

# Mandarin NewsLine

MAY 2019 Volume 13 Issue 7

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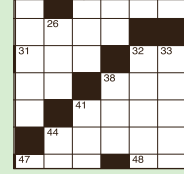
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## Miss Aggie named for 2019

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Lynn Cuda was the recipient of the annual Miss Aggie Award, presented by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society on March 23 as part of the annual Miss Aggie Day at the Historic Mandarin Store and Post Office.

“It’s humbling, that’s for sure,” Cuda said.



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society

A record nine Miss Aggies attended the 2019 award ceremony: Virginia Barker, Karen Roumillat, Susie Scott, Emily Lisska, Lynn Cuda, Don Bowden, Sandy Arpen, and seated, Sarah Bailey and Betty Wolfe.

Cuda said she was nominated for the award by Mary Kight, a co-volunteer of hers at the Mandarin Community Club.

The Mandarin Museum & Historical Society hosts the annual Miss Aggie Day each March to honor a person for service to the community of Mandarin in the areas of business, civic, educational, or charitable accomplishment. This award is named in honor of Miss Agnes Jones, the daughter of Walter and Edith Jones. After the death of her father in 1928, Agnes served as Mandarin’s postmistress and proprietor of the Mandarin Store and Post Office until 1964. She was also the last member of the Jones family to reside in the family

Miss Aggie cont. on pg. 13

## Quest to salvage more “Maple Leaf” artifacts continues

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

Mandarin Middle School history teacher Khaki Hager has teamed with Dr. Keith Holland to bring attention to the fact that not even 1 percent of the artifacts of the “Maple Leaf” have been raised from the murky depths. Holland, a Jacksonville dentist, formed a team of divers in the 1980s to re-discover the wreckage of the 1864 Civil War U.S. Army Transport ship “Maple Leaf” in the St. Johns River. The 6,500 artifacts that were brought up by his team in the 1980s and 1990s are currently at the Mandarin Museum, MOSH, in traveling exhibits, and in Tallahassee.

Hager said, “Dr. Holland is on a mission to raise public awareness — once again. He hopes to expose ‘Maple Leaf’ to a new generation that appears to know nothing about her, even though ‘Maple Leaf’ was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1994 by the National Park Service. It should be recognized as a major part of Jacksonville’s history.”

On April 19, Hager, Holland, and four “Maple Leaf” divers (who had not seen the artifacts since 1995), representatives of two school districts (Duval and Putnam), representatives from three state legislators’ offices, and a Mandarin Museum staff member visited Tallahassee to view “Maple Leaf” artifacts in protective storage with the State of Florida (Division of Historical Resources).



The entire group at the State of Florida Division of Historical Resources in Tallahassee. Photos courtesy Khaki Hager



The “Maple Leaf” divers viewed the artifacts in Tallahassee.

“We rented a 15-passenger van for the trip,” Hager said. “We were greeted by Marie Prentice, senior archaeologist for the State of Florida, and Timothy A. Parsons, head of the State of Florida Historic Preservation.”

Hager said her favorite part of the day was watching the field trip come together after months of planning. She also enjoyed everyone’s reactions as they viewed the artifacts, in almost pristine condition and so well preserved by the river’s anaerobic environment.

“For me, the most fascinating artifact was the violin,” Hager said. “I couldn’t help wonder if someone was playing it when the ship hit the Confederate mine on the night of April 1, 1864.”

Hager said the next steps are to contin-

ue grassroots public awareness efforts. Holland will be speaking to school groups, civic organizations, and historical societies, as well as seeking support from Congressman John Rutherford’s office, local politicians, and local dignitaries.

“We both realize this will be a long process, but one day, perhaps the remaining 800,000 pounds of Civil War cultural and personal artifacts may be brought out of the river for all to enjoy,” she said.



A violin that is among the “Maple Leaf” artifacts in Tallahassee.

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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Ramsey!



**BREED:**

Mini-Walrus

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**

Chasing Toy Squirrels

**FAVORITE TREAT:**

Rawhide Bones

**FAVORITE FRIEND:**

Our Golden Doodle neighbor Ellie

**HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**

Adopted Ramsey right after the Jags made it to the AFC Championship Game and named her after Jalen.

**This month's contest sponsored by:**

**Earth Pets Natural Pet Market**  
11740 - 1 San Jose Blvd.  
www.earthpetsflorida.com

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answers to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and you could win a Gift Certificate!

**Does your business cater to pets? Would you like to sponsor our contest?**  
Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet or sponsor the BFF contest.

## MAY Special Section

# SUMMER CAMP

**PGS 10-11**

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## JUNE's Enhanced Section Real Estate Guide

**IS YOUR BUSINESS: Real Estate Related?**  
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## MYSTERY PHOTO



Win two free day passes to Adventure Landing's Shipwreck Island (value \$65) by correctly guessing our Mystery Photo this month. We will hold a random drawing of all correct answers. Email your guess to mail@floridanewsline.com. Good luck!

Last month's Mystery Photo was the statue at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, in front of the cemetery in the parking lot. Our winner was Victoria Hutton. Congratulations!

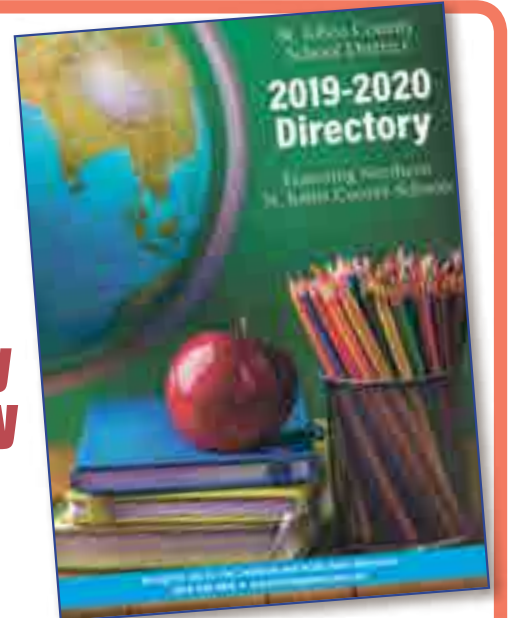
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# around town

**May 1**  
**Jacksonville Camera Club**  
 6:45 p.m.  
 Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6595 Columbia Park Ct.  
 www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)  
**Playing HOOKie crochet, loom and knitters group**  
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
 Whole Foods on San Jose Boulevard  
 paulab2097@gmail.com (repeating event on Wednesdays)

**May 3**  
**AARP Safe Driving Class**  
 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
 Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road  
 Register at (904) 622-7309

**May 4**  
**Mandarin Republican Club breakfast meeting**  
 10 a.m.  
 Golden Corral, 11470 San Jose Blvd.  
 Breakfast cost is discounted; all who attend must purchase breakfast. rmclean1@bellsouth.net  
**Mandarin Toastmasters meeting**  
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
 South Mandarin Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.  
 Mandarintoastmasters.org  
**1st annual Yard Sale/Raffle Fundraiser to benefit Northeast Florida Conservatory**  
 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
 Northeast Florida Conservatory, 11363 San Jose Blvd., Suite 200  
**Free Tools to Quit Smoking class**  
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
 Mayo Clinic Primary Care  
 Call Northeast Florida AHEC, (904) 482-0189 to register

**May 5**  
**Under the Oaks music jam**  
 2 p.m. – 4 p.m., weather permitting  
 Mandarin Museum, 11964 Mandarin Road  
 www.mandarinmuseum.net  
**8th annual Jacksonville Jewish Food Festival**  
 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
 The Temple at 8727 San Jose Blvd.  
 www.thetemplejacksonville.org

**May 6**  
**Southside Newcomers Club First Monday Coffee**  
 10 a.m.  
 Secret Garden Cafe, 10095 Beach Blvd.  
 sncmembership84@gmail.com

**May 7**  
**Shuffleboard**  
 9:30 a.m. (repeating event on Tuesdays)  
 Mandarin Park, next to tennis courts at park entrance  
 Just show up unless it rains  
**Honeybee Quilt Guild**  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 2501 Loretto Rd.  
 www.honeybeequilters.org (Repeats first Tuesday of each month)

**May 8**  
**Mandarin Council networking luncheon**  
 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
 Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.  
 www.mandarinCouncil.org  
**Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Support**  
 3:30 p.m.  
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
 Repeating event, second Wednesday of each month

**May 9**  
**American Legion Post 372 general assembly**  
 6 p.m. meet and greet / 7 p.m. meeting  
 Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive  
 (904) 297-8344 or www.mandarinpost372.org

**Book Club/Friends of the South Mandarin Library meeting**  
 1 p.m. / 2 p.m.  
 South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.  
 (904) 288-6385

**May 11**  
**Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market**  
 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.  
**Bingo Night at St. Joseph's**  
 Doors open 6:15 p.m.; Games start 7 p.m.  
 Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road  
 Open to the community; (904) 742-8777  
**JAGA/The Family Championship**  
 Tee times 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
 Jax Beach Golf Club  
 www.jaxareagolf.org  
**Toast of Jax Toastmasters meeting**  
 7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.  
 Baha'i Community Center of Jacksonville, 5034 Greenland Road  
 www.toastofjax.com (Repeating event on Saturdays)  
**Frog Painting**  
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
 Mandarin Museum and Historical Society, 11964 Mandarin Road  
 www.mandarinmuseum.net  
**Mother's Day Local Gift Market**  
 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
 Vintage Arts, 10029 San Jose Blvd.  
 Free event; all welcome

**May 15**  
**River City Women's Club featuring Brown Bag Auction for charity**  
 10:30 a.m.  
 Ramada Inn, 3130 Hartley Road  
 RSVP: Florence (904) 262-8719

**May 16**  
**Cherokee Rose Circle, Mandarin Garden Club: Nourishing Herbal Infusions**  
 10 a.m.  
 Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road (210) 910-0672; mandaringardenclub.org  
**Third Thursday Lecture: Ann Kenyon, portrait artist**  
 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
 Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road  
 www.mandarinmuseum.net

**May 18**  
**Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society library open**  
 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
 6215 Sauter Drive, Jacksonville  
 www.sgesjax.org or (904) 778-1000

**May 20**  
**All Star Quilt Guild**  
 9:45 a.m.  
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.  
 www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

**May 21**  
**Jacksonville Herb Society**  
 7 p.m.  
 Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road

**May 22**  
**Healthy Living for the Brain & Body community lunch presentation**  
 11:30 a.m.  
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
 RSVP: kbell@rivergarden.org or (904) 288-7855

**May 23**  
**Mandarin Women's Club featuring State Attorney Melissa Nelson**  
 10:30 a.m.  
 Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Road  
 RSVP by May 16, mcshell@comcast.net or (904) 859-6299  
**Mandarin Council monthly breakfast**  
 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
 Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.  
 www.mandarinCouncil.org  
**Live Oak Circle, Mandarin Garden Club**  
 7 p.m.  
 Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road  
 Mandaringardenclub.org

**May 25 - June 29**  
**Northeast Florida AHEC Quit Smoking Class**  
 Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
 Florida Blue – Town Center retail store  
 Free; call (904) 482-0189 to register

**May 31**  
**Spaghetti To Go**  
 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
 Italian American Club, 2838 Westberry Road  
 www.iacofjacksonville.com

**Be in our Calendar Section!**

Simply email your information to:  
 Calendar@floridanewsline.com

CINCO DE MAYO  
SUNDAY, MAY 5th

- Drink Specials all Day
- Cultural Mexican Dance Show
- Casa Noble Tequila Promo 5-7pm
- Mi Campo Tequila Promo 7-9pm
- Children's Face Painting 2-5pm
- DJ Jorge

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# take 5

## Mandarin Senior Center announces another social

The Mandarin Senior Center will host a Pizza, Ice Cream and Bingo Night Social on May 17 at the Senior Center, located at 3848 Hartley Road. A pizza party will be held from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. with Bingo following immediately afterwards. Ice cream sundaes will round out the evening. The entire community is invited to this family-friendly event. Space is limited; contact Erica Hickey at (904) 262-7309 for more information or to purchase tickets to secure your spot.

## Jacksonville Herb Society announces meeting

The Jacksonville Herb Society meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Mandarin Garden Club,



Photos courtesy Metro Creative

2892 Loretto Road. The society offers a variety of programs for the beginner to the enthusiast. After members or guest speakers present informative discussions on a variety of herb-related subjects, a raffle is conducted and attendees enjoy either snacks or a covered dish dinner. Some subjects presented have included propagation of herbs, how to harvest, preserving and cooking with herbs, using herbs as a natural remedy, herbs as natural insect control, and herbs in arts and crafts. Everyone is welcome; annual membership dues are \$12.50.

## Historic buildings open to public

On Saturday, May 4, several of Mandarin's historical buildings will be open to the public. From 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., the historic buildings in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road, including the 1875 farmhouse, the 1876 barn and the Losco Winery, will be open. The Mandarin Museum and the St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children will be open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The historic Mandarin Store and Post Office, located at 12471 Mandarin Road, will be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information Call (904) 268-0784 or visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) for more information.

## Garden club marks native garden anniversary

The Mandarin Garden Club will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Deckle Taylor Native Garden on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The event will include workshops on native plants, monarch-milkweed, and nuisance wildlife in the garden. Garden tours will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Workshops and tours are free. The Masons will have a barbeque lunch for sale or takeout. The community is invited to join in the celebration.



each bag is attached and members bid. Members always enjoy this fundraiser when they are surprised about what they have purchased. Prizes are awarded for the best theme, funniest, prettiest, and best brown bag. Guests are welcome and reservations are required; call Florence at (904) 262-8719 to sign up.

## River City women to host auction for charity

The River City Women's Club will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15 at the Ramada Inn, 3130 Hartley Road. Following lunch, members will conduct a Brown Bag Auction for charity. A hint as to the contents of

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### Mandarin NewsLine

is mailed to residences and businesses in ZIP codes 32223 and 32258 and select locations in 32257, a delivery area that includes historic Mandarin, Beauclerc, Bartram Park, Julington Creek Road and Bartram Springs.

**Real Estate Guide** is the focus for the June issue.



Ad Deadline is MAY 24th

# Mandarin NewsLine

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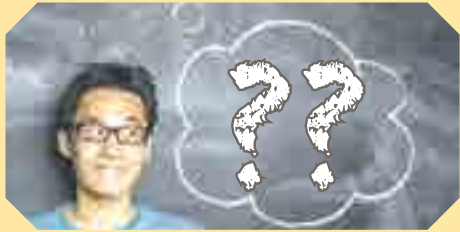
  
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## Inquiring Minds want to know!

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

Are you puzzled about something going on in Mandarin or wondering about whatever happened on a topic from a previous issue? Email your question to us at [editor@floridanewsline.com](mailto:editor@floridanewsline.com) by the fifth of the month and we will do our best to track down the information for you.

Email your question to us at [editor@floridanewsline.com](mailto:editor@floridanewsline.com)



with Jacksonville City Council Member  
Matt Schellenberg (District 6)

**Q: Can you tell us what is happening with the building previously used as physicians' offices on San Jose Boulevard, just north of Pall Mall Drive?**

A: I have received many questions about this. The property is zoned CBC-2, which allows for a gas station; this is what the developer plans to build. It is within the property owner's rights to do this with the current zoning. The property owners have asked for a zoning administrative deviation to modify some of the perimeter landscaping requirements. This will require a public notice to neighborhood associations and all property owners within 350 feet. This request will go to PZA only and not come to the City Council. Even if for some reason, the request is denied, it would go to the Planning Commission and ultimately, possibly to court. The City Council will never see or be asked to act on this request.

**Q: Do you have an update on the trees for Mandarin Road?**

A: The tree planting along Mandarin Road is completed, and some of the trees have actually already been replaced. The trees are guaranteed for two years. The arborist we used didn't like some of the trees and these are the ones that were replaced. Some of the trees are already showing new growth, which is great. I hope people on Mandarin Road enjoy this new landscaping.

**Q: Do you have any other updates for District 6?**

A: Be sure to visit Losco Regional Park.

The splash park should be open by the time you read this. Also, the design/build process is underway for sidewalks along Orange Picker Road and we are replacing the benches behind the South Mandarin Library. We are pushing hard to get the property for the dog park purchased before I leave office.

I'd like to thank citizens for keeping my office up to date on issues they come across in Mandarin. I can't be everywhere and I appreciate the input on needed sidewalk repair and potholes, so we can take care of those things as soon as possible.


**Q: Your time in office is almost over. Do you have any news to share about the transition to a new council member?**

A: My last day in office is June 30. It's been a pleasure and an honor to serve the community; I've always been intentional about trying to serve all 70,000 residents of Mandarin.

I'll have one more column in this newspaper next month. I expect a smooth transition as I pass off to Mandarin's new City Council Member, Michael Boylan, who will do a good job. He will be retaining my City Council aide. I hope residents will reach out to him.




**Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?**

A: Community members can email me at [MattS@coj.net](mailto:MattS@coj.net) or call (904) 630-1388.



### Nothing But The Truth Series

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**MAY 14** **Aging In Place & Staying Put**  
Learn the pro's and con's about aging-in-place. Our expert panelists will share with you some of the most effective strategies and resources available for living safely and independently in your home as you get older. Learn about precautions you can take to ensure that YOU remain in control of your lifestyle choices and decisions.

**JUN 11** **Should You Sell, Buy, Build or Renovate?**  
Retirees often elect to build, buy or remodel shortly after retirement expecting this house to be "the last home" they will ever own. Fast forward 5, 10 or even 15 years and what was meant to be the "last house" is no longer equipped for your current needs. Learn about affordable accessibility & universal design features, remodel ideas, resale considerations, and cost saving strategies.

**JUL 9** **Top 10 Things to Know Before Selling Your Home**  
Selling a home you have lived in for decades can seem like a daunting task, but it doesn't need to be so overwhelming. Whether you are planning to sell this month or not for a few years, do your homework now and be prepared!  
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with Duval School Board Member,  
District 7, Lori Hershey

**Q: Do you have any news from the facilities Master Plan that the school board discussed in April?**

A: District 7 is likely to get a K-8 school between Nocatee and Atlantic Coast High School.

Last month, we thought Axson Elementary, which is currently a Montessori school in District 2, would be rebuilt near Atlantic Coast High School, but the superintendent just updated the Master Plan to allow that school to remain in District 2.

**Q: What is the latest on the proposed rebuilding of Loretto Elementary School?**

A: While Loretto Elementary will be rebuilt, there are plans to preserve the historic school house. The superintendent revised the proposal based on public comment and we will work to preserve the historic part of Loretto.

The board will not vote on a final plan until August and I welcome the community's input. Please email me any thoughts and concerns.

**Q: Can you please clarify how this**

**facilities project might be funded?**

A: The school board does not have the authority to raise taxes. Anything that would be an increase must be approved by the voters. The board only has the ability to ask our community if we will invest in our schools' infrastructure. Community input is critical because it is a clear shared responsibility. Jefferson said that government works best when it is kept closest to the people. A referendum does just that and the voters' decision stands.

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

A: Graduation is at hand and I would like to congratulate the class of 2019! Well done. I'm looking forward to your graduation ceremonies.

Also, congratulations to Twin Lakes Elementary for celebrating their 20th birthday!

**Q: How can our readers contact you?**

A: They can email me at [HersheyL@duvalschools.org](mailto:HersheyL@duvalschools.org) or call me at (904) 316-3609.



**FYI Contact Numbers**

**Duval County Local Government (coj.net)**

**Sheriff's Office:** Sheriff Mike Williams, (904) 630-2120  
Patrol Zone 3: Assistant Chief Mat Nemeth, (904) 828-5463

**Property Appraiser:** Jerry Holland, [jholland@coj.net](mailto:jholland@coj.net); (904) 630-2011

**Supervisor of Elections:** Mike Hogan, [mhogan@coj.net](mailto:mhogan@coj.net), (904) 630-1414

**Tax Collector:** Jim Overton, [taxcollector@coj.net](mailto:taxcollector@coj.net), (904) 630-1916

**Clerk of Court:** Ronnie Fussell, (904) 255-2000

**Jacksonville City Council**

District 6: Matt Schellenberg, [matts@coj.net](mailto:matts@coj.net), (904) 630-1388  
At Large, District 3: Tommy Hazouri, [thazouri@coj.net](mailto:thazouri@coj.net), (904) 630-1396

**Duval County School Board**

**(www.duvalschools.org)**  
District 7: Lori Hershey, [hershey@duvalschools.org](mailto:hershey@duvalschools.org), (904) 390-2375

**State of Florida Elected Officials**

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State House District 16: Representative Jason Fischer, (850) 717-5016  
State Senate District 4: Senator Aaron Bean, (904) 757-5039

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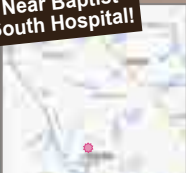
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G. Quadir Khan, MD, FACOG

**Briefs**

**Mandarin Women's Club welcomes State Attorney Melissa Nelson**

The Mandarin Women's Club will feature Melissa Nelson, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit (Duval, Clay and Nassau counties) as its guest speaker on May 23 at the Ramada Inn in Mandarin. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and reservations for the brunch buffet are required. The cost is \$17 and must be received by Thursday, May 16.



Photo courtesy Gail Packard

At last month's luncheon several Mandarin Women's Club members had their family heirlooms appraised by Susan Blackwood-Alabbassi of China Cat Antiques and Estate Sales.

Nelson will be speaking about the priorities of the State Attorney's Office, including two new initiatives: the announcement of the Conviction Integrity Review case in March, which was the first of its kind in Florida; and the state-of-the-art Crime Gun Intelligence Center which rolls out the end of April. Nelson's presentation will be followed by a Q & A session.

To make reservations and obtain payment instructions, email Mary at mscshell@comcast.net or call (904) 859-6299. Visit [www.mandarinwomensclub.com](http://www.mandarinwomensclub.com) for more information on events, photos, and membership forms.

**New name for Mandarin restaurant**

Jacksonville's iconic Tree Steakhouse is changing its name to ChopHouse Thirteen. The announcement marks the latest chapter in continued improvements to

the long-time fixture in the Jacksonville community.

The new name for the independently owned steakhouse pays tribute to its renowned location at 11362 San Jose Blvd. (State Road 13). The restaurant will also receive an updated look with new furniture, fixtures and decor that evokes a classic chophouse atmosphere.

The Tree Steakhouse closed on April 22 to undergo renovations and will reopen as ChopHouse Thirteen on May 1.

"The Tree is growing, and we're excited to share these latest changes with our guests as we continue our tradition of world-class cuisine and service as ChopHouse Thirteen," said Joe Foster, managing partner and executive chef. "We appreciate all of our customers who have been a part of our evolution for the past 50 years."

A Jacksonville tradition since 1969, the restaurant was renovated in 2015, including a new and improved menu that received widespread positive feedback from guests. ChopHouse Thirteen will offer a few new items, but the majority of the menu and prices will remain the same.

**Hospital names three new trustees to board**

Memorial Hospital Jacksonville welcomes retired six-time NBA All-Star Artis Gilmore, President of Perdue Office Interiors Vince McCormack and oncologist Sejal Kuthiala, MD, to its Board of Trustees.

"We are very excited to have Artis, Vince and Dr. Kuthiala join our Board. They will each bring unique dynamic differences to complement our strategic leadership as we move Memorial forward together," said Bradley S. Talbert, FACHE, president and CEO of Memorial Hospital.

"It is especially significant to have them join us this year — as we celebrate half a century of service in northeast Florida." Gilmore, McCormack and Kuthiala join current Board of Trustee members Ray Gyarmathy, MD (Chairman), Omar

Kawwaff, MD (Medical Staff President), Bradley S. Talbert (President), Jackie Cornelius, Barbara Darby, EdD, Jake Godbold, Dianne Johnson, MD, Angela Martin, MD, Bharat Misra, MD, John Obi, MD, and Christine Sapienza, PhD.

**Pollinators featured at Florida Native Plant Society meeting**

The Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will hold its monthly general meeting on Tuesday, May 21 at 6 p.m. at the Willow Branch Library. The featured speaker will be Rebecca Jordi, director of the Nassau County Extension Agency, who will describe the diversity of native pollinators including the bumblebee and other native bees. She will discuss the importance of protecting our beneficial insects. Pollinators are important to farming and maintaining our native plant communities.

The meeting, open to the public, will begin with a social hour and refreshments followed by a short business meeting and the presentation. Willow Branch Library is located at 2875 Park St.

Visit [www.ixia.fnpschapters.org](http://www.ixia.fnpschapters.org) for more information.

**Hunter safety internet completion course offered**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is offering free hunter safety internet-completion courses in two counties during May. Hunter safety courses are designed to help students become safe, responsible and knowledgeable hunters and learn about conservation. Students who have taken the online course and wish to complete the classroom portion must bring the online-completion report with them. All firearms, ammunition and materials are provided free of charge. Students should bring a pen or pencil and paper. An adult

must accompany children younger than 16 at all times.

Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975, must pass an approved hunter safety course and have a hunting license to hunt alone (unsupervised). The FWC course satisfies hunter-safety training requirements for all other states and Canadian provinces.

The date and times are:

Baker: May 11 (8 a.m. – 12 p.m.) in Macclenny and (1 p.m. until complete) in Lake City

Duval: May 23 (6 p.m. – 9 p.m.) Jacksonville and May 25 (8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.) Jacksonville

The specific location for these classes will be given to those who register in advance. Register at [MyFWC.com/HunterSafety](http://MyFWC.com/HunterSafety) or call the FWC's regional office in Lake City at (386) 758-0525.

**Panel discussion on kidney transplants offered**

Pikuach nefesh — saving a life — is the principle in Jewish law that the preservation of human life overrides virtually any other religious consideration. Kimberly Janis, a member of Congregation Ahavath Chesed, The Temple, received her life saving kidney transplant in January of 2014 and immediately decided she wanted to plan a program to educate the community about the need for organ donors.

Interested parties are invited to learn more about life-saving surgery and at a panel discussion on Sunday, May 19 from 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Congregation Ahavath Chesed (The Temple), 8727 San Jose Blvd. The discussion will be moderated by Jill Metlin, MS, CPHQ and will include transplant nephrologist, Katherine Oshel, MD, of Mayo Clinic; LifeQuest representative, Pamela Rittenhouse, APR, Public Education Coordinator;

Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar, Senior Rabbi of Congregation Ahavath Chesed; and living kidney donor, Paula Best and her sister/recipient, Kimberly Janis.

According to the National Kidney Foundation:

- More than 3,000 new patients are added to the kidney waiting list each month.
- 13 people die each day while waiting for a kidney transplant.
- Out of the 113,568 currently on the waiting list for organ transplants, 94,804 are waiting for kidneys.
- Kidney and liver are the only two organs that can be given by living donors.
- 4,761 patients died in 2014 while waiting for a kidney transplant.
- 3,668 people became too sick in 2014 to receive a kidney transplant.

This event is free and open to the public and a light brunch will be served. Email [Kjanis1234@gmail.com](mailto:Kjanis1234@gmail.com) or call (904) 733-7078 for more information or to RSVP.

**Happy Mother's Day Bingo**

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## Bartram Springs residents express concerns over new JEA power plans

By Angela Higginbotham  
angela@floridanewslines.com

In a recent public meeting held by JEA, concerned residents of Bartram Springs showed up in full force looking for answers to their questions and compassion for their concerns. The meeting was held at Bartram Springs Elementary School.

JEA plans to install power poles and transmission lines along US Highway 1 and Race Track Road, near the Bartram Springs subdivision. This would include more than 100 new poles and lines along US Highway 1, north of Race Track Road, which would link power substations in Bartram Springs. The meeting was less than satisfactory in the minds of the majority in attendance.

JEA states, via their website, that these new additions will improve service to the growing number of customers in the area and create a backup in the case of a circuit failure. This estimated \$15 million project will be divided into two different design and construction phases to meet the final JEA requested in service date of Spring 2020.

Residents in Bartram Springs worry that the power poles behind their neighborhood will decrease property values and/or cause health issues from the high power voltage lines. According to a video on JEA's website, the company's intentions are to remove trees and vegetation directly next to US Highway 1 in order to install the power poles; however, they won't remove existing trees that will serve as a buffer between the Bartram Springs subdivision and the new power poles. In the video, JEA demonstrated a variety of tests and showed why they believe the power poles will be hard to see and won't create any noise for residents nearby.

Also, according to the JEA website, the power line along US Highway 1 will not be noticeable to the vast majority of the Bartram Springs development. Residents disagree. To those homes that would have a view of the poles and lines, the idea of this is upsetting.

"For the majority of the day and night, the tracks and traffic noise aren't really that noticeable," Bartram Springs resident McKinley Climenhaga said. "The power lines, however, those will always be there strung across my sunrise, scarring my sunny afternoons. The trade off, in our minds as buyers purchasing a house against tracks and a highway, is that at least no one will build there to disturb our foliage and sky."



Photos courtesy Wendy Perry  
Representatives from JEA showed plans for its Greenland Energy Center to Race Track Road Electric Reliability Project.

Studies vary in regards to showing health concerns from electric transmission, but for the most part, it seems that as long as certain guidelines are met, health risks are minimal. According to JEA, a completed study for this project was submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. JEA's electric design is said to have met all of the Florida Administrative Codes and Florida Department of Environmental Protection Requirements and Guidelines.

JEA is said to be in full compliance with the limits set for electric and magnetic fields. Along US Highway 1, magnetic and electric fields were calculated at the worst case scenario and results met the appropriate requirements for safety. In regards to health and with the high number of children in Bartram Springs, residents express that even a small health concern just isn't worth the risk.

An online petition gained more than 1,200 signatures from concerned residents. The petition requests that JEA place the power poles in an area with fewer residents. The petition also cites noise concerns because trees would be removed that currently provide a sound barrier. Residents of Bartram Springs feel that this plan was put into place without consideration of how those living nearby would be impacted. Many residents would appreciate a proper opportunity to voice their concerns and receive feedback from JEA.

"Had this project been completed and high-power transmission lines in place a year ago, we wouldn't have bought the home that we are in because it would have been undesirable and it devalues

JEA power plans cont. on pg. 15

## Celebrate superheroes, moms and more at library

By Olga Bayer  
mail@floridanewslines.com

**Comic Con:** Get your cape on for Comic Con. It's all happening at the South Mandarin Branch Library May 11 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bring the entire family for fun workshops, cool crafts, a costume parade, Ghostbusters, and to meet a host of local artists and authors. There's still time to enter the Comic Book Cover Contest — deadline is May 4 — with prizes for three age groups. Find details at [jaxpubliclibrary.org](http://jaxpubliclibrary.org). A local food truck will have good eats for purchase so come out for a great time.

**Book Bonding:** Carve out time for the Mother-Daughter Book Club at Mandarin Branch Library, and enjoy a lively book discussion with other moms and daughters. It's a great way to reinforce the love of reading together. The book club meets May 11 at 4 p.m. Meetings are held monthly and participants help decide the books to read and discuss each month.

**Special 3-D:** Adults and teens are invited to make some cool creations with 3-D pens May 7 at 4:30 p.m. when Mandarin Library breaks out special templates for Mother's Day and Memorial Day. If you haven't tried the 3-D pens, discover an easy way to create 3-D objects, from either drawing on flat surfaces or creating in air.

**Game On!** In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage month, South Mandarin Library introduces table games from the island nation of the Philippines. Teens will love learning and playing something new such as Tapatan, a three-in-a-row game similar to tic-tac-toe, and Sungka (pronounced soo-kah), a mancala game. Meet in the Teen Room on May 8 from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Libraries  
Kids love Comic Con. It brings out all kinds of characters, including stormtroopers, Padmé Amidala, and other Star Wars faves. Don't miss this exciting event for all ages at South Mandarin Branch Library on May 11.

**READ Dogs:** Reading therapy dogs can bring out the best in children reading. So bring your kids aged five – 12 to experience the relaxed, worry-free world of reading to these special pooches. Kids can read to Trey and Shelley on May 4 at 1 p.m. at Mandarin Branch and at 3 p.m. at South Mandarin branch. Mandarin branch also lets kids read with Diva and Tenor on May 11 at 1 p.m.

**Fold and Hold:** Mandarin library gives a nod to Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with origami — the Japanese art of paper folding. Bring the family on May 28 at 6:30 p.m. No doubt you'll want to try more origami so put a few library books on hold. Find everything from "Origami Architecture" to "Origami Party" to "Origami Zoo." Kids love origami too, and especially anything by Lisa Miles such as "Origami Dinosaurs" or "Origami Pets."

Jacksonville Public Libraries will be closed May 26 and 27 for Memorial Day. Find information about additional events for Mandarin and South Mandarin branch libraries at [jaxpubliclibrary.org](http://jaxpubliclibrary.org) or call Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 262-5201 or South Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 288-6385.



Photo courtesy Amanda Redmond

## Crown Point Elementary holds Fit Night

Crown Point Elementary School held its second annual Fit Night on March 21 in celebration of Fit Mind and Body to jump start end of the year testing. Deb Bickle, the Fit Night team, and volunteers planned various activities that allowed families to explore different fitness stations. Parents and students got their hearts pumping as they raced around Crown Point track. They also participated in a variety of exercises to strengthen their core in the Challenge Area of the multipurpose room. Students also built their minds with active science, math, and reading challenges. Pictured is the Gearhart family completing the exercises that spell their name by participating in the Spell Your Name challenge.

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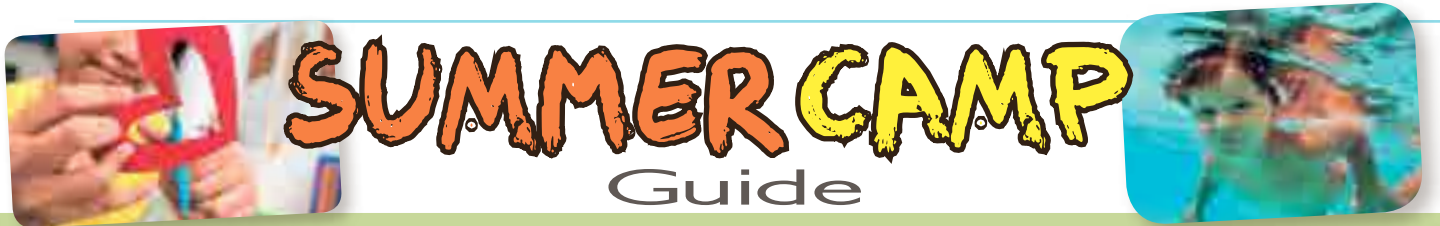
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## Native Sons and Daughters of Florida gather at 2019 Sunshine State Pow Wow

By Brian Quirk, Flaming Arrow  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Native Sons and Daughters tribes from all over Florida gather each year to celebrate at the Sunshine State Pow Wow, where member groups demonstrate crafts, banners, Native American regalia, coup sticks, drums, tribal shirts and a host of individual items that specific children have assisted in creating.

This year's event was hosted by the Canaveral Nation, located in Melbourne. Close to 600 members from around the state attended the event. This year's Pow Wow took on a very special meaning as the chairman of the Board of Elders, Don Bittala (Brave Eagle), the National Assistant Chief, Mike Ryan (Wild Eagle) and the State Chief of Florida, Brian Quirk (Flaming Arrow) were all in attendance. The campers were granted beautiful weather by the Great Spirit and witnessed a live rocket launch. Some of the entertainment at this year's Pow Wow included Jimmy Sawgrass, Fancy Hoop dancing, joke telling, a snow cone station, bounce houses, the mounted sheriff's patrol and even a midnight rendition of dad's kickball.

State Pow Wow Chief Brad Zeiler served as Pow Wow host and his Canaveral crew was able to create memories for a lifetime for the children in attendance. A very special sacred fire culminated in Bitalla presenting the Canaveral Nation with their new Native Sons and Daughters Charter. That was immediately followed by State Chief Quirk presenting the Space Coast



Photos courtesy Brian Quirk  
Nation Chiefs surround State Chief Brian Quirk.

Maidens were their new Native Sons and Daughters Charter.

Native Sons and Daughters was developed to help strengthen family relationships between fathers and children. Each Nation or Longhouse experience enables father and child to have fun while sharing new adventures. As the Great Spirit reminds us, "You only have 18 summers to make a difference in your child's life."

Upcoming local events include taking in a Jumbo Shrimp game and then camping in the outfield, an afternoon with the Jacksonville Armada and then six weeks of summer bowling at Bowl America. Visit [www.nsdjax.org](http://www.nsdjax.org) for more information on the Timucuan Longhouse of Jacksonville.

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# SUMMER CAMP Guide

## Always practice summer sun safety

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewline.com

When the weather is warm, many people take time to relax at the beach or poolside. While such relaxation can provide a welcome break from busy schedules, it's important that men, women and children prioritize protecting their skin when spending time in the sun.

According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, basal cell carcinoma, or BCC, is the most common form of skin cancer. The American Cancer Society notes that each year there are more new cases of skin cancer in the United States than the combined incidences of cancers of the breast, prostate, lung and colon. Despite that prevalence, many people still engage in risky behaviors in the name of outdoor enjoyment. Being safe in the sun won't take anything away from enjoyable outdoor activities, but exercising such caution will help summer revelers reduce their risk for skin cancer and other conditions.

- Know the risks of UV exposure. Sunlight is needed to engage vitamin D production in the body, but too much sun exposure can do more harm than good. Ultraviolet, or UV, rays from the sun and other sources, such as tanning beds, are the primary cause of skin cancer. Exposure also can lead to sunburns, premature aging/wrinkling and eye damage.

- Use only broad-spectrum SPF sunscreen. Look for a sunblock product that boasts an SPF of at least 30. The FDA requires any sunscreen with an SPF below 15 to carry a warning that it only protects against sunburn, not skin cancer or skin aging. Find a sunscreen that works against UVA and UVB rays as well. UVA rays are mostly responsible for contributing to skin cancer and premature aging. Reapply frequently, especially when swimming or engaging in activities that cause sweating.

- Know the difference between water-resistant and waterproof sunscreens. Manufacturers are no longer allowed to claim that their sunscreens are waterproof or sweatproof. A sunscreen may be able to repel water for a short time, but it should be reapplied when leaving the water or when spending long stretches in the water.

- Cover up whenever possible. It may seem counterintuitive in hot weather, but covering up can be beneficial to the skin and actually keep a person cooler. Wear wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeve tops and light-colored pants. Some materials are made with reflective properties, while others actually boast their own SPF.



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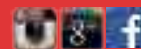
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## Third Thursday Lecture "A Life in Art" to feature local portrait artist

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Did you know that a nationally recognized portrait artist resides right here under the live oaks of old Mandarin? Tucked away at her home, steadily working her craft in her studio, Ann Manry Kenyon is an award-winning artist who has painted portraits for the likes of Congressman Ander Crenshaw, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, former Florida First Lady Columba Bush and, recently, Governor Kay Ivey of Alabama. She works in oil, watercolor and pastels, is sought after as a teacher in these media and is a faculty member of the Portrait Society of America.



Photo courtesy Ann Kenyon  
Ann Kenyon will present the Third Thursday Lecture on May 16.

Kenyon's work hangs in private collections and galleries around the country, including a portrait of Harriet Beecher Stowe that hangs proudly in the Mandarin Community Club.

This Third Thursday Lecture is on May 16, presented by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society in partnership with and held at the Mandarin Community Club, located at 12447 Mandarin Road. Refreshments begin at 6:30

p.m. with the lecture at 7 p.m. It is free and all are invited and encouraged to attend. Kenyon's memoir on her life and art, "Memories, Method, and Mastery," will be available for purchase at the lecture.

Visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) for more information about the Mandarin Museum and [www.mandarincommunityclub.org](http://www.mandarincommunityclub.org) for more information about the Mandarin Community Club. Visit <http://annmanrykenyon.com/index.html> to learn more about Ann Kenyon.

## Back in Time with Brett

By Brett Nolan  
mail@floridanewsline.com

### Steamship Maple Leaf – Part 2

Laid to rest in a blanket of mud, eight feet under the turbid waters of the natural ribbon that cuts through the city of Jacksonville, the "Maple Leaf" saw life above the mighty St. Johns River for the last time 155 years ago.

On the early morning of April 1, 1864, the sky was dark yet clear; the St. Johns River was still and smooth. The noise from the ship's paddle wheel, softly thrashing through the murky waters of the river, was calming like the ticking of an old clock. Air was dense with the fragrance from thousands of orange blossoms



Rendering courtesy Kevin McCarthy  
"Maple Leaf" by artist William Trotter.

along Mandarin Point. Only 15 miles from journey's end at Jacksonville and under the direction of the revered river pilot, Romeo Murray, a former Kingsley Plantation slave, there was ease knowing they made it through Confederate territory. While threats from the shelling of rebel shore batteries remained, orders were issued for the entirety of the trip be made in darkness; only the binnacle light glowed from the pilot's house. Suddenly, at 3:59 a.m., tranquility turned to chaos as the "Maple Leaf" struck an underwater mine.

One of 12, each a yard in length, the mines spanned from Mandarin Point to what is now Orange Park. Inevitably, a ship would encounter one, as planned. Five Confederates from the Second Florida Battalion partnered with intelligence operative, Captain E. Pliny Bryan, created these explosives for placement along the river. Each was filled with 70 pounds of cannon powder. When the "Maple Leaf" met her destroyer, the explosion roared with earsplitting clangor, thrusting those in the pilot house upwards, their heads hitting the roof. The bow caved in, the pilot house fell forward, the boat's timbers cracked and contorted. The aroma of orange blossoms was now choked by thick smoke; a wire stretched from the calamity setting off the craft's steam whistle and the "Maple Leaf" screamed in agony.

Those on board scurried to gather their belongings; however, within six revolutions of her paddle wheel, the steamship sank into the depths of the St. Johns. A ship with her hull filled with 800,000 pounds of cargo now settled on the bottom of the river; only the uppermost levels of the deck and parts of the smokestack snorkeled above the surface. The commanding officer exclaimed it would be the "better

part of valor" to evacuate before any Rebels roused by the thunderous commotion could approach. Fifty-eight passengers and crew manned the lifeboats; by 4:30 a.m. they rowed to Jacksonville, arriving four hours later. Four freedmen working

as deckhands were killed instantly by the blast while sleeping.

That afternoon, the "USS Norwich" arrived on-site; the "Maple Leaf" and her cargo were deemed a complete loss. Soldiers in Jacksonville learned their wait would be eternal, their personal belongings and regiment equipage laid to rest in a watery grave. On April 2, Captain Bryan and his Confederate crew returned to burn the rest of the vessel to the water line.

Over the next century, parts of the ship were removed, easing navigational hazards. With the hull of the ship left intact, still filled with cargo, the rocking river currents nestled the craft deep into the river bed, encapsulating its contents in a complete anaerobic state. These artifacts remained in slumber for more than 120 years until a local dentist made the discovery that the "Maple Leaf" was buried under the mud — a thought nearly lost to time.

Part 3 of "Back in Time With Brett" in the June issue of "Mandarin NewsLine" will tell the story of excavation of this Civil War treasure.

*Brett Nolan is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) for more information about Mandarin's history.*

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# Life

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## Get to Know . . .

*Sue Giddings*

By Angela Higginbotham  
angela@floridanewslines.com

seeing young hawks in the area.

Growing up in Texas, Sue Giddings and her family were regular visitors at the library; she developed a love of reading and learning early on. Even today, she insists that libraries are a powersource for so many people. Giddings devotes much of her time to Friends of the South Mandarin Library, a group of volunteers with the mission of raising funds to help with improvements within the South Mandarin Library.

Giddings attended Texas Woman's University for nursing. She then joined the United States Navy to serve her country and also to help pay for her tuition. Giddings soon found herself in the middle of the Vietnam War. While still in the Navy, after witnessing a lot of war and traveling a great deal, she met her husband, Jack. In 1970, the two were married in Orlando.

Giddings retired from nursing in 2007. She and Jack, a family physician, have one son who teaches college history.

**Q: How did you become involved with Friends of the South Mandarin Library and what does the group do?**

A: After retiring, I was looking for things to do and came across the group. Significant cuts came to library funding and we started trying to help. We resell donated books. With the proceeds from the books, we have bought things like a refrigerator, so that the kids can use yogurt for finger painting. We are currently waiting on the new couch for the youth/teen section. We've made several large and impactful improvements to help the library be of better service to the community. We have two sales a year and one ongoing sale inside the library. We also sell records, audio books and encyclopedias. One young reader bought a whole set of encyclopedias and thought he had really struck gold. All proceeds go directly back to the library. Anyone can join the group and help support the library.

**Q: Where does your passion for the library come from?**

A: I just know that the library fills a need for so many people. For reading, learning and exploring. People go there to do things they need to do on the internet. People go there to vote. It really does fill an important function.

**Q: What do you enjoy most about living in Mandarin?**

A: I enjoy seeing all the wildlife that makes Mandarin so special. I love being serenaded by the birds and



Photo courtesy G. Corbin  
Sue Giddings

Miss Aggie cont. from pg. 1

home, which is located in Walter Jones Historical Park.

"Miss Aggie," as she was fondly called, was known for her contributions to the community through her many acts of kindness and generosity to all. Miss Aggie Day has been celebrated since 2003 to honor Miss Aggie and the contributions of someone who exemplifies a similar love for the community.

The 2019 award ceremony featured the return of a record number of Miss Aggie award recipients — eight — from years past. Cuda said it was an honor to be included with all these people who had done so much for the community over the years.

Cuda has served the community continuously for more than 30 years through extensive and dedicated volunteer work, especially through and on behalf of the Mandarin Community Club and the Ramsgate Homeowners Association.

"I certainly don't aspire to be in the spotlight," Cuda said. "I'm sure none of the Miss Aggies do. But it is always nice to be recognized and thanked for what you do."

**Miss Aggie Award Recipients**

- 2003: Kate Monson
- 2004: Karen Roumillat
- 2005: Rhonda Reese
- 2006: Mary Ann Southwell
- 2007: Mary Kaminski and Bonnie McNulty
- 2008: Jane Cooksey
- 2009: Susan Earnhart
- 2010: Alice Stanley
- 2011: Elizabeth "Betty" Wolfe
- 2012: Virginia Barker
- 2013: Emily Lisska
- 2014: Linda Levin
- 2015: Sandy Arpen
- 2016: Sarah Bailey
- 2017: Susie Scott
- 2018: Donald Bowden
- 2019: Lynn Cuda

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# Alhambra's "Big" an entertaining wish come true for audiences

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

Alhambra Theatre and Dining's production of "Big" explores the truism that all little kids want to be big. But what happens if a young boy's wish comes true? The stage production, with book by John Weidman, music by David Shire and lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr., is based on the motion picture of the same name starring Tom Hanks that was released in 1988. Fans of the film will undoubtedly be entertained by "Big, the Musical."

The show, which centers around an adolescent boy (Josh) wishing he was big and then actually becoming so, will be delightfully familiar to audiences — and the addition of musical numbers freshens up the production and allows for some interesting nuances. Particularly well cast are the leads, Rodney Holmes as Josh and Heather Kopp as Susan. Holmes perfectly portrays being a little boy in a man's body, with predictably immature and often awkward reactions to various adult situations he finds himself in. Kopp as Susan, Josh's

love interest, depicts a woman who might be growing cynical to adulthood and therefore drawn to the innocence of boy/man Josh.

Yes, the show contains the iconic large piano on which Josh dances and plays music. Fancy footwork and keys that light up are mesmerizing. Fortune telling machine Zoltar also takes its place as a key prop in the story.

Notable scenes include the adults at the MacMillan Toy Company who are so used to being "yes people" to big boss MacMillan (astutely portrayed by Steven Flaa) that they appear to be

automatons in early dance scenes. The unadulterated childhood joy that Josh brings to the toy company as its newest employee is infectious, and by the end of the show, the toy company employees' dancing is more energetic and spirited.

Songs like "My Secretary is in Love," sung in a witty repartee style by vocal

powerhouse Kopp as Susan as well as "Coffee, Black" by Holmes as Josh add comic relief. Another amusing aside is the scene with Susan's best friends as they check out her new beau, Josh, and perform "The Real Thing."

Meanwhile, back in Josh's old life, his mother (Mrs. Baskin, portrayed by Katie Nettle) poignantly sings a song all parents can relate to about how quickly their children grow: "Stop Time."

"Big" includes a number of children in the cast and all are very talented. Of note, Ari Walz as Young Josh and Jonathan Reid as his best friend Billy, make the most of their time in the spotlight.

Chef DeJuan Roy has created a delicious menu for this production, including a starter of either potato and bacon chowder or spring mix salad and then entree choice of brown sugar crusted corned beef, oven seared red fish, quinoa bowl or his Aunt Mae's fried chicken recipe that was especially moist and flavorful. Save room for either caramel apple strudel or banana cream pie; both are worth the calories.

"Big" will appear at Alhambra Theatre and Dining until May 5. Visit [www.alhambrajax.com](http://www.alhambrajax.com) for tickets and more information.



Photo courtesy Alhambra Theatre and Dining

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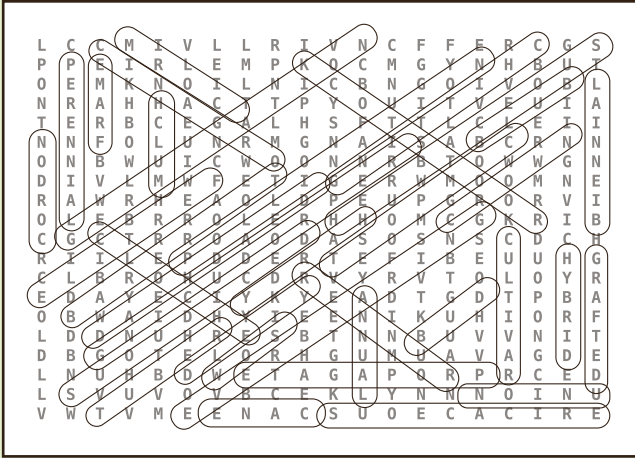
## Answers to our Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 16

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Answers: A. trowel B. soil C. cultivate D. growing



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# Fishing

## Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewslines.com

There are many attributes that make fishing a great sport. Getting outdoors, spending time on the water, bonding with friends and family — and the thrill and the challenge of the catch. While there are other sports or outdoor activities that might offer some of these same characteristics, there is one benefit that fishing offers that separates it from these others, and that is you get to eat what you caught.

Humans eating fish may date as far back as two million years ago. Fish was considered a major food source for survival and may also be credited to brain development in early man.

Today, fish is regarded as one of the healthiest protein sources containing considerable amounts of Omega 3s which can help reduce the risk of stroke or heart disease. Deemed “brain food,” fish can also take credit for promoting brain health, improved memory, and prevention of Alzheimer’s.

While eating fish can be healthy, how it is prepared can often make a difference. Deep fried seems to be a favorite, but by doing so you lose much of the nutritional benefits. When frying, try to use a heart healthy oil, and a frying pan rather than a deep fryer, as this can help lead to a healthier fried fish dinner.

For the health conscious, if frying the fish you caught is out of the question, don’t worry — there are more ways to cook fish healthy than all the ways Bubba Gump

has to cook shrimp. You can grill, steam, broil, and bake, sauté, stir fry, boil, camp fire, smoke, and microwave them. Recipes for these methods are easy to find with searches on the internet.

One of the quickest, easiest, and healthiest ways to cook your fresh catch is in the microwave. Starting with any piece of fish on a microwave safe plate, you can prepare the fish similarly as if you were to bake or broil it. First, season the fish with your favorite herbs and spices or just dust it with some salt and pepper. Add some butter or butter substitute with maybe a little lemon or lime. Cover the prepped fish with some plastic wrap to help prevent splattering and microwave for a minute or two until the meat turns white and flakey. Just for fun, you can add an additional sprinkle of cheese and another quick zap for a very tasty fish dinner.



Photo courtesy Andrew White  
Andrew White caught this largemouth on Lake Kerr recently using soft plastics.

Fishing Report: The river has been providing good catches of bream, bass, and catfish. Reds have been around docks and pilings. Conditions are right for croaker to show any time.

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

*Email your Catch of the Month photo to catchofthemonthpictures@gmail.com. Be sure to include the name of the person(s) in the photo, the name of the person who took the photo, the type of fish and date and location of the catch. We will select a photo each month for publication.*

## Make sure to hire legitimate, licensed charter boats

By Paul Tynda  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Whether you enjoy scuba diving, offshore fishing, whale watching, or just taking in the scenery, chances are you may have been a paying passenger for a charter boat. Charter boats or Uninspected Passenger Vessels (UPVs) are vessels operated by a licensed captain to carry passengers for hire on a boat that meets specific requirements for safety equipment and is operating within the limits of the captain’s license. Having a professional take the helm can free you to enjoy other activities and with their knowledge of the area, they can make the trip interesting and fun.

While you are looking for your next charter boat and captain, can you be certain they are legitimate? Recently there has been a rise in illegal charter boats in Florida and other states. These boats and operators may be unlicensed or not be working within the parameters of their license. They could be taking on too many passengers, not have the proper safety equipment required, or be a guy who happens to put his boat up for hire without any training or oversight. Legal UPVs will normally carry no more than six passengers for hire, have a licensed captain that is regularly tested for drugs, and have onboard the necessary safety equipment, such as Type I PFDs for each person aboard.

With the illegal UPVs out there, one way to be sure you are getting the real deal when booking your trip is to make sure your prospective captain is licensed and

has had a voluntary examination by the Coast Guard. Captains have a type

of vessel exam they can get and if it is completed they will get a special decal. It may not be easy to check these online while booking your trip, but an email or a phone call asking about the licensing and Coast Guard UPV decal is a start. Don’t be afraid to ask to see the license or decal when you arrive to the boat; you are paying for a professional who is taking responsibility for your life while on the water. With the rise in illegal charters, there are still more legitimate ones operating, crewed by licensed professionals who are safety conscious and have the experience to make your voyage an enjoyable one.

Charter captains looking for the voluntary, no penalty exam to earn the safety decal should visit [www.safeboatingjax.com](http://www.safeboatingjax.com) to arrange for examiners to meet at an agreed upon time and location.

Visit [www.safeboatingjax.com](http://www.safeboatingjax.com) for more information, to sign up for a safe boating class, or to schedule a vessel exam. The next safe boating courses are scheduled for Saturday June 1 and Saturday July 6.

*Paul Tynda is a member of Coast Guard Auxiliary, Jacksonville Flotilla 14-8.*

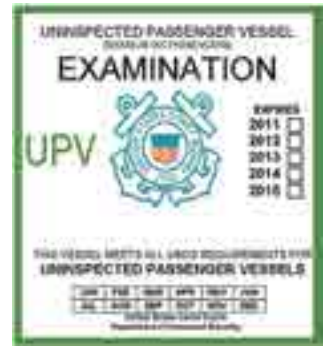


Photo courtesy US Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV) decal

### JEA power plans cont. from pg. 9

the home. Power poles and lines would remove an important aesthetic aspect and introduces an unavoidable, unsightly intrusion,” Climenhaga said

Additional responses from JEA regarding their plans can be found at [www.jea.com/us1](http://www.jea.com/us1)



Approximately 200 people attended the meeting held at Bartram Springs Elementary School.



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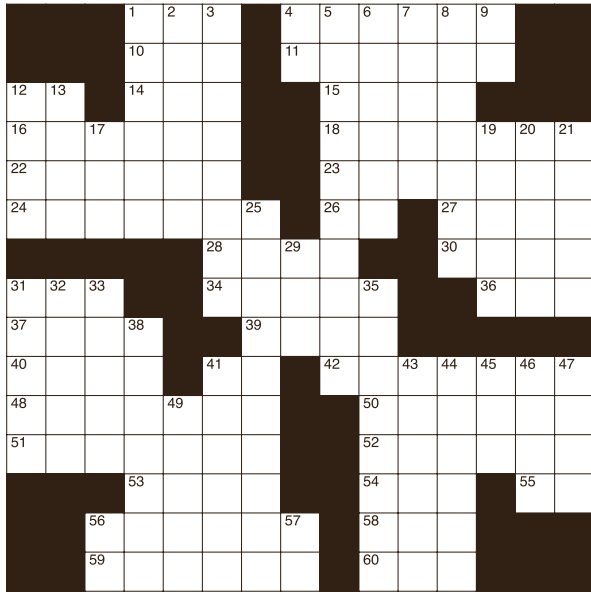
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# Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 14  
Provided by MetroCreative



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Maintains possession of
- 4. Other side
- 10. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 11. Lawn buildup
- 12. Southeast
- 14. Negative
- 15. Greek temple pillar
- 16. Blue
- 18. Pointless
- 22. Complete
- 23. Supervisor
- 24. Where kids bathe
- 26. Radio frequency
- 27. Cruel Roman emperor
- 28. Young woman (French)
- 30. Within
- 31. Civil Service Commission

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. \_\_\_ and her sisters
- 2. Smear or rub with oil
- 3. Holy places
- 4. Indicates position
- 5. Drives around
- 6. Price
- 7. Semiaquatic mammal
- 8. With three uneven sides
- 9. Sacrifice hit
- 12. Covers a wound
- 13. Jaguarundi
- 17. Works produced by skill and imagination
- 19. A way to improve
- 20. River along India and Nepal border
- 21. Hairnet
- 25. DePaul University athletes
- 29. Bachelor of Laws
- 31. Game of skill
- 32. Holy man
- 33. Cylinder of tobacco
- 35. Most ingratiating
- 38. Repeats aloud
- 41. Red wine
- 43. Debilitating tropical disease
- 44. Entirely lacking
- 45. Female sheep
- 46. Where a bird lives
- 47. Stalk that supports the capsule
- 49. Cutlery
- 56. Symptom of withdrawal (abbr.)
- 57. Delaware

## TOIL IN THE SOIL WORD SEARCH

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

**WORDS**

- ANNUAL
- BARE ROOT
- BIENNIAL
- BUD
- BULB
- CANE
- CHITTING
- CLOCHE
- COMPOST
- CORDON
- CORN
- CROWN
- CULTIVAR
- DEADHEAD
- DECIDUOUS
- ERICACEOUS
- EVERBEARING
- FERTILE
- FRAME
- GERMINATION
- GRAFTED
- HARDY
- HERBACEOUS
- HYBRID
- MULCH
- ORGANIC
- PERENNIAL
- POLLINATION
- PROPAGATE
- REPRODUCING
- ROOTSTOCK
- RUNNER
- SOW
- TUBER
- UNION
- YIELD

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



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

**A. 18 24 1 22 8 16**  
Clue: Garden tool

**B. 2 1 17 16**  
Clue: Dirt

**C. 5 13 16 18 17 20 21 18 8**  
Clue: Prepare land

**D. 14 24 1 22 17 15 14**  
Clue: Getting bigger

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# Gardening

## Summer is coming

By Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Sometimes I have hankered to live farther north just to be able to grow some of the fruits, flowers, and vegetables that I grew up with, but seeing last winter's devastating storms that swept across the plains and northwards, I realize we are relatively lucky in northeast Florida. Encouragingly, this hurricane season may be less busy than average, according to Colorado State University predictions (<https://tinyurl.com/y5ltxj43>), but it only takes one major storm to have devastating impacts, as we know.

There are certainly beautiful plants that grow here in Zone 9 that would struggle to survive in colder climates, but the flower garden in the height of summer is not always at its best. Heat and humidity can take their toll. At the Extension program, "A Day of Gardening" held in February, two of the speakers, Linda Reindl with the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association and Billy Butterfield, owner of Ameriscapes Landscape Management Services in Orlando, told us about some of their favorites. Here I'll provide a list; you can find information on the internet on their cultural requirements (sun/shade, moist/dry), growing habits (height, spread, annual or perennial) and other attributes, like being attractive to pollinators. (Remember: right plant, right place.)

Gerbera daisy "Sweet" series; Salvia "Big Blue"; Alternanthera "Purple Prince"; Dian-

thus "Jolt"; Verbena "Finesse" (*V. bonariensis* hybrid); Coleus "Campfire Orange"; Zinnia "Zahara" series; Melampodium "Derby"; *Melinis nerviglumis* "Savannah" (a grass); "Bounce" Impatiens (downy mildew resistant); Caladium; "Sedona Sun" ornamental pepper; Ipomoea "Floramia" series (ornamental sweet potato); Gomphrena, globe amaranths; Dwarf vinca "Soiree" series; Lantana "Little Lucky Red". As you may know, none of these are native Florida plants, but all should be Florida-Friendly™. If any are inclined to spread by seed, a good layer of mulch should prevent that, and it will keep the soil cool and moist.

I often consider turning over my yard entirely to native plants, but there are some beautiful exotic flowers and shrubs that make me hesitate, especially when native plants are not often sold locally. One native plant that can be found is the orange butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), but it sells out quickly. The tropical or Mexican milkweed (*A. curassavica*) is far more widely available, and is also prime Monarch butterfly fodder, but it isn't native, and that isn't always made clear.

Grass is now growing well, and probably needs mowing once a week. Whatever your grass type, mow at the highest recommended height, as its roots will be stronger with longer leaf blades to feed them. Check out <https://tinyurl.com/y29f7dhz> for more

information. If rains are adequate, a lawn may not need regular watering. With an automatic system it may be tempting to set it and forget it, but you will probably do more harm than good. Excess moisture leads to overly lush growth, which is tempting to insects and can also promote the growth of fungal diseases. A soil moisture sensor is a helpful aid in combination with an automatic irrigation setup as it simply shuts off the system when soil moisture is adequate. To check that you have the correct information about when and how you may water your lawn, see <https://tinyurl.com/yy4yh6os>.

If maintaining your lawn is too taxing in the summer heat, consider expanding your flower or shrub beds to reduce its size. You would provide more habitat for beneficial insects and birds, and could save your energy. An easy method (but HOA members will need to clear this with their association): layer clean cardboard or newspaper, leaves, compost, and mulch, and secure the edges with pavers which will keep the area looking tidy. Come fall, the summer heat will have killed the underlying turf, rotted down much of the other material, and you will have a new bed ready to be planted.

The May-June edition of "A New Leaf" will be available here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9y-fxd89>. I'm looking forward to those timely tips and useful articles. Enjoy!





# Travel

## Highlights of the Lowcountry

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Charleston and Savannah rank among the top tourist destinations in the United States and fortunately, they are within driving distance from Jacksonville. Visit these Southern gems if you've never been, but unfortunately, they are pricey. It is possible to find some less costly but equally fabulous cities and Lowcountry attractions nearby.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
Beautiful Beaufort

First up, Beaufort, S.C., pronounced as the locals say, "Like beautiful – Beaufort." Beaufort lies just 40 miles from Savannah and 70 miles from Charleston. The city, founded in 1711, was overtaken by Union troops during the Civil War. The soldiers found the place so lovely, they spared it from destruction. Many of the mansions acted as hospitals. Take a scenic walking or carriage tour past some of the antebellum homes including sites from the iconic Hollywood movies: "The Big Chill," "The Great Santini"

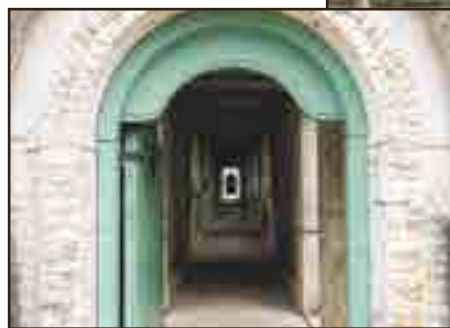
and "Forrest Gump." Literary fans will enjoy the Pat Conroy tour. The Arsenal looks like a castle with gothic church windows, and the downtown restaurant scene oozes southern hospitality and excellent seafood.

Georgetown, close to Pawleys Island, became one of the most interesting small towns I've visited. Main or Front Street offers five museums, including a Gullah Museum and the elegant Kaminsky House, circa 1769, on the banks of the Sampit River.

Rice plantations flourished in the area and by 1840, the region produced nearly one-half of the total rice crop of the United States, and the port exported more rice than any port in the world. The local variety called "Carolina Gold" was in demand worldwide. This labor-intensive crop provided great riches for the planters. Rice plantation workers in the South Carolina Lowcountry afforded their masters the highest per capita income in the American colonies, and they continued to earn huge profits up to

the Civil War. Eventually, saltwater infiltrated and halted production. Today, Georgetown delights shoppers and its boardwalk/wharf area brings scenic dining opportunities.

Head on to Huntington Beach State Park where Atalaya Castle — not really a castle, but more a folly — is the star. The wealthy and eccentric couple, Archer and Anna Huntington, built the one-story brick structure on more than 9,000 acres. A most unusual construction, the floor, walls and ceiling



Unusual entrance to Atalaya Castle

are all brick. Cool in the summer, but in February when I visited, the place was damp and chilly. Take a guided tour to learn about the Huntingtons and their monkeys and dogs.

Anna Huntington was a famous sculptor, and many of her works are displayed across the highway at Brookgreen Gardens. Brookgreen's immense property contains more than 2,000 works by 425 artists, and in the words of Wayne Craven, author of

the book, "Sculpture in America," it is "unequaled in its size, focus on figurative works, visibility of the sculpture to the visitor, and integration within a garden setting." Anna's Don Quixote is a must-see, modeled from a dying horse she purchased for the project and then nursed back to health.



Dining in Beaufort

A visit to Pawleys Island brings you to the southern end of the Hammock Coast and one of the oldest resort areas on the Atlantic Coast. Pawleys Island offers unique waterfront lodging and no mundane trappings or distractions. No businesses dot the island other than its two historic inns that stand alongside a collection of beach homes. Staying on Pawleys Island is indeed a getaway.

Make the drive to the Lowcountry and take time to relax. Enjoy some seafood, a Lowcountry boil and perhaps a

praline and tea from the Charleston Tea Plantation, the only one in the United States.



Carriage ride in Beaufort

Debi Lander's stories and travel tips.

Visit [www.bylandersea.com](http://www.bylandersea.com) to read more of local travel writer

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