementary School.

And yes, I did file for re-election earlier this month and the enthusiasm from you has been overwhelming. Thank you.

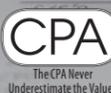
City Hall News: Pension issues continue to dominate City Hall. The mayor has his proposal, which appears to put the burden on JEA and therefore, anyone who pays for electricity. The "Pension Task Force" should be offering their proposal in February. And finally, there is a third proposal which I have seen which concludes that drastic changes, including switching government employees to a 401K type plan, need to be made. One of the most interesting points of the proposal: the cost of retirement for each policeman and fireman hired in



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What's New cont. from pg. 3

**Shuffleboard** is played on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. at Mandarin Park (south end of Mandarin Road) next to the tennis courts at the park entrance. Beginners are welcome. Just show up, unless it rains or is just too cold.

**The Dogwood Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club** will hold their March meeting on March 18, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the clubhouse located on Loretto Road. The program is "Yours for Growing (Family) Trees" and the speaker will be Betty Reed, president of the Southern Genealogists Exchange Society. Guests are always welcome. Check out the Mandarin Garden Club website at [www.mandaringardenclub.org](http://www.mandaringardenclub.org) for more information.

**The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services** will be presenting a program on the immigration process on Tuesday, March 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Mandarin Branch Library. The event is open to everyone. Please call 262-5201 for more information.

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

**The 2014 membership drive for the Mandarin Community Club** continues as the group makes preparations for the 46th annual Mandarin Art Festival coming up on April 19 and 20. Membership is open to all inter-

ested parties and should be of special interest to those living in Mandarin and nearby St. Johns County. Additional information is available on their website [www.mandarincommunityclub.org](http://www.mandarincommunityclub.org) or by calling 268-1622. The MCC is located at 12447 Mandarin Road.

**The AARP Smart Driver Course** for drivers 50 and older will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 11 and 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Memorial Hospital, located at 3625 University Boulevard South in Jacksonville. The fee for AARP members is \$15; non-members' fee is \$20 and you must attend both days for certification to qualify for auto insurance discount. To register, please call 391-1320.

**Shower of Orchids**, the Jacksonville Orchid Society's annual free show, is scheduled for Saturday, March 15 and Sunday, March 16. The time for both days is 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at The Garden Club of Jacksonville, located at 1005 Riverside Avenue. Artistic exhibits containing from three to 100 blooming plants will be created by individuals, orchid societies and commercial growers. Outstanding plants are judged and are eligible for American Orchid Society awards. Plants and potting supplies will be available for sale in addition to a potting clinic for your newly purchased plants or those from home. For more information, please visit [www.jaxorchidsociety.org](http://www.jaxorchidsociety.org).

**The 82nd Airborne Division, Jacksonville All Airborne Chapter** meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at Golden Corral on San Jose Boulevard. Anyone from any branch of service, who has graduated from any of the military jump

What's New cont. on pg. 6

# Walk with a Doc

## Join James Moore, MD, for a walk!

**First Monthly Walk –  
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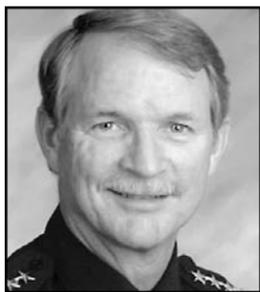
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# The Sheriff Reports

By Contributing Writer John H. Rutherford, Duval County Sheriff

## Connecting people with services that work

After the Christmas night "melee" in the parking lot of a local movie theater I received calls from several religious leaders in the black community. They wanted to know what could be done to address this issue of unsupervised, unchaperoned young people (juveniles and young adults) who gather in large groups and create public spectacles and hazards like occurred at the December 25 incident.

First, a few facts: this was not a curfew violation – the incident began around 8:30 p.m. This was not a "flash mob" or another internet generated activity. This was not a "riot," where people are gathered for a cause or reason ....this is "just what these young folks do"...and their parents and guardians let them.

I remember going to the movies as a teenager. Sure, our parents dropped us off and picked us up afterwards and we did actually buy tickets and go into the movie. If a younger sibling was with us, the older kids were responsible for the safety and welfare of the younger ones. We didn't go to public places to intentionally create problems and fight. Now there are "games" that incite youth to fight...randomly punching another individual for absolutely no reason and without any provocation. It makes no sense, but it is a fact.

Our officers did an exemplary job that night, separating the ones who were causing the problems (and kept fighting even after police arrived) from the ones who were seeking safety. They created a safe zone for parents to come and retrieve their kids who just happened to be there

and to keep those who were caught up in the event safe. And we made a few arrests, because battery on a law enforcement officer is against the law and so is "affray" or fighting. We will not hesitate to arrest and put in jail anyone who attempts to batter a law enforcement officer; I don't care how old he or she is.

More arrests weren't made because determining who was truly culpable as the initiator of the fights that broke out is hard to do...and quite frankly, we are as concerned for the safety of the masses in those situations as we are with determining culpability.

But the challenge the pastoral group is willing to take on is a meaty one: How do we make sure that these acts of commission on the part of the kids are not due to acts of omission on the part of the parents? In other words, if I don't tell my children they are not allowed out after a certain time or allowed to go to certain places without me, are there appropriate consequences for disobeying? That's active parenting. If I don't ask where they are going or set the boundaries and rules and hold them accountable, then I've abdicated my parental responsibility.

If someone doesn't have the tools necessary to talk to their kids about what they are doing with friends after school or monitor what they view on the internet and understand the implications of those activities; if as a parent you don't know what apps are on your kid's phone and how much violence they are actually viewing in a day, how can you effectively parent about the dangerous of that behavior?

I was contacted by Pastor John Guns of the "Save our Sons" program, as well as Pastor Reginald Gundy of the Nehemiah Center for Conflict Resolution. They have asked me to assist them in their efforts to create a much bigger "safe zone" than what you saw on Christmas night at the movie theater. We brought in Glenn Ellison, of The Parent Help Center, to work on this effort as well. We want to "connect" the parents of this community with programs that are working, like the three I just mentioned. We need support system for parents who are

Tour de Cure cont. from pg. 1  
raiser for a second time.

I ride for the feeling it gives me...that wind-in-your-face freedom. I ride for the sense of accomplishment it gives me. I ride for the camaraderie. I ride to encourage and support others. I ride to keep my cholesterol under control. I ride to improve the lives of more than 23.6 million Americans who suffer from diabetes in the hope that future generation can live in a world without this disease. Together we can make a difference.

The Jacksonville Tour de Cure begins at RiverTown, located at 39 Riverwalk Boulevard in St. Johns on Saturday, May 17. The four routes are designed to appeal to all skill levels. The

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struggling.

The goal is to reach out to every parent who lives in fear that their child might be going down a bad and dangerous road – poor choices, dangerous behavior, friends having a negative influence – and connect them with these programs that can put broken families back together. The commitment to fix a troubled family has to exist on both sides – the parent and the child – otherwise we're sending good kids home to bad environments or sending them home to parents who don't have necessary parenting skills. This is complicated by the number of absentee parents and divorced families. Building an effective, consistent style of parenting, regardless of where the child resides, is another important challenge.

The question posed to us by the JCCI, in the Long Term Murder Study conducted almost eight years ago is still a burning question: "How do we raise young boys and girls to become non-violent young men and women?" I submit to you the issue is complex, but it begins in the home and with parenting.

For more information on these programs please contact:

five-mile Family Fun Ride is accessible to all ages and fitness levels. The 30-mile ride offers a moderate challenge while being safe and scenic. The 62.5-metric century features scenery adjacent to the St. Johns River, which is the perfect choice for the intermediate to advanced cyclist. The 100-mile century route is a true test of endurance is best suited for the experienced cyclist.

The Tour de Cure raises funds through registration fees and pledges collected by the cyclists. To register, cyclists or volunteers can call the American Diabetes Association 730-7200 ext. 3046 or visit us at [www.diabetes.org/jaxtour](http://www.diabetes.org/jaxtour).

Pastor Reginald Gundy – Nehemiah Center for Conflict Resolution, Senior Pastor - Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church 2036 Silver Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32206 - Office Phone Number: 354-7249  
Dr. John Guns – "Save our Sons" Senior Pastor- St. Paul

Church of Jacksonville, Inc. Phone: 768-7112 or (877) 768-4937  
Glenn Ellison, Founder, The Parent Help Center. Or visit them at [www.theparenthelp-center.com](http://www.theparenthelp-center.com) – You can contact Ellison at 476-1116 or email [support@theparenthelpcenter.com](mailto:support@theparenthelpcenter.com).

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\*The weekend of April 19 and 20 features the 46th Annual Mandarin Art Festival



# School District Journal

By Contributing Writer Jason Fischer, School Board Representative, District 7

### Happenings:

Congratulations to the Mandarin High School boys' soccer team, coached by Jason Cooley, for being the 2014 soccer conference champions.

Congratulations to the following teachers in District 7 who have been named as semi-finalists for Teacher of the Year. The winner will be announced at the EDDY Awards on March 12, 2014, at the Times Union Center for the Performing Arts.

- Pamela Chaffin – Mandarin High School
- Joseph Frenci – Atlantic Coast High School
- Alethea Tarabishi – Loretto Elementary School

The Wisdom Warriors, Loretto Elementary School's First LEGO League robotics team, competed in the Beach Robot Blast tournament at Jacksonville Beach Elementary School, and took back the champion-

ship. This isn't the first time the pint-sized engineers were named champions. They also won the RoboThrasher tournament in December, which qualified them for regionals.

The 1010 XL Scholar Athlete of the Week of February 7, 2014, was Camden Anderson of Atlantic Coast High School. Anderson plays football and participates in track. He is also his class treasurer and is a volunteer at the Sanctuary on 8th Street. He maintains a 4.0 G.P.A.

The following students from District 7 participated in the National Signing Day on February 5, 2014.

#### Mandarin High School:

- Tommy Boynton, football, Georgia Southern
- Andrey Majkic, boys' tennis, Navy
- Hunter Talley, girls' soccer, Southeastern University
- Caitlin Weed, girls' soccer,

- Southeastern University Kaitlin Romero, girls' soccer,
- Southeastern University Nicole Schaffer, girls' soccer,
- Southeastern University Rijad Kobiljar, boys' soccer,
- Jacksonville University Lea Kincaid, girls swimming,
- South Georgia State Elizabeth Borland, girls' lacrosse,
- Asbury University Marissa McDonald, softball,
- Santa Fe College Alice Cadwick, softball, Florida State College
- Christina Schultz girls track/cross country, Florida Atlantic
- John Weaver, boys track/cross country, University of South Florida

- Sam Mack, boys track/cross country, Flagler College
- Annette Morrison, girls track/cross country, Embry Riddle College

#### Atlantic Coast High School

- Marissa Orduna, girls' soccer, South Carolina-Beaufort
- Sarah Herb, golf, Tiffin University
- Steph Durham, football, Georgia Tech
- Travis Hutchinson, football, Idaho
- Jonathon Carey, football,

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- Nebraska-Kearney Ryan McFarlin, football,
  - Nebraska-Kearney Darryl Allen, football, Chadron State
  - Anthony Hunt, football, Chadron State
- Important Dates:  
 March 12: Early Dismissal  
 March 17 – 21: Spring Bread  
 March 26: Early Dismissal  
 Thought for the Month:

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed down for them to do the same or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.” ~ Ronald Reagan

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#### What's New cont. from pg. 4

schools and is qualified to wear their branch of services' Jump Wings, is welcome to join the chapter. For additional information, please contact chapter chairman Emil Knowles at 622-6946.

**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. This month's meeting will be held on Friday, March 21 with a guest speaker from Hubbard House whose presentation will be entitled "Saving Lives and Helping People be Safe." There will also be a white elephant sale at the meeting. Visitors are welcome!

The monthly luncheon meeting of the **River City Women's Club** will be held on March 19 beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Mandarin Ramada Inn. Gary Dickinson of Jacksonville Community Affairs will present the program and all ladies are invited to attend. The luncheon cost is \$16. For reservations, please call 267-8719. For information about the club, please call 288-0078.

The **North Florida Acoustic Neuroma Support Group** will meet on Saturday, May 3 at 1:00 p.m. at Mandarin United Methodist Church, located at 11270 San Jose Boulevard. Please call 287-8132 for additional information.

The **Friends of the South Mandarin Library** were represented at the recent Work Day of the Board of Library Trustees and Friends. The goals for the coming year were outlined and "Friends" from libraries all over the city

were present. The Friends will meet again in March to network and set priorities. Our second annual book sale will be held June 19 and 20; we look forward to raising money for additional items for use in our library. Our Friends Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 2:15 p.m. after the meeting of the South Mandarin Book Club at 1:15 p.m. Please join us!

Mark your calendars for the **Jacksonville Axe Maidens** auditions. The group is looking for dancers/cheerleaders age 18 and over to join the Axe Maidens, the dance team for the Jacksonville Axemen Rugby League. Auditions will take place April 5. For more details, please contact [jaxaxemaidens@hotmail.com](mailto:jaxaxemaidens@hotmail.com) and visit our website at [jaxaxe.com](http://jaxaxe.com).

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## Duval Soil and Water Conservation District Board update

By Contributing Writer Greg Tison

As winter continues to unleash its fury up north, our weather seems to be returning to some normal stability here in the South. Trees are starting to bud out, blades of green grass are starting to appear and local nurseries are getting ready for business. These are among the many signs that signal spring is indeed, on its way.

As the season changes this time of year, one of the biggest events of the year happens for the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District. It is the Fred B. Miller Envirothon competition. The Envirothon competition is open to high school students in grades nine through 12. The students compete in teams of five and come from

various high schools around our area. They answer questions about forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife and a current event. The winners of the local event of the local competition compete at the Florida Envirothon and the state winner competes at the Canon National Envirothon.

The local event is named for Fred B. Miller, a retired second generation dairy farmer who operated a dairy near Baldwin. Miller was one of the original organizers of the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District and is a past chairman of the board. Now in his 90s, Miller has been seen in recent years at the local Envirothon to show his support for the

students.

This year's local event will be held on March 6 at the Diamond D Ranch located on Jacksonville's Westside. The Duval Soil and Water Conservation District is also planning future opportunities for young people to participate in. We will keep you informed when those arise.

In closing, I would like to invite you to attend one of our board meetings held the third Tuesday of every month at Jacksonville City Hall. They are open to the public and begin at 6:00 p.m. If you have any questions about the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District, please feel free to email me at [lgitison@bellsouth.net](mailto:lgitison@bellsouth.net).

Have a great month.



## From the Florida House

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

Now that committee weeks are wrapping up, the Florida Legislature and the Florida will be heading back to Tallahassee for the start of 2014 Regular Session. Session will convene on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 and will extend through May 2, unless special sessions are called as needed by the governor.

Every state representative and senator has a variety of duties and responsibilities they are required to perform during the regular session. This includes working with their colleagues on passing a balanced state budget, presenting and passing the bills they have introduced and serving on a variety of committees and subcommittees. In the Florida House, I serve on the Appropriations Committee, Education Committee, Joint Legislative Budget Committee, Judiciary Committee, Select Committee on Gambling and am honored to serve as chair of the Justice Appropriations Subcom-

mittee.

The first and most significant responsibility on the session agenda is passing a balanced state budget, which is the legislature's only constitutional requirement. Negotiations between the House and Senate will be taking place throughout session, all to reach the primary goal of a balanced budget that effectively meets the critical needs of our state without raising taxes. As chair of the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, I have been tasked with the responsibility of overseeing the budgets of numerous organizations, including the Department of Corrections, Department of Law Enforcement, the court system and the Department of Legal Affairs (Attorney General).

Along with working on the state budget and engaging in their committee duties, each Representative is allowed to file up to six bills to be considered during session. I cur-

rently have five bills filed for this session, with one pending, to: promote fine arts courses in public schools (HB 87); prohibit smoking tobacco in a motor vehicle while a minor is present (HB 341); prohibit anyone from committing a felony and crossing into another county to thwart law enforcement (HB 427); establish standardized regulations for traffic infraction detectors in Florida (HB 553); provide a public records exemption for images obtained through automated traffic infraction detectors (HB 555);

and to promote family trusts in Florida (HB pending). After being filed, each bill goes through different budget and policy committees to be eligible to be heard on the House floor for debate and a vote. At the same time, a Senate companion bill must make it through the various Senate committees before the approved House bill can make it to the Senate for a vote. This elaborate process only allows a small percentage of the bills filed to become a law.

State representatives are citizen legislators. This means

we live and work in the districts we represent. This allows us to be more in touch with the issues and concerns that affect our part of the state. Each of the five bills I have filed all came from problems, events or inspiration brought to me by my constituents. They each are aimed at improving not only our state, but improving our way of life in the Sunshine State.

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

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## March is St. Johns River Month

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

Each year, March is designated as St. Johns River Month to celebrate the St. Johns, raise awareness about the issues impacting its health and educate the community about what we can do to help protect the river for generations to come. As you may know, the St. Johns is facing many threats from the massive surface water withdrawals being proposed in Central Florida to the nutrient pollution problem that continues to cause toxic algal blooms and fish kills in our river.

One of the most important factors in protecting and cleaning up the river is the involvement and commitment of each of us, the citizens to whom the river belongs. With so many people now living within the watershed of the river (over 4.5 million people), our actions collectively add up to have a significant impact on the health of the St. Johns. When we flush our toilets, fertilize and water our lawns, turn on a light, drive a car or build a home, we potentially contribute to the problems facing our river, but by being "river friendly" and

voicing our support for a clean river, there is no doubt that together we can save our St. Johns.

Here is how you can get involved and help. One of the signature events of St. Johns River Month is the annual St. Johns River Celebration and Cleanup that will be held on March 22. Keep Jacksonville Beautiful and St. Johns Riverkeeper are collaborating to make this year's event the biggest cleanup yet. This is a great opportunity to get your hands dirty, have fun, and make a real difference. Over 70 cleanup sites will be located throughout Duval County. Get more information and find a cleanup location near you at www.stjohnsrivercleanup.com.

However, cleaning up the St. Johns doesn't just include picking up trash along the shoreline of the river and its tributaries. Protecting our river begins at our homes and businesses and by preventing trash and pollution from reaching our waterways in the first place.

Stormwater that runs off rooftops, driveways, parking

lots and streets picks up litter, debris, motor oil, fertilizers, chemicals and pet waste along the way. Storm drains transport much of this polluted water into our river and its tributaries. By planting native and drought-tolerant plants, using water, fertilizers and chemicals sparingly and responsibly, removing litter and debris from our streets and storm drains and implementing other practical River Friendly practices, we can significantly reduce our impact on local waterways.

Please demonstrate your pride and love for the St. Johns this March by participating in the upcoming cleanup and doing your part for the river. Learn about all of the exciting events scheduled during River Month and take the River Friendly Pledge by visiting www.stjohnsrivercleanup.org.

## Join Hubbard House in Setting the Pace for Peace

By Contributing Writer Amy Riggan, Hubbard House Volunteer

"Seeing more than 2,000 people come out on a Saturday morning to support domestic violence awareness is amazing!" said Hubbard House CEO Ellen Siler. This year she is challenging the Jacksonville community to exceed that number.

Hubbard House is taking strides towards ending domestic violence on April 5, 2014 at the Jacksonville Landing. The fifth annual Setting the Pace for Peace Domestic Violence Awareness Walk is a free, family-friendly event. The two-mile walk overlooks Downtown Jacksonville and is designed to raise much needed community support and awareness about domestic violence and bring hope to survivors. People of all ages are encouraged to participate.

The Setting the Pace for Peace Walk has grown exponentially over the past five years, starting in 2010 with only 400 participants and growing to over 2,000! The walk quickly outgrew its first venue and was relocated to the Jacksonville Landing last year. The annual event has been vitally important to Hubbard House. Last year's event raised over \$75,000 and all proceeds went directly toward providing safe shelter, support services, counseling and more to victims and their children.

The Setting the Pace for Peace Walk is free to participate in and open to the public. The walk will be held at the Jacksonville Landing, located at 2 Independent Drive. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 9:00 a.m. Please visit

www.hubbardhousewalk.com to register. If you have any questions regarding the walk, please contact Lindsay Van-Zant, Community Relations Coordinator, at lvanzant@hubbardhouse.org or 354-0076 ext. 281.

Hubbard House is a nationally recognized, full-service, domestic violence center serving Duval and Baker counties. The center provides an emergency shelter, outreach programs, community and school-based education, childcare services, batterers' invention program, court advocacy and volunteer programs.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship please call the Hubbard House 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline at 354-3114 or (800) 500-1119. Hubbard House can help.



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**Tax Tip of the Month**

Identity theft scams abound. Because of that, the IRS is taking many precautions in issuing refunds that they previously did not take. One of these precautions is that if a tax return is submitted in which the name does not agree with the social security number, additional steps will be taken. In the past, it was simply a matter of our correcting either the name or the social if a mistake were made in the entry and your refund would soon be received. But, NOW, this mistake could hold up your refund while the IRS verifies your identity. Be certain that your return is submitted in the name in which the Social Security Administration has for you.

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## Political Commentary Learning history to make history

By David Milton

William Faulkner, one of the South's most prominent sons, once wrote, "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

Faulkner was trying to tell us that our history influences us, right down to the present. History is who we are – as a people and as individuals. Our history matters. Without knowing our history, we wouldn't know ourselves. And not knowing ourselves – or our history – can be dangerous.

Not knowing our history can be especially dangerous if we think we know our history but have only parts of the story. For example, what would happen if I studied world history beginning on December 8, 1941? I would believe the United States launched massive, unprovoked attacks against Japan. But knowing that Imperial Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 – a day that still lives in infamy – provides context and makes all the difference.

In reality, there's no way I could learn about WWII without learning about Pearl Harbor. But some of us choose

to learn only bits and pieces of history by filtering past events through a single filter. That filter could be political, socio-economic, religious or racial. But whether you're rich or poor, black or white or Republican or Democrat, looking at history through just one filter – and one filter only – is dangerous.

If you look through just a single filter, you might think the United States could do no wrong because our founding generation crafted the world's oldest written constitution. But you would be ignoring the fact that the United States failed, for nearly 100 years, to wipe slavery from the land. If you look through just a single filter, you might think the United States has ignored our environment by allowing multinational corporations to run roughshod over our marvelous country. But you would be ignoring the fact that the United States dreamed up, created and funded massive national parks – national parks that, according to writer and historian Wallace Stegner, are "the best idea we've ever had."

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Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst."

Thus, to understand our history in all its glory and all its gore, we must consider various points of view. By considering various points of view, we're reminded of our triumphs and warned against a repeat of our tragedies. Not only do we get a more accurate picture of our past, but we stretch our minds and expand our vision for the future.

So who's telling our history? You and I – we are

telling our history. You might disagree with how I see our history, but there's value in looking through though a different filter; however, the more important question is this: who's writing tomorrow's history? The answer should be you and I – we should be writing tomorrow's history right now, by our actions today. We should take action today, knowing that those who have come before us have chosen to change themselves and their communities. And by taking action today, we can join the ranks of imperfect people striving to form a more perfect

union.

*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.*

## Political commentary

# Jacksonville has a rich history, but where do you go to find it?

By J. Bruce Richardson

Whether you're new to Jacksonville or a long-time resident, did you know:

- Before Hollywood, Jacksonville was a hotspot for early silent movie makers? The residents of Riverside and other areas objected to the shenanigans of the movie makers and chased them away. Next stop, Hollywood.
- Up through the 1960s, there were five major downtown hotels and they made Jacksonville a primary convention city.
- A. Phillip Randolph, former Jacksonville resident and Pullman sleeping car porter was the main force behind forming the first railroad union for Black Americans and was a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In a famous photo of Dr. King and President John Kennedy in the White House, Randolph is standing in the group close to the president.

If you're not a history buff, where do you go to learn about Jacksonville's history? The downtown main public library has an excellent Florida History section, but many people don't know about it. The Florida Secretary of State maintains a good online archive of Florida history, but, again, it is not widely known.

The Jacksonville Historical Society does yeoman's work collecting Jacksonville history, but, again, they are not in the Top 10 of things which come to mind about Jacksonville.

There are some interesting books about specific times or parts of Jacksonville's history and some of them are available in local bookstores. Just last year a great new book about lost Jacksonville restaurants went on sale.

But, again, where does one

go to find out a comprehensive history of Jacksonville? The Wikipedia entry for Jacksonville contains a brief history section, but, it's Wikipedia, always subject to change and editing.

Some local liberal college professors have written about Jacksonville's history in their own, special liberal way, which always raises suspicions about whether we're getting a real history or a politically correct history which tells history from a perspective, rather than pure, unadorned facts.

The other newspaper in Jacksonville theoretically reports Jacksonville's history as it happens every day, but, these days it is depressingly selective in what it publishes and seems more worried about trying to appeal to too many demographic groups rather than publishing factual news versus happy, idiotic, feature items.

Broadcast news in Jacksonville mostly consists of breathtaking stories told to us by perfectly presented anchors whose main job seems to be telling us their news station is our new best friend, constantly looking out for us with the latest gee-whiz technology rather than telling us news and allowing us to make up our own minds on any given subject. The endless "cat up a tree" stories are not the current history of Jacksonville.

The answer to the question seems to be nobody is creating a comprehensive history of Jacksonville. Many of us tell anecdotal stories of Jacksonville, but don't know a chronology of the city's history, nor can even decipher how most Jacksonville streets got their names.

Some historian, more interested in facts than point of view, needs to get the urge to research and write.

*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.*

## New store is not just your average gift shop

Welcome to Jade Place, a gift boutique located at 9825 San Jose Boulevard, Suite 45 in the Outback Plaza in Mandarin.

Not your average gift shop, the store features a wide assortment of gifts, apparel, stationery, toys and all items in between, many from mainland China.

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fering specialty items for almost 10 years. They hope to bring the same quality of merchandise to their Mandarin store by combining American and Chinese cultures.

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## Second in a series Clearing up curbside recycling: Special items

By John MacKenzie

In our last issue, we started the discussion with the curbside recycling program and now we will examine the special needs recyclables. A review of the new recycling city rules helps with understanding what should be recycled, what has special recycling procedures and what goes into the regular garbage bin. Read the January 2014 issue of *Mandarin NewsLine* to help you recognize what goes into your regular recycling bin, but read on for those items that require special recycling procedures.

Certain items should not be placed into your regular recycling bin due to the material they are made of or because they contain a part that needs special handling to prevent contamination of people, drinking water



Before

or the area where it is disposed. For instance, the City of Jacksonville (COJ) website states, "Under Florida law, it is illegal to discard nickel-cadmium or small sealed lead acid rechargeable batteries or products containing such rechargeable batteries in the trash. The batteries must be recycled or sent to a facility permitted to dispose of those batteries. This prohibition applies to every resident as well as every business ... in the state." This means vehicle and household batteries should be recycled rather than thrown out. Look for a link to battery disposal instructions on the COJ website ([www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)).

In addition to disposal of hazardous materials, the City of Jacksonville's Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHW) and mobile collection events accept the batteries, recyclable



After

electronic waste (e-waste) and other items. The facility is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Remote Collection Events happen all over Jacksonville at least once a month (see website for locations and time). Remember that "If you are unable to deliver your E-waste to the city HHW facility or one of the remote events, these items will be collected as part of our normal garbage collection service. However once these items enter the waste stream with your normal garbage they cannot be recycled and are disposed of in the landfill." It is your responsibility to dispose of these items properly so they do not wind up filling our landfills and contaminating our community.



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

Used motor oil and tires are common items that need disposal. "Americans throw away enough used motor oil every year to fill 120 super tankers. By law, used oil is prohibited in landfills. Never pour used motor oil in the garbage, on the ground or down street drains; it can make its way into our drinking water, creeks, tributaries, even the St. Johns River. Just one gallon of improperly disposed waste oil could pollute one million gallons of fresh water." Many automotive retailers will lawfully dispose of the oil for a fee, but you may find one who will do it for free if it's less than five gallons. Tires, as well as large household appliances, can be picked up curbside after scheduling an appointment for collection through the city. Recyclable tires can be made into "asphalt for the resurfacing of highways, [or] subsoil for football, soccer and baseball fields, [and] safety surfacing for play-

ground equipment." Appliances can be a hazard to children and animals; therefore they should be secured while awaiting pick up by the city recycling crew.

It's always better to be safe than sorry when it comes to recycling, but it is the duty of every citizen to know how to go about it. Check out the City of Jacksonville's website ([www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)) or contact their offices at 630-CITY (2489) for recycling rules, customer support or suggestions. Look for Recycling under the Solid Waste link within the Department of Public Works. Everyone needs to learn and understand these rules to help maintain a beautiful and green city.

Visit the *Mandarin NewsLine* website at [www.mandarin-newsline.com](http://www.mandarin-newsline.com) and click the "Past Issues Archive" link to read last month's article on the city's regular recycling efforts in our previous issue.

# SPRING FLING

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## Take a river cruise with the St. Johns Riverkeeper!

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

Over the last 10 years more than 1,000 passengers have boarded the two-day Eco-Heritage boat cruise organized by St. Johns Riverkeeper, a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization working to protect the St. Johns River. The trip, departing twice a year in April and fall, is currently accepting registration for its 37th and 38th voyage.

With overnight accommodations, round-trip travel, lunches and fantastic speakers included, this journey is a unique experience and great value. Stops include Blue Spring, Hontoon Island and Dunns Creek. Speakers on board include Bill Belleville, author of *River of Lakes and Salvaging the Real Florida*, storytellers William Bartram and Constance Fennimore Woolson, a 19th century travel writer and Bill Dreggors, or "Mr. DeLand," a fifth generation central Florida native and folk historian. Lisa Rinaman, your St. Johns Riverkeeper, will be on board to discuss the issues and politics currently facing our river, with the relaxing and enchanting St. Johns River wildlife as ambiance.

Join us on this life changing journey, April 10 and 11 or 12 and 13. The trip departs from Palatka and travels over 100 miles

on water between Palatka and Sanford. For additional information, please visit [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events/boat-trips](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/events/boat-trips).

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## Local scouts celebrate volunteers at Blue and Gold Banquet

By Contributing Writer Melissa Salek

"Ahoy mateys!" shouted Cubmaster Kristopher Beckstrom at Cub Scout Pack 101's pirate-themed Blue and Gold Banquet. Held February 1 at Christ's Church, the annual Blue and Gold Banquet was a celebration of the birthday of Cub Scouts, complete with food, door prizes, celebrity guests and a variety of creative "Feller's Cakes."

Popular amongst the scouts is the Feller's Cake competition. The rules state that scouts must bake and decorate a cake with their dad or other male, but cannot get any help from any female, including their mom. The boys compete in a variety of categories, including Tallest Cake and Flattest Cake. The pirate theme was echoed in many of the cakes, while it appeared the three pinewood derby cakes in the Best Scout Theme category were ready to race.

"I won the Biggest Cake contest," said Blake Hardee, a second grader and Wolf Scout. "I saw a volcano cake and wanted to make one. My favorite part of the Blue and Gold banquet," Hardee continued as he struggled to cut his large, four-layer, chocolate-covered

cake, "is serving cake and eating cake!"

Blue and Gold banquets are also a time to thank volunteers and recognize those who have particularly inspired the pack. Special guests included Todd Gracyzk, Dustie Davis and Kurt Altman from the Riverbend District Commission. Also honored was Webelos II Scout Parker Weaver, recipient of the Bob Cox Award for this year's outstanding Pack 101 scout.

"I tried to follow the scout law the best I could," said Weaver, who has been active in Cub Scouts for five years.

Community support was evident at the banquet as well.

"We are proud of our program at Pack 101," said banquet organizer Paula Martin. "We are proud of our boys and it warms our heart to know that the community believes in us too! This year's community sponsors were Publix, Woodmen of the World Insurance, who have supported us all year and Mama Q's Pizza, Mainline Communications Inc., Sweet Frog and Tillman's Meat Market, who supported the banquet."

Boy Scout Troop 101 and Cub Scout Pack 101 are char-

tered to Christ's Church and meet on Monday evenings at CCA. For more information about Cub Scouting or Pack 101, please contact the Cubmaster at cubmaster@pack101.com or visit the website at pack101.com. For information about Boy Scouting or Troop 101, please contact the Scoutmaster at trp101sm@gmail.com.

## Make Mandarin Art Festival your Easter event

By Contributing Writer Susie Scott



Attendees found lots to see and do at the 2012 Mandarin Art Festival!

As spring approaches, be sure to make the 46th annual Mandarin Art Festival on Easter weekend part of your plans this year on April 19 and 20. Located at the historic Mandarin Community Club on beautiful oak-canopied Mandarin Road, more than 100 booths of fine art and fine craft of exhibitors will be featured. Glass, pottery, photography, painting, fiber, sculpture, woodworking, jewelry and more will be on display and for sale. This highly anticipated event has drawn artists and fans for 46 years to become the longest continually running event of its kind in northeast Florida.

Sample handcrafted signature food products and shop with local crafters at the adjacent Green Market. Inside the historic 130-year-old community club building don't miss the annual bake sale fundraiser and the Children's Art Show representing many local schools. There you will also find Young Rembrandts holding hands-on art workshops for kids.

Outside the club, purchase raffle drawing tickets for an array of gift baskets and items or buy your official Art Festival tee shirt or club-sponsored

merchandise. And don't worry about getting hungry. Tasty treats like all natural fruit smoothies, authentic French crepes, hot and fresh seafood, snowballs, hot dogs and more await you in the food court!

Live music, art, crafts, fun activities for kids and fun for all is available for just a \$1 entry fee.

Want to be a part of this community tradition? Volunteers and interested sponsors can contact the club at mandarinartfestival@gmail.com, mandarincommunityclub.org or call 268-1622. The Mandarin Art Festival is hosted by the Mandarin Community Club. For more information, please visit www.mandarincommunityclub.org/art-festival.

### St. Patrick's Day Fast Facts

Three-hundred species of plants are considered clover.



The Feller's Cake competition. Photo courtesy of Wendy Painter.

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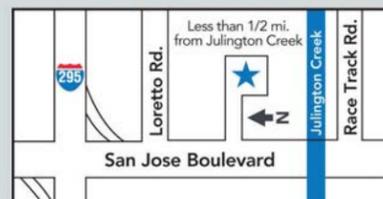


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## Mandarin military spouse goes to Washington



Military spouses tour the United States Capitol.

Libby Jamison is a local military spouse married to LCDR Brian Jamison, a Naval Aviator stationed at NAS Jacksonville. The couple has lived in Mandarin since coming to Jacksonville in 2012. Jamison serves as a volunteer attorney with Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, president of the HS-11 squadron spouse group and as social media coordinator for the Military Spouse JD Network.

On February 9, Jamison traveled to Washington, D.C. for Homefront Rising, a bi-partisan political summit for military spouses. The event included training on building a public image, fundraising, pitching policies and managing an effective campaign. Many D.C. insiders and five Congressional Representatives from both parties spoke to the audience of almost 70 military spouses.

One of the representatives to address the gathering was United State Air Force veteran and Congressman Dave Reichert, from Jamison's hometown in Washington state. Jamison studied Reichert's famous capture of the notorious Green River Killer during her time at the University of Washington and knew of his connections to her hometown of

Lake Chelan. When she invited him to speak at Homefront Rising, he gladly accepted.

Representative Reichert shared how his difficult childhood, military service and career in law enforcement led to his current elected position. He provided encouragement for military spouses to join him in Congress, wondering, "What took so long?" when asked his thoughts on members of the audience running for office.

Homefront Rising attendees appreciated Representative Reichert's message that anyone can serve their country.

"Thank you for acknowledging that a diploma is not the only gauge of success or greatness," said Allison Pulcher, an Army wife.

Homefront Rising was created out of frustration over the recent cut to military retirement pay and lack of military voices in Congress. Attendees were treated to good news when veteran and Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth arrived to report that the House had just voted to restore COLA to retirees and active duty troops.

"Military spouses and veterans change the conversation because they truly understand service and sacrifice," said Jamison. "When military voices are heard in Congress, the entire country is stronger."

Be on the watch for veterans and military spouses stepping up to lead locally and nationally. They need your support to change the conversation!

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## Native Sons and Daughters join family campout in Georgia

By Contributing Writer Brian Quirk, Flaming Arrow

Braving sub-freezing temperatures, more than 300 members of the local Native Sons and Daughters parent/child program made the trek to Crooked River State Park in Kingsland, Georgia for their annual Suzie Q. Miller Family Campout. This annual event is named in honor

of Rodney "Wildhorse" Miller's wife, Suzie Q.

Wildhorse is a long-time member of the program and graciously attended the ceremonies hosted by Bull Gator and Howling Wolf.

The importance of this campout is that the children's

mothers are invited to see, firsthand, the activities that the children can participate in when they go camping with their fathers. There are competitions in egg toss, two-legged skiing, tug of war, cookie decorating and a big brave chili cook-off. Additional activities included bike rides, putt-putt golf and zip lining. Although the temperature plunged below freezing, the sons and daughters had a great time building fires, drinking hot chocolate, eating s'mores and steaming oysters.

Although we lost Suzie to cancer, we honor her memory by reminding the children how precious time with your parents is and how appreciative we are to be blessed to have them join us in creating life-long memories.

The local chapter is named the Timucuan Federation and serves families in Southern Duval and Northern St. Johns Counties for children ages five to 12 years old. For more information on our unique parent/child program, please visit www.timucuan.org.

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## MHS Sports Roundup MHS students sign to colleges

By Hazel Odell, MHS Student



Sixteen MHS students signed to compete in their respective sports in college on Wednesday, February 5. An assembly was held for these students at 11:40 in the MHS auditorium. Athletic Director Marc Lassiatt and Principal Dr. Donna Richardson first introduced the athletes.

Brian Braddock, the head football coach, introduced Tommy Boynton, who will be attending Georgia Southern next year on a football scholarship.

"He is a young man of great character," said Braddock.

Thad Boggs, the varsity boys' tennis coach, introduced Andrey Majkic. Majkic will be attending the United States

Naval Academy.

Boggs said that he is a class clown, but has lettered for four years and is ranked in the upper 50s in the 18 and under category in the United States.

The varsity girls' soccer coach, Jenny Broughan, introduced five athletes that will be competing at the next level.

Hunter Talley, Caitlin Weed, Kaitlin Romero and Nicole Shaffer will all be attending Southeastern University. Sydnei Sapp will be attending Langrange College.

"Hunter is a great playmaker on midfield," said Broughan. "She is a leader on and off the field."

Broughan said that Weed is one of the hardest working

players she has ever coached and that Romero, "pushed herself and her teammates."

Of Shaffer, Broughan said, "She is always looking for ways to make her play better."

She said that Sapp can read the game very well and is always calm in any situation.

Jason Cooley, the varsity boys' soccer coach, introduced Rijad Kobiljar, who will be headed to Jacksonville University.

When Kobiljar was only four years old, Cooley saw him playing a soccer game at the park. There was a crowd of people watching in amazement.

Cooley said that Kobiljar is a "very, very passionate kid."

Mike Dingfield, the varsity swim coach, introduced Lea Kincaid, who will be swimming at South Georgia College. Kincaid has lettered for four years.

"She is an outstanding motivational teammate," said Dingfield.

The varsity girls' lacrosse coach introduced Elizabeth Borland, who received a scholarship to Asbury University. She is the first MHS student to receive a lacrosse scholarship.

Natalia Gonzalez, the varsity softball coach, introduced Marissa McDonald and Alice

MHS Sports Roundup cont. on pg. 19



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## Wisdom Warriors are off to state competition



The excitement level was high for the Wisdom Warriors at the UNF regional competition.

On February 2, Loretto Elementary's FIRST Lego League (FLL) team, the Wisdom Warriors, made their coaches and parents proud by winning second place in the Robotic Technical category at the Regional FLL Tournament at the University of North Florida.

They were competing against teams from all over northeast Florida, southern Georgia and even the Caribbean islands.

On top of their second place win, the Wisdom Warriors also won a bid to the state tournament that will take place on Sunday, March 2 at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. This places them in the top five percent of Lego League teams in Florida. They were one of two Duval County Elementary Schools to win a bid to state – the other being Susie Tolbert Elementary.

The Wisdom Warriors' successful season started on December 7, when they attended their first qualifying

tournament of the year, the RoboThrasher tournament, in Orange Park. They walked away with a bid to regionals, as well as the championship trophy. On January 18, they attended the Beach RoboBlast tournament at Jacksonville Beach Elementary and once again earned the title of Champions.

FIRST Lego League is a robotics program for nine to 16 year olds, which is designed to get children excited about science and technology and teach them valuable employment and life skills. Teams, composed of up to 10 children with at least one adult coach, can also be associated with a classroom, a club or organization, homeschooled or just be a group of friends. For additional information, please visit [www.firstlegoleague.org](http://www.firstlegoleague.org).

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Mandarin Library celebrated Florida Libraries Snapshot Day on January 22 with staff and customers having their picture taken with their favorite books. Customers also received JPL library bags. Library Clerk Lisa Veal is pictured with her favorite book by Dean Koontz. Happy Birthday, Lisa!



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Maple Leaf events cont. from pg. 1

portant repository of Civil War artifacts ever found and probably will remain so.”

From that day forward, this National Historic Landmark became part of the history of Mandarin! On April 1, 2014, it will have been 150 years since the event took place. Be sure to watch this video produced by the Florida Humanities Council about the Maple Leaf: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbQw6eJg59o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbQw6eJg59o).

Therefore, to honor and celebrate the *Maple Leaf* and the diving and archaeological team that explored her, the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society will be hosting several events:

- On March 21, there will be a special fundraising evening with a presentation by Dr. Holland at the Mandarin Community Club, by reservation with limited seating.
- On April 4 and 5 is the grand opening of a totally new *Maple Leaf* exhibit which will feature information and rarely seen artifacts recovered from the ship (on loan from the State Archives of Florida). Dr. Holland will be present these two days to talk to visitors. This special exhibit will remain on display at Mandarin Museum from April 4 until December 31 during museum hours.

For information about either event and to check museum hours, please view the website at [mandarinmuseum.net](http://mandarinmuseum.net), call 268-0784 or email [mandarinmuseum@bellsouth.net](mailto:mandarinmuseum@bellsouth.net).



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**Crown Point Elementary celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School**

By Contributing Writer Mary J. Eyer, Inclusion Teacher, Crown Point Elementary

The students and staff at Crown Point elementary School celebrated the 100th day of school by having “large amounts” of fun with the number 100. Students worked together while enjoying numerous activities such as decorating 100th day hats, grouping and counting yummy snacks of 100, measuring 100 inches and even using a variety of items to illustrate what a 100-year-old person would look like!

Our Panthers were very creative on this 100th day of school. It was a day filled with fun and excitement! Congratulations to all the students for working hard and doing their best!



Students model their 100 Day hats.

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## Storytime at the library

Four-year-old Luke Kemper welcomes Jacksonville City Councilman Matt Schellenberg to story time at the Mandarin Branch Library on Thursday, February 13. Schellenberg read stories at not one but two Stories for Young Children Programs. Schellenberg is a longtime supporter of the Mandarin Branch Library.



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## MHS softball player part of team to win South American softball championship

By Karl Kennell

Mandarin High School freshman softball player Lauryn Markis had a home run of a beginning to 2014. She had the honor to be selected for the Gainesville Gold International softball team. The team was chosen to represent the United States in the AELU South American Softball Championship held in Lima, Peru, from January 11 through January 19.

Markis' journey to heights of international team competition began when she was five years old and started playing T-ball baseball. Hitting that ball was just right up her alley. She switched to softball at the age of nine.

"She loves the game of softball and pretty much plays every weekend," says her mother, Melissa Markis. "She does take some time off but it's not much."

Though it was a prestigious and exciting honor to represent the United States in the tournament, it was still a challenge. One very challenging moment came when the Markis and the United States players had to make adjustments to international rules and equipment. The piece of equipment that caused adjustments for every player on the team was of all things, the ball. It was described by some of the players as "wretched," "piece-of-junk," "horrid" and "nasty little ball." The ball they were describing and required to use was the Diamond Flexi Ball. It's a safety ball designed for indoor use and can be deformed simply by squeezing it. It slowed the games down considerably.

One player said, "You can hit it really hard and it won't go anywhere."

This particular piece of equipment severely impacted

play on the field.

"It probably lowered all our numbers by about 200 points," said Head Coach Art Bautista-Hardman. "Just ask our players about the tournament ball."

Even with the "nasty, wretched, little ball," the Gainesville Gold International girls represented the United States quite impressively, putting up some pretty spectacular numbers over the 10 games they played. Their stats for the tournament were: .360 team batting average, .518 team on base percentage, .564 team slugging percentage, 11 triples and five doubles. The seven home runs were inside the park. It was overheard, "It's because no one could hit that wretched little ball out." The most impressive stat though is 88 runs

batted in.

Coach Bautista-Hardman credits it saying, "That final stat demonstrates our players' dominance and offensive ability and that is the final scoring of runs, in which we outscored our opponents by a total of 111-7."

Our own MHS Mustang contributed to the resounding success in the tournament. Markis had the highest batting average of the tournament and received an individual award for that.

"I have made great friends with girls from different countries that will last a lifetime and I look forward to our next international tournament," Markis said of her memories of the tournament.

The word has it that Coach



Bautista-Hardman has received invitations for the Gainesville Gold International team to travel to Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay, plus a new invitation to Brazil he picked up during this tournament in

Peru. Who knew that we had an international caliber softball player right here in our neighborhood at Mandarin High School? Maybe you should get out to their diamond and catch a game or two.

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## Complete Spring Break Guide to the Mandarin Libraries

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

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens will be welcoming in spring with a visit to Story Time for Young Children Program at the South Mandarin Branch Library on Friday, March 21 at 10:30 a.m. and at the Mandarin Branch Library on Thursday, March 27 at 10:15 a.m. Please join us for this fun visit from our friends at the zoo.

Free Pizza! An SAT/FCAT Prep Class will be offered at the South Mandarin Library on Saturday, March 28 at 11:00 a.m. and at the Mandarin Branch Library on Saturday, April 5 at 11:00 a.m. Learn how to use the Gale Testing and Education Reference Center. No registration required.

Here is a list of all of the Spring Break activities at the Mandarin and South Mandarin Branch Libraries.

**Mandarin Branch Library**  
Art Club: Tuesday, March 4 and 18 at 4:00 p.m. Discover your inner artist! This is a school age program.  
Be Dog Gone Safe!: Wednesday, March 12 at 4:00 p.m.

Dog Bite Prevention Program for Children. This is a school age program.

Saturday Sunshine with David Foster: Saturday, March 15 at 2:00 p.m. We will be discussing *Frindle* by Andrew Clements. Make up your own word for "pen." Then you will be "interviewed" on a "talk show!"

Teen Movie: Saturday, March 15 at 2:00 p.m. Join us for *Despicable Me 2* (rated PG). Refreshments provided. For teens aged 12 to 18.

Kids Graphic Novel Book Club: Thursday, March 20 at 4:00 p.m. Why did Mermin leave his underwater kingdom to live on dry land? This is truly a "fish-out-water" story. This is a school age program.

Spring Break Family Movie: Friday, March 21 at 3:00 p.m. Join us for *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2* (rated PG). Refreshments provided

**South Mandarin Library**

Early-Out Wednesday – LEGO club: Wednesday, March 12 at 3:30 p.m. This is a school age program.

An Irish Celebration: Saturday, March 15 at 2:00 p.m. Join us as we celebrate everything Irish with storytelling, crafts, music and refreshments.

Origami Fun – Be a Star: Wednesday, March 19 at 2:30 p.m. Learn some basic origami folds and create an origami star window catcher and an origami star book. This is a school age program.

Family Movie: Thursday, March 20 at 2:30 p.m. Join us for a showing of *Frozen* (rated PG). Refreshments provided.

Early – Out Program: All about Birds and Bird Watching: Wednesday, March 26 at 3:30 p.m. This is a school age program. Learn about Florida birds with a representative of the Duval Audubon Society and try some bird watching outside!

Mother Daughter Book Club: Thursday, March 27 at 7:00

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### St. Patrick's Day Fast Facts

There are roughly 33 million United States residents of Irish ancestry. That number is nearly 9 times the population of Ireland.



p.m. For girls in grades four through six and their mothers or significant woman in their lives. Join us for book talking, craft and refreshments. Call 288-6385 for March selection.

Spring is a time for new beginnings. Check out a new author, explore a new subject, learn a new language. Remember you can start here and go anywhere at the Mandarin Libraries!

### MHS Happenings

## Former MHS student plays in Super Bowl

By Zoe Smolios, MHS Student

With thousands of people tuned in to watch the Denver Broncos go against the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday, February 2, not many Mandarin residents knew that Broncos player Tony Carter is actually a former student of Mandarin High School.

Carter has played for the Broncos for five years and is currently playing the position of cornerback. He previously played for the New England Patriots in two games back in 2010.

Before going into the NFL, though he was just a normal high school football player for the Mandarin Mustangs. While in high school he also played the cornerback position and ran the 110 hurdles during his senior year.

Carter's former high school football coach and now agent, Bruno Bernoski, told news4jax.com, "He doesn't look like a guy, even to this day, that should be playing football, but he's overcome his size with his

jumping and speed ability."

Carter is currently 5-feet 9-inches tall and weighs 175 pounds at the age of 27.

MHS culinary arts teacher, Ms. Sullivan, said, "He was just one of those special athletes. He was very respectful and didn't let anyone influence him."

After graduation in 2004, Carter went on to Florida State University where he also played football. In 2011, Mandarin High School retired his #4 football jersey.

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# Faith News

Do you like to read inspiring books about women at various stages on their Christian journey? Come be a part of the **True Beauty Book Club**. This Christian women's book club will meet for the first time on Thursday, March 27 at 9:30 a.m. at Mandarin United Methodist Church, located at 11270 San Jose Boulevard. The March reading selection is "Yada Yada Prayer Group" by Neta Jackson. Come join other busy women/moms as they take time to enjoy discussion, fellowship and discovery in their faith as it occurs in today's world. Childcare is available by reservation, please call 268-5549.

Join us for our monthly **Jewish Java** on Wednesday, March 5 from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at the Village Bread Café on San Jose Boulevard. Since its inception, Jewish Javas have been responsible

for creating many friendships and for providing Jewish connections for newcomers and anyone newly interested in the Jewish community. The Java regulars will agree that Java was their first connection to the Jewish community and they are grateful for the experience. Many continue to attend so they can meet and greet the newest among us and share their positive experiences. If you are new to the community and would like more information, please contact Isabel Balotin at 448-5000 x 206 or shalomjax@jewishjacksonville.org.

Mandarin United Methodist Church's **Upward Soccer** signups have started for players who are three years old through sixth grade. Evaluations are March 3, 4 or 6 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the church, located at 11270 San Jose Boulevard. For additional information, please call 268-5549.

Join us on Thursday, March 6 for "**You Can Count on Us**," an evening dedicated to raising awareness for the charitable work that JFCS provides to the community. More than 15,000 people a year receive services from JFCS through one of our six core programs. Honorary chairs for the evening include

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11:15 a.m. - Historic Church  
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Linda and Laurie DuBow and J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver. Donna Orender will be the master of ceremonies and guests will have an opportunity to learn and experience the impact JFCS makes on the North Florida community. JFCS has three goals for the evening: to teach the community more about its programs, to get everyone excited about the road leading to its 100th year of work in Jacksonville and to

provide an atmosphere for the community to engage, connect and share their enthusiasm for JFCS. For more information, please contact Ilene Schinasi at 394-5724 or ischinasi@jfcjax.org.

**The J Institute** welcomes former Pittsburgh Pirate pitcher and ESPN broadcaster Jim Rooker for Opening Day at the J. Jim will discuss his baseball career, playing among legends

and his front row seat in the broadcast booth. If you love America's favorite pastime and the stories that go along with it, join us on Thursday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of fun with Jim Rooker. Registration is required for this program. You must be 21 years or older to attend. For more information, please visit [www.jcjax.org/ji](http://www.jcjax.org/ji) or contact the JCA registrar at 730-2100 ext. 228 to register.

## Remember the Catskills/Borscht Belt?

By Contributing Writer Isabel Balotin

If you ever spent time in the Catskills (aka Borscht Belt) in New York, you know that those memories stay with you forever. For all who vacationed or worked in the famed hotels or bungalow colonies, even attended summer camp in one of 50 small hamlets, you are invited to share your memories or even a joke at a Catskills Reunion which will take place in May. More information will follow.

If you are not familiar with the Catskills, here's a bit of Jewish cultural history. In the 1940s, '50s and '60s, a Catskills holiday was a way for the

Jewish immigrants and their families to acclimate to American culture. They could now take a vacation—definitely not an old country practice—without abandoning kosher food and the yiddish language. To them, going to the mountains was a sign that you'd made it without losing your traditions.

According to Jewish Week, "Back in the 1950s, the approximately 2000 square miles of the Jewish Catskills were perhaps the densest rural resort in the world. In 1953, by one count, there were more than 400 bungalow colonies (with 50,000 cabins), 538 hotels and about 1,000 boarding houses."

For many, the Catskills was the place where you probably had your first crush and perhaps, second and third crushes. If you vacationed at the hotels, you probably remember enjoying many entertainers who began their careers in the "Borscht Belt." If you worked in the hotel dining rooms, you know how important schmoozing was for getting big tips. If you were a guest, you were never hungry. Or if you stayed at a bungalow colony, you have to remember the "casino" which usually had a jukebox, a mini grocery and was the place to go for Saturday night entertainment. You

may have even gone to one of the many Jewish camps in the area where the outdoors was your playground or you could be one of the locals who lived in the "mountains" all year 'round, who anxiously awaited the summer months when the influx of "city" people. Whatever your connection is, we would love for you to contact Mimi Kaufman at 880-4014 or email [catskillgal@comcast.net](mailto:catskillgal@comcast.net) for more information.

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**Mandarin Band News**

By Contributing Writer Bailey Peacock

The auditorium of Atlantic Coast High School flooded with family and friends, all eager to hear the spectacular show performed on January 25. A middle school and high school band, both consisting of the top 100 players in Duval and Nassau County, received standing ovations as the All-District Concert came to a close that Saturday evening. Representing their school, being a part of the All-District Band is a high honor to every band program.

Every year, students audition to be a part of this awe-inspiring honor band. Only about 100 students are chosen to be in each band, so it is very competitive among band students. Once selected, the student will receive his or her music just a week prior to the first band practice. With only three days to practice as a band before the concert, it is amazing how well these musicians, most of whom have never met before, can play together as if they had been playing together all of their lives. From Mandarin High School, 10 students were selected to be a part of this band: Davis Benfer (ninth grade, clarinet), Mark Coughlin (12th grade, saxophone), Mikyla Hall (12th grade, bass clarinet), Mark McCain (12th grade, clarinet), Jay Morgan (12th grade, French horn), Kristen Owens (12th grade, clarinet), Bailey Peacock (12th grade, flute), Joe Russo (12th grade, trumpet),

Alex Spock (12th grade, flute) and Matt Turner (11th grade, trumpet). A guest director, normally of high acclaim, leads the band for these three days; students, and even their directors, are able to experience a different style of teaching with this knowledgeable conductor as well as meet and learn from other fellow musicians.

Being a part of this select group was a privilege for me. Our guest director was the widely recognized Dr. John Carmichael, who is the director of bands at the University of South Florida. Under his guidance, I (along with my peers) was able to learn more than I could even imagine just in those three days alone. My first impression of him, however, was at first skeptical because upon first meeting the All-District Honor Band at our first practice, he asked us all the sing. Although this concept does not seem to pertain to playing music, singing different patterns prior to playing allowed our students to hear what they were about to play; this, in turn, made the band consisting of the 100 best high school musicians in Duval and Nassau counties sound as though we were the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. I was also able to meet and learn from several of my fellow flautists. Pam Chaffin, the director of bands from Mandarin High School, sat in during our practices along with the other participating schools' band directors. After watching our successful performance and Dr. Carmichael's inspiring teaching, Chaffin implemented some of Dr. Carmichael's teaching strategies into our everyday band class, such as singing

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different patterns before playing them.

My experience with this extremely talented group of young musicians has shaped my musical ability and although this was my final year to be a member of the esteemed All-District Honor Band, I encourage all musicians of all ages to audition for this experience of a lifetime.

**Hypothermia – Not just for boaters and the cold**

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

Continuing the theme of danger in the water from last month's discussion of dock shock, it seems a good time to address hypothermia. For sure, if you go into the St. Johns River in the colder months you are at serious risk from this affliction; however, exposure, wind, fatigue and alcohol consumption are factors that extend hypothermia threat into much warmer conditions. Auxiliary crews are required to wear orange Mustang survival suits in North Florida when water temperatures are below 60 degrees and dry suits for less than 50 degrees.

As excerpted from the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) website, hypothermia is a serious life-threatening condition that happens when the body loses heat faster than it can replenish it. Hypothermia is one of the greatest dangers when you go out on the water. Usually thought of as a cold-weather or cold-water condition, it can occur at temperatures well above freezing, even in waters as warm as 80 degrees.

One of the first signs that your body is losing heat is shivering and "goosebumps." As your body temperature falls, the shivering slows and then stops as your body starts to shut down. The flow of blood to your

arms and legs slows and then stops. As it progresses, your speech becomes slurred, then incoherent, you become lethargic, your motions are uncoordinated, breathing slows, becomes shallow and erratic, leading to unconsciousness and death

If you find yourself in the water and a hypothermia situation, *don't swim* unless the shore or a boat is close. You lose more heat swimming than by treading water. In 70 degree water, a person can survive for 18 hours floating with a life preserver (PFD), 13 hours treading water and only 10 hours swimming. In the 55 degree water found in our area until April, the survival figures drop to three-and-a-half hours floating with a PFD, three hours treading water and only two hours swimming. Do see the FWC site at <http://myfwc.com/boating/safety-education/hypothermia/> since in this space I can't cover all the considerations for avoiding or lessening hypothermia's effects.

Experienced boat operators teach our About Boating Safely course at the Florida Tackle and Gun Club, located at 9010 San Jose Boulevard. Please call Bob at 721-1346 to reserve a place in the March 8 class or check our site at <http://SafeBoating-Jacksonville.com>.

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Mustangs soccer cont. from pg. 1

4-3. Then on Friday, January 31, the Mustang varsity team beat the Flagler Palm Coast Bulldogs 5-0 in the quarterfinals of regional play of the 2014 Florida boys' state soccer, Class 5A tournament. The Fletcher Senators also won their game that day, which set up another match on Tuesday, February 4 between the Mandarin team and the Fletcher team.

It was the fifth time that the teams had played each other. A resounding "goal!" sounded out twice for the Mustangs as they crushed the Fletcher Senators 2-0 in the regional semifinals.

MHS Mustangs boys' soccer varsity assistant and head varsity coach, Don Gordon, said of the season, "This season has definitely been a championship season. It is a good base upon which continued success can be built."

If you don't follow the MHS Mustangs boys' soccer program you should. They definitely put the "Kick in the Grass" when they play. "Goal!"

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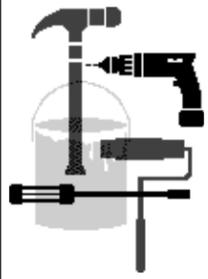
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MHS Sports Roundup cont. from pg. 13  
Chadwick.  
McDonald will be attending Santa Fe College. Gonzalez said that her versatility attracted college coaches. Chadwick will be attending Florida State College. Gonzalez said that she is best known for her speed and has the ability to make things happen on bases.  
Christina Shultz, Annette Morrison, John Weaver and Sam Mack are the four cross country and track athletes who receives scholarships.  
Former track and cross country coach Hope Treece introduced Shultz, who will be attending Florida Atlantic University.  
"She has an attitude of complete dedication and a kind and gentle spirit," said Treece.  
Head track and cross country coach Jim Schmitt

announced Morrison, Weaver and Mack. Schmitt said that Morrison, who will be attending Embry Riddle College, stood up to challenges and excelled, despite the fact that she runs on her toes.  
Schmitt said that Weaver never accepted anything less than excellence.  
"Sam has a burning fire to succeed," said Schmitt.  
Both Weaver and Mack hold impressive records at MHS.  
**St. Patrick's Day Fast Facts**  
St. Patrick was not Irish. He was born in Britain to an aristocratic family.

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## Gardening: Spring is in the air

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

After the roller-coaster weather of January, it wasn't long before the first signs of spring became apparent. The maples began to glow red at the tips of their twigs before the end of the month and by the first week of February, redbuds were beginning to show their bright pink buds along their stark gray trunks.

It is still a good time to plant perennials and shrubs, before our dry season sets in and I'd like to encourage you to consider what impact your choices will have. As well as choosing the "right plant, for the right place," we can do much more. For instance, we have all heard how critical the survival of the (European) honey bee is to our ability to grow crops, but how many of us realize how important are our native bees? Certain flowers like tomatoes and eggplants cannot be pollinated by honey bees, but the more robust bumble bee uses buzz pollination, which can successfully dislodge pollen from these flowers. They are employed in agriculture in the greenhouse production of tomatoes. And the most successful pollinator of blueberries is the native southeastern blueberry bee.

These and other fascinating facts can be found in the USDA Forest Service and Pollinator Partnership publication "Bee Basics: An Introduction to Our Native Bees": [www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5306468.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5306468.pdf)

So, how to support native bees. Well, they (and other beneficial insects) have co-evolved with native plants, so a selection of different types of flowers, including natives, is the key. There are many species of bees and

they have varied types of mouth parts and ways to gather pollen. Flat flowers, long flowers, early morning bloomers, midday bloomers and later blooming flowers appeal to different bees. Many prefer shrub and tree flowers. They all need water, so a shallow area in a pond or bird bath is ideal and they all need habitats in which to raise young. Leave some areas of soil undisturbed and relatively free of mulch to encourage ground-nesting bees. These may be single females or small colonies, but they all dig their own burrows and provision their own brood. Some of the prettiest, brilliant iridescent green sweat bees, are in this group. Some bees need dead wood to bore holes to nest in, while others use

dried hollow plant stems.

For a detailed account of Florida's native bees, check out this beautifully illustrated presentation: [www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/Onsite%20Presentations/Monday/0Concurrent%20Session%203/D-3/0345%20M%20Peterson.pdf](http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/Onsite%20Presentations/Monday/0Concurrent%20Session%203/D-3/0345%20M%20Peterson.pdf)

If you are concerned about stinging insects flocking to your yard, there's no need; very few native bees sting and those that do have to be under extreme duress to do so. Watch them from a respectful distance, so as not to disturb them, use chemicals carefully and as sparingly as possible, if at all and enjoy Mother Nature from the convenience of your wildlife-friendly Florida yard.



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## UF Bee College

The state's biggest educational event for honey bee hobbyists, professionals and anyone interested in honey bees is back for a seventh year. UF's Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory has organized and hosted the event since 2008. The event will be held at the UF Whitney Marine Laboratory in Marineland, Florida on March 7 and 8.

Everyone is welcome to register to attend Bee College. The two-day event offers classes for all ages and experience levels, from novice to seasoned beekeeper. This year's schedule includes more than 50 classes and nearly half of the course material is new, event organizer Jeannette Klopchin said. The Bee College Honey Show, the state's largest competition of its kind, includes 20 entry classes, from comb honey, to extracted honey and even beekeeping gadgets. See [www.ufhoneybee.com](http://www.ufhoneybee.com) for rules.

Participants must register by March 4 at <http://2014beecollege.eventbrite.com/>. For all other details about the event, please visit [www.UFhoneybee.com](http://www.UFhoneybee.com).

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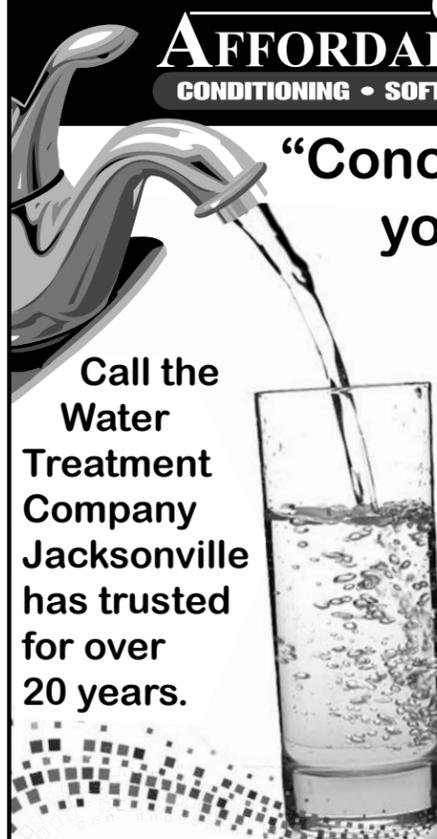
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# Our Home Improvement Guide!

## What to do after your spring cleaning? Visit your local flea market!

By Cassy Fiano



For many families, the end of winter is synonymous with one thing: spring cleaning. This time of year seems to be the perfect time to clean out closets of clutter, to organize their belongings and figure out what needs to stay and what needs to go. But what to do with everything that needs to be thrown out? For many north Florida residents, flea markets are the answer. One man's trash is another man's treasure, after all and flea markets offer people not only a chance to get rid of unwanted belongings and make some money, but also a chance

to meet people and discover a new community.

Flea markets are places where vendors can rent a space to sell their used goods. The term came from the French "marché aux puces" (which literally translates to "market of the fleas"), from a market in Paris, France where old furniture was sold and often was infested with fleas.

It is often easy and inexpensive to become a market vendor, which is why many people feel drawn to sell at one versus having a garage sale. The cost of renting a booth can be much less than what

someone might end up paying to organize a garage sale and stock up on all of the supplies needed. And even after all of that preparation, you never know if the investment will be worth it. People may or may not show up, your house may be too difficult to find and you might find yourself with a day wasted and money thrown away. At a flea market, everything is supplied to you with the rent and customers are guaranteed.

There are many flea markets in the First Coast area, but owner of the St. Augustine Flea Market, John Gravesen, says that his is the last true flea market.

"Many of them have become malls instead of real flea markets," he said.

The St. Augustine Flea Market also offers entertainment in addition to the potential for finding treasures. Shoppers can find often find food and live music there and they also host events, such as the Old City Music Fest and the monthly Motorcycle Swap-meet.

Shopping at a flea market can also be a bit of an adventure, as you never know what you'll find. From homemade

crafts to vintage items, to home goods, rugs and wall hangings, the sky can be the limit. Vintage clothing, especially pin-up style dresses, is becoming more popular and it's an example of an item that can be a steal if found at a flea market, when buying a vintage dress online can cost hundreds of dollars. Holiday decorations, classic toys and games, art, furniture... a shopper can go home with many unique finds at a great price and have a good time while they're doing it. Many vendors also keep recurring booths, so you can come back again and again to discover new finds.

So whether you're looking to do some spring cleaning or maybe add to a collection in your home, maybe it's time for you to try one of the First Coast's local flea markets!

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## African violets: Make room for the miniatures

By Contributing Writer Linda McQueen

Remember when your window sill was filled with large blooming African violets? The question popped up in your mind: How can I fit in more? This dilemma might have caused the surge in the popularity of semi-miniature and miniature varieties of the African violet.

The history and culture of this smaller variety is not well documented. It is very likely that some of the African violet species plants are small and may have been the source of today's miniature cultivars. It is also possible that this could be a mutation resulting from hybridizing standard African violets.

The three classes of the small African violets are semi-miniatures, miniatures and microminiatures. A semi-miniature has a diameter between six and eight inches; the miniature is between three and six inches; and the microminiature is less than three inches. These hybrids are products of species that are genetically small and are generally grown in smaller pots to constrict their roots or "miniaturize" them. This is akin to bonsai.

The smaller African violets are grown the same way as their larger standard counterparts. Because of their size, they are a little more challenging to grow and groom. They are very sensitive to over-watering and wet feet will cause their roots to rot. They are especially annoyed when you put them in larger pots. When you repot them, take off the bottom row of leaves, cut off one-third of the root ball and repot in no larger than a two-and-a-half-inch size pot with new soil.

This variety also tends to produce a lot of suckers, which are little plantlets found in between the stems on the main trunk. Because they distort the symmetry of the plant and drain energy from the mother plant, it is best to remove them. You can use a sharp pencil to carefully gouge out the suckers. If you are an African violet aficionado, you may already own a sucker plucker! These suckers can be planted to become new plants.

Microminiatures are the smallest of the miniature varieties. A full grown specimen will probably be less than three inches in diameter with leaves less than one quarter-inch in size and grown in a one-inch pot. The emphasis is to grow

them as small as possible. It is important that these tiny plants do not become too dry or too wet. They require high humidity but not a lot of water. They do well domed or potted in a terrarium.

Although these miniature African violets are not ordinarily seen in your garden centers, they are a staple in African violet shows. The Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society will sponsor a juried show and sale on March 28 and 29, 2014 at the San Jose Church of Christ, located at 6233 San Jose Boulevard. On display will be prized specimens of these small violets as well as many of the



Miriwinni

other varieties. Plants and hard to find supplies will be available for sale. Members will be on hand to give advice and answer questions.

If you would like more information, please visit their website at [www.jacksonvilleviolets.org](http://www.jacksonvilleviolets.org) or like us on Facebook.

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## Mandarin Garden Club news

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

**Mandarin Garden Club Gardening Tip:** If you can't find time to sit down and enjoy your garden during the day then you can plant a moon garden to enjoy in the evening. A moon garden contains plants that have nighttime visibility like white or light colored flowers and silvery or variegated foliage. Your moon garden can be as simple as a beautifully planted container on your back deck, a small pocket moon garden visible from your favorite sitting spot or your whole yard.

This is the time of year many Mandarin gardening enthusiasts so look forward to. You can get back out in your yard and work towards perfecting your gardening plans. To help you accomplish your gardening hopes and dreams, the following events are coming up at the Mandarin Garden Club, located at 2892 Loretto Road:

Spring Gardening Program, hosted by the Duval County Extension Office at the Mandarin Garden Club, April 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Space is limited so pre-registration is required; call Becky at the Ex-

tension Office at 255-7450 to pre-register. Admission is \$5. Program topics will be: Spring Gardening Tips, Growing in Containers, Herbs for Warm Weather, Using and Preserving Herbs.

Mandarin Garden Club



Silver container moon garden. annual Gardening Festival and Plant Sale, April 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00. Admission is free. Inside the clubhouse will be overflowing with reasonably priced plants that grow well in Mandarin. Outside the clubhouse will be a wide selection

of gardening vendors. The back by popular demand barbecue lunch will be available to purchase along with irresistible homemade sweets made by garden club members. The garden club grounds will be open for all to stroll and enjoy.

The Duval County Extension Office will be holding 4H Summer Camp again this year at the Mandarin Garden Club. It will be June 16 through 19 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and only costs \$60 for ages eight to 10. Enrollment is limited. To sign up, please call Gaye Schmidt at the Extension Office at 255-7450. What's in water? How would you design a habitat? Why do we need trees? What goes on in a beehive? Who cares about worms? For kids who would like to have some fun exploring these questions, sign up for the 4H Summer Camp.

The Mandarin Garden Club is available for wedding receptions, anniversary parties, birthday parties and other special events. Please visit [www.mandaringardenclub.org](http://www.mandaringardenclub.org) or call 268-1192 for assistance with your party planning.

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## Oldest one room schoolhouse to be saved

The Mandarin Museum and Historical Society is partnering with the Mandarin Community Club in an effort to save the oldest remaining one room schoolhouse in Duval County and relocate it to Walter Jones Historical Park in Mandarin. The schoolhouse was built in 1889 as part of a mission established by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Mandarin to educate freed blacks after the Civil War. The building was originally located on the property of the present day St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

In celebration of its 90th anniversary, the community club is working to purchase the structure with the intent of donating it to the City of Jacksonville. Emily Lisska, Mandarin Community Club president and executive director of the Jacksonville Historic Society, is excited about the opportunity.

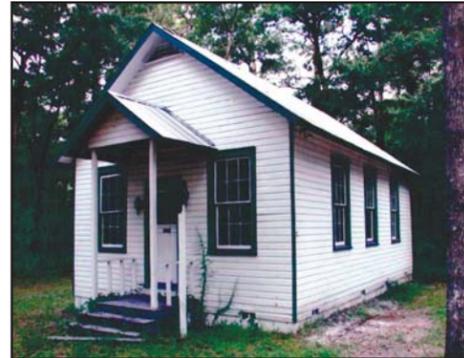
"The Mandarin Community Club is pleased to have the opportunity to help save this important piece of Mandarin history," Lisska said.

The organizations hope to identify sufficient funding to be able to move the structure to the park this spring. Once moved and all renovations are complete, the schoolhouse

will open to the public and will contain exhibits about the African American educational experience from the late 1800s to mid-1900s.

The Mandarin Museum and Historical Society is managing fundraising efforts for the project. To date, nearly 90 percent of the monies needed has been donated, including \$40,000 from City Councilman Matt Schellenberg's District 6 funds.

Additional funds are needed to complete preservation efforts, meet ADA compliance standards, construct sidewalks and develop exhibits. Donations should be made by a check to the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society, PO Box 23601, Jacksonville, FL 32241 or online at [www.mandarinmuseum.net/oldmandarinschoolhouse](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net/oldmandarinschoolhouse). More information can also be found at [www.facebook.com/OldMandarinSchoolhouse](http://www.facebook.com/OldMandarinSchoolhouse).



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